

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PRECEPT MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2013**

**Present:** The Mayor, Councillor M Gaffney - In the Chair  
Councillors J Soni, C Worsh, J Ward, A Forster, L Smith, M Willoughby, L Tasker, C Pratt, V Shepherd, B Thomas

**Apologies:**

Cllr E Thornley	Personal
Cllr John Smith	Work
Cllr L Hewer	Personal

District Cllr Andy Crump  
District Cllr Wise  
County Cllr Appleton

**In Attendance:** Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders,

**107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Town Clerk announced that she had granted dispensation to all Councillors present thus permitting them to take part in this meeting.

Cllr J Soni	Personal	Item 6 Southam Youth, Christmas Lights
Cllr J Ward	Personal	Item 6 Christmas Lights, Southam in Bloom
Cllr L Smith	Personal	Item 6 Southam in Bloom
Cllr A Forster	Personal	Item 6 Southam in Bloom
Cllr L Tasker	Personal	Item 6 Concessionary Travel
Cllr C Pratt	Personal	Item 6 Southam Youth
Cllr B Thomas	Personal	Item 6 Southam Youth

**108. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**109. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 22nd November 2012, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor**

**110. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT**

**PARISH TAX BASE**

The provisional Council Tax Base for Southam 2013/2014 had been calculated at £2133.33 **Noted**

**111. BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The proposed figures for the 2013/2014 budget were based on a 2.7% inflation allowance. Where there was a clear need to revise the figure in light of current levels of expenditure, or known changes likely to occur, a new proposed figure was shown. **Noted**

**112. ELECTORATE**

Statistics verified to 1st December 2012 showed that the electorate in Southam stands at 5251. Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 limited a Council's expenditure on grants to £6.95 per elector. **Noted**

**113. COUNCIL'S AIMS**

The Council had agreed to the following aims that were taken into consideration in all policy matters:

1. To improve the service it provides whilst ensuring best value
2. To work with others to improve safety, the environment and quality of life in the town, paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable members of our community
3. To regularly and effectively consult the community
4. To promote the local economy

**Noted**

**114. CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET FOR 2013/2014**

**RESOLVED: To agree the figures proposed subject to the following amendments:**

**114.1 ITEM 4 LEGAL FEES**

**RESOLVED: to set a budget of £2500 for this item**

**114.2 ITEM 23 SUNDRY ITEMS**

**RESOLVED: to change the title of this line to 'Emergency Contingency Fund'**

**114.3 ITEM 27 TREES**

**RESOLVED: to set a budget of £4500 for this item**

**114.4 ITEM 35 WAR MEMORIAL**

**RESOLVED: to set a budget of £400 for this item**

**114.5 ITEM 41 CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL**

**RESOLVED: to change the title of this line to 'VASA Transport Support'**

**114.6 ITEM 42 SECTION 137 GRANTS**

**RESOLVED: to set a budget of £14000 for this item**

**114.7 ITEM 44 SOUTHAM YOUTH FACILITY**

**RESOLVED: to set a budget of £2500 for this item**

**115. REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES**

**RESOLVED: That any surplus on the following budget lines should be moved to earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year**

**Line 10a Computer Replacement**

**Line 25 Elections**

**Line 35 War Memorial**

**Line 36 Grange Hall Capital Works**

**Line 39 Street Lights Column Replacement**

**Line 41 Concessionary Travel now renamed VASA Transport Support**

**Line 44 Southam Youth Facility**

**116. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

It was moved and

**RESOLVED:** That pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded from the meeting because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

**117. PROPOSED BUDGET 2013/2014 prior to the discussion of this line the Town Clerk & Deputy Clerk left the room.**

**RESOLVED:** To agree the figures proposed for the salary lines 11 to 14 inclusive

**118. URGENT BUSINESS**

**TOLLGATE ROAD LEASE EXTENTION**

Cllr Worsh declared a personal interest in this item

**RESOLVED:** that if legal deadlines don't allow this matter to be brought to the January Council Meeting, that the Town Clerk should make a decision in conjunction with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Town Council's Solicitor

**119. RE- ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

**120. TOTAL BUDGET**

**RESOLVED:** That the total budget is set at £176952 and that £2007 should be used from General Reserves in order to keep the Precept at the same level as previous years

**121. PRECEPT UPON THE TAX AUTHORITY**

**RESOLVED:** That the precept upon Stratford District Council be declared to be £174945

It was noted that Council Tax payable for a D Band property will be £73.72 which equates to the last five years and will not result in an increase in council tax.

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm**