

**Minutes of the meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE held on
Monday, 13th January 2014 at 9.45pm
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Present: Vice Chairman Cllr L Sampson, Cllr K Binding, Cllr V Leach (ex-officio), Cllr R Patient (ex-officio), Cllr Mrs L Shaw, Cllr D Weir, Cllr Mrs M Weir and Cllr Mrs P Young.

Cllr Leach announced congratulations were in order for Cllr Mrs M Weir on being honoured with the Member of the British Empire award and Members applauded. Cllr Leach presented Cllr Mrs Weir with a congratulations card on behalf of Council.

61. To receive apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr Mrs L Haskew (other appointment) and Cllr R Mitchell (unwell). Members accepted the apologies tendered.

62. Declarations of any:

- a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;**
- b. Other Pecuniary Interest; or**
- c. Non-Pecuniary Interest**

on any matter on the agenda for 13th January 2014:

There were no declarations of interest.

63. Public Forum:

None present.

64. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2013 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record and Members approved the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

65. Action Update List (January 2013):

65.1 Cllr Leach reported that he would pursue the Office sign and update the Clerk separately.

Members accepted the report.

66. Financial Report – December 2013:

The Clerk reported that despite the Parks Committee being considerably overspent the percentage figure for the overall position was fairly on target at 77.3% but Council may be a little overspent at the end of year. There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

67. Approve amended Parks Budget for 2014/15 (For Decision):

Cllr Sampson referred to the amendments and sought Members approval for the amended Parks Budget for 2014/15 and this **was approved**.

68. Approve amended General Purposes Budget for 2014/15 (For Decision):

Cllr Sampson referred to the budget amendment and sought Members' approval for the amended General Purposes Budget for 2014/15 and this **was approved**.

69. Approve Overall Budget 2014/15 for recommendation to Full Council on 20th January 2014 (For Decision):

The Clerk was asked how much the amendments would increase the overall budget and she referred to her report reiterating the planned net expenditure figure of £150,445. Setting Council's Precept at £150,637.36 represented a 5% increase in the Band D figure which equated to £32.61 per annum. The increase in monetary terms would be £1.55 per household per year or 13p per month. Cllr Sampson spoke of the need to be realistic and that budgets and expenditure were transparent. Cllr Leach recommended that Council make reference to the Band D increase in pence per week in the Spring Newsletter when reporting the Budget and Precept figures and **this was agreed**. **Cllr Mrs Shaw proposed approval of the Overall Budget 2014/15 for recommendation to Full Council on 20th January 2014 setting the precept at £150,637.36, an increase of 5% and Cllr Mrs Weir seconded. Members voted and the motion was carried.**

70. Note Interim Internal Audit Visit 21.1.14:

The Clerk reported the Interim Internal Audit visit would take place on 21st January and this was noted.

71. Agree retrospective approval for Staff Xmas Lunch (£70):

Members **agreed** retrospective approval for the Staff Christmas lunch.

72. Subscription Renewal:

Members **approved** the subscription renewal for the Essex Wildlife Trust (£40).

73. Summary of Decisions:

- Members approved the Overall Budget 2014/15 for recommendation to Full Council on 20th January 2014 setting the Precept at £150,637.36 (an increase of 5%).
- Agreed to refer to the increase in Band D figure in monetary terms in pence in the annual Budget and Precept report in the Spring Newsletter.
- Retrospective approval was given for Staff Xmas Lunch.
- Approved Wild Life Trust Subscription renewal (£40).

The meeting was closed at 09.55pm.

Chairman