

# LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## FINANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING – 2015/11/16 – 04

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber, Claremont House, Lydney on Monday 16 November 2015 at 7.03 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs B Pearman (Chairman), D Beddis, D Biddle, C Harris, and H Ives

Mrs J Smailes – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/RFO

Miss C Wheeler – Executive Officer (EO)

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Cllr Pearman informed all present that no practice fire evacuation had been scheduled for the duration of the meeting. All attendees were then informed of the locations of the nearest fire exits.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Berryman.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Finance and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22 June 2015 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed by Cllr Ives, seconded by Cllr Harris.** Unanimous.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

No requests to speak were received.

5. **FINANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE “DRAFT” BUDGET 2016/2017**

Members were provided with a copy of the draft Finance & Scrutiny Committee budget for 2016/17. After taking the time to consider the draft proposal of £55,180 adoption of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee budget was **proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Ives.** Unanimous.

6. **LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET/PRECEPT 2016/2017**

Prior to the meeting Members were provided with a copy of the letter which had been received from Forest of Dean District Council regarding Council Tax Base and Council Tax Support Grant for 2016/2017. It was noted that Forest of Dean District Council had advised that the Local Council Tax Support Grant received by Lydney Town Council would be reduced further to that of £40,950 for the 2016/2017 financial year.

Members were also provided with a copy of a recent press article which suggested that Forest of Dean District Council would apply an increase to their Precept for 2016/2017. Noted.

**“Draft” Full Council Budget for 2016/2017**

Members were provided with a copy of the draft Full Council budget for 2016/2017 and were reminded that all the elements of the draft proposal had been approved by each respective Committee prior to collation. Members were asked to consider three scenario's;

- the first scenario resulted in a budget of £539,790 which resulted in an increase of £3,202 on that of the 2015/2016 financial year

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- The second scenario resulted in a budget of £535,790 through the removal of the small budgetary provision for contributions towards Wild Boar and Flood Defence and was a reduction of £798 on the 2015/2016 budget.
- The third scenario resulted in the Council building on scenario two and also utilising a greater sum from its General Reserves, which would result in a zero increase in the Precept (an option not recommended by either the National Association of Local Councils or the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils).

During discussion Members considered the implications of each of the scenarios and concern was expressed over the removal of budgetary provision towards Flood Defence and Wild Boar. It was noted that budgetary provision for same may require the utilisation of General Reserves, should expenditure on either item be required during the 2016/2017 financial year.

After further discussion it was **proposed by Cllr Ives, seconded by Cllr Harris**, that the Committee would approve the Full Council Budget of £535,790 for the 2016/2017 financial year, which utilised an offset figure from General Reserves and a percentage sum of probable income. Vote carried.


It was **proposed by Cllr Pearman** that the Precept recommendation (equated therefrom) which would be presented to the December Full Council meeting for approval in respect of the 2016/2017 financial year therefore totalled £491,048. Unanimous.

It was noted that the percentage increase/reduction in Precept would not be known until the Tax Base had been confirmed by Forest of Dean District Council early December 2015.

### 7. MEETING DATES

It was noted that the next meeting would take place as on 22 February 2016.

Meeting closed at 7.29 pm

Chairman .....  .....

Date .....  .....