

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH  
ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**

**Present** Councillor F.W.P. Treanor (FWPT) (in the chair)

**Councillors:** Mrs. E. Ballard (EB), Mrs. S. Crew (SC), J. Garrett (JG), C. Green (CG), D.J.E. Hall (DJEH), D. Hobson (DH), R. Jackson (RJ), A. Leonard (AL), M. Locking (ML), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), Mrs. J. Makinson-Sanders (JMS), Mrs. M. Ottaway MBE (MO), L.M. Stephenson (LMS), D. Turner (DT), and D.E. Wing

**Councillors not present:** Mrs. D. Blakey (DB), Mrs. L. Harrison-Wiseman (LHW), G.E. Horton (GEH), Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW) and Mrs. J. Speed.

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.J. Blankley, one invited guest LCC Councillor J. Hough and one member of the press were also present.

**368. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs. D. Blakey (DB), Mrs. L. Harrison-Wiseman (LHW), G.E. Horton (GEH), Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW) and Mrs. J. Speed.

**369. Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman had no remarks.

**370. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations.**

The following declarations of interest were made:

- a. Councillor JMS – Item 7 as a member of ELDC.

**371. Minutes.**

Following a proposal by Councillor Wing, seconded by Councillor Turner it was RESOLVED by vote of the Committee that the notes of the last meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were approved as the Minutes.

**372. Town Clerk's Report on Matters Outstanding**

The Town Clerk had no matters outstanding.

**373. Correspondence**

The Committee discussed the following:

- a. **From:** LCC **Re:** Amenity Grass Cutting 2017/18

Councillor Hough spoke to this item to outline the difficult financial position that the County Council were in leading to the potential cessation of this service. The following issues were raised – road safety (visibility), expectation of volunteers, late delivery of the notification, detrimental impact on the appearance in the town, impact on tourism economy (cleanliness and tidiness essential), double taxation (if LTC were to take on the service), lack of office expertise and resources. Councillor Hough informed Councillors that Councillor Richard Davies was the responsible executive board member and Richard Wills the responsible officer and that there was a petition procedure that could be taken up and presented to an LCC Meeting with speaking time if required. Following a proposal by Councillor JMS, seconded by Councillor SC it was RESOLVED by vote of the Committee that delegated authority be given to the Chairman of the Council and the Town Clerk to investigate the procedure and ascertain how to proceed and if necessary instigate necessary action to meet dates as required. Councillor Hough confirmed that he would make contact with Democratic Services at LCC to facilitate the information required and contact the portfolio holder to highlight the issues raised. Councillor RJ informed members that following a resident's poll she had established that there was a willingness to pay additional council tax to retain the service.

Councillor JMS queried of Councillor Hough that street lights on Westgate, an important entrance to the town had streetlights adjusted to a part night basis which she thought was unsatisfactory.

**374. Precept / Budget 2017 / 18**

Committee received previously agreed provisional budget / precept summary and detailed committee workings which had been recalculated to include ELDC Tax Base figure of 4,805 which had recently been received. The Town Clerk advised that the budget needed to be increased by £500 to accommodate the likely increase in Cemetery Business Rates

- a. Cemetery Rates – revaluation – additional £500 to be prudent. CR Committee to discuss placing an appeal 17/1/17 (Model 2 attached).

Following a proposal by Councillor AL, seconded by Councillor EB it was RESOLVED by vote of the Council that the model 2 figure of £243,084 be recommended to the Town Council for approval on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017. This would represent an increase of 5.1% in cash terms and 4.7% on Band D Council Tax (which is lower due to an increase of the Tax Base).

The Committee also considered the following (new correspondence 7a.):

- b. Amenity Areas Grass Cutting (estimate provided by former contractor IRO £20,000) (Model 3), following a proposal by Councillor AL, seconded by Councillor JMS it was RESOLVED by the Committee that no funding should be provided for in the recommendation to the council for the precept for the year 2017/18.

**375. Next Meeting.**

The Committee noted that the date of the next scheduled meeting is 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 when feedback from FOG will be received regarding reviews of Governance documents and insurances.

The Meeting Closed at 21:52 hrs.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman)

Dated \_\_\_\_\_