



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Meeting held at Arms Everytne House on Thursday 12 January 2017 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillors: K Ellis (Chair), J R Potts (Vice-Chair), K Nisbet, O Potts, J Reid

Also Present:

J Hughes Town Clerk
M Wilkinson Deputy Town Clerk
A McCabe Office Manager
M Hawthorne Committee Clerk

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors: A Gibbs-Barton, B Elliott, G Knox
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & THE GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS None.
3	MINUTES FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2016 The Committee agreed to ADOPT the minutes.
3.1	MATTERS ARISING No matters arising.
4	ACCOUNTS 2016/2017 Committee noted the information circulated. There were no queries arising.

5 BUDGET 2017/2018

The Town Clerk thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for their help and members of the Council for their input. He also thanked the Office Manager for all her hard work and the Deputy Town Clerk for carrying out work on the base budget review.

The Town Clerk added that if Committee agreed to the recommendation that the increase in precept is 1.99%, then he will incorporate it into the report for Full Council.

Councillor J R Potts commented that the budget sheets were prepared before the Allotments Committee, where it was agreed that additional money will be spent to use the budget. The Town Clerk said this will be changed and reflected in the balance for Full Council.

Councillor J R Potts pointed out that there is £17,000 in the budget for election expenses but it is unclear when then Council will be charged. He proposed leaving the figure as it is. The Deputy Town Clerk added that he attended a meeting at NCC where it was stated that the charges for this year's elections will be collected in September 2018 when the second half of the precept is due.

Rent for the office – Councillor J R Potts said an extra month has been added to Code 201.

Salary increases will be discussed at Staff Committee.

Councillor Reid stated that the budget for 2016/2017 is still vastly underspent and added that the base budget review has not met his expectations (27% underspent). The Town Clerk explained that the base budget review will be a continuous process.

Committee discussed the council tax increase and the reasoning behind changing it to 1.99%. A vote was taken with the following results:

4 – for
1 – against

5	FUNDING REQUESTS Ridley Park A detailed discussion took place regarding the request from NCC for a financial contribution toward the new toilet block in the park. Councillor O Potts commented that she would not support this request as the park is the responsibility of NCC. This was a view supported by the rest of the Committee therefore the Council will not make a contribution. Northumberland CVA Committee considered the request from the CVA for financial support. The unanimous view of the Committee was that they do not wish to give a contribution as this is a county wide organisation and the funding may not necessarily be spent in Blyth.
6	ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND URGENT BUSINESS None.
7	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Thursday 9 March 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber.

MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillors

K Ellis (Chair)
J R Potts (Vice –Chair)
B Elliott
A Gibbs-Barton
G T Knox
K Nisbet
O Potts
J Reid
D Rutter