



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield.

PRESENT: Cllr Linda Mendez – Mayor

Councillor Mark Bolitho	Councillor Richard Griffiths
Councillor Lenny Brandon	Councillor Caron Juggins
Councillor Jackie Brennan	Councillor Hazel Laming
Councillor Richard Brisbin	Councillor Lee Newman
Councillor Rory Craig	Councillor John Percival
Councillor Eames-Petersen (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor Tristan Wiltshire

OFFICERS: Carrie Lloyd (Town Clerk)
Sam Frake (Head of Operations)
Ali Ogilvie (Head of Estates)

57. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Angus MacKay and Councillor Bhumi Zhaveri.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

59. QUESTION TIME

There were none.

60. MINUTES

The Minutes of 16th and 23rd October 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

61. PRECEPT 2020/21

Members considered the recommendation of the Resources and Policy Committee.

Members noted the following under Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 50 Calculation of budget requirement;

- (1) In relation to each financial year a local precepting authority shall make the calculations required by this section.
- (2) The authority must calculate the aggregate of –
 - (a) the expenditure the authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account for the year;
 - (b) such allowance as the authority estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to expenditure to be charged to a revenue account for the year;
 - (c) the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting its estimated future expenditure; and
 - (d) such financial reserves as are sufficient to meet so much of the amount estimated by the authority to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for.

These were shown on the budget papers attached to the agenda.

- (3) The authority must calculate the aggregate of -
 - (a) the sums which it estimates will be payable to it for the year and in respect of which amounts will be credited to a revenue account for the year, other than sums which it estimates will be so payable in respect of any precept issued by it; and
 - (b) the amount of the financial reserves which the authority estimates that it will use in order to provide for the items mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) above.
- (4) If the aggregate calculated under subsection (2) above exceeds that calculated under subsection (3) above, the authority must calculate the amount equal to the difference; and the amount so calculated shall be its budget requirement for the year.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c) above an authority's estimated future expenditure is -
 - (a) that which the authority estimates it will incur in the financial year following the year in question, will charge to a revenue account for the year and will have to defray in the year before the following sums are sufficiently available, namely, sums -
 - (i) which will be payable to it for the year; and
 - (ii) in respect of which amounts will be credited to a revenue account for the year; and
 - (b) that which the authority estimates it will incur in the financial year referred to in paragraph (a) above or any subsequent financial year in performing its functions and which will be charged to a revenue account for that or any other year.

Members had previously considered the Reserves Policy. The proposed Budget worked with that Policy and the Council's future medium and long term plans to provide a balanced budget placing money into reserves for capital expenditure plans for the future whilst adequately providing for revenue expenditure in 2020/21 and keeping the Band D at 0% increase.

RESOLVED that the precept for the year 2020/21 be set at £843,441. The Band D equivalent would be £71.54.

(Action: Clerk)

62. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the following Meetings of the Council's Committees be noted;

- a) Planning Committee – 6th November 2019
- b) Sport & Leisure Committee – 20th November 2019
- c) Planning Committee – 27th November 2019
- d) Resources & Policy Committee – 4th December 2019
- e) Planning Committee – 18th December 2019
- f) Resources & Policy Committee – 8th January 2020

63. BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION

A presentation was received from Saunders Architects and Lindhill Property Development Specialists regarding development at Birchwood Leisure Centre and Playing Fields.

The proposal was one of three potential options for the site which the Council would eventually be going out to public consultation on. This proposal included building flats on the existing Birchwood Leisure Centre car park of which at least 35% would be affordable housing. A new entrance would be made from Oldings Corner leading to a new 100 space car park on what is currently playing field. The scheme would provide a full size 3G pitch, seating for spectators, a dojo/boxing ring, dance studio and more sports facilities, subject to consultation.

Members of the public were concerned at the loss of green space, splitting the site in two, how many schemes were being proposed, lack of consultation, and confusion on the whole process. Others expressed favour for a 3G pitch and/or this scheme particularly.

64. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next Council meeting would be 7.30pm on 4th March 2020.

65. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business;

- (i) Birchwood Football Ground
- (ii) Tenancy

66. BIRCHWOOD FOOTBALL GROUND

Members asked questions of the architect and developer present.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk seek advice from Herts Association of Parish and Town Councils or other professional source in the first instance and report back to Members as soon as possible.

(Action: Clerk)

67. TENANCY

Members listened to the concerns and comments of the tenant and RESOLVED that the Clerk circulate a copy of the draft annual tenancy and Members consider a 3 or 5 year tenancy at Sport and Leisure Committee in March.

(Action: Clerk)

Closure: 9.02pm

Mayor