



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 January 2022 at 7.30pm at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Richard Griffiths – Mayor

Councillor Jackie Brennan                      Councillor Linda Mendez  
Councillor M. Eames-Petersen              Councillor Caron Juggins  
Councillor John Percival  
Councillor Tristan Wiltshire

**OFFICERS:**

Samantha Frake (Acting Town Clerk)  
Alastair Ogilvie (Head of Estates)

**77. ANNOUNCEMENT BY TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and asked that a minutes silence be held for Councillor Mark Bolitho

**78. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted by Council from Councillor Hazel Laming who was unable to attend due to ill health, received and accepted by Council from Councillor James Bond who was unable to attend due to ill health.

**79. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS**

There were none.

**80. QUESTION TIME**

No public were present.

**81. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman with an amendment from Cllr Eames-Petersen

**82. VACANCY**

Members **RESOLVED** that the Acting Clerk be authorised to advertised the vacancy occasioned by the non-attendance at meetings by the Councillor for Briars Ward if following legal advice the vacancy has to be advertised.

(Action; Acting Town Clerk)

**83. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**RESOLVED** that Mr David Young be appointed to The Wellfield Trust

**84. PRECEPT**

An amendment to the recommendation of the Resources and Policy Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 was proposed by Cllr Wiltshire which involved using £14,000 from S106 money for this budget therefore raising the precept by 2.8% instead of the original 4%.

Cllr Eames Petersen also put forward a Labour Group Amendment for HTC Budget meeting - 19 January 2022- 0% increase in Precept  
Labour proposes that Hatfield Town Council allocates £140,000 from the amount of £305,214 received from Bovis in Dec 2020 (from the s106 reserve 1\*) to the general reserve, for grass cutting and maintenance for which this money was intended. This would be released to the Council at the rate of £14,000 each year, to cover maintenance costs for the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2031. This means £28,000 transferred for use by the Council in this 2022/23 Budget year. This will still leave £165,000 in the s106 reserves for any capital spend requirement for replacement of any play equipment required during this period.

This allows enough buffer in the general reserve, for the next year, to require no increase in the precept for HTC council tax in April 2022. A zero % increase in the precept for HTC, is affordable for HTC for this year, and this is proposed, for the sake of our residents, whom we represent”.

A vote was taken on amendment for 2.8%, 4 Councillors voted for the amendment and 3 against.

**RESOLVED** that the precept be raised by 2.8% (£2.11 per year)

**85. TOWN COUNCIL INSURANCE**

Members **RESOLVED** to renew Zurich Insurance for 1 year and for the incoming Town Clerk to renegotiate next year.

(Action; Acting Town Clerk)

**86. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**RESOLVED** that a further £2500 be allocated towards the public consultation to ensure a representative view is sought. A sub-committee will be formed to expediate the consultation. When the results are received, members will then agree the best way forward.

**87. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Noted that the next ordinary meeting of the Council is 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Closure: 9.20pm

Mayor