

Minutes of Brackley Town Council, held on **Monday 11 January 2021**. Meeting at 7.00pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllr Cartmell – Town Mayor
Cllrs Bagot-Webb, Baker, Barrie, Butler, Kew, Nash, Sharps, Thompson, Tiller, E Wiltshire, P Wiltshire

351/20 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Ross, Stimpson and Waldron

352/20 Town Mayor's announcements

353/20 Public participation

None.

354/20 Declarations of interest

None.

355/20 Approval of minutes

On the proposition of Cllr P Wiltshire it was **RESOLVED** to:

approve the minutes of the meeting of Council on Monday 7 December 2020.

356/20 Committee minutes

On the proposition of Cllr Butler it was **RESOLVED** to:

receive the following approved Committee minutes:

Planning & General Works 16 November 2020 and 7 December 2020
Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes 16 November 2020
Finance & Policy 16 November 2020

357/20 Questions for chairmen relating to received minutes

None.

358/20 County Council representative

Cllr Baker informed the Council that the team at the County Council have managed to put in place the promise Cllr Golby made three years ago to leave the finances in a much better place than they were for the two new Unitary Councils to be in a good place.

This has been achieved and as it stands the County will leave £50K+ in reserves, and balanced budget for three years, and leaving the Children's service in a very much better place than it was three years ago. This has been achieved as shown by the latest Ofsted reports.

We are working hard on the COVID-19 response and we do want to impress that we are in a very difficult position with cases rising. However we in Northamptonshire are working

very hard to get the maximum amount of people that can be in receipt of the Vaccine. Today 16 GP Hubs for vaccines have opened and we are doing more vaccines per day than most County's.

359/20 District Council representative - if available.

Cllr Rawlinson report attached.

360/20 Budget for 2021/22

On the proposition of Cllr P Wiltshire it was **RESOLVED** to:

approve the budget of £1,156,473. recommended by the Finance & Policy Committee following public consultation.

361/20 Precept for 2021/22

On the proposition of Cllr E Wiltshire it was **RESOLVED** to:

approve the Precept Request of £865,450. which equates to a Band D charge of £149.45.

362/20 Market Place – Refuge

The Town Mayor gave an overview of the issues and solutions regarding the parking restrictions outside the Crown Hotel. Mr Stopps reported that he had met with NCC today and this is now progressing. The Town Mayor asked that Mr Stopps keeps the Council fully informed with progress.

363/20 Matters for discussion or information

None

364/20 Exclusion of Press and Public

On the proposition of Cllr Thompson it was **RESOLVED** that:

in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press is excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item set out below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

365/20 Staff update – report attached

On the proposition of Cllr E Wiltshire it was **RESOLVED** to:

approve the recommendation, with the stages as identified in the report being carried out to be in place by April 2021 (subject to final confirmation regarding current Government regulations).

Meeting Closed: 20:12

Budget for West Northamptonshire Council

The first draft budget for West Northamptonshire Council was approved by the shadow executive on Tuesday, January 5th and is now available for consultation. Responses must be received by 2nd February.

On-line responses can be made at <https://futurenorthants.citizenspace.com/west/budget-2021-2022>

Or in writing to: Budget Consultation Response
West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority
Consultation & Engagement Team
One Angel Square
4 Angel Street
Northampton. NN1 1ED

The budget will then be considered by the full shadow council for approval on 23rd February. The budget, as drafted, indicates a Band D level of Council Tax for West Northamptonshire Council of £1,566.39. This is within the referendum limits set by government. No final decision has been made on the period to harmonise Council Tax across the Districts and Boroughs at this stage, although 3 years has been suggested. In the end all with the WNC area will have to pay the same level of Council tax but the law allows for this to be phased in over a period of up to 7 years. The effect is that, for the period of harmonisation, those that paid lower District Council tax would be paying slightly less of an increase and those on a higher rate would see slightly less of an increase. In the case of West Northamptonshire Daventry would see slightly less of an increase for a number of years and Northampton slightly less of a decrease. South Northamptonshire being in the middle would only see a marginal difference.

More worrying is that at this stage the rate of CTRS for those on benefits will increase from 8.5% in South Northants to 26.5%. This means that the most vulnerable will be expected to pay 26.5% of their Council Tax, rather than the 8.5% they do now. I am still strongly opposed to this increase and am doing all I can to reduce the rate. Daventry residents will see their rate rise by 6.5% and those in the Borough will see a 4.5% drop.

Grants

As we are now in Lockdown 3, we saw, last week, the announcement of further grants to support businesses and jobs across the Country. In addition to regular support for businesses forced to close or who have suffered significant reduction in trade, additional one-off grants are to be paid of up to £9,000 depending on rateable value. We are still waiting for further details on this support scheme but all available support schemes are and will continue to be published on the SNC web site, so if you have any queries from residents for support you should direct them there for details and application forms.

Elections

We are still working on the basis that elections will go ahead in May, but there have been stories in the media that they could be delayed until the summer or indeed the autumn. It is to be hoped that the government will make a firm decision and stick to it and allow Councils to continue with firm plans rather than last minute changes as we seem to see on a daily basis at the moment.

Peter Rawlinson
SNC – Brackley East