

ESTIMATES

PRINCES RISBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF AN ESTIMATES MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.00 PM IN THE PRINCES CENTRE, PRINCES RISBOROUGH

PRESENT

Cllr I McLauchlan (Chairman)
Cllrs A Ball, J Coombs, M Walsh, A Turner, N Chadzynski, D Knights and G Hall
Mrs S J Griffiths (Clerk)
Mrs K Pope (Deputy Clerk)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs K Wilkins, A Rolfe and P Summerbell

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllrs A Turner and G Hall declared an interest in the consideration of a grant for an organisation in which they are members.

ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/2018

EXPENDITURE

Administration and Human Resources

A budget for administration of £98,572 was agreed by all present. The total salary cost including pensions for the office staff is £74,993 this year.

The cost of Administration including the rent for the office is £20,979.

Councillors' expenses are remaining the same at £200 per person totalling £2600.00.

Town Committee

An estimate of £209,874 was agreed by all present for the Town Committee. This figure includes £35,095 for the loan repayments for the SMG, Wades Park and Market House.

£4,500 was agreed for the cost of dog waste collection in the Parks.

£300 for the maintenance of the War Memorials

£8,000 for the repair of existing playground equipment.

£8,500 was agreed to cover the cost of the town planting for winter and summer and tree work identified by the Arboriculturalist.

£30,000 was agreed for lighting which includes energy charges, maintenance of existing posts and lights and new installations.

£91,179 for the cost of maintenance of the parks, SMG and the town including the listed buildings and war memorial and the Risk Inspections.

£18,500 for the Maintenance expenditure for the CCTV and

£14,100 for capital expenditure including new benches, new litter/dog bins and a mower.

Public Relations

An estimate of £11,617 was agreed by all present for the newsletter, web site and marketing materials. The budgets for events in the town and public meetings were moved to the newly formed Events Committee.

Events Committee

A budget of £16,267 was agreed by all present for the Events Committee to cover the administration and costs of the Festival, Britain in Bloom, Art Event and Public meetings. This budget also includes £2000 contribution towards the Christmas lights.

Devolved Services

Further to a consultation in Crosstalk, the majority of the residents responding indicated that they were in favour of the Town Council continuing to undertake Devolved Services for the County and District Councils at a cost to the Town Council.

An estimate of the costs for the Town Council to deliver Devolved Services was agreed at £41,585. This includes the cost to undertake Devolved Services for WDC on the Green Spaces in the town that is owned by the District Council.

The amount to be received from BCC and WDC is reduced to £14,475 for 2017/2018 resulting in a deficit of £27,110.

Further income estimated to be in the region of £15,740 will be earned by the Maintenance Team and the office staff by providing maintenance and administration services to other organisations. This figure is used to offset the cost of delivering the Devolved Services leaving a reduced estimated short fall of £11,370.

Subscriptions

A figure of £1,465 was agreed which includes the membership fee of £1,145 for the Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils.

Grants

Cllrs A Turner and G Hall declared an interest before the discussion on the provision of a grant to the RBL for Remembrance Wreaths as they are members of the RBL and did not take part in the discussion or decision.

Grant applications were agreed for:-

St Mary's PCC (Churchyard Maintenance)	2580
St Dunstan's PCC (Churchyard Maintenance)	1500
P R Baptist Church (Churchyard Maintenance)	230
Remembrance Wreath	100
CAB	250
Minor Grant applications	2500
Total	7160

A sum of £2500 was agreed to be included in the budget for Minor Grant Applications of up to £250 that might be received throughout the year.

The Princes Risborough Town Council's Grant Awarding Policy is on the website and grants will only be considered if the application is submitted on an application form and meets the criteria set out in the policy.

The total budget for Grants was agreed at £7,160

Capital Projects

- It was agreed to remove the amount of £53,636 to fund improvements for the one way system and the saving will be used to offset the loss in delivering Devolved Services.
- £5,000 was agreed towards an extension of the office.
- £500 was agreed towards funding an Area Action Plan.
- £20,000.00 was agreed to replace a portion of the lighting stock with LED lights, thereby reducing future energy bills.
- £15,000 was agreed to provide additional storage/MT rest facilities in Wades Park
- £2,000.00 was included in the budget to cover Election costs.
- A sum of £2,500.00 was agreed for legal costs.

INCOME

- All present agreed to bid for the Lacey Green Parish Council maintenance contract for the next financial year and the Longwick-cum-Ilmer Playing Field contract.
- It was further agreed to continue to provide Devolved Services for neighbouring parishes at the existing rate of £20 per man, per hour.
- It was agreed to continue providing an administration service to the Princes Centre at a cost of £5200 per annum.
Approximately £2470.00 will be received for the administration functions of Devolved Services.
- It is forecast that the income received from other parishes and B.C.C. to do Devolved Services including grass cutting and other Administrative and Maintenance work is £22,545

- It was agreed to continue to charge a weekly rent for the use of the space under the Market House for commercial purposes at £30 per session.
- The total income, including the income from the burial ground but excluding the precept, was estimated at £48,315

Summary

The Clerk was forecasting a balance in hand of £337,188 as at 1st April 2017.

With a total expenditure of £438,272 including the capital projects, it was proposed that a precept of £345,702, an increase of 3.85% to raise an additional £14,000, is recommended to the Town Council for approval.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Chairman..... Date