

**KING'S SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE GOVERNANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2018
IN THE KING'S SUTTON MILLENNIUM MEMORIAL HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors R Irving (Chairman), R Burrell, J Creed, T Forde, R Sykes

ABSENT: No Absentees.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A Le Druillenec (Clerk)

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Openness of Local Government Public Bodies Regulations 2014:
The Announcement was taken as read.

**FGP: 77.18/19 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS
FOR ABSENCE:**

None.

FGP: 78.18/19 TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS:

None.

FGP: 79.18/19 TO INVITE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

**FGP: 80.18/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK TO ITEMS LISTED
ON THE AGENDA:**

None.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Forde to alter the order of business.

FGP: 81.18/19 BUDGET 2019/2020:
A. To Recommend a draft Payments Budget for 2019/2020:
(Draft Payments Budget 2019-2020 as agreed at the Parish Council Meeting held 6th December 2018 previously distributed; Updated draft circulated at the Meeting)

The following updates had been added to the draft Payments Budget 2019/2020 agreed on 6th December 2018:

i) Category 7: Thursday Bus: Hire costs will increase by 5% from 1st January 2019. Budget: £5,200.

ii) Category 13.2: Banner Road Safety: The Parish Council has Approved VAS adaptations totalling £3,720. Budget: £4,000.

Noted.

The Committee discussed the following:

i) Category 11.4: General Administration:

Agreed: To absorb costs for the A2 maps of the Conservation Areas and Village Confines in this budget.

ii) Category 11.5: Office Rent: (Min. No. 142.18/19B.1 refers)

Cllr Burrell declared an interest in this item.

Reason: Chairman and Trustee, KSMMH Committee of Management.

Cllr Burrell informed the Committee that the market rent per square metre was £269.

The Parish Office measured 2.4m x 4.25m and would command a rent of £2,743 per year or £228 pcm.

Noted.

iii) Category 11.12: Election costs: The Government laid the Northamptonshire (Changes to Years of Elections) Order 2018 before Parliament on 12th December 2018. The Order will come into effect on 14th January 2019 thus postponing the local elections set for May 2019 to May 2020.

Agreed: To set a nil budget.

RESOLVED:

It was proposed by Cllr Irving and seconded by Cllr Creed to Recommend a Payments Budget 2019/2020 of £84,560.

B. To Recommend a draft Receipts Budget for 2019/2020:

The following update had been added to the draft Receipts Budget 2019/2020 agreed on 6th December 2018:

i) Category 13.2: Banner Road Safety: The Parish Council will be reimbursed by NCC for VAS adaptations. Budget: £4,000.

Noted.

RESOLVED:

It was proposed by Cllr Irving and seconded by Cllr Sykes to Recommend a Receipts Budget 2019/2020 of £13,751 excluding the Precept.

FGP: 82.18/19

PRECEPT 2019/2020:

A. To Note the estimated Tax Base for 2019/2020:

(Information previously distributed)

Council Tax Base 2018/2019: 842.6.

Estimated Council Tax Base 2019/2020: 861.7 which is an increase of 2.27% over 2018/2019.

SNC will consider the Council Tax Base at its Meeting on 14th January 2019 when it may be subject to minor changes until confirmed.

Noted.

B. To Recommend the Precept for 2019/2020:

The Chairman led the discussion on the Precept calculations.

Proposal: To set a Precept of £68,100 for 2019/2020.

This represented a 5.33% increase over last year's precept of £64,650.

Based on the estimated Council Tax Base of 861.7 Council Tax for a Band D property in King's Sutton would increase by 3% to £79.03. (£76.73 in 2018/2019)

In order to achieve this General Reserves would reduce by approx. £2,500.

The Committee considered other options but was minded not to dig deeper into General Reserves, nor to set an increase in Council Tax below 3% due to the uncertainty of the impact of Local Government reform in Northamptonshire on parishes.

The reasons for a larger Budget next year was due to the following:

i) Electricity charges: An increase of 23% as from 21st January 2019
 ii) Litter/Cleansing Services: Unit costs for the current Contractor were higher than for the former Contractor and could not be budgeted for in the 2018/2019 Budget due to the sudden timing of the changeover.

The increase in the cost of the Litter Service is as follows:

Litter Bin Empty: +38.98%

Litter Pick of The Rec: +500%

Cleaning of Glass in Bus Shelter: +200%

Cleaning out of Wellhead monument (new instruction): +£120/year.

iii) Thursday Bus: Weekly service for 12 months. In 2018/2019 the service has been once a fortnight between April and December 2018. A 5% increase in hire costs will take effect in 2019.

iv) Office Rent: A minimum increase of 10% will be charged in 2019.

v) Play Equipment Inspections: In 2018/2019 the Council under-budgeted for the quarterly inspections. This is addressed in the 2019/2020 Budget.

vi) Churchyard: Additional costs in respect of insurance, care and maintenance.

vii) Website Hosting: The Council may seek to extend the Contract for 12 months.

Noted.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Irving and seconded by Cllr Burrell to Recommend a Precept for 2019/2020 of £68,100.

FGP: 83.18/19 RESERVES:

A. To review the position with a view to bringing recommendations to the Parish Council Meeting on 3rd January 2019: (Table of Reserves to November 2018 previously distributed)

The Chairman opened the discussion.

A.1 Flood Alleviation: Designated Reserves: £45,358

The Committee considered virement of Flood Alleviation Reserves:

1. £20,000 to Cemetery Exceptional: Designated Reserves totalled £21,000 + £1,030 unspent 2018/2019 budget.

Identified anticipated expenditure included:

- i) Land purchase and associated legal costs
- ii) Digging of bore holes
- iii) Construction of an access road
- iv) Hedge cutting and clearance of vegetation
- v) Laying of pathways
- vi) Erection of fencing.

2. £5,000 to Play Area Renewal: Designated Reserves: £10K + £5K unspent 2018/2019 budget.

3. £15,000 to Traffic Calming: Cllr Forde expressed the view that with the demise of the County Council it is possible that the new authority would seek contributions from parishes for procedures and associated legal costs, e.g. with regard to modifications to Traffic Regulation Orders.

Other projects for which some Flood Alleviation Reserves might be allocated on the future included:

- i) Car park extension at King's Sutton Railway Station
- ii) Tree Planting in Highway verges.

A.2 New Homes Bonus Allocation: In July 2015 SNC had allocated £14,640 New Homes Bonus funds to SNC for the Wales Street Flood Alleviation Scheme it was promoting. Since then SNC had withdrawn its support for the FAS which had been abandoned.

The Committee was in favour of applying for the £14,640 New Homes Bonus funds to be re-allocated to the land purchase for the Cemetery extension. (£15,000)

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Irving and seconded by Cllr Burrell to Recommend that the Parish Council applies for the £14,640 New Homes Bonus funds allocated to SNC for the Flood Alleviation Scheme it had been promoting but from which it had now withdrawn and that the reason for the application is to purchase the land to extend the Cemetery.

RESOLVED:

It was proposed by Cllr Irving and seconded by Cllr Burrell to Recommend that Flood Alleviation Designated Reserves are vired as follows:

- i) £5,000 to Cemetery Exceptional
- ii) £5,000 to Play Area Renewal
- iii) £30,000 to Traffic Calming.

This would leave £5,358 in Flood Alleviation Designated Reserves.

A.3 Property Level Protection for properties in Wales Street: Cllr Forde advised that the County Council was administering the funds for the PLP scheme. Any surplus money remaining after the PLP scheme had been completed might potentially be available for opening up the blocked culvert. The Parish Council might wish to contribute using the £5,358 Flood Alleviation Designated Reserves.

A.4 Community Infrastructure Levy: Designated Reserves: £18,409

It was **Noted** that CIL funds must be spent on projects within 5 years of receipt (from June 2018). CIL funds must be used to 'support the development of the local council's area, or any part of that area, by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.'

Agreed: To make No Recommendation at this stage.

A.5 General Reserves:

The level of General Reserves was estimated at £50,000 which equated to less than one year's normal expenditure.

Noted.

The Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.