

**Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council
held on Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 7.00pm
at St Johns Centre**

Members Present: Cllr D Bramer
Cllr M Bramer
Cllr S Buchanan – Chairman
Cllr S Gofton
Cllr G Green – Vice-Chairman
Cllr J McTavish
Cllr J Ogden DL
Cllr C Price
Cllr B Wade

In Attendance: S Fishenden – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
One member of the public

Item 1: Apologies for Absence: To receive and accept apologies

F.C. 211 Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Moss (prior commitment) and Cllr Sims (prior commitment)

Item 2: Declarations of Members' Interests: To receive declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

F.C. 212 Cllr Green declared an interest in any items in the budget relating to payments made to Meopham Windmill Trust which generated discussion.

Item 3: Adjournment of Meeting: To adjourn the meeting to enable Cllr M Bramer to provide a tutorial on council reserves

F.C. 213 The meeting was adjourned from 7:02 until 7:30 to enable Cllr M Bramer to give his presentation. A copy of the slides would be circulated to councillors afterwards.

F.C. 214 Cllr Green PROPOSED re-ordering the agenda so that Item 5 and 6 are considered before Item 4. SECONDED: Cllr Wade. All in favour.

Item 5: Council Reserves: To review current reserve levels

F.C. 215 Cllr Green PROPOSED that the only earmarked reserves should be:

Judsons Play Area (accumulates 1k per year until 2031)	£12,000.00
Memorial Bench Donations	£5,500.00
Elections (accumulate £1.5k per year on 4 year cycle)	£6,000.00
Pitfield Green Toilets	£8,000.00
Total Earmarked Reserves proposed	£31,500.00

It was proposed that the Council would also ensure it maintains a minimum level of six months expenditure in our general reserves, based on average monthly expenditure. This is currently £72,000 based on current average monthly expenditure of £12,000.

F.C. 216 Cllr M Bramer PROPOSED an amendment to retain the Professional Fees earmarked reserve at £2200. SECONDED: Cllr D Bramer.

Two votes in favour, five against and two abstentions. The amendment fell.

- F.C. 217** Cllr M Bramer PROPOSED an amendment to retain the Bus Shelter Police Grant earmarked reserve at £500. There being no seconder the amendment fell.
- F.C. 218** Cllr M Bramer PROPOSED an amendment to retain the Village Green earmarked reserve at £228.07. He subsequently withdrew this amendment.
- F.C. 219** Cllr M Bramer PROPOSED an amendment to retain the Health & Wellbeing earmarked reserve at £1000. SECONDED: Cllr D Bramer.
- Two votes in favour, six against and one abstention. The amendment fell.
- F.C. 220** Cllr M Bramer PROPOSED an amendment to retain the Parking Safety Campaign earmarked reserve at £548.00. He subsequently withdrew this amendment.
- F.C. 221** Cllr M Bramer PROPOSED an amendment to retain the Parish Plan earmarked reserve at £4157.86. SECONDED: Cllr D Bramer.
- There were two votes in favour and seven against. The amendment fell.
- F.C. 222** Cllr M Bramer PROPOSED an amendment to create a new earmarked reserve of £5000 for streetlighting. He subsequently withdrew this amendment.
- F.C. 223** Cllr. Green's motion was then put to the vote. SECONDED: Cllr Price.
- Six votes in favour, two against and one abstention. The motion was carried.
- Item 6** **Motion from Cllr M Bramer: To propose we make the following changes to the Council's Earmarked Reserves. The balances quoted are those shown in the Receipts and Payments Report dated 18th Sept 2022.**
- Close Reserve 62 (Judson's Play Area Maintenance Reserve, balance 11 pence)
 - Close Reserve 81 (Electric Vehicle Charging Reserve, balance £1000), which is now obsolete
 - Transfer contents of Reserve 54 (Noticeboards Reserve, balance £332.40) to 'regular' budget item 10 (Notice Boards, balance -£392.62) and then close Reserve 54.
 - Judson's Play Area Sinking Fund Reserve (65). Increase balance from £12,110 to £15,000 to replenish the money that was spent on the trim trail and then returned via a grant.
 - Create a new Earmarked Reserve for 'Electricity and Upgrade of Lighting', with an allocation of £5,000, to enable upgrading of lights to commence this financial year.
- F.C. 224** This item was ruled out of order as it negated the decision made in Item 5.
- Item 4** **Draft Budget: To review and consider the draft budget for the 2023-24 financial year**
- F.C. 225** The Vice-Chairman of the Council chaired the meeting for this item. Each councillor was invited to provide comments on the draft budget and any items they wished to see amended or added.

The Clerk provided a live view of the document and the impact any amendments was having on the proposed precept.

- F.C. 226** After discussions, the Council agreed to accept a draft budget with a total expenditure of £173,558.00, a transfer from general reserves of £20,000 and a precept of £152,743.87. A copy of the draft budget is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

The budget and precept would receive final approval from Councillors at the December 2022 Full Council meeting.

PROPOSED: Cllr Green. SECONDED: Cllr Ogden DL.
Seven votes in favour, one against and one abstention. The motion was carried.

- Item 7** **Date of Next Meeting: To note the next meeting of Full Council will be held on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 7:30pm at Meopham Village Hall**

- F.C. 227** This was noted.

The meeting closed at 9:50pm