

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

RESOURCES AND GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10 January 2018 at 7pm at Loughton Library & Town Hall.

Present:

Councillors: S Pewsey (in the Chair)
J Angold-Stephens M Dalton J Jennings
J Mahoney S Murray

Also in attendance:

Councillors: M Stubbings D Wixley

Officers: E K Walsh (Town Clerk)
P Hoy (Services Manager)

RG96 Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

RG97 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

RG98 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2017 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

RG99 Public Representations

None were received.

RG100 Matters for Report

100.1 Financial Assistance 2017/18 – Min no RG44.1

Members NOTED that the Restore Youth Club, originally awarded £900 to cover venue hire costs, refreshments and craft materials had recently submitted a claim to cover a games console, a laptop and costs associated with their Friday Light football project. The explanation provided was that since their initial application, they were no longer required to pay venue hire costs at the Restore Community Centre. They have apologised for not informing the Council of this change.

The Committee considered the claim and AGREED to pay the grant award in full to cover the new items. However, the Youth Club were to be reminded of the terms and conditions of the award.

The Town Clerk reported that the financial assistance documentation would be reviewed to ensure applicants signed to confirm they were fully aware that their project must proceed in accordance with the details submitted in their application.

100.2 Think Loughton – Min no RG87.3

The Committee CONFIRMED the choice of glossier paper for future editions of this publication.

100.3 Local Government Finance Settlement Consultation 2018/19

The Committee NOTED that the Government had announced that the Council tax referendum principles would not be extended to parish and town councils for three years. However, this was subject to the sector mitigating the need for increases by its actions and by showing restraint.

100.4 Committee Meetings

Members NOTED that:

- i. The Environment and Heritage Committee meeting scheduled for 7.45pm on Wednesday 17 January 2018 had been cancelled owing to lack of business.
- ii. The Recreation Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday 4 April 2018 had been brought forward by one week to 28 March to enable members to attend Essex Police’s Local Community meeting in the Murray Hall.

101 Council-wide Priorities

The Committee reviewed the lists of priorities from the spending committees and AGREED that the Council-wide high priority list should be as shown below:

Ranking	Committee	Activity
1	Environment and Heritage / Planning and Licensing	Neighbourhood and Local Plans
2	Recreation	Playgrounds
3	Recreation	Roding Valley Recreation Ground improvements

102 Estimates for 2018/19

The Committee considered the report and NOTED:

- a. the increase in the tax base from the 2017/18 figure of 12,294.8 to 12,408.9.
- b. that the Local Council Tax Support Grant had been confirmed as £13,508 (a fifty per cent reduction on that for 2017/18).

After considering the estimates, the Committee AGREED that £78,000 could be taken from General Reserves to reduce the net requirement whilst leaving the General Reserves at approximately 60.1% of the net running costs to meet the Reserves Policy.

The Committee also AGREED to the proposed budget revisions, which provided total savings of £37,000, and the reductions in earmarked reserves as detailed in the agenda.

The Committee RECOMMENDED to Council that the precept for 2018/19 be set at £665,000 with the budget details as follows:

Committee	Income		Expenditure
	£	£	£
Resources and General Services	32,850		449,445
Environment and Heritage	25,470		122,655
Recreation	109,880		541,990
Planning and Licensing	0		45,200
		168,200	1,159,290
Interest		5,000	
Use from earmarked reserves			
Resources & General Services	6,500		
Environment & Heritage	39,500		
Recreation	148,700		
Planning and Licensing	35,000		
		229,700	
Local Council Tax Support Grant		13,508	
Total income		416,408	
Less money from general reserves		78,000	
Net requirement		664,882	
Rounding		665,000	

Signed
Date: 14 February 2018