

**MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a **Meeting** of the **Finance and Policy Committee** which was held on **Monday 13th March 2017**
in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 7.30 pm

PRESENT	Councillor A. Ross	Chairman
	Councillor N. Barrett-Morton	Town Mayor
	Councillor N. Fogg	
	Councillor G. Loosmore	
	Councillor A. Kirk Wilson	
	Councillor M. Hall	
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs S. Parker	Town Clerk
	Mrs D. Whitehall	Administrator
	Mr T. Millett	Marlborough.News

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

567/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Dobson, Dow and Allen.

568/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations of interest.

569/16 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman read out a letter from Chris Simmons, Chief Executive of Revitalise, thanking the Town Council for the donation of £450 which would help provide essential breaks for guests and carers from the Marlborough area.

There was to be an amendment to the Local Government Finance Bill seeking to end the 'toilet tax' by providing 100% mandatory rate relief for public toilets. While the Bill enables principal councils like Wiltshire Council to grant discretionary relief for local authority public toilets, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has been pressing the government to go further with mandatory relief. A number of MPs have added their name in support of the amendment. NALC have asked that towns and parishes urge their own MPs to add their names too. The Town Clerk will be writing to the Claire Perry, MP asking her to do this. If the amendment is passed this would mean a zero rating for public toilets and a business rates saving for the Town Council on the site at George Lane.

570/16 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held Monday, 5th December 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

571/16 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted the contents of the Town Clerk's report.

572/16 COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2016/17

Members noted the committee income and expenditure reports to end January 2017 (Month 10) together with the list of payments.

Cllr. Loosmore joined the meeting

573/16

INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT 2016/17

Members noted the second interim internal audit for 2016/17. A recommendation to undertake a VAT Partial Exemption calculation was noted, and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would investigate how other town councils had approached this. The overall conclusion found no major issues and acknowledged the manner and quality of record keeping by Mrs Fry, the Office Manager, and Members recorded their thanks and commendations to her.

574/16

FUTURE OF EXTERNAL AUDITS

Members noted forthcoming changes for External Audits.

575/16

BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

Members noted a letter from the Town Council's bank about free banking arrangements, which would be coming to an end on 18th March 2017.

576/16

RISK ASSESSMENT

Members considered a Risk Assessment for recommendation to Full Council and congratulated the Town Clerk for the work which had resulted in the improvements documented within it.

RESOLVED: to recommended the Risk Assessment to Full Council.

577/16

PRESS RELEASE – PRECEPT 2017/18

Members noted the press release and background information about the setting of the precept for 2017/18 which was in line with recommendations from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signed:

..... Date

Chairman