

GOOLE TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 9th January, 2020 at 7.31pm

PRESENT: Councillors Head (In the Chair) Bailey, Boatman, Bottomley, Flynn, Harrison, B Jeffreys, D Jeffreys, Marshall, Moore, Penn, Raspin, Turner, Vause, Walker and Whitehead.

OFFICERS: Mr Brian Robertson (Town Clerk)
Ms Stacey Norfolk (Responsible Finance Officer)
Mrs Carol Brophy (Admin Assistant)

GTC2796 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Moiser.

The Chair (Councillor Head) reminded the public that under Standing Order 13A any elector of Goole will be afforded time at the beginning of this session to raise any matters of concern. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be allowed.

No members of the public wished to speak.

GTC2797 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & THEIR NATURE**

There were no declarations of interest.

GTC2798 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the under-mentioned meetings be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted subject to any resolution contained below.

Councillor Waker stated that there is a typing error on page 3. It states Councillor Morrison and should state Councillor Moiser.

Councillor Penn **PROPOSED** that subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5th December, 2019 be accepted as a true record.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor D Jeffreys.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5th December, 2019 be signed as a true record by the Chair, Councillor Head subject to the above amendment.

Councillor Turner **PROPOSED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 5th and 19th December, 2019 be signed as a true record.

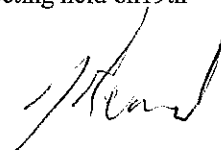
This was **SECONDED** by Councillor B Jeffreys.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 5th and 19th December, 2019 be signed as a true record by the Chair Councillor Turner.

Councillor Penn **PROPOSED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 19th December, 2019 be signed as a true record.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor D Jeffreys.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 19th December, 2019 be signed as a true record by the Chair, Councillor Flynn.



TO RECEIVE BUDGET AND PRECEPT PROPOSALS FOR 2020/21

Councillor Moore read out the Labour Party Budget. He thanked Council staff for their continued efforts to reduce costs across all departments and gave special thanks to the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) for meeting with Councillors to explain the budget requirements for 2020/21 and setting out draft recommendations.

He stated that the continued uncertainty over the Market Hall building had made the budget difficult this year.

The Labour Group **PROPOSE** to accept the RFO's recommendation and **PROPOSE** to raise the Precept by 2.0% to allow for inflation. This results in a rise in Council Tax equivalent to 1.42% and will raise a total Precept of £953,312. They also **PROPOSE** an increase to allow for inflation of 2% for all facility charges.

Councillor Head informed members that although GTC have closed the Market Hall, rent is still being paid and redundancies had to be paid to be Market staff, this depleted Reserves. She said that the market could have been kept and should GTC want to take it back there is no money in the reserves to do so.

Councillor Moore stated that Members voted unanimously several times to hand the Market back. The Market belongs to ERYC not GTC and should be handed back.

A discussion took place amongst Members regarding the amount of money in Reserves with Councillor Moore saying that Members need to work together with the RFO to address the shortfall in recommended levels as identified in the internal audit report.

Councillor Bottomley stated that the auditors report had caused alarm, this had to be considered when setting budgets.

Councillor D Jeffreys informed Members that he had spoken with the RFO who told him that if the 2% is agreed a surplus of £700 would result.

Councillor Head read out the Independent Budget. She talked about the amenities that GTC is responsible for, such as the Cemetery and parks, Junction and the provision of Christmas lights and entertainments. She said that the town's CCTV system is very costly to provide and maintain. She also mentioned that Staff salaries and Pensions increase annually. She also mentioned the Auditor's report and maintained that the shortfall in the Reserves is due to redundancy payments.

The Independent Budget **PROPOSES** that charges for amenities and facilities increase by 2%. Burials of babies and young people below 18 years of age will continue to be free. They **PROPOSE** to raise the precept by 4.99%. This results in a Council Tax increase of £5.99 per annum for Band A and £8.99 for Band D.

A discussion took place amongst Members regarding the amount of money in Reserves and the reasons for the shortfall.

The RFO clarified that there is £114,000 currently unearmarked in Reserves, the Auditor has advised that this should be £240,000.

Councillor Head informed Members that this was more than she understood.

Following further lengthy discussions, Councillor B Jeffreys **PROPOSED** that Members **ACCEPT** The Independent budget.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor D Jeffreys.

Members voted – 11 - For
 4 - Against
 1 - Abstained



A counter **PROPOSAL** was made by the Labour Party. Councillor Moore **PROPOSED** that Members **ACCEPT** the Labour Party budget.

This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Boatman.

Members voted – 4 – For
11 – Against
1 – Abstained

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Independent budget and precept proposal resulting in a 2% increase in fees and charges and a precept for 2020/2021 of £981,251.00

The Full Council meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

*******END*******

