

PENISTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council to set the precept on February 4th 2013 in the Resource Centre, St.Johns Community Centre. Penistone.

Present: The Town Mayor **Cllr.Barron**, in the Chair
Cllrs. Cutts, Chapman, Hand – Davis, Mrs. Hinchliff, Millner, Mrs.Rusby, Starling, Unsworth and Webber.

Also present the Town Clerk **K. Coulton** and Finance Officer **A.Hart**

1) Apologies for absence – Cllrs. Green, Hinchliff, Pilkington, and Mrs. Webber. RESOLVED the apologies were accepted.

2) Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest.
The **Mayor** invited declarations of which there were **NONE**

Prior to the meeting the **Town Clerk** asked members if they were satisfied with all the Town Councils cash and reserves being held with one bank for if the bank should collapse, the maximum compensation which would be repaid to the Town Council would be £85,000.00. This figure was recommended and accepted by the Banking Code of Practice and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme following the global financial crisis. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the **Town Clerk** researches alternative banking arrangements.

3) Town Council Precept 2013/14

Members were circulated with an up to date set of accounts for perusal for the Town Council and Paramount. These accounts were studied individually and a thorough explanation and answers to the satisfaction of members given on questions, by the **Finance Officer**.

Following a lengthy debate it was **RESOLVED** to agree the following.

Projects:

Cinema subsidy and fees, £20,000 for 2013/14
Allotments £17,000.00
Gala Funding £2,000.00
Public toilets £14,000.00 (£8000.00 grant from ISG Pearce)
Community Led Plan £6,000.00
Section 137 £4,000.00
Church clock £300.00
Hoylandswaine church clock £165.00
Millhouse Green Institute rates £90.00
Hoylandswaine institute rates £210.00
Bonfire £1500.00
Penistone in bloom £1500.00
Christmas lights £5,000.00

Improvements at the Community Centre:

Replacement of windows £2,800.00
General Maint - £6,000

Signed.....Mayor 18/02/13

Civic Expenses

Mayors allowance £1,785.00 (agreed to rise by 2%)

Public events £500.00

Photographs/ engraving £250.00

Income:

£12,600 per annum for the lease of the Resource Centre.

Balances:

The reserves and cash balances which have been low are now slightly higher than at March 31st 2012 due to a successful year at the Paramount.

RESOLVED: to accept the budget presented and set the precept for 2013/14 from the existing **£140,000.00** to **£147,330.00** and that the expenditure for the financial year 2013/14 is monitored stringently.

Town Clerks note:

This is based on the new reduced council tax base set by Barnsley MBC which with a 2% increase over the previous year, raises the precept of £134,220.00 augmented by a grant from Barnsley MBC of £13,110.00.

Cllr. Webber referred to the Paramount subsidy currently set at £20,000.00 per annum paid in quarterly installments and was of the opinion that due to financial constraints and tight budgets this should be reduced and the reduction utilized elsewhere on community projects.

The Finance Officer explained that the subsidy was expense to the Town Council budget but offset by being income to the Paramount budget. Should any saving be spent elsewhere this would result in a greater deficit at the end of the year.

Cllrs. Mrs Hinchliff and **Starling** were both of the opinion the budget should not be reduced and remain at £20,000.00

Much discussion ensued until **Cllr. Unsworth** proposed, seconded by **Cllr. Hand – Davis**, that a vote should be taken.

Cllr. Unsworth proposed, seconded by **Cllr. Cutts** that a vote should be taken to accept the budget as presented.

Cllr. Webber proposed, seconded by **Cllr. Millner** an amendment to the proposal to reduce the Paramount grant to £15,000.00

The voting was as follows:

For the amendment 2 for, 6 against, 1 abstention, (voting for the amendment fell)

To accept the budget as presented 6 for, 2 against, 1 abstention (vote carried)

Cllr. Webber and **Cllr. Millner** both asked for their dissent to be recorded

Cllr. Chapman asked for his abstention to be recorded

Signed.....Mayor 18/02/13