

DEVIZES TOWN COUNCIL

15th December 2022

Councillors:	Bridewell	Britten	Brown
	Burton	Corbett	East
	Gay	Geddes	Giraud-Saunders
	Greenwood	Hopkins	Hoult
	Hunter	Nash	Oliver
	Ormerod	Pennington	Rose
	Stevens	Wallis	Wooldridge

Officers: Simon Fisher –Town Clerk
Taylor Minty – Committee Administrator

Members of the Public: 6

336. MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13th October 2022, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

337. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bridewell, Ormerod, Nash, Pennington and Burton.

338. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None declared.

339. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

340. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 15

None.

341. MINUTES OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION

The committee noted the list of meetings, whose minutes have been signed, held since the last meeting of the Council.

342. PROCEDURE: SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 5

It was proposed by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Oliver and AGREED

THAT

For the purposes of dealing with the remaining items on the agenda, Standing Order No. 5 (Members to stand when speaking) is suspended.

343. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

The Committee received and noted the report.

344. REPORT FOR DECISION – APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR AS MAYORAL NOMINATION FOR 2023/24

It was proposed by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Oliver and AGREED

THAT

Councillor John Stevens is confirmed as the nomination for Town Mayor for the municipal year 2023/24.

345. REPORT FOR DECISION – ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24

The Town Clerk informed Councillors of recent developments relating to the budget. Namely, that the price for electricity in the shambles has spiked. A contract for £34k was settled immediately to mitigate any further price increase. This has had an impact on the balance of the budget, and it is for Councillors to decide where the burden of cost must fall. As a result, it was proposed by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Greenwood and unanimously AGREED

THAT

the Council defers adopting the budget for financial year 2023/24 pending further a further review.

346. REPORT FOR DECISION – AGREE PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24 COMMON SEAL

In light of the new information outlined above, it was proposed by Councillor Giraud-Saunders, seconded by Councillor Wallis and unanimously AGREED

THAT

following the decision in minute number 345, the council defers agreeing the precept for the financial year 2023/24.

347. REPORT FOR DECISION SHAMBLES THREE WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDATION

Councillor Wallis shared that he had hoped to support adopting the recommendations, but given that the Markets Manager has recently changed and in light of the cost of electricity, he felt this not to be the correct course of action. Thanks were given to Mr. Hill and Mr. James. Ultimately, it was proposed by Councillor Wallis, seconded by Councillor Geddes and unanimously AGREED

THAT

work into this project is continued into the new year, and a discussion and review of recommendations is made at a later date following a meeting with the new Market Manager

348. REPORT FOR DECISION – REVIEW OF DEVIZES TOWN COUNCILS CODE OF CONDUCT.

Councillor Wallis, as a member of the Wiltshire Council Standards Committee, expressed support for aligning Devizes Town Council’s Code of Conduct with Wiltshire Council’s. It was stated that harmonisation will assist swifter operation within Wiltshire Council, and that it promotes positive conduct and positive democracy. Councillor Rose queried the need to change the Code of Conduct which was said to work well. Councillor Geddes responded that DTC should be at the forefront of promoting positive conduct and democracy, and Councillor Greenwood shared that Wiltshire Council’s Code of Conduct document supports Councillors.

Councillor Wallis went further to recommend that Councillors sign up to become positive conduct and positive democracy ambassadors. Upon Councillor Gay’s request, information relating to this initiative and what it entails was provided.

Following these discussions, it was proposed by Councillor Wallis, seconded by Councillor Greenwood and AGREED

THAT

Devizes Town Council adopts the Code of Conduct as shown in the agenda, and that Councillors have the opportunity to sign up to become a positive conduct and positive democracy ambassador via the sign-up sheet which is to be circulated.

349. TO PASS THE FOLLOWING SEALING RESOLUTION

It was proposed by Councillor Giraud- Saunders, seconded by Councillor Oliver and unanimously AGREED

THAT

the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to, or the Town Clerk sign on behalf of the Council where appropriate, any Orders, Deeds or Documents necessary to give effect to any of the matters and recommendations contained in the reports received and adopted at this meeting, or other decisions of the Council therein.

350. QUESTION TIME

None.

351. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

CHAIRMAN