



## NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021

**Present** – Councillors: David Marren (Chair), David Greaves, John Statham and Pam Kirkham with Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk, and Deputy Clerk Sheryl Birtles

**Also present:** Councillor Peter Groves

#### **27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors, Arthur Moran, Phil Staley and Stephanie Wedgwood.

#### **28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

#### **29. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

Committee approved the minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

#### **30. BUDGET 2022/23**

The Town Clerk asked members to consider the previously circulated draft budget which had been prepared by the Clerk and members through budget workshops. There had also been amendments made to the draft budget and the draft planned maintenance programme following the last meeting of the Finance Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Members reviewed the amendments the Clerk had made since the last meeting and agreed that they reflected the discussion by members. The Clerk advised that despite the amendments to the budget and planned maintenance programme Council would still need to determine what level of Capital Revenue Reserves should be used to meet the needs of the planned maintenance programme and re-prioritise further the planned maintenance commitments for 2022. Following discussion all members agreed to the following amendments:

- Incorporate the cost of new notice boards within the marketing budget for 2022, saving £5,000;
- Reduce the commitment into ear marked reserves for addressing the carbon footprint from £10,000 to £5,000;
- Reduce funding for Brookfield Allotment drainage issues to £10,000 to cover legal advice;
- Reduce funding for Welshman's Lane Allotments drainage issues to £30,000 with a view to seek support from the local developers;

In addition, members agreed to reduce the existing ear marked reserves for allotment tree felling from £20,000 to £10,000. Members agreed to recommend the above amendments to Council which would result in additional ear marked reserves for 2022 as follows:

- Market Hall – repointing of wall £5,000
- Energy Efficiency improvements £5,000
- IT hardware £4,000

It would also result in the following costs being funded from Capital Revenue Reserves:

- Market Hall window sill lintel repairs £2,500
- Brookfield Allotment draining £10,000
- Welshman's Lane allotment drainage £30,000
- Snowhill toilet investment £75,000

Members then discussed the impact on the above recommendations on the precept requirements. Councillor Marren proposed a reduced precept of 10% which he believed would protect the general reserves but also meet the needs of the budget and planned maintenance works.

**Resolved:** It was resolved:

- a) That a reduced precept of 10% be recommended for approval by Full Council subject to consultation responses;
- b) That the Clerk would now send out a consultation leaflet to residents detailing the draft budget as recommended by the Finance Committee;
- c) That the draft budget would then be considered by Full Council following consultation with residents.

**The meeting ended at 7.45pm**

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....