Snodland Town Council – Full Council Minutes

11 January 2024

Councillors in attendance:	Cllrs Ms D King (C), Mrs S Bell (VC), Mrs J Ayers, Mrs V Barker, A Bennison, Mrs D Crook, P Hickmott, Miss V Lawrence, D Lettington, S Loader, W Mallard, G Miners, and D Morgan
Other Council Members in Attendance:	Mrs K Sowten (CEO)
Others in Attendance	County Cllr Mrs S Hohler
Councillors Absent with apologies:	Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf (DVC), Mrs N Misy, W Mallard
Councillors Absent without	
apologies:	
Other Apologies:	

The Chairman asked Cllr Hickmott to say a few words relating to one of the Councils retired Councillors, Julian Atkins who sadly passed away in December. A one minute silence was held in remembrance of the late retired Cllr Atkins

	n remembrance of the late retired Cllr Atkins	
1.	Apologies for absence	
	See above.	
2.	Declaration of interests	
3.	Questions from the Public	
	Pursuant to Standing Order 3 e & g Members of the public may make representation, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes.	
4.	To consider the Final Budget for 2024/25 for approval	
	Cllr Ms Lawrence presented the final budget and advised that it had been amended following receipt of the precept tax base from TMBC. Changes reflected in the budget were explained and a full copy of the budget and notes are available on file.	
	Following amendments this leads to an increase in the precept from £334255 to £344811. The level of band D equivalent during the current year 2023/24 is £84.70 with its tax base of 3946.34. The 2024/25 tax base has been confirmed by TMBC as 3959.82. 2023/24 £334255/3946.34 =£84.70 2024/25 £344811/3959.82 =£87.08 - An increase on band D properties of £2.38. (2.8%)	
	A question was raised regarding the level of reserves that are currently held by the council in the Earmarked and Capital Reserves, The CEO advised that as of 15 November 2023 Earmaked Reserves £228291 and Capital Reserves £302571. The CEO advised that a detailed report on the reserves would be provided at year end.	
	The Chairman of Policy and Finance thanked the CEO for the detailed notes and explanations attached to the budget, and for the hard work taken to produce an extremely challenging budget.	

11 January 2024

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	It is a very tight budget and the Council should be mindful that there may be some need for use of council reserves.
1150	RESOLVED to agree the budget for 2024/25 with an increase per band D property of £2.38
5.	To consider the amended report on the play inspection and quotation for repairs on the play equipment
	A report relating to the play inspection and quotations for repairs was presented to the Council. Only one of the quotes provided full and comprehensive details of the works required.
	The Council discussed the poor state of the play equipment, no repairs have been carried out for a number of years and the council agreed that repairs needed to be carried out as a matter of urgency to ensure that there was equipment available to use for Spring 2024. For items that are not going to be repaired and that needs removing, the council should look at grants for replacement of these items. The CEO advised that there is a small amount of Section 106 money available for use to carry out the repairs and this would need to be applied for to TMBC. It was suggested that the Borough Councillors may be able to assist with the re-allocation of the Section 106 money available from TMBC.
	A proposal was put forward to repair and/or replace all the items on the quote report in all the play areas that was carried out with the inspection except the junior multi play equipment in Nevill Park which will be removed. Also, the Shelter in Nevill Park will not be painted at the current time. A proposal was also put forward to ensure that repairs are carried out promptly in the future.
11151	RESOLVED to accept the quote that was carried out with the inspection to repair and/or replace all the items in all the play areas except the junior multi play equipment which will be removed and the painting of the Shelter in Nevill Park.
	Once the equipment has been repaired/replaced promotion should be carried out.
	Further discussions need to be had relating to posting on social media.
6.	To consider nominations for the KALC and Snodland Community Award Scheme
	Nominations were put forward for the KALC and Snodland Community Award Scheme.
1152	RESOLVED to accept KALC AD Snodland Community Nominations for Karolina Czajkowska – Mood Lift Café – KALC Community Award Donna Mund – Snodland Food Assist – Snodland Community Award
	athen by since the meeting along data 00,04

being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:21