

**Eastwood Town Council**

**Policy & Finance Committee**

**11<sup>TH</sup> January 2010**

**Present:**Cllr David Bagshaw ( Chair), Cllr Keith Longdon (Mayor), Cllr Josie Forrest ( Deputy Mayor), Cllr Susan Bagshaw, Cllr Peter Butler, Cllr Brian Griffin, Cllr Charles Robb, Cllr John Zalewski ( substitute for Cllr G Robb), Cllr Hazel Charlesworth, Cllr Robert Charlesworth, Cllr Richard Dodge, Cllr Tara Fiddymment,Cllr Rayner Robb.

Cllr D Bagshaw took the chair and asked members to vote for the changes to Committee structure as agreed at Extra Ordinary Town Council Meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009:

**Policy & Finance Committee** (Split 6, 4, 1,) Proposed by Cllr C Robb, Seconded by Cllr P Butler. Voted by all Councillors in support of motion.

Councillors appointed

Majority Party: Cllr D Bagshaw (Chair), Cllr S Bagshaw, Cllr P Butler, Cllr B Griffin, Cllr G Robb,

Minority Party: Cllr R Dodge, Cllr R Charlesworth, Cllr H Charlesworth, Cllr T Fiddymment

Independent: Cllr R Robb

The meeting then continued its agenda.

**P40/10**     **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Gwen Robb (sick) Cllr J Zalewski deputised.

**P41/10**     **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr D Bagshaw and Cllr S Bagshaw both declared an interest as allotment holders.

Cllr B Griffin declared an interest in allotments, Arts Festival, Christmas Lights, and Garden Services.

Cllr H Charlesworth & Cllr P Butler declared an interest in Arts Festival and Christmas Lights.

Cllr R Rayner declared a personal interest.

**P42/10**     **Notification of Lobbying**

Cllr P Butler confirmed he had been lobbied over the planning application at former Moon & Stars PH. It was agreed that was a full council meeting matter.

**Annual Budget and Precept 2010/11**

Cllr D Bagshaw invited Cllr C Robb to present 2010/11 Annual Budget. He reported that the budget continues to allow for funding for most items we undertake. One item not increased this year was youth sport development. That was because last year there was not a full take up. Money had been provided to sport activities through the Community grants and one concern was there need to be a consideration of a sealing of £750 per organisation for Community grants issued. Most of the budget speaks for themselves. Building maintenance remains at £1000 due to intending move. Salaries reduced with new Town Clerk on reduced salary and Mr Plumb retiring annuity having been paid off. Rates it is hoped these will remain static. War Memorial Electricity- This has been taken out because for several years this hasn't been charged for. Postage to remain same as last year with savings to be made by Councillors calling into office to collect mail, and the possibility of purchasing stamps on a commercial basis to make savings, Stationary there is a need to shop around to make savings as with advertising. Training increased to £1200 from £1000 to allow new Town Clerk to undertake the necessary professional qualifications. No increase in office equipment, No increase in audit/accountancy fees. With precept under £100,000 we wouldn't require an audit but on grounds of openness recommend we still have an auditor. Town Mayors allowance to remain the same. Cllr Robb asked if this was about the right amount. Cllr D Bagshaw asked if Cllr Longdon had kept a record of his spending. Cllr H Charlesworth asked if the new mayor could keep a record of spending in order to monitor the Town Mayor allowance for future years that was agreed.

Hospitality cost Cllrs to remain at £400.

On Community Development Services, Christmas lights to remain at £3500, Summer Floral Displays left at £5000 as on a fixed price contract. War Memorial fund has £10,000 set aside for restoration with zero allowance in budget for maintenance. Grants for Community Grants left same as last year, Arts Festival to increase to £3250, Youth Services Development mentioned previously to remain as last year. Remembrance Sunday to remain static at £950. Garden Service increase to £7,750. Election Contingency fund to remain static.

This provides a total expenditure of £101,530 with income £1,990. Income is made up of allotment rents £1,740 to remain static but to lower interest from £1,000 to £200 subject to current financial restraints. Cllr C Robb recommended that half of reserve fund is placed into a high interest account to gain a favourable interest amount. Cllr Robb reported his disappointment at the low cost of Council Chamber lettings. There should be more use made of the Council Chamber for public lettings and this facility needs to be better promoted. With a net precept amount of £99,540 and a tax base increase of £3,153.54 this amounts to a Band D of 31.56. On behalf of the chair Cllr Robb recommended this annual budget to the meeting.

Cllr R Charlesworth reported that the Opposition budget will follow procedure and their budget will be presented at Full Council rather than at this time. We will therefore abstain from voting at this time.

Cllr R Robb therefore asked the meeting to accept the Annual Budget as presented asked the meeting to vote on the Annual Budget.

**For the motion**

Cllr D Bagshaw  
Cllr S Bagshaw  
Cllr P Butler  
Cllr B Griffin  
Cllr C Robb  
Cllr G Robb  
Cllr J Zalewski  
Cllr R Robb

**against the motion**

Nil

**Abstentions**

Cllr R Dodge  
Cllr K Longdon  
Cllr R Charlesworth  
Cllr H Charlesworth  
Cllr J Forrest  
Cllr T Fiddymont

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Cllr R Charlesworth asked if the Full meeting reconvene after a five minutes interval. This was agreed by Chair.

The meeting closed at 7.06pm

-----

There being no further business closed this part of the business.