

**PRESENT**

Cllr Elizabeth Bruce (Chair); Cllr Alan Bruce; Cllr Michael Young; Cllr Stuart Sutherland; Cllr Julie Cairns; Cllr Victor Collinson; Cllr Pearl Hewitt Malpas; Cllr Helen Taylor (from 6.30pm)

Also in attendance – Town Clerk and Mr D. Shingleton Accountant (from 6.05pm)

**OM 120121 01 APOLOGIES-** Apologies were received from Cllrs Rundle, Dixon and Davies.

**OM 120121 02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –** None were received.

**OM 120121 03 DISPENSATIONS –** None were received.

**OM 120121 04. COUNCIL MINUTES**

**IT was AGREED** To receive and approve as a correct record the previously circulated Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8th December 2020

**IT was AGREED** To defer consideration of the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to the next Council Meeting to allow Members time to read them.

The Chair advised the meeting that Mr Shingleton was running late as he was stuck in Newcastle upon Tyne it was agreed that the budget item would be deferred until he was in attendance.

**OM 120121 05 CDALC CONTACT PROTOCOL**

**IT was AGREED** to defer consideration of this item to a later meeting.

**OM 120121 06. BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR THE 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR**

consideration was given to the previously circulated report of officers prepared in light of the decisions made regarding the budget at the Special Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

*The Town Clerk withdrew from the meeting while matters relating to her contract of employment were under discussion*

**IT was AGREED that:-**

1. The recommendations set out in the presentation by the Council's accountant be agreed.
2. That the Town Clerk continue to be employed for 35 hours per week with overtime being paid for evening meetings at her standard, flat hourly rate of pay.
3. That there be a zero rise in the precept
4. Chilton Town Council requests a precept for 2021/22 of £254,150.00 (two hundred and fifty four thousand and one hundred and fifty pounds and zero pence)

5. That it be noted that this precept divided by the tax base gives a band D charge of £218.19 (two hundred and eighteen pounds and nineteen pence).
6. That priority be given to improving the Town Council's Play Areas and
7. That in relation to Memorial Safety Inspections that the responsibility for undertaking these inspections to the required industry safety standards be included in the tender documentation for the Council's Grounds Maintenance and Environmental works contracts.

#### **OM 120121 07. REQUEST TO USE HUTTON HOUSE AS A POLLING STATION**

**It was AGREED** that the Council would re-affirm their previous decision and confirm that this use of Hutton House on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 remains acceptable.

#### **OM 120121 08. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER CONSULTATION**

**IT was AGREED** that Members would respond to this survey on an individual basis should they choose to do so.

#### **OM120121 09 PLANNING MATTERS – Planning reference DM/20/03699/FPA**

**IT was unanimously AGREED**, a recorded vote having been requested, that the Town Council objects to this planning application on the grounds of the adverse impact that it will have on the trees, wildlife and ecology of the site.

#### **OM 120121 10 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC t**

**IT was AGREED that in accordance with Paragraph 1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 that the press and public shall be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the Agenda on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

#### **OM 120121 11 CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL TENDERS FOR CONTRACTS FOR; GROUNDS MAINTENANCE; RECREATION & PLAY AREAS; CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & EVENTS**

Following a lengthy discussion on this matter, including the additional works to be incorporated as discussed during the budget and precept item on the agenda and taking into account the current staffing issues.

**IT was AGREED** that the Town Clerk would use her best endeavours to draft the revised contract and tender documentation for consideration by Members at the next Council meeting.

#### **OM120121 12 CEMETERY MATTERS –**

**It was AGREED** to note the current position and updates provided by the Town Clerk in relation to the matters requested by Councillor Young.

**It was further AGREED** that signs should be erected in the Cemetery advising that the only vehicles that should be brought into the cemetery should be either funeral cars or disabled “blue badge” holders.

*The Chair then exercised her discretion to consider an item relating to staff well being and the Council’s duty of care towards their employees under the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Member Code of Conduct and the Member Officer Protocol .*

**It was AGREED** that the situation would be reviewed in a month’s time