

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION  
COMMITTEE HELD 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

**Councillors Present:** Cllr. Margaret Allingham, Cllr. Ian Corben, Cllr. Jerry Hall, Cllr. Keith House, Cllr. Jim Mitchell, Cllr. Derek Pretty (Chairman), Cllr. Shankerlal Sthankiya, Cllr. Jane Welsh, Cllr. Chris Yates

**F741 Apologies**

None recorded.

**F742 To consider the Minutes of the meeting held 1 November 2016**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**F743 Correspondence Received**

- a) Lloyds Bank – Changes to Business current accounts and simplifying the pricing structure but it appears that the Town Council may be charged from previously enjoying free banking.
- b) Letter from DCLG via Nick Tustian (Chief Executive – Eastleigh Borough Council) advising of the dangers of open water swimming. EBC advises to undertake a risk assessment of the water on any Town Council owned land. Guidance is given as part of the RoSPA advice on Sustainable Drainage Systems. Members noted the advice.
- c) Request from Cllr. Jim Mitchell to erect a sign on the existing pole situate in the hedge of the St Johns Road labelled ‘The Wildern Opportunity Group and Pre School’. An example of the same was circulated for members consideration. Members raised no objection to this proposal.
- d) The Clerk – SLCC, Volume 47, Number 5, November 2016

**F744 Matters to be Resolved**

**Approve BACS Hedge End Town Council Expenditure for November 2016**

The Town Clerk reported on the latest bank balances and the financial position of the Town Council.

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Council approves the BACS Hedge End Town Council expenditure for November 2016

**To consider and approve purchase of Kubota Digger as part of In-House Cemetery grave preparation.**

The Town Clerk advised that three quotations have been received for the purchase of an excavator for the cemetery as part of the strategy of in-house cemetery preparation.

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The Town Clerk explained from larger than expected receipts, it would be possible to put a down payment of £2,678 against an excavator coupled with the requisite £1,850 for a trailer. However, it would not be possible to afford an outright payment of a Kubota Digger but with interest rates very low it is possible to achieve the equipment via hire purchase finance.

- a) Harper Plant Ltd – Salisbury – 4 bucket Kubota Hitch/Trailer over 3 years, Cash Price (ex VAT) £15,550 less advance £2,678, leaving a balance of cash price £12,872.00. Interest rate of 1.7% over 3 years results in 36 monthly rentals of £375.79. The groundstaff have visited Harper Plant Ltd and are happy with the equipment and it would be feasible to work with this machinery.
- b) CAT Financial are based in Kent and the net price of £13,750 with a deposit of £2,805, would result in a balance finance of £10,945.00 and a monthly payment of £318.16 over three months at a base rate of 1.55%. However, the equipment has not been seen by the groundstaff and the trailer is more expensive.
- c) JCB Finance, Mini-Excavator Micro/8016, maximum advance of £8,000 on a fixed hire purchase resulting in 36 monthly payments of £222.22. This equipment has not been recommended.

**RESOLVED**

That the Town Council purchases a Kubota Digger/Trailer on 3 years finance with Harper Plant Ltd.

**F745 To consider and discuss draft budget for financial year 2017/2018**

The Town Clerk introduced the draft budget and made reference to the previously sent report to all members prior to this committee meeting. The Town Clerk made specific reference to the taxbase for the Town Council for 2017/2018 (the real declared Council Tax NET of Council Tax support), which is 7,818.44. This has increased by 6.37% (rounded) from the level of 2016/2017, which was 7,350.37. The Town Clerk set out the various percentage levels of EBC Council Tax support against a level of precept requirement at various increases including a no change in the precept level requirement. In view of the increase in the taxbase at 6.37%, Cllr. Keith House considered it appropriate that the precept should remain unchanged at Council Tax Band D level £88.54, which would result in a precept requirement of £659,059.89 with a Support Grant of £33,184.79 = £692,244.68. The formal equation resulting in calculation of Average Band D Council Tax would be 692,244.68 divided by 7818.44 = 88.54.

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**F746 To provide an update to Youth Provision and future use of The Box**

The Town Clerk gave a detailed verbal update on the future of youth provision of The Box and latest developments that have taken place over the past few weeks. He circulated a paper put together by Mary-Lou Litton (Headteacher – Wildern School) on her vision as to how The Box and The Nest can integrate as a community hub. The Town Clerk advised members of the employment consideration of youth staff and the effect this may or may not have on future employment, the role and the impact this will have on future youth service delivery. The Town Clerk advised that he has a further meeting together with Julia Birt (HEWEB Local Area Manager) with Mary-Lou Litton on 14 December 2016 to understand the vision further. Members were concerned as to the date these changes will conceivably take place.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.00 hours.