

Amersham Town Council

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Councillor M Roberts (Chair)
Councillor D Pinkney (Town Mayor)
Councillor E Shepherd (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor J Barnes
Councillor M Dormer
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor H Maitland-Jones

IN ATTENDANCE: E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy
S Catanach – Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement

38. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor M Flys
Councillor V Head
Councillor P Milliner

39. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**
There were no declarations of interest.

40. **TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2024:**

- i) Income and Expenditure Reports for periods ending 30 September & 31 October 2024
- ii) Balance sheets as at 30 September & 31 October 2024
- iii) Accounts paid from 1 September to 31 October 2024

It was Proposed - Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded – Councillor E Shepherd

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 September to 31 October 2024 be accepted.

41. **TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2024/25 AND PRECEPT REQUEST:**

The Budget Papers had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk also reported that Buckinghamshire Council had confirmed the tax base figure for 2025/26 and Councillors expressed surprise that for the second consecutive year, there was no change in the tax base. The Clerk was instructed to contact Buckinghamshire Council to find out how the parish tax base figures are calculated. Options were considered on how best to minimize the precept increase for 2025/26, in order to lessen the burden on Amersham council tax payers. After discussion

It was Proposed – Councillor M Roberts
Seconded – Councillor E Shepherd

RECOMMENDED to propose an increase of 4.80%. This figure would be achieved by lowering the capital fund allocation from £70,000 (as recommended by officers) to £40,000 and using the councils reserves to finance some of the planned capital projects and to allocate the projected surplus for 2024/25 to capital funds. The budget and precept for 2025/26 will be agreed at the Council meeting on 20 January 2025, with the provisional figures as follows:

Total Precept for 2025/26:	£1,079,277
Band D equivalent (£/annum)	£154.68
Percentage increase from 2024/25:	4.80%

42. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

- i) **The Clerk reported on an on-going parking issue on land owned by Amersham Town Council on Station Road**
- ii) **Members noted a report on an issue in the Market Hall building**
- iii) **The Clerk reported on a new consultation from Buckinghamshire Council on 'lane rental', where Bucks Council intends to charge a daily rate for road closures. The matter will be discussed at the next Council meeting.**

Part two

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

That under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they include the likely disclosure of exempt information, stated to be confidential.

There were no matters for discussion.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Chairman.....

Date