

NEWQUAY TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTE
REF:**

Minutes of the Virtual Annual Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 09 December 2020 at 7pm via Go To Meetings as authorised under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

ACTION:**Present**

Cllrs L Gardner (Mayor), R Craze (Deputy Mayor), Z Dixon, M North, O Monk, M Johns, S M Jones, J Kenny, G Jones, A Goudge, D Cheney, K Towill, A Hannan and P Avery.

Also attending

Mr A Curtis (Town Clerk & Chief Executive), Mr C Rowley (IT Services Manager), Mr L Holroyd (Finance Assistant), Miss L Lane Management Support Officer), Mr B White (Accountant), Mrs C Horton (CCTV Manager) and 1 member of the press

182/20**Apologies**

Apologies were received by Cllrs A Clatworthy, S Hick and S Daniell. No apologies were received by Cllr J Bell.

183/20**Interests**

As and when.

184/20**Open Session for Electors of Newquay – Verbal/Written Questions (15 minutes)**

No written or verbal questions were submitted.

185/20**Correspondence**

None.

186/20**Expenditure Budget 2021 – 2024****186/20
(A)**

- A. To receive the 2021-24 Budget Report and note its contents.

**186/20
(A)(1)**

It was proposed by Cllr R Craze, seconded by the Cllr L Gardner and

RESOLVED to receive and note the 2021/2024 Budget Report.

**Note to
RFO**

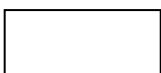
**186/20
(B)**

- B. To raise any matters relating to the following budget recommendations, in line with the existing established Budget Setting Policy:

**186/20
(B)(i)**

- i. Corporate Service

No issues raised



**186/20
(B)(ii)**

ii. Finance Policy

No issues raised

**186/20
(B)(iii)**

iii. Council Offices

No issues raised

**186/20
(B)(iv)**

iv. Staffing

Cllr J Kenny queried that in the previous year, the Staffing budget had been put up by around £50,000 but forecasted not to spend it. This year we appear to be putting it up by another £50,000 and would like to know what the justification was behind this and whether that is for new posts and if they are new posts have they been agreed by the Council.

The Town Clerk informed Cllr J Kenny that on page 35 of the recommend budget report there is a breakdown of the budget increase, along different services you can see where we have placed new or deleted roles, those are all part of a current staff review so they have not yet been determined but they are what the current thinking is across some of the Services. On page 49 you will find the staff hierarchy where you can see the clearer view of how the structure might change if everything is agreed. The budget gives capacity to do that and if we go back to last years, there are a couple of vacancies that we did not fill which would be why there was an underspend which is going into the ear marked reserve to help fund some of this. It is one of the Committees where we have released ear marked reserves over a number of years and not just next year, so it follows through with staff budget lines.

Cllr J Kenny's concern is because it has not authorised by Full Council this is really a contingency amount rather than a staffing amount. Cllr L Gardner asked if the positions are not filled where does that budget go.

The Town Clerk informed members that at the moment if the positions are not filled by Full Council that would be treated as an underspend at year end and that is where Full Council would decide any recommendation on putting that money into the staffing ear marked reserve or straight into the general fund or anywhere else. There are safeguards built in, but it will be captured at year end and not lost. Mr B White confirmed to members that the underspend will fall into the general fund at the end of the year.

**186/20
(B)(v)**

v. Economic Development

No issues raised

**186/20
(B)(vi)**

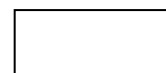
vi. Facilities Service

**186/20
(B)(vii)**

No issues raised

vii. Footpaths, Bridleways and Open Spaces

No issues raised



**186/20
(B)(viii)**

viii. Tourism and Leisure

No issues raised

**186/20
(B)(ix)**

ix. Visit Newquay Tourist Information Centre

No issues raised

**186/20
(B)(x)**

x. Library and Information Service

No issues raised

**186/20
(B)(xi)**

xi. Planning and Licensing

No issues raised

**186/20
(B)(xii)**

xii. Mountwise Building

No issues raised

**186/20
(B)(xiii)**

xiii. Contingency

Cllr J Kenny wanted it noted that the contingency budget is very low and we may need to look at borrowing from another budget if something comes up.

The Town Clerk informed members that there are a number of risks that the Council are facing as it has been quite a tough year, on balance with the earmarked reserves and the Emergency Fund earmarked reserve that has been established, this is covered. Within the balance for March 2021 there will be circa £340,000 in the Emergency Fund EMR. That fund is currently dampening future impacts on fluctuations for the precept, so we help the public by avoiding the seesaw effect each year of a significant rise and fall, it is also available for emergencies and contingencies, so on balance that point has been covered as far as we reasonably can this year.

**186/20
(C)**

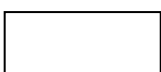
C. Subject to no matters requiring further investigation/consideration under agenda item 6B (i) – 6B (xiii) inclusive, to consider and decide on the following recommendations from the Finance and Policy Committee as set out:

**186/20
(C)(i)**

i. To set a 2021/22 Gross Expenditure Budget of £2,140,361 with associated EMR movements and a 2021/22 General Fund Balance of 3.4 Months NET Revenue Expenditure

It was proposed by Cllr R Craze, seconded by Cllr L Gardner

Cllr J Kenny commented that this year we have treated the tax base as it should be, and it means that the council tax has gone up by a very small amount as the tax base has come down. Effectively this is because Cornwall Council think that they are going to have a real problem trying to collect council tax next year because of Covid-19 and the knock-on effect.



Cllr L Gardner Informed members that the direction that the Finance and Policy Committee set for the Town Clerk this year was to maintain services as they are and minimise any precept rise as much as possible. The difference this year from what happens normally is we usually get a slight rise in the money that we collect in via council tax because of new house building, however this year although we have had some new house building it is predicted that the amount of council tax that Cornwall Council are able to collect on our behalf will be lower because of the crisis that we are in. The only reason we have raised the precept is because of the overall amount that is collected in is predicted to go down, the thing that the Finance and Policy Committee were worried about was that figure is still not set-in stone and is a future figure and if that figure turns out to be worse than expected we will have to draw on our emergency reserves to cover the difference to maintain the services the same. We did not think the people of Newquay deserved to have any Services cut, but to keep any precept rise to an absolute minimum.

It was proposed by Cllr R Craze, seconded by Cllr L Gardner and

**186/20
(C)(i)(1)**

RESOLVED unanimously to set a 2021/22 Gross Expenditure Budget of £2,140,361 with associated EMR movements and a 2021/22 General Fund Balance of 3.4 Months NET Revenue Expenditure

**Note to
RFO**

**186/20
(C)(ii)**

- ii. To set a 2021/22 Precept of £1,801,523 which results in a £2.54 (1.16%) annual increase in Newquay Town Council's element of Council Tax based on a Band D Property

It was proposed by Cllr R Craze, seconded by Cllr L Gardner

**186/20
(C)(ii)(1)**

RESOLVED unanimously to set a 2021/22 Precept of £1,801,523 which results in a £2.54 (1.16%) annual increase in Newquay Town Council's element of Council Tax based on a Band D Property

**Note to
RFO**

187/20

Chairman's Other Business

Cllr M Johns wanted it noted that she is willing to step onto a Committee if anyone wanted to step off a Committee.

Cllr L Gardner wanted to thank members and community groups that have taken part in the New Years Eve video and wished all members and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

188/20

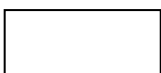
Date and time of the next meeting

The next scheduled Full Council (Budget Setting) meeting will take place on Wednesday 06 January 2021 at 7pm at a virtual location to be advertised.

The Chairman thanked those attending and the meeting closed at 19:30

Signed..... The Mayor Cllr L Gardner

Date.....



DRAFT

