

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT & PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE OF
BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.30 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: The Town Mayor Councillor J P Zalot
The Deputy Mayor Councillor G Evans Jones
Councillor I Davies
Councillor A J V Grant
Councillor M Jones
Councillor C J Theakston
Councillor S Zalot

The Town Clerk was in attendance

APOLOGIES: Councillor B L Kotkowicz

Councillor C J Theakston took the Chair

1.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2.0 PROPOSED RATES ESTIMATES AND CHARGES 2016-2017

The Town Clerk supplied members with copies of the Rates Estimates he had drawn up for 2016-17.

For each financial code the actual expenditure up until 30 September was given, his estimated expenditure up until 31 March 2016 and the estimated expenditure for the financial year 2016-17. He went through the financial codes highlighting any substantial differences in estimates for the present financial year and those for the forthcoming year.

A question was raised concerning the need to add pensions for all staff from 1 April. The Town Clerk said he believed the rule would not apply until October but he would investigate this matter.

Under 'Administration Costs' it was agreed to recommend an increase in the Mayor's Allowance by £500

Under the Code for the Town Hall, a question was raised as to the costs repairing cracks in the walls on the stairs. The Town Clerk said that with the money left in the present year and that allocated for 2016-17, he was satisfied there was sufficient for day-to-day repairs. Any major repairs would come out of Capital Expenditure.

Members asked what was included in Code 261 'Other Expenditure'

It was explained that this covered expenditure on events, the Christmas lights and the Town Clock. A proportion of this money was returned under 'Other Income.'

Under 'Capital Schemes' members felt that it would be useful to list some to have priority in the next financial year. Three new schemes were proposed: Purchase of new Christmas lights with LED bulbs, a compound for storing materials and general Council use, and a 4-wheel drive tipper (Mule)

It was agreed to add £2,000 to the budget for Floral Maintenance.

Under 'Public Toilets' comment was made that it might be possible to claim a rebate for the rates paid. It was understood that other Councils on the island had made such applications.

The Chairman left the meeting.

The Deputy Chair was not present, and the Town Mayor took the Chair.

The meeting moved on to consider the estimates for Income in the next financial year.

It was noted that the Barrier at the Green generated substantial income in the evenings and over winter.

The Chairman returned to the meeting and took the Chair.

When considering income for the Public Toilets, the question arose as to whether a turnstile should be installed. The Town Clerk said he had looked at the possible installation of turnstiles and had noted that it was not permissible to put in floor-to-ceiling types, and only simple turnstiles could be installed. There are also complications with regard to access to the disabled toilets.

There was a discussion about a possible increase in charges for the Green.

After a short discussion, it was proposed and agreed unanimously that there should be no increase in the Green parking fees.

The Town Clerk said that he had set aside money for supporting grant initiatives for the regeneration of the Green and Happy Valley, and for the Town Hall refurbishment. In addition, he had set aside money for Capital Schemes and a larger Contingency Fund than usual. This was to support any work that may be required following the landslip at the Cemetery. It could also be used for the purchase of land to build a compound for Council's use.

The Town Clerk explained the Precept Calculation that he had made for 2016-17

This represented a 54p increase per Band 'D' property.

Recommendation to the Finance & Planning Committee:

The Precept Calculation for 2016-17 be accepted.

It was noted that the Town Clerk would make alterations within the individual codes in accordance with matters raised earlier in the meeting.

The Town Clerk stated that he had not proposed any changes in the Charges for 2016-17. These had recently been increased.

Recommendation to the Finance & Planning Committee:

That the proposed charges for 2016-17 be accepted.

3.0 OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

3.1 Audit of Council's accounts

The Town Clerk said that he had reviewed the income for the Green for the financial year. £3 more had been paid into the accounting code than expected from the number of tickets sold. This was due to a minor error on a Green Sheet.

Members decided to audit the income for the Happy Valley for the previous three years. It was noted that there had been a substantial increase in income in 2014 compared to the previous years. This had dropped slightly in 2015, largely because of the poorer weather conditions. Nonetheless, members were happy with the income reported.

It was noted that there had been a substantial increase in the purchase of Residents Passes in 2014 and then again in 2015. This was due to changes in parking arrangements near the Health Centre.

The Town Clerk read out a draft of Terms and Condition that had been drawn up for vehicles parking on the Green. Some minor modifications were made to the present draft document.

There was a discussion about the possibility of issuing passes for businesses to offer their visitors for parking on the Green. This would involve producing passes that could be used for different vehicles, with access being operated by individual barrier cards. It was decided that this would put further pressure on Council staff and that the principle should be applied that unless a permit was displayed on the

vehicle it should not be admitted to the Green without payment. The use of permits to allow access for different vehicle registrations was rejected.

3.2 Rent for Chapel of Rest

The Town Mayor asked if he should declare an interest and leave the meeting because he was a tenant of the Town Council in relation to the Fishing Kiosks at the Green. The Town Clerk said that this was a completely different tenancy and there was no need to declare an interest or leave the meeting.

It was proposed and carried unanimously that the press and public be excluded to allow discussion of the financial arrangements with a tenant.

The meeting considered a report from an estate agent, and approved the rent recommended for the next two years. It was agreed that advice should be sought on the possibility of needing to include a clause in the contract in relation to access that might become difficult if any major works were carried out.

The press and public were re-admitted to the meeting.

4.0 PERSONNEL ISSUES

The Town Clerk said that there were no pressing personnel issues. He had arranged to open the Car Park at weekends for the forthcoming half-term holidays. The plan was to open from 11.00 am until 2.00 pm dependent on numbers of visitors. Further opening on days during the half-term week was a possibility, and this would depend on visitor numbers. Opening the Car Park for a few hours each day also provided an opportunity for people to renew Residents' Passes. The Green would open properly from the Easter weekend.

The Town Clerk reported that there had been threats to one of the Car park Attendants during the previous summer. There have been further minor problems with visitors being agitated because of areas of the Green not being open. Members stated that there should be a zero tolerance for any threats or abuse aimed at Council staff, and that a notice should be put up to this effect pointing out that all instances would be reported to the police and there was CCTV surveillance in operation.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 10.00 pm