



Brixham Town Council

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 10th February 2021 at 2.00pm

Present	<p>Cllrs Blackmore, Borthwick, Giles and Hoggart.</p> <p>Councillors Haddock and Laurie attended as substitutions for Cllrs Addison (C) and Massey (VC).</p> <p>In the absence of both the Committee Chair and Vice Chair it was agreed Cllr Haddock as Vice Chair of the Council would Chair the meeting.</p>
In attendance	Tracy Hallett, Town Clerk and Linda McGuirk, Deputy Town Clerk.
Welcome	Cllr Haddock opened the meeting.
Members of the Public	None present.

21018	Apologies for absence through the Clerk Apologies were received from: Cllr Addison due to a medical appointment and Cllr Massey due to illness. Cllr Carr was absent.
21019	Declarations of Interest None.
21020	Minutes The minutes of 27.01.21 were resolved and signed as a correct record subject to a minor amendment: Minute 2011: The minutes of 13.01.20 were resolved and signed as a correct record.
21021	Accounts for Payment Members considered the accounts paid by BACS and agreed the accounts to be paid as set out in the Expenditure Transaction Approval Lists It was resolved to approve the expenditure list.
21022	Financial Budget Comparison Members noted the Financial Budget Comparison report for the period ending 4 th February 2021.

21023

Budget

a) **To hear an update on the budget consultation (Report 14-2021)**

Cllr Hoggart advised the consultation had provided some useful information.

b) **To discuss and consider the draft 2021/22 budget (Report 10b-2021)**

The Clerk advised the final budget report (Report 10b-2021) has been put together by listening to the intense debate which has taken place over the past few months and taking into consideration that some Councillors did not want to see a large increase in budget due to the issues residents are facing because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recommendation also takes into consideration the 2.3% reduction in the tax base advised by Torbay Council and the opportunity of using unspent monies carried forward as part of the reserves. The recommendation proposed shows an increase of £212 which equates to a 0.15% increase from last year's budget.

Members discussed the Community Recovery Fund and agreed to set up a Task & Finish Group (responsible to the Finance & General Purposes Committee) to look closely at the Community Recovery Action Plan and bring projects forward for discussion. The Clerk confirmed the Evaluation Committee will consider the Task & Finish Groups terms of reference to allow the group to be set up as fast as possible.

It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the recommendations contained in Report 10-2021b:

1. Increase the Town Hall income budget to £40,000.
2. Reduce the reserves to £33,640.
3. Based on 1 and 2 above being approved, recommend to Full Council the 2021/22 precept of £355,218. The following recommendations made in this report will be considered as part of the Reserves considerations. Please see report 15-2021.
4. Retain any unspent monies in the ear marked reserves to ensure that Brixham Stronger Together can continue to offer the mental health support to the community. (Allowed for within budget).
5. Retain the balance of any unspent Social Emergency Fund as a Community Recovery fund in Ear Marked Reserves, which includes the approved £3,000 for the Cycle Improvement Scheme.

Cllr Haddock thanked Officers and Members for their time over the past few months in setting a difficult budget and stated he was proud to be chairing the meeting today at the end of a long and tough budget setting process.

Cllr Hoggart expressed it was an extraordinarily good outcome and thanked all Officers and Members for their efforts in setting the budget.

	<p>Cllr Blackmore said the figures demonstrated our commitment to the residents. Members should be proud and had worked more efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>Cllrs Giles and Borthwick also agreed it was a positive outcome.</p>	
21024	<p>Reserves Members discussed and considered the reserves for 2021/22 (Report 15-2021)</p> <p>It was resolved to accept the recommendations contained in Report 15-2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain any unspent Brixham Stronger Together. 2. Remove Community Healthcare. 3. Retain the balance of any unspent Social Emergency Fund, which includes the approved £3,000 for the Cycle Improvement Scheme. 4. Retain elections. 5. Increase the Information Technology to £2,000 to allow for the replacement of any unexpected faulty equipment. 6. Retain the balance of the Neighbourhood Plan being the unspent grant monies. 7. Reduce Red Telephone Box to £2,000. 8. Remove Seasonal Display. 9. Increase Shoalstone Pool Maintenance by £7,500 being the unspent 2020/21 budget. 10. Remove the Town Emergency Fund 11. Increase the Town Hall Contingency to £60,000. 12. Reduce the Town Hall Regeneration fund to £60,000. 13. Set the General Reserves to £146,319.33, being the equivalent of 4 months of the total expenditure. 	
21025	<p>Date of Next Meeting It was noted that the next meeting will be held on the 3rd March 2021 at 2pm.</p>	
21026	<p>Items for future agenda Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to raise items for future agendas, giving details of why the Council should consider the item.</p>	
Item	Reason	Proposed by
Recovery Plan	Ongoing	All

The meeting closed at 14:55pm

Chairperson Date.....