

## Bungay Town Council

### **Report of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the Council Chamber, Broad St at 7.30pm.**

Present : Clls Barnes, Cloke, Collins, Groom, Knights and Woods

1. No apologies were received.
2. No interests were declared.
3. No local electors were present.
4. To discuss the budget and precept for 2016/2017.

A report had been distributed to all members. The Clerk reported on email comments made on it by Cll O'Neill who was not a member of this committee.

The Clerk reported on the details shown in the report which included an indicative budget and precept for 2016/2017. He advised that the indicative expenditure included items which in total exceeded the maximum Section 137 spend for 16/17 which as it stood would require this category of expenditure to be reduced. This however included expenditure on PCSO provision which due to recent proposals by the Police may not be available in 16/17. If this turned out to be the case no reduction in other Section 137 expenditure would be required. Meetings were taking place this week which should clarify the position.

The Clerk reported that indicative expenditure for 16/17 could be met without raising the precept; although this was more than for the current year, planned expenditure for the current year and prior year had been deferred and these sums would be available for 16/17. However he cautioned that a similar level of expenditure for 17/18 would require a very sharp increase in precept because these extra resources would not be available. The increase required might be as high as 50% depending on the 15/16 and 16/17 outcomes. This would increase the band D charge from £40 to £60. On the basis of (recent) historic figures this charge would be at the upper end or would exceed that levied by comparable local Councils. In view of this the Clerk recommended that the Council engage in a robust public consultation exercise to secure public support for this in 16/17 before the 17/18 budget review commenced. The Clerk noted that the Council had not previously been asked to consider the extra expenditure on the items referred to by Cll O'Neill. The Clerk also noted that if adopted they would result in increased Section 137 and other expenditure. This would require a reduction in expenditure in other categories and/or an increase in the precept. Against this background there was no support for the expenditure proposed.

The committee made the following recommendations:-

- 4.1 The budget as drafted for 16/17 be approved subject to revisions necessitated by the outcome of the PCSO discussions. The Clerk would redraft the budget as necessary before the main meeting and circulate it to all members.
- 4.2 The precept will remain at £62304 for 16/17.

Signed.....  
Date.....

4.3 The Council will consult with residents before setting the 17/18 budget and precept.

5. The following balances were reported:-

	£
Lloyds current account	37506.33
Lloyds instant access	293.07
Scots Widows	131244.23
Total	169043.63

The following cheques were approved for payment :- IRS Recruitment, litter-pick, £446.26; Bungay Honeypot Centre, donation food bank, S137, £40.00; Suffolk Accident Rescue, donation, S137, £100.00.

Signed.....

Date.....

**Report of a meeting of the Environment & Planning Committee held at the Council Chamber, Broad St on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 following the above meeting**

Present : Clls Barnes, Cloke, Collins, Knights and Paul.

1. Cll Thompson's apologise were accepted.
2. No interests were declared.
3. No local electors were present.
4. The following plan was considered:-

DC/15/5188/FUL, Orwell Housing Association, construct 3 terraced bungalows and associated parking and works, demolition of existing garage and sheds, land to the rear of 89 – 91 Joyce Rd. Approval recommended.

Signed.....

Date.....