



# Buckinghamshire Council

## High Wycombe Town Committee

### Minutes

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2021 IN MICROSOFT TEAMS (REMOTE), COMMENCING AT 6.30 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 7.30 PM**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

K Ahmed, Z Ahmed, A Baughan, L Clarke OBE, M Clarke, R Farmer, S Graham, T Green, D Hayday, A Hill, A Hussain, M Hussain, M Hussain JP, M Knight, W Mallen, R Raja, S Raja and J Wassell

#### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

J Durkan, A Begley, R Prashar, D Harvey, M Dickman, M Strevens and A Sherwood

#### **Agenda Item**

##### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Nigel Teesdale.

(Cllr Sebert Graham attended the meeting and apologies for absence were recorded incorrectly).

##### **2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

##### **3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 19 January 2020 were agreed.

##### **4 SPECIAL EXPENSES BUDGET**

Following the previous meeting members considered a revised report outlining the proposed budget for Special Expenses for 2021/22 and the impact on the precept of the unparished area of High Wycombe.

Members had provided questions and received responses in advance of the meeting, and a copy of these would be attached to the minutes once published. Members raised a number of clarifications to the answers and responses were provided where possible.

Members raised concern on a number of points including the increase of the Band D Council Tax, recreation grounds, allotments, maintenance charges, and the cost of the computer system regarding allotments. Also, that not all of the questions had been answered adequately with some Members stating that the officers employed by the Council did not understand the special expenses budget for High Wycombe.

The presenting officer suggested (as he had at the last meeting) that a sub-committee be set up in the autumn so that members could be actively involved in the preparation of the Special Expenses budget for 2022/23. Arrangements would be made with members and the Chairman regarding this matter.

It was also noted that a revised Appendix B providing correcting information with regards to the VAT calculation had been circulated.

A discussion was also undertaken with regards to the budget of Aylesbury Town council in comparison the management costs within the Special Expenses budget.

Fees and Charges: Members considered the options outlined in the report. Councillor M Clarke, seconded by Councillor Marten Clarke, proposed to not increase the cemetery costs. After being put to a vote this was agreed by a majority of the Committee.

Council Tax: However, a further proposal was put forward by Councillor Marten Clarke, seconded by Cllr K Ahmed, proposing to not increase the HWTC's Band D Council Tax. After being put to a vote this was agreed by the majority of the Committee and recommended to Cabinet.

**RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET:**

- i) That there be no increase in the Fees & Charges relating to Cemeteries in Appendix B.
- ii) That there be no increase to the HWTC's Band D Council Tax for 2021/22.