

**Minutes of the Finance and Assets Committee  
of  
Warminster Town Council  
held on**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

Councillor Sue Fraser in the Chair

**Membership:** Councillors Batchelor, Burden, Fraser, Fryer, Humphries, Nicklin and Ridout.

**Present:** Councillors Batchelor, Burden, Fraser, Fryer, Humphries and Ridout.

**377. Apologies and Substitutions** – Councillor Nicklin (Hols)

**378. Minutes** – The minutes of the Finance and Assets meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**379. Chairman’s Announcements** – None.

**380. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Ridout declared she is dual-hatted as an elected Unitary Authority member.

Councillor Humphries declared he is dual-hatted as an elected Unitary Authority member.

Councillor Fraser declared that she is a retailer within the town.

**381. Petitions and Deputations** – None.

**382. Public Participation** – None

**383. Reports from Unitary Authority Members which are relevant to this committee.**

Councillor Humphries told the Members that Wiltshire Council’s Council Tax was not being increased for the following year but as yet the Police and Fire Brigade costs have not been submitted.

**384. Financial Information**

**a)** Cheques issued for November and December 2011 - NOTED

**b)** Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 - NOTED.

**c) Budget 2012/2013**

The Members debated the draft for the next financial years budget and Councillor Ridout proposed that the precept to be requested from Wiltshire Council will be £453,318 equivalent to Band D rate of £72.06. This does not represent an increase in the payment of the rates on Band D householders as the number of homes has increased within the town over the last year from 6207 – 6291. The precept has risen by £6039 1.35%. Councillor Fryer Seconded, voting unanimous in Favour.

Councillor Batchelor advised Members that he had been informed that the Police were withdrawing from marshalling the Warminster Carnival unless their services were paid for. He felt that the carnival was a very important part of Warminster’s year, people of all ages attended and the Council should support. The committee all agreed and felt that Sandra Major and her team all worked very hard throughout the year raising funds to make the carnival a success. However it was felt that the grant given needed to be reviewed each year as there was always some conflict between the amount needed to pay for costs against the funds then given to other charities after the Carnival had taken place. The Council needed to ensure that the grant was going towards payment of costs only.

In addition extra support fro the Citizens Advice Bureau was considered. Councillor Ridout proposed that to be included within the budget a separate line for Warminster Carnival with a budget of £3200. This will assume the committee will support a grant of the maximum of £2000 plus £1200 towards payment for policing costs. Also a separate budget line for the Citizens Advice Bureau of £3500 to cover payment of the rent on the offices in Warminster. The service fro CAB was invaluable and used by many people within the town. Councillor Fraser Seconded, voting unanimous in Favour.

These proposals will be put forward to the Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January for ratification.

**385. Bank Mandate**

Councillor Humphries proposed to the inclusion of Kate Fryer on the Banking mandate and withdrawal of the signatory of Stephen Wheeler, Seconded Councillor Batchelor, Voting unanimous in Favour

**386. Correspondence**

The letter of thanks from The Chapel of St Lawrence for their grant of £1705 which has been spent on modifying the Chapel lighting system was NOTED.

**387. Communications** – The Members felt that at this present time there were no items that needed a press release.

**Meeting ended at 7.25pm**