



Public Services Committee
Thursday 3 December 2015 - 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors R G Heseltine [Chairman], Mrs W Clark, J Dawson, Mrs P Heseltine and Mrs K McIntyre.

Officers: Dave Parker [Chief Officer], Brett Butler [Town Centre Manager] and Les Chandler [Estate Manager]

1. To accept representations from the Public between 7.00 pm and 7.15 pm.

None.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs P Madeley (ill health) and E Jaquin (holiday).

Absent: Cllr C Dow.

3. To record declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda.

None.

4. To consider the recommendations of the Chief Officer relating to requests for dispensations to Members on items requiring a declaration of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests.

None.

5. To approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on 5 November 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2015 were accepted as a true and fair record of what transpired at that meeting.

6. To report and receive information arising from the minutes of items not on the Agenda from Members and the Chief Officer.

Flooding on Roughaw Road: Members noted that the Council will be writing in due course to Yorkshire Water, North Yorkshire County Council, Yorkshire Housing, Craven District Council and the Environment Agency about the minor flooding adjacent to properties on Roughaw Road in Skipton.

7. To consider the Public Services Committee elements of the Council's Budget provision for 2016-17 and make recommendations to the Finance and Policy Committee.

Given the funding required to meet service levels in the Public Services Committee's areas of responsibility it was **AGREED** that the following proposed budgets should be put to the Council's Finance and Policy Committee for consideration in the Council's overall budget for 2016-17:

	£
Allotments	9,884
Recreation Grounds	24,536
Highways Verge Grass-Cutting	10,534
Churchyards and Burial Grounds	12,988
Street Furniture	2,790
Street Lighting	8,565
Tree and Hedge Work	4,370
Statues and Memorials	440
Public Conveniences	29,190
Civic Events and Ceremonial	2,450
Events and Festivals	21,000
Christmas Lights	17,000
Town Centre Management	4,000
Town Centre Ambassadors	3,500
Marketing and Promotions	8,500

It was also **RECOMMENDED** that the following budgets should be set for revenue projects in 2016-17:

	£
Level the entrance to the roadside car park at the west end of the Broughton Road allotments site	3,000
Clear abandoned or poorly managed allotment gardens	1,500
Routine allotment pathway clearance contract	1,400

	£
Replace the climbing net at The Ginnel Play Area	3,060
MBFU Streetlight conversions and removals	4,500
High Street trees	1,565
Provision of new litter and dog bins, seats and benches and road signs	1,790

In addition it was **RECOMMENDED** that:

- The Council should transfer £5,150 to the Recreation Grounds Refurbishment Programme Reserve, bringing the balance to £5,545, and charge the cost of repainting the side panels and goal frames of the MUGA at North Parade to the reserve.
- The Council should create an earmarked reserve as a provision against the future cost of restoring the churchyard wall at Holy Trinity Church and transfer £25,000 into the reserve in 2016-17.
- To reflect the increasing cost of providing allotment gardens, while ensuring the charge to tenants remains well below the equivalent amount defined as 'reasonable' in s10 of the Allotments Act 1950, the annual rent for a full-size plot should be increased to £75.
- The annual rents for the Council's grazing land, which have remained the same for more than ten years, should be increased to £230 per annum at Greatwood and £170 per annum at Carleton Road.

8. To decide whether to undertake additional work to an ash tree on Middletown Allotments.

Given that the Council's tree surgeon has advised that the ash tree on Allotment Garden 16 at Middletown needs time to adapt to the extensive pruning carried out in 2014 it was **RESOLVED** not to undertake any further work on the tree for the time being.

In the interests of public safety it was **RESOLVED** to commission the Council's tree surgeon to inspect the tree again in Spring 2016 to reassess whether any additional work is required to make the tree safe.

9. To consider excluding press and public for consideration of item 10 on the grounds that it relates to confidential matters.

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude all press and public.

The meeting returned to public session.

11. To receive notification on matters that members would like included on a future agenda.

None.

12. Meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Chairman:

Signature:

Date: