

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
held on 6 February 2023 at 6pm in the Old Wool Market and via video conference

Present:	Cllr A Buckfield	Chairman / Mayor
	Cllr J Owens	Vice Chairman / Deputy Mayor
	Cllr R Blacklaw-Jones	
	Cllr J Brady	
	Cllr R Evans	
	Cllr J Hackett	
	Cllr P Johnson	
	Cllr H Lewis	
	Cllr M Lewis	
	Cllr T Moses	
	Cllr G Roberts	
	Cllr B Simister	
	Cllr J Twigg	

Town Clerk and a member of the public were in attendance.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and addressed some matters of housekeeping. Firstly, there have been breaches of confidentiality since the last full council meeting. One item relates to information about the Old Wool Market and the second about Staffing Matters. This is of great concern as that Member or Members are in breach of the code of conduct and the Council has a duty of care to its Staff.

All Members were reminded to observe Standing Orders, in particular points 6i and 6k.

2313 Apologies: Cllr A Brooker
Cllr A Griffiths
Cllr K Jones
Cllr S Pearce

2314 Declarations of Interest from Members

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Interest</i>	<i>Nature of interest</i>
None			

2315 Budget and Precept for the 2023-2024 Financial Year

The draft 2023-2024 budget was considered.

Civic Events Budget (115)

A proposal was made to reduce the budget for the Mayor Making from £3,500 to £1,500, by holding the annual meeting and Mayor Making service only with no luncheon.

Vote:

- For: Councillor's Buckfield, Roberts, Blacklaw-Jones, Moses, Evans.
- Against: Councillor's Brady, Simister, H Lewis, M Lewis, Twigg, Hackett, Owens.
- Abstain: Councillor Johnson.

The vote was in favour to retain the budget of £3,500 to cover the cost of the mayoral luncheon.

The vote was in favour to reduce the proposed budget for the River Festival from £10,000 to £7,000.

Donations Budget (141)

All voted in favour to reduce the proposed budget from £45,000 to £40,000. This will be made up of £20,000 for grants and £20,000 for service level agreements.

Town Improvements Budget (150)

A proposal was made to set the budget for the community garden at £250, with no seconder. A second proposal was made to set the budget at £1,200. A third proposal was made to set the budget of £2,000.

Vote for £2,000 budget:

- For: Councillor's Roberts, Blacklaw-Jones, Moses, Evans.
- Against: Councillor's Buckfield, Simister, H Lewis, M Lewis, Twigg, Hackett, Owens, Brady.
- Abstain: Councillor Johnson.

Vote for £1,200 budget:

- For: Councillor's Buckfield, Roberts, Blacklaw-Jones, Moses, Evans, Simister, H Lewis, M Lewis, Hackett, Brady.
- Against: Councillor's Twigg, Owens.
- Abstain: Councillor Johnson.

Vote was in favour to set the budget for the community garden at £1,200.

Youth Involvement Project Budget (160)

The project is to support the young people of the community to visit our twin town of Oberkirch. The Youth Service Team based at the Picton Centre are involved in organising the visit that is expected to take place in 2023 or 2024. It was agreed that the budget would be available to pay for bookings made up to 31 March 2024, as the visit may take place after that date.

Events Budget (184)

It was agreed that a new budget sub-heading would be set up for events. The events budget will include a celebratory event for the coronation of His Majesty The King. All voted in favour of setting a budget of £30,000 for town events.

The Old Wool Market Budget (192)

It was proposed that the budget for professional fees is reduced to £8,000, with no seconder.

Resolved

Mayor Making Budget is set at £3,500 to include the cost of the mayoral luncheon

River Festival Budget is set at £7,000

Donation Budget is set at £40,000

Community Garden Budget is set at £1,200

Events Budget is set at £30,000

All agreed to a break from 7.50pm to 8.05pm for the Town Clerk to recalculate the proposed budget.

A proposal was made to set the 2023-2024 budget at £465,838.00 (expenditure) and precept at £388,444.00 (equates to £78.75 per band "D" equivalent household), with the additional income made up of funds from the General Reserve of £36,444.00 and estimated income of £40,950.00.

Vote for the proposal:

For: Councillor's Buckfield, Johnson, Roberts, Blacklaw-Jones, Moses, Evans, Simister, H Lewis, M Lewis, Hackett, Brady.

Against: Councillor's Twigg, Owens.

Abstain: None.

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Resolved

2023-2024 Budget is set at £465,838.00

2023-2024 Precept is set at £388,444.00

**2023-2024 Budget draws in funds of £36,444.00
from the General Reserve**

With no further business to consider, the meeting ended at 8.27pm.

Chairman of Council / Mayor **Signed**

Proper Officer / Town Clerk **Signed**

Date