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| cid:2887E7B4-4235-4453-B7C9-14F4166BF0CB | Longridge Town Council  Council Offices, The Station Building  Berry Lane, Longridge. PR3 3JP  Telephone: **01772 782461**  email: [clerk@longridge-tc.gov.uk](http://h)  website: [www.longridge-tc.gov.uk](http://h) |

**Mission Statement**

Endeavour, through foresight and leadership, to enhance quality of life for Longridge residents and visitors.

Working to enrich facilities and nurture opportunity,

to protect and improve the built and natural environment and promote community pride.

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Proceedings of Budget Executive Committee held on

6th December 2022

Present:

Cllr. H Gee

Cllr. D Little

Cllr. R Adamson

Sally Maxwell – Public Speaker

Jessica Dibble - Town Clerk

**Min 2022/12/0190 Welcome by Chair**

Cllr. D Little welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Min 2022/12/0191 Apologies**

Cllr. R Beacham

Cllr. J Rogerson

**Min 2022/12/0192 Declarations of interests**

None expressed.

**Min 2022/12/0193 Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of meeting held on 11th November were approved as a correct and accurate record.

Proposer: Cllr. H Gee

Seconder: Cllr. R Adamson

**Min 2022/12/0194 Public Time**

Meeting closed at 13:02

Sally Maxwell, a representative of U3A attended as a speaker.

Sally explained what the U3A group offer and the importance of this to the residents of Longridge. She confirmed the group were nearing two hundred members and therefore there was a distinct need for better facilities in Longridge to support the groups.

A grant request had previously been made by Sally seeking financial assistance for the room hire at the Station Building.

Sally explained that the groups are self-funded and self-taught but the smaller groups struggle to share the hire costs. Sally explained the smaller the groups meant a higher contribution and during the recent soar in inflation some members may be facing financial hardship.

Public time ended 13:17

Meeting re opened 13:17

Chairman proposed a motion to bring forward agenda item 7 (Grant Request U3A) and this was agreed by the committee members present.

**Min 2022/12/0195 Grant Request U3A**

Cllr. D Little opened discussions regarding the grant request received.

Although the committee recognise the need for this community group. It was subsequently agreed that the grant request would be rejected due to the discounted rates already offered by the Council for the use of the room.

The Council agreed when setting their room hire rates that a 50% reduction would be implemented.

In order to be fair and transparent to all community groups the 50% reduction would remain in place but no additional support with the room hire rates could be offered at this time.

The committee agreed that if the U3A need support with specific individual projects in the future, they would look to support these where possible.

The Chairman proposed a motion to bring forward agenda item 14 (Precept). The motion was agreed by the committee members present.

**Min 2022/12/0196 PRECEPT**

Cllr. D Little advised the committee that a strategic budget process had been drafted in order to help with the setting of the Precept.

Cllr. D Little advised that this was implemented following the discussion at the last budget meeting on 1st November 2022. It was at this meeting that Cllr. H Gee highlighted the need for the committee to adopt a method of ‘the Precept model template’ which was circulated to the committee.

Cllr. D Little talked through the steps and advised the process was implemented and followed in order for the Chair and Clerk to review the budget lines and forecast for 2023/2024.

The Clerk then circulated the ‘Precept Report’ and discussed the same with the committee members. The Clerks recommendation was that there should be a 2% increase for Band D properties and that the shortfall would be covered by the reserves.

The committee agreed with the recommendation of the Clerk and therefore this will appear on the agenda for council to discuss and agree on 14th December 2022.

Proposer: Cllr. R Adamson

Seconder: Cllr. H Gee

It was then agreed that the Chair would arrange for the Clerks report and additional information to distributed to all council so there would be a clear understanding of the financial information going forward.

**Min 2022/12/0197 Financial Accounting Statement**

During discussions of the Precept, the Committee were given financial information including the budget lines and reserves.

The Committee were advised that they will be provided with a financial statement before each budget and council meeting.

**Min 2022/12/0198 Longridge Artisan Market**

**Committee reviewed** the grant request submitted by Longridge Artisan Market.

Reservations were raised as grants are not accessible by commercial enterprises.

It was noted that the committee value the beneficial impact the market has had. The committee agreed to award the grant as the reason for the grant was to promote the market, increase the footfall to the Highstreet and help Longridge to become the market town it once was.

Clerk is to write to the Artisan Market and confirm the grant award but request evidence of how the market has progressed and how it has had a positive impact on the residents and businesses in Longridge.

Proposer: Cllr. H Gee

Seconder: Cllr. R Adamson

**Min 2022/12/0199 Longridge Band**

**Committee reviewed** the grant request submitted by Longridge Band for financial support towards the cost of headtorches.

It was agreed that the committee would support band and approve the request of £150.00

Proposer: Cllr. H Gee

Seconder: Cllr. R Adamson

**Min 2022/12/0200 Longridge Cricket Club**

**Committee reviewed** the financial contribution request made by Longridge Cricket Club in relation to their ‘Safety Project’.

The Committee agreed that on this occasion they would not be able to offer financial support towards the installation of the mesh fence.

It was noted that Longridge Town Council recently awarded a grant towards the PA system and continue to contribute towards the sponsorship of the club. The committee confirmed that we will carry on supporting the club where possible but felt that funds were better placed with smaller groups in the community at this time.

Proposer: Cllr. H Gee

Seconder: Cllr. R Adamson

**Min 2022/12/0201 Friends of the Civic Hall**

Remembrance Sunday.

The committee referred back to its meeting on 1st November 2022 (Min 2022/11/0184) where it was agreed that there would be a budget line implanted for Remembrance Sunday. With this in mind, the committee had discussed an offer of a donation to the Friends of The Civic Hall for their help on Remembrance Sunday.

The council recognise that this is an annual community service and therefore the assistance of our community groups is invaluable.

The committee therefore agreed to a donation of £100.00

Proposer: Cllr. H Gee

Seconder: Cllr. D Little

**Min 2022/12/0202 Longridge Town Youth Council**

**Committee reviewed** the requestmade by the Youth Council to financially support their Christmas meal, provide Youth Council hoodies and offer assistance towards a trip to Parliament.

The request was made in the sum of £500.

The committee agreed that the budget for our Youth Council was £500 and therefore the full £500 should be paid to them so they can decide how their budget was best placed.

Proposer: Cllr. H Gee

Seconder: Cllr. R Adamson

**Min 2022/12/0203 Items for Discussion**

**The committee noted** the items for review at its next meeting on 3rd January 2023.

**Min 2022/12/0204 Date of Next Meeting**

Budget Meeting - Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 1pm in The Station Buildings Meeting Room.

Chairman Cllr. D Little Closed the meeting at 14:20