



**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Darley Dale Town Council  
Held in the Gallery , 7.00pm at the Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale  
on Wednesday 31st January 2018**

**Present**

Councillor M Mellor in the Chair  
Councillors, L Boardman E Faulkner, M Hurford , A Long, M Myers, I Pasteur, J Restrict, D Ward and S Wilson

**Also Present**

1 members of the public, the Town Clerk and Councillor Atkins (DDDC and DCC) until 7.15pm

273/18 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies

274/18 **Variation of Order of Business**

No Variations

275/18 **To consider the exclusion of the Press and Public.**

No exclusions

276/18 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations

277/18 **Public Participation**

A member of the public questioned whether Councillor Haynes had resigned from the Council. It was explained he left at the December meeting due to work commitments.

Councillor Atkin reported that both the District and County element of the Council Tax would be increased this year and that part of the A6 would be resurfaced in March 2018. This was in response to complaints arising from local residents' regarding pot holes etc that had been reported by the Town clerk and discussed with councillor Atkin.

The Town Clerk presented the proposed budget and precept request for 2018/19 as agreed at the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 17th January 2018;

The major changes to budget headings relate to the Whitworth Centre. These reflect the challenges that have been experienced by the Whitworth Centre in continuing to provide rooms for community bookings at a heavily subsidised rate and the impact of historical VAT repayments. Both of which have placed tremendous pressure on the budget of the Whitworth Centre and resulted in additional payments from the Town Council to the Centre over the 2017/18 period.

It is proposed that :-

- Whitworth Centre Community Support is a new budget heading (£20,000) to help support the costs of Community bookings which are currently costing the Centre approx £28,000 a year. This budget heading is proposed to be paid quarterly to the Whitworth Centre (Charity)
- There is an increase of £5000 to the Whitworth Park maintenance grant to acknowledge increased costs.
- There is an increase of £300 to Darley Dale in Bloom to reflect rising costs and no increase to their budget since 2015
- The Neighbourhood Plan is approaching its final phase which will require input from the consultant therefore the budget has been increased to £4000
- Allotment rents are to be increased and a charge introduced for rent arrears letters of £10 in an attempt to reduce administration costs for late payers
- Pantomime tickets to be raised to £5 for all categories to work towards this event covering its costs. It is a community event supported by the Town Council and not intended as a profit making event.

The Town clerk stated the need to establish clear governance relating to the Whitworth Centre and a definition of responsibilities of all involved within its management, including that of the Town Council.

The Chair of the Whitworth Centre, Councillor Long stated that this is being planned and discussions are underway with the solicitors involved with the establishment of the Trust.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would support this process and discuss it further at the February meeting including the need to fund the Governance report.

Discussion ensued around the budget proposals with further questions being asked. The outcome being that it was considered that the proposed contingency of £4000 be increased to £10000

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the budget and precept request of £135,500 be accepted. The Town Clerk to notify DDDC accordingly.

279/18      **New Councillor Update**

It was **RESOLVED** to invite Brian Stewart' to become a Councillor after his recent meeting with Councillors to discuss his interest in becoming a Councillor

280/18      **Date of Next Meeting.**

The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 16th February 2018.

281/18      **Public Participation**

A Member of the Public enquired as to the process regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. It was explained that the committee had been reformed and there was increased emphasis on bringing it to a conclusion

The meeting closed at 7.35pm