



414/18

**TOWN COUNCIL GRANT SCHEME**

One application had been put forward to the Town Council's Small Grants Scheme.

**RESOLVED:** to grant £150 to Jackdaws Music Education Trust towards Opera Plus performances to benefit children from Marlborough St Mary's School

415/18

**COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2018/19**

Members noted committee income and expenditure reports to end September 2018 (month 6) and a list of payments.

416/18

**EXTERNAL AUDIT**

Members noted the External Audit report for 2017/18 and that a Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been posted on the Town Council's website as required under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

417/18

**URGENT EXPENDITURE**

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk about urgent expenditure made in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, para. 3.2 for a brazier for the WW1 Beacons of Light commemoration and the creation of a stud wall and storage shelves at the Town Council offices at 5 High Street.

418/18

**BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING 2019/2020**

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

The A&OS, Property and Planning Committees had agreed budgets which had been submitted to this Committee for review. These, and the proposed budget for Finance & Policy Committee, were set out in the report. If all proposals were accepted, the net budget and precept requirement would be £708,875 equating to a precept rise of 9.85%.

The report put forward a number of suggestions for amendments, reducing the net budget and precept requirement to £669,875, an increase of 3.81% in the precept. (For a Band D property this would equate to £195.13 pa: a rise of £7.16 or 59p a month). **Cllr. Forbes** questioned whether the increase could be brought down to match inflation (currently 2.7%) with the shortfall met from General Reserves. However, the **RFO** reminded members that General Reserves should meet 3-6 months' worth of precept so, this was not advisable.

**RESOLVED:** (i) that the 2019/2020 budget for the Finance & Policy Committee was agreed, including a recommendation from the Staffing Sub-Committee

**RESOLVED:** (ii) that 2019/2020 budgets for A&OS, Property and Planning Committees were agreed to include the budget savings set out in the report

**RESOLVED:** (iii) to recommend to Full Town Council that the total net budget and precept requirement to levy to Wiltshire Council is £669,875 representing a 3.81% rise.

**RESOLVED:** (iv) that the Committee's thanks be extended to the Chairman, Town Clerk and staff involved in putting together the budget proposals

419/18

**CONSULTATION ON BUSINESS RATES FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered a recommendation to support proposals made under the Sustainable Communities Act for legislative changes to grant town and parish councils mandatory business rate relief of 100% on public conveniences they own and manage.

**RESOLVED:** to delegate to the Town Clerk to respond to the NALC consultation, supporting the proposal

**420/18 TIME OFF IN LIEU (TOIL) – DRAFT POLICY**

Members noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered a draft policy for recommendation to Full Town Council.

**RESOLVED:** to recommend the draft Time Off in Lieu policy with no amendments for adoption at Full Town Council on 10 December

**421/18 CIVIC WORKING PARTY**

The Chairman congratulated all involved in the commemorative events held over the remembrance period:

- Sunday 4 November: War & The Pity of War – A Wilfred Owen evening
- Friday 9 November: Wreath laying at the 7<sup>th</sup> Wilts Battalion Memorial
- Saturday 10 November: Roll of Honour Tribute to the Men of Marlborough
- Sunday 11 November: Remembrance Parade
- Sunday 11 November: Battle's Over Beacon Ceremony

The **Chairman** wished to record his thanks to the many people who had helped plan and organise these successful events:

- Town Council Staff – Linda Chapman, Dawn Whitehall, Nigel Weatherly and the Grounds team and the Caretakers along with the Town Clerk
- Marlborough & District Rotary Club, especially Cedric Hollingsworth (Treasurer)
- The Royal British Legion
- Anthony Palmer (Bugle Player)
- Marlborough & District Lions Club
- Redrow Homes
- Members of 4MI
- Councillors – in particular Cllrs. Fogg, Forbes, Wilson, Hall, Price and Cairns and the Town Mayor

Cllr. **Forbes** also proposed thanks to Cllr. **Ross** for his leadership.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
Chairman