

5. Invitation to neighbourhood watch meeting being held simultaneously with the Council meeting. Noted that attendance was not possible because of the clash – clerks to seek feedback report.

6. Sandgate Library Committee report

Councillor Robert Bliss reported that there would be a meeting of the Committee later in the month.

7. Land Assets Management Sub-Committee report

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2018 had been circulated.

8. 2017/18 Finance report

The Deputy Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer advised that he had made a substantial report to the Finance Committee the previous week. That report had been similar to the previous month as no significant changes in the budgetary position had occurred.

9. 2018-19 budget and precept: recommendation of the Finance Committee

The Deputy Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer presented the budget as annexed to these minutes. The Council scrutinised the budget.

1. That this Council accepts the budget for 2018-19 as laid out in the annex to these minutes.
2. That this Council agrees a 1.99% rise in the precept to £75,968.
3. That any underspends in 2017-18 be carried forward into the Major Projects Fund.

Proposed by Councillor Nina Bliss

Seconded by Councillor Tim Prater

10. Finance Committee report

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2018 had been circulated.

11. Environment Committee report

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 January 2018 had been circulated.

Councillors raised the issue of the dispenser for dog waste bags. The RFO reported that in accordance with the decision of the Land Assets Management Sub-Committee a dispenser for a trial within Sandgate Park had been ordered. If successful the scheme would be extended to the seafront. When put in place there would be a coordinated publicity campaign.

Councillors also discussed the forthcoming beach clean: they welcomed the support of a commercial company although it was important for the wider public and Shepway District Council to recognise that this was a Parish Council organised event.

12. Planning Committee report

Councillor Prater advised that minutes of meetings had been circulated and that a further meeting had been held immediately before the Council meeting.

13. KALC report – there was no report.

14. Twinning with Sangatte: protocol

Agreed that the following scheme for travel, subsistence and hospitality for twinning with Sangatte and Bleriot Plage be implemented with effect from 1 February 2018

- Travelling costs such as rail fares, ferry costs or Eurotunnel costs should be paid in full
- Mileage shall be claimable in line with the HMRC scheme (currently flat rate of 45p per mile)
- Overnight and subsistence costs should be payable in line with the local government scheme or other relevant guidance as follows:
 - Breakfast (either as part of an overnight stay or leaving home before 7.00 am) - up to £6.72
 - Lunch (between 12pm and 2pm) - up to £9.24
 - Tea (must include the period between 3pm and 6pm) - up to £3.64
 - Evening meal (return or work beyond 7pm) - up to £11.44 or £25 for twinning events
 - Overnight absence - up to £106.40

- Any claims which exceed the above limits will be capped at those limits.
- Given the nature of twinning modest hospitality is expected between twinned partners: to this end a small hospitality allowance should be payable to representatives of the Parish Council. The recommendation is that this should equate to half a bottle of wine per person at restaurant prices – ie £10 per representative of Sandgate and Sangatte
- Receipts for expenditure shall be provided
- Subject to the authorisation by the Clerk or the Responsible Finance Officer these allowances shall be claimable by councillors and non-councillors alike when undertaking approved twinning duties on behalf of the Parish Council

Proposed by Councillor Guy Valentine-Neale

Seconded by Councillor Nina Bliss

(Voting: for 4; Against 2; Abstentions 2)

15. Information – Councillor Tim Prater reported on his correspondence with Fred Miller to arrange for additional signs to be created and displayed explaining that parking was free of charge for two hours in the village.

Councillor Guy Valentine-Neale reminded the Council that the updated five year plan was ready with the exception of the updated financial information (RFO to supply).

Councillor Adrian Watts asked for further information on the charging regime of Shepway District Council for Freedom of Information requests.

16. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 20 February 2018

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....Date.....