**Minutes to the Finance Committee Meeting on 9th January 2017.**

**Present: Cllr A Pattison (Chair), Cllr A Goodburn. Cllr E Mills, Cllr C Crouch (from 8:30pm) and Cllr R Lewis.**

**Cllr A Blake and Cllr D Birchell (from 8:30pm) (both ex-officio)**

**Absent: Cllr A Martorana**

**Public: 7 members of public present**

1. To receive apologies for absence.

**Cllr A Martorana**

2. To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda.

The Chair reminded Cllrs to declare when necessary.

3. To receive and consider any communications.

The Chair summarised the communications received since the newsletter.

Up to last week 73 responses had been received the majority were pro school and a mixed response re the precept had been received.

Communications were considered and more detailed correspondence was noted.

The Clerk confirmed she had forwarded all detailed responses to the Council although it was not the intention to publish the full correspondence.

The Clerk would confirm the position on the responses and the detail the correspondence list should contain with SSALC.

4. Meeting opened to the public for questions/comments.

The Public raised various concerns some wished the Council to publish all correspondence in full.

There were calls for the precept to be reduced and also a public meeting to discuss the School.

**The Chair welcomed feedback and accepted for major projects and long term plans public feedback would be sought.**

5. To consider current year to date position including reserves.

The current position was confirmed – The precept was 148k and expenditure had so far been limited due to the new Council. It was likely there would be a 90k expenditure and a carry forward for 2017/18 of 208k.

The reserves were considerable but some were earmarked for long term projects and 60k was proposed to hold in a general reserve for emergencies.

6. To consider budget proposal for 2017/18

The Chair explained the available reserves after taking off ear marked and general reserves would leave 115k plus the precept as available for 2017/18.

The likely running costs for 2017/18 were 60k.

To maintain reserves for a future large project such as new community facilities the Chair proposed an outline budget with a precept of 111k and outgoings of 112k (52k projects and investment and 60k running costs).

**Some headings within the outline budget were amended in the meeting and were duly approved by the Council. The budget briefing paper would be re-circulated and the detail added to the electronic software and circulated to the Council for full Council approval on 26th January 2017.**

7. To consider precept proposal for 2017 / 18

Cllr Pattison outlined the various possible projects, current day to day expenditure and reserves.

There was some discussion on how the Council could approach the precept and it was generally agreed that the Council would like to partially reverse the exceptional increases to the precept in recent years whilst retaining reserves for a major project and improvements. The Council was hoping to develop a long term plan and if the precept was cut too much the Council would be unable to undertake any projects. After much discussion a proposal for adoption was made.

**Cllr Pattison proposed a 25% decrease in the Precept to £111,000 for 2017/18 and this was unanimously agreed by the Committee.**

**This recommendation would be considered by the full Council at the next meeting.**

8. Matters for reporting and matters for future agendas.

Bank reconciliation, Audit arrangements, Risk Assessment and Asset List.

9. Date of next meeting TBC

Meeting closed at 9pm