

**Present: Cllrs:** - B Mead (Vice Chair), K Briffett, D Collins, A Doyle, A Johnstone, A Kenyon, T Mewies, A Robinson, I Scott, C Wood,

**ALSO PRESENT:** L Reuben (Town Clerk) N Gould (Town Council Support Officer)

**APOLOGIES: Cllrs:** - A Monk, J Tucker, M Chaudhry

**NON ATTENDANCE:- Cllrs:-**

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**F.047 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs apologies were noted.

**F.048 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** There were none.

**F.049 PRESENTATION OF 2020/21 DRAFT BUDGET BY DEREK KEMP**

**ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS:** Derek Kemp (Accounting Solutions) presented the draft 2020/21 budgets. It was explained that income in the Leisure Centre and bar was significantly down and expenditure budgets were over. This was down to a few things but mainly due to the maintenance needed to keep the ageing building open. The increase on precept for 2020/21 was looking to be between 25%-30%, depending on the national agreement figures. The below questions were raised by councillors;

- How much will a 30% increase be in monetary terms? £1.52 per week in a Band D property, Concerns were raised over how residents who's income was only covered by their pension would be able to afford this increase.

- Is the Ratepayers actually losing money? The Ratepayers is projected to lose £10,869 in 2019/20.

- What is needed to reduce the percentage increase? The Council's best option would be to shut the Leisure Centre or outsource to a trust. The Leisure Centre expenditure makes up 70% of the overall budget. It was noted that the council office were due to bring a report back to the March meeting from a consultancy outlining the best options. This process would need to involve local residents; a local referendum was suggested as an option.

- It was noted that the precept documentation would need to be back with the district council by the end of January, which did not leave enough time to consult with residents properly on their thoughts about the Leisure Centre. Derek was thanked for his time and it was noted that budgets would be looked at again in January.

***Derek Kemp left the meeting at 8.30pm***

**F.050 MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 08<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved as an accurate record, after noting that Cllr Tucker has given his apologies at the meeting.

**F.051 MATTERS OF REPORT ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ON AGENDA:** There were none.

**F.052 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** No public questions.

**F.053 GREEN SPACES LEAFLET:** After a short discussion it was proposed, seconded and **Agreed:** unanimously to agree to the leaflet in principle once grant funding had been secured.

**F.054 COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE:** It was noted that the council would be purchasing trees from South Gloucestershire Council and would be holding a tree planting day. An event day was also due to be held at FACE youth centre

for loneliness and isolation. The next older peoples forum would be held in early December at SHE7.

**F.055 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** No applications

**F.056 PAYMENTS FOR INFORMATION:** The Document was noted.

**The Chair closed the meeting to the Public at 8.45pm**

### **Confidential Appendix**

**F.057 Minutes of the staffing committee held Tuesday 05<sup>th</sup> November 2019:** The minutes of the meeting were noted.

**F.058 Time Management System:** It was unanimously **Agreed:** to put this on hold until the new financial year after the presentation from accountant regarding current finances.

**F.059 Van Purchase:** After a short discussion surrounding specification on the van it was proposed, seconded and **Agreed:** to request that the maintenance manager look into costings for a low emission second hand vehicle, also to check with Patchway Town Council and Stoke Gifford Town Council to see if a van share option would be viable.

***The Chair closed the meeting at 9.10pm***