

Ref: Agenda/F&GP210114

15 January 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

I hereby give notice that a meeting of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** will take place on **Tuesday 21 January 2014** at the **Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, Saffron Road, Biggleswade** commencing at 7pm.

Yours faithfully

R D McGregor
Town Clerk

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Committee Members:

Cllr M North (Chair)
Cllr B Rix
Cllr T Woodward
Cllr I Bond
Cllr S Watkins

Cllr G Wilson
Cllr Mrs H Ramsay
Cllr Mrs M Russell
Cllr Mrs W Smith

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item
- (b) Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions.

4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

For members to receive the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on 19 November 2013.

5. MATTERS ARISING

From the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on 19 November 2013.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

a. Budgets

To consider budgets for 2014 – 2015.

b. Local Government Pension Scheme: ill-health early retirement risks

Correspondence has been received from Bedford Borough Council regarding the above.

Town Council is a participating employer within the Bedfordshire Pension Fund and as such is required to meet any obligations to the Fund in respect of pension costs for employees.

Many employers are becoming increasingly aware of the risks of participating within the Local Government Pension Scheme. One such risk causing concern is the cost associated with the ill-health early retirement of one (or more) of employees.

Bedford Pension Fund has obtained an ill-health insurance quote on behalf of the Fund's employers.

The premium paid will be off-set against contributions to the Fund. Therefore, there will be no increase in the contributions normally paid to the Fund for employers who decide to purchase the insurance. The premium payable to Legal and General would be **£0.80 per £100 of Town Councils employee's salary roll.**

The above rate is based on a take-up rate via the individual employer choice route.

Members are asked to consider whether Town Council should proceed with purchasing ill-health insurance.

A copy of all correspondence is attached to this agenda.

c. Council Tax Support Grant/Referendum principles

A copy of correspondence from The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government (Mr Brandon Lewis), is attached for Members consideration.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There are no items for information.

8. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

A period of up to 15 minutes is permitted to allow members of the public to ask questions.