

**MINUTES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd  
JANUARY 2008 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE,  
SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

**Present:** Cllr P F Vickers (Chair), Cllr D Albone, Cllr Mrs R Forbes, Cllr Mrs S Grayston,  
Cllr Mrs R Kerfoot, Cllr DJ Lawrence, Cllr Mrs JG Lawrence, Cllr PR Rook, Cllr RGC Skinner,  
Cllr D Smith, Cllr Mrs W Smith, Cllr S Watkins, Cllr GED Wilson, Cllr Cllr P Woodward  
Mrs DA King - Town Clerk  
Mr Derek Kemp - RBS Accounting Solutions  
Catherine Varney - Biggleswade Chronicle

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr T Woodward

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests

**3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.

**4. INVITED SPEAKERS**

In order for members to have a full appreciation of this year's budget position, Mr Derek Kemp of RBS Accounting Solutions, gave an overview of the current and projected financial situation.

The budget papers which were discussed in November, with one or two minor changes had been consolidated into the budget documentation circulated to members and which resulted in an increase on the Precept of 2.52%. In this budget round it is the lowest precept increase recommended in about 30 Councils this year.

Following a question on whether a Recession would affect the budget, Mr Kemp stated it could be possible market takings could be affected but not in any significant way.

After the move into the Magistrates Court, we can now see what has happened to balances, which have turned out better than we thought. This has resulted in an under-spend on the new office provision of £136,670. Revenue reserves are also much better than the minimum requirement.

**5. PRECEPT FOR 2008/2009**

Members considered the budget proposals for 2008/2009 and it was **RESOLVED** that the Capital and Revenue Budgets detailed on the Budget Proposals dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2007 be agreed.

It was also **RESOLVED** that the sum of money agreed for the development of Fairfield be funded from the Capital Fund which is subject to a new Lease being entered into.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the 2008/2009 Council Precept be set in the sum of £581457.

### **Other Budgetary Considerations**

Following the recommendations of Derek Kemp, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- the balance on the new office provision fund be transferred immediately to the Rolling Capital Fund to be made available for future capital expenditure;
- after the year end accounts are put together, a significant proportion of the excess revenue reserves are also put into the capital fund;
- Charges be increased by 3.5%

### **6. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no matters discussed during the public open session.