

Minutes
'Special' Full Town Council
Democratic Services

Date	16/01/2024
Time	18:30 - 18:40
Location	King's House; Council Chamber.
Present	Carla Barreto, Ann Blackburn, David Blackburn, Mike Brindle, Kristopher Brooks, David Evans, Chris Harvey (Deputy Mayor), Douglas Jefferson, Terry Jermy, Terry Land, Mac Macdonald, Hazel McCambridge, Adam Mitchell, Victor Peters, Matthew Stirrup, Stuart Terry, and Stuart Wright (Mayor).
Officer	Alan Yorke (Acting Town Clerk).
Members of the public	There were no members of the public in attendance.

MINUTES

581/23 DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None.

582/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Absent: Councillor Ronald Wood.

583/23 APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

The following matters were discussed:

- The budget has been recommended to Full Council by the Finance and Personnel Committee;
- All sub-committees had an opportunity to review the budget, some on more than one occasion.
- The budget delivers on a significant number of proposals outlined in the Unlocking Thetford's Potential Document.
- Two new full-time roles have been budgeted to support maintenance work and conservation activities across areas owned by the Council. The additional staff will also help improve turnaround times for Allotments, more in-house grounds maintenance tasks and the improved upkeep of Council properties. A further two apprenticeships will also be recruited to train and support the next generation of Council's staff.
- Maintenance of public toilets will soon move to an in-house service in the near future from Monday to Friday. This will thereafter be expanded to a full seven-day service in the future.
- The Market Co-ordinator role was retained, and the reduced fees now charged for market stalls created a platform for growth.
- The maintenance expenditure on playparks has doubled, recognising increased costs from the aging nature of equipment and ensuring that the playpark equipment is safe and available to use.
- The budget had incorporated support to local residents with benefits advice to assist them legally claim what they are entitled to improve their quality of life. This will also have wider impacts on improving the local economy.
- Contributions to Reserves have been retained at previous year levels.

- Have also created a Cemetery Reserve to put aside money for future years when the Cemetery will be at full capacity.
- Bulk of new initiatives included in this budget have been achieved through internal savings, particular the proposed changes in relation to King's House and Guildhall/Carnegie Complex.

From an Income perspective, the property value indicator has increased due to additional houses at Kingsfleet, and this should grow in future. The Council's precept has increased by 8.99% over last year for Band D property. This equates to an annual increase of £15.47.

Councillor Terry Jermy proposed, and Councillor Terry Land seconded that:

RESOLVED: The budget for the year ending 31 March 2025 set out in the supporting papers be approved.

584/23 APPROVAL OF PRECEPT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

Councillor Terry Jermy proposed, and Councillor Terry Land seconded.

RESOLVED: The precept for a Band D property as set out in the budget be approved.

585/23 APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE BANK MANDATE IN THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The rationale for changing the bank mandate was explained,

Councillor Terry Jermy proposed, and Councillor Vic Peters seconded.

RESOLVED: The Bank Mandate attached as Annex A be approved.

Chairman