

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **Special Town Council** meeting
to discuss the Precept held on Wednesday 9th January 2008
at 6.30 pm in the Council Offices

Present Cllr. Dudley Waters (Chairman)

Cllrs. I. Sutherland, S Sutherland, J. Robinson, M. Robinson, N. Dunn, H. Clifford-Brown,

Officer L K Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. J Wayman; T .leanes, D. Brown, A Blakemore, S Hannan, R Taylor

2. Budget Review 07/08

All members had been circulated with the review papers for the budget and estimates for 07/08. These included a forecast for the financial year end balances

These were discussed in detail with particular reference to:-

- a) Parish Hall Refurbishment
- b) Energy Increases
- c) CCTV

3. Estimates 08109

Members discussed estimates / budget for the forthcoming financial year, which the Clerk had prepared and circulated. These draft figures had been based on a 4.9% increase - 2.8% which had been included within the referendum for the Parish Hall and which takes into account the necessary loan interest, plus an additional inflationary increase of 2.1%.

In particular issues raised included -

- a) Parish Hall Refurbishment repayments
- b) Including a £15,000 contingency for the Parish Hall

c) Whilst the staff salary increases were in line with National Agreement (as approved at the recent council meeting) the superannuation has necessitated a higher than inflation increase in overall staff costs

d) CCTV -- again the benefit against cost was discussed

e) Additional Christmas lighting

f) Additional notice boards

g) Possible contribution re the BSF Initiative - as discussed at the meeting at the Community College the previous evening. A full report on this meeting will be given to full council

It was agreed that it is necessary to ensure that our residents and businesses are fully informed via the Sedgfield Extra of the financial implications and the precept.

4. Precept

RESOLVED Having considered the budgets and estimates members agreed to recommend to full Council that a precept of £218,000 be levied on the Borough Council. This

represents a 2.8% increase in regard of the Parish Hall refurbishment plus a 2.1% inflation increase.

Taking into account the expected contribution from the new development in Sedgefield this will result in an overall increase of 2.99% increase on the Council tax.

5. Policing Priorities

The Clerk circulated an email received from CDALC asking for members responses re the Policing priorities. Members were asked to consider and rank these and return to the Council Offices for Friday when CDALC have requested the information

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8 pm