

Madeley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Madeley Parish Council held on
Monday, January 8th 2007, at Jubilee House, High, Street Madeley,
commencing at 7.00pm

**PRESENT: Councillors: D Davies (Vice-Chair), P Doyle, D Edwards, G Green,
D Harrison, J Jones, E Swift, M Swift,**
Clerk, Deputy Parish Clerk, Projects Officer
Shropshire Star Reporter – A Walker
Target Media – Bill Scott

Following the recent resignation of the Chair, the Vice Chair, Councillor D Davies presided.

06/60. Apologies

Councillor I Baker	-	Work commitment	-	Accepted
Councillor A MacKenzie	-	Meeting commitment	-	Accepted
Councillor DP Taylor	-	Sickness	-	Accepted

Absent:

Councillors R Coldicutt
Councillor H Evans
Councillor J Rowland

Councillors requested that absent Members be reminded of responsibility for submission of apologies.

06/61. Declarations of Interest

Councillor G Green declared a non prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7.4.1. Lumley Hall, and received dispensation to take part and vote in the meeting.
Councillor G Green declared a non prejudicial interest in Agenda item 8.4 and all matters concerning Telford Trust.
Councillor J Jones declared a non prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8.4 and all matters concerning Telford Trust.

06/62. Presentation – Bill Scott, Target Media

The results of the commissioned survey on Madeley Matters were presented for information.

Overall results were very positive - the vast majority of respondents being satisfied or very satisfied with the publication. Particularly encouraging were the comments on design where 90% regarded it as easy to read and use and 72% felt the current style should be retained. Content also produced a very positive response with 82% being very satisfied or fairly satisfied. The idea of introducing limited advertising was favourably received with some concerns expressed about the proportion and type of advertising that would be acceptable.

In terms of frequency of publication there was almost a three way split between the current system, publishing every two months and making it monthly. Most people were satisfied with the method of distribution although Council was advised to keep alternative methods in mind.

Although workable, the low response rate was disappointing. This may be because readers were generally satisfied or had no inclination to take part – in spite of a cash incentive. Specific comments received were, however, constructive and should be given consideration

Based on information gained through the survey the following advice was offered:

- to maintain standards of design and content
- to consider increasing the frequency of publication
- to consider some form of controlled and limited advertising
- to consider target of groups with identified low readership levels
- to establish a regular method of feedback

Councillors were reassured that the Newsletter is confirmed as being appreciated and enjoyed and felt the positive results justified the expense of the survey. They were also pleased that useful information had been gained in terms of developing and improving the magazine.

The points raised and their implications will be examined in detail by the Editorial Board who will report back to Full Council.

06/63. Remarks from the Chair

There were none.

63.1 Declaration of Vacancy

The Vice-Chair announced that Councillor G Ashcroft had resigned his position as Councillor for the Woodside Ward. Councillor Ashcroft had increasing difficulty in attending meetings due to full time work and university study.

The meeting agreed that a letter be sent to Councillor Ashcroft, thanking him for his contribution and kind remarks. (Councillor Doyle asked to be disassociated from this communication)

The Clerk informed the meeting that no poll could be claimed as the vacancy has less than six months to run. Council may fill the vacancy by co-option.

06/64. Election of Chair

It was proposed by Cllr. M Swift, duly seconded by Cllr. J Jones, that Cllr. D Davies be nominated for the post of Chair of Council.

There were no other candidates.

Resolved:

that Councillor D Davies be elected Chair of Madeley Parish Council.

Having completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, the Chair thanked the meeting for the opportunity lead Madeley Parish Council. He also thanked his predecessors Councillor Rae Evans and Councillor Peter Taylor and expressed the intention of maintaining established high standards.

During his term of office Councillor Davies' objective will be to make the organisation more effective. To achieve this, active participation from all Councillors is needed. In his view, Madeley Parish Council benefits from the contributions of different Councillors with a range of views and the invitation to serve on committees was renewed.

64. 1 Appointment of Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr. D Edwards, duly seconded by Cllr. D Harrison, that Cllr. J Jones be nominated for the post of Vice-Chair of Council. There were no other candidates proposed in accord with Standing Order requirements.

Resolved:

that Cllr. J Jones be appointed Vice-Chair of Madeley Parish Council.

06/65. Public Discussion

There were no members of the public present

06/66. Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of Madeley Parish Council held on Monday November 6th 2006 be confirmed and approved for signature.

06/67. Committee Reports

67.1 Leisure & Community Committee

Councillor D Edwards presented the report of the Leisure and Community meeting held on Monday, November 13th 2006.

Noted.

67.1.1 Recommendation – that Madeley Parish Council contribute a sum of £2,000 toward the cost of a hot water system and radiators at Madeley Rest Room.

Partnership with the Minor Local Authority had encouraged Madeley Rest Room to play an increasingly important role in the social and community life of Madeley especially because of its central location and good access for elderly and disabled people. It was important that the facilities should be brought up to date

Resolved – that £2,000 be awarded to Madeley Rest Room to assist with the renewal of the hot water system and the installation of new radiators.

67.2 Personnel Committee

Councillor D Davies presented the report of the Personnel Committee held on Monday November 27th 2006.
Noted.

67.3 Environment Committee

Councillor G Green presented the report of the Environment Committee held on Monday December 4th 2006.
Noted.

- It was noted that the Local Transport Plan 2006-11 exceptions scheme for South Telford Regeneration and Accessibility had not received GOWM approval

67.4 Finance & General Purposes Committee

Councillor D Edwards presented the report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday December 11th 2006.
Noted.

67.4.1 Recommendation – that Madeley Parish Council supports in principle a Big Lottery Fund, Community Buildings, application by Lumley Hall Management Committee with a commitment to match funding at a value of £10,000.

Councillors were aware that Lumley Hall is in need of extensive refurbishment and that facilities for local young people should be improved.

Resolved – that, subject to a successful bid for funding to the Big Lottery Fund, Madeley Parish Council will contribute £10,000 as matched funding to Lumley Hall Management

06/68. Budget & Finance

68.1 Expenditure Transactions Approval

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the Expenditure Transactions Approval List for period to December 2006
Noted

Resolved:

that the expenditure transactions recorded be confirmed and approved for payment

68.2 Financial Budget Comparison Report

to note actual monies received and spent compared to 2006/07 budget

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the Financial Comparison Report for the period to December 2006.
Noted.

- The cost of recent bye-elections in Madeley and Woodside Wards and the full on-charge for Parish Elections in May 2007 was noted

68.3 Assets

68.3.1 Property Management

The Responsible Finance Officer sought approval for contracting-out the management and review of Lease and Tenancy Agreements due to the requirement for professional expertise in commercial market.

A review of office accommodation would be needed prior to financial year 2007-08.

Resolved:

that delegated authority be given to the Responsible Finance Officer to engage external Property Agents to provide Review Services for Lease Agreement (effective January 2007) and Rental Terms (effective April 2007) subject to a maximum charge of £600

68.3.2 Furniture

Services Officer requested consideration of increasing provision of cushioned folding chairs for Function Room to meet demand from hirers, replace old and worn plastic seating, save storage space, and maintain standards

Plastic seating would be retained, stored and used for outdoor events

Resolved:

that Purchase Order be issued to Principal Furniture Ltd for an additional 15 cushioned, folding chairs to a value of £345

68.3.3 Information Display

Services Officer reported that Jubilee House is an important public information point for promotion of local events, activities, and services. The reception area, however, suffers from limited display space which is overwhelmed.

As well as providing a focal point for leaflets/literature, a display unit would enhance the public area and create space at the reception desk.

Resolved:

that a Purchase Order be issued to Morplan Equipment Supplies for a rotating display system with acrylic information pockets at a cost of £165

68.4 Madeley Court School – ‘Junior Gym’

Madeley Court School approach to Madeley Parish Council to become a Partner (with Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Leisure Development) to create provide a junior fitness studio for Academy and community use. Equipment installed would be specifically designed to allow safe use by children from 11 years of age (and adults). The facility would offer evening, weekend and out of school opportunities for young people and families and support the Physical Activity Referral Scheme and the Junior Obesity Project. Overall cost estimate £42,500 – contribution requested £12,000.

Madeley Parish Council grants policy notes exclusions for funding of projects that it considers to be the responsibility of a Statutory Authority and for School activities within timetable.

Councillors sought further information and clarification of the project - noting that the level of investment would require exceptional community access to the facility.

68.5 Madeley Parish Council – Final draft Budget2007-08/Supporting Notes

Original draft Budget proposals for 2007-08 (based on the Strategy Review and Committee Business Plans) and Supporting Notes had been circulated prior to the meeting. (Appendix A)

The Responsible Finance Officer presented a revised draft Budget 2007-08 based on reported accounting adjustments and use of reserve balances (Appendix B) and recommended reduced Precept requirement.

Councillors commented that Reserves has been accrued as a result of the breakdown of other projects. A schedule of General Fund and Earmarked Reserves illustrated that balances remained within Audit Commission guidelines and better financial planning meant that limited and controlled expenditure of Reserves was justifiable.

Resolved:

that Madeley Parish Council approves a Budget of £305,665 for 2007-08 and issues a Precept demand of £277,130 (+2.9%). A Parish Rate of £57.26 per annum for Band D equivalent properties (+3.38%) will be levied. Allocation from Reserves £29,110

	Budget	Precept
Full Council	19,715.00	11,235.00
Finance & General Purposes	233,550.00	230,315.00
Environment	23,850.00	19,620.00
Leisure & Community	64,450.00	52,575.00
Personnel	1,100.00	385.00
Income	(37,000.00)	(37,000.00)
Total	305,665.00	277,130.00

06/69. Strategic Direction

to steer and co-ordinate the work of the committees and to ensure the strategic aims are being addressed. To develop policies that will enable the organisation to function effectively as an employer, service provider and community representative.

69.1 Business Plan Report

Councillors reviewed the progress report on objectives for Strategic Direction
Noted

- The Clerk highlighted the Neighbourhood Management Team pilot and its potential for delivery of local services and partnership

Councillor E Swift joined the meeting

69.2 Grants Policy

The Clerk presented the revised Grants Policy.

The policy was evolving to cater for changed degrees of financial assistance and to provide guidance for applicants and Councillors

Resolved:

that the Grants Policy (Rev Dec 06) be adopted

69.3 Committee Vacancies

An appeal was made to all Councillors to commit to the work of Committees that drive forward the Strategic Aims of the Council

69.3.1 Environment – One vacancy, no candidate

69.3.2 Finance & General Purposes – Four vacancies, no candidates

69.3.3 Leisure & Community – Two vacancies, no candidates

69.3.4 Personnel – One vacancy, no candidate

69.4 Madeley Matters Editorial Board – Vacancies

The Editorial Board of the Newsletter was a Working Group.

There were no proposed candidates for vacancies; Councillor D Edwards volunteered his services if required.

Agreed:

that Community Representative be sought by advertisement in the next edition of the Newsletter

06/70. Representation

to ensure that the council has high quality representation on the outside bodies as appropriate to its legal responsibilities, position within the community and areas of focus.

70.1 Business Plan Report

Councillors reviewed the progress report on objectives for Representation
Noted

70.2 School Governors

John Randall Primary School – Minor Local Authority vacancy
There were no nominations

70.3 Telford & Wrekin CABx

Nominated representative vacancy following resignation of Parish Councillor due to Principal Authority nomination.

This was considered an important role due to re-organisation and the withdrawal of the Madeley service.

There were no nominations.

Borough of Telford & Wrekin representative will report

70.4 Reports from MPC Representatives

70.4.1 Telford & The Wrekin CABx (November 8th 2006)

Cllr G Green reported that the Annual General Meeting praised the growth of the service, the valuable resource of organisers and volunteers, and the need for cost-effective efficiency. Presentation received on the development of the 'Hub and Spoke' model for delivery of services based at Ketley supported by outreach sessions in the community.

70.4.2 District Centre Regeneration Forum (November 14th & 30th 2006)

Forum organised by Wellington Town Manager (employed through Market Towns Initiative funding) to include Wellington, Dawley, Oakengates, Hadley, Madeley and Donnington. Aims and Objectives – (1) Sharing information and Best Practice, (2) Influencing Policy working within the Borough, (3) Representation on external bodies (AWM + Transforming Telford), (4) Economic opportunities, (5) Access funding

Agreed:

that the Clerk attends Forum meetings to share information and use as bench-mark for regeneration of Madeley

70.4.3 Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (November 15th 2006)

Cllr E Swift attended both the AGM and Management Committee meeting. Newly appointed Chair (Carol Cooper) and Vice-Chair (Louise Lomax) Presentation received on the progress of stabilisation work at The Lloyds, publication of Management Plans, and discussion on location of new premises

70.4.4 Telford Bus User Group (November 15th 2006)

Cllr D Davies had been unable to attend the meeting of the Telford Bus User Group. No report was presented.

70.4.5 Shropshire Association of Local Councils (November 18th 2006)

Cllr C Muddiman attended the Annual General Meeting of SALC and received the inaugural Jan Snell Award for Community Achievement for the establishment of Madeley Community Orchard

70.4.6 Woodside Family Groups Project (November 20th 2006)

Cllr M Swift reported that the Annual General Meeting of this model community project acknowledged the ongoing informal administrative support and interim funding provided by Madeley Parish Council

70.4.7 Telford Crime Prevention Panel (November 20th 2006)

Cllr R Coldicutt was absent. No report presented

70.4.8 T&W Voluntary & Community Forum (November 28th 2006)

Cllr D Edwards commended the Forum as a valuable resource for support and advice

70.4.9 Parish Clerks Meeting

Borough of Telford & Wrekin presentations were received on the Local Play Strategy, Web Hosting, and Local Government White Paper

70.4.10 Telford & Wrekin Parishes Forum (December 11th 2006)

Cllr D Davies attended the Parishes Forum meeting. Presentation received on Borough of Telford & Wrekin Budget 2007-08 and Local Government White Paper

70.4.11 Friends of Telford Town Park (December 13th 2006)

Cllr E Swift had been unable to attend the FOTTP meeting due to a lack of adequate notice and a clash of commitments. Communications difficulties now resolved.

70.4.12 World Heritage Site, Strategy Group (December 14th 2006)

Cllr M Swift had attended the Visioning Day to prioritise issues and challenges faced within Ironbridge Gorge WHS. This is an influential representative group. A number of important actions were highlighted during well-organised workshops:

- Conservation of the Built and Natural Environment
- Interpretation, marketing and promotion
- Partnership and funding
- Community involvement

The role of Madeley in the WHS remains subservient to Ironbridge and tourism

70.4.13 Woodside Regeneration Forum

Cllr D Harrison cited the Woodside West2 Homezone development as a good example of community consultation

70.4.14 Telford & Wrekin Senior Citizens Forum

Cllr D Edwards reported that membership of the Senior Citizens' Forum now exceed 1,100. It was considered a model in organisation and management

06/71. Parish Profile

to promote and publicise the work of the council, and the area it serves and so raise the profile of the parish. To consult with and be accountable to the community through open communication and to advocate on behalf of Madeley Parish and its residents

71.1 Business Plan Report

Councillors reviewed the progress report on objectives for Parish Profile
Noted

06/72 Correspondence

- 72.1 Borough of Telford & Wrekin**
Scrutiny (Community & Resources) – Review of the Role and Effectiveness of Community Support Officers
Invitation to submit representations and comments on:
the role of CSO's within Parish
perception of effectiveness
successes and areas of potential improvement
communication with CSO's
Agreed:
to note the initiative of local CSO's in development of local football scheme
- 72.2 Shropshire Association of Local Councils**
Notice/Agenda for Wrekin Area Committee meeting to be held on January 18th 2007 at Castle Farm Community Centre. Open invitation
- 72.3 National Association of Local Councils**
'Shaping Communities' Conference, London, February 13th 2007.
A review of the Local Government White Paper and the Lyons Inquiry Report

06/73 Information

- 73.1 Borough of Telford & Wrekin, Capital & Facilities**
Statutory Notice – Proposed closure Madeley Court Secondary School
- 73.2 Shropshire Association of Local Councils**
Parish Pump – December 2006 edition of newsletter

06/74 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Madeley Parish Council is scheduled for Monday, February 26th 2007

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed..... (Chair)

Dated.....

**PRECEPT
2007/08**

SUPPORTING NOTES

The preparation of Budget/Precept has evolved as the Business Plan management principals have been developed. The Strategy Review carried out in 2006 has informed the forward Business Plans of all Committees for 2007/08 - a plan of how the Parish Council intends to use its financial resources - and provides the basis for the revenue and capital financial assessment.

Parish and Town Councils raise the money to meet these expenses by Precept (a mandatory demand) on the Local Authority. The Precept covers the Parish Council's needs for the ensuing year.

The Revenue/Capital Budget is a statement setting out item by item the purposes on which the Parish Council intends money to be spent during the financial year. It also itemises the income likely to arise from facilities provided. In fixing a Precept a budget is prepared for each Committee.

The Committee budgets are presented to show:

- Budget for the current financial year (2006/07)
- Expected actual expenditure for the current financial year (2006/07)
- Budget expenditure for the next financial year (2007/08)

The difference between total estimated expenditure and income is the total net expenditure **but**, before demanding the amount of Precept, the amount is adjusted to take into account the outcome of the current year's accounts (carried forward figures). If the indications are that the current budget will be underspent the amount of the Precept should be reduced, if overspent the amount of the Precept should be increased.

Councils should have a "Working Balance" (the General Fund) which should be reconsidered during the budget process and may be adjusted via the Precept. Audit Commission recommendation is that this should be between 25% and 100% of projected annual expenditure.

Budget and Precept figures for the Financial Year 2006/07:

	Budget	Precept
Full Council	17,405.00	15,760.00
F&GP	205,310.00	214,995.00
Environment	19,300.00	13,185.00
Leisure	77,150.00	64,650.00
Personnel	1,750.00	1,120.00
Income	(40,350.00)	(40,350.00)
Total	280,565.00	269,360.00

- The difference between Budget and Precept was intended to reduce General Fund balance within Audit guidelines that state a minimum of 3 months projected revenue income/expenditure, a maximum of 12 months projected revenue income/expenditure
- The number of Band D Equivalent properties in Madeley Parish was 4863
The annual Parish rate, thereby, was £55.39p.

Budget and Precept figures for the Financial Year 2007/08

- Year end projections are based on the Financial Summary and Financial Comparison Report to December 2006 and includes committed expenditure
- Committee budgets have been reviewed by current budget headings and adjusted to take into account carry forward balances
- The provisions for forecast expenditure proposals are based on the Parish Strategy and Business Plan Reviews
- The provision for inflation on Revenue Expenditure 2007/08 is
 - Salary 2.5%
 - General 3.0%
 - Utilities Electricity (12%) Gas (20%) Water (29%)
 - Income 2.5%

Inflation

RPIX for November 2006 is 3.4%

Statement for December 2006 is due 16.01.2007

**PRECEPT
2007/08**

BUDGET SUMMARY

The provisional estimates presented indicate a budget requirement to meet approved spending plans and capacity to respond to demands, a realistic assumption of income generated, and a Precept that gives a 24.5% increase over the previous year.

- The revised Budget and Precept figures for the Financial Year 2007/08 are:

	Budget	Precept
Full Council	22,415.00	27,350.00
F&GP	234,930.00	248,295.00
Environment	32,350.00	30,620.00
Leisure	67,000.00	65,425.00
Personnel	1,250.00	535.00
Income	(37,000.00)	(37,000.00)
Total	320,945.00	335,225.00

- The estimated number of Band D Equivalent properties in Madeley Parish is 4,839.8 (provisional)
The suggested Precept would give a Parish Rate of £57.26p per annum for Band D equivalent properties (+25%)

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
2000/01	32.53	37.96	43.38	48.80	59.64	70.49	81.33	97.60
2001/02	33.55	39.15	44.74	50.33	61.51	72.70	83.88	100.66
2002/03	34.25	39.95	45.66	51.37	62.79	74.20	85.62	102.74
2003/04	34.43	40.17	45.91	51.65	63.13	74.61	86.08	103.30
2004/05	34.32	40.04	45.76	51.48	62.92	74.36	85.80	102.96
2005/06	35.33	41.21	47.10	52.99	64.77	76.54	88.32	105.98
2006/07	36.93	43.08	49.23	55.39	67.70	80.00	92.32	110.78
2007/08	46.17	53.87	61.56	69.26	84.65	100.04	115.43	138.52

- Cash Forecast 31.03.2007 = £ 218,617

Reserves

Financial year-end March 2006

General Fund				£102,392.55
Earmarked Reserves				
	Coach House			£102,500.00
	Public Conveniences			£0.00
	Replacements Reserve			£18,000.00
		Computer System	£2,000.00	
		Vehicle	£6,000.00	
		Notice Boards	£10,000.00	
	Community Projects			£16,150.00
		HERS	£12,500.00	
		Highways	£1,150.00	
		Street Lighting	£2,500.00	
Total				£239,042.55

General Fund:

Will **reduce** by overspend amounting to £11,205 (difference between Precept figure and projected income/expenditure 2006/07)

Will **reduce** by allocation to earmarked reserves amounting to £12,600

Will **increase** by unallocation of earmarked reserves amounting to £6,000

Earmarked Reserves:

Will **reduce** during 2006/07 as a result of planned expenditure on:

Replacements Reserve - £6,000 (Vehicle)
Community Projects - £12,500 (HERS)
- £1,150 (Highways)

Will **increase** during 2006/07 as a result of planned expenditure for:

Replacements Reserve - £2,000 (IT system)
Community Projects - £1,000 (MUGA)
- £2,500 (Street Lighting)
Contingency Fund - £12,600

Note: 2007-08 Contingency Reserve (adjustment)

BUDGET 2007-08

In 2006-07 the portion of Council Tax precepted by Madeley Parish Council (Band D equivalent £55.39p.) was ranked 8 out of the 11 larger local parish/town councils in the Borough of Telford & Wrekin area

(Hollinswood & Randlay PC was ranked 1- Band D equivalent rate £90.48p.)

The draft budgetary proposals presented indicate a provisional rise of 25% to achieve the strategic aims and objectives of Madeley Parish Council as outlined in the Strategy Review and Committee Business Plans.

Whilst the Band D rate proposed remains reasonable in comparative terms, the level of increase may be mitigated through the appropriate use of reserved balances.

Full Council

1. Election costs were an exceptional cost during 2005-06 resulting from 2 bye-elections. Borough of Telford & Wrekin (Resources) has advised that the full appropriate costs will be charged for Parish Elections in 2007. Expenditure may be met from General Fund reserves £10,670. (It is prudent, however, to accrue earmarked reserves amounting to £1,650)
2. Madeley Matters readership survey carried out in 2006-07 will not be a recurring cost. Expenditure may be met from General Fund reserves (£2,745)
3. Income received from Woodside Regeneration to be accounted as 'negative expenditure' - £2,700

Finance & General Purposes Committee

1. Calculation of Postal Costs (following implementation of PIP and subject to price increases in April 2007) error – office services budget overstated by £800
2. Community Projects budget 2007-08 includes provision for matched funding for Community Building bid for Lumley Hall. This is a commitment in principal and will be subject to a successful outcome. Reserves may be earmarked rather than raise levy from parishioners - £10,000
3. Uncommitted and discretionary element of the Community Projects budget relates to Partnership Grants transferred from Leisure & Community Committee grants budget (£10,000). This should be retained.
4. Anticipated legal fees relating to Coach House may be allocated from earmarked reserves - £580
5. Overspend on Property Services for Jubilee House in 2006-07 resulted from a series of ad hoc expenditures. Expenditure may be met from General Fund reserves £6,600
6. Alternative cost of replacement marble plaque to War Memorial is £1,000. However, this would be machine produced whereas existing panels are hand chiselled – the (£500) saving is not recommended.

Environment Committee

1. Business Plan identifies Boundary Signage as Highways Project 2007-08. A re-allocation of the earmarked Replacement Reserve for Notice Boards would cover the estimated cost - £5,000
2. Commitment to delivery of Environmental Services on a permanent basis requires partnership budget for Path Sweeping to be revenue expenditure

3. Lobby pressure for s106 obligations related to Madeley Centre development may achieve comprehensive Street Lighting scheme. Expenditure on funding contribution could be met from General Fund reserves at the appropriate time - £5,000
4. Funding for Green Spaces projects (Russell Green, Madeley Local Nature Reserve, Tweedale Woods) may be sought from external sources - £1,000

Leisure & Community Committee

1. It is noted that the presentation of Fireworks at the Christmas Lights 2007 may be logistically possible. However, decorations need to be renewed. No change.
2. Grants budget for 2006-07 was overspent due to 3 major applications. Expenditure may be met from General Fund reserves - £10,300
3. Grant awards budget is discretionary. Proposed increase is 25% but may not be sustainable. A moratorium on donations and a 10% increase in Grant Awards would achieve saving of £1,800
4. Services for the elderly budget is discretionary. Proposed increase is 20% but may not be sustainable. A 10% increase would achieve saving of £350
5. LHP Projects are subject to significant external funding and income generation. Provision for projects in 2007 (Thomas Telford exhibition, Kemberton Pit history, Woodside Book, National Archaeology Day) may be reduced - £400

Personnel Committee

1. Parish Elections in 2007 require allocation of fund for Councillor Training at no cost
2. Service Agreement for Human Resource services with Borough of Telford & Wrekin to provide advice and guidance. Ancillary costs maybe met from earmarked contingency reserve - £150
3. IIP accreditation renewed – commitment to service quality through staff training. No change.

Income

1. Assumed levels of income are prudent.
Bank interest assessed at 2.5% (based on Borough of Telford & Wrekin assumptions)

The appropriate use of reserved balances is a part of budgetary control. Adoption of the statements and recommendations contained in this report will reduce the precept requirement for 2007-08 by £58,095 (Accounting adjustments £17,780; Reserves £40,315.)

Note: Budget/Precept 2006-07 allowed for General Fund reserves reduction of £11,205
Actual use of Reserves 2007-08 will therefore be £29,110

Revised Precept demand would be £277,130 (+2.88%)
Band D equivalent rate - £57.26 (+3.38%)

JMM
21.12.2006