

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
5 January 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Cllr R Levell (Chairman), Cllr R Beattie, Cllr P Byrne, Cllr B Cross, Cllr O Curtis, Cllr A Fernley, Cllr K Harrison, Cllr D Hughes, Cllr M Levell, Cllr T Swailes, Cllr L Wilkes.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Tucker, Clerk (Minutes)

492.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr H Howell.

493.22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting in compliance with adopted protocol.

None received.

494.22 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

495.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED THAT IF THEY HAVE EITHER A DISLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST OR OTHER INTEREST IN ANY ITEM THEN THEY SHOULD DECLARE THE INTEREST AND LEAVE THE MEETING FOR THAT ITEM.

None.

496.22 [Minutes](#): To confirm the public minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13 December 2022. (Copy via link.)

An amendment was tabled to confidential minute reference 474.22, item (i).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13 December 2022, as amended, be confirmed as a true record.

497.22 Draft Budget 2023/24: To consider the draft budget for the next financial year.

The Council gave consideration to the report, which provided details of adjustments made to the draft budget as a result of investigations carried out

by the Clerk and the Chairman of Finance and Policy Committee after the last meeting of that Committee on 8 December 2022.

In particular, it was noted that the Council's current utility contract would expire at the end of September 2023, and the cheapest tariff available from October 2023 onwards represented an increase of 145% in the cost of electricity and an increase of 267% in the cost of gas.

It was acknowledged that an increase in council tax would present a challenge to households at a time of significant inflationary and cost of living pressures, but it was also recognised that these pressures had markedly increased the cost of delivering essential Council services, whilst each Committee had analysed its budgets carefully and identified savings where viable in order to keep any increase as low as possible.

A suggestion was raised that further savings could be realised from the Events Committee budget, but there was not a majority in favour of this given that (i) the proposed budget was already lower than the previous year's and (ii) the popularity of the events retained for 2023/24 and the wider associated community benefits. There was also a consensus that it would not be appropriate to draw down from reserves to balance the budget.

A motion was tabled to approve the draft budget as set out at Appendix 1, and to submit a precept demand for the sum of £598,699 for the 2023/24 financial year. The motion was put to a recorded vote and carried.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The 2023/24 budget be approved; and**
- (ii) A precept demand for the sum of £598,699 for the 2023/24 financial year be submitted.**

Member	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor R Beattie	X		
Councillor P Byrne	X		
Councillor B Cross	X		
Councillor O Curtis	X		
Councillor A Fernley	X		
Councillor K Harrison	X		
Councillor D Hughes		X	
Councillor M Levell	X		
Councillor R Levell	X		
Councillor T Swailes	X		

Councillor L Wilkes	X		
TOTAL(S)	10	1	0

- 498.22** *The press and public will be excluded from the following agenda item due to the confidential nature of the business under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960*

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting.

- 499.22 Establishment Report:** To receive a confidential report from the Clerk.

The Clerk presented the confidential report.

A debate was held during which the four outstanding matters were individually voted upon.

In respect of matters (1) and (4), approval was passed unanimously. In respect of matter (2), approval was passed by a majority vote.

In respect of matter (3), a motion to reject was put to a recorded vote and was not carried.

Member	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor R Beattie		X	
Councillor P Byrne		X	
Councillor B Cross	X		
Councillor O Curtis	X		
Councillor A Fernley		X	
Councillor K Harrison	X		
Councillor D Hughes		X	
Councillor M Levell		X	
Councillor R Levell		X	
Councillor T Swailes	X		
Councillor L Wilkes	X		
TOTAL(S)	5	6	0

A subsequent motion to amend the terms of the proposal was then put to a recorded vote and was carried.

Member	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor R Beattie		X	
Councillor P Byrne	X		
Councillor B Cross	X		
Councillor O Curtis	X		
Councillor A Fernley	X		
Councillor K Harrison	X		
Councillor D Hughes		X	
Councillor M Levell		X	
Councillor R Levell		X	
Councillor T Swailes	X		
Councillor L Wilkes	X		
TOTAL(S)	7	4	0

RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to submit formal notification of the decisions taken to the responsible body before the deadline of Tuesday 10 January, and to provide further updates to Full Council as appropriate.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9:35pm.

Approved: (Town Mayor)

Meeting date.....10 January 2023.....(Council)