**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BAWTRY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE NEW HALL ON TUESDAY 23rd JANUARY 2018 AT 7.00PM**

**Present:** Cllrs: G. Budgen, A. Claypole, J Linsley, P. Holland, S. Young. D, Kirkham, A. West, D. Cartwright G. Scott. C. Lukey, P. Muxlow

Mrs. A Harrison – Clerk to the Council

**In Attendance**: **2 members of the public.**

Public Discussion Period - No matters raised.

**17/18/217** Receive Apologies and Approve Reasons for Absence

Noted that Mr Paul Muxlow had been elected to the Council (uncontested) and had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

A Cropley, S. Womack, G. Scott (other commitment)

**17/18/218** Receive Declarations of Interest (other than standing interests).-None.

**17/18/219** Receive Audit Monitoring Report

Noted by members- no matters of particular concern

**17/18/220** Internal Audit Review- Review the system of internal control and the system of internal audit

**Resolved:** That David Ingman be appointed internal auditor for the 2017-18 financial year.

That members had no concernsregarding the systems of internal control.

**17/18/221** To consider the 2018/19 Revenue Budget and set the Precept

Members had received the Clerks report and estimated budget papers.

Noted estimated income – in particular parking income which was not significantly down annually despite the 3 month trial. Grant income was unlikely to be realised but largely offset in expenditure in any event (NP income to be excluded from 2018-19 budget)

Noted estimated expenditure. Members agreed that full cost of the war memorial relocation should be included and a further allowance for Neighbourhood Plan costs not covered by grants. “Feasibility Study” costs reduced to £3500 and Market Hill Frontages budget removed. Flowers/baskets also removed but equivalent budget provided for Bawtry image enhancements.

Members considered other new heads of expenditure e.g. Senior Citizen event - allowance of £4000 agreed

Revised figures would still leave an estimated deficit of approx. £20,841 if a suggested precept of £32,000 was approved. (£3 per annum increase for a Band D property)

Discussed general reserves and whether funds should be earmarked for capital expenditure. It was noted that although the Council currently held quite healthy reserves one large project like adoption of the Market Hill footpath would reduce reserves to a very modest level compared to annual expenditure. (A reserve of 2/3 annual expenditure being acceptable practice).

Discussed the precept and noted that even with the suggested increase there was a large deficit that could not continue in the long term. Members felt that a larger increase should be made to balance the current over reliance on car park income and the view that routine expenditure should to a large extent be funded by the precept. Value needed to be illustrated through the year however with projects progressed more quickly.

**Resolved:** That the precept for 3018-19 be set at £36,000 (7 for 3 against)

This would increase the annual cost of a Band D property by £6 per annum, 50p per month.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.45pm.

**Chair: ……………………………………………. Dated…………………………………………**