**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BAWTRY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE NEW HALL ON TUESDAY 28th JANUARY 2020 at 7.00PM**

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Claypole, D, Kirkham, G Budgen, D Cartwright, S, Young,

J. Linsley, I. Greer, P. Holland. A. Cropley, D. Kirby P. Muxlow

Mrs. A Harrison – Clerk to the Council

**In Attendance**: 3 members of the public, Ward Cllr R. Blake.

**19/20/184** Receive Apologies and Approve Reasons for Absence

 G. Scott (other commitment)

**Resolved:** That the reason for absence be approved.

**19/20/185** Receive Declarations of Interest (other than standing interests) - None other than standing interests

**19/20/186** Agree Confidential Items – Item 6 BARS - possibly in part (Commercially sensitive), Item 7 - Crown Hotel Lease (Legal)

**19/20/187** Internal AuditReview - Review the system of internal control and the system of internal audit

 **Recorded:** That David Ingman be appointed as internal auditor for 2019/20

Noted that the current internal controls were satisfactory but that members should be aware that approved budget figures were not equivalent to approved expenditure and all expenditure still needed to be approved throughout the year.

**19/20/188** Consider the Revenue Budget 2020-21 & set the Precept

 Members considered the Clerks budget report and estimated budget revenues. Noted recent fall in Market Hill income and substantial heads of expenditure such as the proposed Market Hill refurbishment, Christmas costs, New Hall and BARS/MSF.

**Resolved** That the budget be approved as drafted with a precept of £55,000 for 2020/21.

Members noted this would increase the precept from £50,000 to £55,000. This would equate to an increase in the annual cost for a Band D property from £36.39 in 2019/20 to £39.94 in 2020/21 (based on a slightly higher tax base). This would be an increase of £3.55pa (9.4%)

(Arrival of Cllr Lukey)

**19/20/189** BARS– Consider BARS Reports and grant funding for 2020

 Members considered the report from BARS & financial documents/correspondence.

 Noted the Council was being asked for a slightly reduced annual grant of £8,000 and an extension of the suspension of the Terms of Reference for one month. Further information/revised terms of reference to be presented at the February meeting.

 Proposed anticipated fees queried from user groups to ensure this was realistic.

 Staffing- New Caretaker to be appointed (advertisement yet to be placed).

 Events - Sports day to be the main event during the year for the trustees to arrange. Otherwise BARS to rent to third parties to deliver events with a bar provided on request.

 Noted social media etc. needed development e.g. Facebook page. Website was now nearly ready to go live with a communications plan drafted with the help of Ward Cllr Blake.

 Site Development – Noted a number of plans e.g. drainage, access, ground levelling.

Historic concerns with the bar and financial systems noted although assurances were given that these had now been addressed.

Budget noted substantial bar figures in the summer and this was queried as was the lack of provision for employment of new staff and how this would be mitigated

 **Resolved**: That a grant of £8,000 be approved with quarterly reports throughout the year agreed from BARS.

 **Resolved**: That the Terms of Reference be suspended for a further month with a revised Terms of Reference to be presented at the February meeting.

**19/20/190** Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

That in light of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press and public was excluded.

**19/20/191** Crown Hotel Lease– Approve legal costs/instruction

**Resolved:** That costs be agreed with Irwin Mitchell on an hourly rate with a cap of £1000 initially.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.00pm.

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