



MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

APPROVED

Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting
held in the Community Room on
Monday 2nd October, 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. R. Stocks (Chair) Cllr. L. Lay-Flurrie
Cllr. M. McClarnon Cllr. J. Charlesworth
Cllr. M. Taylor Cllr. H. Jones

In attendance: District Cllr. A. Coley Mrs. L. Djuve-Wood (Clerk)
2 members of the public

1) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2) Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Public Participation Session

There were two members of the public present. There was an overall view that previous employment of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) between the three parishes of Manningtree, Lawford and Mistley had worked very well and that they had for the most part stayed within the designated area and very rarely been moved to other parishes or towns. District Cllr. Coley pointed out that whereas previous PCSOs were funded on a joint basis together with Essex Police, it would now need to be funded on a sole basis between the three parishes, which would significantly increase the cost and also mean an increase in council precept.

4) To consider the potential merits and costs of the employment of one or two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) between the three parishes of Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford

Whereas all councillors embraced the idea of employing PCSOs, the general feeling was that one PCSO would not be enough and that two will be needed to have any significant impact on crime levels. Cllr. Stocks noted that the cost of hiring PCSOs is significant, at around £36,000 per annum per PCSO, shared proportionately between the three parishes. The minimum contract length between Essex Police and the three parishes would be two years.

After having consulted the council's budget it was clear that whereas the council would probably be able to fund one PCSO for a couple of years at least, it would not be possible to fund two PCSOs without significantly increasing the precept. The clerk pointed out that the increase in precept may even have to be greater as Tendring District Council is looking at gradually reducing the grant portion of the precept over the next few years with the grant possibly completely removed by the financial year 2021/22.

District Cllr. Coley suggested that it may be possible to contact local businesses to look for sponsorship towards the PCSO costs. It was agreed that any such requests should be done jointly between the three parishes and that any businesses willing to provide sponsorship would need to agree to be tied in for the two-year length of the contract.

RESOLVED that whereas the council would very much like to employ two PCSOs (one would not be enough), unfortunately it is not currently affordable without raising the precept significantly. The council is in favour of exploring the option of local sponsorship jointly with Lawford and Mistley to help fund the two PCSOs.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....16.11.17