

**Full Town Council Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Consideration of the installation of Solar Panels.**

Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

<b>99</b>	<b>Solar Panels</b>
99.1	Cllrs had received a detailed report about the proposals associated with installation of solar panels on the roofs of the theatre and Town Council buildings. Cllrs considered that the best return for the Town Council would be to fund the new flat roof and installation of the solar panels ourselves. It was proposed to recommend to Full Council that the Town Council looks to fund a new roof for the Landor Suite and instal solar panels on the buildings.
99.2	<i>Proposed: Cllr Dipple; Seconded; Cllr Gaye</i> <b>It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that the roof to the Landor Suite is replaced and solar panels are installed to assist in generation of electricity for the theatre and the Town Council.</b>  The Town Clerk would contact CCDC to ascertain what permissions would be needed to make the installations should the scheme be approved.

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at the Rugeley Town Council Offices  
7.30pm Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

<b>119</b>	<b>Solar Panels</b>
119.1	Points raised by the member of public in the earlier session were valid and it was suggested that more exploration into the panels, costs and benefits needed to be explored. It was noted that the repair of the Landor Suite would need to be considered separately owing to the problems with leaks.
119.2	It was proposed to go forward with investigations, get quotes / planning / timings / storage / feasibilities. <i>Proposed; Cllr Dipple; Seconded: Cllr Ansell</i> <b>The motion was agreed</b>

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at the Rugeley Town Council Offices 7.30pm  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

	<b>Precept</b>
<b>141</b>	Cllrs considered the budget for the next 3 years. There was discussion about the nationwide economic situation and the impact of that on the community should an
141.1	increase in the Precept be proposed. It was noted that the largest increase in costs facing the Council will be on utilities. Should the Solar panels be installed, this would result in savings but was still a few months off.

141.2	The feeling by Councillors was that there should not be an increase in the Precept for 2023/2024 although it was also noted that as the tax base had increased, there could be a slight increase in the precept without individual bills increasing. This would be taken to F and M on 18 <sup>th</sup> January for further consideration and would back to Full Council on 1 <sup>st</sup> February for formal consideration.
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Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held in the Council Chamber  
at 7.30pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

<b>126</b>	<b>Budget and Precept Discussions</b>
126.1	Cllrs considered the budgets for the next 3 years. Projected spend would change depending on if solar panels were installed. These would affect utility costs / roof repairs / installation costs. It was understood that Cllrs were in favour of a 0% increase in precept request to protect the local community in these times of economic uncertainty.
126.2	It was proposed to recommend to Full Council that there be a 0% increase in the precept request to CCDC. However, it would also be noted that because of the increase in tax base, there could be a rise in the precept of approx. £2,000 without affecting individual council tax bills. It was noted that funds would have to come from the councils reserves to cover any solar panel development or budget deficits. <i>Proposed: Cllr Hodgson; Seconded; Cllr Grant</i> <b>It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that the precept request be £317,393 which was a 0% increase from last year.</b>

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at the Rugeley Town Council Offices 7.30pm  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

<p><b>155</b> 155.1 155.2</p>	<p><b>Budget</b></p> <p>Cllrs noted the proposed budget for the next 3 financial years. It was noted that even if approved, the budget would need to be reviewed when details were known about the solar panels.</p> <p>It was proposed to accept the budget and forecast budgets. Proposed: Cllr Dipple; Seconded: Cllr Panter-Hood</p> <p><b>The motion was agreed.</b></p>
<p><b>156</b> 156.1 156.2</p>	<p><b>Precept</b></p> <p>Cllrs noted the recommendation made by F and M Committee for a 0% increase in the precept for 2023/2024. The point was made that because of an increase in costs, the Town Council would need an increase in the precept, but it was accepted that with the cost-of-living crisis, the Town Council felt unable to put this burden on to the community and would therefore absorb the costs for one year.</p> <p>It was proposed that a 0% increase in the Precept be requested but it was noted that because of an increase in the tax base, there would be a rise in the precept of approx. £2,000 without affecting individual bills. The precept request would be £317,393.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Cooney; Seconded: Cllr Grant</p> <p><b>The motion was accepted.</b></p>

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at the Rugeley Town Council offices  
7.30pm Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

<p><b>16</b> 16.1  16.2</p>	<p><b>Solar Panels</b></p> <p>It was proposed that an extra meeting would be called between now and 3<sup>rd</sup> May with the potential providers of solar panels requested to present to Cllrs. <i>Proposed Cllr Hodgson; Seconded; Cllr Dipple</i></p> <p><b>It was agreed that all possible contractors present to all Cllrs before Mays full council meeting</b></p> <p>Cllr Lyons to seek advice from CCDC Energy Advisor</p>
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Presentation by three prospective Solar Panel providers. Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held at the Rugeley Town Council Offices  
7.30pm Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.

<b>30</b>	<b>Solar Panels</b>
30.1	Following the presentation to Cllrs made on 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2023, additional details had been received from the solar panel companies regarding maximising the panels and battery storage.
30.2	It was proposed to let the contract to The Energy Box at a cost of £91,224 + VAT. The funding for this would come from the agreed Ear Marked Reserves for 2023 for the panels and new flat roof over Landor Suite. <i>Proposed: Cllr Green; Seconded: Cllr Dipple</i> <b>The motion was agreed</b>
30.3	Cllrs were advised of urgent works required to the pitched roof over the bar area of the theatre. It showed significant holes in the roof, no membrane under the tiles and little insulation. Without repair it would not be able to hold the solar panels and heat would continue to be lost through the roof space rather than heating the building.
30.4	It was proposed that staff get 3 quotes for the work under the guidance of Cannock Chase District Council. The quote which offered the best value for money would be accepted. <i>Proposed: Cllr Green; Seconded: Cllr Dipple.</i> <b>The motion was agreed</b>