

NORTH WALSHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
13 October 2015

**Minutes of the Precept Meeting of the Town Council held on 13 October 2015**

**Town Mayor:** Cllr B West

**Town Councillors Present:**

Cllr G Bull	Cllr D Evans
Cllr B Hester	Cllr S Stuckey
Cllr A Thirtle	Cllr E Wheeler

The meeting opened at 19:00.

**Part I: Open to the Press and Members of the Public**

**1 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**(a) Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

**(b) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Choudhury, Fryer, Melville, Seward, Turner and Witte.

**2 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING TO ALLOW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of County or District Councils were present, and no members of the public were present.

**3 PRECEPT 2016/17: To consider potential Town Council activities**

This first meeting was intended for Councillors to give an indication of areas they would like to see the Council investing in, so that staff could carry out some costing work and prepare outline budgets and precept figures for approval by the end of November. This would mean the Town Council would be in a position to respond promptly to NNDC's annual request for the Council's precept demand. It was noted that, despite a relatively large increase in the North Walsham precept, the overall NNDC Council Tax bill increased by just 0.1% (ie the town had a minimal impact on the North Norfolk households' overall Council Tax bills). It was noted that the town had a historically low precept, with a focus on keeping it low instead of doing additional things to benefit the community.

Several areas were proposed for consideration:

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- Dog exercise areas (with an appropriate amount raised for the necessary materials/installation)
- Additional staffing requirements (to be discussed by the Personnel Committee on 15 October and brought to Council on 27 October)
- Provision of free parking
- Small Highways projects in keeping with the County Council Parish Partnership Scheme
- Additional funding for the Woodville park project.

Members agreed that residents should have the opportunity to put their concerns and “wants” forward. It was **RESOLVED** that

**The local press be asked to publish articles encouraging local people to come forward with ideas, and that this request also appear on the Council’s website and Facebook group.**

*[Cllr Witte entered the Chamber at 20:20]*

The Council did not have specific overarching priorities or a mission statement, with more focus on primary responsibilities. It was **RESOLVED** that

**Appropriate priorities should be drafted for approval by the Council.**

It was noted that the precept setting process had been treated as an annual exercise in the past. However, apart from the formal return to the District Council, there was no reason why this should not be an ongoing process at local level, with more proactive management of budgets in response to the town’s emerging needs and priorities.

**4     DATE OF THE SECOND PRECEPT MEETING**

This would be held on Tuesday 10 November 2015 at 19:00.

The meeting closed at 19:30.