

MINUTES of the meeting of **ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL** held in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston at 7.30pm on Monday 27th January 2025.

PRESENT: Councillor Rees (Mayor) in the Chair
Councillors Adams, Antony, Beardwell, Brown, Freeman, Harrison, Haugh,
Inwood, Lockett and Squire-Smith
In attendance: County Councillor Hill, District Councillor Tim Johnson
2 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and informed those present that the meeting was being recorded.

271/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Two members of the public spoke and asked the Council to use some of their budget to support the Free after 3pm parking scheme.
The Chair thanked the members of the public for their contribution.

272/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Birch, Jani and Langdon.
Members **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies from Councillors Birch, Jani and Langdon.

273/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

Members were advised to declare any interests at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. No requests for dispensations were received.

274/25 BUDGET AND PRECEPT APPROVAL 2025-2026:

There was a lengthy discussion.
An amendment was proposed to add £20,000 to the budget to contribute towards the funding of the 'Free after 3' parking scheme. This could be achieved by keeping council tax the same as last year rather than decreasing it. The amendment was seconded and duly carried.
An amendment was proposed to increase the Community Grants fund by £5,000, which would be taken from reserves, with a view to amending the policy at a later date to raise the amount that could be applied for to £1,000.
The amendment was seconded and duly carried.
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the amended 2025-2026 budget proposals from the Finance Committee.
Members **RESOLVED** to retain the council tax charges the same as the previous year with a 0% increase in the Band D level for 2025/2026, maintaining it at £59.22.

Date of next meeting: 17th March 2025

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date _____