ITEM 10 (2) BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2025-26

Proposal from Councillor K Dickson,

Since the agreement of the budget proposal at the last Finance & General Services meeting, there is more uncertainty about the future roles for Town Councils because of the English Devolution White Paper. Also, since the F&GS meeting, the leader of Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, asking that WCC's proposal for a unitary council should be considered in the first wave of submissions, and that the elections this year should be delayed.

These developments mean that Kenilworth Town Council may incur unplanned costs over the next 2-3 years and beyond. For example, we are likely to incur the total cost of our Town Council elections in 2027 instead of sharing this with District Council elections held at the same time. These District Council elections are unlikely to take place in 2027 if the devolution plans progress.

By taking less money from our reserves, this proposal will make the Council more resilient in the face of uncertain changes.

We therefore propose that the proposed budget is amended, and that instead of planning to transfer £20,000 from general reserves, we propose to transfer only £10,000. This will necessitate a rise in the proposed precept to £27.86 to maintain a balanced budget, and the Precept Amount to be declared to WDC be £291,815.