

minute book 8

Council

Monday 28th March
2011
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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Council

7th February 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Kath Banks (Mayor), Councillor Anita Clayton (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Jack Cookson, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Malcolm Hall, Bill Hartnett, Nigel Hicks, Roger Hill, Gay Hopkins, Robin King, Wanda King, William Norton, Jinny Pearce, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer, Debbie Taylor, Derek Taylor, Diane Thomas and Graham Vickery

Also Present:

Mrs D Andrews (Chair, Standards Committee) and M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

T Buckley, K Dicks, C Felton, S Hanley, C John, A Marklew, G Revans and S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

83. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Jo Musson, led the Council in prayer.

84. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Debbie Taylor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 11 (Regulatory Committee) as detailed separately at Minute 93 below.

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MAYOR, in the Chair

86. MINUTES**RESOLVED that**

the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 13th December 2010 and 10th January 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

87. KIETH BOYD-CARPENTER

The Mayor introduced a tribute to former Councillor and Mayor of the Borough, Kieth Boyd-Carpenter, whose death had been announced over the Christmas holiday period. Members had observed a Minute's silence in his memory at the previous Council meeting, when his death was first announced.

The Mayor welcomed former Councillor Boyd-Carpenter's wife, Val and other members of the family to the meeting and expressed the Council's deepest condolences to them. Members of the Council were invited to express any thoughts they might wish to offer in memory of former Councillor Boyd-Carpenter and of his services to the Borough.

The Leader of the Council commenced the tributes to former Councillor Boyd-Carpenter, noting that he had been a first class constituency Councillor, respected by the ordinary people of the Borough but never striving to achieve high office. The Leader of the Minority Group then led other Members in expressing their thoughts on the character and achievements of former Councillor Boyd-Carpenter.

Former Councillor Boyd-Carpenter's wife, Val thanked the Council on behalf of the family for the tributes that had been paid to her late husband.

RESOLVED that

the Council formally record its gratitude to former Councillor Boyd-Carpenter for his service to the Council and to the community.

88. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor's communications and announcements were considered under the following headings:

a) Budget Jury

The Mayor thanked the members of the Budget Jury for their very helpful inputs into the budget setting process, noting that the process would be concluded at the following meeting of the Council.

b) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council she had attended various functions, including: the opening of Osprey House for NEW College, the Staff Quiz, which had been successful and had raised over £550 for her Charities, various Carol Services, a visit to the Alexandra Hospital on Christmas Day, an At Home with the Bishop of Worcester, an Open Day at the Redditch Music School and the Special Olympics Awards Evening.

c) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included: the Wyre Forest District Council Chairman's Charity Dinner, a Valentine Dinner with the Mayor of Evesham, a meeting with the Asian Women's Community, the installation of the Reverend Richard Harding at Matchborough, the Older People's Forum event, the Redditch One World Link AGM, a Street Collection on 27th February, a Concert by the Bel Canto singers at the Town Hall on 5th March and the Civic Dinner on 2nd April.

d) Urgent Business

The Mayor advised that she had accepted one set of late papers, Item 10, the Executive Committee minutes for the meeting on 1st February 2011.

89. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Leader.

90. LEADERS' QUESTIONS

The Leader responded to a question submitted in accordance with Standing Order 8A from Councillor Juliet Brunner. Councillor Brunner's question related to the "Big Society" and evidence for its presence within the Borough.

The Leader responded that she entirely agreed that the "Big Society" was very much in operation within the Borough. She thanked all those who had attended the Christmas Carol concerts and reflected upon the tremendous work done by the voluntary sector within the Town. The need for Councillors as civic leaders to actively promote the Borough was noted in this regard and Members were encouraged to support the work of the Promoting Redditch Task and Finish Group.

91. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motion.

92. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 2nd December 2010, 10th January, 12th January and 1st February 2011.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2nd December 2010 be received and adopted, subject to:

in respect of Minute 124 (Tenant Involvement Agreement) it being further resolved that the recommendation in respect of this item, consideration of which had been deferred at the previous meeting of the Council, be approved.

- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 10th January 2011 be received and adopted;

- 3) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 12th January 2011 be received and all recommendations adopted, subject to:

in respect of Minute 153 (Customer Experience Strategy) it being further resolved that Worcestershire County Council's performance against the standards set for winter gritting during the winter of 2010/11 be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration; and

in respect of Minute 153 (Garden Waste Collection Service – Outcomes of Trial) it being noted that the Leader had undertaken to request Officers to investigate the options for private companies to provide this service.

- 4) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 1st February 2011 be received and all recommendations adopted; subject to:

in respect of Minute 169 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Worcestershire District Councils – Annual Report and Recommendations for 2011-12) it being noted that consideration of the recommendations, which the Council accepted in principle, was to be deferred to the meeting of Council on 21st February 2011 to allow an opportunity for discussions between Group Leaders, particularly in respect of the proposal to delete Special Responsibility Allowances for Vice-Chairs;

in respect of Minute 172 (Private Sector Home Support Service) it being further resolved that the matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Council on 21st February 2011 to allow Officers the opportunity to provide Members with definitive information on the funding of private sector users of the service; and

in respect of Minute 173 (Polling Stations – Annual Review 2011) it being further resolved that the Polling Station for the Church Hill North Polling District (CHB) remain at Abbeywood First School and not be relocated to St. Andrews Methodist Church.

93. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of recent meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee, Licensing Committee and Planning Committee.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 24th January 2011 be received and all recommendations adopted;**
- 2) the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 17th January 2011 be received and all recommendations adopted; and**
- 3) the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committees held on 7th December 2010 and 4th January 2011 be received and adopted.**

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor Debbie Taylor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in view of her close personal connection to an employee of Redditch Co-operative Homes (Minute 60, Planning Committee, 7th December 2010, Planning Application 2010/253/FUL – Former Marfield Farm First School, Redstone Close, Church Hill North).)

94. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

The Council noted two Urgent Business decisions.

The first had been approved in accordance with Standing Order 36, namely:

HMRS – Licence for use of Town Hall Premises
(UB Reference 488)

The second had been taken in accordance with Part 2, Article 6, Paragraph 16 of the Constitution, namely:

Council Response to “Local Decisions – A Fairer Future for Social Housing” – Decision to remove the right to call-in the item

RESOLVED that

the matters be noted.

95. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL

There were no separate items of Urgent Business for consideration at this meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.43 pm

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MAYOR, in the Chair



Council

21st February 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Kath Banks (Mayor), Councillor Anita Clayton (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Peter Anderson, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Jack Cookson, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Malcolm Hall, Bill Hartnett, Nigel Hicks, Roger Hill, Gay Hopkins, Robin King, Wanda King, William Norton, Jinny Pearce, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer, Debbie Taylor, Derek Taylor, Diane Thomas and Graham Vickery

Also Present:

M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

R Bamford, H Bennett, T Buckley, K Dicks, C Felton, J Godwin, S Hanley, T Kristunas, A Marklew, P Mills, J Pickering, D Poole, S Skinner and C Walker

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

96. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

97. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

99. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

As this was not an ordinary meeting of the Council there were not the customary Mayor's Announcements. However, the Mayor did

.....
MAYOR, in the Chair

advise the Council of two forthcoming events at the Town Hall, a concert by the Bel Canto Singers and an Older Person's Forum event.

100. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader's Announcements were considered under the following headings:

Housing Services

The Leader reported that the Council's Housing Service had been awarded Customer Services Excellence Accreditation. The Leader wished the Council's congratulations to the staff within Housing Services to be put on record.

Careers Fair

The Leader advised that a Careers Fair was to be held at NEW College on 28th June. It was hoped that around 1,800 local children of between 9 and 16 years of age would attend.

Tackling Health Inequalities

The Leader advised that the Primary Care Trust had announced an investment of £50,000 into six areas of highest need. This one-off payment was intended to help tackle health inequalities in areas such as Winyates.

101. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / COUNCIL - REFERRALS

Independent Remuneration Panel for Worcestershire District Councils – Annual Report and Recommendations for 2011/12

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive Committee arising from the first report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for the Worcestershire Districts.

The IRP had recommended that the allowances available to members of the authority in 2011/12 should remain unchanged from the current levels of allowances. In a departure from the previous two years, it was proposed, in an amendment to the Executive Committee recommendations, that the budget for the allowances also be left unchanged.

Members debated the merits of continually holding down the levels of allowances and the balance that needed to be struck between financial prudence in times of austerity and the attraction and recruitment of new Councillors in the longer term.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the **Basic Allowance** budget figures for 2011/2012 remain unchanged from those recommended for 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- 2) the **Special Responsibility Allowance** budget figures for 2011/2012 remain unchanged from those recommended for 2010/11;

however, all allowances continue to be paid to Members at the current 2010/11 payment levels, without increase; except that allowances be no longer paid to Vice-Chairs of Committees, other than, as detailed in the report, to cover any significant periods of absence of the Chair (any dispute around this to be determined by Group Leaders);

- 3) travel and subsistence allowances for 2011/12 continue to be paid in accordance with the HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs Office) mileage allowance;
- 4) the **Dependent Carer's Allowance** remain unchanged.

Introduction of a Private Sector Home Support Service

The Council received an update on the proposed introduction of a Private Sector Home Support Service following the deferral of this matter at the previous meeting of the Council.

Officers outlined the means by which the private sector element of the Home Support Service would be funded and the extent of the funding available. It was noted that an additional sum would be made available from Supporting People funding to be held within the General Fund for accounting purposes. There was no means, at this stage, of obtaining an accurate estimate of the level of need for this service within the private sector, although the principle of supporting people in their own homes was accepted as being beneficial.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the **Home Support Service** be introduced to the **Private Sector**; and
- 2) an **emergency Home Support call out service** be introduced to private sector customers.

102. ADJOURNMENT**RESOLVED that**

the meeting of the Council be adjourned to permit a meeting of the Executive Committee to be held to consider the setting of the Council Tax 2011/12 and other associated financial matters.

(At this point - 7.31 p.m. - the meeting adjourned and reconvened at 8.40 p.m.)

[MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE]**103. FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW 2011/12**

The Council considered the recommendations from the Executive Committee on the Fees and Charges for 2011/12. Members were generally in agreement with the proposals for Fees and Charges although the possibility of Fees and Charges for 2012/13 being the subject of an in-depth review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was discussed. Officers highlighted the fact that the Overview and Scrutiny was at liberty to request a review of any Council function of this nature and did not require a Council resolution to enact such a review.

RESOLVED that

the fees and charges for 2011/12 as set out in Appendix A-H be approved;

other than in cases where:-

- a) fees or charges are statutory**
- b) fees and charges are set externally**
- c) fees and charges are established under separate processes, for example Taxi fares.**

104. INITIAL ESTIMATES REPORT 2011/12 - 2013/14

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive Committee for the Initial Estimates for the period 2011/12 to 2013/14 and high priority capital and revenue bids, unavoidable pressures and savings for the same period.

It was apparent that the Council faced challenging times ahead and the proposals put forward by the Executive were calculated to be a considered response to a period of reduced central Government funding. The level of reserves being maintained was above the

minimum considered necessary but was seen as financially prudent in a period of uncertainty.

The Council was focussing on economic development and remaining a well-managed organisation, with considerable savings to be achieved through shared services and business transformation. The matter of pre-9.30am concessionary fares was debated and it was reported that Officers had been requested to prepare a report on the capacity of the Dial-a-Ride service to serve the needs of those bus-pass holders who needed to travel at that time.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the unavoidable pressures as identified in Appendix A to the report be approved:**

2011/12	£498,000
2012/13	£408,000
2013/14	£408,000;

- 2) **the high bids as identified in Appendix B to the report be approved:**

2011/12	£232,000
2012/13	£232,000
2013/14	£232,000;

- 3) **the savings as identified in Appendix C to the report be approved:**

2011/12	£1,802,000
2012/13	£3,444,000
2013/14	£3,071,000;

- 4) **the high capital bids as detailed in Appendix D to the report be approved:**

2011/12	£867,000 (General Fund) £120,000 (Housing Revenue Account)
2012/13	£11,000 (General Fund)
2013/14	£10,000 (General Fund); and

- 5) **the use of balances totalling £515,000 be approved.**

105. COUNCIL TAX – YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2012

Members considered a report that enabled the setting of the level of Council Tax for the Borough for the coming year.

The recommendations of the Executive Committee were the

subject of the following named vote in accordance with Standing Order 16:

Members voting FOR the motion:

Councillors Peter Anderson, Kath Banks, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Anita Clayton, Brandon Clayton, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Roger Hill, Gay Hopkins, William Norton, Jinny Pearce, Brenda Quinney and Derek Taylor.
(17 votes)

Members abstaining from voting:

Councillor Greg Chance, Jack Cookson, Andy Fry, Malcolm Hall, Bill Hartnett, Nigel Hicks, Robin King, Wanda King, Mark Shurmer, Debbie Taylor and Graham Vickery.

Accordingly, the Motion was approved.

RESOLVED that

1) it be noted that at its meeting on the 12th of January 2011 Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2011/12 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a) 27,569.18

Being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year;

b) Feckenham Parish – 367.29

being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

2) the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2011/12 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a) £48,641,448 (including bids)

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a) to (e) of the Act.

(2011/12 Gross General Fund Expenditure)b) **£38,150,160**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act.

(2011/12 Gross General Fund Income)c) **£10,491,288**

being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32 (4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year;

(2011/12 Net General Fund Expenditure)d) **£4,716,488**

being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-domestic Rates, Revenue Support Grant or additional grant increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97 (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Surplus) and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98 (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7 February 1994 (Community Charge Surplus).

(RSG + NDR - Deficit on Collection Fund)e) **£209.47**

being the amount at 4 (c) above less the amount at 4 (d) above, all divided by the amount at 3 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year;

(The average amount Band D properties pay for Redditch Borough Council services)f) **£7,800**

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;

(Feckenham Parish Precept)g) **£209.18**

being the amount at 4 (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4 (f) above by the amount at 3 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special item relates.

(The amount Band D properties pay (except within the Parish of Feckenham) for Borough Council Services)h) **£230.42**

being the amount given by adding to the amount at 4 (g) above, the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham, divided by the amount in 3 (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in the Parish of Feckenham;

(The amount Band D properties pay within the Parish of Feckenham for Borough Council Services including the Parish Precept)

i)

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Part of Council's area	
		Parish of Feckenham	All other parts of the Councils area
A	6/9	£153.61	£139.46
B	7/9	£179.22	£162.70
C	8/9	£204.82	£185.94
D	1	£230.42	£209.18
E	11/9	£281.62	£255.67
F	13/9	£332.83	£302.15
G	15/9	£384.03	£348.64
H	18/9	£460.84	£418.37

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) and 4(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands;

- 3) **it be noted that, for the year 2011/12, Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police Authority and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:**

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Precepting Authority		
		Worcester shire County Council	West Mercia Police Authority	H & W Fire & Rescue Authority
A	6/9	£692.71	£119.15	£49.10
B	7/9	£808.16	£139.00	£57.28
C	8/9	£923.61	£158.86	£65.46
D	1	£1,039.06	£178.72	£73.64
E	11/9	£1,269.97	£218.44	£90.01
F	13/9	£1,500.87	£258.15	£106.38
G	15/9	£1,731.77	£297.87	£122.74
H	18/9	£2,078.13	£357.44	£147.28

- 4) **having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4 (I) and 5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2011/12 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:**

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Part of Council's area	
		Parish of Feckenham	All other parts of the Council's area
A	6/9	£1,014.57	£1,000.42
B	7/9	£1,183.66	£1,167.14
C	8/9	£1,352.75	£1,333.87
D	1	£1,521.84	£1,500.60
E	11/9	£1,860.04	£1,834.09
F	13/9	£2,198.23	£2,167.55
G	15/9	£2,536.41	£2,501.02
H	18/9	£3,043.69	£3,001.22

- 5) the level of General Fund balances to be utilised in 2011/12 be £515,000; and
- 6) the level of the Redditch Borough Council demand on the Collection Fund be £5,774,800.

106. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

There were no separate items of urgent business for consideration at this meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.19 pm

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MAYOR, in the Chair



Executive Committee

21st February 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Malcolm Hall, Gay Hopkins, Jinny Pearce and Debbie Taylor

Also Present:

Councillors Peter Anderson, Kath Banks, Andrew Brazier, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Anita Clayton, Jack Cookson, Andy Fry, Adam Griffin, Bill Hartnett, Nigel Hicks, Roger Hill, Robin King, Wanda King, William Norton, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer, Derek Taylor, Diane Thomas and Graham Vickery and M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee).

Officers:

R Bamford, H Bennett, T Buckley, K Dicks, C Felton, J Godwin, S Hanley, T Kristunas, A Marklew, P Mills, J Pickering, D Poole, S Skinner and C Walker

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

181. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

182. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

183. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised that she had accepted the following matters as Urgent Business as they were not on the Forward Plan for this meeting:

Item 4 – Initial Estimates 2011/12; and

Item 5 – Fees and Charges 2011/12.

.....
Chair

The Chair also advised that she had accepted late circulation of the following papers:

Item 6 – the updated appendices to the Council Tax report.

184. FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW 2011/12

The Committee considered the proposed Fees and Charges for 2011/12 for the Council's chargeable services. Officers tabled an amended version of page 17 of the report to the Executive Committee in respect of certain charges under the Leisure and Arts heading.

Members commented on a number of the proposed increases where the rise had been significantly at a variance with the 3 – 5% increase generally applied or where a new charge had been applied. With regard to leisure services, it was noted that income was continuing to increase while customer satisfaction was being maintained. The Council was informed that Officers took account of the charges levied both in neighbouring authorities and among the Council's family group of authorities to ensure that such charges were appropriate.

Officers undertook to clarify for future years those charges upon which VAT was applicable.

RECOMMENDED that

the Fees and Charges for 2011/12 as set out in Appendices A-H, as amended, be approved;

other than in cases where:-

- a) fees and charges are statutory;**
- b) fees and charges are set externally; or**
- c) fees and charges are established under separate processes, for example Taxi fares.**

(This report had been accepted as a matter of Urgent Business – not on the Forward Plan for this meeting – and was considered at the meeting as such, with the approval of the Chair, in accordance with the Council's constitutional rules and the powers vested in the Chair by virtue of Section 100 (B) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to agree to matters of urgency being discussed by reason of special circumstances.

In this case the special circumstances were the need to agree the levels of fees and charges for chargeable services prior to the setting of the Council Tax.)

185. INITIAL ESTIMATES 2011/12 AND FORECASTS FOR 2012/13 AND 2013/14

The Council considered a report that set out the estimated budget requirements for each service, as well as the proposed high priority revenue and capital bids, unavoidable financial pressures and proposed savings for the coming three year period.

The considerable consultation that had taken place, both with Members through the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Committees and with the public through the Budget Jury was highlighted.

The emphasis in the coming financial years on further shared services and business transformation was noted, with the significant savings achieved through these means thus far being brought to Members' attention. The means for covering the outstanding shortfall were briefly discussed, including the proposal to use around £1/2 Million from balances. It was proposed to retain £1.157 Million in balances in recognition of the uncertain financial situation. The changes in terms and conditions of employment of staff, together with measures such as active vacancy management was projected to further increase savings in the coming years.

The regaining of money from central Government for the Dial-a-Ride service and concessionary fares was welcomed. However, it was noted that the sum provided diminished significantly over time and would be far short of that needed to maintain both the Dial-a-Ride service and pre-9.30am concessionary fares without considerable additional investment from the Council. It was therefore proposed that pre-9.30am concessionary fares be discontinued, although options for these services would be discussed with Members in the new financial year.

A number of alternative proposals were discussed, including a renewal of no-cost swimming to under-16s and over-60s, retention of the pre-9.30am bus pass and the reintroduction of concessionary Reddicard rates before the motion was put to the vote and it was

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the unavoidable pressures as identified in Appendix A to the report be approved:**

2011/12	£498,000
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- | | | |
|--|---------|-----------|
| | 2012/13 | £408,000 |
| | 2013/14 | £408,000; |
- 2) the high bids as identified in Appendix B to the report be approved:
- | | | |
|--|---------|-----------|
| | 2011/12 | £232,000 |
| | 2012/13 | £232,000 |
| | 2013/14 | £232,000; |
- 3) the savings as identified in Appendix C to the report be approved:
- | | | |
|--|---------|-------------|
| | 2011/12 | £1,802,000 |
| | 2012/13 | £3,444,000 |
| | 2013/14 | £3,071,000; |
- 4) the high capital bids as detailed in Appendix D to the report be approved:
- | | | |
|--|---------|------------------------------------|
| | 2011/12 | £867,000 (General Fund) |
| | | £120,000 (Housing Revenue Account) |
| | 2012/13 | £11,000 (General Fund) |
| | 2013/14 | £10,000 (General Fund); and |
- 5) the use of balances totalling £515,000 be approved.

(This report had been accepted as a matter of Urgent Business – not on the Forward Plan for this meeting – and was considered at the meeting as such, with the approval of the Chair, in accordance with the Council's constitutional rules and the powers vested in the Chair by virtue of Section 100 (B) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to agree to matters of urgency being discussed by reason of special circumstances.

In this case the special circumstances were the need to agree the Initial Estimates prior to the setting of the Council Tax.)

186. COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2011/12

Members considered a report which proposed a level of Council Tax to be levied in 2011/12. The Committee was informed that the report was essentially a formal, statute driven summary arising from the matters recommended earlier in the meeting.

RECOMMENDED that

the recommendations set out in Appendix 'Part C' of the report be approved.

**Executive
Committee**

21st February 2011

(The appendices to this report had been accepted as a matter of Urgent Business – not meeting the publication deadline for this meeting – and were considered at the meeting as such, with the approval of the Chair, in accordance with the Council’s constitutional rules and the powers vested in the Chair by virtue of Section 100 (B) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to agree to matters of urgency being discussed by reason of special circumstances.

In this case the special circumstances were the need to set the amount of Council Tax for Redditch by 11th March 2011.)

The Meeting commenced at 7.31 pm
and closed at 8.40 pm

.....
Chair



Executive Committee

15th March 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Malcolm Hall, Gay Hopkins, Jinny Pearce and Debbie Taylor

Also Present:

Councillor Peter Anderson

Officers:

H Bennett, M Bough, H Broughton, R Cooke, J Godwin, D Hancox, S Hanley, A Marklew, S Morgan, G Revans, D Taylor, J Pickering and C Wilson

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

187. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

188. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors Hall and Pearce.

189. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised the Committee that the following items of business, scheduled on the Forward Plan to be dealt with at this evening's meeting, had been rescheduled to a later meeting of the Committee:

- Quarterly Monitoring of Sickness Absence – Quarter 3 – September to December 2010; and
- Quarterly Monitoring of Vacancies – Quarter 3 – September to December 2010.

.....
Chair

The Chair advised that she had accepted the following matter as Urgent Business:

Record of Decision - Redditch United Football Club

190. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on 1st and 21st February 2011 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

191. REDDITCH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011 - 2014

Members considered the Redditch Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 2014 and its four associated Action Plans.

Officers reported that the Strategy had been structured around four key priorities that had been identified through the 2009 Comprehensive Area Assessment in which Worcestershire was given a 'red flag' for differences in the quality of life for people in Redditch compared to the rest of Worcestershire.

The four priorities had been identified as:

- a) health inequalities;
- b) education attainment
- c) the economy; and
- d) areas of deprivation

These priorities had been further developed through consultation with residents in 2010.

Concern was expressed that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had not been made available to the Committee. Officers apologised for the omission and confirmed that they would be made available at the next full Council meeting at which the recommendations of the Executive Committee were to be considered.

RECOMMENDED that

the Redditch Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 2014 be adopted.

192. 2011/12 GRANT PROGRAMME FUNDING

The Committee considered a report which sought approval for the recommendations of the Grants Assessment Panel in awarding grants to voluntary sector organisations for 2011/12.

Officers reported that the total budget available for grants in 2011/12 was £239, 000 and that 67 applications totalling £519,074.26 had been received.

Members were informed that total funding of £230,154 had been recommended by the Grants Assessment Panel, which would support 28 Voluntary & Community Sector Projects / Organisations. The remaining £8,846 would be split between the two remaining rounds of the Stronger Communities themes.

During consideration of this item the Committee noted that the Student Council had, over a number of years developed a grant giving role and that currently it had substantial financial balances. In the circumstances the Committee felt it appropriate to reallocate the Council's annual donation of £520 to its own minor grants budget until such time that the Student Council require the donation. Officers were to advise the Student Council prior to consideration by Council.

RESOLVED that

- 1) that grants be awarded to voluntary sector organisation as follows:

Enterprising Communities - 90k Grant		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
CAB	90,000.00	Redditch Advice & Advocacy
Total	90,000.00	
Enterprising Communities - 10k Grant - Pot = 40k		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
Batchley Support Group	10,000.00	Batchley Community Café
Age Concern	10,000.00	Information & Advice
Sandycroft	10,000.00	Sandycroft'
Where Next	10,000.00	Where Next Support Work & Training
Total	40,000.00	
Education & Learning Grant 50k		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project

Executive Committee

15th March 2011

Redditch Play Council	50,000.00	Crèche & Holiday Play care
Total	50,000.00	
Education & Learning Grant 2k - Pot = 10k		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
Batchley Support Group	2,000.00	Redditch Roots
British Asian Women's Group	2,000.00	Cultural Learning project
YMCA	1,980.00	Lights Camera Action
YMCA	1,956.00	Y-Dads
Chinese Association	2,000.00	Chinese New Year 2012
Total	9,936.00	
Health & Well Being Grant 4k - Pot = 20k		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
Carers Care Line	4,000.00	Health Awareness project
Friday Fun Club	2,600.00	Disabled youth group
Relate	2,500.00	Open Counselling Service - Redditch
Age Concern	3,360.00	History project
YMCA	3,273.00	Active8
SSAFA	2,000.00	Support Service for Veterans & Families
Total	17,733.00	
Safe Clean & Green Grant 5k - Pot = 20k		
Organisation	Funding recommended	Project
Batchley Support Group	5,000.00	Batchley Odd Jobs
The Ditch	5,000.00	Ditch IT
YMCA	4,974.00	Positive Futures
YMCA	4,481.00	Intensive Intervention Project
Total	19,455.00	
Total grant funding recommended from main grant themes	227,124.00	

Stronger Communities grant £500.00 - Pot = 3k		
Organisation	Funding allocated	Project
Harry Bishops Group	480.00	Charity Concert - Acorns

Executive Committee

15th March 2011

Smallwood residents Ass	500.00	Outing for Elderly
Headless Cross Methodist Outreach	500.00	Woodwork project
Matchborough West Community Group	500.00	Community group
St Johns - Spice Project	100.00	Community handy service
RM Samba - The Band	500.00	Samba Band
The Salvation Army	450.00	Projection equipment
Total funding allocated	3,030.00	

- 2) **subject to advice to the Student Council, the grant of £520 per annum (currently allocated to the Student Council) be passed to the Grants Assessment Panel to allocate to youth projects.**

193. RIVER REVETMENT WORKS – OLD FORGE DRIVE AND PARK WAY

The Committee received a report which sought approval for the revised scope and funding for River Revetment Works at Old Forge Drive and Park Way.

Officers reported that work had been previously proposed at 3 locations where significant erosion of river banks had occurred:

- Site 1 and 2: Old Forge Drive
- Site 3: Park Way (near the rear of Dolphin Road allotments.)

Members were informed of the reasons to exclude Site 3 from the scheme, which were outlined in Appendix A to the report. Officers were asked to work with the Dolphin Road allotment holders and the Environment Agency to identify alternative solutions at Site 3.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the scope of the Capital Scheme be revised to exclude Site 3 (at Park Way) from the scheme;**

- 2) expenditure up to the sum approved by the Council be approved in accordance with Standing Order 41, for the purpose indicated in the report; and

RECOMMENDED that

- 3) additional funding of £30,000 be vired from existing, approved the Landscape Capital Project budget (Code 8131 C2202) in respect of Sites 1 and 2 at Old Forge Drive only.

194. QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 3 - SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2010

Members considered a report which gave an overview of the General Fund budget, including the achievement of approved savings for the period April - December 2010.

Officers reported that the financial position of the Revenue budget for the period April – December 2010 showed an underspend of £815k against an estimated target of £315k. The main reasons for the underspend were:

- vacant posts;
- lower than anticipated borrowing costs; and
- success in reclaiming previously paid VAT.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

195. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING - QUARTER 3 - SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2010

The Committee considered a quarterly performance report, which showed indicators that had improved, declined or remained static when compared with the same period in the previous financial year.

Officers reported that of the 41 indicators reported this quarter, 46.3% had improved compared to the same period last year.

Three indicators were highlighted as showing particular concern:

- a) BV 012 – the number of working days / shifts lost to the Local Authority due to sickness absence per full time equivalent staff member has increased from 6.71 days to 7.84 days when compared to the same period last year;

- b) BV 079b(i) – the amount of housing benefit overpayments recovered as a percentage of all housing benefit overpayments, when compared to the same period last year, has dropped from 77.35% to 73.82%; and
- c) NI 192 – the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting has dropped from 28.68% to 27.6% when compared to the same period last year and from 31.26%, compared to the same period in 2008/09. This shows that over a two year period there has been a 3.66 percentage point drop in the amount of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

196. QUARTERLY MONITORING OF THE BENEFITS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - QUARTER 3 - SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2010

The Committee received a report on the performance of the Benefits Service during the period October to December 2010 including progress against the Benefits Service Improvement Plan.

During consideration of this item approval was sought to extend the Income Maximisation Officer's secondment until December 2011.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **the Income Maximisation Officer's secondment be extended until December 2011 funded from the additional benefit subsidy.**

197. QUARTERLY MONITORING OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS - QUARTER 3 - JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2010

Members considered a report which detailed the Council's performance in relation to complaints and compliments recorded during October to December 2010.

In response to a question from a Member regarding logging of complaints electronically, officers reported that staff were receiving training on the systems.

RESOLVED that

the update on complaints and compliments for the period October – December 2010 be noted.

198. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 19th January and 9th February 2011. There were no outstanding recommendations for consideration at the meeting.

With reference to Minute 170 (19th January) a member highlighted an issue regarding the increased costs of permits in areas covered by Residents' Parking Schemes together with difficulties in being able to access parking when required.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 19th January and 9th February 2011 be received and noted.

199. SHARED SERVICES BOARD

Members received the notes and recommendations of the Shared Services Board from its meeting held on 27th January 2011.

RESOLVED that

the notes and recommendations be received and noted.

200. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC

There were no referrals or minutes under this item.

201. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

202. ACTION MONITORING

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

203. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that

under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended:

Redditch United Football Club (as detailed at Minute 205 below).

204. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES / REFERRALS (IF ANY)

There were no Confidential Minutes or Referrals under this item.

205. REDDITCH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

(During consideration of this item Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to the financial affairs of any particular body (including the authority holding that information.))

The Meeting commenced at 7.04pm
and closed at 9.05pm

.....
Chair

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Planning Committee

2nd February 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Chalk (Chair), and Councillors Peter Anderson, Brandon Clayton, Adam Griffin (substituting for Councillor Kath Banks), Bill Hartnett, Roger Hill, Robin King and Wanda King

Also Present:

M Collins (observer for Standards Committee)

Officers:

R Bamford, S Edden, A Hussain, A Rutt and S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth

70. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Kath Banks and Nigel Hicks.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

72. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4th January 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

**73. PLANNING APPLICATION 2010/278/COU –
166 MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTHCREST**

Change of use of ground and first floor from
Guest House (Use Class C1) to
House in Multiple Occupation (Use Class C4)
Applicant: Mr J Smith

Mrs R Hallwood, objector, addressed the Committee under the Council's Public Speaking rules.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the Conditions and Informatives summarised in the main report and the following additional Condition and informatives:

- “3. Prior to the first occupation of the building, and in accordance with the plans approved under this consent, the parking area and access to this area via Bromfield Road, shown on Drawing P10.710.101, shall be cleared of waste materials in order to facilitate proper access and parking of vehicles for occupiers of the property 166 Mount Pleasant, and thereafter kept available for this purpose. Pedestrian access to 166 Mount Pleasant from the rear, as shown on Drawing No. P10.710.101, shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority at all times.”**

Reason:

In order to facilitate access to the property in the interests of highway safety and in accordance with Police B(BE).13 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 3 and PPG13 – Transport.

Informatives

- “3. Attention is drawn to the importance of ensuring compliance with the Building Regulations, particularly with respect to the requirement for any sound proofing between dwellings.**
- 4. The right of access via the concrete pathway linking the parking area off Bromfield Road and the rear garden of to 166 Mount Pleasant, as shown on Drawing No. P10.710.101, should be kept free of obstructions in order to enable access between 166 Mount Pleasant and the rear parking area.”**

(The Committee considered a number of matters raised by the public speaker relating to: access to and parking provision in the proposed parking area at the rear of the property; the pedestrian right of access walkway between the rear of 166 Mount Pleasant and the parking area; the state of the rear garden of the application site preventing pedestrian access to the right of access walkway and parking area; and neighbour noise issues.

Members were minded to impose a further condition to ensure that the access via Bromfield Road was kept clear and six spaces should be allocated for use by the occupiers of 166 Mount Pleasant. In respect of the issues relating to maintaining a clear access across the rear garden of the application site and the right of access walkway to provide the link between the parking area and 166 Mount Pleasant, and potential noise nuisance, Members noted that these were not matters that could be conditioned or fell within other Council regulations. In view of this, Members agreed that their concerns be highlighted to relevant parties by way of additional Informatives being included in the Minutes and Decision Notice.)

**74. PLANNING APPLICATION 2010/292/FUL –
94 HITHER GREEN LANE, REDDITCH**

Two-storey side and rear extensions
Applicant: Mr S Davis

Mr T Wright, Agent for the Applicant, addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the Conditions and Informative summarised in the report.

**75. PLANNING APPLICATION 2010/304/FUL –
LAND AT HEMING ROAD / CLAYBROOK DRIVE, REDDITCH**

Warehouse Extension
Applicant: Avon Freight Group Ltd

Mr N Ratheram and Mr M Skinner, objectors, addressed the Committee under the Council's Public Speaking rules.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the Conditions and Informative summarised in the main report.

Planning Committee

2nd February 2011

(Further to information provided by the public speakers, in relation to alleged serious traffic issues / parking infringements in Heming Road involving Heavy Goods Vehicles, illegal parking and road blockages, Members requested that, whilst the matters highlighted were not within the remit of the Committee to resolve nor had any direct bearing on the Committee's consideration of the Planning Application, relevant District and County Officers, and the Police, should be asked to investigate these further.)

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.05 pm

.....
CHAIR



Planning Committee

1st March 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Chalk (Chair), and Councillors Michael Braley (substituting for Councillor B Clayton), Peter Anderson, Adam Griffin (substituting for Councillor K Banks), Bill Hartnett, Roger Hill, Robin King and Wanda King

Also Present:

M Collins (observer for Standards Committee)

Officers:

A Hussain, I Mackay, A Rutt and S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth

76. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Kath Banks and Brandon Clayton.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

78. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2nd February 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

**79. PLANNING APPLICATION 2010/307/FUL –
FORMER METAL PRESSINGS, STUDLEY ROAD, REDDITCH**

Resiting of warehouse approved under Application 2010/207/FUL,
additional floor space to create a conference room and
external alterations to building

Applicant: Langdon Industries Ltd

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the Conditions and Informatives summarised below:

- “1. Development to commence within 3 years**
- 2. Approved Plans defined.**
- 3. Means of vehicular access to the development hereby approved to be from Studley Road, via Howard Road and Old Forge Drive only.**
- 4. Hours of construction activity to be limited**
- 5. Landscaping to be enhanced within the boundary line**
- 6. Development to be carried out in accordance with travel plan submitted.**
- 7. H.13 Access, turning and parking.”**

Informatives

- “1. Reason for approval**
- 2. Drainage details to be in agreement with Severn Trent Water**
- 3. Light Pollution**
- 4. Odour control**
- 5. Dust mitigation**
- 6. Highway Note No. 5.”**

(To ensure compliance with the original Planning Permission for this site, Members agreed to the inclusion of Conditions 5, 6 and 7 and Informative 6, as detailed above, and as previously included in Planning Permission 2010/207/FUL, but in error not detailed in the main report and update for this application.)

Planning Committee

1st March 2011

**80. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY –
SIX MONTH UPDATE**

RESOLVED that

**the information detailed in the Appendices to the report be
noted.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.13 pm

.....
CHAIR

