

## MINUTES

## **Public Document Pack**

# Council

Monday, 23 February 2015

### Present:

Councillor Pat Witherspoon (Mayor), Councillor Pattie Hill (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Joe Baker, Roger Bennett, Rebecca Blake, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, Natalie Brookes, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Gay Hopkins, Wanda King, Alan Mason, Phil Mould, Jane Potter, Mark Shurmer, Rachael Smith, Yvonne Smith, Debbie Taylor, David Thain, John Witherspoon and Nina Wood-Ford

#### Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Sue Hanley, Jayne Pickering, Anne-Marie Harley, Sheena Jones and Sam Morgan

### **Democratic Services Officer:**

Amanda Scarce

## 71. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bill Hartnett and Paul Swansborough.

## 72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

#### 73. MINUTES

#### **RESOLVED** that

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

## 74. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed Members that as this was not an ordinary meeting and an urgent notice of motion had been received (Members were referred to additional papers 1) it had been agreed that this would be dealt with under Item 8 Urgent Business.

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Chair

Mayor's Announcements

- I) Civic Dinner the Mayor encouraged Members to attend this event.
- II) Jazz Night on 6<sup>th</sup> March being held in support of the food bank and organised by St Stephens Church.
- III) Fly the Flag this event was being held at 10 am on 9<sup>th</sup> March and the Mayor invited all Members to attend. The ceremony this year would commemorate the centenary of the WW1 using light as the symbol of hope.
- IV) The Mayor asked all Councillors, who had not yet done so, to let Democratic Services know whether they would be attending the Member briefing by John Edwards from Worcestershire County Council being held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February. This was in respect of school changes and had been brought about following the Proposals for Change by Tudor Grange Academy Short Sharp Review.

#### Leader's Announcements

The Deputy Leader confirmed there were no announcements from the Leader. However, the Leader was absent from the meeting to attend a meeting in London relating to the Alexandra Hospital and he hoped to be able to provide an update when the Notice of Motion was discussed.

#### 75. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> January in conjunction with the recommendations as detailed and put forward, from the Executive Agenda for the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 in respect of the Medium Term Financial Plan and the Council Tax setting for 2015/16.

In proposing the recommendations, the Deputy Leader thanked all officers for the hard work which had ensured that the Council was able to achieve a balanced budget with a three year plan moving forward, without having an impact on frontline services. It was highlighted that the Council would continue to provide free swimming for specific groups within the community together with concessionary travel before 9.30 am and continue to support the voluntary sector through the grants panel process. A new scheme would also be created which would support new small businesses and Borough Council employees would be paid the living wage.

The discussion of a number of matters followed including:

- Criticisms raised within the Auditors' Report relating to unidentified savings which it was suggested left some services in a vulnerable position.
- Support for the additional capital bids the Essential Living Fund, Small Business Support and Energy Management.
- The increase in Council Tax and the effect it would have on residents – it was anticipated that on average it meant an increase of 8p per week.
- The benefits from increasing the Council Tax as opposed to the cumulative effect of not doing so.
- The use of reserves and the sale of Council assets in order to present a balanced budget.
- The reduction in government grant funding and the overall impact it had on the budget.
- Paying staff the living wage.
- The availability of data to enable the Council to measure the benefits from providing free swimming and concessionary travel.
- The increasing number of properties being built and the New Homes Bonus received as a consequence of this.

With reference to the inclusion of savings relating to a change in delivery arrangements for Leisure, a view was expressed that the level of risk in the proposal was too high for the decision on savings to be taken at his stage. Councillors had not yet considered detailed information about the proposal. It was accepted that money could be saved, but it was suggested that savings should be used to re-invest in the facilities and that achieving savings should not be the only driver for change.

The Deputy Leader responded by confirming that a number of options would be considered and that the report which would be considered by the Executive Committee would be compiled independently from the Council. If the proposed savings were not likely to be achieved during the year than alternative options for achieving these would be considered.

The recommendations on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18 were the subject of the following named votes in accordance with Council Procedure rule 17.5. The Mayor agreed to take separate votes on resolutions 1, 2 and 5 and resolutions 3, 4 and 6-11.

# <u>Members voting FOR the motion in respect of Resolutions 1, 2 and 5, below:</u>

Councillors Joe Baker, Roger Bennett, Rebecca Blake, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, Natalie Brookes, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Pattie Hill, Gay Hopkins, Wanda King, Alan Mason,

Phillip Mould, Jane Potter, Mark Shurmer, Rachel Smith, Yvonne Smith, Debbie Taylor, David Thain, John Witherspoon, Pat Witherspoon and Nina Wood-Ford (27).

Members voting AGAINST the motion in respect of Resolutions 1, 2 and 5, below:

None.

Members abstaining from voting in respect of Resolutions 1, 2 and 5, below:

None.

Members voting FOR the motion in respect of Resolutions 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, below:

Councillors Joe Baker, Rebecca Blake, Natalie Brookes, Greg Chance, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Pattie Hill, Wanda King, Alan Mason, Phillip Mould, Mark Shurmer, Rachael Smith, Yvonne Smith, Debbie Taylor, John Witherspoon, Pat Witherspoon and Nina Wood-Ford (17)

Members voting AGAINST the motion in respect of Resolutions 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, below:

Councillors Roger Bennett, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Brandon Clayton, Carole Gandy, Gay Hopkins, Jane Potter and David Thain (10)

Members abstaining from voting in respect of Resolutions 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, below:

None.

Accordingly, the motions were approved, and it was consequently

#### **RESOLVED** that

- the bids of £91k for 2015/16 as detailed within the report in relation to Essential Living Fund, Small Business Support and the spend to save funds for energy management be approved;
- 2) the unavoidable pressures be approved as detailed in Appendix 1 of

2015/16 £238k 2016/17 £230k 2017/18 £241k

3) the savings be approved as detailed at Appendix 2 of

2015/16 £986k 2016/17 £1.476m 2017/18 £1.516m

- 4) the increase in Council Tax of 1.9% for 2015/16 be approved;
- 5) the Capital Bids be approved as detailed in Appendix 3 of

2015/16 £2.574m 2016/17 £1.395m 2017/18 £1.385m

- 6) it be noted that at its Executive Committee meeting on the 20th of January 2015 Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2015/16 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
  - a) £24,846.71

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 (item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended (the 'Act');

b) Feckenham Parish – £363.06

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 (item TP in the formula in Section 34(3) of the Act);

- 7) the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
  - a) **£88,806,436**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account the precept issued by Feckenham Parish Council.

#### (2015/16 Gross General Fund Expenditure)

### b) £83,401,248

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

### (2015/16 Gross General Fund Income)

#### c) **£5,405,188**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).

#### (2015/16 Council Tax Requirement)

d)

#### £217.54

being the amount at 2 (c) above (item R) divided by the amount at 1 (a) above (item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year (including parish precept).

# (The average amount Band D properties pay for Redditch Borough Council services)

#### e) **£8,300**

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

#### (Feckenham Parish Precept)

#### f) **£217.21**

being the amount at 2(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(e) above by the amount at 1(a) (item T) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section34 (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)

#### g) **£240.07**

being the amount given by adding to the amount at 2(f) above, the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham, divided by the amount in 1(b) above (item TP), 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)

		Part of Council's area			
			All other		
	Proportion	Parish of	parts of		
Valuation	of Band D	Feckenham	the		
Band	tax paid		Councils		
		£	area		
			£		
Α	6/9	160.05	144.80		
В	7/9	186.72	168.94		
С	8/9	213.39	193.07		
D	1	240.07	217.21		
E	11/9	293.42	265.48		
F	13/9	346.77	313.74		
G	15/9	400.11	362.01		
н	18/9	480.14	434.41		

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(f) and 2(g) 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;

- 8) it be noted that, for the year 2015/16, Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner 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:
- 9) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(h) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance

h)

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 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	Broportion	Part of Council's area						
Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £					
Α	6/9	1,054.84	1,039.59					
В	7/9	1,230.63	1,212.85					
С	8/9	1,406.43	1,386.11					
D	1	1,582.24	1,559.38					
E	11/9	1,933.85	1,905.91					
F	13/9	2,285.49	2,252.46					
G	15/9	2,637.07	2,598.97					
H	18/9	3,164.47	3,118.74					

- 10) the level of General Fund balances to be utilised in 2015/16 be zero.
- 11) the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2015/16 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined for the year by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZB Local Government Act 1992. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2015/16 is excessive and the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Act 1992.

## 76. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were no urgent decisions to report.

## 77. URGENT BUSINESS - NOTICE OF MOTION

The Mayor had agreed that the following motion could be considered as an urgent item at this meeting in view of the level of concern about the subject in the Borough and the need to respond quickly to recent developments.

The following notice of motion had been proposed by Councillor Greg Chance in respect of concerns at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch. The motion was seconded by Councillor Juliet Brunner.

"The Council is becoming increasingly concerned at recent events at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust (WAHT) including:

- the mass resignation of all the consultants in the A and E department at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch
- the Trust declaring 'a level four' one down from a major incident,
- an expected £28 million deficit in January; and
- reports of bullying

Council endorses the action taken by the Leader of the Council in writing to the NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA) in requesting they carry out an independent investigation into these recent developments as described above at the Alex.

In view of the importance of the Alexandra Hospital to the communities represented by Redditch Borough Council and surrounding areas also given the above concerns it is agreed that an urgent meeting is held with the Secretary of State for Health to discuss the following two requests:

- The option for University Hospitals Birmingham Foundation Trust or other Trust being allowed to collaborate to deliver services from the Alex be investigated.
- 2. The alleged problems with staff at the Alex and Worcester Royal Hospitals be independently investigated. "

The Deputy Leader drew Members attention to a copy of a letter from Penny Venables, the Chief Executive of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT), which had unfortunately not addressed all of the concerns raised. It was explained that the Leader was currently in London attending a meeting with the Secretary of State for Health, community leaders, Council Leaders from Bromsgrove and Stratford Upon Avon, the 3 local MPs and a representative from the Trust Development Authority (TDA). In respect of point 1 of the motion it was understood that no action would be taken until the publication of the Clinical Senate Report on Friday (27<sup>th</sup> February). There would be an independent investigation into the bullying, however this would be carried out by David Flory of the TDA. Whilst this was considered to show progress, the Deputy Leader reiterated that there was some way to go before a satisfactory resolution was achieved.

In seconding the notice of motion Councillor Brunner provided an update from the MP for Redditch, Karen Lumley, who had helped to set up the meeting with the Secretary of State for Health. She suggested that the independent investigation into the bullying allegations was a step forward and it was understood that the talks that had been held were positive, with an acknowledgement that action needed to be taken.

In debating the notice of motion Members discussed the following areas:

- The delays which had occurred in completing the Acute Hospitals Service Review and the affect this had had on both staff and residents;
- The financial position of the Trust;
- The bullying investigation and whether with TDA could be classed as an independent;
- The work of the Save the Alex campaign;
- The need to work together in order to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion for all those involved.

Following further discussion it was

### **RESOLVED** that

The motion be agreed in the following terms:

- Council endorses the action taken by the Leader of the Council in writing to the NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA) in requesting they carry out an independent investigation into the recent developments as described at the Alexandra Hospital:
  - Mass resignation of consultants in the A&E department;
  - The Trust declaring a "level 4" one down from a major incident;
  - An expected deficit of £28 million in January;
  - Reports of bullying
- 2. In view of the importance of the Alexandra Hospital to the communities represented by Redditch Borough Council and surrounding areas, also given the above concerns, an urgent meeting is held with the Secretary of State for Health to discuss the following two requests:
  - 2.1 The option for University Hospitals Birmingham Foundation Trust or other Trust being allowed to collaborate to deliver services from the Alex be investigated;
  - 2.2 The alleged problems with staff at the Alexandra and Worcester Royal Hospitals be independently investigated.

Appendices



The Meeting commenced at 8.00 pm and closed at 9.15 pm

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# Minute Annex

APPENDIX 1

#### STATEMENT SHOWS IMPACT OF NEW PRESSURES EACH FINANCIAL YEAR

UNAVOIDABLE PRESSURES	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	Comments
ENABLING				
Customer Access & Financial Support	73	-8	-	Increased cost of building/reduction in income/ impact of concessionary rent scheme
Parish Council & Neighbourhood Referendum	3	-	-	Additional cost to be incurred in respect of Parish Election & Neighbourhood Referendum
Provision of Funding to ensure the Council can support the implementation of the Living Wage to staff	70	-	-	To implement the Living Wage to staff for 2015/16
Postage - additional postage costs	4	-	-	Additional postage costs incurred to meet demand for information being sent across the Borough
Land Charges	-	-	11	Changes to Land Charges scheme will impact on income received
PROVIDE GOOD THINGS FOR ME TO SEE, DO AND VISIT				
Increased building costs/loss of income - Leisure Services	24	-	-	Increases in building costs together for Leisure facilities
HELP ME RUN A SUCESSFUL BUSINESS				
Car Parking Income - reduced income from enforcement	36	-		There is a projected shortfall in income relating to enforcement as drivers are now parking in a more compliant way
HELP ME LIVE MY LIFE INDEPENDENTLY				
Loss of Supporting People income/transitional from HRA	28	-	-	Reduction in Supporting People income from WCC
TOTAL PER SUMMARY ABOVE	238	-8	11	

# Minute Annex

APPENDIX 2

#### STATEMENT SHOWS IMPACT OF NEW SAVINGS EACH FINANCIAL YEAR

YEAR				
STRATEGIC PURPOSE				
SAVINGS	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	Comments
ENABLING				
Customer Access & Financial				
Support - Service Review Fraud /				Savings delivered from structure reviews / reduced
Customer Services / General				buiilding costs/ locality working / fraud staffing
savings	-143	28	-	changes due to Single Fraud initiative/
Enabling Services; Legal &				
Democratic, Finance, Corporate				Savings delivered from structure reviews and
Management , HR	-274	-157	-	general efficiencies within the services
WRS Savings	-	-50	-	Savings from further efficiencies in WRS
JPV	_	-	-15	Savings realised from the Joint Property Vehicle project
				Savings to be achieved from reviewing and
Contract Savings / efficiencies	-50	-20	-	renegotiating contracts
				Savings from reviewing assets across the
				organisation and to manage energy costs more
Asset review	-30	-60	-	efficiently
Sub Total	-497	-259	-15	
KEEP MY PLACE SAFE AND LOOKING GOOD				
Parking Services	-30	-	-	Reduction in costs associated with civil parking enforcement
Place Review -				
Environmental/Community				Reduction in costs following the review of services
Services savings	-164	-26	-	delivered across the locality
Staffing Reviews across the				Savings estimated as a result of a review across the
Strategic Purpose	-	-25	-25	Strategic Purpose within a locality
Sub Total	-194	-51	-25	
HELP ME LIVE MY LIFE INDEPENDENTLY				
				Savings estimated as a result of a review into the
				efficiency and operation of Dial A Ride and
Shopmobility / Dial a Ride	-20	-30	-	Shopmobility Services
Staffing Review across the				Savings estimated as a result of a review into the
Strategic Purpose	-20	-	-	resource supporting the strategic purpose
				To revise the charging mechanism for Building
				Control Shared Service to allocate costs based on
Building Control	-60	-	-	activity
Sub Total	-100	-30	0	
PROVIDE GOOD THINGS FOR				
ME TO SEE, DO AND VISIT	-			Detential environe that sould be 11 16
Loisuro Sonvicos	150	150	~	Potential savings that could be delivered from a
Leisure Services	-150	-150	0	review of how Leisure Services are delivered

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				Review of the operation and management of the
Community Centres	-45	0	0	community centres has delivered savings
Sub Total	-195	-150	0	
TOTAL TO INCLUDE NEW				
SAVINGS PROPOSED	-986	-490	-40	

NEW CAPITAL BIDS

Description	Funding	Department	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	Commentary (link to priorities etc)
	borrowing/capital					
SAN (Storage Area Network)	receipts	Business Transformation	75	10	10	
	borrowing/capital					
Asbestos	receipts	CAFS			40	Asbestos Surveys/Maintenance in Public Buildings
	borrowing/capital					Renewal of next 3 yr programmePublic Buildings
Public Buildings	receipts	CAFS			250	Capital £250K per year.
	borrowing/capital					
Disabled Facility Grant	receipts	Community	175	175	175	Renewal of next 3 year programme.
	borrowing/capital					
Home Repairs Assistance	receipts	Community	100	100	100	Renewal of next 3 year programme.
	borrowing/capital					
Vehicle Replacement Program	receipts	Environmental	1,541	477	193	Includes fleet replacement
	borrowing/capital					
Upgrade hardwired lifeline schemes	receipts	Community	23	31	35	
	borrowing/capital					
Locality capital projects	receipts		200	200	200	
	borrowing/capital					
New Cisco Lan	receipts	<b>Business Transformation</b>		50		
	borrowing/capital					
PSN additional compliance	receipts	Business Transformation	10	10	30	2017/18 is higher as 3 yr licences expire
	borrowing/capital					
Server Infracture	receipts	Business Transformation			50	
	borrowing/capital					
Upgrade Backup Solution	receipts	Business Transformation		40		
	borrowing/capital					
	receipts		2,124	1,093	1,083	
Disabled Facility Grant	DFG Grant	Community	302	302	302	Assumed DFG Grant
	DFG Grant Total		302	302	302	
	Revenue					To replace Dial a ride minibus due to previous vehice being written off following an accident.Costs can be
replacement dial a ride Bus			25	0	0	met from income generated by the Hopper service.
	Revenue Total		25	0	0	
Essential Open space improvement to North Moons Moat Scheduled ancient monument	S106 monies	Leisure	11	0	0	Open space improvements are required in line with English Heritage approved management plan to enhance the condition of the monument. The spend will include associated works and a written management plan to support future maintenance.
	S106 monies				0	
Public open space improvements to Birchensale/Terry's Field.(Sportsfields)		Leisure	12	0	0	RBC playing pitch strategy recommends upgrades to sports pitches and multi pitch locations

Appendix 3

Description	Funding	Department	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	Commentary (link to priorities etc)
	C100 manias	-				
	S106 monies					S106 funding to fund improvements to the Play Area at Astwood Bank park withing the locality of the
						development. The current play provision has the
						need for infrastructure improvements and to enhanc
						the qualitative aspect of the play value of equipment
nprovement to play area and						to improve the experience for families and children. To be used in conjunction with Evesham Road
frastructure at Astwood Bank.			26	0	0	Development.
	S106 monies					Play contribution to be split 50% (£28,000) and
nprovement to play area in Church Hill						allocated as match funding for the Churchill Big Loca
Big Local Scheme)			28	0	0	scheme for play area.
	S106 monies					Odoc funding (allocated for an and in Astronad Day
						S106 funding (allocated for spend in Astwood Ban to be used to develop and enhance infrastructure and
						lanscaping at Astwood Bank Park. The funding will
						create a landscaping design to include all areas to
						create a more cohesive scheme that enhances the
mprovement to play areas and			5	0	0	users expierience. (To be used in conjunction with
ndscaping at Astwood Bank Park	S106 monies		5	0	0	Evesham Road Development. Play Area contribution to enhance the facility at
						Astwood Bank. The current provision has been
						added to over time and has resulted in a fragmente
						layout. The design will provide a more coherent
						scheme which will enhance the residents experienc
nprovement to play areas at Astwood						and improve community cohesion. Play funding to used in conjunction with Wellington Works
ank Park			35	0	0	Contribution.
	S106 monies			-	-	Open Space contribution to enhance the POS at
ublic open space improvements at						Astwood Bank (as proposed using the Wellington
stwood bank	C400 monico Total		6	0	0	Works Contribution)
	S106 monies Total Grand Total		123 2,574	1,395	1,385	