

Council

Monday, 22 February 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Pattie Hill (Mayor), Councillor Joe Baker (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Roger Bennett, Natalie Brookes, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Greg Chance, Anita Clayton, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Gay Hopkins, Wanda King, Jane Potter, Gareth Prosser, Antonia Pulsford, Mark Shurmer, Rachael Smith, Yvonne Smith, Paul Swansborough, Debbie Taylor, David Thain, Jennifer Wheeler, Pat Witherspoon and Nina Wood-Ford

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, Sue Hanley, Anne-Marie Harley, Sheena Jones and Jayne Pickering

Committee Services Officer:

Debbie Parker-Jones

79. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

80. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Tom Baker-Price.

81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

82. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th January 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

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Chair

83. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) The Mayor

The Mayor advised that she had attended a number of events since the last meeting of the Council. One event in particular had been the funeral of Roger Hollingworth, former Leader of Bromsgrove District Council. Mrs Hollingworth had requested that her thanks be passed on to Councillors for their cards and well wishes.

b) The Leader

Roger Hollingworth

Councillor Hartnett spoke of the sad news of Roger Hollingworth's recent unexpected passing, which had come as a shock to all concerned. Councillor Hartnett had sent a letter and card to Roger's wife Jacqueline and family Mark, James and Sarah expressing the Council's condolences. A large number of people had attended Roger's funeral, with many tributes having been paid to Roger on both a personal and professional level.

Councillor Brunner also paid tribute to Mr Hollingworth, stating that he would be sadly missed by all.

Councillor Hartnett had attended a number of events and undertaken certain work in his capacity as Leader and he highlighted the following:

- Syrian refugee resettlement programme – Councillor Hartnett had been interviewed by Central TV on behalf of the Leaders in Worcestershire regarding the offer to accept up to 50 refugees throughout Worcestershire as a whole in the first year. This would equate to approximately 2 families per district, the costs of which would be met by central government. A further meeting was due to take place with the Home Office Minister in Birmingham later that week, which would hopefully provide more information on the situation.
- Special Olympics Redditch Awards Night, which this year had included a Young Athlete of the Year award. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and MP had also attended this event.
- NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA) – meeting attended in parliament with TDA along with Bromsgrove and Stratford-on-Avon Council Leaders and MP. This had provided an update on the current situation regarding the special measures which the Worcestershire Acute

Hospitals NHS Trust had been placed in. A number of concerns had been raised by the Leader in relation to financial and clinical stability, patient choice and flows and proposed consultation on the clustering of the Worcestershire and Wye Valley (Herefordshire) NHS Trusts.

84. AUDIT, STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2016-17 TO 2018-19

The Council received the recommendations of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee meeting of 28th January 2016 in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Strategy and Prudential Indicators at Appendix 1 to the report be approved; and**
- 2) the updated Treasury Management Policy at Appendix 2 to the report be approved.**

85. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council received the recommendations of the Executive Committee meeting on 2nd February 2016 in relation to the Independent Remuneration Panel's report and recommendations.

As in previous years Members expressed concern that they were placed in the position of determining their own remuneration, despite requests for this not to be done at local level. Members did not feel that in such austere times they could support the proposed increases to the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances.

RESOLVED that

- 1) regard be had to the report and recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2016/17;**
- 2) the recommendations at Appendix 1 to the Panel's report for the following allowances not be accepted:**

**Basic;
Leader;
Deputy Leader;
Portfolio Holders;
Executive Members without Portfolio;**

**Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Task Groups;
Chair of Audit, Governance and Standards Committee;
Chair of Planning Committee;
Chair of Licensing Committee;
Political Group Leaders; and
Borough Council representatives on the Local
Government Association and General Assembly and West
Midlands Employers;**

- 3) the Panel's recommendations relating to travel, subsistence and dependent carers' allowances be accepted;**
- 4) for 2016/17 the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances in the Council's Allowances Scheme continue at the level set for 2015/16, as set out in the final column of Appendix 1 to the Independent Remuneration Panel's report;**
- 5) the recommendation relating to the Parish Council be noted; and**
- 6) the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/17 remain unchanged, with the exception of the following inclusion into the travel allowances section:**

"The rate for travel by Taxi Cab shall not exceed:

(i) In cases of urgency or where no public transport is reasonably available, the amount of the actual fare and any reasonable gratuity paid, and

(ii) In any other case, the amount of the fare for travel by appropriate public transport."

86. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2nd February 2016, together with the recommendations of the Executive Committee meeting of 22nd February which had taken place immediately preceding the meeting of the Council, in respect of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Council Tax Resolutions. An updated Medium Term Financial Plan report and the Council Tax Setting details appeared in Additional Papers 1 and 2 respectively to the 22nd February Executive Committee papers. An amalgamated/updated set of recommendations from the Executive on 2nd February (page 53 of the Council agenda) and Executive on 22nd February

(recommendations from the report in Additional Papers 1) were tabled for Members' reference/assistance.

Further to the Officer presentation of the Medium Term Financial Plan which had taken place earlier in the evening at Executive Committee, opposing views were expressed by the controlling and opposition groups in relation to the budget.

During the course of the debate a number of issues were raised on both sides of the divide, including:

- the significant negative financial impact to the authority of the local government finance settlement 2016/17, which had included a 43% cut in Revenue Support Grant in the proposed settlement and Council payback of monies to the Government from 2019/20;
- changes to the final finance settlement in light of issues raised by local authorities following consultation on the proposed settlement, together with an appeal by the Leader of the Council, some of which it was noted were of a transitional nature only;
- delays with the Leisure Services review and the consequential financial impact of this;
- government restrictions on rent increases; and
- differing approaches which were being taken by local authorities in relation to how budgets, expenditure and savings plans were being addressed.

Thanks were expressed to the s151 Officer and Finance Team for their work in producing the updated budget following unprecedented changes as a consequence of the local government finance settlement.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the recommendations on the budget calculation and Council Tax setting were the subject of the following named vote:

Members voting FOR the resolutions below:

Councillors Joe Baker, Natalie Brookes, Greg Chance, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Pattie Hill, Wanda King, Mark Shurmer, Rachael Smith, Yvonne Smith, Paul Swansborough, Debbie Taylor, Jennifer Wheeler, Pat Witherspoon and Nina Wood-Ford.

Members voting AGAINST the resolutions below:

Councillors Roger Bennett, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Anita Clayton, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, Gay

Hopkins, Jane Potter, Gareth Prosser, Antonia Pulsford and David Thain.

Accordingly, the motions were approved, and it was consequently

RESOLVED that

- 1) the savings and additional income for 2016/17 of £654K as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes be approved;
- 2) the revenue bid for 2016/17 of £10k for Planning – Redditch Town Centre be approved;
- 3) the capital bids of £1.220m as set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes be approved;
- 4) the unavoidable pressures for 2016/17 of £305k as set out in Appendix 3 to these minutes be approved;
- 5) the transfer from balances of £479k in 2016/17 be approved;
- 6) the increase in Council Tax by £5 (2.2%) per band D equivalent be approved;
- 7) it be noted that at its meeting on 12th January 2016, the Executive Committee calculated the Council Tax Base 2016/17 as follows:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 25,144.49 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates; this being Feckenham Parish as 365.88;
- 8) the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish precepts) is calculated at £5,587,357;
- 9) the following amounts be calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £59,466,364 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 all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils) (*i.e. Gross expenditure*);

- (b) £53,870,707 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act. (*i.e. Gross income*);
- (c) £5,595,657 being the amount by which the aggregate of 9(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 9(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);
- (d) £222.54 being the amount at 9(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (7(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts);
- (e) £8,300 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Feckenham Parish precept) referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act;
- (f) £222.21 being the amount at 9(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 9(e) above by Item T (7(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates;
- (g) £244.90 being the amount given by adding to the amount at 9(f), the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham 9(e), divided by the amount in 7(b) above;
- (h) the amounts below given by multiplying the amounts at 9(f) and 9(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 B and 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 band;

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	163.27	148.14
B	7/9	190.48	172.83
C	8/9	217.69	197.52
D	1	244.90	222.21
E	11/9	299.32	271.59
F	13/9	353.74	320.97
G	15/9	408.17	370.35
H	18/9	489.80	444.42

10. it be noted that for the year 2016/17, Worcestershire County Council, Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwelling in the Council's area as indicated below;

Valuation Band	Worcestershire County Council £	Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia £	Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority £
A	748.21	126.40	52.00
B	872.91	147.47	60.67
C	997.61	168.54	69.33
D	1,122.31	189.60	78.00
E	1,371.72	231.74	95.33
F	1,621.12	273.87	112.67
G	1,870.52	316.01	130.00
H	2,244.63	379.21	156.00

- 11) Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 9(h) and 10 above, that Redditch Borough Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the amounts shown below as the amounts of Council Tax for

2016/17 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings;

Valuation Band	Proportion of Band D tax paid	Parish of Feckenham £	All other parts of the Council's area £
A	6/9	1,089.88	1,074.75
B	7/9	1,271.53	1,253.88
C	8/9	1,453.17	1,433.00
D	1	1,634.81	1,612.12
E	11/9	1,998.11	1,970.38
F	13/9	2,361.40	2,328.63
G	15/9	2,724.70	2,686.88
H	18/9	3,269.64	3,224.26

- 12) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund by ten equal instalments between April 2016 to March 2017 as detailed below;

	Precept £	Surplus on Collection Fund £	Total to pay £
Worcestershire County Council	28,219,978	516,402	28,736,380
Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia	4,767,493	88,909	4,856,402
Hereford & Worcester Fire	1,961,249	36,585	1,997,834

- 13) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make transfers under Section 97 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 from the Collection Fund to the General Fund the sum of £5,595,655 being the Council's own demand on the Collection Fund (£5,587,355) and Parish Precept (£8,300) and the distribution of the Surplus on the Collection Fund (£104,039);

- 14) that the Executive Director Finance & Resources be authorised to make payments from the General Fund to Feckenham Parish Council the sums listed above (£8,300) by instalment on 1 April 2016 in respect of the precept levied on the Council;
- 15) that the above resolutions 9 to 11 be signed by the Chief Executive for use in legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court for the recovery of unpaid Council Taxes;
- 16) notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive are given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992; and
- 17) the Pay Policy Statement 2016/17 as set out at Appendix 2 to the report to the 22nd February Executive Committee be approved.

87. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were no Urgent Decisions to note.

88. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

There were no separate items of urgent business to consider at this meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 7.35 pm
and closed at 8.07 pm

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Chair