

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

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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