

# Council

18<sup>th</sup> February 2013

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## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Alan Mason (Mayor), Councillor Wanda King (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Joe Baker, Roger Bennett, Rebecca Blake, Michael Braley, Andrew Brazier, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Adam Griffin, Bill Hartnett, Pattie Hill, Roger Hill, Gay Hopkins, Phil Mould, Brenda Quinney, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith, Luke Stephens, Debbie Taylor, Derek Taylor and Pat Witherspoon

### Officers:

E Baker, R Bamford, A Darroch, K Dicks, C Flanagan, S Hanley, S Jones, S Morgan and J Pickering

### Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

### 95. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

### 96. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

### 97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive, Kevin Dicks, declared an interest in Item 7 (Joint Chief Executive) as detailed separately at Minute 101 below.

Councillor Bill Hartnett drew attention to the declaration that he had made at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> February as recorded in the minutes of that particular meeting.

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Chair

## 98. MINUTES

### RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to:

in respect of Minute 89 (Motions on Notice), the reference to 'employees' in the penultimate line of the third paragraph being replaced by 'employers'.

## 99. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Given that this was the Council Tax setting meeting, only exceptional announcements were made to the Council. Neither the Mayor nor the Chief Executive made any announcements.

### Leader's Announcements

#### i) Holocaust Memorial Day

The Leader referred to the recent Holocaust Memorial Day event towards the end of January, noting that it had been a very moving and successful event.

#### ii) Redditch Bandstand Event

The Leader informed the Council that it was intended to hold five Bandstand events on Church Green this coming summer between May and September with a variety of themes.

#### iii) Save the Alex

The Leader reminded Members of the meeting at the Palace Theatre on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013, commenting that Councillors would need to arrange for their own attendance.

#### iv) London Midland Cross City Line

The Leader reported that a response to his letter sent following the last meeting of the Council had been received from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Norman Baker MP. No response had been received to date from London Midland.

## 100. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and considered the

recommendations of the meeting of that Committee earlier the same evening, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

## 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013

The Council considered the draft documentation being proposed for use in consultation on cross-boundary housing growth. As at the Executive Committee meeting the preceding week, concern was expressed at the lack of potential options available upon which consultees might comment. Whilst it was acknowledged that the selection of potential sites for growth would require the best judgement of both Planning Officers and Members, it was suggested that providing further sites for possible consideration would enable more meaningful responses to be provided to the consultation process. The point was also made that the Borough needed to be protected by a defensible local plan.

During consideration of the minutes, some Councillors referred to the nature of debate about one item at the Executive Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February. During this, Councillor Michael Braley gave a statement outlining the background to his expression of views at the meeting and referring to potential actions he intended to take in his political life.

### **RESOLVED that**

- 1) **the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013 be received and all recommendations adopted, with the exception of Minute 144 (Redditch Growth Consultation); and**  
  
**in respect of Minute 148 (Fees and Charges 2013/14), it being agreed that the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism, in consultation with Officers, would give further consideration to the increase in charge for Junior Swimming Lessons (proposed increase - £50.70 [2012/13] to £59.80 [2013/14]) and report back to the next meeting of the Council;**

## 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013

### **RESOLVED that**

**to enable Members to approve the budget for 2013/14, 2014/15 & 2015/16:**

- 2) **the Council determines the level of Council Tax discount to be applied to the prescribed classes of dwellings as defined by the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) for**

- a) Class A [“second homes with planning restriction”] be set at 0% - no discount
- b) Class B [“second homes without planning restriction”] be set at 0% - no discount
- c) Class C [vacant dwellings] be set at:
  - a. Where the dwelling appears in the Valuation List for the first time and it has been continuously unoccupied and substantially unfurnished since the effective date of entry into the list:
    - i. for the first 3 months from the date of entry into the list 100%
    - ii. for periods of more than 3 months and for less than 6 months 50%
    - iii. for periods of 6 months or more 0% - no discount
  - b. Where the dwelling has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for a continuous period of less than 6 months 50%
  - c. where the dwelling has been continuously unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for 6 months or more 0% - no discount
- d) Class D [uninhabitable dwellings] be set at 100%

For the purposes of Class C when considering whether a dwelling falls within the class any period of occupation, not exceeding 6 weeks, during which it was not unoccupied and substantially unfurnished shall be disregarded.

- 3) the powers to reduce the Council Tax payable on a case by case basis , as provided by Section 13A 1(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, be delegated to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources and the Revenue Services Manager;
- 4) authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services to amend the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to implement 3) above;
- 5) it be noted that at its meeting on the 15th of January 2013 Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2013/14 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
  - a) 23,787.62

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 – 362.08**

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);

6) **the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2013/14 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**

a) **£72,653,473**

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.

**(2013/14 Gross General Fund Expenditure)**

b) **£67,669,246**

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

**(2013/14 Gross General Fund Income)**

c) **£4,984,227**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 6(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 6(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).

**(2013/14 Council Tax Requirement)**

d) **£209.53**

being the amount at 6(c) above (item R) divided by the amount at 5(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) **£8,265**

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

**(Feckenham Parish Precept)**

f) **£209.18**

being the amount at 6(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 6(e) above by the amount at 1(a) (item T) 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)**

g) **£232.01**

being the amount given by adding to the amount at 6(f) above, the amount of the special item relating to the Parish of Feckenham, divided by the amount in 5(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)**

h)

| Valuation Band | Proportion of Band D tax paid | Part of Council's area |                                      |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                |                               | Parish of Feckenham    | All other parts of the Councils area |
| <b>A</b>       | 6/9                           | <b>£154.67</b>         | <b>£139.46</b>                       |
| <b>B</b>       | 7/9                           | <b>£180.45</b>         | <b>£162.70</b>                       |
| <b>C</b>       | 8/9                           | <b>£206.23</b>         | <b>£185.94</b>                       |
| <b>D</b>       | 1                             | <b>£232.01</b>         | <b>£209.18</b>                       |
| <b>E</b>       | 11/9                          | <b>£283.57</b>         | <b>£255.67</b>                       |
| <b>F</b>       | 13/9                          | <b>£335.13</b>         | <b>£302.15</b>                       |
| <b>G</b>       | 15/9                          | <b>£386.68</b>         | <b>£348.64</b>                       |
| <b>H</b>       | 18/9                          | <b>£464.02</b>         | <b>£418.37</b>                       |

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 6(f) and 6(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;

- 7) **it be noted that, for the year 2013/14, 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:**

| Valuation Band | Proportion of Band D tax paid | Precepting Authority          |   |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                |                               | Worcestershire County Council | West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner | H & W Fire & Rescue Authority |
| <b>A</b>       | 6/9                           | £692.71                       | £119.15                                 | £49.10                        |
| <b>B</b>       | 7/9                           | £808.16                       | £139.00                                 | £57.27                        |
| <b>C</b>       | 8/9                           | £923.61                       | £158.86                                 | £65.46                        |
| <b>D</b>       | 1                             | £1,039.06                     | £178.72                                 | £73.64                        |
| <b>E</b>       | 11/9                          | £1,269.97                     | £218.44                                 | £90.00                        |
| <b>F</b>       | 13/9                          | £1,500.87                     | £258.15                                 | £106.38                       |
| <b>G</b>       | 15/9                          | £1,731.77                     | £297.87                                 | £122.73                       |
| <b>H</b>       | 18/9                          | £2,078.13                     | £357.44                                 | £147.28                       |

- 8) **having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 6(h) and 7 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 2013/14 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                           | £1,015.63              | £1,000.42                             |
| B              | 7/9                           | £1,184.88              | £1,167.13                             |
| C              | 8/9                           | £1,354.16              | £1,333.87                             |
| D              | 1                             | £1,523.43              | £1,500.60                             |
| E              | 11/9                          | £1,861.98              | £1,834.08                             |
| F              | 13/9                          | £2,200.52              | £2,167.55                             |
| G              | 15/9                          | £2,539.05              | £2,501.01                             |
| H              | 18/9                          | £3,046.87              | £3,001.22                             |

- 9) the level of General Fund balances to be utilised in 2013/14 be nil;
- 10) the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 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 2013/14 is excessive and the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Act 1992;
- 11) a bid for Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment of £14K be approved and funded from general fund balances detailed in paragraph 3.30;
- 12) a bid for Green Deal up to £10K be approved and funded from general fund balances detailed in paragraph 3.32;
- 13) the use of balances totalling £24,000 be approved; and
- 14) the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix B be approved.

## 101. JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Council received a report asking that it consider including the post of Chief Executive in the Single Management Team arrangements between Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Councils. Both authorities had been operating with a shared Chief Executive since 2008 and the formal secondment agreement required that the arrangement be reviewed in March 2013 with a view to determining whether or not it should continue.



During consideration of this item it was confirmed that Redditch Borough Council would meet half of the salary and associated costs for the post. The Council was pleased with the performance to date of the present incumbent, Mr Kevin Dicks, and was content to formalise the incorporation of his post into the Single Management Team.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) **the current position with regard to the Joint Chief Executive arrangements between Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Council be noted;**
- 2) **implementation of a shared Joint Chief Executive in line with the wider Shared Management Team arrangements be agreed;**
- 3) **the annual salary for the post be confirmed as £122,500 - £127,500; and**
- 4) **authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leaders, to finalise the employment arrangements.**

(Prior to consideration of this item, Mr Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive, declared that, because of his pecuniary interest in this matter, he would be vacating the Chamber for the duration of this item.)

**102. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL**

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.40 pm  
and closed at 8.47 pm

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Chair