

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 24th February, 2016

Present:- The Mayor. Councillor Sandra Hambleton – in the Chair

Councillors Allport, Astle, Bailey, Bates, Beech, Braithwaite, Burgess, Cooper, Cooper, Dymond, Eagles, Eastwood, Fear, Frankish, Hailstones, Hailstones, Hambleton, Harper, Heesom, Holland, Huckfield, Johnson, Johnson, Kearon, Loades, Matthews, Naylor, Northcott, Owen, Parker, Peers, Pickup, Plant, Proctor, Reddish, Robinson, Rout, Shenton, Simpson, Snell, Stringer, Stubbs, Sweeney, Tagg, J Tagg, Turner, Walklate, Waring, Wemyss, White, Wilkes, Williams, Williams, Winfield, Wing and Woolley

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Kearon and Naylor declared an interest in item 9 as Members of Keele Parish Council.

2. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January, 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

3. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised members of her Civic Mass, being held on 6 March at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church on London Road. Members were asked to be in attendance by 10.15am.

Members were reminded that the Mayor's Spring Ball would be held in the Ballroom of Keele Hall on 8 April.

On the following evening Newcastle Male Voice Choir would be performing a concert at Newcastle Methodist Church in aid of the Mayor's Charity Fund.

Finally, the Mayor will be hosting a National Town Crier's Competition on Saturday 16 April at the Market Cross in the High Street. The competition would be held between 11am and 3pm. A Gala Dinner will be held in the evening at Bradwell Lodge with a 6.30 for 7pm start time. Tickets are now available at a cost of £20.

4. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS AND COUNCIL TAX 2016-17

A report was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Finance IT and Customer. Councillor Turner thanked the officers who had worked on the budget for 2016/17.

Members were advised that a new Government ruling had been introduced which would allow the Council to raise Council Tax by £5 per month but the Cabinet had chosen not to do that but stick with the 1.99% increase.

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**
Council - 24/02/16

Councillor Loades introduced a report proposing an amended budget on behalf of the Conservative Group – this was to limit the Council Tax increase to 1.5%.

Councillor Loades thanked Councillor Turner and the officers for the budget report.

There were two proposals put forward:

- (i) To cease production of the Council’s Reporter newspaper from 1 April, 2016 – saving £31,000
- (ii) To reduce the General Fund Budget contribution to the Revenue Investment Fund by £31,000. This sum to then be used to support vulnerable families in the Borough.

There were mixed reactions to the cessation of the Reporter. Some Members felt that it was a useful source of information to some residents – especially those with no access to the internet. Other Members stated that not every household in the Borough received a copy and that it was not read by everyone. It was felt that ceasing the Reporter could not be done without consultation with the public.

Discussion took place in respect of the Revenue Investment Fund in respect of what the intention of the fund was and how it had been utilised in the past .

A named vote was requested for the proposed amendments:

ALLPORT	NO	HOLLAND	YES	SIMPSON	NO
ASTLE	NO	HUCKFIELD	YES	SNELL	NO
BAILEY	NO	JOHNSON	YES	STRINGER	NO
BATES	NO	MRS JOHNSON	NO	STUBBS	NO
BEECH	NO	KEARON	NO	SWEENEY	YES
BRAITHWAITE	YES	LOADES	YES	JOHN TAGG	YES
BURGESS	NO	MANCEY	ABSENT	SIMON TAGG	YES
COOPER	YES	MATTHEWS	YES	TURNER	NO
MISS COOPER	YES	NAYLON	YES	WALKLATE	NO
DYMOND	NO	NORTHCOTT	YES	WARING	YES
EAGLES	NO	OWEN	YES	WELSH	ABSENT
EASTWOOD	NO	PARKER	YES	WEMYSS	NO
FEAR	YES	PEERS	YES	WHITE	NO
FRANKISH	YES	PICKUP	NO	WILKES	NO

HAILSTONES	YES	PLANT	NO	WILLIAMS	NO
MRS HAILSTONES	YES	PROCTOR	NO	MRS WILLIAMS	NO
HAMBLETON	NO	REDDISH	NO	WINFIELD	NO
MRS HAMBLETON	NO	ROBINSON	NO	WING	YES
HARPER	YES	ROUT	NO	WOOLLEY	YES
HEESOM	YES	SHENTON	NO		

In Favour - 25

Against - 32

Abstain - 0

The proposed amendment fell.

A named vote was then taken for the budget as set out in the agenda:

ALLPORT	YES	HOLLAND	NO	SIMPSON	YES
ASTLE	YES	HUCKFIELD	NO	SNELL	YES
BAILEY	YES	JOHNSON	NO	STRINGER	YES
BATES	YES	MRS JOHNSON	YES	STUBBS	YES
BEECH	YES	KEARON	YES	SWEENEY	NO
BRAITHWAITE	NO	LOADES	NO	JOHN TAGG	NO
BURGESS	YES	MANCEY	ABSENT	SIMON TAGG	NO
COOPER	NO	MATTHEWS	NO	TURNER	YES
MISS COOPER	NO	NAYLON	YES	WALKLATE	YES
DYMOND	YES	NORTHCOTT	NO	WARING	NO
EAGLES	YES	OWEN	NO	WELSH	ABSENT
EASTWOOD	YES	PARKER	NO	WEMYSS	YES
FEAR	NO	PEERS	NO	WHITE	YES
FRANKISH	NO	PICKUP	YES	WILKES	YES

HAILSTONES	NO	PLANT	YES	WILLIAMS	YES
MRS HAILSTONES	NO	PROCTOR	YES	MRS WILLIAMS	YES
HAMBLETON	YES	REDDISH	YES	WINFIELD	YES
MRS HAMBLETON	YES	ROBINSON	YES	WING	NO
HARPER	NO	ROUT	YES	WOOLLEY	NO
HEESOM	NO	SHENTON	YES		

In Favour - 33

Against - 24

Abstain - 0

Resolved: That recommendations (a) to (j) as set out in Appendix B of the agenda report, be approved.

5. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT**

A report was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer regarding the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17.

The Council has to have an approved Treasury Management Strategy in place before the start of the 2016/17 financial year.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2016/17 be approved.
 - (ii) That the prudential indicators contained within the report be approved.
 - (iii) That the Investment Strategy contained within the report be approved.
 - (iv) That the Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy, contained within the report, be approved.

6. **LOCALISM ACT 2011 - PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2016/17**

A report was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Policy, People and Partnerships regarding the Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17.

The Localism Act 2011 requires the publication of a pay policy statement for each financial year.

Resolved: That the Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix A to the

report be approved and published on the Council's website by 31 March, 2016.

7. **THE CONSTITUTION. CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES TO OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

A report was introduced by the Council's Portfolio Holder for Policy, People and Partnerships advising Members of changes made to the Officer Scheme of Delegation in relation to the Environmental Health function and the Licensing function in consequence of legislative changes and the current vacancy in the post of Head of Business Improvement, Central Services and Partnerships.

Resolved: That the revised Schemes of Delegation be noted.

8. **THE CONSTITUTION -SUBSTITUTES ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS PROTOCOL ON PLANNING MATTERS**

A report was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Policy, People and Partnerships regarding a recommendation of the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny (FRAPS) Committee to appoint substitutes to the Planning Committee and to approve the Members' Protocol on Planning Matters.

A request was made that the Protocol be reviewed in 6 months' time. The Chair of FRAPS confirmed that this would be picked up at the Committee meeting.

Members were advised that any substitutes appointed to Planning Committee would receive training on Planning matters.

Resolved:

- (i) That substitutes for the Planning Committee be appointed.
- (ii) That the Members' Protocol on Planning Matters, attached to the agenda report, be approved.

9. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - KEELE PARISH COUNCIL**

A report was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Policy, People and Partnerships regarding the outcome of the Community Governance Review that had been carried out in relation to the boundary of Keele Parish Council.

Resolved: That the current boundary for the Parish Council be brought in line with the boundary for the Borough Ward of Keele.

10. **STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

A report was submitted to provide an update to Members on the activities and decisions of Cabinet together with the Forward Plan.

Members made comments on the item relating to the Asset Strategy. A number of Members requested a list of the sites contained within the Assets Policy document. The Leader confirmed that she would send a copy out to all Members.

A query was made on the item regarding land at Sheldon Grove and the Cabinet resolution 'that this site be retained within the Council's operational

Portfolio and continue to be maintained in the current manner and kept under review as part of the cyclical asset management review process’.

Did the above resolution mean that the land could be sold in the future?

The Leader confirmed that the current Administration had no intention of selling off the land at Sheldon Grove.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

11. **REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

Resolved: That the reports be noted.

12. **REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES**

Councillor Loades thanked the Licensing Committee on how the Colourville application had been dealt with.

Councillor Snell gave a verbal update on the Planning Committee. Members were requested that if a call-in of an application is made and this is subsequently withdrawn, could this, wherever possible be done in plenty of time.

In addition, any Members calling-in an application should be in attendance at the relevant Planning Committee to explain the reasons for the action.

Resolved: That the reports and comments be noted.

13. **MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

There were no Motions from Members

14. **RECEIPT OF PETITIONS**

No Petitions were received.

15. **UPDATE ON PREVIOUS PETITIONS RECEIVED.**

This item had been covered under item 8 of the Leader’s Statement.

16. **STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

THE MAYOR. COUNCILLOR SANDRA HAMBLETON
Chair