

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 22nd February, 2017

Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present:- The Mayor Councillor Ian Wilkes – in the Chair

Councillors:

Allport	Owen
Bailey	Panter
Beech	Parker
Burch	Pickup
Burgess	Proctor
Cooper	Reddish
Miss J Cooper	Robinson
Dillon	Rout
Dymond	Shenton
Eagles	Simpson
Fear	Snell
Frankish	Spence
Gardner	Stubbs
L Hailstones	Sweeney
P Hailstones	J Tagg
S Hambleton	S Tagg
T Hambleton	Turner
Heesom	Walklate
Holland	Waring
Huckfield	White
Johnson	White
Jones	G Williams
Kearon	J Williams
Matthews	Winfield
Naylon	Wing
Northcott	Woolley
Olszewski	Wright

Officers Executive Director (Operational Services) - David Adams,
Executive Director (Regeneration and Development) - Neale Clifton,
Liz Dodd, Head of Audit and Elections (and Monitoring Officer)
Tina Gould - Staffordshire County Council
Chief Executive - John Sellgren and
Executive Director (Resources and Support Services) - Kelvin Turner

1. **COUNCILLOR GARY WHITE**

The Mayor congratulated and welcomed Councillor Gary White to his first meeting following his election as the Borough Councillor for Madeley.

2. **FORMER COUNCILLORS ELSIE BATES AND MUFFI FOX**

The Mayor announced that he was saddened to hear of the passing of former Councillor Elsie Bates on Monday 20 February 2017. In addition former Councillor Muffi Fox had sadly passed away in December 2016.

Members stood in silent tribute.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Astle, Ms Bloor, Harper, Loades and Miss Mancey.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest stated.

5. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November, 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

6. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor's Annual Civic Mass would be held at Holy Trinity Church, Newcastle, on 5 March 2017 at 10.30 a.m.

The Mayor's Ball would be held in the Ballroom, Keele Hall on 21 April. Members were advised to contact the Mayor's Secretary Peter Whalan for more information and tickets.

7. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS AND COUNCIL TAX 2017/18

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer introduced this report which set out the recommendations of Cabinet for Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2017/18 and sets out the recommendations for setting the 2017/18 Council Tax. In summary the Council's updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as reported to Cabinet indicated a forecast budget shortfall of £2.728m for 2017/18 (from a budget of £8m). The Council had a duty to deliver a balanced budget.

Cabinet proposed an increase in council tax for 2017/18 of £5.00 per month from the 2016/17 amount, the maximum amount permitted without triggering the need for a referendum. This represented an increase of 2.77 per cent from 2016/17. Detailed recommendations were set out in Appendix A of the report. The Portfolio Holder stated that over 95 per cent of local authorities were increasing Council Tax by the maximum amount. Appendix B sets out the proposed Revenue Budget for 2017/18. A summary of additional income, additional expenditure and loss of income and new pressures was given in the report. The Portfolio Holder drew Members' attention to the financial pressure on local authorities who were expected to be self-funding by 2020.

A summary of savings and funding strategies to bridge the £2.728m gap had been identified and agreed with managers and were given at Appendix C, including staff efficiencies. The impact that savings were having on the Council was acknowledged, with posts being frozen or unfilled. Services continued to be delivered to a high

standard. Staff had shown flexibility in their ability to adapt to increasing use of technology to save money.

A review of the Council's Balances and Reserves together with a risk assessment had been carried out. Details were given in Appendices D and E. The MTFs and budget proposals had been scrutinised by the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee. The Portfolio Holder thanked Members for their comments.

With reference to the reduction in funding for Parish Councils, Parish Councils were thanked for their co-operation and support for the work that they do.

The next publication of the Reporter would be final edition, following which it would cease production.

The Capital Programme for 2017/18 was given in Appendix F of the report together with the Prudential Indicator relating to the Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions on the Council Tax, as set out in paragraph 8.10. This showed that the Council was constrained by the availability of funding. All items listed in the programme are those most urgently required and these had been carefully assessed against health and safety risks or to safeguard income from commercial properties. Only a basic programme of new schemes is proposed for approval in 2017/18. The importance of integrating the revenue and capital budgets was stressed. The emphasis will now be on speeding up the disposal of surplus land that has been approved for sale. This will enable the Council to achieve its policy objective of bringing forward more affordable and social housing. Expenditure on a small number of new schemes will be being deferred until at least 2018/19. Going forward the commercial portfolio will be reviewed.

Officers agreed to review the non-delivery of the Reporter to Porthill residents.

No alternative budget had been proposed.

A named vote was taken in respect of the proposed budget.

ALLPORT	YES	HEESOM	NO	SHENTON	YES
ASTLE	ABSENT	HOLLAND	ABSTAIN	SIMPSON	YES
BAILEY	YES	HUCKFIELD	ABSTAIN	SNELL	YES
BEECH	YES	JOHNSON	YES	SPENCE	YES
BLOOR	ABSENT	JONES	YES	STUBBS	YES

BURCH	YES	KEARON	YES	SWEENEY	NO
BURGESS	YES	LOADES	ABSENT	JOHN TAGG	ABSTAIN
COOPER	NO	MANCEY	ABSENT	SIMON TAGG	NO
MISS COOPER	NO	MATTHEWS	NO	TURNER	YES
DILLON	YES	NAYLON	YES	WALKLATE	YES
DYMOND	YES	NORTHCOTT	NO	WARING	NO
EAGLES	YES	OLSZEWSKI	YES	G WHITE	YES
FEAR	NO	OWEN	YES	S WHITE	YES
FRANKISH	NO	PANTER	NO	I WILKES	YES
GARDNER	YES	PARKER	ABSTAIN	G WILLIAMS	YES
MRS HAILSTONES	NO	PICKUP	YES	J WILLIAMS	YES
MR HAILSTONES	NO	PROCTOR	YES	WINFIELD	YES
MRS HAMBLETON	YES	REDDISH	ABSTAIN	WING	NO
MR HAMBLETON	YES	ROBINSON	YES	WOOLLEY	ABSTAIN
HARPER	ABSENT	ROUT	YES	WRIGHT	YES

In Favour - 35

Against - 14

Abstain - 6

Resolved: That the recommendations set out in Appendix 'A' of the agenda report be approved.

8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017/18

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer sought approval of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18, including the Prudential Indicators, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy contained within it.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 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.

9. **PAY POLICY STATEMENT (LOCALISM ACT 2011)**

The Leader of the Council / Portfolio Holder - Policy, People and Partnerships introduced this item by stating that the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to prepare and publish a pay policy statement for each financial year. Full details were given in the Appendices of the report.

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, 2017.

10. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO ELECTORAL CYCLE - TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS**

The Leader of the Council / Portfolio Holder - Policy, People and Partnerships sought authorisation to make an Order under Section 53 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to enable the Borough Council to make an Order to change the electoral cycle of Town and Parish Councils within its area to bring them in line with the Borough Council's all-out elections to be held from May 2018 onwards. Necessary consultation had taken place. The proposal aimed to avoid the need for Town or Parish Councils elections to meet the cost of their own elections.

Resolved: That an Order be made under Section 53 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to enable the Borough Council to change the electoral cycle of Town and Parish Councils within its area.

11. **CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Leader of the Council / Portfolio Holder - Policy, People and Partnerships sought authorisation to make consequential changes to the Constitution to reflect resolutions of the Council or Cabinet, decisions properly made under delegated powers and changes of fact and law, subject to regular notification of Members to such changes, as detailed in the report. The proposed changes had been scrutinised.

Resolved: (i) That the addition made to the Finance Scheme of Delegation be noted;
(ii) That the proposed amendment to the Licensing Scheme of Delegation be approved.

12. **APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer sought approval to enable the Council to determine the arrangements for the appointment of external auditors for the Council, with effect from the accounts for the financial year 2018/19.

Resolved: That the Council opts into the national scheme for auditor appointments (Public Sector Audit Appointments).

13. **APPROVAL OF ABSENCE**

The Leader of the Council / Portfolio Holder - Policy, People and Partnerships sought approval of absence of Councillor Mrs Margaret Astle from 9 September until 22 February 2017.

Resolved: That approval of absence of Councillor Mrs Margaret Astle under section 85 of the Local Government Act on grounds of ill health be approved.

The Mayor Councillor Ian Wilkes agreed to write to Councillor Astle on behalf of the Council, wishing her a speedy recovery.

14. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER ONTO THE PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The Mayor stated that a vacancy had arisen for Vice-Chair of the Public Protection Committee. One nomination had been received from Councillor G White.

Resolved: That Councillor G White be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Public Protection Committee for the remainder of 2016/17.

15. STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council / Portfolio Holder - Policy, People and Partnerships provided Members with an update on the activities and decisions of Cabinet together with the Forward Plan.

Resolved: That the statement of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.

16. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Chairs of the Planning Committee and Licensing Committee presented their reports.

The Report of the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee was tabled at the meeting. A verbal update was given for the Public Protection Committee.

Resolved: That the reports of the Planning Committee; Licensing Committee, Public Protection Committee and Audit and Risk Committees be noted.

17. REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Chairs of the Active and Cohesive Communities Scrutiny Committee, Cleaner Greener Safer Scrutiny Committee and Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee presented their reports.

The Report of the Finance, Resources and Partnerships and Economic Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committees were tabled at the meeting.

Resolved: That the reports of the Active and Cohesive Scrutiny Committee, Cleaner Greener Safer Scrutiny Committee, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, Finance, Resources and Partnerships and Economic Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Committees be noted.

18. MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

Resolved: No notices of motion had been received.

19. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR, CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Resolved: No questions had been received.

20. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

Resolved: No petitions were received.

21. STANDING ORDER 18 - URGENT BUSINESS

Resolved: There was no Urgent Business.

THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR IAN WILKES
Chair

Meeting concluded at 8.37 pm