

SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 22 February 2017

Present: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Malcolm Dearden, Alan Ewart-James, Peter Gane, Clive Goddard, David Godfrey, Miss Susie Govett, Ms Janet Holben (Chairman), Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Mrs Claire Jeffrey, Mrs Mary Lawes, Len Laws, Rory Love, Philip Martin, Ian Meyers, David Monk, David Owen, Dick Pascoe, Paul Peacock, Stuart Peall, Mrs Rodica Wheeler and Roger Wilkins

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Michael Lyons, Frank McKenna, Damon Robinson, Carol Sacre, Peter Simmons and Mrs Susan Wallace

173. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

174. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

175. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman stated that in terms of civic events, the last month had been fairly quiet. She had however attended the 'Armed Forces in the community' event the previous Friday which she stated was an absolute delight. The free fun and information day had been open to all of the Armed Forces Community including Serving Personnel, Reservists, Veterans and families. Various organisations attended to provide help, advice and free health checks, and there had been a backdrop of entertainment too.

The Chairman expressed her thanks to those involved in organising the event, and to the organisations which took part.

176. Petitions

There were no petitions.

177. Questions from the Public

The questions asked, including supplementary questions (if any) and the answers given are set out in Schedule 1, appended to these minutes.

178. Questions from Councillors

The questions asked and the answers given are set out in Schedule 2 appended to these minutes.

179. Announcements of the Leader of the Council

Council - 22 February 2017

The Leader of the Council, Councillor David Monk, gave an update on the following:

- The judicial review of the lorry park was due to be conducted in June, although he believed there were ongoing negotiations between Highways England and the owner of Westenhanger Castle, so it was possible that a resolution could be found prior to this.
- The Otterpool Park collaboration board, and Shepway District Council continued to work on the design guide and identification of restraints. Further public consultations would be taking place the following month. In the mean time, a 'frequently asked questions' leaflet had been produced and would be distributed to the majority of homes in Shepway, answering most of the questions that were being asked.
- Cabinet had approved the submission of the Princes Parade scheme for planning permission, and all being well, a decision would be made on whether to proceed later in the year.
- By the end of the week, the Economic Development team would have submitted the second round bid for the £5million European Community Led Local Development scheme which was designed to provide jobs and businesses in Central and East Folkestone. Shepway District Council were one of only three councils in the South East of the country to be asked to bid for this. The Leader paid tribute to the Head of Economic Development and her team for the effort put into the submission which had the potential over the next five years to make a significant improvement to the social and economic wellbeing of the area.

Councillor Laws, Leader of the UKIP Group thanked the Leader for his updates, and made the following points:

- He was pleased that the lorry park was going to judicial review, and he stated that he would like the lorry parks to be spread evenly across the county, rather than having one big one.
- In terms of Otterpool, opinions were still being sought, and much of the issues had not even been drawn up.
- Were there doubts around Princes Parade proceeding?
- The bid by Economic Development would be welcomed to the area, particularly with Brexit on the horizon, and he hoped that the Government would underwrite it.

The Leader responded to comments made with the following additional points:

- Otterpool was a large area, and the restraints as to where the council could not build were clear.
- In terms of Princes Parade, the costs were not known as yet. The council intended to replace Hythe Pool, and if the development was a way of doing that, then the council would seek to do this.

Proposed by Councillor Monk
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee

RESOLVED:

That the announcements be noted.

180. Opposition Business

Councillor Meyers presented the item which was “the formation of a cross party working group to consider the impact of Brexit”. He asked that the working group carry out a time limited review of the current and likely future impact on Shepway of the UK exiting the EU and consider actions the council could take such as lobbying and local projects to capitalise on the opportunities and challenges that exiting the EU would bring and move forward.

Proposed by Councillor Meyers
Seconded by Councillor Laws; and

that the subject be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their observations before deciding whether to make a decision on the issue.

(Voting: 9 for; 12 Against; 2 Abstentions).

The motion was therefore defeated and the item **FELL**.

181. Appointment of External Auditors

Report A/16/23 details the arrangements for appointing external auditors following the abolition of the Audit Commission and the end of the transitional arrangements at the conclusion of the 2017/18 audit. It recommends opting into a Sector Led Body (Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited) to negotiate and make the external auditor appointment be agreed as the preferred procurement route.

Proposed by Councillor Miss Carey,
Seconded by Councillor Owen; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. To receive and note report A/16/23.**
- 2. That the Council opts in to the appointing person arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors.**

(voting: 24 For, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

182. Housing Revenue Account 2017/18

Report A/16/26 set out the Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Budget for 2017/18 and proposed a decrease in rents and an increase in service charges for 2017/18.

Proposed by Councillor Ewart-James,
Seconded by Councillor Collier; and

RESOLVED

- 1. To receive and note Report AC/16/26.**
- 2. To approve the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2017/18. (Refer to paragraph 2.1 and Appendix 1)**
- 3. To approve the decrease in rents of dwellings within the HRA on average by £0.85 per week, representing a 1.0% decrease with effect from 3 April 2017. (Refer to paragraph 3.2)**
- 4. To approve the increase in service charges. (Refer to section 3.5)**
- 5. To approve the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme budget 2017/18. (Refer to paragraph 4.1 and Appendix 2)**

(voting: 24 For, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

183. Update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme and Quarter 3 Monitoring 2016/17

Report A/16/22 updated the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme for the five year period ending 31 March 2022 and provided a projected outturn for the General Fund capital programme in 2016/17, based on expenditure to 30 November 2016. The report also set out both the prudential indicators for capital expenditure and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement to be approved by full Council. The General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme is required to be submitted to full Council for consideration and approval as part of the budget process. Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 17 January 2017 ahead of Cabinet approving it on 18 January 2017 to be submitted to full Council.

Proposed by Councillor Miss Susan Carey,
Seconded by Councillor Monk; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. To receive and note report A/16/22.**
- 2. To approve the updated General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 2 to this report.**
- 3. To approve the Prudential Indicators for capital and borrowing set out in the Appendix 3 to this report.**
- 4. To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement set out in Appendix 4 to this report.**

(voting: 24 For, 0 against, 0 abstentions)

184. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017/18 including Treasury Management Indicators

Report A/16/24 set out the proposed strategy for treasury management for 2017/18 including the Annual Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Indicators to be approved by full Council. Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 17 January 2017 ahead of Cabinet approving it on 18 January 2017 to be submitted to full Council.

Proposed by Councillor Miss Carey,
Seconded by Councillor Monk; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. To receive and note Report A/16/24.**
- 2. To approve the strategy for treasury management in 2017/18 set out in the report is adopted.**
- 3. To approve the 2017/18 Annual Investment Strategy set out in the report is adopted.**
- 4. To approve the treasury management indicators set out in the report.**

(voting: 24 For, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

185. General Fund budget and Council Tax 2017/18

Report A/16/25 concluded the budget-making process for 2017/18. It set out recommendations for setting the council tax after taking into account the district's council tax requirement (including town and parish council requirements and special expenses in respect of the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity), the precepts of Kent County Council, the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Service.

Proposed by Councillor Miss Carey,
Seconded by Councillor Monk; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. To receive and note Report A/16/25.**
- 2. To approve the District Council's budget for 2017/18 as presented in Appendix 1 to this report and the council tax requirement for 2017/18, to be met from the Collection Fund, of £11,444,953.**
- 3. To approve that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2017/18 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**

- a) **£99,405,985** – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act (as in Appendix 2).
- b) **£87,961,032** – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act (as in Appendix 2).
- c) **£11,444,953** – being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year (as in Appendix 2).
- d) **£305.75** – being the amount at 3(c) above divided by the tax base of 37,431.37 calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- e) **£2,573,344** – being the aggregate of all special items (including parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) **£237.01** - being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the tax base of 37,431.37 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 special item relates, ie Old Romney and Snargate.
- g) **Part of the Council's area**

Folkestone	325.83	Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council area mentioned here divided in each case by the appropriate tax base calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
Sandgate	309.15	
Hythe	294.64	
Lydd	321.16	
New Romney	321.73	
Acrise	239.29	
Elham	260.53	
Elmsted	246.79	
Hawkinge	309.45	
Lyminge	268.97	
Lympne	266.59	
Monks Horton	246.42	
Newington	270.47	
Paddlesworth	247.73	
Postling	254.66	
Saltwood	261.41	
Sellindge	296.33	

Council - 22 February 2017

Stanford	270.09
Stelling Minnis	256.51
Stowting	251.16
Swingfield	282.07

Brenzett	275.58
Brookland	298.12
Burmarsh	271.41
Dymchurch	272.89
Ivychurch	288.04
Newchurch	269.74
Old Romney	237.01
St Mary in the Marsh	263.26
Snargate	237.01

(h) Part of the Council's area**Valuation Bands**

Parish	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Folkestone	217.22	253.42	289.62	325.83	398.23	470.64	543.05	651.66
Sandgate	206.10	240.45	274.80	309.15	377.85	446.55	515.25	618.30
Hythe	196.42	229.16	261.90	294.64	360.11	425.59	491.06	589.28
Lydd	214.11	249.79	285.47	321.16	392.53	463.89	535.26	642.32
New Romney	214.49	250.24	285.98	321.73	393.23	464.72	536.22	643.46
Acrise	159.53	186.11	212.70	239.29	292.46	345.64	398.81	478.58
Elham	173.69	202.63	231.58	260.53	318.42	376.32	434.22	521.06
Elmsted	164.53	191.95	219.37	246.79	301.63	356.47	411.32	493.58
Hawkinge	206.30	240.68	275.07	309.45	378.22	446.98	515.75	618.90
Lyminge	179.31	209.20	239.08	268.97	328.74	388.51	448.28	537.94
Lympne	177.73	207.35	236.97	266.59	325.83	385.07	444.31	533.18
Monks Horton	164.28	191.66	219.04	246.42	301.18	355.94	410.70	492.84
Newington	180.31	210.37	240.42	270.47	330.58	390.68	450.79	540.94
Paddlesworth	165.15	192.68	220.20	247.73	302.78	357.83	412.88	495.46
Postling	169.77	198.07	226.36	254.66	311.25	367.84	424.43	509.32
Saltwood	174.27	203.32	232.36	261.41	319.50	377.59	435.68	522.82
Sellindge	197.55	230.48	263.40	296.33	362.18	428.03	493.88	592.66
Stanford	180.06	210.07	240.08	270.09	330.11	390.13	450.15	540.18
Stelling Minnis	171.01	199.51	228.01	256.51	313.51	370.52	427.52	513.02
Stowting	167.44	195.35	223.26	251.16	306.98	362.79	418.61	502.32
Swingfield	188.05	219.39	250.73	282.07	344.75	407.43	470.12	564.14
Brenzett	183.72	214.34	244.96	275.58	336.83	398.07	459.31	551.16
Brookland	198.75	231.87	265.00	298.12	364.37	430.62	496.87	596.24
Burmarsh	180.94	211.09	241.25	271.41	331.72	392.03	452.34	542.82
Dymchurch	181.92	212.24	242.56	272.89	333.53	394.17	454.81	545.78
Ivychurch	192.03	224.03	256.04	288.04	352.05	416.06	480.07	576.08
Newchurch	179.83	209.80	239.77	269.74	329.68	389.63	449.57	539.48
Old Romney	158.01	184.34	210.68	237.01	289.68	342.35	395.02	474.02
St Mary in the Marsh	175.51	204.76	234.01	263.26	321.76	380.26	438.76	526.52
Snargate	158.01	184.34	210.68	237.01	289.68	342.35	395.02	474.02

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(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 dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. To note that for the year 2017/18 Kent County Council, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & 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:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Kent County Council	785.88	916.86	1,047.84	1,178.82	1,440.78	1,702.74	1,964.70	2,357.64
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner	104.77	122.23	139.69	157.15	192.07	226.99	261.92	314.30
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue	48.90	57.05	65.20	73.35	89.65	105.95	122.25	146.70

Major preceptor amounts remained subject to confirmation at the time of preparing this report.

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 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 2017/18 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

(i) Part of the Council's area Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parish	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Folkestone	1,156.77	1,349.56	1,542.35	1,735.15	2,120.73	2,506.32	2,891.92	3,470.30
Sandgate	1,145.65	1,336.59	1,527.53	1,718.47	2,100.35	2,482.23	2,864.12	3,436.94
Hythe	1,135.97	1,325.30	1,514.63	1,703.96	2,082.61	2,461.27	2,839.93	3,407.92

Council - 22 February 2017

Lydd	1,153.66	1,345.93	1,538.20	1,730.48	2,115.03	2,499.57	2,884.13	3,460.96
New Romney	1,154.04	1,346.38	1,538.71	1,731.05	2,115.73	2,500.40	2,885.09	3,462.10
Acrise	1,099.08	1,282.25	1,465.43	1,648.61	2,014.96	2,381.32	2,747.68	3,297.22
Elham	1,113.24	1,298.77	1,484.31	1,669.85	2,040.92	2,412.00	2,783.09	3,339.70
Elmsted	1,104.08	1,288.09	1,472.10	1,656.11	2,024.13	2,392.15	2,760.19	3,312.22
Hawkinge	1,145.85	1,336.82	1,527.80	1,718.77	2,100.72	2,482.66	2,864.62	3,437.54
Lyminge	1,118.86	1,305.34	1,491.81	1,678.29	2,051.24	2,424.19	2,797.15	3,356.58
Lympne	1,117.28	1,303.49	1,489.70	1,675.91	2,048.33	2,420.75	2,793.18	3,351.82
Monks Horton	1,103.83	1,287.80	1,471.77	1,655.74	2,023.68	2,391.62	2,759.57	3,311.48
Newington	1,119.86	1,306.51	1,493.15	1,679.79	2,053.08	2,426.36	2,799.66	3,359.58
Paddlesworth	1,104.70	1,288.82	1,472.93	1,657.05	2,025.28	2,393.51	2,761.75	3,314.10
Postling	1,109.32	1,294.21	1,479.09	1,663.98	2,033.75	2,403.52	2,773.30	3,327.96
Saltwood	1,113.82	1,299.46	1,485.09	1,670.73	2,042.00	2,413.27	2,784.55	3,341.46
Sellindge	1,137.10	1,326.62	1,516.13	1,705.65	2,084.68	2,463.71	2,842.75	3,411.30
Stanford	1,119.61	1,306.21	1,492.81	1,679.41	2,052.61	2,425.81	2,799.02	3,358.82
Stelling Minnis	1,110.56	1,295.65	1,480.74	1,665.83	2,036.01	2,406.20	2,776.39	3,331.66
Stowting	1,106.99	1,291.49	1,475.99	1,660.48	2,029.48	2,398.47	2,767.48	3,320.96
Swingfield	1,127.60	1,315.53	1,503.46	1,691.39	2,067.25	2,443.11	2,818.99	3,382.78
Brenzett	1,123.27	1,310.48	1,497.69	1,684.90	2,059.33	2,433.75	2,808.18	3,369.80
Brookland	1,138.30	1,328.01	1,517.73	1,707.44	2,086.87	2,466.30	2,845.74	3,414.88
Burmarsh	1,120.49	1,307.23	1,493.98	1,680.73	2,054.22	2,427.71	2,801.21	3,361.46
Dymchurch	1,121.47	1,308.38	1,495.29	1,682.21	2,056.03	2,429.85	2,803.68	3,364.42
Ivychurch	1,131.58	1,320.17	1,508.77	1,697.36	2,074.55	2,451.74	2,828.94	3,394.72
Newchurch	1,119.38	1,305.94	1,492.50	1,679.06	2,052.18	2,425.31	2,798.44	3,358.12
Old Romney	1,097.56	1,280.48	1,463.41	1,646.33	2,012.18	2,378.03	2,743.89	3,292.66
St Mary in the Marsh	1,115.06	1,300.90	1,486.74	1,672.58	2,044.26	2,415.94	2,787.63	3,345.16
Snargate	1,097.56	1,280.48	1,463.41	1,646.33	2,012.18	2,378.03	2,743.89	3,292.66

6. To determine that the District Council's basic amount of council tax for 2017/18 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The motion was put to a recorded vote in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as set out below:

FOR: Councillors Ann Berry, Susan Carey, John Collier, Malcolm Dearden, Alan Ewart-James, Peter Gane, Clive Goddard, David Godfrey, Susie Govett, Janet Holben, Jenny Hollingsbee, Claire Jeffrey, Len Laws, Rory Love, Philip Martin, Iain Meyers, David Monk, David Owen, Dick Pascoe, Paul Peacock, Stuart Peall, Rodica Wheeler and Roger Wilkins (24).

AGAINST: 0.

ABSTENTIONS: 0

(Voting: For 24; Against 0; Abstentions 0).

186. Motions on Notice

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Lawes
Seconded by Councillor Miss Govett.

'Should we as a council and society do more to help the 'homeless' in our district?'

Substantive Motion

Proposed by Councillor Love.
Seconded by Councillor Monk.

That the motion be amended to read as follows:

'This Council asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the question:

"Should we as a council and society do more to help the 'Homeless' in our district?"

in order to take account of:

1. the details provided tonight by the Cabinet Member for Housing on Shepway's current activities, and
2. the emerging agenda of the Homelessness Reduction Bill, once it has completed its passage through Parliament.'

Upon being put, the substantive motion was **carried**.

(Voting: 24 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstentions).