

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCIL MINUTES

Committee: Council **Date:** 21 February 2017

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 7.30 - 8.55 pm

Members Present: Councillors J Lea (Chairman), D Stallan (Vice-Chairman), N Avey, R Baldwin, R Bassett, A Beales, N Bedford, R Brookes, R Butler, R Gadsby, S Heap, L Hughes, R Jennings, J Jennings, H Kane, S Kane, H Kauffman, J Knapman, A Lion, M McEwen, R Morgan, S Neville, A Patel, J Philip, C P Pond, C C Pond, C Roberts, D Roberts, B Sandler, M Sartin, G Shiell, S Stavrou, B Surtees, G Waller, E Webster, C Whitbread, H Whitbread, J H Whitehouse, J M Whitehouse and D Wixley

Apologies: Councillors A Boyce, H Brady, W Breare-Hall, G Chambers, K Chana, D Dorrell, L Girling, A Grigg, S Jones, P Keska, Y Knight, L Mead, A Mitchell, G Mohindra, S Murray and B Rolfe

Officers Present: G Chipp (Chief Executive), D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Neighbourhoods), C O'Boyle (Director of Governance), R Palmer (Director of Resources), A Hall (Director of Communities), S Hill (Assistant Director (Governance & Performance Management)), R Perrin (Democratic Services Officer), P Seager (Chairman's Secretary), T Carne (Public Relations and Marketing Officer) and A Rose (Marketing & Digital Content Officer)

89. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Assistant Director of Governance and Performance Management reminded everyone present that the meeting would be broadcast live to the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

90. FORMER COUNCILLOR RON BARNES OBE

It was with much sadness that the Chairman informed the Council of the death of former Councillor Ron Barnes OBE.

Ron Barnes had served as a Labour District Councillor representing the Shelley Ward from 1979 until 2003. He had served on various Committees including, the Benefits Review Board, Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee, Grant Aid Panel, Housing Committee, Joint Staff and Joint Works Committees, North Weald Airfield Sub-Committee, Personnel Sub-Committee, Plans Sub-Committee 'B', Policy and Co-ordinating Committee, Public Health Committee, Recreation and Amenities (later Leisure Services) Committee, Resources Sub-Committee and Transportation Committee. He had also been the Chairman of Epping Forest District Council for the 1995/96 municipal year.

Members paid tribute to the memory of former District Councillor Ron Barnes OBE and stood for a minute's silence in his memory.

91. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council meeting on 20 December 2016 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to Councillor S Heap being shown as giving apologies for that meeting.

92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

93. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Announcements by the Chairman of Council

(i) Chairman's Events

The Chairman advised that she had attended the Essex Wing Awards, where an Epping Air Cadet had won one of the top honours. Furthermore she had recently attended the Epping Forest Youth Council meeting with the High Sheriff of Essex, to find out about their MiLife project, which concerned Mental Health Issues for young people.

(ii) Floral Display

The Chairman announced that she proposed to send the flowers from this evenings meeting to Waltham Abbey Town Council.

94. COUNCILLOR L WAGLAND - RESIGNATION

The Council noted that Councillor L Wagland had resigned on 22 December 2016. Following that notification and a public notice of the vacancy, a request for an election to fill the vacancy had been received, nominations had been made and the election would take place on 23 February 2017.

95. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

The Council noted that there were no public questions submitted for consideration at the meeting.

96. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER NOTICE

The Council noted that there were no questions by Members under notice for the meeting.

97. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

(a) The Leader of the Council

The Leader advised that he had attended a number of meetings which included an invitation from the Leader of Broxbourne Borough Council with Harlow and East Herts Councils to discuss the proposed Waste Incineration Plant facility at Dobbs Weir. The proposed plant would take the whole of Hertfordshire's residual waste, operating 365 days a year. He advised that it would be an emotive planning

application with a number of environmental concerns for local residents and agreed that all the councils would liaise as the application proceeded. He also continued to attend the Duty to Co-operate meetings with Councillor J Philip and Councillor R Bassett for the Local Plan. Furthermore, the Leader advised that the Council had been successful in jointly securing £500,000 for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town bid, which covered the strategic sites to the south and west of Harlow in this District.

In addition he had been looking into the feasibility of creating a Local Housing Company with the Housing Portfolio Holder, which he would be reporting back to members about.

Finally, he attended the public meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC), Roger Hirst, which he advised had been very informative and demonstrated PCC plans for the future of the district.

98. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS WITHOUT NOTICE

(a) Rue De St Lawrence – Parking Issues

Councillor R Gadsby asked the Safer, Greener & Transport Portfolio Holder whether he could investigate the possibility of implementing yellow lines in Rue De St Lawrence, Waltham Abbey to prevent parked cars blocking the access of refuse and emergency vehicles, which had been an ongoing problem.

Councillor G Waller advised he was unable to give precise information on this scheme, although there were a great number of schemes still awaiting implementation and with a petition it would be prioritised higher in the list.

(b) Brooker Road – Parking Issues

Councillor R Gadsby asked the Safer, Greener & Transport Portfolio Holder whether Brooker Road, Waltham Abbey could also be added to the list of Highway schemes as parking was also an issue.

Councillor G Waller advised that he would investigate this scheme.

(c) Oakwood Hill Environment task Force

Councillor C Roberts asked the Housing Portfolio Holder about the progress of the Oakwood Hill Environmental Task Force, which included housing improvements and service enhancements funding. He advised that progress had been delayed due to ECC highways and would she support the council's officers to get the project back on track?

Councillor S Stavrou advised that she had no details of this scheme but she would investigate and report back to him via the Council Bulletin.

(d) Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillor H Whitbread asked the Safer, Greener & Transport Portfolio Holder, what was the council doing in partnership with Essex Police to reduce anti-social behaviour in the District.

Councillor G Waller advised that the police had rescinded its previous decision to not deal with anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the council continued to work very closely with the police on ASB cases within the district. With regards to Epping, around the

Christmas period PCSO were fitted with body cameras that recorded young people using nitrous oxide, resulting in anti social behaviour. After action involving the police, council officers and parents, reports of anti social behaviour had been reduced.

(e) St John's Development, Epping

Councillor N Avey asked the Leader for a progress report on the St John's Road, Epping development.

The Leader advised that progress had been made following the completion of the purchase from Essex County Council and he looked forward to reporting further information shortly.

(f) Electric Charging Points

Councillor J H Whitehouse asked the Safer, Greener & Transport Portfolio Holder to update members on the progress of electric vehicle charging points.

Councillor G Waller advised that he regarded these as a priority, as a green council. The Retail Park at Langston Road would have up to 20 electric charging points and once the usage had been assessed, the council could move towards the installing them within their own carparks.

(g) Development Forum

Councillor J M Whitehouse asked the Planning Policy Portfolio Holder whether the agendas and minutes of the Development Forum would be made available to the public and what opportunities would be available for other stake holders to discuss the issues raised from the Development Forum.

Councillor J Philip advised that the Development Forum was there to make sure that the council got the best possible developments for the sites identified and as part of that the council would be looking at where members and town/parish members could be involved. He would bring forward further details to the March 2017 Cabinet meeting. The agendas and minutes from the Development Forum would not be published as they were merely discussions like pre-application discussions but where appropriate the council would hold discussion with the relevant town/parish councils.

(h) Homeless Issues – The Broadway, Loughton

Councillor C C Pond enquired about progress with the homelessness person camped out near the Debden tube station, Loughton following the Council Officers interventions before Christmas.

Councillor S Stavrou advised that the Housing Officers had visited the individual before Christmas and all offers of help with the exception of food had been refused and they still remained. She advised the officers in the Communities Directorate had passed on issue to the Neighbourhood directorate who would now be dealing with it.

(i) Food in School Holidays Scheme

Councillor B Surtees asked Councillor H Kane whether they would be extending the Food in School Holidays scheme.

Councillor H Kane advised that there would be discussions with the appropriate organisations to extend the scheme.

(j) Recycling Rewards Scheme

Councillor S Neville asked the Environment Portfolio Holder if he could publish the identified 100 flats that would benefit from the Recycling Rewards scheme.

Councillor G Waller advised that he would ask Councillor W Breare-Hall to respond to Councillor S Neville with the information requested.

99. MOTIONS

The Chairman reported that there were no motions to be considered at this meeting.

100. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Mover: Councillor A Lion, Technology & Support Services

Councillor A Lion presented a report on the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 which was required by Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to be published each financial year. It specifically included the Council's approach to its highest and lowest paid employees.

Report as first moved **ADOPTED**

RESOLVED:

That the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 attached as Appendices 1 to these minutes be adopted.

101. LEASE OF LAND BROOKER/CARTERSFIELD ROAD, WALTHAM ABBEY

Mover: Councillor C Whitbread on behalf of the Assets & Economic Development Portfolio Holder,

Councillor C Whitbread presented a report seeking a supplementary Capital Estimate of £990,000 to allow Glyn Hopkin to surrender their existing lease at Brooker Road and Cartersfield Road in Waltham Abbey.

Report as first moved **ADOPTED**

RESOLVED:

That a supplementary Capital Estimate of £990,000 be approved.

102. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2017/18

Mover: Councillor C Whitbread on behalf of the Finance Portfolio Holder,

Councillor C Whitbread presented a report on the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and the prudential indicators.

Report as first moved **ADOPTED**

RESOLVED:

That the following documents attached to these minutes as Appendices 2 and 3 be adopted;

- (a) Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2017/18;
- (b) Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy;
- (c) Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 to 2019/20;
- (d) Rate of interest to be applied to any inter-fund balances; and
- (e) The Treasury Management Policy Statement.

103. BUDGET 2017/18

Mover: Councillor C Whitbread on behalf of Finance Portfolio Holder

Councillor C Whitbread presented a report on the Budget and Council Tax Declarations 2017/18.

Councillor S Stavrou requested that Members thanks for an excellent budget to the Director of Resources, Assistant Director (Accountancy), Finance Officers and Portfolio Holder for Finance be noted.

Amendment moved by Councillor J Knapman and seconded by Councillor C Whitbread

That an additional recommendation (13) be added;

'(13) That there was 0% increase in the District Council's precept for 2017/18.'

Carried

There voted for the recommendations as amended: (40) namely: N Avey, R Baldwin, R Bassett, A Beales, N Bedford, R Brookes, R Butler, R Gadsby, S Heap, L Hughes, B Jennings, J Jennings, H Kane, S Kane, H Kauffman, J Knapman, J Lea, A Lion, M McEwen, R Morgan, S Neville, A Patel, J Philip, C C Pond, C P Pond, C Roberts, D Roberts, B Sandler, M Sartin, G Shiell, D Stallan, S Stavrou, B Surtees, G Waller, E Webster, C Whitbread, H Whitbread, J H Whitehouse, J M Whitehouse and D Wixley.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the list of CSB growth and savings for the 2017/18 budget (Annex 1) be approved;
- (2) That the list of District Development Fund and Invest to Save items for the 2017/18 budget (Annexes 2 and 3) be approved;
- (3) That the revenue estimates for 2017/18 and the draft Capital Programme for 2017/18 be approved as set out in Annexes 4, 5 (a-f) and 6 including all contributions to and from reserves as set out in the attached Annexes;
- (4) That the medium term financial strategy be approved as set out in Annexes 9 a and 9 b;
- (5) That the 2017/18 HRA budget be approved on the basis that the contribution to the self-financing reserve continues to be suspended, and that the application of rent decreases resulting in an average decrease of 1%

from £97.14 to £96.17, be approved;

(6) That the Council's policy of retaining revenue balances at no lower than £4.0M or 25% of the net budget requirement whichever is the higher for the four year period to 2019/20 be amended to no lower than £4.0M or 25% of the net budget requirement whichever is the higher during the four year period up to and including 2020/21;

(7) That the report of the Chief Financial Officer on the robustness of the estimates for the purposes of the Council's 2017/18 budgets and the adequacy of the reserves (Annex 10) be noted.

Declaration of Council Tax

(8) That it be noted that under delegated authority the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Finance Portfolio Holder, calculated the Council Tax Base 2017/18:

- (a) for the whole Council area as 53,029.2 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended); and
- (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as set out below and in Annex 7.

	Tax Base
Abbess, Beauchamp & Berners Roding	217.0
Buckhurst Hill	5,174.3
Chigwell	6,035.6
Epping Town	5,218.1
Epping Upland	405.9
Fyfield	421.0
High Ongar	555.1
Lambourne	870.8
Loughton Town	12,294.8
Matching	428.9
Moreton, Bobbingworth and The Lavers	577.6
Nazeing	2,042.7
North Weald Bassett	2,524.8
Ongar	2,695.6
Roydon	1,307.1
Sheering	1,330.8
Stanford Rivers	356.4
Stapleford Abbots	519.3
Stapleford Tawney	78.7
Theydon Bois	1,983.9
Theydon Garnon	79.6
Theydon Mount	115.8
Waltham Abbey Town	7,559.2
Willingale	236.2

(9) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2017/18 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £134,772,924 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 all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils;
- (b) £123,522,590 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act;
- (c) £11,250,334 being the amount by which the aggregate at 9 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 9 (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);
- (d) £212.15 being the amount at 9 (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (the amount at 8 (a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts);
- (e) £3,361,180 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (Annex 7);
- (f) £148.77 being the amount at 9 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 9 (e) above by Item T (8 (a) above), 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 Parish precept relates.

(10) That it be noted that the County Council, the Police Authority and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the category of dwellings in the Council's area as shown in Annex 8;

(11) That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts in Annex 8 Part B as the amounts of Council Tax for 2017/18 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

(12) That in accordance with section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Council determines that the amount of Council Tax shown at (9) (f) of £148.77 for 2017/18, being unchanged from 2016/17 is not excessive and therefore there is no need to hold a local referendum.

(13) That there was 0% increase in the District Council's precept for 2017/18.

104. COUNCILLOR T BOYCE - RESOLUTION TO EXTEND 6 MONTH RULE - SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Councillor C Whitbread reported that Councillor T Boyce had requested an extension of the 6 month rule on ill-health grounds until the end of August 2017.

RESOLVED:

That a leave of absence for Councillor T Boyce until 31 August 2017 be approved.

105. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Council received a written report from Councillor M Sartin, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was noted.

Councillor M Sartin advised that the Principal of Epping Forest College would be attending the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 February 2017 and members were welcome to attend and ask questions.

106. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

(a) The Council received a written report regarding the Royal Gunpowder Mills from Councillor H Kane, the Council's representative.

(b) Councillor J H Whitehouse asked that West Essex Wellbeing & Health Joint Body representative report back to Council on the issues and priorities of the organisation.

(c) Councillor C Whitbread advised that Councillor G Mohindra had been elected to the Board of West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group.

CHAIRMAN