

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council

**Date:** Friday, 21 February 2020

**Venue:** Council Chamber - Civic Offices

**PRESENT:**

Mrs P M Bryant  
(Mayor)

M J Ford, JP  
(Deputy Mayor)

**Councillors:** Mrs S M Bayford, I Bastable, Miss S M Bell, F Birkett, J E Butts, T M Cartwright, MBE, Mrs L E Clubley, P J Davies, T Davies, Mrs T L Ellis, J M Englefield, K D Evans, G Fazackarley, J S Forrest, Miss T G Harper, Mrs C Heneghan, Mrs C L A Hockley, L Keeble, J G Kelly, Mrs K Mandry, Ms S Pankhurst, R H Price, JP, Mrs K K Trott, N J Walker and S D T Woodward



**1. PRAYERS**

The meeting opened with Prayers led by the Reverend Nicky Sue Terry from St Mary's Church, Hook-with-Warsash.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K A Barton, S Cunningham, S Dugan and S Martin.

**3. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 05 December 2019.

**4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced that at the end of the Council meeting, Members were invited to remain in the Chamber for a brief informal discussion concerning the selection of the Deputy Mayor for 2020/21

Turning to her charity events, the Mayor announced that on Saturday 29 February Portchester Parish Hall are hosting a Leap Year Supper where there will be a talk by Richard Newman on the History of Bursledon Brickworks and a Call My Bluff quiz. The supper starts at 7pm and tickets are £10.

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at the United Reformed Church in Fareham, there will be a performance by Opera Comique. Tickets are £6 each.

The final event for the year will be on Friday 27th March, when the Mayor will be holding her Charity Ball in The Wardroom at HMS Collingwood. The theme this year will be 'Nostalgic Fareham' and tickets are £50 each.

**5. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Executive Leader announced that he would like to put forward the Council's congratulations to Fareham MP Suella Braverman on her appointment as Attorney General and to Gosport MP Caroline Dinenage on her appointment as Minister of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

The Executive Leader also announced that Fareham has achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Halifax annual Quality of Life survey. The survey looks at local authorities across England, Scotland and Wales and takes in to consideration several different factors that homebuyers may consider when choosing a place to live.

## **6. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Executive Member for Health and Public Protection**

Councillor T M Cartwright, MBE, announced that he recently attended the Police and Crime Panel meeting where the main topic was the Police Precept. The proposed Precept was an additional £10.00 per year on Band D properties in Hampshire. This proposal went out to consultation of residents with a result of 74% supporting this increase. Interestingly in Fareham, there was 77% support. This proposal was to fund an additional 156 Officers this year but the Chief Constable is actually going to recruit 250 to allow for churn of Police Officers leaving or retiring. For this current year, 210 Officers were recruited and the current Police Officer Establishment stands at 2,791. The Panel agreed the Commissioner's Precept on the understanding that this increase would be used solely for Police Officer recruitment. Also the Panel insisted, as part of its recommendation, that the Commissioner reports to the Panel the Establishment Figures, on a quarterly basis, so that it can understand the levels of recruitment/leavers/retirements, to ensure that we do not have the same problems on this as for the current year.

At this meeting, the Chief Constable also gave a presentation which was extremely useful, and the Panel was impressed with her confidence and abilities. Also, in April, the Panel will be having a private meeting with the Chief Constable to discuss Police matters.

## **7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Mayor confirmed that the Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to all Members to enable discussion and a decision to be taken in respect of item 15 – Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2020/21.

Councillor R H Price, JP declared a Disclosable Pecuniary interest in respect of Item 15 as he leases an allotment in Portchester. He confirmed that he would not take part in any debate regarding allotments and that, should the need arise, he would leave the chamber.

Councillor J M Englefield declared a Disclosable Pecuniary interest in respect of item 15 as he leases an allotment in Locks Heath. He confirmed that he would not take part in any debate regarding allotments and that, should the need arise, he would leave the chamber.

Councillor G Fazackarely declared a Personal, Non-Pecuniary interest in respect of Item 15 as he is an employee of the First Bus Company.

## **8. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

There were no petitions presented at this meeting.

## **9. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations given at this meeting.

## 10. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE

(1) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 5 December 2019 of Executive

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on Thursday 05 December 2019 be received.

(2) Minutes of meeting Monday, 16 December 2019 of Executive

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on Monday 16 December 2019 be received.

(3) Minutes of meeting Monday, 6 January 2020 of Executive

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on Monday 06 January 2020 be received;
- (b) the recommendation contained in Minute 10(4) be considered under item 19 of the agenda; and
- (c) the recommendation contained in Minute 10(6) be considered under item 18 of the agenda.

(4) Minutes of meeting Monday, 3 February 2020 of Executive

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on Monday 03 February 2020 be received;
- (b) the recommendations contained in Minute 8(1) be accepted and accordingly that the Council agrees that the proposed increased charges for providing pre-application planning advice, as set out at Appendix D to the Executive report, be approved as part of the Council's budget;
- (c) the recommendations contained in Minute 9(1) be considered at item 15 on the agenda;
- (d) the recommendations contained in Minute 9(2) be considered at item 16 on the agenda; and
- (e) the recommendations contained in Minute 9(4) be considered at item 17 on the agenda.

- (5) Schedule of Individual Executive Member and Officer Delegated Decisions

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Individual Executive Member and Officer Delegated Decisions be received.

## 11. REPORTS OF OTHER COMMITTEES

- (1) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 11 December 2019 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 11 December 2019 be received.

- (2) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 22 January 2020 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020 be received; and
- (b) the recommendations contained in Minute 6 – Spending Plans 2020/21 be accepted and accordingly that the Council:
  - (i) agrees the revised budget for 2020/21; and
  - (ii) agrees the base budget for 2020/21.

- (3) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 29 January 2020 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 29 January 2020 be received.

- (4) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 28 January 2020 of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee held on Tuesday 28 January 2020 be received;
- (b) the recommendations contained in Minute 7 – Fees and Charges 2020/21 be accepted and accordingly that the Council agrees the fees and charges for 2020/21; and
- (c) the recommendations contained in Minute 8 – Spending Plans 2020/21 be accepted and accordingly the Council:
  - (i) agrees the revised budget for 2020/21; and
  - (ii) agrees the base budgets for 2020/21.

## **12. REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY PANELS**

- (1) Minutes of meeting Monday, 16 December 2019 of Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel held on Monday 16 December 2019 be received.

- (2) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 14 January 2020 of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 be received.

- (3) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 16 January 2020 of Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2020 be received.

- (4) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 21 January 2020 of Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020 be received.

- (5) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 30 January 2020 of Streetscene Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel meeting held on Thursday 30 January 2020 be received.

## **13. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS WITH RESPECT TO MEETINGS**

There were no questions submitted for this meeting.

## **14. MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS WITH RESPECT TO MEETINGS**

- (1) Update on Motion presented to Council on 14 June 2019 by Councillor R H Price, JP

The Council received an update on the Motion presented by Councillor R H Price, JP on 14 June 2019 – “The Citizen of Honour Awards are very worthy of the Council and as they are in the Council’s name all members and not just the Executive should be involved in making the decision as to whom should be awarded the Honour. Therefore, I propose from the 2020 Awards all nominees and the relevant information should be circulated to all members of the Council and each member of the Council to have one vote to enable them to vote for the person they believe should be awarded the Honour and the Honour should

be limited to two in the adult section and one in each of the young person sections”.

At its meeting held on 16 December 2019, the Executive considered a report which provided an opportunity to consider the motion proposed by Councillor Price at the Council meeting on 25 July 2019 regarding the selection of nominees for the Council’s annual Citizen and Young Citizen of Honour Awards from 2020.

The Executive felt that flexibility needs to be retained in case of multiple, excellent and worthy winners and that as this is an Executive function, only the Executive can decide the eventual winners.

The Executive did not therefore support the motion as presented but did agree to ensure that all Members are positively encouraged to be involved in the Citizen of Honour selection process by commenting on the work of the nominees either by making representations at the Executive meeting or making contact with Executive Members.

(2) Notice of motion received on the 05 February 2020 from Councillor R H Price, JP

A notice of Motion was received from Councillor R H Price, JP.

“I propose that Fareham Borough Council resolves to take the following action regarding Fireworks:

1. To encourage all public firework displays within the Borough to be advertised fully in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for animals and vulnerable people.
2. To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risk.
3. To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock “quieter” fireworks for public safety.
4. To write to the UK government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays. This letter to be copied to the Local Government Association asking for their support to obtain this legislative change.”

Having been proposed by Councillor R H Price, JP the motion was seconded by Councillor J G Kelly.

The Mayor advised that this motion would stand referred to the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel for consideration and that Councillor Price would be able to address the Panel with his reasons for putting forward the motion.

(3) Notice of Motion received on the 06 February 2020 from Councillor Mrs K K Trott

A notice of motion was received from Councillor Mrs K K Trott.

“I propose that Fareham Borough Council calls upon the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to review the way Councils can use the proceeds from the Right to Buy policy, in order to facilitate the provision of more, much needed, affordable homes including those for Social Rent”.

Having been proposed by Councillor Mrs K K Trott, it was seconded by Councillor J Forrest.

The Mayor advised that this motion would now stand referred to the Housing Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

**15. FINANCE STRATEGY, CAPITAL PROGRAMME, REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2020/21**

(1) Suspension of Standing Order 2.29 and 2.30

Having been duly proposed by Councillor T M Cartwright, MBE and seconded by Councillor I J Bastable it was RESOLVED that:

- (a) the provisions of Standing Order 2.29 be suspended to allow the Executive Leader of the Council to speak for longer than five minutes on items 15(2) and 15(3); and also to allow the Opposition Spokesman to speak for not more than ten minutes; and
- (b) the provisions of Standing Order 2.30 be suspended to allow the Executive Leader of the Council to speak on matters referred to in items 15(2) and 15(3) more than once to respond to points raised in debate.

(2) Report to the Executive - 03 February 2020

Councillor R H Price, JP declared a Disclosable Pecuniary interest in respect of this item as he leases an allotment in Portchester. He confirmed that he would not take part in any debate regarding allotments and that, should the need arise, he would leave the chamber.

Councillor J M Englefield declared a Disclosable Pecuniary interest in respect of this item as he leases an allotment in Locks Heath. He confirmed that he would not take part in any debate regarding allotments and that, should the need arise, he would leave the chamber.

Councillor G Fazackarley declared a Personal, Non-Pecuniary interest in respect of this item as he is an employee of the First Bus Company.

The Council considered the Executive's recommendations concerning the Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2020/21, referred to in the Minutes of the Executive meeting dated 03 February 2020.



In presenting the budget proposals, the Executive Leader gave a review of the Council's performance, success stories, notable achievements from the year and outlined the agreed priorities:

The Executive Leader reported that, following the success of the previous year, the Council once again adopted the theme of a Victorian Christmas for the Christmas event. Thousands of people came along to the Town Centre to join in the festivities with there being unique festive food and drink stalls, along with music, arts and crafts.

After a procurement process to secure an operator for the leisure centres in Fareham for the next decade, Everyone Active emerged the clear winner, with their bid including plans to invest in improvements at both Fareham and Holly Hill leisure centres.

After nearly 40 years of service, Ferneham Hall has now closed for up to two years to allow a major remodelling project to take place. When the remodelled venue opens, it will be operated by BH Live on behalf of the Council.

As the High Street changes and shops close, there is a recognition that for the town centre to remain vibrant and attract people into the centre we need to have a much stronger leisure offering. Hence £12.35m being spent on new arts and entertainment venue to start the repurposing of the town centre.

The Executive Leader stated that to address the current and future needs of affordable housing in the Borough, the Council had launched a new Affordable Housing Strategy. This set out how Affordable Housing will be delivered over the next five years, including the delivery of Council Housing.

In July, the Council consulted residents on a series of Issues and Options for the emerging Local Plan. Following the Issues and Options consultation held last summer, a Local Plan Supplement document was developed and is currently being consulted on. The document sets out how the Council proposes to meet new national housing targets, identifying a small number of new housing sites and policies, as well as potential areas for strategic growth.

Also, in July the Borough of Fareham held its first referendum about the Titchfield Neighbourhood Plan. Titchfield residents were asked to vote 'yes' or 'no' to whether they wanted the council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Titchfield to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area. As less than 50 per cent voted 'yes' the Neighbourhood Plan was not made part of the statutory Local Plan for the Borough.

In September, residents were asked for their views on a draft document on optimising social housing. This document outlines how applications and allocations for social housing are made in the Fareham Borough.

In October, the Planning Committee resolved to grant outline planning permission for Welborne Garden Village. The application from Buckland Development Ltd is for a new community of up to 6,000 homes with supporting shops, community facilities, employment space, schools, parks and open spaces. The proposals also include detailed plans for the redesign of Junction 10 of the M27 and other changes to the local road network.

The Executive Leader announced that it has been another exciting year for Daedalus. Early last year, the Council consulted on a new vision for Solent Airport. The vision lays out plans for the next three to five years and will see new commercial buildings, more community facilities, improved airport infrastructure and the consideration of expansion opportunities at the airport.

In June around 15,000 people flocked to Daedalus to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day. The commemoration included a number of aerial displays including a Spitfire, Dakota and there was even a flypast by the Red Arrows. A number of D-Day veterans were welcomed as guests of honour. One in particular was Stanley Richardson, who was based at Daedalus and celebrated his 100th birthday last year. He joined the Mayor of Fareham on stage to unveil a special plaque to mark the occasion.

Also, in June, the public voted for a 6m sculpture of Daedalus to be installed at Daedalus Common. A classic sculpture of Daedalus was the clear winner, attracting more than twice the votes for the design in second place. Also being built at the site is new play equipment in the shape of an aeroplane, which will be built at Daedalus play area. Both the sculpture and play equipment will be constructed at the site ready for the coming summer.

In March, it was announced that the Council was awarded £30,000 of Government funding to help those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to find more permanent homes. The money will be used to provide dedicated one-to-one tailored support to enable vulnerable people to maintain their tenancies and live independently. The funding will also be used to encourage more landlords to work with Fareham Borough Council by offering an improved package of help and support, such as streamlining Housing Benefit payments and increased out of hours assistance.

In October, a public meeting was held to talk about drug misuse in Fareham town centre in response to requests from residents and businesses. All present were able to raise concerns and ask questions at the meeting and hear how the Council, Police and other agencies are working together to reduce crime and other anti-social behaviour associated with drug use. Also, at the meeting a new donation card was launched which makes it easier to give money to Fareham Street Aid charity which directly helps rough sleepers in Fareham rather than giving cash to individuals. Fareham Street Aid has created the card with a QR code which can be scanned with money going straight to the Two Saints charity.

The Executive Leader stated that also this month, the Council was awarded over £140,000 to further help tackle issues of rough sleeping in Fareham. The money will enable the excellent work of the Outreach Service to continue and fund two further posts, so that Two Saints can provide an enhanced service. The new posts will focus particularly on helping those leaving prison and those with complex needs such as substance misuse issues, mental health needs and behavioural challenges, to find and maintain suitable accommodation.

The Council has introduced security officers to tackle anti-social behaviour in Fareham. The security team carries leaflets to hand out to rough sleepers that provides information for them about where they can go to get help. This

approach has worked well in other areas and early indications are that this is a positive move for Fareham. Comments from residents who have said that the introduction of security officers has been 'most welcome' and 'brilliant'. Anti-social behaviour is already decreasing whilst rough sleepers are engaging more with the services that are there to help them.

Once again, the Council received numerous accolades at the South and South East in Bloom Awards 2019, including a 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive winning entry in the Small City category receiving a Gold Award and declared Category Winner. Fareham's parks and gardens also came out with top awards including Gold Awards for Westbury Manor Garden, the Civic Gardens, Warsash Common, Holly Hill Woodland Park, Portchester Common and the Sensory Garden of Reflection. Also, Fareham has been named as having two of the best parks in the country by the prestigious Green Flag Awards. Holly Hill Woodland Park and The Sensory Garden of Reflection received the recognition for the 12th and 10th year in a row.

Social Media has continued to grow as a means of communication with residents. Our followers on Twitter have increased by 5%, from 5,351 to 5,631, since February 2019. Facebook has seen a 16% increase in likes since February 2019, rising from 6,754 to 7,840 people liking the Council's page.

Fareham Borough Council was highly commended at the MJ Achievement Awards 2019 in the category of Local Authority of the Year.

Over the past year improvements to eight play areas have been completed. These were at Portchester Park, Sweethills Crescent in Sarisbury, Castle Street in Portchester, Eastern Parade in Fareham, Barry's Meadow, Harbour View, Bath Lane and Swanwick. These have all been upgraded as part of a £500,000 five-year improvement programme to upgrade 20 play areas.

Access All Areas was attended by over 1100 people and Thumbs Up Thursday was attended by over 600 people.

Young people in Fareham will continue to receive support in 2019/20 thanks to nearly £30,000 from Fareham Borough Council's Youth Activities Fund. Six youth projects in the Borough will share the funding which will help to provide a range of open access activities for young people. The youth groups that will benefit from the funding are:

- Oasis Youth Centre (Titchfield)
- X-Perience Youth Centre (Fareham Town Centre)
- Genesis Centre (Locks Heath)
- Odyssey Youth Centre (Portchester)
- Fareham North West Youth Club (Hillson Drive, Fareham)
- Crofton Youth Project

In March, it was announced that the Council would receive £1.4million to deliver four sustainable measures aimed at ensuring air quality across Fareham remains compliant. These measures will help to provide better infrastructure and encourage residents to use public transport and to walk and cycle. In June, residents were asked to come along and support National Clean Air Day at a special event in Fareham. This aimed to promote simple

things people can do to improve air quality and look after their own and other people's health.

The Executive Leader announced that the Council is forging ahead with plans to mitigate the effects of climate change, with a view to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. In October, councillors discussed the scope of a newly formed working group. The working group will look at all areas of the Council's services to identify carbon reduction opportunities. It will also look at carbon reduction initiatives being progressed across the Borough.

The majority of the Solent has been specially designated under law as European Protected Sites. When deciding planning applications, a legal duty is placed on the Council to consider whether any impacts from new developments are likely to have a significant effect upon these protected sites. At present, the Solent is experiencing high levels of nitrate inputs from a variety of sources including from development which is impacting on the integrity of the Solent European Protected Sites. In order to conclude that new development will not have a significant effect, it needs to demonstrate that it can be nitrate neutral. Natural England have produced a methodology to enable an assessment of nitrate neutrality for new development. Where developments are not able to demonstrate that their proposals maintain or reduce the levels of nitrates leaving their site, mitigation measures will need to be identified. As a direct result of the advice from Natural England, no planning permissions have been granted for major housing proposals within Fareham Borough since January 2019. Furthermore, no planning permissions for new build dwellings have been granted in Fareham Borough since March 2019. The Council is working hard to find a resolution, and positive progress continues to be made in a number of areas, including at national level, and in identifying potential mitigation options that have merit. The council is also committed to trees, woodlands and hedgerows, with planting and maintenance across the Borough costing £400,000 and a record of planting 150 trees per annum throughout the Borough since 2012.

The Executive Leader stated that even though the Council has achieved a great deal already, further savings need to be made.

The financial year 2020/21 will see an extension of a year to the four-year financial settlement that was offered by the government back in 2015. During this time district councils such as Fareham have been able to increase council tax by £5 per year.

Since 2018/19 which was the last year that Fareham received any Revenue Support Grant, Council Tax and business rates have supported the council's budget with council tax providing almost 75% of the funding required to meet the net budget.

The Fair Funding Review has been deferred until the start of the 2020/21 financial year and the chances are that finances for district councils will not benefit from this review mainly due to pressures in other areas such as social care and education. As part of this funding decision there will also be a business rate reset which will see changes to rateable values affecting how much we collect in business rates.

As well as funding reductions we must also plan for other budget pressures that will see spending increase over the next few years. Some of these we have little or no control over such as pay and pension increases or contractual rises. Also, we have expectations and demands from our customers that can come at a cost particularly around areas such as keeping the borough tidy or maintaining the high standards of our parks and open spaces.

The Opportunities Plan commenced in April 2019 with a view to providing resources in order that a balanced budget could be set in the coming years. The plan was put in place to help close the known funding gap that Fareham would have and to build in some capacity for pressures that were coming in the future. Finally, there is a need to provide some funding to do what is right for the borough. Meetings have been held at a senior level and a list has been compiled of over 130 ideas of either reducing costs, increasing income or doing what is right for our customers. As a result of work that has been done to date savings of almost £750,000 have been achieved and there are more in the pipeline.

At this point, the Executive Leader turned his attention to the Council's capital programme. The General Fund capital programme for the next 5 years is a very generous £64 million, focussed on delivering schemes which accord with our Council Priorities. This is a fully funded programme, paid partly from resources that the Council has accumulated, and also with a large proportion attracted from external sources, thereby protecting the Council taxpayers.

At the end of the 5 years by 2024, it is estimated that there will be a surplus of £6 million which represents a contingency of 9.4% of the overall programme but this relies on every scheme being completed on time and within budget. Surplus resources are required to cover these situations and also for new schemes that may come on line during the next 5 years and it is important to realise that the programme relies heavily on capital receipts, revenue contributions of almost £8 million to fund the programme and also borrowing arrangements of just over £37 million are required to fund the programme.

Despite all of the committed capital spend it is important to note that there will be a need to spend just under £200 million in the next 30 years to make sure that all of our assets remain fit for purpose and to keep them operational.

The Executive Leader then turned to the revenue budget for Council housing. The cost of running the Housing Revenue Account in 2020-21 is estimated to be just under £12.7 million, with the principal source of funding being from rents. Almost 91% of the annual income is from rent of dwellings and garages with the average weekly rent in Fareham being £91.95 in 2020-21. Following the annual reductions in rent of 1% that have been applied since April 2016, the Council is now able to increase the weekly rent by CPI as at September of the previous year plus 1% which means that from April 2020 rents will increase by 2.7%.

As part of the Housing Revenue Account the next 5 years will see a £29 million investment in our properties including improvements, acquisitions and a new build programme.

In October 2018 the Government abolished the cap on HRA borrowing which, although good news, must be treated with some caution as the funds available through borrowing need to be serviced without undermining the financial stability of the Council's HRA.

The Executive Leader announced that he was pleased to be able to present the budget tonight which maintains the support of our residents. Previously the Council has asked residents if they supported council tax increases and the vast majority accepted the need for increases with some willing to go higher than the £5 proposed increase due to the quality of the services they receive from the council.

The net budget for 2020-21 will amount to £9.6 million and is almost £940k more than the base budget for the current year.

Each year, in recognition of the economic conditions at the time, the Council determines how the budget should be prepared for the following year. The Medium-Term Finance Strategy was considered in January of this year, and clear budget setting principles were determined as a result. These key principles are the basis for preparing the General Fund Revenue budget for 2020/21.

Fundamentally, and most importantly, the budget must be and is balanced, that is to say there is sufficient income to meet planned costs. Secondly, the budget must be sustainable, providing sufficient flexibility to respond to changing needs and demands in the future. Just as important, we need to be confident that the budget is robust, providing sufficient resources to fulfil our pledges, targeting resources where they are most needed. Where spending pressures are known, they have been fully allowed for in the budget, and the sources of income to pay for the services have been carefully estimated to reflect a realistic position.

Savings and opportunities have been built into the budget but only those which are secured have been included, providing a high degree of certainty and limiting the risk of a budget deficit in the year. This is a strong position, providing certainty for customers, for our employees and ourselves that we can continue with the level and quality of services that we have delivered since the current administration took control.

Despite receiving one of the lowest levels of Government support in Hampshire and taking account of the impact of the unprecedented economic climate, it has been possible to set a net budget of £9.6 million for 2020-21. With funding from business rates of £2,456,665 the sum of £7,196,868 must be raised from Fareham's Council taxpayers. Fareham's Council Tax base for 2020-21 is 43,559.3 which shows an increase of 650 band D properties over the 2019/20 figure. This is along with around 2,650 properties receiving assistance through the council tax support scheme. Dividing the amount to be raised from our taxpayers by the tax base gives a Council Tax for band D properties of £165.22.

With Fareham's proportion of the council tax rising £5 this year it remains a small element of the overall increase of £65.76 for 2020/21. The Police and Crime Commissioner will be increasing their share of council tax by £10 with

the Hampshire Fire showing an increase of £1.35. The biggest increase will be from the County Council who will be raising their council tax by the maximum allowed for their services. The increase will be 2% for the social care precept and 1.99% going on ordinary council tax which gives a total increase of 3.99% or a £49.41 rise for a band D property. Following another very significant grant reduction this year from Government and with further reductions to come, the Executive Leader advised that the Council is in a position where it must say to customers that Council Tax for Fareham will need to increase for a fifth time since 2009. In real terms, this is still below the level had we increased Council Tax in line with inflation each year.

The overall position for Fareham's taxpayers will be:

Fareham Borough Council £165.22

Hampshire County Council £1,286.28

Police and Crime Commissioner £211.46

Hampshire Fire and Rescue £69.06

This gives a total for a Band D property of £1,666.26, which represents a 4.2% increase over the 2018/19 figure.

Having outlined a budget that delivers all services at a cost equivalent to a level seen a decade ago, the Executive Leader announced that he has proposed a capital programme for the next 5 years, valued at £64 million. He was able to confirm that although we have seen further funding reductions by way of a loss of New Homes Bonus a balanced budget has been set. In line with Central Government policy we have increased Council Tax for only the fifth time in 11 years, which considering the reductions to our funding over that time it is a remarkable achievement to have kept council tax so low and even with a £5 increase we will still have one of the lowest council tax band D charges in the country. As Fareham has most properties in Band C the Council Tax for two adults will still be £146.86 or just £2.82 per week. On that note the Executive Leader asked Members to approve the recommendations set out under Item 15(2) on the agenda, commenting that this makes Fareham's Council Tax one of the lowest "district" rates in England. Quite impressive when considering that, at the same time, 90% of councils will receive more Government support per dwelling than Fareham.

A proposal was put forward by Councillor R H Price, JP that the budget be amended to include provision of £100,000 from the Spending Reserves to plant 500 trees across the Borough to help mitigate against climate change.

Having been duly seconded by Councillor J G Kelly, the amended budget proposal was put to the meeting and a recorded vote took place. The amended proposal was declared LOST, with 7 voting in favour and 19 voting against.

(Councillors J M Englefield, J Forrest, Mrs C Heneghan, L Keeble, G J Kelly, R H Price, and Mrs K K Trott voting in favour and Councillors I J Bastable, Mrs S M Bayford, Miss S Bell, F Birkett, J E Butts, T M Cartwright, Mrs L E Clubley, P Davies, T Davies, Mrs T L Ellis, K D Evans, G Fazackarley, M J Ford, Miss T Harper, Mrs C L A Hockley, Mrs K Mandry, Ms S Pankhurst, N J Walker and S D T Woodward voting against).

During the debate on this item, several Councillors asked that their thanks be placed on record to Officers who work hard to deliver the services of the Council.

Following debate on this item, and on being put to the meeting, the recommendations (a) to (g), as outlined on page 5 of the agenda, were declared CARRIED with 24 voting in favour and 2 voting against.

(Councillors I J Bastable, Mrs S M Bayford, Miss S Bell, F Birkett, J E Butts, T M Cartwright, Mrs L E Clubley, P Davies, T Davies, Mrs T L Ellis, K D Evans, G Fazackarley, M J Ford, J Forrest, Miss T Harper, Mrs C L A Hockley, L Keeble, J G Kelly, Mrs K Mandry, Ms S Pankhurst, R H Price, Mrs K K Trott, N J Walker and S D T Woodward voting in favour and Councillors J M Englefield and Mrs C Heneghan voting against)

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Executive be accepted and accordingly that the Council approves:

- (a) the capital programme and financing of £64,246,000;
  - (b) an overall revised revenue budget for 2019/20 of £9,319,200;
  - (c) a revenue budget for 2020/21 of £9,606,500;
  - (d) the remainder of the surplus in the spending reserve remains in the reserve to cover the anticipated future funding shortfalls as set out in paragraphs 17-20;
  - (e) a council tax for Fareham Borough Council for 2020/21 of £165.22 per band D property, which represents a £5.00 increase when compared to the current year and is within referendum limits;
  - (f) an unchanged Council Tax Support scheme for 2020/21; and
  - (g) that authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, following consultation with the Executive member for Policy and Resources, to amend the budget, as set out in the report, to reflect an necessary changes brought about as a result of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2020/21.
- (3) Council Tax for 2020/21 for Fareham Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

The Council considered information tabled at the meeting: a schedule showing the formal calculations for setting the Council Tax and a graphical breakdown of council tax rates, as attached to these minutes.

On the recommendations being put to the meeting, they were declared CARRIED with 20 voting in favour and 6 voting against.

(Councillors I J Bastable, Mrs S M Bayford, Miss S Bell, F Birkett, J E Butts, T M Cartwright, Mrs L E Clubley, P Davies, T Davies, Mrs T L Ellis, K D Evans,



G Fazackarley, M J Ford, Miss T Harper, Mrs C L A Hockley, L Keeble, Mrs K Mandry, Ms S Pankhurst, N J Walker, and S D T Woodward voting in favour and Councillors J M Englefield, J Forrest, Mrs C Heneghan, J G Kelly, R H Price and Mrs K K Trott).

RESOLVED that the Council:

- (1) notes that on 21 February 2020 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2020/21 for the whole Council area as 43,559.3 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]
- (2) calculates that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/21 is £7,196,868
- (3) that the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-
  - (a) £46,824,700 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) £39,627,832 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £7,196,868 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. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
  - (d) £165.22 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(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.
  - (e) £0.00 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
  - (f) £165.22 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(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
- (4) to note that the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner along with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government

Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

- (5) that the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 38 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2020/21 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuations Bands							
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Fareham Borough Council							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
110.15	128.50	146.86	<b>165.22</b>	201.94	238.65	275.37	330.44

Hampshire County Council							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
782.97	913.46	1,043.96	<b>1,174.45</b>	1,435.46	1,696.43	1,957.42	2,348.90

Hampshire County Council – Adult Social Care							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
74.55	86.98	99.40	<b>111.83</b>	136.68	161.53	186.38	223.66

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
140.97	164.47	187.96	<b>211.46</b>	258.45	305.44	352.43	422.92

Fareham Borough Council							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
46.04	53.71	61.39	<b>69.06</b>	84.41	99.75	115.10	138.12

Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,154.68	1,347.12	1,539.57	<b>1,732.02</b>	2,116.92	2,501.80	2,886.70	3,464.04

- (6) that in accordance with the set of principles set by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the year, it is determined that the relevant basic amount of council tax for 2020/21 is not excessive.

## 16. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND CAPITAL PLANS 2020/21

On being put to the meeting, the recommendations, as outlined on page 6 of the agenda were declared CARRIED with 24 voting in favour and 2 abstentions.

Councillors I J Bastable, Mrs S M Bayford, Miss Bell, F Birkett, J E Butts, T M Cartwright, Mrs L E Clubley, P Davies, T Davies, Mrs T L Ellis, K D Evans, G Fazackarley, M J Ford, J Forrest, Miss T Harper, Mrs C L Hockley, L Keeble, J G Kelly, Mrs K Mandry, Ms S Pankhurst, R H Price, Mrs K K Trott, N J Walker and S D T Woodward voting in favour and Councillor J M Englefield and Mrs C Heneghan abstaining).

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Executive made at its meeting held on the 03 February 2020 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account Budget and Capital Plans 2020/21, be accepted and, accordingly, the Council approves that:

- (a) rents be approved for Council Dwellings as set out in paragraph 18 of that the report with effect for 01 April 2020;
- (b) rents for Council garages be increased by 4.0% with effect for 01 April 2020;
- (c) the revised budget for 2019/20 be approved; and the base budget be approved; and
- (d) the base budget for 2020/21 be approved.

**17. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2020/21**

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Executive made at its meeting on 03 February 2020, contained at item 10(4) of this agenda be accepted and that, accordingly, the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy 2020/21 be approved.

**18. CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020/21**

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Executive made at its meeting on 06 January 2020, contained at item 10(3) of this agenda, be accepted and accordingly, that the Council approves the Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2020/21.

**19. APPROVAL OF PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2020/21**

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Executive at its meeting on 06 January 2020, contained at item 10(3) of this agenda, be accepted and accordingly, that the Council approves the Updated Pay Policy Statement 2020/21, as annexed to the Medium-Term Finance Strategy.

**20. CHANGE TO AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE**

RESOLVED that the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee in March 2020 be moved from Monday 16 March to Monday 23 March, commencing at 6pm.

**21. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

The Council received a report by the Chief Executive Officer, providing calculations for political balance relating to the allocation of seats on committees and panels.

The report asks the Council to appoint the nominations of the political groups to committees and also to appoint the role of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each committee.

Appendix B, which sets out the proposals for appointments to seats for the remainder of the current municipal year, was tabled at the meeting for consideration and is attached to these minutes.

In considering the appointments to the Housing Scrutiny Panel an amendment was proposed by Councillor J M Englefield that Councillor L Keeble be appointed to the Housing Scrutiny Panel. Having been duly seconded and put to the meeting, the amendment was declared CARRIED with 21 voting in favour and 6 voting against. It was therefore AGREED that Councillor L Keeble be appointed to the Housing Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED that the Council approves:

- (a) the committee functions and number of seats on each committee, as listed at paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the report;
- (b) the allocation of seats to political groups as set out in Appendix A to the report;
- (c) subject to the amendment agreed above, the nominations of the political groups to seats on committees, deputies and spokesmen as set out in the tabled Appendix B to the report; and
- (d) the appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each committee, as set out in the tabled Appendix B to the report.

**22. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

In considering the Council's appointments to Outside Bodies it was AGREED that Councillor Mrs L E Clubley be appointed as the Representative to Citizens Advice Fareham and that Councillor M J Ford, JP be appointed as the Deputy Representative to South East Employers Local Democracy and Accountability.

(The meeting started at 5.00 pm  
and ended at 7.16 pm).