

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council

Date: Friday, 21 February 2014

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Mrs S M Bayford
(Mayor)

D J Norris
(Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: B Bayford, Miss S M Bell, J V Bryant, Mrs P M Bryant, T M Cartwright, MBE, P J Davies, Mrs M E Ellerton, J M Englefield, K D Evans, G Fazackarley, M J Ford, JP, J S Forrest, Miss T G Harper, Mrs C L A Hockley, T J Howard, L Keeble, T G Knight, A Mandry, Mrs K Mandry, Mrs S Pankhurst, R H Price, JP, D L Steadman, D C S Swanbrow, Mrs K K Trott, N J Walker, D M Whittingham, P W Whittle, JP and S D T Woodward



1. PRAYERS

The meeting opened with prayers led by the Mayor's Chaplain, Father John Cooke of St Margaret Mary Church in Park Gate.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N R Gregory.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 February 2014.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported on the preparations by the Chief Executive Officer, Peter Grimwood, as he continues his training towards running the London Marathon in April on behalf of the Rainbow Centre. The Mayor gave her thanks to those who had already sponsored Peter, and encouraged all to donate via the <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PeterGrimwood> website which keeps a track of all donations. The Mayor stated that the total money raised so far was standing at £1,561 and it would be marvellous to see this climb towards the £2,000 mark.

The Mayor announced that the next tea party would be on Thursday 6 March with a talk on "Fareham in Bloom" by Matt Wakefield.

The Mayor was pleased to report that the next charity event would be the fully subscribed Fashion Show by Rhian of Warsash on Monday 31 March at the Concorde Club in Eastleigh. The Mayor passed on her gratitude to Sandy Jones, the owner of Rhian, for her support.

The Mayor's Charity Ball will be held at Ferneham Hall on Friday 4 April and tickets can be purchased from the Mayor's PA in the Civic Offices.

The Mayor was delighted to announce that the John Miller Orchestra would be playing at Ferneham Hall on Sunday 27 April from 7:30pm in aid of the Mayor of Fareham's charities. John is the nephew of Glenn Miller and the big band will perform the Glenn Miller classics. Tickets are available from the Ferneham Hall box office.

5. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements given by the Executive Leader at this meeting.

6. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Successful Food Hygiene Prosecution

The Executive Member for Public Protection reported that Fareham Borough Council had successfully prosecuted the owner of Kams Palace for five offences under the Food Hygiene Regulations and two offences under Health and Safety legislation.

The Executive Member for Public Protection confirmed that the prosecution at Fareham Magistrates Court followed a routine food hygiene inspection last year. Officers visited Kams Palace and found poor standards of cleanliness in the kitchen and storage areas. There were many food safety hazards including poor stock control, food stored in dirty containers, dirty equipment and evidence of mice. No evidence of food hygiene training for the employees was available. A build-up of ice was found on the floor of a walk-in freezer. A steamer oven was not draining properly and staff were manually emptying large trays of overflow water. These defects posed a serious risk of injury to the restaurant's employees.

The Executive Member for Public Protection reported that Kams Palace Ltd pleaded guilty and were fined £11,000 and ordered to pay full costs to the Council. He stated that the case highlights the important work carried out by the Council's Environmental Health team in ensuring food businesses are complying with the law and maintaining the required standards of hygiene and safety.

The Executive Member for Public Protection also highlighted the work undertaken by the Southampton and Fareham Legal Services Partnership in this successful prosecution.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R H Price, JP declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest for item 16 – Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2014/15 as he leases an allotment in Portchester. He confirmed that he would leave the chamber and not take part in any debate on allotments.

Councillor J M Englefield declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest for item 16 – Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2014/15 as he leases an allotment in Portchester. He confirmed that he would leave the chamber and not take part in any debate on allotments.

8. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

A petition of approximately 835 signatures was presented by Councillor Mrs C L A Hockley entitled "Save The Parking – This is to save the 20 minute parking bay in South Street (Outside the Shop)".

A petition of approximately 456 signatures was presented by Councillor L Keeble entitled "I am signing this petition to show my objection to housing

development on land between Longfield Avenue, Rowans Way and Stubbington”.

The Mayor advised that both petitions would be dealt with in accordance with Fareham Borough Council’s petition scheme.

9. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations given at this meeting.

10. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The schedule of decisions made by individual Executive Members was presented to the Council.

RESOLVED that the schedule of decisions made by individual Executive Members be received.

11. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY BOARD

(1) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 23 January 2014 of Scrutiny Board

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Scrutiny Board meeting held on 23 January 2014 be received.

12. REPORTS OF OTHER COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following Committee meetings were presented to Council:

(1) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 12 December 2013 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12 December 2013 be received.

(2) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 18 December 2013 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18 December 2013 be received.

(3) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 8 January 2014 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8 January 2014 be received.

(4) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 29 January 2014 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 29 January 2014 be received.

- (5) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 7 January 2014 of Strategic Planning and Environment Policy Development and Review Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Environment Policy Development and Review Panel held on 7 January 2014 be received.

- (6) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 9 January 2014 of Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel held on 9 January 2014 be received.

- (7) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 15 January 2014 of Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel held on 15 January 2014 be received.

- (8) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 16 January 2014 of Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel held on 16 January 2014 be received.

13. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 17.2

There were no questions under Standing Order 17.2 submitted for this meeting.

14. MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 15

There were no motions under Standing Order 15 moved at this meeting.

15. RECORDING OF VOTES AT BUDGET DECISION MEETINGS

During the debate on the item, Councillor T G Knight proposed an amendment to the recommendations contained within the report for the Council to write to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to record the Council's displeasure at being micro-managed.

Having been duly seconded and following a debate on the amendment, the amendment was declared CARRIED unanimously.

On the proposal being put to the meeting, it was declared CARRIED unanimously.

RESOLVED that the Council:

- (a) delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to revise the Council's Constitution – Standing Orders with respect to Meetings to record the way members vote on budget decision matters, subject to the confirmation of and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Order 2014; and

- (b) agrees that the Executive Leader write to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State to record the Council's displeasure at being micro-managed.

16. FINANCE STRATEGY, CAPITAL PROGRAMME, REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2014/15

- (1) Suspension of Standing Order 19.4

Having been duly proposed and seconded, it was RESOLVED that the provisions of Standing Order 19.4 be suspended to allow the Executive Leader of the Council to speak on the matters referred to in items 16(2) and (3) for longer than five minutes and the Spokesman for the opposition group to speak for not more than ten minutes.

- (2) Report to Executive - 10 February 2014

The Council considered the Executive's recommendations concerning the Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2014/15, referred to in the Minutes of the Executive meeting dated 10 February 2014.

- (i) RESOLVED that the recommendation of the Executive at its meeting on 10 February 2014, contained in minute 12(3): Housing Revenue Account Spending Plans, including the Capital Programme for 2014/15 be accepted and, accordingly that the Council approves:
 - (a) individual rent increases in line with the rent restructuring model for Council dwellings with effect from 7 April 2014;
 - (b) that rents for Council garages be increased by 5% with effect from 7 April 2014;
 - (c) that discretionary fees and charges be increased to provide a minimum increase of 5%, where possible, with effect from 7 April 2014;
 - (d) the revised budget for 2013/14;
 - (e) the base budget for 2014/15;
 - (f) the capital programme and financing for 2013/14 to 2017/18; and
 - (g) that annual budgets and assumptions are set with the aim of ensuring sufficient surpluses are held to repay debt on the date of maturity of each loan.
- (ii) RESOLVED that the recommendation of the Executive at its meeting on 10 February 2014, contained in minute 12(5): Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2014/15 be accepted and, accordingly that the Council approves the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2014/15.

(3) Council Tax 2014/15

It was proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor T Cartwright that the Council accepts the recommendations of the Executive and approves:-

- (i) the capital programme and financing of £34,601,000;
- (ii) an overall revised revenue budget for 2013/14 of £9,823,300;
- (iii) a revenue budget for 2014/15 of £9,516,100; and
- (iv) a council tax for Fareham Borough Council for 2014/15 of £140.22 per band D property, which represents no increase when compared to the current year.

The Council considered additional information tabled at the meeting: a schedule showing the formal calculations for setting the council tax and a graphical breakdown of council tax rates.

In presenting the proposal, the Executive Leader reviewed the Council's performance over the past year and drew attention to the challenging background of more local control, more local decisions and more community engagement with higher expectations to be met with fewer resources.

The Executive Leader reminded members of a number of notable achievements of the last 12 months before looking at the challenges of the coming year. He confirmed that a multi-million pound investment had been secured for the infrastructure on the Daedalus site and that the new CEMAST (Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Advanced Skills Training) facility was due to open in autumn 2014. He also reported that the Welborne Plan had been agreed by Council and would be submitted for the Planning Inspector's examination in summer 2014.

The Executive Leader highlighted a number of projects such as the redevelopment of Collingwood House, the creation of a joint venture housing company to support the delivery of new homes, the launch of the Fareham Town Centre website, the placement of textile banks throughout the borough and the introduction of the Vanguard method to assist in improving the customer experience had all been successfully initiated. He also highlighted the Council's approach to income generation and its commitment to spend £8 million via the Commercial Property Investment Acquisition Strategy. This allows the purchase of commercial properties that will achieve a greater rate of return for the Council than through the money markets.

The Executive Leader commented that all of the new initiatives and successes had been achieved whilst the council tax had remained unchanged since 2009. He observed that this was even more remarkable when in 2009, the Council's core funding from Government was over £6 million and since that time, whilst Council Tax has remained the same the funding has dropped to £3.2 million. During those 6 years, the Council has delivered efficiencies of over £3.5million but the standards of service have remained very high and front line services have not been cut to achieve this.

The Executive Leader set the expectation that funding from Government would fall by £1/2 million next year and that further reductions are expected as the

economy struggles to come to life and this would impact on Fareham to the tune of £600,000 in 2015/16. He cited the new Council Tax Support Scheme which would challenge more of Fareham's residents to have to pay a proportion of their council tax, many for the first time.

The Executive Leader concluded by saying that the proposed budget delivered all services at a cost equivalent to a level seen a decade ago, whilst bringing real financial benefit to every single taxpayer in the Borough and would continue to by one of the lowest Council Tax rates in the country.

Councillor P W Whittle, JP, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, replied to the motion and stated that whilst he supported the budget proposals in principle, he moved an amendment which was seconded by Councillor R H Price, JP to add further recommendations that:

"This Council earmarks £213,000 for the unallocated surplus for the year ahead for the purpose of sea and flood defences around the borough" and "This Council undertakes to pay staff at least the equivalent to the level of the national living wage with the costs of £14,401 to be identified from relevant revenue budgets".

On the amendment being put to the meeting following debate it was declared LOST, there being 6 votes in favour (Councillors G Fazackarley, J S Forrest, D J Norris, R H Price, JP, Mrs K K Trott and P W Whittle, JP) and 22 votes against (Councillors B Bayford, Miss S M Bell, J V Bryant, Mrs P M Bryant, T Cartwright, P J Davies, Mrs M Ellerton, K D Evans, M J Ford, Miss T Harper, Mrs C L A Hockley, T J Howard, L Keeble, T G Knight, A Mandry, Mrs K Mandry, Mrs S Pankhurst, D L Steadman, D C S Swanbrow, N J Walker, D M Whittingham, and S D T Woodward), with 2 members abstaining from voting (The Mayor and Councillor J M Englefield).

Councillor K D Evans left the meeting at 7:20pm.

On the substantive motion being put to the meeting following further debate, it was declared CARRIED unanimously.

(Councillors B Bayford, Miss S M Bell, J V Bryant, Mrs P M Bryant, T Cartwright, P J Davies, Mrs M Ellerton, G Fazackarley, M J Ford, J S Forrest, Miss T Harper, Mrs C L A Hockley, T J Howard, L Keeble, T G Knight, A Mandry, Mrs K Mandry, D J Norris, Mrs S Pankhurst, R H Price, JP, D L Steadman, D C S Swanbrow, Mrs K K Trott N J Walker, D M Whittingham, P W Whittle, JP and S D T Woodward voting in favour).

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

- (i) the capital programme and financing of £34,601,000;
- (ii) an overall revised revenue budget for 2013/14 of £9,823,300;
- (iii) a revenue budget for 2014/15 of £9,516,100; and
- (iv) a council tax for Fareham Borough Council for 2014/15 of £140.22 per band D property, which represents no increase when compared to the current year.

17. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

There were no changes to appointments to committees made at this meeting.

18. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- (1) In considering the appointment to the Fareham North-West Community Association Management Committee, it was proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor T Cartwright that Councillor D M Whittingham be appointed as the representative.

RESOLVED that Councillor D M Whittingham be appointed as the representative to the Fareham North-West Community Association Management Committee for the remainder of the 2013/14 municipal year.

- (2) In considering the appointment to the Fareham College CEMAST Curriculum Development Group, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs K K Trott and seconded by Councillor R H Price, JP that Councillor P W Whittle, JP be appointed as the representative. On the proposal being put to the meeting it was declared LOST, 6 members voting in favour, 20 members voting against and 2 members abstaining from voting.

It was proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor L Keeble that Councillor T Cartwright be appointed as the representative.

RESOLVED that Councillor T Cartwright be appointed as the representative to the Fareham College CEMAST Curriculum Development Group.

19. CHANGE TO PANEL NAME

Upon being put to the meeting, the motion to agree to the change of name of the panel to become the Planning and Development Policy Development and Review Panel was declared CARRIED, 26 members voting in favour, 1 member voting against and one member abstaining from voting.

RESOLVED that the panel be re-named the Planning and Development Policy Development and Review Panel.

20. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that the public and representatives of the press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as the Council considers that it is not in the public interest to consider the matters in public on the grounds that they will involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

21. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Council received a report by the Chief Executive Officer inviting members to consider details of a new management structure for the Council, as part of the process to identify £800,000 in efficiency savings.

The Council considered additional information tabled at the meeting: a letter of consultation response from Fareham UNISON branch.

Upon being proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor T Cartwright, the proposals were declared CARRIED, with 25 members voting in favour, and 3 members abstaining from voting.

RESOLVED that the Council approves:

- (a) the deletion of the current post of Director of Regulatory and Democratic Services with immediate effect, subject to the appropriate notice period being met;
- (b) that the designation of the Director of Streetscene be amended to Director of Environmental Services and the designation of the Director of Planning and Environment be amended to Director of Planning and Development;
- (c) the appointment of Mr Paul Doran, Director of Environmental Services (subject to the approval of recommendation (b) or if not, Director of Streetscene), to the role of the Council's Monitoring Officer;
- (d) that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to amend the scheme of delegation to transfer functions currently under the responsibility of the Director of Regulatory and Democratic Services to other Directors; and
- (e) that this report and the minute of the decision be no longer treated as exempt information and be open for public inspection, with the exception of the Confidential Appendices A and B which will remain exempt from publication.

(The meeting started at 5.00 pm
and ended at 8.12 pm).