

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2016 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Desna Allen, Cllr Glenis Ansell, Cllr Pat Aves, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Nick Blakemore, Cllr Richard Britton (Chairman), Cllr Rosemary Brown, Cllr Allison Bucknell (Vice-Chair), Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Terry Chivers, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Anna Cuthbert, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Tony Deane, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Dennis Drewett, Cllr Peter Edge, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Nick Fogg MBE, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Jose Green, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Mollie Groom, Cllr Russell Hawker, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Charles Howard, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Julian Johnson, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Simon Killane, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr John Knight, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Magnus Macdonald, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Howard Marshall, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Jemima Milton, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr John Noeken, Cllr Paul Oatway, Cllr Stephen Oldrieve, Cllr Jeff Osborn, Cllr Linda Packard, Cllr Mark Packard, Cllr Sheila Parker, Cllr Graham Payne, Cllr Nina Phillips, Cllr David Pollitt, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Leo Randall, Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr John Smale, Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cllr Melody Thompson, Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Ian Tomes, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Ian West, Cllr Philip Whalley, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Roy While, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Jerry Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Graham Wright

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Christine Crisp, Christopher Devine, James Sheppard, Keith Humphries, Helen Osborn, Mark Connolly and Bill Douglas.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Meetings held on 29 September 2015, and 24 November 2015 were presented.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 September 2015 and the extraordinary Council meeting held on 24 November 2015 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman

3 **Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman reminded members of the letter previously circulated from the Monitoring Officer dated 2 February 2016 which made particular reference to interests in the context of considering the budget and where members had tenancies with the Council.

Councillor Brian Dalton declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the Budget in so far as it related to the housing revenue account as he held a garage tenancy with the Council. Councillor Dalton indicated he would withdraw from the meeting when a separate vote would be taken on the housing revenue account details.

4 **Announcements by the Chairman**

The Chairman drew the meetings attention to the arrangements for the day's meeting, specifically referencing fire safety and that the meeting was being recorded for live webcast.

The Chairman stated that details of his, and the Vice-Chairman's activities since the last meeting would be available via his blog <http://wiltshirecouncilchair.blogspot.co.uk/>

These, in summary, included:

- Attendance at Staff Carol Services
- The Visit of HRH The Duchess of Cambridge to the Centre for Addiction Treatment Studies, Warminster
- Visit To the Christmas mail sorting office, Salisbury
- British Legion Wiltshire Branch AGM
- Presentation on the future of policing
- Visit to Tedworth House
- The Open Mosque Day
- The Royal Visit by HRH The Duchess Of Cornwall to Forest and Sandridge Church Of England School, Melksham

The Chairman did make the following detailed announcements at the meeting:

New Wiltshire Councillor

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Atiqul Hoque to his first meeting of Council following his election as Councillor for the Salisbury St Edmund and Milford Division following a by-election held on 26 November 2015.

Purple Flag Status

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Community Safety Team and partners, on the occasion of Chippenham successfully achieving Purple Flag status. He also stated that Salisbury had also been re-accredited for Purple Flag status for the fourth year running

He noted that the award demonstrated the commitment that both Salisbury and Chippenham had made to the 5pm – 5am economy, and to safer communities. It was clear, from this, that partnership working was thriving in both places

New Year Honours

The Chairman announced that a number of Wiltshire residents had received national recognition in Her Majesty's New Year Honours' List in January as follows:

CBEs awarded to:

- Dr. Timothy Brooks from Salisbury, for services to public health.
- OBEs have been awarded to:
- Dr. Nicholas Capstick from Potterne, for services to education.
- Dr. Emrys Kirkman from Shrewton for services in support of military medical treatment.
- Mrs. Pauline Monaghan from Corsham, for services to children and families.

MBEs awarded to:

- Commodore William Fairbairn from Barford St. Martin, for services to young people.
- Mr. John Laverick from Keevil, for voluntary service to waterways management and restoration.
- Mr. Benjamin Parker from Salisbury, for voluntary service to the community in Salisbury.
- Mrs. June Pearson from Marlborough, for services to the community in Devon and Wiltshire.

BEMS awarded to:

- Mr. John Bosley from Warminster, for charitable and community service in Warminster, Wiltshire particularly through the royal British Legion.
- Mr. Alan Crocker from Calne, for services to football in Wiltshire.
- Mr. Derek Elliott from Devizes, for services to the community in Devizes.
- Mrs. Shelia Glass from Ramsbury, for services to the community in Ramsbury and Axford.
- Miss Elizabeth Sexton from Chippenham, for services to the community in Chippenham.
- Mr. Neil Skelton from Wilton, for services to the preservation and conservation of Imber church.

- Mrs. Hazel Woodbridge from Purton, for services to carriage driving in Wiltshire.

The meeting joined the Chairman in congratulating them all for gaining such a prestigious honour.

French Honour for Salisbury Veteran

The Chairman announced that Alan Richardson, a World War Two veteran from Salisbury, had been presented with France's highest honour for bravery.

It was noted that Mr Richardson was the first lieutenant on a D-Day landing craft which, under heavy fire, carried ammunition to Sword beach in 1944; and that the Legion D'honneur was given to him by the French Consulate at the Gracewell of Salisbury care home where Mr Richardson lives.

Emergency Planning Exhibition

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Emergency Planning Team was holding an informative exhibition in the Atrium on the range of work that they delivered to Wiltshire communities. Officers were available all day to discuss the equipment they used and how community resilience could be improved in Councillors' local divisions.

Salisbury City Football Club

The Chairman made reference to the recent successes of Salisbury City Club, following a period where the club were in some difficulty. It was noted that the club were now top of their league and were competing in the semi-final of the FA Vase. He accredited partnership working between the Council's Area Board and local businesses for supporting the club to make a remarkable comeback.

Death of Former Councillor

The Chairman informed the meeting that Mrs. Pat Rugg, former Wiltshire County Councillor and Kennet District Councillor (and Mayor of Devizes) had died peacefully at home on 19 February 2016. A notification would be sent out to councillors on funeral arrangements when they were received.

The Chairman noted that Mrs. Rugg had served on Wiltshire County Council as councillor for the Devizes South and Bromham Divisions for 34 years from 1975-2009, during which she served as Chairman of the Education Committee and Chairman of the Council 1993-94.

The Leader of the Council, Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE added that it was a very sad day, reflecting on the friendship shown to her by Mrs Rugg when she had first joined the council, and a formidable example as one of only a few female councillors at the time. She said Mrs Rugg had cared hugely for children and young people in Wiltshire; that she had shared her experience with many councillors, and would be sadly missed.

Councillor Ricky Rogers noted that Mrs Rugg was passionate about education and the arts and was someone who would put politics aside to get the best for the people of Wiltshire.

Councillor Gordon King echoed the comments already expressed, noting that Mrs Rugg had always been very approachable, knowledgeable and honourable.

Councillor Jeff Osborn stated that Mrs Rugg had been a font of knowledge and supportive of other councillors.

5 Presentation of Petition

The Chairman reported receipt of a petition for presentation to the meeting, details of which were presented. He reminded the meeting that, as the petition had not passed the threshold number of signatories for a council debate to be scheduled, there would be no debate on the petition.

Using his discretion, the Chairman invited all four speakers who had registered to speak on this item to address the meeting;

Mrs Iona Hassan, in presenting her petition, emphasised her view of the importance of Councillors understanding in depth the issue of fracking, so that they would be able to take into account the environmental impacts when considering related planning applications.. She recognised that Council may not be able to support this, and asked if the moratorium was not supported, that Council support Councillor Jeff Osborn's motion to be considered later in the meeting (minute no. 16 refers).

Mrs Bridget Penny asked the Council to consider how it would report unbiased information, and how it would address concerns over right to access land specifically whether land owners could refuse access to land by developers.

Mr John Medicott asked why, if it was true that the British Geological Survey had concluded that there were no methane and coal seams in Wiltshire, licenses had been granted, and wondered if there were any other possible reasons for drilling.

Mr Richard Craft stated that the Wiltshire Mineral Plan, agreed in 2001, had been developed before unconventional gas and oil drilling had been developed. He argued that, now these new techniques had arrived, it was time for the Council to review the Mineral Plan to ensure they were prepared before applications were submitted. He drew attention to the fact that Somerset Council had recently adopted a revised Minerals Plan which took into account unconventional gas and oil exploration methods.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Hassan for presenting her petition and other speakers for their contribution. The Chairman referred to the motion on fracking from Councillors Jeff and Helen Osborn for possible debate later in the meeting. He explained that unfortunately he would not be bringing that item forward on

the agenda, as consideration of the budget and council tax issues must take precedent.

6 **Petitions Update**

A report by the Democratic Governance Manager was presented which gave Council details of the five petitions received for the period since the last Council meeting.

Resolved

That Council notes the petitions received and the action being taken, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

7 **Public Participation**

The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the questions, received from Mrs Anne Henshaw, Ms Krystyne Freeman and Mrs Philippa Clarke, and answers circulated in the agenda supplement. The Chairman gave them each an opportunity to ask a supplementary question.

Mrs Anne Henshaw thanked Mr Gibbons, the Monitoring Officer, for his response and asked; with reference to the case judgement quoted in the letter whether the decisions in question made could be considered to have been made in a fair and evidenced manner. She went on to argue that the public's perception of the decisions made was that they were opaque.

The Leader stated that she did not have anything further to add to her written reply.

Mrs Krystyne Freeman asked whether the issue of seismic testing, including the structural testing of buildings near affected sites, would be included in the review of the Minerals Plan.

Mrs Philippa Clarke thanked Councillor Toby Sturgis for the response and asked, making reference to the reply, whether it was possible to clarify what the minimum, in relation to the level of site-based monitoring and reporting, would be.

Councillor Toby Sturgis stated that he understood that this minimum level was set nationally, and would respond in writing to clarify this matter.

The questions and responses are attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

8 **Wiltshire Council's Financial Plan Update 2016/17**

Council was asked to consider a net revenue budget of £313.585 million, to increase council tax, approve rents, fees and charges, the capital programme and reserves as detailed fully in the updated published budget papers.

The Chairman explained at the outset, how he intended to chair this item and referred to the previously circulated budget process. He reminded Councillors of the various papers that had been circulated in connection with Council's consideration of this item as follows:

- A) The Leader's budget speech - this was emailed to Councillors once it was given and is attached as Appendix B to these minutes.
- B) The proposed amendments of the Liberal Democrat group, including comments from statutory officers.
- C) The reports of the meetings of the Overview And Scrutiny Management Committee held on 3 and 12 February 2016.
- D) The recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 9 February 2016.
- E) The Financial Plan Update 2016/17 report of the Section 151 Officer, together with the Budget Book, proposed fees and charges and the relevant extract of the Schools Forum minutes, minutes of the meeting held between group leaders and trade unions, the Wiltshire Housing Board and a summary of the public meetings held across the County.
- F) The proposed council tax resolution which would be taken separately.

The Leader of the Council addressed Council delivering her budget speech (Appendix B). In making her address, the Leader highlighted the three priorities that had informed the development of the budget: protecting the vulnerable, promoting the local economy and supporting volunteering and community resilience. Reference was made to the pressures on the budget from changing demographics and reduced funding, and the opportunities that also arose from challenges that the Council faced. The Leader concluded by thanking officers and her Cabinet for working hard to produce the budget.

Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Finance, presented the Council's proposed Financial Plan update for 2016/17. In presenting the budget, he referred to the savings that had been identified, and the areas that would receive financial investment. Councillor Tonge also outlined how additional funding would be allocated.

Councillor Tonge thanked Michael Hudson, Associate Director for Finance, his team and other officers for their hard work in putting together a difficult budget, and that they had displayed great patience in responding to the changes in government funding this year.

Councillor Dick Tonge moved the budget as presented and this was duly seconded by the Leader.

Councillor Simon Killane, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, presented the reports of his Committee dated 3 February which had considered and scrutinised the budget proposals, and from the meeting on the

12 February where the proposals made by the Liberal Democrat Group had been presented. He made reference to the useful briefing given to all members by the Cabinet Member and officers, and emphasised the importance of ensuring all backbench councillors were fully informed. He concluded by offering thanks to the Cabinet members for positively engaging in the process and to the officers for supporting councillors the process.

Councillor Glenis Ansell, in her capacity as Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group, reported on the work of her Task Group and how it had reviewed and monitored the budget, including tracking overspends and the actions being taken to address these. This year, the Task Group had also reviewed the process by which the budget was scrutinised. Over the next year, the Task Group would be seeking further clarity on certain areas following changes to the budget.

The Chairman then invited Group Leaders to comment on the budget as proposed.

Councillor Glenis Ansell, in her capacity as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, stated that she recognised that this was a challenging set of circumstances in which to set a budget. However, she considered that the administration should bear some responsibility for the decisions that had cut some services, disposed of assets, and made staff redundant. She argued that, in part, the fault lied with the administration's decision to freeze council tax in previous years, thereby reducing the available budget for council to spend. She too concluded by thanking the officers for their hard work in preparing the budget and supporting her group in developing its own proposals.

Councillor Ernie Clark, Leader of the Independent Group, endorsed much of what Councillor Ansell had said, and, in particular, that it was a shame that the Council tax had not been increased in previous years.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, was pleased to see an emphasis on devolving more decision making to local communicates, but that it should not be forgotten that some of these decisions would be tough. He emphasised the impact of the changes to terms and conditions of staff and argued that paying staff less would have a negative impact on the economy. He also expressed concern that there would be further cuts to the arts.

The Chairman then gave Group Leaders the opportunity to propose amendments to the budget, noting that all Group Leaders had already been given the opportunity to submit amendments in time to be scrutinised.

Councillor Glenis Ansell formally proposed her Group's amendments, as detailed in the council summons, subsequently seconded by Councillor Gordon King, which had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 12 February 2016.

Councillor Tonge thanked Councillor Ansell for the amendments, and the following amendments were accepted into the substantive motion:

- i.) *To increase the proposed budget for Children's Safeguarding by £125,000 to a figure of £31.389m funded though:*
- *The Rural Grant set aside by the Administration prior to the additional and final funding settlement announcement.*
 - *This could produce a significant annual saving and reduce the demands on children's care*
- ii.) *To increase the proposed budget for Capital Financing by £100,000 to a figure of £21.999m, and the Capital Programme by £469,000 to fund Sensory stimulation and developmental play equipment for adults with learning difficulties, funded though:*
- *Reduction in the Council's overall budget for catering, saving up to £50,000*
 - *Reduce the Council's Fleet budget by £25,000 by removing underutilised vehicles £25,000 of the Rural Grant set aside by the Administration prior to the additional and final funding settlement announcement.*

On being asked, Councillor Ansell confirmed that her proposal did not now include reference to the 'Good Neighbour Scheme.'

Councillor Simon Killane stated that he was pleased to see amendments being dealt with as 'friendly' amendments, and drew the meeting's attention to the report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 12 February which had specifically considered the amendments.

The Chairman invited members to make any other amendments to the budget, but explained that the meeting may have to adjourn to consider the advice of statutory officers on any proposals moved without notice.

Councillor Jon Hubbard, subsequently seconded by Councillor Jeff Osborn, proposed the following amendment:

*Wiltshire Hopper Service - £50,000 to fund the service to 31 October 2016
Funded by:*

- 1. Reducing the mileage allowance paid to elected members for travel from 45p per mile to 25p per mile. This would raise £30,000.*
- 2. Using £20,000 of the additional £3.017m transitional funding announced last week by Central Government.*

In moving his amendment, Councillor Hubbard apologised for the late circulation of his amendment, circulated by him to members on Sunday, but that

the proposal had been made in response to events subsequent to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 12 February.

The Leader asked Councillor Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to respond. He stated that he could not support the amendment, as the service was too costly in comparison to other bus services, that alternative sources of funding from Town and Parish Councils had not to date been found and he remained unconvinced that it would be found.

The Chairman then invited the Group Leaders to address the motion.

Councillor Ernie Clark spoke in commendation of the service and stated that he considered that the towns and parishes should be given greater time to develop a funding solution.

Councillor Ricky Rogers spoke in support of the amendment but expressed concern that the funding would be drawn from the travel expenses of councillors and would impact on the cost of running a vehicle for Councillors to be able to perform their public duty.

Councillor Glenis Ansell stated that it was difficult in this environment when the voluntary sector was under pressure.

The Chairman then opened the amendment to general debate during which a number of points emerged: That the service should be extended to provide an opportunity to source alternative funding; some offered to make a contribution from their members' allowances; highlighted public support for the service and widespread concern over its withdrawal; that the service would reduce unnecessary hospital admission and, thus, save the Council money; that towns and parishes had been approached to provide funding for the service; that the local NHS organisations should be held accountable for the reduction in funding, which the Council had since covered alone but could no longer afford to do so; that the amendment would only extend the service for a short time, and did not address the fundamental problem that general hospital provision was located outside of the county; whether Area Boards could be harnessed to help find a solution to the problem; that the Council had provided five years of funding to enable the service to become self-sustaining, but that this had not worked out; and the alternative voluntary community provision which existed in some areas.

Councillor Jon Hubbard, in summing up his motion, made reference to the deficiencies in alternative service, and highlighted the impact of the removal of the service on the elderly and the vulnerable. He argued that the amendment would give partners more time to find a solution.

Having been put the vote, the amendment was LOST and was recorded as follows:

For the amendment (28):

Councillor Bob Jones MBE, Councillor Brian Dalton, Councillor Chris Hurst, Councillor David Jenkins, Councillor David Pollitt, Councillor Dennis Drewett, Councillor Ernie Clark, Councillor Glenis Ansell, Councillor Gordon King, Councillor Graham Wright, Councillor Ian McLennan, Councillor Ian Thorn, Councillor Ian Tomes, Councillor Ian West, Councillor Jeff Osborn, Councillor Jon Hubbard, Councillor Magnus Macdonald, Councillor Nick Blakemore, Councillor Nick Fogg MBE, Councillor Pat Aves, Councillor Peter Edge, Councillor Ricky Rogers, Councillor Rosemary Brown, Councillor Russell Hawker, Councillor Simon Killane, Councillor Stephen Oldrieve, Councillor Terry Chivers and Councillor Trevor Carbin.

Against the amendment (59):

Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Councillor Alan Hill, Councillor Alan MacRae, Councillor Allison Bucknell, Councillor Andrew Davis, Councillor Anna Cuthbert, Councillor Atiqul Hoque, Councillor Bill Moss, Councillor Bridget Wayman, Councillor Christopher Newbury, Councillor Charles Howard, Councillor Christopher Williams, Councillor Chuck Berry, Councillor Desna Allen, Councillor Fleur de Rhe-Philipe, Councillor Fred Westmoreland, Councillor Horace Prickett, Councillor Howard Greenman, Councillor Howard Marshall, Councillor Jacqui Lay, Councillor Jemima Milton, Councillor Jerry Kunkler, Councillor Jerry Wickham, Councillor John Knight, Councillor John Noeken, Councillor John Smale, Councillor John Thomson, Councillor Jonathon Seed, Councillor Jose Green, Councillor Julian Johnson, Councillor Laura Mayes, Councillor Leo Randall, Councillor Linda Packard, Councillor Mark Packard, Councillor Mary Champion, Councillor Mary Douglas, Councillor Melody Thompson, Councillor Mike Hewitt, Councillor Mollie Groom, Councillor Nina Phillips, Councillor Paul Oatway QPM, Councillor Peter Evans, Councillor Peter Hutton, Councillor Philip Whalley, Councillor Philip Whitehead, Councillor Pip Ridout, Councillor Richard Britton, Councillor Richard Clewer, Councillor Richard Gamble, Councillor Richard Tonge, Councillor Roy While, Councillor Sheila Parker, Councillor Simon Jacobs, Councillor Stewart Dobson, Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Councillor Sue Evans, Councillor Toby Sturgis, Councillor Tony Deane and Councillor Tony Trotman.

Abstentions (4):

Councillor Chris Caswill, Councillor George Jeans, Councillor Graham Payne and Councillor John Walsh.

The meeting then returned to considering the substantive motion as previously amended.

Councillor Ian Tomes made reference to the impact of cuts to the arts budget and their impact on the cultural heritage of Salisbury.

Councillor Ian Thorn referenced the challenges to be faced, and stated that he was pleased to see the Liberal Democrat Group Leader's amendments accepted. He expressed some concern that the ambition for communities in the decentralisation process may generate increased expectations that may not be able to be sufficiently resourced

Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet Member for the Arts, in response to issues raised, stated that whilst there had been reductions across the board, that Salisbury still received the largest proportion of arts funding. He went on to state that he was hoping to work with the various arts organisations in Salisbury to investigate the possibility of combining some of their support functions – marketing, ticketing and other administrative functions – with a view to improving efficiency and efficacy. He had met with the Chief Executive of the Arts Council to secure funding for this work. He argued that he wanted to protect arts funding as much as he could, appreciating the important role they played.

Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader, response to a question from Councillor Brian Dalton, explained that Wiltshire Council was working with officers and advisors to look at running Salisbury City Hall on more of a commercial basis to reduce running costs and maximise income. He stated that this would be the subject of a future paper to the Cabinet.

Councillor Richard Clewer spoke in support of the budget and the priorities identified therein.

Councillor Philip Whitehead stated that he was pleased that the council tax had not increased in previous budgets as it had meant that households in Wiltshire had retained more of their own money.

Councillor Julian Johnson stated that it was clear from public consultation that the public supported lower council tax increases.

Councillor Graham Payne made reference to the future challenges and asked that a cross-party working group be convened over the summer to consider how these may best be faced.

Councillor Terry Chivers expressed concern that the increase in Housing Recycling Centre charges could potentially increase incidents of fly-tipping.

Councillor Chris Caswill reminded Conservative councillors that cuts to the Council's budget was a consequence of their giving support to the Conservative government's policy of austerity.

Councillor Ian McLennan stated that the failure, in previous years, to increase council tax appropriately had led to a reduction in services. He also argued that whilst the arts were consistently a low priority for the public, it was the

responsibility of councillors to see the wider context and make decisions accordingly. He stated that it made economic sense to invest in the arts as it promoted the wider local economy.

Councillor Stephen Oldrieve expressed concern that the budget was regressive and would not allow for the Council to improve the lives of the wider community. He also queried whether sufficient resource had been allocated to support the development of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Councillor Mary Douglas referred to the importance in investing in preventative work in health and social care, which could result in saved resources, and referred to the need to focus on helping people to help themselves, promoting resilient communities.

Councillor Jonathon Seed made reference to changes to national housing policies.

Councillor Gordon King made reference to the areas which had, in his opinion, suffered the most from budget cuts including the Youth Service, the Arts, Transport Services, and Children's Centres.

Councillor Jon Hubbard argued that a reduction in council funding was a disinvestment in the community.

Councillor Christopher Newbury made reference to the national financial outlook and argued against the wisdom of borrowing more money.

Councillor Jerry Wickham stated that he considered that the Council had the expertise and experience to meet the challenges.

Councillor Alan Hill commended Councillor Glenis Ansell for making sensibly costed proposals which had been accepted. He noted that other political groups had not taken this opportunity.

Councillor Laura Mayes made reference to the additional work to support families, and argued that recent changes to youth services and the music service had led to improvements.

Councillor Jerry Kunkler argued that all Councillors should work together to develop solutions to the financial challenges ahead.

Councillor Glenis Ansell stated that she also wanted to pool ideas, and argued that cuts to one service had impacts on the deliverability of projects and the efficacy of other services.

The Leader, in response to some of the issues raised during debate, argued that it was right not to increase council tax for households in previous years, as the economy was in recession. She commended the performance of the Council and commended the budget.

Having been put to a recorded vote, the meeting;

Resolved

- a) **To endorse the update of the Financial Plan for 2016/17.**
- b) **To approve the investment and savings proposals summarised at paragraph 6.9, transition scheme, paragraph 6.11, rural fund, and at Sections 7 and 9 respectively of this report and at Appendix 1C, to provide a net revenue budget for 2016/17 of £313.585 million.**
- c) **To agree to:**
 - i. **Increase Wiltshire Council's element of the Band D Council tax for 2016/17 by 1.99% to £1,246.76, as calculated in accordance with statute, as set out in Section 10 of this report.**
 - ii. **Introduce a Social Care Levy of 2% to contribute to funding Adult Care pressures, raising £4.322 million.**
 - iii. **Set the Council's total net expenditure budget for 2016/17 at £313.585 million.**
 - iv. **Set a 1% reduction for social dwelling rents.**
 - v. **Approve the Capital programme proposed at Appendix 1E of this report.**
 - vi. **Set the changes in fees and charges set out in detail at Section 8 of and at Appendix 1G of this report.**
 - vii. **Set the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2016/17 as set out at Appendix 1F of this report.**
 - viii. **That all other service charges related to the HRA be increased by CPI plus 1%, including garage rents.**
- d) **To increase the proposed budget for Children's Safeguarding by £125,000 to a figure of £31.389m funded through:**
 - **The Rural Grant set aside by the Administration prior to the additional and final funding settlement announcement.**
- e) **To increase the proposed budget for Capital Financing by £100,000 to a figure of £21.999m, and the Capital Programme by £469,000 to fund Sensory stimulation and developmental play equipment for adults with learning difficulties, funded through:**
 - **Reduction in the Council's overall budget for catering, saving up to £50,000**
 - **Reduce the Council's Fleet budget by £25,000 by removing underutilised vehicles**
 - **£25,000 of the Rural Grant set aside by the Administration prior to the additional and final funding settlement announcement.**

Having previously declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the Budget in so far as it related to the housing revenue account, Councillor Brian Dalton

withdrew from the meeting when a separate vote was taken on the housing revenue account (resolutions c vii and c viii above).

Recorded votes for the two votes were as follows:

Resolutions a) – e) (excluding c vii and c viii)

For the motion (61):

Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Councillor Alan Hill, Councillor Alan MacRae, Councillor Allison Bucknell, Councillor Andrew Davis, Councillor Anna Cuthbert, Councillor Atiquil Hoque, Councillor Bill Moss, Councillor Bridget Wayman, Councillor Charles Howard, Councillor Christopher Newbury, Councillor Christopher Williams, Councillor Chuck Berry, Councillor Dennis Drewett, Councillor Fleur de Rhe-Philipe, Councillor Fred Westmoreland, Councillor George Jeans, Councillor Graham Payne, Councillor Graham Wright, Councillor Horace Prickett, Councillor Howard Greenman, Councillor Howard Marshall, Councillor Jacqui Lay, Councillor Jemima Milton, Councillor Jerry Kunkler, Councillor Jerry Wickham, Councillor John Knight, Councillor John Noeken, Councillor John Smale, Councillor John Thomson, Councillor Jonathon Seed, Councillor Jose Green, Councillor Julian Johnson, Councillor Laura Mayes, Councillor Leo Randall, Councillor Mary Champion, Councillor Mary Douglas, Councillor Melody Thompson, Councillor Mike Hewitt, Councillor Mollie Groom, Councillor Nina Phillips, Councillor Paul Oatway QPM Councillor Peter Evans, Councillor Peter Hutton, Councillor Philip Whalley, Councillor Philip Whitehead, Councillor Pip Ridout, Councillor Richard Britton, Councillor Richard Clewer, Councillor Richard Gamble, Councillor Richard Tonge , Councillor Roy While, Councillor Russell Hawker, Councillor Sheila Parker, Councillor Simon Jacobs, Councillor Stewart Dobson, Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Councillor Sue Evans, Councillor Toby Sturgis, Councillor Tony Deane and Councillor Tony Trotman

Against the motion (24):

Councillor Bob Jones MBE, Councillor Brian Dalton, Councillor Chris Caswill, Councillor Chris Hurst, Councillor David Jenkins, Councillor David Pollitt, Councillor Desna Allen, Councillor Ernie Clark, Councillor Gordon King, Councillor Ian Mclennan, Councillor Ian Thorn, Councillor Ian Tomes, Councillor Ian West, Councillor Jeff Osborn, Councillor John Walsh, Councillor Jon Hubbard, Councillor Linda Packard, Councillor Magnus Macdonald, Councillor Mark Packard, Councillor Nick Blakemore, Councillor Pat Aves, Councillor Peter Edge, Councillor Ricky Rogers and Councillor Terry Chivers.

Abstentions (5):

Councillor Glenis Ansell, Councillor Nick Fogg MBE, Councillor Simon Killane, Councillor Stephen Oldrieve and Councillor Trevor Carbin

Resolutions c) vii and c) viii

For the motion (72):

Councillor Alan Hill, Councillor Alan MacRae, Councillor Allison Bucknell, Councillor Andrew Davis, Councillor Anna Cuthbert, Councillor Atiqul Hoque, Councillor Bill Moss, Councillor Bob Jones MBE, Councillor Bridget Wayman, Councillor Charles Howard, Councillor Christopher Newbury, Councillor Christopher Williams, Councillor Chuck Berry, Councillor Dennis Drewett, Councillor Desna Allen, Councillor Fleur de Rhe-Philipe, Councillor Fred Westmoreland, Councillor George Jeans, Councillor Glenis Ansell, Councillor Gordon King, Councillor Graham Payne, Councillor Graham Wright, Councillor Horace Prickett, Councillor Howard Greenman, Councillor Howard Marshall, Councillor Ian McLennan, Councillor Ian Tomes, Councillor Jacqui Lay, Councillor Jemima Milton, Councillor Jerry Kunkler, Councillor Jerry Wickham, Councillor John Knight, Councillor John Noeken, Councillor John Smale, Councillor John Thomson, Councillor John Walsh, Councillor Jon Hubbard, Councillor Jonathon Seed, Councillor Jose Green, Councillor Julian Johnson, Councillor Laura Mayes, Councillor Leo Randall, Councillor Mark Packard, Councillor Mary Champion, Councillor Mary Douglas, Councillor Melody Thompson, Councillor Mike Hewitt, Councillor Mollie Groom, Councillor Paul Oatway QPM, Councillor Peter Edge, Councillor Peter Evans, Councillor Peter Hutton, Councillor Philip Whitehead, Councillor Pip Ridout, Councillor Richard Britton, Councillor Richard Clewer, Councillor Richard Gamble, Councillor Richard Tonge, Councillor Ricky Rogers, Councillor Roy While, Councillor Russell Hawker, Councillor Sheila Parker, Councillor Simon Jacobs, Councillor Stephen Oldrieve, Councillor Stewart Dobson, Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Councillor Sue Evans, Councillor Toby Sturgis, Councillor Tony Deane, Councillor Trevor Carbin and Councillor Tony Trotman.

Against the motion (12):

Councillor Chris Hurst, Councillor David Jenkins, Councillor David Pollitt, Councillor Ernie Clark, Councillor Ian Thorn, Councillor Ian West, Councillor Jeff Osborn, Councillor Linda Packard, Councillor Magnus Macdonald, Councillor Nick Blakemore, Councillor Pat Aves and Councillor Terry Chivers.

Abstentions (4)

Councillor Chris Caswill, Councillor Nick Fogg MBE, Councillor Nina Phillips and Councillor Simon Killane.

Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a lunch break at this point.

9 Council Tax Setting 2016/2017

The Chairman reconvened the meeting, and asked Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Finance, to present the report which detailed the various calculations in the prescribed format to enable Council to approve the council tax requirement for 2016/17. It was noted that this was based on the council tax base approved by Cabinet at its meeting held on 15 December 2015. The report presented also included details from the precept authorities. Councillor Tonge moved the council tax resolution and this was seconded by the Leader.

There being no further debate, the meeting;

Resolved

1. **To note that on 15 December 2015 the Council calculated:**
 - (a) **the Council Tax Base 2016/2017 for the whole Wiltshire Council area as 176,780.23 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and,**
 - (b) **for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix.**
2. **To calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/2017 (excluding Parish precepts) is £224,723,905.**
3. **That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/2017 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:**
 - (a) **£938,802,024 (Gross Revenue Expenditure including transfers to reserves, parish precepts and any collection fund deficit) 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) **£698,662,337 (Gross Revenue Income including transfers from reserves, General Government Grants and any collection fund surplus) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.**
 - (c) **£240,139,687 (Net Revenue Expenditure including parish precepts) 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 31A(4) of the Act).**

- (d) **£1,358.40** (Wiltshire Council band D tax plus average Town & Parish Councils Band D Council Tax) being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts),
as shown below:

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
905.60	1,056.53	1,207.47	1,358.40	1,660.27	1,962.14	2,264.00	2,716.80

- (e) **£15,415,782** (Aggregate of Town & Parish Council Precepts) being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C).

- (f) **£1,271.20** (band D Council Tax for Wiltshire Council purposes only) being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2 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, as shown below:

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
847.47	988.71	1,129.96	1,271.20	1,553.69	1,836.18	2,118.67	2,542.40

A recorded vote having been taken on the above decisions, the voting was recorded as follows:

For the Motion (69):

Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Anna Cuthbert, Cllr Atiquel Hoque, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Christopher Williams, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Dennis Drewett, Cllr Charles Howard, Cllr Desna Allen, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philipe, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Glenis Ansell, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Graham Payne, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Howard Marshall, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Jemima Milton, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jerry

Wickham, Cllr John Noeken, Cllr John Smale, Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Jose Green, Cllr Julian Johnson, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Magnus Macdonald, Cllr Mark Packard, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Melody Thompson, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Mollie Groom, Cllr Nina Phillips, Cllr Pat Aves, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Peter Edge, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Philip Whalley, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Richard Tonge, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Roy While, Cllr Sheila Parker, Cllr Russel Hawker, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr Simon Killane, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cllr Tony Deane and Cllr Tony Trotman.

Against the Motion (2):

Cllr David Pollitt and Cllr Jeff Osborn

Abstentions (3):

Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Ian West and Cllr Linda Packard

10 **Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17**

With the Chairman's permission, Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Finance, presented the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17 as recommended by Cabinet at its meeting on 9 February 2016 for Council's approval. In his presentation, Councillor Tonge highlighted the small number of changes to be made to the existing Strategy.

There being no further debate, the meeting;

Resolved:

- a) **To adopt the Prudential and Treasury Indicators (Appendix A) and approve the proposed changes to the additional maturity indicator and Upper Limits on the Maturity Structure of Borrowing, Trl 5 (paragraphs 28 to 31 of Appendix A);**
- b) **To adopt the Annual Investment Strategy (Appendix B), including the ratification of the removal of the minimum requirement for high credit quality relating to support ratings (previously in paragraph 28), following the changes to Fitch ratings implemented by them in respect of "bail-in", as approved, via delegated authority to the Associate Director, Finance, Revenues & Benefits and Pensions;**
- c) **To delegate to the Associate Director, Finance, Revenues & Benefits and Pensions the authority to vary the amount of**

borrowing and other long term liabilities within both the Treasury Indicators for the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary;

- d) To authorise the Associate Director, Finance, Revenues & Benefits and Pensions to agree the restructuring of existing long-term loans where savings are achievable or to enhance the long term portfolio;**
- e) To agree that short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans and deposits; and**
- f) To agree that any surplus cash balances not required to cover borrowing are placed in authorised money-market funds, particularly where this is more cost effective than short term deposits and delegate to the Associate Director, Finance, Revenues & Benefits and Pensions the authority to select such funds.**

11 Integrated Emergency Management Plan

Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Emergency Planning, was not present due to illness. The Chairman therefore invited Councillor Peter Hutton, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection, to present the report which detailed the draft Integrated Emergency Management Plan which had been recommended to Council for adoption by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 13 October 2015.

In presenting the item, Councillor Hutton highlighted how the issues that the Plan sought to address had been better integrated into the work of a wider number of teams across the Council; how partners worked together in the event of emergencies; how officers had been trained to take on new responsibilities; how the national risk register was taken into account; the work of local resilience partnerships; how the Council had recently responded to emergencies such as flooding, anthrax and modern slavery; how area boards had been engaged with; and that the number of emergency evacuation centres had been doubled.

Details of minor changes in response to recent incidents since consideration and recommendation by Cabinet were presented.

He recorded his thanks to the team of officers who supported the work of the Plan, and wished Councillor Humphries a speedy recovery.

Councillor Glenis Ansell stated that she was pleased to see many parishes producing their own plans to dovetail with this.

Councillor David Jenkins also thanked the officers for their hard work.

There being no further debate, the meeting;

Resolved

(a) To adopt the Integrated Emergency Management Plan as presented.

(b) To authorise the Corporate Director, Maggie Rae following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health (including Public Health) and Adult Social Care to make any necessary minor changes to the Integrated Emergency Management Plan in the interests of clarity and accuracy.

12 Pay Policy Statement

The Chairman invited Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet member for Support Services, to present the report which sought Council's approval of the updated Pay Policy Statement and the continued publication of senior staff salaries with the relevant threshold figure.

Details had been previously considered and recommended by the Staffing Policy Committee at its meeting on 6 January 2015. Councillor Alison Bucknell, Chairman of the Staffing Policy Committee, confirmed that she had no additional points to raise.

There being no further debate, the meeting;

Resolved

To approve the updated Pay Policy Statement set out in Appendix 1 of the report presented

13 Notices of Motion

The meeting considered the following notices of motion:

14 Notice of Motion No.28 - Planning Legal Agreements - Councillors Terry Chivers and Jeff Osborn

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Terry Chivers and Jeff Osborn. Accordingly, Councillor Terry Chivers moved the following motion which was duly seconded by Councillor Jeff Osborn:

'In the event of any legal agreement, being changed after planning permission on major planning applications has been granted; this should only be done in full consultation with the local Town or Parish Councils'

In moving his motion, Councillor Terry Chivers made reference to a specific issue in his division where the local parish council had not been made aware of, in his view, a significant change in a s106 legal agreement. He was seeking to ensure that local councils would be informed of any major changes rather than each time a minor change was made.

The Chairman invited Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Planning, to respond to the motion. Councillor Sturgis stated that he would be happy to accept the motion with some amendments to make it clear that the process would be to inform local councils, rather than to open the matter up for full consultation. Councillor Chivers and Councillor Osborn stated that they accepted this amendment.

The Chairman then proposed, subsequently seconded by Councillor Bucknell, that the motion be debated at the meeting and on being put to the vote, it was

Resolved:

That the motion be debated.

The Chairman invited the Group Leaders to comment before opening the matter up for wider debate.

The Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, thanked Councillor Chivers for bringing this issue to the meeting for debate and asked that officers liaise with Councillor Sturgis on investigating the specific case raised.

Councillor Glenis Ansell highlighted a concern that some developers may make promises for community facilities in the full knowledge that this may not be deliverable.

Councillor Ernie Clark stated that it was important to provide information to local councils once amendments to agreements were proposed rather than after they had been agreed.

Councillor Ricky Rogers stated that he supported the amendment.

Councillor Russell Hawker made reference to a specific case in his division and emphasised the importance of wider communication with the public.

Councillor Jon Hubbard asked how it was intended to differentiate between major and minor changes to agreements and suggested that the matter should be subject to further discussion outside of the meeting.

Councillor Fred Westmoreland asked whether significant changes to legal agreements should not be referred back to the relevant planning committee.

Councillor Toby Sturgis stated that he would prefer the opportunity to discuss with officers how best to adjust the current process to take account of the issues raised during the debate.

Councillor Tony Trotman argued that often such agreements were best left to the officers to negotiate details and questioned how major changes would be defined.

The Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, considered the debate a useful one and that officers present would take on board the views expressed.

Following a request from the Chairman, Councillor Terry Chivers and Councillor Jeff Osborn agreed to withdraw the motion to enable discussions with the Cabinet Member for Planning to agree an appropriate resolution to the issues identified with in the motion and subsequent debate. It was noted that if no agreement could be reached, that the motion could be resubmitted.

Resolved:

To note the withdrawal of motion no. 28 and that issues raised within the motion and the ensuing debate be discussed with Councillors Terry Chivers, Jeff Osborn, Toby Sturgis and relevant officers with a view to reaching a mutually agreeable resolution.

15 Notice of Motion No. 29 - Pavement Parking - Councillors Terry Chivers and Jeff Osborn

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Terry Chivers and Jeff Osborn. Accordingly, Councillor Terry Chivers moved the following motion which was duly seconded by Councillor Jeff Osborn:

'Road Safety Minister Andrew Jones recently stated it was up to local Councils to introduce bye laws, to ban pavement parking. Within the County of Wiltshire pavement parking is becoming a menace, often forcing vulnerable pedestrians, the blind, disabled and parents with children and pushchairs to walk on busy roads.

It is also worth noting the damage parking often caused to local footways. This Council investigates making pavement parking a ticketable offence as soon as possible'.

In moving his motion, Councillor Terry Chivers explained that this was a cause of considerable public concern.

The Chairman invited Councillor Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, to respond to the motion. Councillor Whitehead explained that he too received a considerable amount of correspondence on this issue,, but that he could not support the motion as it would require a significant amount of resource to implement a new bylaw.

He noted that the parking on pavements was already an offence enforceable by the Police. An alternative approach would be to seek a change to the law to allow Councils' own parking enforcement officers to be able to issue fixed penalty notices rather than the Council seeking to establish and enforce its own bylaw. The latter would not allow the imposition of fixed penalty notices and would be prohibitively expensive to progress through the magistrates courts.

The Chairman then proposed, subsequently seconded by Councillor Bucknell that the motion be debated and on being put to the vote, it was;

Resolved:

That the motion be debated.

The Chairman invited the Group Leaders to comment before opening the matter up for wider debate.

The Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, stated that she could not support the motion and agreed with Councillor Whitehead that the way forward would be to lobby the government to seek a change in the law.

Councillor Glenis Ansell highlighted the importance of educating the public to enable them to assist the police in enforcing this issue.

Councillor Ricky Rogers stated that he supported the motion.

Councillor Ernie Clark, speaking as an individual Councillor rather than group leader, stated that he believed there were alternative solutions to addressing this issue other than those proposed in the motion.

Councillor Alan Hill stated that he agreed with Councillor Whitehead and gave examples of how pavement parking had been successfully addressed under the current legal framework.

Councillor Peter Edge stated that he could not support the motion.

Councillor Jon Hubbard stated that he also received a large number of complaints on this matter, but did not agree that further legislation was practical. He thanked officers for the information provided in the written response to the motion which he considered would be useful when discussing appropriate enforcement action with the local constabulary. He also agreed with Councillor Ansell that some additional effort to inform the public was appropriate.

Councillor Magnus MacDonald asked if any consideration could be given to utilising volunteers to aid enforcement as takes place in Speedwatch and Lorrywatch schemes.

Councillor Paul Oatway stated that he considered the matter is best left with the police for enforcement.

Councillor Brian Dalton asked if better technology could be utilised to aid in enforcement.

Councillor Richard Clewer made reference to the myriad reasons for parking complaints, stating that sometimes it was a matter of neighbour dispute. As such, he considered a bylaw was could not address this.

Councillor Bill Moss highlighted the effect on disabled drivers.

Councillor Fred Westmoreland stated that a bylaw would not be an efficient use of financial or temporal resources.

Councillor Jerry Wickham stated that he believed that a bylaw would be an unwanted and unnecessary bureaucratic burden.

Having been put to the vote, the motion was LOST and it was therefore

Resolved:

That motion no. 29 be not adopted.

16 **Notice of motion No. 30 - Fracking - Councillors Jeff Osborn and Helen Osborn**

The Chairman reported receipt of the above mentioned motion from Councillors Jeff Osborn and Helen Osborn. Accordingly, Councillor Jeff Osborn moved the following amended motion as previously circulated in the agenda supplement which was, in the absence of Helen Osborn, duly seconded by Councillor Terry Chivers:

'This Council is concerned that the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) has recently decided to offer licences for four blocks of land in Wiltshire.

Council notes that the OGA states that the licences for these blocks will contain conditions prohibiting activities in order to protect ecological sites.

Nonetheless, in its response to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Council made a cogent case against the "water hungry" nature of this mode of exploration and extraction because of the serious impact it will have on Wiltshire aquifers. This in consequence will constrain future housing development in the county.

For these and related reasons, Council has major reservations regarding fracking in the county. This is compounded by central government's recent extension of permitted development rights to cover exploratory drilling and investigation.

Consequently Council requests that Environment Select Committee establish a task group to better understand the general implications of possible hydrocarbon exploration and extraction in the county. This will enable members on relevant planning committees to be better briefed on such matters.

Furthermore it should be noted that such activities are contrary to the recent international moves in Paris to limit such forms of energy in order to counter climate change.'

In moving his motion, Councillor Jeff Osborn stated that he had amended his motion in response to the officer's response. The amended motion and the officer's response were published in Agenda Supplement 2. Councillor Jeff Osborn also stated that he would consider accepting an amendment from the Cabinet Member as friendly amendments.

The Chairman invited Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet Member for Support Services, to respond to the motion. Councillor Wheeler moved the following amended motion:

*'This Council ~~is concerned~~ **notes** that the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) has recently decided to offer licences for four blocks of land in Wiltshire, ~~Council notes that the OGA states and~~ that the licences for these blocks will contain conditions prohibiting activities in order to protect ecological sites.*

*Nonetheless, in its response to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Council made a ~~eigent~~ case against the "water hungry" nature of this mode of exploration and extraction because of the ~~serious~~ **potential** impact it ~~will~~ **may** have on Wiltshire aquifers. ~~This in consequence will constrain future housing development in the county.~~*

*~~For these and related reasons, Council has major reservations regarding fracking in the county. This is compounded by~~ **also notes** central government's ~~recent~~ **planned** extension of permitted development rights to cover exploratory drilling and investigation.*

*Consequently Council requests that ~~Environment Select Committee~~ **Scrutiny** establish a task group to **help Councillors** better understand the general implications of possible hydrocarbon exploration and extraction in the county. This will enable members on relevant planning committees to be better briefed on such matters.'*

~~Furthermore it should be noted that such activities are contrary to the recent international moves in Paris to limit such forms of energy in order to counter climate change.'~~

In moving his motion, Councillor Wheeler stated that he was proposing the amendments so that the resolution could reflect facts and had removed any statements of opinion, thereby lessening the risk that the authority be accused of prejudgement. Councillor Wheeler confirmed that this should be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for action, and asked that any subsequent Task Group consider evidence from both sides of the debate.

Councillor Jeff Osborn and Councillor Terry Chivers agreed to accept Councillor Wheeler's amendments to their motion.

There being no further debate, the meeting;

Resolved:

That motion No. 30, as amended detailed above, be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

17 Review of Proportionality and Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups

The meeting considered the number of committee places and the membership of those committees (minute no. 18 and 19 refer).

18 Review of Committee Places

The Chairman confirmed that following changes in the number of seats held by individual political groups on the Council following the by-election held on 26 November 2015, and the request from the Conservative Group Leader, a review of the allocation of seats to political groups had been undertaken.

Accordingly, a report reviewing the allocation of seats on committees to political groups was presented for Council's consideration.

It was noted that the political composition of the Council now stood at:

Name of Group	No. of Councillors in Group
Conservative	62
Liberal Democrat	20
Independent	11
Labour	4
Ungrouped Member	1

It was noted that the net effect of the change in political group sizes was that the Conservative Group would gain two seats and the Liberal Democrat Group lose one seat.

There being no further debate, the meeting;

Resolved

- (a) To note this report and the legal requirements.**
- (b) To confirm the aggregate number and the draft scheme of committee places available to members of the Council as set out in Appendix 2 as presented.**
- (c) To make those changes to the appointment of councillors and substitutes to serve on those committees in accordance with the revised scheme of committee places, until the next occasion membership is reviewed under the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.**

19 **Membership of Committees and Other Bodies**

The Chairman invited Group Leaders to present any requests for changes to committee membership in accordance with the allocation of seats to political groups previously approved by Council.

Following requests made by Councillor Glenis Ansell, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, and The Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, Leader of the Conservative Group, it was,

Resolved

1) Police and Crime Panel

- **Remove Councillor Glenis Ansell as a Full Member.**
- **Add Councillor John Smale as a Full Member.**
- **Add Councillor Glenis Ansell as a Substitute Member.**

2) Audit Committee

- **Remove Councillor Steve Oldrieve as a Full Member.**
- **Add Councillor Mike Hewitt as a Full Member.**
- **Add Councillor Atiqul Hoque as a Substitute Member.**

3) Western Area Planning Committee

- **Remove Councillor Horace Prickett as a Full Member.**
- **Add Councillor Graham Payne as a Full Member.**

4) Northern Area Planning Committee

- **Remove Councillor Chris Hurst as a Full Member.**
- **Remove Councillor Bill Douglas as a Substitute Member..**
- **Add Councillor Chris Hurst as a Substitute Member.**

20 **Appointment of Employer Representative to the Local Pension Board**

The Chairman invited Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Finance, to present the report which sought the approval of an appointment to the Local Pension Board. It was noted that the vacancy had arisen following the resignation of the previous incumbent.

There being no further debate, the meeting;

Resolved

To approve the following appointment as Employer Representative for the Local Pension Board:

- **Sarah Holbrook – Wiltshire Police**

21 **Cabinet Scheme of Delegation**

The Chairman invited the Leader, the Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, to present a report which informed Council of changes made by the Leader to the responsibilities of two of her Cabinet Members. In her presentation, the Leader detailed that the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Skills and Strategic Transport, Councillor Fleur de Rhe-Philippe would take on responsibility for strategic property; and that responsibility for the operational use of property would remain with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Waste, Councillor Toby Sturgis. She explained that this change was intended to provide greater focus and clarity in the exercise of the council's functions as landowner. This change had previously been reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 9 February 2016.

There being no further debate, the meeting;

Resolved

To note the change to the Cabinet Scheme of Delegation for Individual members of the Cabinet as detailed in the report and Appendix presented.

22 **Minutes of Cabinet and Committees**

The Chairman moved that Council receive and note the following minutes as listed in the separate Minutes Book.

There being no questions or statements, the meeting;

Resolved:

That the minutes of the circulated Minutes Book be received and noted.

Cabinet	13 October 2015, 10 November 2015, 15 December 2015, 19 January 2016, 9 February 2016
Cabinet Capital Assets Committee	10 November 2015, 19 January 2016
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	8 September 2015, 3 November 2015, 5 January 2016, 12 January 2016
Children's Select Committee	13 October 2015, 8 December 2015, 26 January 2016

Environment Select Committee	1 September 2015, 27 October 2015
Health Select Committee	22 September 2015, 17 November 2015.
Licensing Committee	21 September 2015
Northern Area Planning Committee	7 October 2015, 28 October 2015, 9 December 2015, 27 January 2016
Eastern Area Planning Committee	17 September 2015, 8 October 2015, 10 December 2015, 28 January 2016
Southern Area Planning Committee	24 September 2015, 15 October 2015, 26 November 2015, 17 December 2015, 14 January 2016
Western Area Planning Committee	14 October 2015, 25 November 2015, 16 December 2015, 3 February 2016
Strategic Planning Committee	23 September 2015, 21 October 2015, 9 December 2015
Staffing Policy Committee	9 September 2015, 4 November 2015, 6 January 2016.
Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board	25 September 2015, 26 November 2015, 28 January 2016
Local Pension Board	22 October 2015, 14 January 2016
Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee	1 October 2015, 10 December 2015

Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel	3 September 2015, 2 December 2015, 13 January 2016
Audit Committee	27 October 2015
Joint Strategic Economic Committee	30 September 2015, 1 December 2015
Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority	24 September 2015, 12 October 2015, 9 December 2015

23 **Councillors' Questions**

The Chairman reported receipt of questions from Councillors Jeff Osborn, Terry Chivers, Jon Hubbard and Chris Caswill details of which were circulated in Agenda Supplement No. 1 together with responses from the relevant Cabinet member or Committee Chairman, details of which are attached as Appendix C

Questioners were permitted to each ask one relevant supplementary question per question submitted and where they did so, the relevant Cabinet member responded as detailed below:

1. Councillor Chris Caswill to Councillor Keith Humphries (16/06)

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Sturgis stated that the developers had a duty to submit their data and calculations which the authority would cross reference against their own data and that of other relevant bodies. Councillor Sturgis stated that he would provide a written answer as to the when measurements would be taken at Malmesbury Road, whether NO_x (Nitrous Oxide) or particulates levels would be measured, and for what time period this would be undertaken.

2. Councillor Chris Caswill to Councillor Keith Humphries and Councillor Toby Sturgis (16/07)

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Sturgis stated that he would provide a written answer as to who the consultants where and when the report would be expected to be published.

3. Councillor Chris Caswill to Councillor Toby Sturgis (16/09)

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Sturgis stated that he did not regret not attending the Inspector's hearing on the 9 February, noting that it was an officer led process.

4. Councillor Chris Caswill to Councillor Baroness Scott (16/10)

In response to a supplementary question, The Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, stated that questions with regard to the financial position of the three general hospitals that served Wiltshire should more properly be directed to the Chief Executives or Chairs of those organisations.

5. Councillor Chris Caswill to Councillor Baroness Scott (16/12)

In response to a supplementary question, The Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, confirmed that, to date, £5,000 had been spent on consultants in preparation of the Skatepark project and that if further cost were incurred these would be reported; and that some members of the Northern Area Planning Committee would also have received updates as they were members of the Chippenham Area Board.

6. Councillor Chris Caswill to Councillor Tony Trotman (16/15)

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Tony Trotman stated that he had considered comments received following the change to the timing of the Northern Area Planning Committee and, given that attendance continued to be good, could see no justifiable reason to change the timing.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 3.50 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line 01225 718024, e-mail Yamina.Rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

Wiltshire Council

Council

23 February 2015

Public Questions

From Ms Krystyne Freeman

To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

Question (P16/04)

With regard to the recent granting of PEDL(Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence) licences in Wiltshire

As residents of Wiltshire, we are all aware that unusually our county contains over 300 square miles of MOD training grounds which are active for an average of 340 days per annum.

MOD training activity involves many heavy impacts from mortars, rockets, mines and heavy artillery. Consequently, the chalklands and surrounding areas are already subject to primary and secondary seismic waves and geological disturbances that are traceable both above and below ground. These surface and underground waves generally possess robust spatial coherence and travel vast distances. Chalkland is particularly easy for seismic waves to travel through. Maintenance & repairs to water supply pipes & couplings feeding farms & homes across the Plains are already a constant & expensive activity.

The consequences of existing military activity and new drilling/explosive fracking activity acting together are unknown. The MOD act within strict safety parameters but even they are subject to miscalculations. (Patney, Devizes. 2014).

Given that potential PEDL sites (and their chemical and drilling tools) fall within this area and will therefore be affected by these regular seismic disturbances, **what monitoring guarantees can WC give to its residents regarding seismic security given that there is no precedent in such a scenario globally, let alone nationally?**

Response

The award is for a Petroleum Exploration and Development License (PEDLs) that covers any hydrocarbon. The licenses for these blocks will contain conditions that prohibits all or specific activities in parts of the block to protect ecological sites. The award of a PEDL does not of itself give permission for operations to begin. The necessary planning and regulatory consents will be required before development can take place. All proposals will be scrutinised by the Environment Agency, and by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The licenses do not grant planning permission which is the role of Wiltshire Council, as Mineral Planning Authority, or Government should an application be called in. Wiltshire Council has not received a planning application to date.

Wiltshire Council cannot comment on the potential impact of hypothesised seismic effects on a site, since no planning application has yet been received.

In the event that a planning application is received, Wiltshire Council will ensure all statutory authorities are consulted including the MoD if appropriate and if there is a requirement that the developer undertakes any form of monitoring, any planning permission granted would contain a condition to cover this.

Further information and guidance on PEDL licensing can be found here- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/about-shale-gas-and-hydraulic-fracturing-fracking/developing-shale-oil-and-gas-in-the-uk>.

Wiltshire Council

Council

23 February 2015

Public Questions

From Mrs Philippa Clarke

To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

Question (P16/05)

I would like to ask the following question please, in respect of the licences granted for exploration of coal bed methane in this area:

The evidence, coming from existing explorations in America and Australia, indicates serious dangers to health. Known carcinogens are used in the process, which can enter the drinking water causing sensory, respiratory and neurological damage. Under the Council's Duty of Care, how can the Council protect the health of the population of Wiltshire if the proposed exploration and subsequent mining for coal bed methane is allowed to proceed?

Response

In regard to the award for a Petroleum Exploration and Development License (PEDLs), licenses for these blocks will contain conditions that prohibits all or specific activities in parts of the block to protect ecological sites. The award of a PEDL does not of itself give permission for operations to begin. The necessary planning and regulatory consents will be required before development can take place. All proposals will be scrutinised by the Environment Agency, and by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The licenses do not grant planning permission which is the role of Wiltshire Council, as Mineral Planning Authority, or Government should an application be called in. Wiltshire Council has not received a planning application to date.

During drilling, well operators have a legal duty to manage and control the risks to people. The HSE monitors well operations to check these legal duties are carried out. Its specialists will check construction matches the design by reviewing the weekly operations reports it receives from the well operator. HSE intends to jointly inspect drilling and fracking operations with the Environment Agency during the exploratory phase. HSE inspectors can visit any site at any time if there is a matter of concern.

The Environment Agency will monitor the environmental impacts and inspect the operator's reports. The greater the potential risk, the greater the scrutiny. Conditions attached to permits will set out the minimum level of site-based monitoring and reporting.

Ref P16/05

The Council, as the Local Planning Authority would be responsible for enforcing any conditions attached to a planning permission. For example, this may include monitoring of noise or dust levels.

Further information and guidance on PEDL licensing can be found here- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/about-shale-gas-and-hydraulic-fracturing-fracking/developing-shale-oil-and-gas-in-the-uk>.

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Wiltshire Council

Council

23 February 2016

Leader's speech – Budget – 2016

Since we became Wiltshire Council in 2009, I have delivered a budget speech each year that has focused on the vision and purpose of this council and what we are all here to do for the people of Wiltshire that we represent.

Our vision and values have been the constant in the past six years and these have helped us to remain focused on what really matters; particularly when we have needed to make tough decisions.

A budget doesn't drive our values nor does it drive success.

A budget enables us to deliver and to take action and do what is needed to deliver our vision – to help our communities across Wiltshire become stronger and even more resilient.

Six years ago, we developed a clear vision and a set of priorities that are still our focus today. This vision and the three priorities remain the drivers for how we allocate resources and how we propose to spend the budget for this coming year.

We will continue to protect those who are most vulnerable in our communities; especially older people, disabled people, and those children who need our care and protection. Our previous investment in the development of our MASH – the multi-agency safeguarding hub – has led to a highly effective approach to information-sharing between partners to quickly identify and act on safeguarding concerns.

We will do all we can to make sure that we boost the local economy by creating new jobs and safeguarding existing jobs; with particular emphasis on higher value jobs, and we will make sure that working with schools and further and higher education,

we have a skilled workforce to meet the needs of employers and that we have the infrastructure to support local businesses.

In the current financial climate we know that we need our local communities to do even more for themselves.

We will provide the support and resources to enable them to become stronger and more resilient so that they can manage the pressures and problems that they face. Our communities are unique: vibrant, engaged, and proactive and they can determine what they need and how best this can be provided. This partnership between the council and communities needs to continue to flourish and grow so that together we can provide the services that are needed and improve the health and wellbeing of our residents as an outcome.

Let's not forget that we are a complex business that spends £900 million each year on more than 350 services. The changing demographics, such as people living longer, are driving up the demand for our services. This, combined with inflation and the reducing grant from central government means that we have to find savings in the coming year's budget of over £25 million.

And, whilst we are becoming more adept at saving money – each year it gets tougher.

In the early days of becoming a unitary council making the savings that were needed was easier - we had the opportunity to merge support functions, reduce our management costs and streamline some services and functions. In fact, we saved more than £120 million in the first five years by doing just this.

Today, the reality of having to make further savings is not easy – it is tough and it is challenging. Difficult choices need to be made – and, we know that local government will continue to be targeted for some years to come and by 2020 it is looking likely that we will have no grant funding from central government. We will be expected to raise funds from our tax payers and local businesses to support the services that need to be provided.

It is important that we use the transition funds recently made available for this purpose, to ensure that our organisation is well prepared for the new challenges we face.

We have openly shared this situation with our local residents and communities and there is broad awareness of the need to make choices and to prioritise spend. We discussed the need, for the first time in six years, to increase the Council Tax (by 1.99%) and to implement the levy for the provision of social care (2%). People are becoming aware that this will mean an increase of 3.99% on their council tax bill, which will generate £15.9 million in total. This income is vital if we are to meet the demands for key services. At the public meetings held last October, and more recently, local people have been extremely helpful in conveying their views and ideas and almost all have appreciated that this is not an easy task that we face.

I'm not sure if it makes the situation any better, but it's not only Wiltshire Council that is affected and having to review what it does and how it can continue to focus on and deliver its priorities. Across the country, councils are making savings and cutting and reducing vital front line services. In other counties – it has been well publicised – that there will be no children's centres, no funding for young people's activities, no support for the arts, no grants for voluntary and community groups and vastly reduced services in libraries, leisure and other community services.

This won't be the case in Wiltshire.

The savings we need to find will come from reducing the number of managers across the organisation, better procurement of supplies and services, generating more income, reducing some service areas where the impact is less on local people and communities, reducing grants to voluntary groups and by looking at different ways to provide services working with our partners and communities.

And, unlike many other local councils we will continue to invest to improve facilities and services that matter to our local residents.

I'm proud that we have a track record of being innovative and of being a pioneer in the way we do things. We continue to lead the way in how we work with communities and the role of our area boards in engaging local people and seeking their views on what they need and what's best for them in their local area is still unique to Wiltshire.

The government is talking about devolution - our devolution started more than six years ago. We always recognised the need to change and to amalgamate if we were to deliver savings and improvements. We also knew that public sector organisations could either seize the opportunity to work together for mutual gain and the benefit of local residents; or they could retrench and struggle to make savings and deliver services at the detriment of local need.

In Wiltshire we seized the opportunities and we now consider it the norm to share buildings, resources, and front desks with other organisations in both the public sector, such as the Police and the Fire Authority, and the voluntary sector, for example Citizens Advice Wiltshire; and to work together to solve issues and deliver actions that make a difference.

And, we will continue to push further on devolution and look for greater sharing of assets and resources. Our communities will be encouraged to do more locally and to have the assets and resources they need to do this. Services that can be provided locally, wherever it's possible, will be.

But for me the real devolution card is the joining up of health and social care. Whilst in Wiltshire we have very few delayed social care transfers from our acute hospitals – due to the excellent work of our social care teams. We need now to work harder together to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions, recognising that more can be done to assist people to live independently and to be able to access the support and services that they need in their local communities.

As you are all aware in Wiltshire we have 15 per cent more older residents than the UK average and whilst this presents a huge opportunity – as many older people are healthy and fit and willing to volunteer to support the delivery of our services – but it also places a huge demand on both social care and health services.

Our health and wellbeing board has made great strides and working together we are integrating health and social care to deliver better and more local services. We are focused on prevention and support.

Wherever possible we want our older residents to be more active, to not be lonely or isolated and to be part of their local community. I am delighted that Wiltshire is fast on its way to becoming the first Dementia friendly county where people living with Dementia and their carers can lead an active life in a safe environment.

Work to establish a single approach to sharing information between organisations is also well underway and is part of delivering more efficient digital channels to deliver efficiencies and to meet customer expectations.

Our programme to invest is aligned to our priorities and we need to continue to meet the needs of those who are most vulnerable. Children and older people will see budgets being allocated to meet the increasing demand.

Working with the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership we have seen the benefit of investment; in particular the improvements to the A350 at Chippenham, the growth in the south of county – the new science park at Porton, the improvements at Malmesbury to support the expansion of Dyson, and funding to support the training and reskilling of people to meet the requirements of Wiltshire's employers; this will assist the military as the Army basing programme will see 4,000 more armed forces relocate to the Plain. Many of these personnel and their families will be seeking employment and will have a bank of valuable skills to offer.

By 2026 it is anticipated that 40,000+ new jobs will be created and 31,000 new homes delivered in the county.

In Wiltshire last year there were 2118 new homes, of which 635 were affordable. We realise the need to provide more affordable housing as well as extra care and sheltered housing to meet demand, and we will continue to invest to deliver these.

Investment will continue to improve Wiltshire's roads. We are spending £21 million per annum on improving roads across the county until 2020. We recognise how important this is to local people and as I mentioned previously the right infrastructure is critical to supporting the local economy.

Last year the first community campus opened in Corsham and it has been a huge success. In the first six months of opening the new fitness suite almost 2,000

inductions were undertaken and there was a 25% growth in membership. More than double the number of people use the library and there has been an increase in the booking of space for community use. I am delighted that Corsham health clinic will also be moving into the centre this spring and I am in no doubt that there will be huge benefits all round for users and the centre.

This year will see delivery of other health and wellbeing centres and community hubs across the county. Five Rivers in Salisbury will open in March and it will be the home for the newly merged Dorset and Wiltshire Fire service. The Nadder Centre will open this year in Tisbury and will offer a range of services and facilities for the community including leisure, start up business units, a library and community space.

In total – over the next two years - £80 million will be invested to deliver centres and hubs across the county providing a range of public services and facilities that our communities need and the space for them to gather and participate in events and activities. These new buildings are more efficient and have replaced costly inefficient and deteriorating buildings.

Wiltshire Council has been ambitious since the day it was formed.

We have made huge strides towards delivering our vision; to create stronger and more resilient communities, and this won't stop...

This year will be a year of delivery.

We will see the outcome of major investment in many communities across the county, we will devolve more, we will encourage more volunteers, we will enable our communities to do more and by improving our digital channels we will improve how people can communicate, interact and do business with us.

As Henry Ford once said; “coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success”.

I think this reflects Wiltshire Council and how by working together and with our partners and communities we will continue to be a success.

This year's budget once again reflects the ideas, views and positive challenge of local residents, all of you - as elected members, our staff and our managers.

I would like to say a special thank you to the finance team, in particular our Head of Finance Michael Hudson for the production of this year's budget and all the supporting papers. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the three corporate directors and my cabinet and particularly to Dick Tonge as the lead member for finance.

This is a robust, yet tough budget. It builds on our ambitions and our pioneering approach to delivering services and how we work with our local communities. It will help to ensure that we can continue to make Wiltshire an even better place to live and work in and visit and most importantly a place that knows its vision and priorities and keeps focused on these.

I would like to pass over to my colleague Dick Tonge, who will take you through the details of the budget.

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Councillor Questions Update

Questions Received

1. A total of 16 questions from Councillors have been received since the last meeting of Full Council on 24 November 2015.
2. In accordance with Paragraph 58 of Part 4 of the Constitution, one of these questions was determined to relate to operational matters and was referred to the appropriate Associate Director for a response.
3. One question submitted was subsequently withdrawn. Details of questions submitted excluding the withdrawn question, and the order they will be received at the meeting are shown at Appendix 1. Responses are included at Appendix 2.
4. A total of 14 remaining non-operational questions were therefore received by the first deadline of 9 February 2016, with written responses prepared as attached to this report.
5. No further questions then were received by the final deadline of 16 February 2016. Had any been received they would have received at least verbal responses with written responses to follow within five working days of the meeting.
6. In accordance with Paragraph 64 of Part 4 of the Constitution, no more than 20 supplementary questions may be asked at any one meeting, with no more than 1 supplementary per question submitted. As the number of questions received for this meeting are fewer than 20, there will be no need to restrict the number of supplementary questions to 20.
7. The Chairman will go through the questions and responses and as is customary, take them as read and giving the questioner an opportunity to ask one relevant supplementary question for each question submitted.

Yamina Rhouati, Democratic Governance Manager, 01225 718024,
yamina.rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Councillor Questions Summary

Appendix 2 - Questions and Responses

Appendix 1 - Councillor Submitted Questions Summary

Questions will be received in the order listed below.

Questions for Council (attached at Appendix 2)

Ref	Questioner	Date Received	Written or Verbal Response	Subject	Cabinet Member/Committee Chairman
16/01	Cllr Jeff Osborn	26/10/2015	Written	Electoral Registration	Cllr Stuart Wheeler
16/02	Cllr Terry Chivers	07/01/2016	Written	Public Consultations(Budget)	Cllr Dick Tonge
16/05	Cllr Jon Hubbard	09/02/2016	Written	Small Schools Grant	Cllr Laura Mayes
16/06	Cllr Chris Caswill	09/02/2016	Written	Air Quality Chippenham/Calne	Cllr Keith Humphries
16/03	Cllr Terry Chivers	16/01/2016	Written	A350-A3105 Roundabout	Cllr Philip Whitehead
16/07	Cllr Chris Caswill	09/02/2016	Written	Vehicle Movements	Cllr Toby Sturgis/Cllr Keith Humphries
16/08	Cllr Chris Caswill	09/02/2016	Written	Rawlings Green/Riverside	Cllr Toby Sturgis
16/09	Cllr Chris Caswill	09/02/2016	Written	Cllr Sturgis' whereabouts	Cllr Toby Sturgis
16/10	Cllr Chris Caswill	09/02/2016	Written	HWB - financial viability of hospitals	Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE
16/11	Cllr Chris Caswill	09/02/2016	Written	Virgin Care Contract	Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE
16/12	Cllr Chris Caswill	09/02/2016	Written	Chippenham Skate Park	Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE
16/13	Cllr Chris Caswill	09/02/2016	Written	On street parking consultation	Cllr Philip Whitehead
16/14	Cllr Chris Caswill	09/02/2016	Written	White lines	Cllr Philip Whitehead
16/15	Cllr Chris Caswill	09/02/2016	Written	NAPC timing	Cllr Tony Trotman

Operational Questions (not attached)

Ref	Questioner	Date Received	Response Provided	Subject
15/13	Cllr Chris Hurst	9/11/15	10/12/15 and 20/01/16)	Parking Meters (Royal Wootton Bassett)

Wiltshire Council

Council

23 February 2015

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Jeff Osborn, Trowbridge Grove Division

To Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet Member for Hubs, Governance, Support Services, Heritage, Arts and Customer Care

Question (16/01)

The transition to individual electoral registration was intended to run until December 2016. Instead the Government has now brought this date forward by a year. It will now run until only December 2015.

According to projections from the Electoral Commission, this rushed process could result in nearly two million persons being removed from the electoral register.

Please could Council be informed of the progress of individual registration in Wiltshire?

Do we have any estimate of the numbers being removed from our register?

Response

Wiltshire Council were one of the first councils to start the transition to Individual Elector Registration (IER) in July 2014.

We have 350,732 local government electors on the new register published on 1 December 2015, an increase of 4,003 from the 1 December 2014 register total of 346,729 local government electors.

Figures for the last three published registers are as follows:

Electors	1 February 2014	1 December 2014	1 December 2015
Local Government	358,017	346,729	350,732
Parliamentary	352,934	342,180	346,725

Wiltshire Council

Council

23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without North Division

To Councillor Richard Tonge, Cabinet Member for Finance

Question (16/02)

I'm sure most local residents of Wiltshire appreciate Wiltshire Council hosting the Rising to the challenge meeting 2016 and beyond.

However like so many of the Councils consultation meetings the 1730 start date means that most local residents that work for a living would find it almost impossible to attend. Would you agree that a later start date would have been more appropriate?

Response

We have tried to be as open as possible with the public about our budget, the scale of the savings we are making, and the need to work differently while continuing to deliver on our main priorities.

The public meetings are an important part of the budget setting process. To ensure as many people as possible were able to attend, we felt it was best to avoid daytime and late evening meetings.

We chose 5.30pm as the best time for these meetings as it meant those in employment may be able to come straight after their working day, particularly those working in the town centres where the meetings were held. The meetings were widely publicised as far in advance as possible to enable people to make arrangements to attend.

There will never be a time that suits everybody for the budget meetings, so we have made our public presentation available on our website and we do, of course, also welcome comments at any time.

Wiltshire Council

Council

23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

**Question from Councillor Jon Hubbard, Melksham South Division,
To Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

Question (16/05)

The Government has confirmed it is ceasing the grants paid to 3,000 small schools to help cover the increased costs of providing free school meals.

Could the cabinet member please tell me how many Wiltshire schools are affected by this cut and what the total value of this cut is to schools across the county.

Response

The Universal Infant Free School Meal legislation (UIFSM) came into force from September 2014, placing a requirement on all primary schools to provide infant pupils with a free hot lunch.

Many schools were required to make conversions and adaptations in order to create a catering and dining facility large enough to accommodate the provision of additional school meals.

In order to assist with the transition costs, all small schools (150 pupils or below) were awarded a transitional grant of a flat rate of £3,000 per school plus additional funding on a sliding scale for the 'newly eligible' FSM pupils. The Small Schools Transitional Funding was initially awarded on a one-off basis for the 2014-15 financial year.

In 2014-15, a total of 87 Wiltshire Primary Schools received the small schools transitional funding, totalling £478,320. The individual payments ranged from £3,000 to £14,850.

In 2015-16, the small schools transitional funding was unexpectedly awarded again to small schools, at the reduced flat rate of £2,300 per school. The provisional amount to be awarded to Wiltshire schools for 2015-16 was £200,100. (The final amount is still to be confirmed, based upon the census data).

We are not expecting that there will be any significant impact on Wiltshire's small schools as a result of the central government decision to end the transitional

funding. The LA has emphasised to schools over the past couple of years that the funding would not be recurrent.

Wiltshire Council

Council

23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Health (including Public Health) and Adult Social Care

Question (16/06)

What steps are being taken to provide an accurate calculations of the cumulative impact on air quality and NOX levels in Chippenham and Calne of the 6 current large scale development applications (Barrow Farm, Rawlings Green, East Chippenham, Patterdown / South West Chippenham, and Forest Farm) and the two already granted outline permission (Hunters Moon and Hill Corner / North Chippenham)? And to provide that information in time for it to be taken into account in any decisions on the 6 outstanding proposals, and in the Examination in Public?

One applicant has apparently taken recent readings on the A350 / Malmesbury Road roundabout, producing a reading 50% in excess of EU limits. Given that traffic on an Eastern Link Road would exit north and west via that roundabout, why has the Council not yet established a baseline reading for it, so as to enable air quality calculations to be made for developments in Rawlings Green and east Chippenham?

Response

The Core Strategy requires that housing growth at Chippenham should be for at least 4,510 homes over the period 2006 to 2026. However, the proposals currently before the Council cumulatively are substantially in excess of this and would be considered contrary to the Plan. Therefore it is not necessary to look at the cumulative impact of this level of growth.

The traffic modelling informing the submitted Chippenham Site Allocations Plan showed reduced queuing and congestion across the local network and therefore no concerns were raised relating to air quality.

In terms of decision making prior to the conclusion of the examination, as with any planning applications the Council, as Local Planning Authority, has a statutory duty to process applications within a specified time frame. Any failure could result in an appeal against the Council for non-determination. As such, each application will be considered on its merits through Strategic Planning Committee at the appropriate

time. Applicants for significant planning applications at Chippenham are expected to provide information on air quality. This information will form part of the consideration of any application.

In respect to the provision of accurate calculations of cumulative impact it is the responsibility of developers to provide accurate data and modelling in their air quality assessments. The issue of cumulative impact is referred to in the emerging Wiltshire Council Supplementary Planning Document on air quality which gives further guidance to developers on this issue.

With regard to the applicant's monitoring at the Malmesbury Road roundabout on the A350, the Council is now establishing a monitoring site in order to identify a baseline in that location.

Wiltshire Council

Council

23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without North Division

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question (16/03)

Wiltshire Council are spending £1 million pounds installing traffic lights on the Wiltshire Farmers Roundabout on Western Way, Melksham.

A scheme that has very little support locally, the cost of one million pounds, does this include drawing up the plans for the un-wanted scheme, if not how much extra will this add to total cost?

Response

The scheme to reduce peak hour delays and improve safety between A350 Farmer's roundabout and A365 Bath Road by installing a series of linked and co-ordinated traffic signals was due to commence in Spring 2016

The scheme has not yet been out to competitive tender, therefore works is not yet known.

Detailed plans have already been prepared, and therefore no additional design costs will be incurred

We do not now expect work on the scheme to take place until the latter part of the 16/17 financial year.

That deferral will offer an opportunity for the benefits of the scheme to be better communicated and understood.

Wiltshire Council

Council

23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning,
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste**

And

**Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Health (including Public
Health) and Adult Social Care**

Question (16/07)

Council officers have been supplied with an estimate of an additional 36000 vehicle movements a day from the proposed developments, including over 1300 additional HGV movements a day (email from Mr Toogood to Alistair Cunningham, 29 January). Do you accept these calculations as broadly correct, or if not, what are your own calculations? How is the cumulative traffic and air quality effect of these numbers to be taken into account in planning future development around Chippenham?

Response

This question draws from Mr Toogood's email dated 29th January in which he refers to 9 development proposals at Chippenham relating to employment and housing that collectively would deliver 5,350 homes and 36.5ha of employment land if approved.

Mr Toogood then forecasts the cumulative impact of all these proposals in terms of the traffic likely to be generated.

The first part of Cllr Caswill's question looks for acceptance or otherwise of Mr Toogood's forecast traffic flows. If one worked on the basis that all the proposals were delivered and based on a very rough calculation using standard trip rates (but only at the point of access for each individual site) the numbers could be considered to be broadly reasonable, However, in reality, most car journeys are multi-purpose, and therefore it should not be assumed that there will be that number of additional movements on the network. For example, in his calculations residential trips have been calculated separate to employment trips, although many will involve leaving one to go to the other, and therefore Mr Toogood's estimate includes double counting. However, as stated in the previous answer, this level of growth would be considered contrary to the Plan.

Establishing cumulative transport impacts is of course important for the Council, and we have shown in evidence and in public the detailed modelling techniques that we use to model new trips across the network, taking into account the linked trips referred to above.

Consultants have been appointed to assess cumulative air quality impacts as part of the traffic modelling work being undertaken to address the concerns of the Inspector on the Chippenham Site Allocations Plan.

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23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning,
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste**

Question (16/08)

When and by whom will decisions be taken as to whether the Council will determine the development applications for Rawlings Green and East Chippenham / Chippenham Riverside in advance of the conclusion of the Chippenham Examination in Public?

Response

In terms of decision making prior to the conclusion of the examination, as with any planning applications, if valid applications are submitted then the Council, as Local Planning Authority, has a statutory duty to process those applications within a specified time frame. Any failure could result in an appeal against the Council for non-determination. Once the consultation period on planning applications have concluded the Council can proceed to determine a planning application. All the applications referred to will be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee when they are ready for determination.

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23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

Question (16/09)

At a recent Cabinet meeting, you undertook to provide information about your diary commitments for Tuesday 10 and the morning of Wednesday 11th November, which prevented you from attending the opening three sessions of the Chippenham Examination in Public. Could you now please do so?

Response

On the 10 November, there was a Cabinet Meeting at County Hall which required my attendance.

On the 11 November it was unfortunate that this clashed with an important personal engagement. As the Cabinet member responsible, I had intended to attend sessions of the Examination whenever my diary allowed.

As explained at Cabinet, the Examination in Public is led by expert officers. Cabinet Members can have no active role in the proceedings, and therefore we must prioritise our attendance at the Examination in Public against other duties. As the other diary commitments on the 10 and 11 required my active involvement and given the nature of the business discussed, it was decided to prioritise these alternate meetings on the dates in question.

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23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Leader of the Council

Question (16/10)

As Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), please advise what steps have been taken within the HWB to assess and promote the financial viability of the three hospitals on which most Wiltshire residents depend, the RUH, the GWH and Salisbury Hospital?

Response

The merger of Monitor and the Trust Development Authority into NHS Improvement means that there will be a new national organisation responsible for ensuring that foundation trusts are well led, in terms of quality and finances. Health and Wellbeing Boards are tasked with encouraging joined up working locally across health and social care.

As Chair of Wiltshire's Health and Wellbeing Board I meet regularly with the Chairmen and Chief Executives of each of the Foundation Trusts to consider a range of issues, including financial viability.

It is worth noting that unlike many Health and Wellbeing Boards, Wiltshire includes key NHS providers as non-voting members on the board. The presence of providers on the HWB has given partners a better and more direct understanding of the whole system and the role of providers in delivering change, and in turn, providers are very positive about the opportunity the HWB gives them to engage with a 'single commissioning role'. This direct involvement enables them to exert influence and align their own strategies.

Wiltshire's HWB has received regular updates on the delivery of Wiltshire's Systems Resilience and Operational Capacity Plan, which considers risks across the local health and social care system. Wiltshire's System Resilience Group (SRG) has allocated funds to providers to support their operational performance and process changes in service delivery.

Locally, a significant piece of work is also now beginning, with our partners in Bath and NE Somerset and in Swindon, to develop a [Sustainability and Transformation Plan](#) (STP) to cover the next five years. The STP is a requirement of recently issued

NHS Shared Planning Guidance and will become the single application and approval process for being accepted onto programmes with transformational funding for 2017/18 onwards. This plan will clearly set out how our local area will meet the finance and efficiency challenges that the local health and social care system faces and ensure financial sustainability.

Allied to the STP, the CCG's and providers' Operational Plans for 2016/17 will demonstrate how they intend to reconcile finance with activity (and where a deficit exists, set out clear plans to return this to balance). These will be published in March. Also currently under development is the Better Care Plan for 2016/17, which oversees £30m of funding under the aegis of the HWB, with the aim of delivering significant savings across the health and social care system through improvements to intermediate care.

NHS Wiltshire CCG's recent letting of the Adult Community Health Services contract has also been considered at the Health and Wellbeing Board (see [update](#) at the last meeting). The preferred bidder has now been identified as Wiltshire Health and Care (WHC). This new provider was selected by a procurement panel involving colleagues from Wiltshire CCG and Wiltshire Council. WHC is a joint venture organisation focused solely on community services in Wiltshire. The organisation is a partnership between Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust and Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust. Delivered through integrated community teams across the county, Wiltshire Health and Care will help us to meet the challenges of an ageing population and enhance partner working across the health economy to provide a health service fit for tomorrow.

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23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

Questions from Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Leader of the Council

Question (16/11)

In the same capacity, what was the value and length of the recently awarded contract to Virgin Care? When the contract was awarded to Virgin Care, was it understood that Virgin Care have a publicly stated policy of achieving an 8% profit margin?

Response

The value of the contract awarded to Virgin Care is £12.8 million per year for 5 years with the potential to extend the contract for a further 2 years. The decision to award a contract for children's community health services to Virgin Care is the result of a joint commissioning project between the Council, NHS Wiltshire CCG and NHS England. During the procurement process, commissioners checked the financial modelling put forward by Virgin Care for the duration of the contract. This does not include any profit margin.

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23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Leader of the Council

Question (16/12)

The Chippenham Area Board regrettably took the decision in early 2014 to proceed with a planning application for a skate facility in Monkton Park. Two years later, (a) how much has been spent on external consultancy for that planning application and (b) what is the value of the officer time that has also been committed to the preparation of the application?

Which members and substitute members of the Northern Area Planning Committee have been consulted and / or informed as part of the preparation of the application and / or in any pre-application discussions?

Response

- A)** In February 2015 the Council appointed the contractor Wheelscape to design the Chippenham Skate Park and submit the planning application. To date £5,000 has been spent on the planning application.
- B)** Officer time has not been quantified in respect of this as the onus, through contract, has been on the contractor to prepare the application. Officer time has been spent facilitating meeting e.g. with Skate Park users via the Local youth Network.
- C)** No formal consultation has been undertaken with the Members of the Northern Area Planning Committee. Updates have been provided via the Area Board. Cllr Peter Hutton, who has been involved in the original Skate Park task group, attended the 2 meetings held with skate park users. This was in his capacity as chair of the Local Youth Network.

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23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question (16/13)

In June last year, the Council carried out a formal consultation on additional on-street parking restrictions in Chippenham, many of which are very important to residents in the area I represent. Apparently it has not been possible for you to take any decisions on the consulted proposals because the relevant Council officer has been redeployed on other work, and there is no one to take his place. Did you approve this redeployment, and if not who did? Will you take this opportunity (a) to apologise to the people of Chippenham for the delay and (b) to provide the timelines in which decisions will be taken and will be implemented?

Response

Staff shortages and retention problems have affected the Highways Network Management Team and it has been necessary to reprioritise work. The team deals with 90,000 streetworks notices annually, of which about 16,000 have excavations and reinstatements, and the team has recently been busy with the additional carriageway resurfacing and repair work being undertaken by the Council in connection with the Local Highways Investment Fund 2014 – 2020. It has been important to deal with these works in order to reduce traffic delays and ensure these vital works are carried out safely.

The reviews of parking restrictions have consequently had to be delayed. The staff shortage is being addressed by recruitment and the Council's proposed budget for next year includes additional funding for further streetworks posts. This will release staff to progress the parking reviews. Some progress has already been made with the West Wiltshire area, and the Chippenham review should be considered shortly. The timescale for implementation will depend on consideration of the response to the proposals.

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23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question (16/14)

I have been recently informed by a Council officer that *"At present we are in a position, both financially and with the impending change of highway contractor, that we are not submitting any requests for refreshing or installing of white lines."* Is this a decision which applies publicly across the whole of the County? Was it taken with your approval, and what consideration has been given to the road safety implications?

Response

If there are serious safety issues requiring lining work these are dealt with as priorities. The highways teams are busy making arrangements with the contractor for the new highways contract which starts in April. The winter is not a good time of year for doing lining and road marking works as the weather can be wet, and salt on the road can cause problems. It is therefore usual for the majority of lining works to be carried out when the weather is better.

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23 February 2016

Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Tony Trotman, Chairman of the Northern Area Planning Committee

Question (16/15)

When it was decided to move meetings of the Northern Area Planning Committee to afternoons from early evenings, I recall that you promised a review of the decision in response to concerns expressed by myself and other Councillors. Has this review been undertaken or started? Or if not, when will you get it underway?

Response

No formal review has been undertaken but officers were asked to inform the Chairman & Vice Chairman of any complaints received from local residents. Whilst a few complaints were received (and responded to) when the change to the timing of the meeting was first made, no further complaints have since been received. Though there have been a few occasions when a member of the public and ward members have been unable to attend, the ability to submit a written late item or ask for a statement to be read out on their behalf by another local residents or the Chair of the Committee allows for them to present their points to members of the committee.

Officers and the Chairman have been informally monitoring attendance by local residents at committee and though there has been no significant change, the number of people attending the meetings has marginally increased.

As the new arrangements for the Northern Area Planning Committee are working well, there is no reason for the start time to be altered.