

COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET) MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2014 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, Cllr Rosemary Brown, Cllr Liz Bryant, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Terry Chivers, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Christine Crisp (Chairman), Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Tony Deane, Cllr Christopher Devine, Cllr Bill Douglas, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Dennis Drewett, Cllr Peter Edge, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sue Evans, 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 Keith Humphries, Cllr Chris Hurst, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Julian Johnson, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, 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 Helen Osborn, 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 Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Jane Scott OBE, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr John Smale, Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Ian Tomes, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cllr Anthony Trotman, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Nick Watts, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Ian West, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Roy While, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Graham Wright

15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Killane, Helena McKeown, Ian Thorn, Phillip Whalley, James Sheppard, Leo Randall and Nick Fogg.

16 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4 February 2014 were presented.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the last Council meeting held on 4 February 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the letter of advice from the Monitoring Officer dated 20 January 2014 which made particular reference to interests in the context of considering the budget and where Councillors held tenancies with the Council.

Cllr Brian Dalton declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the housing revenue account to be considered as part of the budget (minute no. 21 a refers) as he held a garage tenancy and took no part in the discussion or voting on the item.

18 Announcements by the Chairman

(a) The Pound Arts Centre, Corsham

The Chairman reported that she had attended the visit of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall to the Pound Arts Centre in Corsham the previous week when she officially opened their new studios. She met with resident artists and representatives of various community groups who benefit from the Centre, as well as some young people involved in the Centre's new Creative Futures programme.

The Centre was lively and vibrant. It was good to see the enthusiasm and dedication of many people across all ages in various aspects of creative art. The Centre's Rural Arts Touring programme had a fantastic range of live performances held in communities. This initiative was being delivered in partnership with Wiltshire Council and South Gloucestershire Council with funding from Arts Council England. The Chairman encouraged Councillors to view their website to see the wide range of events being held.

(b) Commonwealth Flag Handover

The Chairman reported that she had on 10 February together with the Leader of the Council joined the Mayor of Swindon and the Leader of the Council in the Mayor's Parlour at the Borough Council Offices. A short ceremony was held at which Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs. Sarah Troughton, handed over to the Chairman and the Mayor Commonwealth Flags which would be flown from the Councils' flagpoles on Commonwealth Day, 10 March.

'Flying a Flag for the Commonwealth' was a new initiative to mark Commonwealth Day. 500 Commonwealth flags would be raised throughout the

United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 10 March. A short ceremony at the flagpole at County Hall was being organised and Councillors were encouraged to attend if they were able to do so.

(c) Briefing on the Wiltshire Core Strategy

The Chairman reminded Councillors that a briefing on the preliminary findings of the Inspector examining the Wiltshire Core Strategy would be held following this meeting of Council.

(d) Wiltshire Olympians

The Chairman explained that she was sure Councillors would wish to join her in congratulating our Wiltshire Winter Olympians who competed in Sochi over the last couple of weeks. Trowbridge resident John Jackson and his four man bobsleigh team finished an impressive fifth, Shelley Rudman from Pewsey slid into sixteenth in the skeleton bobsleigh and Paula Walker, John Jackson's girlfriend, finished twelfth in the women's two man bobsleigh event.

19 Petition - 'Stop the proposed cuts to youth services'

The Chairman reported receipt of a petition, organised by Mr Glynn Root, details of which were circulated in the Agenda Supplement. The petition with 2,520 signatories was presented by Mr Chris Baker and stated:

'Stop the proposed cuts to youth services. The cuts that you propose will simply be eaten up in the policing of young people with no facilities to direct their energy into something positive.'

'Wiltshire Council are planning to cut 24 youth services and up to 144 youth workers. These cuts include losing Bass Connection based at Grosvenor House in Salisbury. This service has provided the opportunity for thousands of young people to not only build on their music skills but provide invaluable support and mentoring not available elsewhere.'

Mr Baker explained that he was presenting the petition on behalf of young people who had all been shocked at the proposals to cut funding for youth services. He considered there had been a lack of consultation with users and affected staff and that the usage figures quoted were misleading. He also sought clarification on what the proposals would mean for youth groups and youth workers.

The Chairman thanked Mr Baker for the petition and his comments which were duly noted. She explained that the future of the youth service was currently the subject of consultation running until 14 April. The results of the consultation which would include reference to the petition and comments made at this meeting would then be considered and taken into account by Cabinet when it makes its decision on this issue, currently scheduled for 22 April (note: this was

subsequently altered to 15 May). The Chairman explained that in view of the ongoing consultation and consideration by Cabinet, she did not intend to debate the petition at this meeting. Mr Baker and any other interested parties would be able to attend Cabinet, a meeting open to the public.

Resolved:

That the petition and comments made at this meeting be received and noted and referred to Cabinet as part of the response to the consultation on the review of positive leisure time activities for young people.

20 Public Participation

No requests for public participation had been received for this meeting.

21 Budget 2014/15

(a) Wiltshire Council Financial Plan 2014/15

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the various papers that had been previously circulated in connection with Council's consideration of this item as follows:

- (a) Leader's Budget Speech (tabled at the meeting)
- (b) The report of the Special Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 5 February 2014
- (c) Relevant extract of the minutes of Cabinet held on 11 February 2014 detailing Cabinet's recommendations
- (d) Financial Plan - Report by Michael Hudson, Associate Director - Finance and S.151 officer
- (e) Wiltshire Council's Policy on Fees, Charges and Concessions
- (f) Proposed Council Tax Resolution

The Chairman explained how she intended to chair the debate on this item and that the Council had a duty to set a budget. The Chairman referred Councillors to the budget process which included the order of those who would be called to speak, details of which had been previously circulated.

The Chairman drew Councillors' attention to the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which came into force today. The Regulations required Councils to take recorded votes when determining levels of expenditure on services and the level of council tax to be levied for their area, details of which together with how this requirement would be incorporated into the Council's Constitution were previously circulated.

The Leader of Council made her budget speech, copies of which were tabled at the meeting and attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

The Leader explained that the Council's vision continued to be to create stronger and more resilient communities. The Council would also continue to prioritise those who were most vulnerable and we would do all we could to continue to boost the local economy, and working with local people and organisations, we would encourage and support our communities to do even more for themselves. The Leader explained that she was confident that next year's budget for 2014/15 would help us to deliver this vision and our key priorities as set out in the Council's Business Plan.

The Leader highlighted the many achievements made by the Council and the priority areas which would as proposed in the budget, attract significant and increased funding. She also highlighted the financial challenges ahead and the need more than ever, to work more innovatively and in partnership with other organisations.

The Leader made the following amendments to the recommended budget:

- A re-alignment of £0.5 million each year for the next four years from the highways capital budget into flood prevention and protection reflecting the need to support and work with those local communities that have been most affected.

This means that £1 million will be allocated to help protect these communities which is in addition to any government announcement and funding streams allocated for flooding.

- A transfer of £0.6 million from its transformation reserve to fund work on developing a single shared information system for Wiltshire with our partners in health.

At the Leader's request, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Procurement and Welfare Reform guided Councillors through the detail of the budget papers. He explained that the budget had been aligned with the 12 key actions of the Business Plan and was both robust and deliverable. Cllr Tonge drew Council's attention to the budget consultation Feedback which included the budget consultation day on 10 February and the meeting between Group Leaders and Trade Unions on 6 February, details of which were circulated in the Agenda Supplement.

Cllr Tonge thanked Michael Hudson and his Finance team for all their hard work in producing the budget documentation.

Cllr Tonge proposed the recommendations of Cabinet dated 11 February 2014 including the changes referred to above from the Leader and this was duly seconded by the Leader.

In Cllr Simon Killane's absence due to ill health, Cllr Roy While as Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group, presented the report of the Committee dated 5 February 2014. Cllr While agreed it was a challenging budget and summarised the key issues raised by Scrutiny as referred to in its report.

Cllr Jon Hubbard, opposition group leader addressed Council on the proposals. He also agreed that the Council faced challenging pressures mainly as a result of reduced funding from central Government which left little room for manoeuvrability locally. He accepted that his group would have proposed similar proposals given such restrictions. He considered that any amendments proposed to the budget needed to be costed and deliverable. He referred to the amounts spent on consultants and agency staff but acknowledged that this was to ultimately avoid permanent appointments which could later lead to redundancies.

Cllr Clark, leader of the Independent group agreed that it was a difficult budget given the financial challenges.

Cllr Ricky Rogers, leader of the Labour group referred to the challenges being faced by the Council following continued reductions in Government funding. He considered the administration had stepped up to meet those challenges. He referred to seven concerns that he had in particular and was fearful that the Council was getting to a stage of cutting valued services. He would be in favour of reducing money on highways and redirecting it at youth services.

Group Leaders having addressed the budget as proposed were then given an opportunity of proposing any amendments.

Cllr Jon Hubbard proposed the following amendment which was duly seconded by Cllr Glenis Ansell:

To increase the proposed budget for Integrated Youth by £250,000 to a figure of £3.232m funded through:

- *Ceasing to produce printed agendas and minutes for elected members for all council meetings. For the avoidance of doubt*

this includes Full Council, all committees and task groups including joint committees where Wiltshire Council is the lead council.

To facilitate the paperless working for elected members a tablet computer will be provided on request which will provide appropriate access to electronic versions of all relevant papers.

This will produce an annual saving of £100,000.

- *Reduce the Members Development Fund by £25,000.*

Whilst recognising that member development is important, this needs to be balanced against the delivery of front line services.

- *Undertake an audit of the cost effectiveness of the provision of premises from which Youth Work is currently delivered. Where appropriate negotiate a viable and local alternative that can be secured by the council to deliver at least the current hours required by the service.*

Work undertaken with officers had identified savings of at least £125,000 from this approach which can be realised in the 2014/15 financial year.

Cllr Tonge and the Leader as the mover and seconder respectively of the motion, accepted the above amendments which would be incorporated into the main motion.

The debate was then opened to all other Councillors. Cllr Jeff Osborn proposed the following motion which was duly seconded by Cllr Terry Chivers:

- *That this Council reinstate the proposed approximate £25,000 budget cut in support for the highly valued Link Schemes across the county. This will be funded by undertaking an audit of the cost effectiveness of the provision of premises from which Youth Work is currently delivered. Where appropriate negotiate a viable and local alternative that can be secured by the council to deliver at least the current hours required by the service. Work undertaken with officers has identified savings of at least £125,000 from this approach which can be realised in the 2014/15 financial year.*

Cllr John Thomson, Cabinet member for Highways, Streetscene and Broadband explained the operation and funding streams of the Link scheme. He noted that most of the trips made under the Link scheme

were health related which was not reflected in the funding contribution from the NHS. Cllr Thomson was working on a proposal to simplify the operation of the scheme with more involvement by Area Board to enable them to support their local Link schemes. This would also involve transferring funding to the Area Boards to allow them to administer their own schemes. This proposal was subject to consultation. On this basis, Cllr Thomson urged Councillors not to support the amendment.

Cllr Jeff Osborn thanked Cllr Thomson for this clarification and asked for full details of what was being proposed to be circulated to Councillors and with agreement from his seconder, agreed to withdraw his amendment.

A debate ensued on the main motion which now included the amendments from the Leader and amendments from Cllr Jon Hubbard to which Cllr Tonge, the Leader or relevant Cabinet member responded. There was some concern expressed on the accepted amendment from Cllr Hubbard in respect of discontinuing the circulation of hard copies of agenda to Councillors. Some Councillors commented that this had been raised without full consultation or scrutiny.

Resolved:

a. Endorses the update of the Financial Plan for 2014/15 subject to the following amendments:

- i. A re-alignment of £0.5 million each year for the next four years from the highways capital budget into flood prevention and protection reflecting the need to support and work with those local communities that have been most affected.**

This means that £1 million will be allocated to help protect these communities which is in addition to any government announcement and funding streams allocated for flooding.

A transfer of £0.6 million from its transformation reserve to fund work on developing a single shared information system for Wiltshire with our partners in health.

- ii. Ceasing to produce printed agendas and minutes for elected members for all council meetings. For the avoidance of doubt this includes Full Council,**

all committees and task groups including joint committees where Wiltshire Council is the lead council.

To facilitate the paperless working for elected members a tablet computer will be provided on request which will provide appropriate access to electronic versions of all relevant papers. This will produce an annual saving of £100,000.

- iii. Reduce the Members Development Fund by £25,000.**

Whilst recognising that member development is important, this needs to be balanced against the delivery of front line services.

- iv. Undertake an audit of the cost effectiveness of the provision of premises from which Youth Work is currently delivered. Where appropriate negotiate a viable and local alternative that can be secured by the council to deliver at least the current hours required by the service.**

Work undertaken with officers has identified savings of at least £125,000 from this approach which can be realised in the 2014/15 financial year.

- b. Approve the savings and investment proposals summarised at Sections 9 and 7 respectively of this report and at Appendix 1, to provide a net revenue budget for 2014/15 of £333.063 million.**

c. To:

- i. Freeze Wiltshire Council's element of the Band D council tax for 2014/15 £1,222.43, as calculated in accordance with statute, as set out in Section 10 of the report presented.**
- ii. Set the Council's total net expenditure budget for 2014/15 at £333.063 million.**
- iii. Set a 3.7% increase for dwelling rents in accordance with rent restructuring;**

- iv. Set the HRA Budget for 2014/15 (original) as set out at Appendix 1G of the report presented;**
- v. That all other service charges related to the HRA be increased by 3.7%, and Garages rents to be increased by 2%**
- vi. Approve the Capital programme proposed at Appendix 1F of the report presented.**
- vii. Set the changes in fees and charges set out in detail at Section 8 of and at Appendix 1H of the report presented.**

Recorded Vote

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which required a recorded vote taken of the Council's decisions in determining levels of expenditure on services and the voting was recorded as follows:

For the motion (74):

Cllrs Alan Hill, Alan MacRae, Allison Bucknell, Andrew Davis, Bill Douglas, Bill Moss, Bob Jones MBE, Bridget Wayman, Charles Howard, Christine Crisp, Christopher Devine, Christopher Newbury, Christopher Williams, Chuck Berry, David Jenkins, Dennis Drewett, Desna Allen, Fleur de Rhe-Philipe, Fred Westmoreland, George Jeans, Glenis Ansell, Graham Payne, Graham Wright, Helen Osborn, Howard Greenman, Howard Marshall, Ian West, Jacqui Lay, Jane Scott, Jeff Osborn, Jemima Milton, Jerry kunkler, John Knight, John Noeken, John Smale, John Thompson, Jon Hubbard, Jonathon Seed, Jose Green, Julian Johnson, Keith Humphries, Laura Mayes, Linda Packard, Magnus Macdonald, Mark Connolly, Mark Packard, Mary Champion, Mary Douglas, Mike Hewitt, Mollie Groom, Nick Blakemore, Nick Watts, Nina Phillips, Pat Aves, Paul oatway, Peter Evans, Peter Hutton, Philip Whitehead, Pip Ridout, Richard Britton, Richard Clewer, Richard Gamble, Richard Tonge, Rosemary Brown, Roy While, Russell Hawker, Sheila Parker, Simon Jacobs, Stuart Wheeler, Sue Evans, Terry Chivers, Toby Sturgis, Tony Deane, Tony Trotman.

Against the motion (5):

Cllrs Chris Caswill, David Pollit, Ernie Clark, Peter Edge, Trevor

Carbin.

Abstentions (7):

Cllrs Christ Hurst, Gordon King, Ian McLennan, Ian Tomes, John Walsh, Rick Rogers, Stephen Oldrieve.

(b) **Wiltshire Council's Policy on Fees, Charges and Concessions**

Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Procurement and Welfare Reform presented a report which sought approval of a policy on the setting of fees, charges and concessions across the County. This would harmonise the process across the County instead of the different charging schedules inherited from the former Wiltshire district councils.

The proposed policy had been considered and recommended for approval by Cabinet at its meeting on 11 February 2014, the corresponding extract of the Cabinet minutes were presented. Cllr Tonge confirmed that the query originally raised in the Cabinet minute had been resolved and did not require any amendment to the policy.

Resolved:

That Council adopt the Policy on Fees, Charges and Concessions

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which required a recorded vote taken of the Council's decisions in determining levels of expenditure on services and the voting was recorded as follows:

For the motion (70):

Cllrs Alan Hill, Alan MacRae, Allison Bucknell, Andrew Davis, Bill Moss, Bridget Wayman, Charles Howard, Chris Caswill, Christine Crisp, Christopher Devine, Christopher Newbury, Christopher Williams, Chuck Berry, David Jenkins, Dennis Drewett, Ernie Clark, Fleur de Rhe-Philipe, Fred Westmoreland, George Jeans, Glenis Ansell, Graham Payne, Graham Wright, Horace Prickett, Howard Greenman, Ian McLennan, Ian Tomes, Jacqui Lay, Jane Scott OBE, Jemima Milton, Jerry kunkler, John Knight, John Noeken, John Smale, John Thomson, John Walsh, Jonathon Seed, Jose Green, Julian Johnson,. Keith Humphries, Laura Mayes, Liz Bryant, Magnus Macdonald, Mark Connolly, Mark Packard, Mary Champion, Mary Douglas, Mike Hewitt, Mollie Groom, Nick Watts, Nina Phillips, Pat

Aves, Paul Oatway, Peter Evans, Peter Hutton, Philip Whitehead, Pip Ridout, Richard Britton, Richard Clewer, Richard Gamble, Richard Tonge, Ricky Rogers, Roy While, Russel Hawker, Sheila Parker, Simon Jacobs, Stuart Wheeler, Sue Evans, Toby Sturgis, Tony Deane, Tony Trotman.

Against the motion (4):

Cllrs Helen Osborn, Jeff Osborn, Terry Chivers, Trevor Carbin.

Abstentions (5):

Cllrs Bob Jones MBE, David Pollitt, Gordon King, Peter Edge, Stephen Oldrieve.

(c) **Proposed Council Tax Resolution**

At the Chairman's invitation and on behalf of the Leader, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Procurement and Welfare Reform presented a report which detailed the various calculations in the prescribed format to enable Council to approve the council tax requirement for 2014/15.

Cllr Tonge drew Council's attention to a correction at page 148 of the Summons – Paragraph C to read:

C) Exclude only those with savings of more than £10,000 from the scheme.

Using the tax base approved by Cabinet on 17 December 2013 of 167,334.47 band D equivalent households, and the net budget requirement of £333.063 million (of which £204.555 million is funded by council tax) gave a band D council tax for 2014/2015 of £1,222.43.

On being proposed by Cllr Tonge and seconded by the Leader, it was

Resolved:

1. It be noted that on 17 December 2013 the Council calculated:

(a) the Council Tax Base 2014/2015 for the whole Council area as 167,334.47 [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 Appendix 2.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/2015 (excluding Parish precepts) is £204.555 million.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/2015 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- (a) £910,530,538.42 (Gross Revenue Expenditure including parish precepts) 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) £563,994,000.00 (Revenue Income) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £346,536,538.42 (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) £1,302.95 (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 £
868.63	1,013.41	1,158.17	1,302.95	1,592.49	1,882.04	2,171.58	2,605.90

(e) **£13,473,538.42** (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 2).

(f) **£1,222.43** (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 £
814.95	950.78	1,086.60	1,222.43	1,494.08	1,765.73	2,037.38	2,444.86

4. That the Council approves and gives future delegated authority to amend the scheme in accordance with the Department of Work and Pensions annual up-rating and the Department for Communities and Local Government Default scheme.

Recorded Votes

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which required a recorded vote taken of the Council's decision on setting the council tax, the voting was recorded as follows:

For the motion (72):

Clls Alan MacRae, Allison Bucknell, Andrew Davis, Bill Moss, Brian Dalton, Bridget Wayman, Charles Howard, Chris Hurst, Christine Crisp, Christopher Newbury, Christopher Williams, David Jenkins, Dennis Drewett, Desna Allen, Ernie Clark, Fluer de Rhe-Philipe, Fred Westmoreland, George Jeans, Glenis Ansell, Gordon King, Graham Payne, Graham Wright, Howard Marshall, Ian McLennan, Ian Tomes, Ian West, Jacqui Lay, Jane Scott OBE, Jemima Milton, Jerry kunkler, John Knight, John Noeken, John Smale, John Smale, John Thomson, John Walsh, Jon Hubbard, Jonathon Seed, Julian Johnson, Keith Humphries, Laura Mayes, Linda Packard, Liz Bryant, Magnus Macdonald, Mark Connolly, Mark Packard, Mary Champion, Mary Douglas, Mike Hewitt, Mollie Groom, Nick Blakemore, Nick Watts, Nina Phillips, Pat Aves, Paul Oatway QPM, Peter Edge, Peter Evans, Peter Hutton, Philip Whitehead, Pip Ridout, Richard Britton, Richard Clewer, Richard Gamble, Richard Tonge, Ricky Rogers, Roy While, Sheila Parker, Simon Jacobs, Stephen Oldrieve, Sue Evans, Toby Sturgis, Tony Deane, Tony Trotman.

Against the motion (4):

Cllrs David Politt, Helen Osborn, Jeff Osborn, Trevor Carbin.

Abstention (1):

Cllr Chris Caswill.

22 **Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15**

At the invitation of the Chairman and on behalf of the Leader, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Procurement and Welfare Reform presented a report which sought Council's adoption of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15 as recommended by Cabinet at its meeting on 11 February 2014.

Resolved:

That Council:

- a) **adopt the Prudential and Treasury Indicators (Appendix A of the report presented);**
- b) **adopt the Annual Investment Strategy, including the proposed increase in the lending limit associated with Government backed UK banks (Appendix B of the report presented);**

- c) **adopt the updated Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) (Appendix C of the report presented);**
- d) **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;**
- e) **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;**
- f) **agree that short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans and deposits; and**
- g) **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.**

23 **Notices of Motion**

No motions received for this meeting.

24 **Councillors' Questions**

The Chairman reported receipt of questions from Councillors Helen Osborn, Jon Hubbard, Chris Caswill and Simon Killane, details of which were circulated in the agenda supplement. Responses from the relevant Cabinet member were either included in the supplement, attached as Appendix 3 or provided verbally at the meeting.

Questioners agreed to take their questions as read and were given an opportunity to ask a relevant supplementary question to which the relevant Cabinet member responded.

25 **Parish/Community Governance Review**

At the Chairman's invitation, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet member for Hubs, Heritage & Arts, Governance and Support Services presented a report which sought Council's approval to establish a working party to carry out parish/governance reviews of parish boundaries and electoral arrangements.

If so approved, Council was asked to approve the terms of reference of the working party and appoint to it one member nominated by each Group Leader (with substitute), with provision for the local member(s) to attend for any specific

item under consideration. The working party would then make recommendations for Council's consideration.

A community governance review is a review of the whole or part of the area of a principal council for the purpose of making recommendations with regard to:

- creating, merging, amending or abolishing parishes;
- the naming of parishes;
- the electoral arrangements for parishes; and
- grouping arrangements for parishes.

Details of requests already received for a community governance review were presented. Cllr Wheeler confirmed that any further requests could be submitted by 31 March 2014.

Resolved:

That Council:

- approve the Terms of Reference as presented for a Community Governance Review;**
- approve the membership of the Community Governance Review Working Group as follows (substitutes in brackets):**

**Conservative group:
Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Cllr Julian Johnson)**

**Liberal Democrat group:
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Cllr Graham Wright)**

**Independent group:
Cllr Ernie Clark (Cllr Dennis Drewett)**

**Labour group:
Cllr Ian McLennan (to be advised)**

Plus local members as appropriate.

- undertake a Community Governance Review, starting on 1 April 2014.**

26 Membership of Committees

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.

Cllr Ernie Clark requested that Cllr Chris Caswill replace Cllr Dennis Drewett on the Police and Crime Panel.

Resolved:

That Council approve the above mentioned membership change.

27 Minutes of Cabinet and Committees

The Chairman moved that Council receive and note the following minutes as listed in the separate Minutes Book and this was duly seconded by the Vice-Chairman:

Cabinet	11 February 2014
Overview and Scrutiny management Committee	5 February 2014
Children's Select Committee	28 January 2014
Health Select Committee	14 January 2014
Northern Area Planning Committee	29 January 2014
Southern Area Planning Committee	16 January, 6 February 2014
Strategic Area Planning Committee	22 January 2014
Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel	15 January, 6 February 2014
Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority	12 December 2013

The Chairman then invited questions from members on points of information or clarification on the above minutes and gave the Chairmen of those meetings the opportunity to make any important announcements on the work of their respective Committees.

Children's Select Committee

Cllr Jon Hubbard, Chairman of the Select Committee advised Councillors that the subject of the briefing prior to the next Select Committee would be on childhood sexual exploitation.

Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

Cllr Graham Payne, Chairman of the Fire Authority updated Council on proposals currently under discussion to merge the Fire Authority with the Dorset Fire Authority. This would be with a view to make savings required in the face of reductions in central Government funding.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Leader's Budget speech (minute no. 21 a refers)

Appendix 2 – Parish precepts (minute no. 21 c refers)

Appendix 3 – Councillors' questions (minute no. 24 refers)

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 3.20 pm)

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