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**THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing at 7.00pm.**

**Present:**

Chairman.....Councillor C. Crisp

Councillors D.B. Allen, P.G. Allnatt, A.R. Baines, H.R. Barton, T.A.P. Briggs, N.S. Bryant, A.M. Bucknell, C. R. Coleman, S.R. Coy, D. Darby, A.L. Davis, P.R. Davis, H.M. Dixon, K.A. Dixon, S.K. Doubell, D.J.E. Evans, P.J. Goldstone, P.G. Green, G.R. Greenaway, M.E.M. Groom, M.P. Hatton, I.J. Henderson, R.J. Henning, A.S.R. Jackson, H.T. Jones, R.B. MacGregor, N.T. Maidment, S.D. Meadows, D.M. Moore, T.J.A. Northey, C. O’Gorman, G. Offord, N.M. Phillips, J.M. Read, C. Reid, J.H. Rooke, M. Rousell, J.A. Scott, S. L. Scruton , T.R. Sturgis, O.J. Thomas, J.P.S.S. Thomson, R.L. Tonge, A.J. Trotman, S.R. Walls, C. Wannell, M.J. West and J.M. Wood.

**Officers Present:** D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), P. Jeremiah (Team Leader Legal Services), W. Oulton (Policy & Democratic Services Officer). L. Bell (Strategic Manager Community & Environment), A. Davies (Strategic Manager Planning Services), N. Fenwick (Strategic Manager Customer Services) and S. Pangbourne (Strategic Manager Corporate Services), D. Hodges (Team Leader Finance Services) and L. Robertson (Team Leader Spatial Planning).

**C84. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors V.H. Greenman, J.R. Ireland and P.S. Roberts.

**C85. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 were considered.

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record

**C86. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.



**C87. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor D. Darby back to the Council Chamber following her convalescence.

**C88. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions**

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

**C89. Question Time**

The following question was received:

(A) Councillor N.M. Phillips – Minute C77 (H) – Timber Street Toilets

“Although I wish to thank Councillor Offord for her written reply I must state that it is the very fact that there are no public conveniences at the Chippenham Bus Station and no definite likelihood of their being replaced that contravenes the equalities and diversity policy of North Wiltshire District Council. Does the portfolio holder agree that in the concern for the well being of all the residents and tourists of North Wiltshire this also includes passengers, disabled people, bus & taxi drivers, mothers and children whose needs are not catered for here properly as there are no ‘disabled friendly’ public conveniences?”

Councillor G. Offord, portofolio holder for Equalities and Diversity, thanked the Councillor for her question. She went on to state that the closure of the facilities was a matter of Health & Safety and that the Executive would be considering the recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny in due course.

**C90. Equalities & Diversity Policy**

At its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 the Executive considered the Equalities & Diversity Policy and made recommendations to Council (minute E158 refers).

**Resolved** that the draft Equality and Diversity Policy circulated with the agenda be approved and adopted.

**C91. Annual Prudential Indicators Statement**

At its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 the Executive considered the Annual Prudential Indicators Statement and made recommendations to Council (minute E157 refers).

**Resolved** that the prudential indicators as outlined in the Appendix to Report No. 8 be approved.

**C92. Budget Proposals 2006/2007**

Consideration was given to Report No.9 (circulated with the agenda) which sought to agree the Budget and Council Tax for 2006/2007. Additional papers were circulated on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2006 and at the meeting and are included in the minute book.

The Leader, Councillor C. O’Gorman, proposed and the Deputy Leader, Councillor G. Offord, seconded the recommendations of the Executive reproduced in the Report together with the consequent recommendations relating to the calculation of Council

Tax circulated on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The Leader gave a speech (circulated at the meeting and attached as Appendix One to these minutes) in support of the proposals.

Councillor T.R. Sturgis proposed and Councillor R.L. Tonge seconded, the following amendment:

- i) That in line with other District Council, North Wiltshire District Council increase the level of Council Tax on empty and second homes to 90%;

**The motion was put to the vote and not carried.**

Councillor T.R. Sturgis proposed and Councillor R.L. Tonge seconded, the following amendment:

- ii) that £50,000, to be drawn from reserves, be included for the appointment of an officer to manage the green waste project.

**The motion was put to the vote and not carried.**

Councillor R.L. Tonge proposed and Councillor T.R. Sturgis seconded the following amendments that were each put to the vote separately:

- iii) That one-off provision be made in the budget to the amount of £250,000 for the costs associated with North Wiltshire Leisure Limited.

**The motion was put to the vote and not carried.**

- iv) That the projected overspend relating to North Wiltshire Leisure Limited, of £180,000 be adequately reflected in the budget and that Gershon savings to the same value be made.

**The motion was put to the vote and not carried.**

- v) That the Gershon savings are restated to exclude income from interest and are clearly stated separately, and projected income is shown over the Medium Term Finance period.

**The motion was put to the vote and not carried.**

- vi) That the £50,000 savings attributed to the closure of public conveniences be withdrawn and an equal amount of Gershon cashable savings be identified.

**The motion was put to the vote and not carried.**

Councillor J.A. Scott proposed and Councillor T.R. Sturgis seconded, the following amendment:

- vii) That the projected savings in the Area Grants budget be reinstated and the cost be met from reserves.

**The motion was put to the vote and not carried.**

*Admin Note: Councillor A.L. Davies the Lead Member for Partnerships stated that she would provide J.A. Scott a written explanation of the figures.*

There being no further amendments the Chairman put the original motion to the vote and the following resolutions were passed.

**Resolved that**

- (1) the revised continuation Revenue Budget for 2006/07 (as set out at Appendix 2) to these Minutes) be approved.
- (2) the proposals for revenue growth (as set out at Appendix 3 to these Minutes) be included in the Revenue Budget for 2006/07.
- (3) the Capital Programme for 2006/07 and the Outline Programme for 2007/08 and 2008/09 (as set out at Appendix 4 to these Minutes) be approved.
- (4) the updated Medium Term Finance Plan (as set out at Appendix 5 to these Minutes) be noted.
- (5) the Revenue and Capital risk assessments (as set out at Appendix 6 and 7 to these Minutes) be noted.
- (6) the Corporate Plan priorities for 2006/07 (as set out at Appendix 8 to these Minutes) be approved.
- (7) the measures to balance the Revenue Budget for 2006/07, having regard to feedback from public consultation (as summarised at Appendix 5 to these Minutes) be approved.
- (8) A Band D Council Tax of £121.79 for North Wiltshire District Council for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 be approved.
- (9) That having made the calculations as required in sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), the Council sets a Band D Council Tax of £121.79;
- (10) That the Council approves the Council Tax related calculations (as set out at Appendix 9 to these Minutes); and
- (11) That having calculated the aggregate of the precept amounts, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), the Council hereby sets the amounts of Council Tax for the 2006/07 financial year as set out at Appendix 10 to these Minutes.

**C93. Questions from Councillors – Council Procedure Rule 14**

No questions were received.

**C94. Notices of Motion – Council Procedure Rule 15**

Councillor C. O’Gorman proposed and Councillor S.K. Doubell seconded the following motion (circulated with the agenda).

The Council resolves to;

1. Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards.
2. Make it a policy of the Council to ensure that national identity cards will not be required to access Council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by law.
3. Oppose the introduction of national identity cards and write to the home secretary to inform him of Council policy.
4. Affiliate to the No2ID campaign alongside other authorities.

Councillor T.R. Sturgis suggested an amendment to the wording of the 3<sup>rd</sup> resolution and that consideration of the 4<sup>th</sup> resolution be referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for them to consider and make a recommendation to Council. Councillor C. O’Gorman indicated that she accepted the amendments. There being no further amendments the Chairman put the motion to the vote.

**Resolved**

- (1) Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards.
- (2) Make it a policy of the council to ensure that national identity cards will not be required to access council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by law.
- (3) Oppose the introduction of national identity cards and inform the Home Secretary of the decision;
- (4) That consideration of the motion to affiliate to the No2ID campaign alongside other authorities, be referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for them to consider and make a recommendation to Council

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.  
There were 6 member of public present.