

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2011

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Allen) (P) (In the Chair);

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Carter, C R) (P);

Councillors Mrs Bailey (P), Ms Ballard (P), Beavis (P), Bradley, Burgess (P), Carter C K (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Dickson (P), Edgar (P), Edwards (P), Mrs Forder (P), Forder (P), Foster-Reed (P), Geddes (P), Henshaw (P), Mrs Hook (P), Hook (P), Hylands (P), Jacobs (P), Jessop (P), Kimber (P), Lane (P), Langdon (P), Murphy (P), Philpott (P), Ronayne (P), Scard (P), Mrs Searle (P), Miss West and Wright (P) .

Also in attendance: Honorary Freeman Mrs Simpson and Honorary Aldermen Foster, Gill, O'Neill, Searle and Train.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Bradley and Honorary Alderman Lucas.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2010 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

(A) SHAKESPEAREAN NIGHT

The Mayor informed the Council that he was holding a Shakespearean night on Saturday, 12 February 2011 at G's Bar and Restaurant, Royal Clarence Marina. It would consist of a medieval banquet followed by a Shakespeare play.

The Mayor advised the Council that tickets were available and cost £32.50. Tickets could be bought from the Mayor's PA, and the deadline to purchase tickets was Thursday, 3 February 2011.

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BOARDS

COUNCIL DWELLING RENTS 2011/2012

At its meeting on 31 January 2011, the Housing Board recommended:

That, as from 4 April 2011:

- a) the average weekly Council Dwelling rents to increase by 7.1%;
- b) Garage rents to increase by 7.1%; and
- c) Barclay House rent increases for 2011/12 are noted by Members.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

COUNCIL BUDGET 2011/2012

At its meeting on 1 February 2011, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended:

That, having considered the budget requirements of all of the Council's Boards, Council approve a revised 2010/11 Budget totalling £12,844,100 and a Budget for 2011/12 totalling £10,707,590.

MOTION: That, having considered the budget requirements of all of the Council's Boards, Council approve a revised 2010/11 Budget totalling £12,844,100 and a Budget for 2011/12 totalling £10,707,590.

NOTE: Prior to the following Amendment being debated by Councillors. Councillors Mrs Hook and Hook declared personal and prejudicial interests in the circulated Amendment, left the meeting room and took no further part in the discussions or voting thereon.

AMENDMENT: That, having considered the budget requirements of all of the Council's Boards, Council approve a revised 2010/11 Budget totalling £12,844,100 and a Budget for 2011/12 totalling £10,707,590.

Council resolves to reinstate the following expenditure in the 2011/2012 Revenue budget:

i) Summer Playschemes (page 4)	£28,510
iii) Amenity Bin Service (page 6)	£32,400
iv) Grant Aid payments to voluntary organisations (page 28)	£40,000
v) Concessionary Travel (page 11) – Tokens (for current recipients)	£193,000
- Administration costs	£16,100
	Total= £310,010

Council resolves to make the following savings in 2011/2012:

i) Mayor’s Allowance (page 30)	£4,720
ii) Deputy Mayor’s Allowance (page 30)	£1,180
iii) Other Civic Events (page 30)	£6,360
iv) Members Allowances (page 30) – Special Responsibility Allowances	£32,590
v) Members Travel Expenses – Reduced maximum rate from 65p per mile to 40p per mile	£500
vi) Coastline – excluding Admin. (page 32)	£11,140
vii) Tourism & Marketing (page 25) – Contributions to (a) Tourism South East (b) Tourism SE Marketing and General Initiatives	£73,980 £15,000
viii) Press & Publicity Function (page 38/39)	£36,560
ix) Museums (page 4) – Museum contribution	£60,000
	Total = £242,030

Council resolves to increase the following income projections (page 24/25):

i) Business Awards Sponsorship (£8,600 to £18,600)	£10,000
ii) Gosport’s Big Day Out Sponsorship (£8,600 to £58,600)	£50,000
	Total = £60,000

Council resolves to save the following on premises rental:

i) 137 High Street (page 36/37) – rent of £7,980 per annum. Paid to Mark & Lynn Hook trading as M and L Properties (total saving to 2019 = approx. £67,000)	
Saving in 2011/12	Total = £7,980

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Reduce Members Allowances (including those of Councillors, Leader, Opposition Leaders, Board Chairman and Scrutiny Chairman) by 20% (saving £42,081)

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Reduce IT Services by £4479

Reinstate into Budget Amenity Skips and Children's Summer Play Schemes

During the debate on the Second Amendment the Leader of the Council stated that the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group would be welcomed at Group Leaders' meetings. The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group responded by pointing out that his Group did not attend the Leaders' meeting because they will not go to meetings at which a certain officer attends.

The Second Amendment was put to the meeting and declared LOST.

THIRD AMENDMENT: That, having considered the budget requirements of all of the Council's Boards, Council approve a revised 2010/11 Budget totalling £12,844,100 and a Budget for 2011/12 totalling £10,707,590.

This to be made up as per the budget book with the following amendments:

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Increase all grants to Voluntary Organisations with the exception of Dial-a-ride by 10% (increased expenditure of £15,908)

i.e.

Citizens' Advice – Bureau Grant	£93,599
Gosport Victim Support	£3,564
Gosport Voluntary Action	£67,727
Age Concern	£1,342
Solent Sea Rescue	£2,244
Gosporters	£891

Relate

£5,621

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Increase estimate for Car Park Permits to £50,000 (increase in revenue of £12,890)

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Reduce expenditure on Christmas Entertainment, Decorations & Lighting to £28,730 (reduction in expenditure of £3,018)

The Third Amendment was put to the meeting and declared LOST.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Motion be approved and adopted.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2011/2012

At its meeting on 1 February 2011, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended:

That Council formally approve:

- The Prudential Indicators
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy (Appendix A)
- The Treasury Management Strategy
- The Investment Strategy

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendation be approved and adopted.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

At its meeting on 1 February 2011, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended:

That:

- a) the Council commits to the South East Charter for Elected Member Development and begins work towards achieving the Charter, including the setting up of a Member Development Working Group;
- b) the Member Development Working Group consist of 7 Members on a 4:1:1:1 split; and
- c) the costs of the Charter be refunded by Councillors through the Members Allowances budget.

Council accepted an amendment from the Leader of the Council to recommendation b); that the following words be added "...and investigates any other alternatives before committing to the South East Charter for Elected Member Development."

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted subject to the additional wording at the end of recommendation b).

PART II MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following Part II Minutes be received.

Policy and Organisation Board: 21 December 2010 (Minute Nos 60 – 61), 4 January 2011 (Minute Nos 66 – 68) and 1 February 2011 (Minute Nos 76 – 80)

Community and Environment Board: 27 January 2011 (Minute Nos 40 – 42)

Housing Board: 31 January 2011 (Minute Nos 33 – 35)

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT JOINT BOARD – MEMBER VACANCY

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor on the above. The report recommended Council to fill the Member vacancy on the Portsmouth and Gosport Joint Board up to 31 December 2011. The report recommended:

That Council:

- a) reviews the allocation of seats and allocates the vacant seat to the Conservative Group; and
- b) appoints a Conservative Member to the vacant seat on the Portsmouth and Gosport Joint Board for the remainder of the 3 year period of office up to 31 December 2011.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted and Councillor Burgess be appointed to the vacant seat on the Joint Board for the remainder of the 3 year period of office up to 31 December 2011.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2011-2012

The Council was informed that in accordance with Standing Order 2.4 the Borough Solicitor had written to Group Leaders and Members of the Council to invite Member nominations for the selection of Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the next Municipal Year.

It was reported that one nomination each had been received by the Borough Solicitor; Councillor C R Carter for Mayor-Elect and Councillor R J Dickson for Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2011-2012 Municipal Year. The Council accordingly approved the nominations and Councillors Carter and Dickson briefly returned thanks for their nominations.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm