

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 6pm**

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Gill) (P) (in the Chair);

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Farr) (P);

Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard (P), Bateman (P), Mrs Batty (P), Beavis (P), Bergin (P), Burgess (P), Carter (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Ms Diffey (P), Edgar (P), Farr (P) Forder, Mrs Forder, Foster-Reed (P), Geddes (P), Hazel, Hicks, Mrs Hook (P), Hook (P), Hylands (P), Jessop (P), Langdon (P), Mrs. Morgan (P), Murphy (P), Philpott (P), Ronayne (P), Scard (P), Mrs Searle (P), Mrs Wright (P) and Wright (P).

Also in Attendance:

Honorary Freeman O'Neil and Honorary Alderman Searle.

ONE MINUTES SILENCE

In order to express their sympathy regarding the recent death of Honorary Freeman, Dot Simpson Members of the Council paid tribute to and stood in silent tribute for one minute.

The Mayor advised that the funeral would take place on Tuesday 24th February, at 11.15am at the United Reform Church, Bury Road.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Forder, Mrs Forder, Hazel and Hicks and Honorary Alderman Train and Foster

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 28 January 2015, be confirmed as a true and correct record and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received.

QUESTIONS

There were no public questions received.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BOARDS

Councillor Mrs Batty declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, left the Chamber and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Business Plan update and Council Dwelling Rents 2015/2016

Consideration was given to a recommendation by the Community Board at its meeting held on 10th February 2015.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That:

- a. The revised HRA Business Plan (Appendix A) and associated 2014/15 Revised Budget and 2015/16 Budget (Appendix B) is agreed.
- b. in line with national guidelines the average weekly Council Dwelling rent increases on average by £1.75 per week.
- c. the increase in rent for older style garages is increased in line with dwelling rents, as agreed in the Garage Renewal strategy.
- d. That formula rent be charged for properties which are relet following a void period (see paragraph 5.5 of the report).

COUNCIL BUDGET 2015/16

Consideration was given to a Report of the Borough Treasurer which recommends budget levels for the General Fund services for 2015/16 and to help determine, in due course, the level of Council Tax to be levied in the Borough. The report also outlines the financial situation of the Council's General Fund in the current year and, after consideration of the main factors affecting the outlook for 2015/16 including Exchequer support and Reserve levels, recommended a budget level for that year.

Council were advised at the end of Paragraph 8, point 3 the words 'will appoint a suitable person' are to be added.

It was recommended that the Council approve:

- 1) A revised 2014/15 budget totalling £9,970,670 and a budget for 2015/16 totalling £10,295,150.**

- 2) **The Pay Policy Statement (Appendix 3) and Member's Allowances Scheme (Appendix 4) for 2015/16 and the proposals for the composition and recruitment of the Independent Remuneration Panel set out in Section 8 of this report.**
- 3) **The proposed amendment and addition to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy as detailed in Appendix 5.**

It was also proposed that 5% increase in funding be awarded to Accommodation Resource Centre (ARC) from the Homelessness budget.

Voting was thereupon taken and the names of the Members voting for and against the Recommendation and those abstaining were read to the Council:

FOR THE RECOMMENDATION: Councillors Allen, Bateman, Beavis, Bergin, Burgess, ,Carter, Dickson, Edgar, Geddes, Mrs Hook, Hook, Jessop, Langdon, Mrs Morgan, Murphy, Philpott, Ronayne, Scard, **(18)**

AGAINST THE RECOMMENDATION: (0)

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Ms Ballard, Mrs Batty, Chegwyn, Mrs Cully, Mrs Diffey, Farr, Foster-Reed, Hylands, Mrs Searle, Mrs Wright, Wright, The Mayor **(12)**

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT & PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2015/160

Consideration was given to a Report by the Borough Treasurer which outlined the Council's prudential indicators for 2015/16 to 2017/18, together with the expected treasury operations for this period, fulfilling a key legislative requirement.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following be approved:

- a) The Treasury Management Strategy, as identified in 1.3
- b) The Prudential Indicators, as identified in 1.4
- c) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement set out in 2.2
- d) The Annual Investment Strategy (paragraph 2.7.2)

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Consideration was given to a report and two addendum reports of the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive advising the Council of recent legislation and guidance relating to a number of governance issues and to propose changes to the constitution.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the changes to the Constitution set out in Appendix 1 of the report

and the addendum reports be agreed.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2015-2016

The Council was informed that in accordance with Standing Order 2.4 the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive 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 had been received Councillor K C Farr for Mayor-Elect and one nomination Councillor Mrs. L M Hook for Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2015-2016 Municipal Year. The Council accordingly approved the nominations.

The meeting ended at 19.28