

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2015 AT 6.18pm**

Attendance:

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

Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard (P), Bateman, Mrs Batty (P), Beavis (P), Bergin (P) , Burgess (P), Carter CR (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Dickson (P), Ms Diffey, Edgar (P), Mrs Forder (P), Forder (P), Foster-Reed, Geddes (P), Gill (P), Hazel, Hicks (P), Mrs Hook (P), Hook (P), Hylands (P), Jessop (P), Langdon, 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 Kimber.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bateman, Ms Diffey, Foster-Reed, and Hazel and Honorary Alderman Foster.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 October 2015 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor informed the Council that the Royal British Legion had raised £1568.47 at the Town Hall for the recent Poppy Appeal.

The Christmas Organ Recital had taken place at Holy Trinity Church and had raised £269 for the Mayor's Charities.

Paul Danson from the Federation of Small Businesses presented the Council with the Award for Small Business Friendliness.

DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received.

QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4

There were none.

**PART I
GOSPORT SCHEME OF ALLOCATIONS**

At its meeting on 16 November 2015 the Community Board considered a report of the Interim Housing Services Manager on the following item. Immediately following a vote on the decision taken by the Board and before the next item was called two members of the Board required that the decision be submitted to Council as a recommendation.

MOTION: That the recommendations as detailed below, be approved:

1. **The following amendments be made to the Gosport Scheme of Allocations for immediate implementation:**
 - a) **For access to Sheltered and Extra Care accommodation only, the capital/equity threshold is raised from £16,000 to £70,000 and for income thresholds to remain unchanged;**
 - b) **Any changes to the above threshold to reflect changes in the market is dealt with by officers as part of their discretion on capital/equity thresholds;**
 - c) **That access criteria for Council mature lets be reduced from 38 years or more to those aged 35 years or more.**
 - d) **That Extra Care nominations requests are not advertised under the Choice Based Lettings approach.**
2. **Consultation be undertaken with housing association partners in respect of recommendation 1(a) above, and, if significant issues arise from that consultation, authority is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Board to determine the Council's response.**

FIRST AMENDMENT: That:

The recommendation (b) be deleted and subsequent paragraphs become (b) and (C)

The Amendment was put to the meeting and declared LOST.

SECOND AMENDMENT: That:

The current paragraph (d) remove the word 'not'

The Amendment was put to the meeting and declared LOST.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Motion be approved and adopted.

PART II MINUTES

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

- Community Board: 16 November 2015 (Minute no 30-32)
- Economic Development Board: 25 November 2015 (Minute no 31-36)

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive had submitted to Members of the Council a report on the above. The purpose of her report was to request council to consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and agree any changes to the current Scheme of Allowances for Members. Appended to her report was the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel December 2015.

Members welcomed that there was no proposed increase in the allowance and thanked the Panel for their hard work in producing the report.

MOTION: That:

A. That the Council agrees each of the following recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out in their report dated December 2015:

- 1. In line with the current Scheme, no more than 50% of Members of Gosport Borough Council are to receive Special Responsibility allowances at any one time;**
- 2. The Basic Allowance be paid at £5,862.00 per annum which has been calculated by reference to the work involved and no provision has been included for other out of pocket expenses;**
- 3. No Member should be entitled to receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance;**
- 4. Special Responsibility Allowances should be paid for the following roles and in the following amounts:**

Leader of the Council: £13,620.00

Chairman of Service Boards, Regulatory Board and Licensing Board: £4,362

Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee: £3,270

Chairman of the Standards and Governance Committee: £3,270

Opposition Political Group Leaders Special Responsibility Allowance be calculated in accordance with the formula set out in paragraph 36 of the Independent Remuneration Panel's Report and paid in the following amounts:

Liberal Democrat Group Leader: £2,383.50

Labour Group Leader: £2,383.50

- 5. Vice Chairmen of Boards do not receive a Special Responsibility Allowance;**
- 6. Deputy Leader does not receive a Special Responsibility Allowance;**
- 7. Travel Allowance should only be paid for travel outside of the Borough on approved duties at 40.9 pence per mile;**
- 8. The Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowance should be subject to an annual adjustment equal to percentage increase in the pay of Gosport Borough Council Staff and implemented in April each year;**
- 9. Child Care and Dependent Carers' Allowances should be retained and paid at the hourly rate for the National Living Wage for attendance at formally approved meetings only (not constituency work). The number of hours to be paid per week is the lower of the total time spent at no more than 2 meetings in that week or 8 hours subject to a maximum allowance, per Councillor, of £2,000 per year;**
- 10. A Co-optees Allowance is not paid;**
- 11. Where a Councillor is suspended or partially suspended, the Basic Allowance; Special Responsibility Allowance; and Travel Allowance payable in respect of the period of suspension or partial suspension should be withheld;**
- 12. In accordance with the 2003 Regulations where the term of office of a Member begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning of the year, or the Member does not have any responsibilities to entitle them to a special responsibility allowance, their entitlement, or special responsibility allowance shall be to payment of such part of the basic allowance or special responsibility allowance as bears to the whole same proportion as the number of days during which their term of office as Member or the number of days during which they hold a special responsibility allowance subsists bears to the number of days in that year; and**
- 13. Any amendment which affects an allowance payable for the year in which the amendment is made shall apply with effect from 1 April of the year in which the amendment is made.**

- B. That the Council agrees that the current provisions relating to payments set out in paragraph 2.3 and 2.4 continue.**

AMENDMENT: That:

The proposed allowance for the Chairman of the Standards and Governance Committee be deleted.

The Amendment was put to the meeting and declared CARRIED.

In accordance with Standing Order 4.12.5, Councillors Chegwyn, Hylands and Hicks requested that their vote in favour of the amendment be recorded.

The Substantive Motion was accordingly declared CARRIED.

In accordance with Standing Order 4.12.5, Councillors Chegwyn, Hylands and Hicks requested that their abstention on the vote on the Substantive Motion be recorded.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Substantive Motion as amended, be approved and adopted.

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR GOSPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer to inform Members of the proposal not to change the Local Council Tax Support scheme (LCTS) for Gosport for the forthcoming 2016-2017 financial year other than minor changes to reflect the changes to the Regulations by the Department of Work and Pensions.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: The Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) for Gosport at Appendix A of the report of the Borough Treasurer is approved and notes the statutory scheme for Pension Age customers be approved.

The meeting concluded at 7.34pm

The Mayor.