

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 6.00pm**

Attendance:

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

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

Also in attendance: Honorary Alderman Hayward and Kimber.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dickson, Geddes and Philpott and Honorary Freeman O'Neill and Honorary Alderman Foster.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 December 2016 and the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 16 December 2016 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor advised that he had held a musical evening at the Masonic Hall with four different Musical Acts performing. He advised that the evening was a success raising over £860 for charity and that he would welcome more live music events in the Borough.

DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received.

QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4

There were none.

PART I

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BOARDS

THE GAMBLING ACT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES 2016-2019

Councillor Hylands declared a personal interest in the items referred from the Licensing Board.

Consideration was given to a recommendation by the Licensing Board at its meeting held on 26th January 2016.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

That the Draft Statement of Principles 2016-2019 be adopted without amendments.

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT LICENSING ACT 2003 POLICY - OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a recommendation by the Licensing Board at its meeting held on 26th January 2016.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

That the Draft Licensing Policy be adopted without amendment, subject to the minor alterations identified.

BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE AND COUNCIL DWELLING RENTS 2016/2017

Consideration was given to a recommendation by the Community Board at its meeting held on 8th February 2016.

COUNCIL RESOLVED THAT:

- The revised HRA Business Plan extract (Appendix A) and associated 2015/16 Revised Budget and 2016/17 Budget (Appendix B) is agreed.
- That Council Dwelling rents decrease by 1% (an average of £0.83 per week) in accordance with paragraph 5.1, with the exception of Sheltered Housing.
- Sheltered Housing rents increase by CPI +1% in 2016/17 in accordance with Government guidelines.

- The rent for older style garages is increased in line with inflation, as agreed in the garage renewal strategy.

PART II MINUTES

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

- Economic Development Board: 3 February 2016 (Minute no 42-44)
- Community Board: 8 February 2016 (Minute no 39-40)

COUNCIL BUDGET 2016/2017

Consideration was given to a Report and addendum of the Borough Treasurer which recommends budget levels for the General Fund services for 2016/17 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 2016/17 including Exchequer support and Reserve levels, recommended a budget level for that year.

It was recommended that the Council approve

- 1) A revised 2015/16 budget totalling £10,466,250 and a budget for 2016/17 totalling £9,345,640**
- 2) The Pay Policy Statement (Appendix 3) and Member's Allowances Scheme (Appendix 4) for 2016/17 are set out in Section 8 of the report be approved.**

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, Burgess, Carter, Edgar, Mrs Forder, Forder, Gill, Hazel, Mrs Hook, Hook, Jessop, Langdon, Mrs Morgan, Murphy, Ronayne, Scard, **(18)**

AGAINST THE RECOMMENDATION: Councillors Ms Ballard, Bergin, Chegwyn, Ms Diffey, Foster-Reed, Hicks, Hylands **(7)**

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Mrs Batty, Mrs Cully, Mrs Searle, Mrs Wright, Wright, The Mayor **(6)**

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved.

TREASURY MANGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2016/17

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer outlining the Council's prudential indicators for the 2016/17 to 2017/18

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following be approved.

- The Treasury Management Strategy, as identified in 1.3
- The Prudential Indicators, as identified in 1.4
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement set out in 2.2
- The Annual Investment Strategy (paragraph 2.7)

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2016-2017

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 Mrs. L M Hook for Mayor-Elect and one nomination Councillor Mrs. L.M. Batty for Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2016-2017 Municipal Year. The Council accordingly approved the nominations.

The Council acknowledged that in May 2000 a motion had been passed that a qualification period of one term (four years) be set before a Member could hold office of Deputy Mayor. In light of the proposed nomination for Deputy Mayor-Elect it was proposed and agreed that this be relaxed, as a one off, in this exceptional circumstance.

The meeting concluded at 7.34pm

The Mayor.