

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 6.00pm
Subject to Approval**

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Hook) (P) (in the Chair);

Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard, Bateman (P), Mrs Batty (P), Beavis (P), Bergin (P) , Burgess (P), Carter (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Ms Diffey, Earle (P), Edgar (P), Farr (P) Mrs Forder (P), Foster-Reed (P), Mrs Furlong (P), Hicks (P), Hook (P), Huggins (P) Hylands (P), Jessop (P), Mrs Jones (P), Miss Kelly (P), Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy (P), Philpott (P) , Prickett, Raffaelli (P), Ronayne (P), Scard (P), Mrs Wright (P) and Wright (P).

Also in attendance: Honorary Freeman O'Neill and Honorary Alderman Gill and Foster.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ms Ballard, Ms Diffey and Mrs Prickett.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 December 2016 and the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 30 January 2017 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor advised that on Saturday in Falklands Garden there would be a welcome home for Freeman of the Borough Alex Thomson who reached the finish line of the Vendée Globe on his boat HUGO BOSS on 20th January in just 74 days and in doing so broke his own British record of 80 days for the fastest solo sail round the world in a monohull.

Alex Came 2nd overall out of 29 boats. There will be a Parade of Sail From 1015 – 1100 from the Spitbank Fort and around Portsmouth Harbour and will bring Hugo Boss alongside the Ferry pontoon at 11am for the welcome back to Gosport.

DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received.

QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4

Questions standing in the name of Councillor Chegwyn on:

What discussions has the Leader had with the Leaders of Portsmouth, Fareham & Havant Councils about a Combined or Unitary Authority bid involving the four authorities following the refusal of the new Conservative administration on the Isle of Wight to support a Solent Combined Authority bid?

What action is taken against housing tenants who are consistently behind with their rent? Are tenants allowed a transfer when having rent arrears on a previous council property?

How many (i) Football, (ii) Rugby, and (iii) Cricket pitches does the Council have available for hiring by local teams? How many (i) football, (ii) rugby and (iii) cricket teams hired pitches from the Council in the past 12 months?

Were answered by the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Community Board.

BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE AND COUNCIL DWELLING RENTS 2017/2018

Consideration was given to a recommendation by the Community Board at its meeting held on 25th January 2017.

COUNCIL RESOLVED THAT:

- The revised HRA Business Plan extract (Appendix A) and associated 2016/17 Revised Budget and 2017/18 Budget (Appendix B) is agreed.
- That Council Dwelling rents decrease by 1% (an average of £0.83 per week), continuing the four year reduction programme as detailed in the new national rent policy introduced in April 16.
- The rent for older style garages is increased in line with inflation, as agreed in the Garage Renewal strategy.
- To increase the presently approved HRA Capital Programme by £875k (as in 2.3b of the report).

PART II MINUTES

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

- Community Board: 25 January 2017
- Policy and Organisation Board: 7 February 2017

COUNCIL BUDGET 2017/2018

Consideration was given to a Report and addendum of the Borough Treasurer outlining the overall current and medium term financial position of the Council's General Fund, recommends a Budget for 2017/18 that maintains the financial health and resilience of the Council and proposes an associated increase in Council Tax for 2017/18 of £5 for a Band D property and equating to 7pence per week for the average Gosport property (Band B).

It was recommended that the Council approve

- 2.1 A Revised Budget for 2016/17 of £10,610,380 as set out in Appendix A
- 2.2 A Budget for 2017/18 of £10,876,940 as set out in Appendix A
- 2.3 Any variation arising from the final Local Government Finance Settlement be accommodated by a transfer to / from the Stability & Resilience Reserve.
- 2.4 That the level of Council Tax be increased by £5 per annum for a Band D property
- 2.5 It be noted that the Borough Treasurer has determined that the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2017/18 will be 26,409.7 [item T in the formula in Section 31 B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")].
- 2.6 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2017/18 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a)	£ 50,147,428	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
(b)	£ 44,527,180	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£5,620,248	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 2.6 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2.6(b) above,

		calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act.
(d)	£212.81	Being the amount at 2.6 (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item 2.5 above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(e) Valuation Bands (Gosport Borough Council)

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
141.8 7	165.52	189.16	212.81	260.10	307.39	354.68	425.62

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 2.6 (d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings in different valuation bands.

- 2.7 That it be noted that for the financial year 2017/18 Hampshire County Council is consulting upon the following amounts for the precept to be issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Hampshire County Council)

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
755.4 0	881.3 0	1,007.2 0	1,133.1 0	1,384.9 0	1,636.7 0	1,888.5 0	2,266.2 0

- 2.8 That it be noted that for the financial year 2017/18 the Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner is consulting upon the following amounts for the precept to be issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
110.3 1	128.69	147.08	165.46	202.23	239.00	275.77	330.92

- 2.9 That it be noted that for the financial year 2017/18 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority are recommending the following amounts for the precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority)

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
42.5 6	49.65	56.75	63.84	78.03	92.21	106.40	127.68

- 2.10 That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.6(e), 2.7, 2.8 and 2.9 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the financial year 2017/18 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Total Council Tax)

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
1,050. 14	1,225. 16	1,400. 19	1,575. 21	1,925. 26	2,275. 30	2,625. 35	3,150. 42

- 2.11 The Borough Treasurer be given delegated authority to implement any variation to the overall level of Council Tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority precepts.
- 2.12 Members have had regard for the Statement of the Section 151 Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.
- 2.13 The Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2019/20 as set out in Appendix D is approved.
- 2.14 The Pay Policy Statement (Appendix E) and Member's Allowance Scheme (Appendix F) for 2017/18 set out in section 14 of the report.

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, Mrs Batty, Beavis, Bergin Burgess, Carter, Edgar, Mrs Forder, Hook, Mrs Huggins, Mrs Furlong, Jessop, Mrs Jones, Mrs Morgan, Murphy, Philpott, Raffaelli, Ronayne, Scard, The Mayor **(21)**

AGAINST THE RECOMMENDATION: Councillors Chegwyn, Earle, Foster-Reed, Hicks, Hylands, Miss Kelly. **(6)**

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Mrs Cully, Farr, Mrs Wright, Wright, **(4)**

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY REGISTRATION OFFICER

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive requesting agreement for the appointment to the role of Deputy Registration Officer.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That pursuant to Section 8 of the representation of the People Act 1983 Graeme Jesty (Head of Electoral Services) be appointed the Council's Deputy Registration Officer.

CONSTITUTION – REPONSIBILITIES FOR FUNCTIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Consideration was given to a report and addendum of the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief executive reviewing the existing delegation of functions and the proposal of new arrangements for the delegation of functions.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

That the revised Scheme of Delegations to Officers set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved and that with immediate effect functions be delegated to the Officers named.

That delegated authority be given to the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive to make changes to the Constitution and any other document to give effect to the Council's resolutions in respect of the report.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2017-2018

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 Batty for Mayor-Elect and one nomination Councillor Mrs. D.H Furlong for Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2017-218 Municipal Year. The Council accordingly approved the nominations.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Council was advised that there was an additional urgent item of business and that due to the nature of the business to be discussed the item would be exempt.

The motion was therefore proposed that in relation to the report of the Borough Solicitor and the Deputy Chief Executive, the public be excluded from the meeting as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That in relation to the following item the public be excluded from the meeting, as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

REDUNDANCY OF AN OFFICER

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that the following item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created by timescales detailed in the report.

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive recommending the redundancy of an officer.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations in the report be approved.

The meeting concluded at 7.05pm

The Mayor.