

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the
Civic Centre Ham Road Shoreham-by-Sea**

19 February 2015

Councillor Fred Lewis, Chairman
Councillor Carson Albury, Vice-Chairman

*Councillor Carol Albury	Councillor Liz Haywood
Councillor Pat Beresford	Councillor Emily Hilditch
Councillor Ken Bishop	Councillor Rod Hotton
Councillor Brian Boggis	Councillor Debbie Kennard
Councillor Ann Bridges	Councillor David Lambourne
Councillor James Butcher	Councillor Liza McKinney
Councillor Stephen Chipp	*Councillor Barry Mear
Councillor Brian Coomber	*Councillor Peter Metcalfe
Councillor Keith Dollemore	Councillor Neil Parkin
Councillor Dave Donaldson	Councillor Geoff Patmore
Councillor Angus Dunn	Councillor Lyn Phillips
Councillor Emma Evans	Councillor David Simmons
*Councillor Jim Funnell	Councillor Ben Stride
Councillor Paul Graysmark	

* = Absent

C/047/14-15 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carol Albury, Jim Funnell and Peter Metcalfe.

C/048/14-15 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

C/049/14-15 Questions and Statements by the Public

The Chairman invited questions and statement from members of the public present, none were submitted.

C/050/14-15 Confirmation of Minutes

Councillor Dollemore proposed an amendment to the minutes in the Executive Members announcements to read 'West Sussex County Council had provided £5k for the fence with him having made arrangements for a top up from the Council to cover the shortfall'.

Resolved that, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Council on 18 December be approved as a correct record and they be signed by the Chairman.

C/051/14-15 Announcements by the Chairperson, Leader, Executive Members and / or Head of Paid Service

The Leader announced that he was making a small adjustment to the membership of the Licensing Committee – David Simmons was to become a normal member of the committee and Emma Evans would become Vice-Chairman.

The Leader announced that there were exciting changes concerning the new digital direction being taken by the Council; explained to members in a letter before them in the Chamber. The Director for Digital and Resources had been working hard on these changes with the programme gathering pace; a group of officers and members had been selected to soft test the new systems to help make sure the transition would be as smooth as possible. Democratic Services would be contacting Members shortly about how the changes and to offering the opportunities to attend training.

The Executive Member for Regeneration highlighted that Colette Blackett, Planning Policy Manager would be leaving the Council's employ the following week, the Member commended Colette's service to the Council particularly her work on the Adur Local Plan.

The Head of Paid Service had no announcements.

C/052/14-15 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were no items under the urgency provisions.

C/053/14-15 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

(A) Executive - Revenue estimates and Council Tax

The Chairman announced that this item would be taken with item 11 later in the meeting.

(B) Joint Strategic Committee

The Leader presented the recommendations from the meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee on 5 February; a copy of items 7B (i) and (ii) are attached to the minutes.

(i) Joint Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy

Councillor Albury seconded the proposal.

On a vote For 24 Against 0 Abstain 0

Resolved that the Prudential Indicators and Limits, and MRP Statements relating to Adur District Council be approved.

(ii) Emergency Groyne Repairs at Southwick Beach

Councillor Beresford seconded the proposal.

On a vote For 24 Against 0 Abstain 0

Resolved that the increased budget for Southwick Beach Groyne Repairs by £500,000 to reflect the additional funding obtained from the Environment Agency be approved

(C) Joint Governance Committee

The Joint Chairman of the Committee presented the recommendations from the meeting of 20 January, a copy of items 7C (i) and (ii) are attached to the minutes.

(i) Proposed Revision of Joint Contract Standing Orders

Councillor Graysmark seconded the proposal.

On a vote For 24 Against 0 Abstain 0

Resolved that

- i. subject to the amendments identified by the Committee, the revised Joint Contract Standing Orders be approved.
- ii. the final amended version, to be approved by the Councils' Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Joint Committee Chairmen.

(ii) JIRP – Scheme of Allowances for Adur District Council

Councillor Graysmark seconded the proposal.

Councillor Butcher moved an amendment to the recommendation that the Council should accept Option 1 with the additional cost being funded from the budget surplus being placed into reserves.

Councillor Beresford seconded the proposed amendment.

The amendment found support from a large proportion of Members in the Chamber who rose to comment and commend the recommendation from the JIRP.

On a vote on the amendment For 19 Against 2 Abstain 2

Resolved that Option 1 as set out in the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel report be adopted by the Council for municipal years 2014/15 and 2015/16.

C/054/14-15 Report of the Leader

The Leader's report on pages 17-20 of the agenda and attached to the minutes as item 8, was noted by Council.

Executive Members made no statements on their decisions.

No Questions were asked of Executive Members on their decisions.

C/055/14-15 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule 12

The Chairman announced that a question had been received from Councillor Mear, the Democratic Services Manager advised Councillor Mear was not in the chamber to ask his question.

C/056/14-15 Motions on Notice Council Procedure Rule 14

(A) Resident's Survey following the 2015 Shoreham Music Festival

The Chairman invited Councillor Patmore to propose his Motion to Council. Details had been circulated to all members as item 10 on the agenda.

Councillor Patmore addressed Council on his proposal setting out his reasons for the Notice supported by background information.

Councillor Lambourne seconded the Motion.

Once proposed and seconded, the Chairman announced that the Motion would be considered by the Joint Strategic Committee on 31 March 2015.

C/057/14-15 Council Tax 2015/16

The Council had before it the recommendation from the Executive as item 7 A, the budget pack and circulated in the Chamber the proposed resolution.

In line with tradition, the Chairman invited the Leader of the Opposition, followed by each of the other parties represented on the Council, in alphabetical order, to address Council on the proposed Council Tax for 2015/16.

The Leader addressed Council by the Deputy Leader and all the members of the Executive for their work this year. He was delight to move the District Council's budget for 2015/16 and did so with pride at the many things achieved over the last 12 months when taken in content of the positive impact on the lives on the people in our District.

Public Realm and Regeneration

- Work was underway on the enhancements at Queensway, Lancing which would provide significant improvements and a new events space. Capital funding had been secured for the refurbishment of Lancing Beach Green toilets, delivering the visual improvements outlined in the Lancing Vision document. Five shops had been replaced, taking advantage of the Lancing Vision Shop Front Grant, with a further three in the pipeline. Way finding monoliths have been installed at Lancing Station and in Shoreham.
- £150,000 of 106 Capital funding had been put towards Buckingham Park pavilion refurbishment in partnership with the Rugby club and support given to the community group at Southwick Square Gardens with landscaping and project management of their local community garden.

- There was over 95% Occupancy of Adur Allotments, and 92% Occupancy of Adur Beach Chalets.
- Flower drifts, for the WW1 – Commemoration planting, were successfully planted across Adur's parks, cemeteries and open spaces.

Adur continued to experience a high number of gypsy and traveller incursions during 2014. In liaison with Sussex Police and WSCC saw the police use their powers to move on encampments. Significantly, the Council, in partnership with all of the Councils in West Sussex, had agreed to support and co-fund the establishment of a G&T Transit site located in Chichester. The transit site was due to open in April offering the Police powers to deal with encampments. The Leader was hopeful in a reduction in the number and impact of encampments over the next few years.

There had been a role in ensuring Adur benefited from *City Deal* investment and from the investment in the Coast to Capital LEP through the *Growth Deal*. For Adur during this last year, had already meant securing £9.5 million in two flood defence projects and transport access improvements in Shoreham

Community & Wellbeing

- Working closely with local groups and residents to identify priorities and develop local projects to make a lasting difference. This included a mentoring project with Shoreham Academy where adults were trained up as community mentors to work with young people, and the Fishersgate Voice where local residents have been supported to set up and develop a local newspaper and online presence to promote Fishersgate.
- The Public Health Plan had been launch, being one of the first district councils to do this. Over the next few years consideration would be given to the mobilisation of the workforce to help improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities.
- Building Control had processed 1530 customer applications and undertaken over 6000 site inspections all of which had improved the safety and accessibility of the built environment which has also contributed to the public health agenda.
- The *Pot of Gold* event last year was entertaining, with presentations becoming more inventive than ever – there was song, dance & poetry at the presentation evening. £73,891 was allocated to 13 groups as a result of the scheme. The event had become a regular feature of the Council's work with the community sector, this year would see a refresh with the programme focusing on the needs of young people in our communities.
- The Council supported, amongst other events, the Beach Dreams Festival, Shoreham Riverfest, Adur Art Trail, Adur Arts Forum – Musical Concert, World Oceans Day Performance of Eternal Light (Boundstone Chorus) together with continued support to the Adur Festival.

Housing

- The year had seen the establishment of the Adur Homes Management Board. The Board consisted of members, residents and independents. It ensured that social

housing in Adur continued to be owned and managed by the local authority, but also allowed residents to contribute to the service delivered.

- A new appointment based system would be introduced for repairs and a programme of estate walkabouts would commence. Housing stock was in need of investment with a programme underway to identify priorities.
- The Sompting gas installation project, a major investment offering to connect over 200 hundred homes to the gas mains for the first time.
- New Introductory Tenancies, had been introduced
- The Council had joined the West Sussex Credit Union to provide financial support to households who may otherwise find themselves going down the slippery slope of going to pay day loan companies, and loan sharks.
- In partnership with the YMCA there would be a programme of decorations in people's homes who were vulnerable or elderly, to brighten surround and provide a springboard to young people in a future career or business start-up.
- that may help them in a future carer or even start up their own business.

Waste

- The Council continued its successful weekly refuse & fortnightly recycling service, with additional houses being absorbed into the service without incurring significant additional financial burden. The weekly garden refuse service strengthened

To enable the Council to achieve its service delivery the Leader was pleased to report an expectation to collect 98% of £32.3 million of Council Tax in 2014-15, and 98% of £17.1 million of non-domestic rates.

Restructuring & Reorganisation

Four new Directors, identified within 'Catching the Wave', took up their posts the previous summer and, just before Christmas, a further restructuring of the third tier to bring a stronger leadership focus to a number of key commitments and save significant funding in senior management costs.

A significant digital programme was underway in the Councils with a number of work streams; Google Apps for Work, Citizen Platform, Enterprise Telephone, new mobile phones and improved Wi-Fi access.

Work was continuing on the business case for a partnership with Aylesbury Vale DC and iESE delivering Legal Services; Human Resources were being redesigned as was Engineering and Surveying. Membership of a shared procurement service was being explored.

The Leader explained that the budget papers before Council set out in detail a stable financial management continuing to do more for less. He proposed a freeze in council tax for the coming year. At the outset of the budget round the Council faced the challenging prospect of finding savings of around £0.5m. This challenge had been successfully met with the council now in the position to balance the budget, freeze Council Tax and reinvest back into priority services to promote economic growth. Notwithstanding the austerity measures were set to continue in the next Parliament. The Council was likely to face further reductions in government funding over the next 5 years irrespective of the outcome of the General Election.

The Leader urged the Council to support the budget.

The Leader of the Opposition commended the Head of Finance and her staff for coherent and understandable budget papers. Support was given to the proposal not to increase Council Tax which was supported although comment was made on the use of the Council's support grant to fund the increase which could lead to increase debt. Support was given to the Chief Executive's changes as was the future use of Google as a replacement to the current IT.

The Leader of the Opposition had some ideas that he indicated he would like to share with the Executive Member for Customer Services relating to Adur Homes.

He would be supporting the Budget.

The Leader of the Shoreham Beach Resident's Association addressed Council supporting and congratulating the Administration for the work over the last three years underpinned by the Joint Services that had provided numerous financial savings. She too congratulated the Head of Finance for financial reports that were understandable. Echoing earlier comments, it was hoped that the move to Google would eliminate the constant password issue and give regular access to email. Mention was made of on-going delays with a large project on Shoreham Beach which needed to be resolved by WSCC urgently. Councillor McKinney indicated her support for the budget and the Administration's ongoing Joint work with Worthing Borough Council.

Members rose to address Council on the budget proposals commenting on investments on Crowshaw Recreation Ground, installation of gas to properties in Peverel Ward, the Adur Homes Service, waste and green waste collections, various improvements in Lancing.

In summing up the Leader announced how the Adur Civic Presence was taking shape with open days due in April. Later in the year the Civic Centre was to be rented out to a TV company for use in a crime series – the 1st and 2nd floors were to be used as a Police Station.

On a recorded vote:

Those voting for the proposal (25)

Councillors C Albury, Beresford, Bishop, Boggis, Bridges, Butcher, Coomber, Chipp, Dollemore, Donaldson, Dunn, Evans, Graysmark, Haywood, Hilditch, Hotton, Kennard, Lambourne, Lewis, McKinney, Parking, Patmore, Phillips, Simmons, Stride.

Those voting against the proposed amendment (0)

Those abstaining (0)

Resolved :

1. It be noted that on 4th February 2014, the Cabinet calculated the Council Tax Base 2015/16.
 - (a) for the whole Council area as **20,155.6** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and

- (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix C
2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£5,472,850**.
3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- (a) **£46,698,380** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils
- (b) **£40,860,660** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
- (c) **£5,837,720** being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(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 of the Act).
- (d) **£289.63** being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) **£364,870** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C).
- (f) **£271.53** being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (g) **£252,710** being the aggregate amount of all special expenses (not applicable in the Lancing Parish area)
- (h) **£259.02** being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) and 3(g) above by Item T (1a above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept or Special Expense relates.
4. That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 the West Sussex County Council and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below:-

All of the Council's Area 2015/16	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
West Sussex County Council	774.66	903.77	1032.88	1161.99	1420.21	1678.43	1936.65	2323.98
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex	95.94	111.93	127.92	143.91	175.89	207.87	239.85	287.82

5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in Appendix B as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2015/16 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm, it having commenced at 7pm.

Chairman