

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of
Adur District Council**

28 February 2019

**Queen Elizabeth II Room
Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea**

Councillor Joss Loader, Chairman
Councillor George Barton, Vice-Chairman

Councillor Carol Albury	Councillor Angus Dunn
Councillor Carson Albury	Councillor Emma Evans
Councillor Catherine Arnold	Councillor Liz Haywood
Councillor Les Alden	Councillor Paul Mansfield
Councillor David Balfe	Councillor Andy McGregor
Councillor Pat Beresford	Councillor Peter Metcalfe
Councillor Brian Boggis	Councillor Barry Mear
Councillor Kevin Boram	*Councillor Robin Monk
Councillor Ann Bridges	Councillor Lavinia O'Connor
Councillor Clive Burghard	Councillor Neil Parkin
Councillor Stephen Chipp	Councillor David Simmons
Councillor Dave Collins	Councillor Debs Stainforth
Councillor Brian Coomber	Councillor Sami Zeglam
Councillor Lee Cowen	

* = Absent

C/038/18-19 Apologies for absence

The Chairman announced that apologies had been received from Councillor Robin Monk

C/039/18-19 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman announced that the Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to all Members who may have a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to item 12 the setting of the Council Tax, in accordance with section 33 of the Localism Act 2011. It was also noted that all West Sussex County Councillors declared personal interests in this item

C/040/18-19 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public

C/041/18-19 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2018 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman

C/042/18-19 Announcements by the Chairman and / or Head of Paid Service

The Chairman made the following announcements

I attended a number of very enjoyable Christmas carol services across the district, including one held by 4Sight Vision Support at the Methodist Church in Shoreham.

I also very much enjoyed the Civic Carol Service, which was held for the first time at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Shoreham Beach. This was very well attended and thanks to all councillors who showed their support.

Ophthalmology Department Visit at Southlands Hospital - This was particularly interesting and heartening to see the investment by the NHS in our local hospital. The staff are doing a truly phenomenal job.

Lancing Sorting Office - Cllr Carson Albury and I paid a visit early on a Friday morning, just before Christmas. Again, the teams were doing a sterling job in ensuring that all our letters and parcels were delivered on time.

Holocaust Memorial - I was delighted to attend a very moving event held by Sir Robert Woodard Academy. Thanks to Cllrs Dave Simmons and Lee Cowen for bringing this back to the Academy. It was heartening to see such an engaged and informed approach by Sixth Formers who had recently visited Auschwitz

The annual event on January 27th was held in Buckingham Park, and again was very well attended by both councillors and the public. The message - Never Again - was powerfully and poignantly delivered.

Defibrillator Appeal - This continues to be a great success and has really caught the public's imagination. Since the last update, we have successfully installed the first publicly-available defibrillator in North Lancing. This was funded by Recycling in Lancing, with match-funding by the Sussex Heart Charity. Installation costs were covered by Manor and Coombes' Conservative Association.

Another machine is on order for North Lancing and two are due to be installed in South Lancing tomorrow (March 1st) as the result of collaboration between Lancing Parish Council and the Lions.

Cllr Lee Cowen is also in the process of crowd-funding a machine for Mash Barn.

Leader's announcements

The Leader informed members that they had been supplied with reusable drinking bottles supplied by Southern Water. It marked the start of the Shoreham refill launch which encouraged people to use refill bottles rather than buy plastic disposable bottles. There will be premises in Shoreham where bottles can be filled up. There was an upcoming scheme

in Lancing and work was ongoing to get a scheme in Southwick. Members were informed further that work to install solar panels at the Shoreham Centre would commence soon.

C/043/18-19 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

The Chairman informed the Council that there were no matters of urgency to be considered.

C/044/18-19 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

The Council had before it recommendations from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Joint Strategic Committee (items 7A and 7B and 7C)

(A) Licensing Committee - 14 January 2019

Animal Welfare Licensing Policy - The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee introduced the recommendation to the Council and there being no questions moved the recommendation which was seconded

On a vote: for 28 against 0 abstain 0

Resolved: that the Animal Welfare Licensing Policy be approved

(B) Joint Strategic Committee - 31 January 2018

i) Joint Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council

The Leader presented the recommendation to the Council. A technical question was raised and the Leader suggested that the questioning member take the issue up with a finance officer at the end of the meeting. The Leader moved the recommendation before the Council which was seconded.

On a vote: for 27 against 0 abstain 1

Resolved:

The Prudential Indicators and Limits, and Minimum Revenue Provision Statements be approved

ii) Council Tax Support Schemes for 2019/20

The Leader introduced the recommendation to the Council and there being no questions moved the recommendation which was seconded. A Member lauded the Council's approach to the issue.

On a vote: for 28 against 0 abstain 0

iii) New Flood Defence for Shoreham Town Centre at Sussex Yacht Club

The Leader presented the recommendation to the Council. Members were told that funding identified was needed to complete the flood defence. Pressure from the council was appearing to have a positive impact and it was suggested funding from the Environment Agency may increase.

A Member asked questions about the cost of the project and value attached to land involved in the scheme. The Leader told the Council that the LEP was paying for the land in question in order for the scheme. A result of the project would be a cycle lane that stretched to Brighton.

A Member asked about the use of the Yacht Club for the Community and was told that the yacht club had schemes in relation to charities and community groups.

The Leader moved the recommendation which was seconded

On a vote: for 28 against 0 abstain 0

Resolved:

- i) the budget for the scheme be increased by £215,000 to accommodate a contingency sum for the coastal defence works;
- ii) prudential borrowing of £778,070 be approved to part fund the coastal defence works, in the event that full funding for the flood defences was not secured from other sources, with the remainder of the funding being provided by the Environment Agency.

C/045/18-19 Report of the Leader on Decisions taken by Executive Members and the Joint Strategic Committee since the last meeting of Council

Before the Council was the report of the Leader on Decisions taken by Executive Members and the Joint Strategic Committee since the last meeting of Council.

The Executive Member for Resources stated that he had not received any representations from Members on the two individual decisions he had made since the last Full Council.

The Executive Member for Wellbeing promoted the work that had been undergone as part of the Community Grants scheme.

C/046/18-19 Schedule of Meetings 2019/20

Before the Council was the schedule of meetings for 2019/20. On a vote it was agreed that the Full council meeting in October was moved to the 31 October 2019. A further proposal to move the Full Council meeting in April was not carried on vote.

The schedule as amended had been proposed and seconded and

On a vote: for 28 against 0 abstain 0

Resolved: that the schedule of meetings for 2019/20 as amended be approved

C/047/18-19 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule 12

The Chairman announced that the Proper Officer had not received any questions from Members under CPR 12.

C/048/18-19 Suspension of Council Procedure Rules

Resolved: that Council Procedure rules be suspended in accordance with paragraph 7.2 of the budget procedure rules .

C/049/18-19 Council Tax 2019/20

The Leader of the Council introduced the budget and setting of the council tax to members and made the following speech.

First I would like to thank all members of the Executive and Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman for all the work they do. I would also like to thank the Chief Executive and his Officers .And of course you Madam Chairman.

We are all aware of the financial challenges facing Local Government but as Leader of this Council I have never allowed that to be a reason to curb our ambition.

- Our Ambition to see investment occurring across the district
- Our Ambition to work with our partners to address homelessness and see homes built in the District.
- Our Ambition to ensure we are making a positive contribution to the protecting our environment for future generations.
- The budget before you tonight further that ambition, while taking prudent and responsible steps that protect the services our communities value and enable them to thrive.

We continue to see investment in Adur, with developments in the Shoreham Harbour Quarter and New Monks Farm have been signed off by us and new major applications

coming in. While there are different views around New Monks Farm, one thing our investor and developers need is certainty. We are now nearer 130 days than the 30 days in which the Secretary of State should make his mind up about a call-in and we still haven't heard anything. I appreciate he may have other things on his mind, but it's not helpful to anyone to wait this long. However, we still have confidence in future investment and the budget proposes has funding to create additional capacity in our planning service. This additional capacity will enable the Council to handle the anticipated complex applications, without taking away resources from processing some of the 1200 planning applications the service receives annually. Our old Civic Centre site is soon to be one of these applications, to bring much needed homes and commercial space. To those who cry out for Social Housing ever where, I would point out people also need jobs, Doctors and many other things, while over the road Focus Group is set to move into their brand new digs this year. Bringing 400 jobs to Shoreham which I am sure local shopkeepers and restaurateurs will appreciate.

Our investments are not just in major developments we are also making sure that our communities have the facilities they expect and make Adur a great place to live. The Council's capital programme is investing in over £1 million towards the maintenance and enhancement of our parks and other public facilities, including:

- £150,000 to invest in Impulse Leisure
- £408,520 in maintenance equipment and vehicles
- £356,000 to invest in green and open spaces and playground.
- £150,000 to refurbish the town's public conveniences. This is while next door Labour controlled Brighton are still shutting theirs.

We are also proposing £20,000 to be made available to support our local cultural groups to unlock Arts Council Funding. City Fibre coming soon. We are working with Officers to bring gigabytes Internet to Adur and Worthing. Within 12 months we hope businesses and residents will be able to Access gigabyte Internet. This will be the first area in the Southeast.

Our housing services continue to experience an increase in demand. While we helped 182 households across Adur & Worthing over the past year, we continue to see the increase in demand for housing services, in particular in our homelessness services. The Council has chosen to take proactive steps to address this providing for additional growth of £270,000. The recent purchase of the Downview pub in Worthing is an example of how the Council, working with our friends in Worthing, is providing quality of temporary and emergency housing and reducing the costs for the Council. To further our efforts we are investing in our estates team to increase our capacity to make further purchases.

We are also building our first new council homes in 30 years in Albion Street with some of the 50 flats being offered to those on our waiting list. While the Planning Committee has recently agreed to the development of Cecil Norris House. These developments form part of our wider £7.4 million investment to maintain the Adur Homes' stock. The Challenge we face is that the condition survey of our housing stock shows we need to spend £33 million in 5 years, while a 1% decrease in rents reduced the HRA's income by half a million a year. Adur and Worthing are also proactively working with partners across West Sussex to respond to budget decisions being made by the West Sussex County Council. While the County Councils' decision is very disappointing we are taking steps to provide a contingency sum of £210,000 to respond to the impact of these decisions, while we work

with our partners to find a long-term solutions to supported housing and other services identified for review by the County Council.

Our community's health is vital to a good quality of life. The Council has been actively working with partners to identify how we can improve health outcomes and help our resident to thrive. Our social prescribing initiative, *Going Local's*, success has been recognised, with the programme being renewed and expanded for another two years with the potential for roll out across West Sussex. Through a modest investment £76,000 shared between Adur & Worthing Councils, Coastal West Sussex CCG and the County Council we are able to refer people to a range of voluntary, statutory and private service, and reducing demand on GP services. Six GP surgeries across Adur and Worthing took part in the trial with more than 1,000 referrals registered within 18 months. One of their referral service is our Wellbeing advisor who helped 435 people find their way to a healthier lifestyle. While 1200 children have taken part in our Happy Hearts programme across school in the District and Borough.

Sir David Attenborough's Blue Planet II put in sharp focus the long-term impact that we are having on environment. As a community framed by the sea and the downs we are all too aware of the value of our natural assets and the need to care for them. As a leader in our community I feel it is important we improve how we use our natural resources and how we impact on the environment. This is set out in the Adur & Worthing Sustainability Framework and this budget provides funding so our Strategic Sustainability Manager can further our ambitions programme. Moving to Alternative Waste Collections is an important initiative within our Sustainability Framework. Last year we emptied 2.4 million bins, we want to reduce this number and increase the recycling rates, and this requires a significant change to the service. The budget provides for the investment required to make this service change and provide additional information to our communities about recycling. I am reassured by hearing that many in our community are already putting out half-empty bins as part of the weekly collection service. I urge all Councillors to engage and promote the information when made available to help our communities get ready for this service change.

As always this is not the extent of our ambition, but represents a key areas we are making investments. These investment are supported by the Medium-Term Financial Strategy which is underpinned by new approaches to how we design and deliver our services, and develop our commercial activities and investment portfolios. These approaches are not only designed to improve the financial sustainability of the Councils, but also the services that our communities, clients and customers experience. Both revenue and capital investments of over £290,000 are being made in our digital services. We will continue to invest in new digital tools, in particular to improve how customers access Customer Services and the Revenues and Benefits service. Our investment strategy is another key element to our revenue strategy, representing 19% of our revenue. Given the financial challenges investment is an important aspect to our fiscal strategy. While we have seen reports of significant sums being used to invest in property. I wish to assure members that we will continue to take a prudent approach to risk. However, without these investments we would have some hard decision to make regarding the services we provide and the tax burden on our community. This would not only curb our ambition, but create uncertainties for our residents.

I urge you to support this budget to realise our ambitions and enable our communities to better weather the uncertainties that we all face.

The Leaders' proposal was seconded

The Leader of the main opposition congratulated officers on work that had been undertaken during the previous year. A budget amendment had not been put forward by the Main opposition party because there was no slack in the budget. It was opined that there was no slack in the budget because of responsibilities unfairly transferred from West Sussex County Council and Central Government. The Leader of the opposition included within his speech further references to Housing, increases in Council tax applied by West Sussex, the PCC and the district.

The Leader of UKIP made a representation and lauded officers for work on balancing the budget in the light of reduced grants from central Government.

The Leader of the Shoreham Beach Residents' Association made a representation and thanked officers for work on what was a difficult and unenviable task.

The Council debated the motion and discussed subjects including green waste, WSCC cuts, and special expenses charges for WSCC. The seconder of the motion set out the aims of the budget. The Leader addressed points raised during the vote and the Chairman put the Leader's proposal to the vote.

For: (Councillor)

Carol Albury, Carson Albury, George Baron, Pat Beresford, Brian Boggis, Kevin Boram, Ann Bridges, Clive Burghard, Stephen Chipp, Brian Coomber, Dave Collins, Angus Dunn, Emma Evans, Liz Haywood, Joss Loader, Andy McGregor, Paul Mansfield, Peter Metcalfe, Neil Parkin, David Simmons

Against: (Councillor)

Les Alden, Catherine Arnold, David Balfe, Lavinia O'Connor, Lee Cowen, Barry Mear, Deborah Stainforth, Sami Zeglam

Abstain: (zero)

Resolved:

- i) That Council approve the formal Council Tax resolution for Adur District Council set out at Appendix A including the Council's specific Council Tax for 2019/20, Parish Precepts and Special Expenses, which include:
 1. The basic part of Adur Council's requirements (excluding special expenses) in 2019/20 to be £284.22 for a Band D equivalent property as per paragraph 3(h).
 2. The special expenses part of Adur Council's requirements in 2019/20 to be £21.42 for a Band D equivalent property.
 3. The average Band D equivalent for Adur per paragraph 3(f), to be £299.43
- ii) that it be approved that, the draft budgets for 2019/20 as submitted in Executive Member Portfolio order, and the transfer to Reserves leading to a net budget requirement of £8,598,470

C/050/18-19 Motion on Notice

Cllr Lee Cowen proposed the following Motion which was seconded by cllr David Balfe

‘The council is aware of the need to encourage the sustainability of local shopping particularly in Lancing and Southwick.

To this end the council refers this motion to the Joint Strategic Committee to consider and determine the motion which requests them to carry out a review of short term parking charges in shopping areas with a view to encouraging residents to use local shops rather than superstores.’

In accordance with the Constitution the Motion was noted and immediately referred to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration

Resolved: that the Motion be noted and immediately referred to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration

C/051/18-19 Motion on Notice

Cllr Lee Cowen proposed the following Motion which was seconded by Cllr Catherine Arnold

‘The council is committed to a broad range of policies designed to protect our environment – particularly through the encouragement of recycling in the Adur. We consider the decision to change the frequency bin collections now needs further investigation of options arising from the experience of a wider range of local authorities. For instance there is a need to consider how the frequency of recycling and residual waste bin collection have a greater impact on recycling rates as well as other initiatives involving education, community involvement, incentives and so on. To this end the Council refers the motion to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration and determination.’

In accordance with the Constitution the Motion was noted and immediately referred to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration

Resolved: that the Motion be noted and immediately referred to the Joint Strategic Committee for consideration

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm, it having commenced at 7.00pm.

Chairman