

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the
Town Hall Chapel Road Worthing**

17 February 2015

The Mayor, Councillor Vic Walker
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Michael Donin

*Councillor Noel Atkins	Councillor Heather Mercer
Councillor Roy Barraclough	Councillor Sean McDonald
Councillor Keith Bickers	Councillor Louise Murphy
Councillor Joan Bradley	Councillor Mark Nolan
Councillor Callum Buxton	Councillor Roger Oakley
Councillor Michael Cloake	Councillor Luke Proudfoot
Councillor Edward Crouch	Councillor Clive Roberts
Councillor James Doyle	Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
Councillor Graham Fabes	Councillor Keith Sunderland
Councillor Norah Fisher	Councillor Bob Smytherman
Councillor Diane Guest	Councillor Victoria Taylor
Councillor Paul High	Councillor Hazel Thorpe
Councillor Paul Howard	Councillor Bryan Turner
Councillor Daniel Humphreys	Councillor Val Turner
Councillor Charles James	*Councillor Vicki Vaughan
Councillor Susan Jelliss	Councillor Vino Vinojan
*Councillor Kevin Jenkins	Councillor Paul Yallop
Councillor Mary Lermite	

*=absent

Councillor Buxton arrived at 6.34 pm during the item 'apologies for absence'.

C/055/14-15 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Noel Atkins, Kevin Jenkins and Vicki Vaughan.

C/056/14-15 Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to make any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, the following were declared:

Councillors High, Cloake, B Turner and Oakley declared an interest as members of West Sussex County Council.

Councillor Smytherman declared his interest as Town Crier in relation to matters with the TCI and also as a member of West Sussex County Council.

C/057/14-15 Questions and Statements from the public

No Members of the public had registered to speak, there were no members of the public at the meeting.

C/058/14-15 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Meetings of the Council on 16 December and 26 January be approved as correct records and that they be signed by the Mayor.

C/059/14-15 Announcements by the Mayor, Leader, Executive Members, Head of Paid Service

The Mayor acknowledged Harry Rippon, a young actor from Broadwater who had a part in the film *Pride* which was released in 2013, they had met him and the Mayoress attended *Narnia The Musical* in July 2014.

The Mayor was pleased to present Claire Moyle, who is the head coach of Worthing Harriers' Special Olympics and Disabled Athletics Group. Claire won the Club Partnership of the Year category of the 2014 England Athletics South East Regional Council Volunteer Awards for establishing the Sussex and Worthing Wheelchair Racing Group. The Mayor congratulated Claire on this significant achievement and for winning a trophy and certificate.

Claire addressed Council explaining that winning the award had been a pleasant surprise until recently the Racing Group had been using normal chairs but in January 2014 had taken delivery of 5 racing chairs that had been shipped from China this had led to a successful season for the young people. Three had completed in the Worthing Fun Run with a local youth winning the race. A number of members of the Club had recorded national times and were targeting racing in Rio.

The Mayor thanked Ian Power and Adam Samuel of Adur and Worthing Cleaning Services who went to the assistance of Mr John Fivash in December 2014 in Pavilion Road, Worthing who had suffered a heart attack. Ian and Adam saw Mr Fivash on the ground and witnessed a resident step over him; they went over and started to deal with the situation. They were aware that he was seriously ill from the lack of blood coming from a head wound and the feel and colour of his skin. A resident came out of a house and called an ambulance. They stayed and helped as much as they could then cleaned up the items left by the Paramedics once they had gone. They are grateful for the entire Officers' thanks and comments but said it was the right thing to do; Ian said it is part of his job!

The Mayor announced some forthcoming charity events: a Charity Evening at Busbys Café, 31 South Street, Worthing on Friday 6 March at 7.00 pm and the Mayor's Charity Swim at Splashpoint on Saturday 14 March 2015 from 4.30 to 9.00 pm, volunteers as lane counters would be appreciated.

The Mayor encouraged Members to attend a short flag raising ceremony and photocall outside the Town Hall on Monday 9 March at 10 a.m. when he and Cllr Fred Lewis, Chairman of Adur would be raising the Commonwealth Flag and reading the Commonwealth Affirmation.

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.

Executive Member for Regeneration announced that the Italian delicatessen 'Piccola Italia' in South Farm Road had made the final 20 of a national competition for small shops run by the House of Commons; the final round would be held at the House of Commons on 25 February and he wished them Good Luck on behalf of the Council.

The Head of Paid Service had no announcements

C/060/14-15 Items raised under the urgency provisions

There were no urgent items for Council.

C/061/14-15 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

Council had before it recommendations from the Executive, Joint Strategic Committee and Joint Governance Committee as detailed on pages 5 to 13 of the Council agenda. Items 7A to 7C which had been circulated to all members and are attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

Executive

A Worthing Revenue Estimates 2015/16

This recommendation would be considered as part of item 8 on the agenda later in the meeting.

Joint Strategic Committee

Bi Joint Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16 to 2017/18 for Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council

The Leader presented the Committee's recommendation on page 9 of the agenda; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor B Turner.

On a vote the following was noted: For: 31 Against: 0 Abstention: 2

Resolved that the Prudential Indicators and Limits, and MRP Statements in the report for Worthing Borough Council be approved.

B (ii) Adoption and Implementation of the Worthing community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Leader presented the Committee's recommendation on page 11 of the agenda; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor V Turner.

On a vote the following was noted: For: 32 Against: 0 Abstention 2

Resolved that

- i. the Worthing Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (Appendix B to the report) be adopted;
- ii. that the Community Infrastructure rates for Worthing are charged from 1st October 2015;
- iii. that the Instalment Policy (Appendix C to the report) is adopted alongside the Charging Schedule;

- iv. that the Regulation 123 list (Appendix D to the report) is adopted alongside the Charging Schedule;
- v. the Executive Member for Regeneration be authorised to agree any minor presentational changes to relevant CIL documents prior to implementation.

Joint Governance Committee

C Proposed Revision of Joint Contract Standing Orders

The Vice-Chairman of the Joint Governance Committee presented the Committee's recommendation on pages 12 - 13 of the agenda; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor Nolan.

On a vote the following was noted: For: 32 Against: 0 Abstention: 2

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.

C/062/14-15 Council Tax 2015/16

The Mayor invited the Leader to present his budget; details of which were before Council as item 7A, the recommendation from the Executive; a budget pack circulated and attached to the minutes and the full details of the Council tax requirements circulated at the meeting.

The Mayor explained that he would invite each of the Group leaders to address Council followed by the representatives of other parties; then he would invite the debate. Voting on the recommendation and all amendments would require a recorded vote; the Democratic Services Manager would explain the process prior to the vote being taken.

The Leader informed the Council that two weeks after his election as Leader he was proud and delighted to be presenting a Budget, a plan and a record of achievement of which they could all be proud.

His last two weeks had been a busy but also invigorating and inspiring; he had conversations with many people which convinced him that in Worthing there was a fantastic future to look forward to; the Budget was a key component to ensuring that the Council would be carried forward or 'catch the wave'

The 2015/16 budget sought to catch and ride that wave to take the Borough on to new levels. Capitalising on past achievements and grasping new possibilities.

Regeneration

The budget aimed to provide new impetus to the regeneration of the Borough; from the large projects such as Splashpoint Leisure Centre, fast approaching its second birthday to the smaller but no less important projects such as the new and improved playgrounds, the improvements to Windsor Lawn and the conversion of the beach chalets to artist studios. In the Budget there was an additional £245,000 courtesy of the DCLG to fund a new Creative Hub in Worthing; located in Colonnade House which was to be converted into

spaces for small and medium sized arts based enterprises and set to be open by the summer supporting 22 jobs in the town.

From the 6th March, Visitor Information Points would be open in the Pavilion Theatre and Worthing Museum, staffed by a fully trained team and offering a complete range of information about the local area. There would be work with the TCI to form partnerships with local businesses keen to display tourist information. The three red telephone boxes owned by Adur and Worthing Councils would be transformed into mini tourist information kiosks, adding to the availability of information.

Contained in the Budget was provision for the recruitment of a new officer whose responsibility would be to support and drive forward the regeneration of sites such as Union Place, the Grafton Car Park and Teville Gate that are in long overdue need of improvement.

The Town held a number of events which the Council took a proactive role in supporting, in 2014 there were numerous occasions organised to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War and others such as the Lions Festival, Art trail, Tide of Light, Food and Drink Festival, Children's Parade and Town Centre Christmas Lights. Over the first weekend in August this year, Worthing seafront would be host to the 5th round of the UK Street Velodrome Series, the only venue on the South Coast.

Culture

The Leader spoke on the cultural programme 'Commit to Culture Partnership' would encourage excellent and inclusive cultural activities, bringing together the energy, creativity and resources of individuals, organisations and businesses involved in delivering, or supporting cultural activity.

Worthing Theatres was going from strength to strength; in the past year there had been a record number of sold out shows. The Comedy programme had attracted many big name acts including Dawn French, Jimmy Carr, Lee Mack and Jo Brand. In 2015 celebrities such as Alan Carr, Alan Davies, Katherine Ryan and Ruby Wax were all visiting Worthing to perform in the theatres. The Christmas shows were a delight once again with Jack Frost's Frozen Christmas receiving exemplary reviews and Aladdin breaking all records to become the highest grossing pantomime in the history of the Connaught Theatre.

In July a week long run of the play Dead Simple by Peter James - Worthing Theatres currently had the highest advance ticket sales for the tour, proving that the venues are back on the creative map and the local community are proving their support by buying tickets.

Support to the theatres would continue whilst challenging the management team to reduce the subsidy that Council Tax payers provide.

Similarly Worthing Museum was a credit to the town but must find more improvements; the management had managed to win a partnership agreement to work with the British Museum in developing links with hard to reach community groups.

Employment

In 2015 the Leader was looking forward to seeing further progress on the regeneration of the town and its cultural offers. These improvements make Worthing the town that it is and encourage employers to create jobs here. The record on employment in the Worthing was

excellent and this was a testament to the people and businesses of this town and the actions of both Worthing Borough Council and West Sussex County Council. There were a number of companies creating new jobs in Worthing, GSK, Rayner Intraocular Lenses and Teledyne Oil and Gas to name a few.

Communities/Big Society

Worthing was home to vibrant and engaging communities, with the Council playing an appropriate role in the community as did Councillors as the democratically elected representatives of the community.

One of the first Councils to have launched a Public Health Plan, which over the next few years would ensure that we could mobilise our workforce to help improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities.

The Council offered valuable work experience placements for unemployed people through a variety of placements in the Councils and with local employers. An amazing 60% of these were then going on to find employment after these schemes.

The Money Tree event in 2014 was both successful and, I'm assured by Cllr Yallop, entertaining, with inventive and engaging presentations becoming - song, dance & poetry were all performed at the presentation evening in 2014. We allocated £15,953 to 10 groups as a result of the scheme. The Money Tree has become a regular feature of our work with the community sector and the time has come for a refresh; so this year we have been focussing the programme on the needs of young people in our communities.

The Government's Troubled Families Initiative, enacted here in Worthing as the Think Family programme goes from strength to strength. The Wellbeing team was turning around the lives of 1165 families. Not just a remarkable achievement but one that will pay dividends for all families in our community.

There was ongoing work with the Action Northbrook project. Targeting some of the most deprived parts of the Borough to reinvigorate and reconnect parts of our wider community who have not been successfully engaged in the past.

Last year Councillors agreed to the Council becoming a corporate member of the West Sussex Credit Union, an ethical reputable alternative to pay day loan companies and worse, the Leader expressed is continuing support for this initiative.

Technological advances

One of the key drivers of increased connectivity, productivity and innovation across the globe had been the rapid advance in technological change the Leader had been supportive and pleased with the speed at which the Council had been moving in the digital programme to position itself as a sector leader. Bold commitments had been included within the budget to power this programme forward, with the launch of new and vastly improved platforms in the coming months both Councillors and members of the public would be seeing fundamental changes - additionally there would be significant savings to the Council's revenue budget.

Public services

Unlike the majority of Councils in the country household waste continued to be collected weekly and large numbers of additional houses have been absorbed into the service

without incurring significant additional financial burden. The weekly garden refuse service now had 1700 new customers in the last year.

The Parks team had recently been awarded £100,000 of funding from the DCLG's Transformation Challenge Award for our Rethinking Parks agenda. This is just one example of how innovative thinking was enabling the Council to deliver more for less to our residents.

Sound finances

At the outset of the current budget round, the Council faced the challenging prospect of finding savings of around £0.5m – on top of the £3million of savings already been challenged to find over previous years. The Leader explained that this challenge had been successfully met and the Council is now in the position to balance the budget, freeze Council Tax and reinvest back into priority services to promote economic growth.

The Leader cautioned against forgetting austerity measures, made necessary by the national government policies with the Council facing further reductions in government funding over the next five years. Therefore the Council must continue to focus on finding ever more efficient ways of working if it was to continue to balance the budget and protect its front line services. The council needed to deliver more for less and he sought to ensure that it would deliver more for less.

The Leader mentioned two final things: the local car parks and Council tax.

Eleven years ago a contract was awarded under a previous administration to a private company. Control was taken back, and a pound an hour initiative introduced for the multi-storey car parks. Predictions of financial disaster had proved incorrect with usage increasing and the budget heading for an underspend.

The last four years had seen the Council resolutely stick to a policy of freezing Council Tax, thus saving residents in Worthing hundreds of pounds and is a policy as Leader he was sticking to and why he was recommending a fifth successive Council Tax for this year.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Lermite.

The Leader of the Opposition addressed Council saying that he was excited as to where the Town was going; the Council had a new Management team which had been appointed through cross parties employment and he was excited with the changes. He felt there was a real buzz locally.

He approved of anything good for the town that worked fiscally and he congratulated the Controlling Group on the improvements since the return of the car parks to the Council; the action seemed to have worked but he would be keeping a keen eye on the service area.

The Leadership needed to make sensible decisions consulting people where necessary but there should be awareness that in society not everyone was able to cope with bureaucracy; he was very concerned at the cap on the support scheme would see an extra £5 per week needing to be found by those claiming benefit raising £58,000 for the council in the process. He was very concerned that the proposed cap would be distressing to those already under financial or other pressures urging the administration to follow the lead of Adur which had not cut the support scheme. He proposed that the cap be reinstated as this would help a lot of people in need.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Smytherman.

Members rose to address Council for and against the amendment; those for the amendment highlighted that those residents in the Borough who were vulnerable, needing extra support provided by the support scheme, would be placed in increasing financial difficulties and hardship; the validity of the survey results were challenged. Those against pointed out that there was a safety net and hardship fund, also that everyone should contribute something.

On a recorded vote for the proposed amendment:

Those voting for the proposal (7)

Councillors Doyle, Fisher, Jelliss, Smytherman, Sunderland, Taylor and Thorpe.

Those voting against the proposal (25)

Councillors Barraclough, Bickers, Bradley, Buxton, Cloake, Crouch, Fabes, Guest, High, Howard, Humphreys, James, Lermite, Mercer, McDonald, Murphy, Nolan, Oakley, Proudfoot, Roberts, Sparkes, Bryan Turner, Val Turner, Vinojan and Yallop.

Those abstaining (2)

Councillors Walker* and Donin* (* as Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively)

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

The Leader of the UKIP group raised concerns on the reductions to the Grounds Maintenance Budget suggesting that investment in floral displays as part of the visitor attractions would add colour to the Borough; he also mentioned a maintenance programme for the internal decoration of the Town Hall.

The representatives of the Green Party and the Independent Conservatives.

On the debate on the proposed Council Tax for 2015/16, the proposal was supported by a number of Members explaining that a 0% increase was supporting those on lower income by not cutting services nor increasing the Council tax. There were a number of areas of investment to improve services.

On a recorded vote as follows on the proposed Council Tax the following is recorded:

Those voting for the proposal ()

Councillors Barraclough, Bickers, Bradley, Buxton, Cloake, Crouch, Fabes, Guest, High, Howard, Humphreys, James, Jelliss, Lermite, Mercer, McDonald, Murphy, Nolan, Oakley, Proudfoot, Roberts, Sparkes, Bryan Turner, Val Turner, Vinojan and Yallop.

Those voting against the proposal (0)

Those abstaining (8)

Councillors Donin, Doyle, Fisher, Smytherman, Sunderland, Taylor, Thorpe and Walker.

Resolved that Council :

1. noted that on 2 February 2015, the Executive calculated the Council Tax Base 2015/16 as **36,564.4** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)];
2. the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2015/16 is **£7,897,910**
3. the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) **£83,747,180** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act.
 - (b) **£75,849,270** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
 - (c) **£7,897,910** 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) **£216.00** 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.
 - (e) **£0.00** being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - (f) **£216.00** 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.
4. 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 £
Worthing Borough Council	144.00	168.00	192.00	216.00	264.00	312.00	360.00	432.00

West Sussex County Council	774.66	903.77	1,032.88	1,161.99	1,420.21	1,678.43	1,936.65	2,323.98
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex	95.94	111.93	127.92	143.91	175.89	207.87	239.85	287.82

5. the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in table shown above, 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.

	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
All of the Council's Area	1014.60	1183.7	1352.8	1521.9	1860.1	2198.3	2536.5	3043.8

C/063/14-15 Leader's Report on decisions taken by the Executive

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to present his report on decisions taken by the Executive since the last Ordinary meeting of the Council; these were contained in Item 9 to the minutes and were detailed on pages 15-17 on the agenda.

The Leader highlighted the Street Velodrome event in the summer.

The Executive Member for Customer Services was asked about the promotion of the Property Management Redress Scheme.

The Executive Member undertook to provide a written answer.

Other questions put to the Executive were on the Manor Sports Ground decision, a request to consider the cycling strategy holistically not in isolated parts, the implementation of the enforcement of byelaws on the Manor Sports Ground, a request to include councillors of effected neighbouring wards, particularly Northbrook, in consultation(s) regarding the Manor Sports Ground.

C/64/14-15 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule 12

There were no registered questions submitted by Members by the deadline for the meeting.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Mayor