

Full Council

Minutes of meeting held in Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG on 20 February 2019 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor Gill Mattock (Mayor)

Councillors Margaret Bannister, Colin Belsey, Sammy Choudhury, Janet Coles, Penny di Cara, Tony Freebody, Pat Hearn, Stephen Holt, Paul Metcalfe, Md. Harun Miah, Colin Murdoch, Jim Murray, Margaret Robinson, Pat Rodohan, Alan Shuttleworth, Robert Smart, Colin Swansborough, Barry Taylor, Troy Tester, David Tutt, John Ungar and Steve Wallis

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Peter Finnis (Assistant Director for Corporate Governance), Homira Javadi (Chief Finance Officer), Sarah Lawrence (Senior Committee Officer) and Simon Russell (Committee and Civic Services Manager)

42 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2018 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record, subject to a correction to Minute 40 to state that 'Councillor Wallis moved and Councillor Holt seconded the notice of motion'.

43 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) by members as required under Section 31 of the Localism Act and of other interests as required by the Code of Conduct.

There were none.

44 Mayor's announcements.

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank former councillor Gordon Jenkins for his service to the Council, following his retirement from his post in November 2018. Gordon had been elected to Eastbourne Borough Council in 2011 and had previously served at the London Borough of Bromley.

A list of the Mayor's announcements in respect of her activities since the last meeting, and forthcoming charity events were tabled at the meeting. The Mayor's activities during December and January had included:

- Opening the Christmas market in the town centre and attending Christmas concerts and dinners.
- Attending award ceremonies organised by the Guides, the Scouts, the Military Preparation College and the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.
- Meeting with twelve local women who all contributed to the war effort during World War 2.
- Seeing two excellent pantomimes, attending the Eastbourne Lions 51st Anniversary Dinner, hosting afternoon tea at the Town Hall for Fountain Digital Ltd, and helping to prepare and serve about 80 ploughman suppers at a fundraising quiz.
- Assisting Simon Rooksby, Chairman and founder of Computers for Charities to help him celebrate its 25th birthday on 22 January. The Mayor encouraged Councillors to contact Simon through the website if they could donate equipment or had need of their services.
- Attending the Holocaust Memorial Day event at the International Lawn Tennis Centre on 24 January. This was an emotional evening but one that the Mayor was privileged to attend.
- A visit from the Mayor's Rambling Club to the parlour.

The Mayor invited Councillors to join her on upcoming Mayor's Charity events including a walking netball tournament, a folk night, inspirational women cream teas, quiz night and the Mayor's Charity Tudor Banquet. For any enquiries regarding these events, Members were invited to contact the Mayor's Office.

45 Notification of apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillors Ballard, Dow and Sabri.

46 Public right of address.

No public speakers had been registered.

47 Order of business.

Business proceeded in accordance with the summons.

48 Council budget and setting of the council tax for 2019/20

This matter was reported and proposed by Councillor Holt on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Tutt. The Council considered the reports

to Cabinet, the minutes and resolutions from Cabinet held on 6 February 2019, and the updated report of the Chief Finance Officer. The Scrutiny Committee had considered the proposals on 4 February 2019 and made no recommendations for change.

Councillor Holt made his budget speech setting out the proposals within the budget. He advised that this included the proposal for a 2.96% increase in Council tax (Band D), no cuts to front line services, continued investments into the town, and support for local communities including £400-£500k in housing grants. Councillor Di Cara responded on behalf of the opposition to the budget, expressing her disappointment that she did not feel that the Group had had sufficient information to put forward an opposition budget, and expressing concern as to the extent of borrowing set out in the budget and the overrun of some of the Capital projects. The budget was debated by members from across the Council. As part of this debate, Members thanked the Chief Finance Officer and her team for the preparation of the budget.

The motion was put to a recorded vote.

Resolved (By 15 votes to 7 with 1 abstention). That approval be given to the following:

1. The recommendations as detailed in the reports from the Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Service Delivery to Cabinet on 6 February 2019, including an amended recommendation (i):
 - (i) The General Fund net expenditure for 2019/20 of £13,065,300 and the growth and savings proposals.
 - (ii) The charge for council tax for Eastbourne Borough Council Band D change to £246.77; an increase of 2.96%.
 - (iii) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) income and expenditure proposals, including revised HRA budget for 2018/19 and the budget for 2019/20, rents and service charges and the arrangements for finalising Eastbourne Homes' management fee.
 - (iv) General Fund capital programme as set out in the report of the Chief Finance Officer.
 - (v) The Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

2. To note the finalised Business Rates return to the Government (NNDR1) and the levy figures for the Business Rate pilot pool which had been confirmed by the lead authority (Wealden District Council). To note Appendix 1(a) to the report including updates in respect of these figures and in the light of feedback from the Scrutiny Committee in the interests of greater clarity and transparency to more clearly show the financing of the Council's budget. To note the updated Appendix 1(b) showing the revised Reserves position.
3. That consequent upon a General Fund budget of £13,065,300 and other matters, the basic amount (Band D) of Council Tax for the Borough Council's functions will be £246.77 calculated as follows:

	£'000	£'000
Gross Expenditure:		
General Fund		97,039
HRA		15,333
Business Rates tariff payable		13,096
		<u>125,405</u>
Less Income:		
Service Income	(97,348)	
Contribution from Reserves	(1,959)	
Other Government Grants	(2,053)	
Business Rates income	(15,468)	
Collection Fund Surplus (Council Tax)	(58)	
		<u>(116,886)</u>
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT		<u><u>8,579</u></u>
Band 'D' Council Tax		£246.77

The statutory resolutions relating to this matter are given at paragraphs 4 and 5 below.

4. That it be noted that at its meeting on 12 December 2018 the Cabinet (in exercise of powers delegated to them by the Council) delegated the final determination of the Council Tax Base to the Chief Finance Officer. This has been set at an amount of 34,765.3 Band 'D' equivalent properties for the year 2019/20 (Item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended).

- 5 To calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019/20 as £8,579,050.
6. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:

(a)	£125,465,000	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
(b)	£116,885,950	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£8,579,050	being the amount by which the aggregate at 5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 5(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)	£246.77	being the amount at 5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (4 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

7. To note that East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority and Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
8. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings :

Council Tax Valuation Bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	2
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Precepting Authorities								
Eastbourne Borough Council	164.51	191.93	219.35	246.77	301.61	356.45	411.28	493.54
East Sussex County Council	956.52	1,115.94	1,275.36	1,434.78	1,753.62	2,072.46	2,391.30	2,869.56
Sussex Police Authority	126.61	147.71	168.81	189.91	232.11	274.31	316.52	379.82
East Sussex Fire Authority	62.45	72.85	83.26	93.67	114.49	135.30	156.12	187.34
Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements	1,310.09	1,528.43	1,746.78	1,965.13	2,401.83	2,838.52	3,275.22	3,930.26

9. To determine that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

Note: As the billing authority, the Council has **not** been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

Recorded Vote taken in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014:

For the Motion:

Councillors Bannister, Choudhury, Coles, Hearn, Holt, Miah, Murray, Robinson, Rodohan, Shuttleworth, Swansborough, Tester, Tutt, Ungar and Wallis. (15)

Against the Motion:

Councillors Belsey, di Cara, Freebody Metcalfe, Murdoch, Smith and Taylor. (7)

Abstention

Councillor Mattock (The Mayor) (1).

49 Statement of Community Involvement

Council considered for adoption the Eastbourne Statement of Community Involvement following public consultation on revisions required by the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. Councillor Tutt moved and Councillor Shuttleworth seconded the recommendations of the report.

Resolved (Unanimously) That the Statement of Community Involvement as set out at appendix 1 to the report be adopted by Full Council.

50 Matters referred from Cabinet or other Council bodies.**(a) Local Development Scheme 2019-2022**

Councillor Tutt moved and Councillor Shuttleworth seconded the recommendations of Cabinet to approve the Local Development Scheme 2019-2022.

Resolved (Unanimously)

(1) To adopt the Eastbourne Local Development Scheme 2019-2022 as set out at appendix 1 to the Cabinet report.

(2) To grant delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Services to make minor and technical updates to timetables within the Local Development Scheme where necessary.

(b) Treasury management and prudential indicators 2019/20, capital strategy and investment strategy

Councillor Holt moved and Councillor Tutt seconded the recommendations of the Cabinet.

Resolved (15 votes to 7)

(1) To approve the treasury management strategy and annual investment strategy as set out in the Cabinet report and at appendix 4 to the report.

(2) To approve the methodology for calculating the minimum revenue provision as set out at paragraph 2.3 of the Cabinet report and at appendix 2 to the report.

(3) To approve the prudential and treasury indicators as set out in the Cabinet report.

(4) To approve the specified and non-specified investment categories

listed at appendix 5 to the Cabinet report.

(5) To approve the Capital Strategy as set out at appendix 1 to the Cabinet report.

(c) Review of Eastbourne Borough Council's Gambling Statement of Principles

Councillor Tester moved and Councillor Tutt seconded the recommendations of the General Licensing Committee.

Resolved (unanimously) To approve the reviewed and revised Statement of Gambling Principles.

51 Motions.

(a) Tree Stump Removal

Councillor Ungar moved and Councillor Wallis seconded the motion:

“This Council calls on East Sussex County Council to fully fund the removal of the tree stumps that remain following the removal of trees on the highway in Eastbourne. Additionally, to fully fund the making good of the highway. This work should include the replacement of the tree stumps with a suitable type of tree which will not disturb the pavements but will act to cut pollution from traffic.”

Councillor Smart moved and Councillor Freebody seconded an amendment to the motion so that it reads as follows:

“This Council commits to work actively with East Sussex County Council on a programme to remove all tree stumps on pavements in Eastbourne.

Where appropriate, these should be replaced with a suitable type of tree which will not disturb the pavements and will act to cut pollution from traffic.”

The amendment was voted upon and **declared lost** (7 votes to 15).

The original motion was put to the vote and **declared carried** (15 votes to 0).

52 Discussion on minutes of council bodies.

The minutes of the following Council bodies were submitted to the meeting.

Committee	Date
Planning Committee	20 November 2018, 11 December 2018, 22 January 2019
Conservation Area Advisory Group	27 November 2018, 8 January 2019
Audit and Governance Committee	28 November 2018
Scrutiny Committee	3 December 2018, 17 January 2019, 4 February 2019
Cabinet	12 December 2018, 6 February 2019
General Licensing Committee	7 January 2019

In accordance with Council procedure 14, the following items were raised for discussion.

Special Scrutiny Committee – 17 January 2019 – Minute 40 – Performance Management 2018/19 – Quarter 2 (Part B – Financial Performance) – raised by Councillor Smart.

Planning Committee – 22 January 2019 – Minute 88 – College Conservation Area Appraisal – raised by Councillor Smart.

Resolved (Unanimously):

That the minutes of the above council bodies be accepted.

The meeting ended at 7.42 pm

Councillor Gill Mattock (Mayor)