

Council

Tuesday, 26 February 2019

7.51 pm

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr David Hurley
The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lesley Boycott

Councillors:	Valerie Ashenden	John Loughlin
	Gurjit Kaur Bains	Jordan Meade
	Conrad Broadley	Lyn Milner
	Gurdip Ram Bungar	Shane Mochrie-Cox
	John Burden	Leslie Pearton
	Colin Caller	Anthony Pritchard
	John Caller	Peter Rayner
	Harold Craske	Alan Ridgers
	Lee Croxton	Lenny Rolles
	Brian Francis	Brian Sangha
	Sandra Garside	Peter Scollard
	Greta Goatley	Derek Shelbrooke
	Rob Halpin	Makhan Singh
	Gary Harding	Lauren Sullivan
	Leslie Hills	Narinder Singh Thandi
	Karen Hurdle	Robin Theobald
	Samir Jassal	Steve Thompson
	John Knight	David Turner
	William Lambert	Jenny Wallace
	Sara Langdale	Michael Wenban

David Hughes	Chief Executive
Stuart Bobby	Director (Corporate Services)
Nick Brown	Director (Environment & Operations)
Kevin Burbidge	Director (Housing & Regeneration)
Melanie Norris	Director (Communities)
Sarah Parfitt	Assistant Director (Corporate Services)
Jan Guylar	Head of Legal Services, Medway Council
Simon Walsh	Service Manager (Communities)
Carlie Simmonds	Committee Services Manager (Minutes)

42. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Julia Burgoyne and Bronwen McGarrity.

43. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council held on 18 December 2018 were signed by the Mayor.

44. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

45. To answer any questions received from members of the public of which notice has been given under Council Procedure Rule 13

No questions had been received.

46. Minutes of Committees

Motions that proceedings, reports and recommendations of Committees, except those reserved under Council Procedure 5.2(6) as referred to below be received and adopted and where applicable the Orders made by them be ratified and confirmed were duly proposed, seconded and resolved in each case.

Minutes of the Cabinet held on Monday, 7 January 2019

Minutes of the Regulatory Board (Planning) held on Wednesday, 9 January 2019

Minutes of the Overview Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 17 January 2019

Minutes of the Cabinet held on Monday, 4 February 2019

Minutes of the Regulatory Board (Planning) held on Wednesday, 6 February 2019

Minutes of the Overview Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 14 February 2019

Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee held on Monday, 18 February 2019

47. Reserved Minutes

It was moved by Cllr David Turner and seconded by Cllr John Knight that:-

the reserved Minute of Cabinet held on 7 January 2019 be ratified and confirmed.

With reference to Minute 145, the Council **resolved** that Officers and Ward Councillors would liaise with the Belle Vue and Windmill Bowls Club outside of the meeting to discuss their concerns regarding the parking restrictions and investigate whether there is an alternative solution.

48. Council Tax and Budget Setting 2019-20

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.4.1, an extension of time was given to Councillor David Turner and an equal amount of time to Cllrs John Burden and Leslie Hills.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that all individual votes in relation to the budget and any amendments thereto would be recorded as required by legislation.

It was moved by Cllr David Turner and seconded by Cllr John Knight that:-

the motion before Council as set out in the order paper be approved.

An amendment (amendment No.1) was moved by Councillor John Burden and seconded by Councillor Lee Croxton that:-

the Budget be amended to allow for the Parrock Street public conveniences to be brought back into use, at a cost of £2,630 per annum, and that provision be made within the General Fund Capital Programme for 2019-20 for the inclusion of a scheme to carry out surface repairs to Parrock Street vehicle park, at an estimated cost of £150,000. These amendments to be funded through the use of General Fund working balances in the case of Parrock Street public conveniences, and through the application of unutilised capital receipts held by the authority in the case of the repair works to the vehicle park at Parrock Street.

For the motion	Against the motion	Abstain
The Worshipful the Mayor Cllrs: Ashenden, Bains, Boycott, Broadley, Bungar, Burden, C Caller, J Caller, Craske, Croxton, Francis, Garside, Goatley, Halpin, Harding, Hills, Hurdle, Jassal, Knight, Lambert, Langdale, Loughlin, Meade, L Milner, Mochrie-Cox, Pearton, Rayner, Ridgers, Rolles, Sangha, Scollard, Shelbrooke, Singh, Sullivan, Thandi, Theobald, Thompson, Turner, Wallace and Wenban.	None.	None.

The amendment was declared to be carried unanimously.

An amendment (amendment No. 2) was moved by Councillor Leslie Hills and seconded by Councillor Samir Jassal that:-

the Conservative Group consider the recent increases to parking fees will have an adverse impact on regeneration of the town centre. It is therefore proposed that these increases within Council-owned vehicle parks be reversed in the 2019/20 budget and that this measure be financed from the General Fund Working Balances.

For the motion	Against the motion	Abstain
Cllrs: Bains, Broadley, Harding, Hills, Jassal, Meade and Ridgers.	Cllrs: Ashenden, Boycott, Bungar, Burden, C Caller, J Caller, Craske, Croxton, Francis, Garside, Goatley, Halpin, Knight, Lambert, Langdale, Loughlin, L Milner, Mochrie-Cox, Rayner, Rolles, Sangha, Scollard, Shelbrooke, Singh, Sullivan, Thandi, Theobald, Thompson, Turner, Wallace and Wenban.	The Worshipful the Mayor Cllrs: Hurdle and Pearton.

The amendment was declared to be lost by 31 votes to 7.

The substantive motion, as amended by amendment No. 1 above, was put to the meeting.

For the motion	Against the motion	Abstain
The Worshipful the Mayor Cllrs: Ashenden, Bains, Boycott, Broadley, Bungar, Burden, C Caller, J Caller, Craske, Croxton, Francis, Garside, Goatley, Halpin, Harding, Hills, Hurdle, Jassal, Knight, Lambert, Langdale, Loughlin, Meade, L Milner, Mochrie-Cox, Pearton, Rayner, Ridgers, Rolles, Sangha, Scollard, Shelbrooke, Singh, Sullivan, Thandi, Theobald, Thompson, Turner, Wallace and Wenban.	None.	None.

The motion was declared to be carried unanimously.

It was therefore **resolved** that:-

1. it be noted that on 17 January 2019 the Director (Corporate Services) calculated;

- (a) the Council Tax Base 2019-20 for the whole Council area as **33,930.46** Band D equivalent properties, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011.
- (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as set out below;

Part of the Council's area:	£
Cobham	673.57
Higham	1,564.19
Luddesdown	101.77
Meopham	3,070.15
Shorne	1,149.31
Vigo	712.78
Gravesham & Northfleet	26,658.69
Total	33,930.46

2. calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019-20 (excluding Parish precepts) is £6,892,290 (£203.13 per Band D Property).
3. the following amounts be 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 by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011:

- (a) £64,950,120 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) £57,718,090 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £7,232,030 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.
- (d) £213.14 being the amount at 3(c) above , all divided by Item 1a above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £339,740 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (f) £203.13 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item 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 relates.
- (g) Part of the Council's area: £
- Parish of:
- | | |
|------------|--------|
| Cobham | 233.56 |
| Higham | 258.44 |
| Luddesdown | 259.63 |
| Meopham | 234.57 |
| Shorne | 227.73 |
| Vigo | 346.46 |

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for the dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h) Part of the Council's area

Parish of:	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cobham	155.71	181.66	207.61	233.56	285.46	337.36	389.27	467.12
Higham	172.29	201.01	229.72	258.44	315.87	373.30	430.73	516.88
Luddesdown	173.09	201.93	230.78	259.63	317.33	375.02	432.72	519.26
Meopham	156.38	182.44	208.51	234.57	286.70	338.82	390.95	469.14
Shorne	151.82	177.12	202.43	227.73	278.34	328.94	379.55	455.46
Vigo	230.97	269.47	307.96	346.46	423.45	500.44	577.43	692.92
All other parts	135.42	157.99	180.56	203.13	248.27	293.41	338.55	406.26

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) 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 listed in different valuation bands.

4. it be noted that for the year 2019-20 the Kent County Council has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
866.28	1,010.66	1,155.04	1,299.42	1,588.18	1,876.94	2,165.70	2,598.84

5. it be noted that for the year 2019-20 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
128.77	150.23	171.69	193.15	236.07	278.99	321.92	386.30

6. it be noted that for the year 2019-20 the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
51.84	60.48	69.12	77.76	95.04	112.32	129.60	155.52

7. having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h), 4, 5 and 6 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2019-20 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of the Council's area	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parish of:	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cobham	1,202.60	1,403.03	1,603.46	1,803.89	2,204.75	2,605.61	3,006.49	3,607.78
Higham	1,219.18	1,422.38	1,625.57	1,828.77	2,235.16	2,641.55	3,047.95	3,657.54
Luddesdown	1,219.98	1,423.30	1,626.63	1,829.96	2,236.62	2,643.27	3,049.94	3,659.92
Meopham	1,203.27	1,403.81	1,604.36	1,804.90	2,205.99	2,607.07	3,008.17	3,609.80
Shorne	1,198.71	1,398.49	1,598.28	1,798.06	2,197.63	2,597.19	2,996.77	3,596.12
Vigo	1,277.86	1,490.84	1,703.81	1,916.79	2,342.74	2,768.69	3,194.65	3,833.58
All other parts	1,182.31	1,379.36	1,576.41	1,773.46	2,167.56	2,561.66	2,955.77	3,546.92

Further that, the Budget be amended to allow for the Parrock Street public conveniences to be brought back into use, at a cost of £2,630 per annum, and that provision be made within the General Fund Capital Programme for 2019-20 for the inclusion of a scheme to carry out surface repairs to Parrock Street vehicle park, at an estimated cost of £150,000. These amendments to be funded through the use of General Fund working balances in the case of Parrock Street public conveniences, and through the application of unutilised capital receipts held by the authority in the case of the repair works to the vehicle park at Parrock Street.

Note:

- (1) During the debate, the meeting was adjourned in order to provide the Palantypist with an appropriate break; and
- (2) Councillor Anthony Pritchard did not participate in the vote because he was feeling unwell and had left the Council Chamber before the vote had taken place.

49. Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy 2019/20

The Council received a report seeking approval of the Treasury Management Strategy and associated Annual Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2019/20 along with the Capital Strategy for 2019/20.

Resolved that:-

1. the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 2 be agreed;
2. delegated authority be given to the Director (Corporate Services), in consultation with the Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, to amend the prudential and treasury indicators as necessary as a result of the budget approved by Full Council on 26 February 2019;
3. the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) calculation on all new capital expenditure as set out in Section 5 of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement be approved for 2019/20 and beyond in accordance with the Authority's Capital Programme;

4. the Annual Investment Strategy for 2019/20 as set out in Section 14 of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement be agreed; and
5. the Capital Strategy for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 3 be agreed.

50. Pay Policy Statement 2019-20

Members were reminded that Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011, which came into force on 15 January 2012, requires all English and Welsh local authorities to produce a pay policy statement for each financial year.

Resolved that the 2019-20 Pay Policy Statement be agreed.

51. Proposed amendments to the Constitution – Delegations

The Council was presented with the proposed amendments to the Constitution to delegate various responsibilities to officers arising from new legislation and changing roles and responsibilities.

Resolved that:-

1. the Service Manager (Communities) be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer and Proper Officer to carry out the duties and powers of the Electoral Registration Officer in the event of the incapacity or vacancy of the Electoral Registration Officer (s52 of the Representation of the People Act 1983).
2. all proposed amendments to Annex 1.11, 1.12 and 1.13 as laid out in the report be approved;
3. Annex 2.6: Financial Procedure Rules be amended to clarify the write-off limits for debts and losses.

52. Proposed amendments to the Constitution – Summary & Explanation and The Articles

The Council was presented with proposed amendments to the following two sections of the Constitution to bring these sections up to date with legislative changes and to reflect changing roles and responsibilities:-

- Summary & Explanation; and
- The Articles.

The Chief Executive advised that one of the key changes will be to remove the two stage process for Council to receive/approve proposed changes to the Articles of the Constitution – there was no legislative requirement for this two stage process so removing it will enable decisions to be made on the first occasion when a matter is presented to the Council.

Resolved that:-

1. all proposed amendments to the Summary and Explanation section as laid out in the report be approved; and
2. the proposed amendments to the Articles as laid out in the report be received by Council without debate and referred to the next ordinary meeting on 16 April 2019 for a decision.

53. Proposed amendments to the Constitution – Standards Committee

The Council was presented with the proposed amendments to the Constitution relating to the Standards Committee, to bring the Terms of Reference of the Committee and the process for dealing with complaints regarding Councillors up to date in accordance with legislation.

The Chief Executive advised that the proposed changes mirrored Medway Council's process of dealing with complaints against Members to bring efficiencies as Gravesham Borough Council and Medway Council now share a Monitoring Officer.

Resolved that:-

1. the proposed amendments to the Summary and Explanation, Annex 1.2, Annex 2.1 and Annex 3.8 as laid out in the report be approved;
2. the proposed amendments to Articles 3, 7, 9 and 15 as laid out in the report be received without debate and referred to the next ordinary meeting on 16 April 2019 for a decision; and
3. the proposed policies for dealing with complaints against Councillors be adopted.

54. To consider questions from Members of the Council of which notice has been given under Council Procedure Rule 14.

No questions had been received.

55. To receive the Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor invited Members to attend:-

- the Mayor's Charity Concert on Saturday, 2 March 2019 at St George's Church, Gravesend with music from the Kent Police Male Voice Choir; and
- the Mayor's Charity Dinner and Dance Fund Raising event on Friday, 5 April 2019 at The Woodville, Gravesend.

The Mayor informed Members that the funeral of Peter Hart will take place at 11am on Friday 15 March at St. George's Church, Gravesend.

The Mayor invited those present to join him in the Parlour for refreshments.

56. Councillors Lesley Boycott and William Lambert

Councillors Lesley Boycott and William Lambert advised that this would be their last meeting of Full Council as they would not be seeking re-election to the Council in May 2019.

Councillors Boycott and Lambert thanked Members and Officers for their support.

Close of Meeting

The meeting ended at 10.32pm.