

Council

Tuesday, 23 February 2021

7.30 pm

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr John Caller

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lyn Milner

Councillors:	Derek Ashenden	Shane Mochrie-Cox
	Helen Ashenden	Emma Morley
	Ejaz Aslam	Elizabeth Mulheran
	Gurjit Bains	Leslie Pearton
	Conrad Broadley	Anthony Pritchard
	Gurdip Ram Bungar	Tony Rana
	John Burden	Tony Rice
	Harold Craske	Christina Rolles
	Lee Croxton	Lenny Rolles
	Dakota Dibben	Brian Sangha
	Aaron Elliott	Peter Scollard
	Emma Elliott	Gurbax Singh
	Brian Francis	Lauren Sullivan
	Sarah Gow	Narinderjit Singh Thandi
	Gary Harding	Steve Thompson
	Baljit Hayre	Denise Tiran
	Leslie Hills	Jenny Wallace
	Leslie Hoskins	Frank Wardle
	Nirmal Khabra	
	Bob Lane	
	Diane Morton	
	Jordan Meade	

Stuart Bobby	Chief Executive
Nick Brown	Director (Housing and Operations)
Kevin Burbidge	Director (Planning and Development)
Melanie Norris	Director (Communities)
Sarah Parfitt	Director (Corporate Services)
Lisa Nyon	Assistant Director (Corporate Services)
Jan Guylar	Head of Legal Services
Simon Walsh	Service Manager (Communities)
David Herrington	Digital Manager
Chris Wakeford	Committee Services Manager

49. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Alan Ridgers

The Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr John Caller offered condolences and best wishes to Cllr Ridgers on behalf of the Council following the sad news that his wife had passed away. The Council's thoughts are with Cllr Ridger's family and friends at this sad time.

50. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 December 2020 were signed by the Mayor.

51. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Sarah Gow, Tony Rice and Lenny Rolles declared an Other Significant Interest in agenda items 7 (Council Tax and Budget Setting 2021-22) and Appendix 8 (Supplementary Report to Council Tax and Budget Setting 2021-22 - Appendix 8 - Economic Stimulus Package) in that they have been appointed as Directors of Rosherville Limited, the Council's Local Authority Trading Company and had been advised by the Monitoring Officer that although the budget item could be an OSI relevant to the allocation of capital funding, as Cabinet will be making any decisions about actual allocation of capital, they can stay in the Council Chamber this evening, take part in the debate and vote.

52. 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.

53. Changes to Committee Membership

The Council was advised that the following change to Committee membership had been made by the Conservative Group:

Finance & Audit Committee:

Cllr Gurjit Bains replaces Cllr Tony Rice as a Member.

54. 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 meeting of the Standards Committee held on Tuesday, 8 December 2020
- Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 16 December 2020
- Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 4 January 2021
- Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 6 January 2021
- Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 1 February 2021

- Minutes of the meeting of the Overview Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 11 February 2021
- Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Audit Committee held on Monday, 15 February 2021

The Council's attention was drawn to Minute 87 of the Finance and Audit Committee held on Monday, 15 February 2021.

55. Reserved Minutes

There were no reserved minutes.

56. Council Tax and Budget Setting 2021-22

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.4.1, an extension of time was given to Councillor John Burden and an equal amount of time to Cllrs Jordan Meade and Harold Craske.

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 John Burden and seconded by Cllr Lee Croxton that:-

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

An amendment was moved by Councillor Jordan Meade and seconded by Councillor Ejaz Aslam that:-

The Council will introduce free town centre parking, across all Council-operated carparks, until 12noon each day, for a period of six months, in order to increase town centre footfall for local businesses as they meet the challenges of the Covid-19 recovery.

Note: To be enacted once the lockdown is lifted and retail may legally open.

Costings

For 6 months there would be a loss of income of £104K

It is proposed that this be funded from working balances, taking the current shortfall for 2025/26 from £653,370 to £753,490.

These figures have been costed by the Parking and Finance Teams and checked by the Section 151 Officer.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the meeting and declared to be lost by 18 votes to 23:-

For the motion	Against the motion	Abstain
Cllrs: D Ashenden, H Ashenden, Aslam, Bains, Broadley, Dibben, A Elliott, E Elliott, Harding, Hills, Hoskins, Lane, Meade, Morton, Pritchard, Rice, Tiran, Wardle.	The Worshipful the Mayor Cllrs: Bungar, Burden, Craske, Croxton, Francis, Gow, Hayre, Khabra, L Milner, Mochrie-Cox, Morley, Mulheran, Rana, C Rolles, L Rolles, Sangha, Scollard, Singh, Sullivan, Thandi, Thompson and Wallace.	Cllr Pearton.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting and declared to be carried by 24 votes to 18

For the motion	Against the motion	Abstain
The Worshipful the Mayor Cllrs: Bungar, Burden, Craske, Croxton, Francis, Gow, Hayre, Khabra, L Milner, Mochrie-Cox, Morley, Mulheran, Pearton, Rana, C Rolles, L Rolles, Sangha, Scollard, Singh, Sullivan, Thandi, Thompson and Wallace.	Cllrs: D Ashenden, H Ashenden, Aslam, Bains, Broadley, Dibben, A Elliott, E Elliott, Harding, Hills, Hoskins, Lane, Meade, Morton, Pritchard, Rice, Tiran, Wardle.	None.

It was therefore **resolved** that:-

1. It be noted that on 11 January 2021 the Director (Corporate Services) calculated;
 - (a) the Council Tax Base 2021-22 for the whole Council area as 34,425.11 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	676.79
Higham	1,574.64
Luddesdown	100.87
Meopham	3,059.59
Shorne	1,158.33
Vigo	716.71
Gravesham & Northfleet	27,138.18
Total	34,425.11
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2021-22 (excluding Parish precepts) is £7,333,580 (£213.03 per Band D Property).
3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2021-22 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) £65,553,690 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) £57,816,950 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £7,736,740 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) £224.74 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) £403,160 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

(f) £213.03 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	257.36
Higham	272.17
Luddesdown	282.01
Meopham	251.95
Shorne	246.60
Vigo	373.65

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	171.57	200.17	228.76	257.36	314.55	371.74	428.93	514.72
Higham	181.45	211.69	241.93	272.17	332.65	393.13	453.62	544.34
Luddesdown	188.01	219.34	250.68	282.01	344.68	407.35	470.02	564.02
Meopham	167.97	195.96	223.96	251.95	307.94	363.93	419.92	503.90
Shorne	164.40	191.80	219.20	246.60	301.40	356.20	411.00	493.20
Vigo	249.10	290.62	332.13	373.65	456.68	539.72	622.75	747.30
All other parts	142.02	165.69	189.36	213.03	260.37	307.71	355.05	426.06

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. That it be noted that for the year 2021-22 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
945.84	1,103.48	1,261.12	1,418.76	1,734.04	2,049.32	2,364.60	2,837.52

5. That it be noted that for the year 2021-22 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
145.43	169.67	193.91	218.15	266.63	315.11	363.58	436.30

6. That it be noted that for the year 2021-22 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
53.88	62.86	71.84	80.82	98.78	116.74	134.70	161.64

7. That, 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 2021-22 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	1,316.72	1,536.18	1,755.63	1,975.09	2,414.00	2,852.91	3,291.81	3,950.18
Higham	1,326.60	1,547.70	1,768.80	1,989.90	2,432.10	2,874.30	3,316.50	3,979.80
Luddesdown	1,333.16	1,555.35	1,777.55	1,999.74	2,444.13	2,888.52	3,332.90	3,999.48
Meopham	1,313.12	1,531.97	1,750.83	1,969.68	2,407.39	2,845.10	3,282.80	3,939.36
Shorne	1,309.55	1,527.81	1,746.07	1,964.33	2,400.85	2,837.37	3,273.88	3,928.66
Vigo	1,394.25	1,626.63	1,859.00	2,091.38	2,556.13	3,020.89	3,485.63	4,182.76
All other parts	1,287.17	1,501.70	1,716.23	1,930.76	2,359.82	2,788.88	3,217.93	3,861.52

8. The Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2021-22 at Appendix 3 be approved;
9. Consideration was given to the view of the Director (Corporate Services) (as S151 Officer) on the robustness of estimates for the coming year, the medium term

financial strategy and the adequacy of proposed reserves and balances, as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003

10. The Council Tax Base as set out at Appendix 4 be ratified;
11. Consideration was given to the budget proposals contained within the report and the proposed Budget Book for Gravesham Borough Council provided at Appendix 7, and the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets for 2021-22 be determined, noting the provisional estimates for the further nine years
12. Consideration was given to the supplementary report to the budget and the proposals within that report and it was agreed that delegated responsibility be provided to the Director (Corporate Services) in consultation with the Chief Executive and The Leader to take all necessary practical, financial and legal actions as required.
13. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2021-22 be agreed.
14. Gravesham Borough Council agreed that working age residents liable for Council Tax and in receipt of Localised Support for Council Tax during the 2021/22 billing period, either on the 1 April 2021 or become eligible during the year, are credited with an amount of £5 (or their net liability if lower) against their Council Tax account for that year.

This will be granted by Gravesham Borough Council through the use of powers under Section 13a of the Local Government Act 1992, applied to accounts after the up to £50 reduction awarded from Kent County Council 'Council Tax Hardship Relief Support Scheme' and will be subject to Kent County Council meeting the administrative and system upgrade costs associated with applying and such reduction.

57. Guillotine

The Mayor drew attention to the time remaining and stated that under Council Procedure Rule 12 he would extend the time allowed for business to be concluded until 10.45pm.

58. Investment Opportunity – long term leasehold arrangement

The Council received a report which updated Members on a decision taken to withdraw the council's interest in the investment development opportunity on the Greenwich Peninsular.

Resolved that the decision taken to withdraw the council's interest in the investment development opportunity on the Greenwich Peninsular be noted.

59. Equality Policy 2021 to 2024

The Council received a report which present Members with the draft Equality Policy including objectives and action plan for 2021-24

Resolved that the Equality Policy, including the objectives and action plan, be adopted.

60. Senior Management Restructure

The Council received a report which presented Members with proposals developed by the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) for key structural changes to the Corporate Management Team and associated services and sought relevant authority to the commencement of the constituted appointment process.

Resolved that:

- The retirement of the Director (Planning and Development) be noted and his contribution to the authority be acknowledged
- The proposed key changes to the corporate management structure as set out in the report be agreed
- The convening of the authority's Appointments Panel and all related recruitment practises to oversee delivery of the enclosed proposals as appropriate be agreed.

61. Appointment of Interim Monitoring Officer

The Council received a report that invited Members to appoint an Interim Monitoring Officer in accordance with statutory requirements. The appointment is expected to commence from 30 April 2021 and to last until such time a permanent appointment has been made and reported back to Full Council for consideration.

Resolved that, in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Jan Guyler be appointed as the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer

62. Appointments to Outside Bodies

Resolved that Cllr Alan Ridgers be re-appointed to the Henry Pinnock and Victoria & Albert Memorial Charity for a four year term.

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

The following question had been submitted by Conrad Broadley and a response was given by Cllr John Burden, Leader of the Council:

Question:

Could the Leader of the Executive please confirm what powers and responsibilities the Council has for protecting, preserving and ensuring in the long term restoration of Listed heritage structures and how does the Executive plan to utilise these powers at Rosherville to restore the listed and unlisted historic structures bringing them back into the public domain?

Response:

Cllr John Burden, Leader of the Council, highlighted the following points in his response:-

Local authorities are given specific duties concerning the historic environment by the various planning acts. These duties include those in:

- Planning (Listed Building & Conservation Areas) Act 1990, section 66 (1)
- The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Much of this concerns having 'special regard' (listed buildings) and 'paying special attention' (conservation areas).

For Environmental Statements, it relates to cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and this is both sites and landscapes.

These are relevant for decision-taking and plan-making.

The following is a useful summary of relevant legislation, etc., [Historic environment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk), and includes:

In addition to the planning framework which is primarily set out in the [Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#):

- The [Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) Act 1990](#) provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest;
- The [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979](#) provides specific protection for monuments of national interest;
- The [Protection of Wrecks Act 1973](#) provides specific protection for wreck sites of archaeological, historic or artistic interest; and
- The [Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953](#) makes provision for the compilation of a register of gardens and other land (parks and gardens, and battlefields).
-

While not part of the legislative framework, the [UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and National Heritage 1972](#) (to which the UK is a signatory) makes provision for the World Heritage List, which is a list of cultural and/or natural heritage sites of outstanding universal value.

It is worth noting that any decisions where listed buildings and their settings and conservation areas are a factor must address the statutory considerations of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (see in particular sections 16, 66 and 72) as well as applying the relevant policies in the development plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) is the development management authority for the Northfleet Embankment area, and holds the decision-taking powers for planning application within its area. However, as a consultee, the Council will take into account all legislative requirements when formulating its response, together with expert guidance provided by its heritage, archaeological advisers, etc.

In engaging with the EDC, the email extract below is a good example of this Council's approach:

Recommendation:

The Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) is advised that the Borough Council notes that notwithstanding the revisions made to the Rosherville Pier Management Plan there still remains a lack of information or commitment to potential access, restoration, interpretation and public enjoyment of this important heritage asset.

The Council's Conservation Officer supports the comments of KCC Heritage and Conservation on the AMP with regard to recording. He also considers that the heritage asset offers an opportunity for further interpretation and public access and would be a beneficial asset to the area.

The EDC is thanked for consulting the Borough Council.

64. To receive the Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor thanked everyone in the community for their fantastic work during the pandemic including; helping people with food and shopping, the NHS using the Woodville to provide the vaccine and the Salvation Army and local supermarkets for helping to provide food for residents.

Close of meeting

The meeting ended at 10.44 pm