

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 6.00 pm**

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Jones) (in the Chair)

Councillors Hook, Ms Ballard, Bateman, Mrs Batty, Beavis, Burgess, Carter, Chegwyn, Mrs Cully, Earle, Farr, Foster-Reed, Mrs Furlong, Mrs Hook, Mrs Huggins, Hylands, Jessop, Mrs Jones, Miss Kelly, Mrs Morgan, Murphy, Philpott, Mrs Prickett, Raffaelli, Scard, Blackman, Casey, Hammond, Herridge, Hutchison, Johnston, Pepper, Westerby and Mitchell

Also in attendance: Honorary Alderman Dickson and Gill

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FROM MEMBERS FOR THEIR INABILITY TO ATTEND THE MEETING

Apologies for non attendance were received from Honorary Freeman O'Neill and Honorary Alderman Kimber.

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH DECEMBER 2019 (COPY HEREWITH)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2019 be signed as a true and correct copy.

TO CONSIDER ANY MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

The Mayor updated the Council on the success of the open doors project advising that there were 4 Churches opening their doors and over 300 volunteers and that there had been many successes and additional plans for the project were moving forward.

TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO 3.4 AND TO ANSWER PUBLIC QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO 3.5, SUCH QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED ORALLY DURING A TIME NOT EXCEEDING 15 MINUTES.

Deputation in pursuant of Standing Order 3.4 – Climate Change.

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Order 3.4 notices of Deputation had been received by the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer from Grace Cane and Peter Hurworth.

Grace Cane advised the Council that she had been on strike from school and been and had been called brave and been told that people were proud of her but that there was a pressure on younger generations to make a difference and change the future but that her generation had inherited a very fragile world with damaged coral and disappearing rainforests and that there was a great pressure to fix the problems created by previous generation, including damage to coral reefs, rain forests, bushfires and flooding. The recent

forest fires in Australia had killed one billion animals and that the planet needed protecting for the future of children and grandchildren.

She advised that the planet needed protecting and that she did not consider herself brave as often described, but scared of the future for the planet.

She advised that the youth of today were prepared to stand up and fight for what they believed in but were often seen as irrelevant by those that were in power and that this was unacceptable.

She concluded by advising the Council that listening was not enough and that the Council needed to declare the Climate Change Emergency as real and understand and act on it.

Peter Hurworth was invited to address the Council.

He advised that he represented Gosport and Fareham Friends of the Earth and that the Carbon budget for Gosport for 2050 would be used within the next 8 years at its current rate. Failing to reduce the carbon used by 13% would increase the Earth's temperature by 2 Degrees and would continue to damage the planet.

The Council were advised that Councils were not striving to achieve to be climate neutral, they needed to be making more effort in investing renewable energy and trees. In addition, improvements in recycling rates were needed as was improvements in cycle routes and provision for better public transport.

Improvements should be made to the use of renewable power particularly as Gosport was well placed to generate power this way.

He felt that Gosport needed to improve their aspirations with regard to the amount of trees it wished to plant.

QUESTIONS (IF ANY) PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO 3.3.

The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer received notice of 7 Public Questions under Standing Order 3.3.

That were answered by Councillor Burgess as Chairman of the Community Board.

Question 1

We would like to know why houses are going to be built on a greenfield site beside the shops in Tukes Avenue, when there are 4 potential other brown field sites within the ward. This is an area where children play, it has 5 mature trees on it as well as shrubs, and a previous planning application to extend the service road was rejected because it was a green field site?

Question 2

A previous application was put forward and rejected because the field is a green site so what has changed?

Question 3: The field opposite Tukes Avenue is a green field, there are 5 mature trees currently on the field. Are you proposing to cut these trees down? If so surely considering the current climate of trees and the importance they hold it would be more appropriate to keep these trees and to keep the green space. Green space which is proven to have a positive effect on mental health.

Question 4: Where do you propose the residents of Tukes Avenue park their cars? At the current moment there is hardly any space to park and parking is mainly on road. Often we have had to struggle with parking especially on Sundays with the local car boot sale which adds to the demand of parking spaces.

Question 5: Why the field opposite Tukes Avenue? Why this area specifically? Its a green field, its near a bend of the road. The layout you are proposing would mean that the surrounding area of the 20 flats will mean that the flats will be like an island sandwiched in between roads. Are there no other fields that are brown field sites that you could build on instead?

Question 6: This is concerning children's welfare and wellbeing the field opposite Tukes Avenue has been great for children to play on and is not too far away from their school. Where would children be expected to play if they live in Tukes Avenue?

Question 7: Currently myself and other residents have been enjoying the surge of nature that the field brings to our community. We get birds nesting in the trees opposite as well as hedgehogs hibernating nearby. It would be a loss to our wildlife if this green field was to be built on. Would you consider the loss of wildlife before deciding on building plans? and again why green space when it is going to affect and impact on so many?

NOTICE OF MOTION

It was reported that Councillor Pepper gave notice of a motion

Proposer Martin Pepper
Secunder Murray Johnston

Council notes:

that the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world;

that the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector;

that all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;

that strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;

and that, recognising this, Gosport Borough Council has already established a Climate Change Working Group to develop a strategy to tackle climate change;

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Declare that 'Climate Change is real' and requires urgent action;
2. Prioritise the work of the Climate Change Working Group;
3. Incorporate the CCWG Strategy in its approaches to planning decisions;
4. Ensure that political and chief officer/section head leadership teams embed this work in all areas and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities;
5. Take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
6. Develop a Citizens' Assembly in order to involve the wider population in this process. This group would help develop their own role, consider the latest climate science and expert advice on solutions and to consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
7. Establish a Climate Change Partnership group, involving Councillors, residents, young citizens, relevant experts, businesses, Citizens Assembly representatives and other relevant parties. It will also recommend ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, transport and the local economy;
8. Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio;
9. Work with, influence and inspire partners across the borough, county and region to help deliver this goal;
10. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask our MP to do likewise.

Under standing order 4.6.1 the motion was referred to the Community Board

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY BOARDS OF THE COUNCIL:

BUSINESS PLAN FINANCIAL MODEL UPDATE AND COUNCIL DWELLING RENTS 2020/2021

At its meeting on 22 January 2020 the Community Board considered a report Borough Treasurer and Housing Services Manager requesting consideration of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Financial Model including the revised 2019/20 budget and the 2020/21 budget including recommendations on rent levels for the next year. .

RESOVLED:

That the Council approve:

- The revised HRA Business Plan Financial Model extract (Appendix A) and associated 2019/20 Revised Budget and 2020/21 Budget (Appendix B) is agreed.
- That Council Dwelling rents increase by CPI(1.7%@sept 2019) plus 1% .This is the first year of the five year policy programme as detailed in the new national rent policy introduced in February 2019.
- The rent for older style garages is increased in line with inflation, as agreed in the Garage Renewal strategy and rent for non GBC tenants who have garages is increased by £1 per week.

Policy and Organisation Board Part I

At its meeting on 4 February 2020 the Policy and Organisation Board considered three reports of the Borough Treasurer advising the Board of the Capital Strategy 2020/21, the Investment Strategy 2020/21, and the Treasury Management Strategy and MRP Policy.

CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT 2020/21

Resolved:

That Council approve:

The Capital Strategy for 2020/21

INVESTMENT STRATEGY REPORT 2020/21

Resolved:

Full Council approve the Investment Strategy as detailed in this report

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND MRP POLICY

Resolved:

Council approves:

- Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, as identified in 2.1
- The Treasury Management Strategy, as identified in 2.2

TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING PART II MINUTES OF THE BOARDS OF THE COUNCIL:

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following Part II Minutes be received.

- Community Board: 22 January 2020
- Policy and Organisation Board: 4 February 2020

Councillor Chegwyn declared a pecuniary interest in the item, left the room and took no further part in the discussion or voting thereon.

It was proposed under standing order 4.5.1 (c) that minute 26, Social and Affordable Housing Development Programme be referred back to the Community Board for consideration.

It was requested that under standing 4.12.4 that a named vote be taken on the proposal, names of the elected Members were called out by the Borough Solicitor as follows

FOR THE PROPOSAL Councillors Ms Ballard, Earle, Foster-Reed, Hammond, Herridge, Hutchison, Hylands, Johnston, Miss Kelly, Mrs Mitchell, Pepper, Mrs Prickett, Mrs Westerby. (13)

AGAINST THE PROPOSAL: Councillors Bateman, Mrs Batty, Beavis, Burgess, Rev Blackman, Carter, Casey, Mrs Furlong, Mrs Hook, Hook, Mrs Huggins, Jessop, Mrs Morgan, Murphy, Philpott, Raffaelli, Scard, The Mayor (18)

ABSTAIN: Councillors Mrs Cully, Farr. (2)

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the motion was LOST

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND BUDGET (REVENUE AND CAPITAL)
2020/2021**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer detailing the Council's budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020/21

It is recommended that the following be approved:

- 2.1 A Revised General Fund Budget for 2019/20 of £10,603,120 as set out in Appendix A;
- 2.2 A General Fund Budget for 2020/21 of £10,282,110 as set out in Appendix A and broken down in C;
- 2.3 Any variation arising from the final Local Government Finance Settlement be accommodated by a transfer to / from the Revenue Financing Reserve;

- 2.4 That the level of Council Tax be increased by £5 per annum for a Band D property for 2020/21;
- 2.5 It be noted that the Borough Treasurer Officer has determined that the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2020/21 will be 27,039.1 [item T in the formula in Section 31 B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)];
- 2.6 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2020/21 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a)	£45,185,476	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
(b)	£38,946,216	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£6,216,200	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 2.6 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2.6(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(1) of the Act.
(d)	£230.75	Being the amount at 2.6 (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item 2.5 above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(e) Valuation Bands (Gosport Borough Council)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
153.83	179.47	205.11	230.75	282.03	333.31	384.58	461.50

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 2.6 (d) 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 in different valuation bands.

- 2.7 That it be noted that for the financial year 2020/21 Hampshire County Council is proposing the following amounts for the precept to be issued to the Council in

accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Hampshire County Council)

- 2.8 That it be noted that for the financial year 2020/21 the Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner is consulting on the following amounts for the precept to be issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
140.97	164.47	187.96	211.46	258.45	305.44	352.43	422.92

- 2.9 That it be noted that for the financial year 2020/21, we estimate that Hampshire Fire

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
857.52	1000.44	1143.36	1286.28	1572.12	1857.96	2143.80	2572.56

and Rescue Authority will propose the following amounts for the precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
46.04	53.71	61.39	69.06	84.41	99.75	115.11	138.13

- 2.10 That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.6(e), 2.7, 2.8 and 2.9 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the financial year 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Total Council Tax)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,198.36	1398.09	1597.82	1797.55	2197.01	2596.46	2995.91	3595.10

- 2.11 T he Borough Treasurer be given delegated authority to implement any variation to the

overall level of Council Tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority precepts.

- 2.12 The Council determines in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21, which represents a £5 increase, is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC of the Act.
- 2.13 As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority (Hampshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire or the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority) that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 2.14 Members have had regard for the Statement of the Section 151 Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in the report.
- 2.15 The Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2022/23 as set out in Appendix D is approved.
- 2.16 That the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix E are approved
- 2.17 That the Pay Policy Statement 2020/21 as set out in Appendix F is approved

Voting was thereupon taken and the names of the Members voting for and against the Recommendation and those abstaining were read to the Council:

FOR THE RECOMMENDATION: Councillors Bateman, Mrs Batty, Beavis, Burgess, Rev Blackman, Carter, Casey, Mrs Cully, Farr, Mrs Furlong, Mrs Hook, Hook, Mrs Huggins, Jessop, Mrs Morgan, Murphy, Philpott, Raffaelli, Scard, The Mayor **(20)**

AGAINST THE RECOMMENDATION: (0)

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Mrs Ballard, Chegwyn, Earle, Foster-Reed, Hammond, Herridge, Hutchison, Hylands, Johnston, Miss Kelly, Mrs Mitchell, Pepper, Mrs Prickett, Mrs Westerby. **(14)**

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved.

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (CONTROL OF DOGS)

Consideration was given to the report and addendum of the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer requesting the extension of the Borough of Gosport Public Spaces Protection Dog Control Order 2017 ("PSPDCO")

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

That:

- Full Council approve the draft amended PSPDCO attached at Appendix A (“Draft PSPDCO”);
- The Borough Solicitor be given delegated authority to carry out a consultation exercise as referred to in this report; and
- The Community Board shall at its next programmed meeting on 04 March 2020 have regard to any representations made in response to the consultation and decide whether to approve the draft PSPDCO with or without modification.

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR GOSPORT

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Benefits, Procurement and Insurance informing Members of the proposal not to change the Local Council Tax Support scheme (LCTS) for Gosport for the forthcoming 2020-2021 financial year.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

That Council approve the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) for Gosport at Appendix 1 of this report for working age customers and notes the statutory scheme for Pension Age customers. Statutory changes to the Pension Age scheme are administered by Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and this year only contain minor changes, these are yet to be released by MHCLG and will be forwarded to Members as part of the updated scheme when received.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2020/21

The Council was informed that in accordance with Standing Order 2.4 the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive had written to Group Leaders and Members of the Council to invite Member nominations for the selection of Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the next Municipal Year.

It was reported that two nominations had been received Councillors Z Huggins and Earle for Mayor-Elect and two nomination Councillors Hook and Hutchison for Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2020-21 Municipal Year.

A vote was duly taken and Councillor Huggins and Councillor Hook duly elected.

The Meeting concluded at 9.29 pm

The Mayor.