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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 6.00 pm

Attendance:

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Huggins) (in the Chair)

Councillors Ms Ballard, Beavis, Bradley, Burgess, Casey, Chegwyn, Earle, Mrs Furlong, Hylands, Jessop, Miss Kelly, Meenaghan, Murphy, Philpott, Raffaelli and Westerby

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

It was acknowledged that the Council was meeting on reduced numbers and as a result some Councillors were absent, but not required to attend. Apologies from The Mayor and Councillor Cully were noted as they were unable to attend.

Apologies were also received from Honorary Freeman Edgar, O'Neill and Honorary Alderman Dickson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jessop advised that he had a pecuniary interest in the Part II minutes of the Policy and Organisation Board and would leave the room if this was discussed.

Councillor Philpott advised that he had a non pecuniary interest in the Part II minutes of the Economic Development Board and left the room at the point item was discussed.

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2021 (COPY HEREWITH)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 13 October 2021 be signed as a true and correct record.

TO CONSIDER ANY MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO 3.5 AND TO ANSWER PUBLIC QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO 3.6, SUCH QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED ORALLY DURING A TIME NOT EXCEEDING 15 MINUTES.

There were none.

QUESTIONS (IF ANY) PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO 3.4.

There were none.

CONSIDERATIONS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARDS OF THE COUNCIL

At its meeting on the 13 January 2022 the Climate Change Board considered a report of the Climate Change Officer and recommended that the Climate Change Strategy be reported to Full Council for approval.

An amendment was proposed as follows

To remove the superfluous wording from page 3 of 20 of the strategy document.

PLACE HOLDER: - 'STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT' if this can be agreed by group leaders.

Councillor Graham Burgess, Leader of the Council, Councillor Peter Chegwyn, Liberal Democrat Group Leader and Councillor June Cully, Labour Councillor.

As no agreement was reached by the opposition Leader, therefore the placement holder and the name are superfluous to the document.

If in future a Climate Change statement of intent can be agreed to acknowledge climate action, it is suggested this is taken outside of the strategy document and could be added to the website.

The amendment was put to the Council and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Climate Change Strategy as amended be approved.

Consideration was given to a report of the Housing Board on the 19 January 2022 detailing the Borough Treasurer and Housing Services Manager detailing the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Financial Model including the revised 2021/22 budget and the 2022/23 budget including recommendations on rent levels for next year.

RESOLVED: That

- The revised HRA Business Plan Financial Model extract (Appendix A) and associated 2021/22 Revised Budget and 2022/23 Budget (Appendix B) is agreed.
- That Council Dwelling rents increase by CPI (3.1% @sept 2021) plus 1% .The Council is setting it's rents according to the five year policy programme as detailed in the new national rent policy introduced in February 2019.

The rent for all garages is increased in line with inflation, as agreed in the Garage Renewal strategy.

Consideration was given to a report of the Policy and Organisation Board detailing the opportunity to opt into the National Scheme for Auditor Appointments Managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) as the Appointing Person.

RESOLVED: That the Council Opt into the National Scheme for Auditor Appointments Managed by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) as the Appointing Person

TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING PART II MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL RESOLVED That the following Part II Minutes be received:

Community Board	3 November 2021
Community Board	5 January 2022
Climate Change Board	9 November 2021
Climate Change Board	13 January 2022
Housing Board	10 November 2021
Economic Development Board	17 November 2021
Policy and Organisation Board	24 November 2021
Policy and Organisation Board	27 January 2022

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY & BUDGET (REVENUE & CAPITAL) 2022/23

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer.

The Council is required to set a "Balanced Budget" and to maintain adequate levels of Reserves. The primary purpose of this report is to set the Council's overall Budget for the forthcoming year 2022/23 (both Revenue & Capital) and the associated level of Council Tax necessary to help fund the Budget.

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 Beavis, Burgess, Carter, Casey, Mrs Furlong, Jessop, Murphy, Philpott, Raffaelli, The Deputy Mayor **(10)**

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Ballard, Bradley, Chegwyn, Earle, Hylands, Miss Kelly, Mrs Westerby **(7)**

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved.

2.1 A Revised General Fund Budget for 2021/22 of £11,056,560 as set out in Appendix A;

- 2.2 A General Fund Budget for 2022/23 of £11,498,820 as set out in Appendix A and broken down in Appendix 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 2022/23;
- 2.5 It be noted that the Borough Treasurer has determined that the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2022/23 will be 27,154.20 [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 2022/23 in accordance with Section 31 and Sections 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a)	£45,641,973	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
(b)	£39,104,600	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£6,537,373	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)	£240.75	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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
160.50	187.25	214.00	240.75	294.25	347.75	401.25	481.50

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 2022/23 we estimate that Hampshire County Council will propose 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 categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Hampshire County Council)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
927.24	1,081.78	1,236.32	1,390.86	1,699.94	2,009.02	2,318.10	2,781.72

- 2.8 That it be noted that for the financial year 2022/23 the Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner has proposed 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
157.64	183.91	210.19	236.46	289.01	341.55	394.10	472.92

- 2.9 That it be noted that for the financial year 2022/23, we estimate that Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire 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 & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
50.29	58.67	67.05	75.43	92.19	108.95	125.72	150.86

- 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 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands (Total Council Tax)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,295.67	1,511.61	1,727.56	1,943.50	2,375.39	2,807.27	3,239.17	3,887.00

- 2.11 The 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 & Isle of Wight 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 2022/23, 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 & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority) that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 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 That the Council approves the Savings Strategy for 2023/24 onwards set out in this report, requiring that £0.575m of Budget Savings are made in 2023/24 and that indicative savings of a further £0.575m will be required in both 2024/25 and 2025/26, these indicative savings being subject to an annual review
- 2.15 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.
- 2.16 The Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2024/25 as set out in Appendix D is approved.
- 2.17 That the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix E are approved
- 2.18 That the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 as set out in Appendix F is approved

Members should note that:

- 2.19 The Section 151 Officer has a duty to report to Members on the Robustness of the Estimates and the Adequacy of Reserves (as described in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**). Accordingly, any amendments put before the Council for consideration must also include a written Statement by the Section 151 Officer.
- 2.20 In accordance with statute, the Budget Report is required to incorporate a number of specific recommendations. Amendments may require those recommendations to be altered and therefore need to be precisely written in order to have legal effect and be capable of adoption by the Council.
- 2.21 Due to the requirements set out above, it is necessary for any amendment to be discussed in sufficient time to be drafted by the Section 151 Officer so that it includes the Section 151 Officers Statement alongside precisely worded recommendations that the Council can properly consider.

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Benefits, Procurement and Insurance, detailing the proposal to implement a revised Local Council Tax Support Scheme with effect from 1st April 2022.

RESOLVED: That Council approves the new LCTS (summarised at 2.11 and attached as in full at appendix A) scheme based upon a new income banded / grid scheme for working age applicants with effect from 1st April 2022 and notes the continuation of the unchanged statutory scheme for pension age customers.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT 2022/23

The Council was informed that in accordance with Standing Order 2.4 the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer 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 one nomination had been received Councillor Z Huggins for Mayor-Elect the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

It was reported that one nomination had been received Councillor K Casey for Mayor-Elect the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Z Huggins be Mayor-Elect and Councillor K Casey Deputy-Mayor Elect for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

The Meeting concluded at 7.27 pm

The Mayor.

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