



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 26th FEBRUARY 2019

PRESENT: Councillor P Thurgood (Chair), Councillors R Kingstone, M Bailey, J Chesworth, R Bilcliff, A Bishop, R Claymore, T Clements, D Cook, M Cook, C Cooke, S Doyle, J Faulkner, R Ford, M Gant, S Goodall, M Greatorex, A James, T Jay, K Norchi, J Oates, M Oates, S Peale, Dr S Peale, B Price, R Pritchard, R Rogers, P Standen and M Summers

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Stefan Garner (Executive Director Finance), Lynne Pugh (Assistant Director Finance), Ryan Keyte (Head of Legal & Democratic Services) and Jodie Small (Legal, Democratic and Corporate Support Assistant)

58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

59 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peale)

60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Bishop declared a pecuniary interest in minute 63 and accordingly left the meeting.

61 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Councillor D Cook made the following announcement:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor

Mr Mayor we are a town of Community Champions and, it is right that we celebrate a local citizen when they display an act of kindness or courage.

We have a local young lady who has recently demonstrated pure courage.

The dictionary definition of courage is the state or quality of mind, or spirit that enables one to face danger or fear with self-possession, confidence and resolution.

As I say Mr Mayor we have a young woman locally who has displayed this trait and I will of course as Leader of the Council be writing to her, I hope you will join me Mr Mayor? Her name is Kate Pritchard she took the foolish courageous decision (I say) to marry Councillor Rob Pritchard on the Saturday just passed.

I have course joked Mr Mayor but I'm hoping the Members of the Chamber will stand and applaud Councillor Pritchard with me, to congratulate him on his wedding on Saturday."

Mayor Peter Thurgood made the following announcements:-

"I would like to take this opportunity; we are actually losing Ryan Keyte very shortly.

I would like to thank him for all the hard work he has put in for the Council and may I wish him well and I'm sure you will join me in doing that in his next post."

"I would also like to thank the Council employees for the montage that was presented to me at the civic ball; I thought that was a really lovely gesture, if Mr Barratt would mind conveying my thanks to all the members of staff. Its heart felt. Thank you."

62 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NO. 1

Under Procedure Rule No 10, Ms Vivien Shaw, of Tamworth will ask the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor R Pritchard, the following question:-

"Last July you were kind enough to reply to my queries regarding the lack of public toilets in Tamworth and also whether anything could be done to ensure we, the people in Tamworth and visitors to the area could look forward to a proper Information Centre rather than the inadequate cramped space in the Council offices.

Well over six months later, nothing has changed.

The Assembly Rooms, part of the re-juvenation project haven't been re-opened, something that was promised by yourselves at the 17th July 2018 Council meeting quoting "Christmas time this year (2018) or early next year" ...your words.

Meantime visitors and local people rely on the facilities in Ankerside, when it's open or the ones in the Castle grounds. Neither of which is clearly signposted.

Can you confirm that the premises previously known as Goostry's, are your property and therefore ideally suited to be a Tourist Information Office? They are central, large and lying empty, with room for refreshments and toilets."

Councillor R Pritchard gave the following reply:-

"Thank you Mr Mayor, due to the complexity of the works and the age of the building, the opening of the Assembly Rooms has been delayed.

We aim to open the premises to the public in September of this year.

The shop known as Goostrys (more of us will know it as the Peel Café) is owned by the Council.

We are looking at a number of venues for a new TIC and this is one of them. We hope to make an announcement as soon as possible."

Ms Vivien Shaw asked the following supplementary question:-

"Those replies were given me to last July in particular the Council properties you was going to gain further information and also you was going to look at other properties but nothing else has been done and it was over 6 months ago.

As far the assembly rooms are concerned could we have your assurance that when they are finally opened and I believe it's going to be in October that the main amenities there will be open for the public even when the assembly rooms are not being used?"

Councillor R Pritchard gave the following reply:-

"Thank you Mr Mayor.

In terms of the delays when the question was originally answered, since then other properties potentially have become available for TIC so that's one of the reason for the delays because properties we had not originally considered had become available so we wanted to explore those as well.

As I said we will make a formal announcement as soon as possible and that includes the provision of public toilets."

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr S People will ask the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Operational Services, Councillor J Chesworth, the following question:-

“Please would the Portfolio Holder for Waste Management tell the Council how many blue bins have been “yellow tagged” for containing non re-cyclable rubbish each week in 2019?”

Councillor J Chesworth gave the following reply:-

“I’m unable to provide a weekly breakdown as the figures aren’t collected in that way, but since January 1st 2019 there have been 647 recycling bins in Tamworth that have had a sticker put on them. In Lichfield there have been 1353, so around the same percentage across the partnership.

There has only been 1 load rejected within this time by the recycling facility, compared with approximately 2 per week previously.

Recycling officers follow this up with a visit to as many of the affected households as possible, but if the resident contacts us first they will definitely get a visit.”

Councillor Dr.S People asked the following supplementary question:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor

Thank you for the figures Councillor Chesworth the weekly breakdown was less important than knowing we are actually monitoring just how many there are.

My concern arises from particularly shared facilities and communal facilities where it’s less easy to control that puts what rubbish in what bin. Can I ask whether there is a contact that we can have to advise community groups and because I’m conscious that the recyclets have changed in terms of what goes in the blue bin and I would hate to see the success of our recycling put in jeopardy by too many spoilt bins, my concern is that if, someone or a community centre’s bin is not emptied one week because of a yellow tag all that will happen is the recycling will just end up in the black bin and what could be recycled wont. So could you just outline what steps they can take or if you want to do that in writing so I can circulate that to interested community groups it would be helpful. Thank you”

Councillor J Chesworth gave the following reply:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor

I will circulate something in writing but in short all properties received the same information about blue recycling bins, so they can all adhere to that. If any particular property does have an issue, they can contact waste management services, as every other resident does!

I know a charity recently that didn’t have their blue bin emptied and after a simple phone call it was emptied the next day.

I will circulate something for you. Thank you”

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr S People will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-

“Would the Leader of the Council update the Council on the position relating to Tamworth’s options regarding the future membership of LEPs”

Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-

“As far as the LEP Review is concerned, there is nothing to add at this time, we have had no further correspondence from government or either LEP and the only movement I have seen is a letter from our MP Chris Pincher in further support of our position as agreed cross party in Tamworth.

As any new information unfolds, I will update all Councillors”

Councillor Dr.S People asked the following supplementary question:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor

Can I thank the Leader for that answer he will appreciate that if he was here I would have asked Councillor Claymore because I know Councillor Claymore held this matter close to his heart

So I would ask that, when we talk about honouring his memory that we fight this corner and we fight it really hard because if there’s anything that is best for Tamworth then I know his spirit will be with us in fighting that corner and I would ask the Leader to reiterate this commitment to that principle. Thank you.”

Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor

I certainly echo those thoughts, no disagreement whatsoever, It’s quite interesting when you discuss within Government circles or with a minister this review of where each Council sits within a LEP area. I don’t think the Government fully understand what they are trying to do with this review, I think it’s kind of fallen off the radar a little whilst they pause and re think.

Its interesting Councillor People’s question and no attack, I don’t think when it comes down to it we are going to get an option and that’s the disappointing thing so I will certainly echo what Councillor People said and we will fight every stage of the way. Thank you”

The Leader of the Council proposed the Vision Statement, Priority Themes, Corporate Priorities and Outcomes and their inclusion in the Corporate Plan and Support Service Plan.

The recommendation package of budget proposals to enable the Council to agree the:

- General Fund (GF) Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2019/20;
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2019/20;
- 5 Year General Fund Capital Programme (2019/24);
- 5 Year HRA Capital Programme (2019/24);
- 3 Year General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (2019/22); and
- 5 Year HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (2019/24).

To comply with the requirement of the Council's Treasury Management Policy in reporting to Council the proposed strategy for the forthcoming year and the Local Government Act 2003 with the reporting of the Prudential Indicators

RESOLVED

That Council approved;

- 1 The Vision Statement, Priority Themes, Corporate Priorities and Outcomes for 2019/20
- 2 The proposed revisions to Service Revenue Budgets (Policy Changes)
- 3 The sum of £62,517 be applied from Council Tax Collection Fund surpluses in reducing the Council Tax demand in 2019/20
- 4 The sum of £752,887 be applied from Business Rates Collection Fund surpluses in 2019/20
- 5 That on 29th November 2018, the Cabinet calculated the Council Tax Base 2019/20 for the whole Council area as 21,761 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]
- 6 That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019/20 is £3,849,303
- 7 The following amounts as calculated for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- a. £49,832,645 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act (Outgoings excluding internal GF Recharges);
 - b. £45,983,342 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act (Income excluding internal GF Recharges);
 - c. £3,849,303 being the amount by which the aggregate at 7(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 7(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 31A(4) of the Act);
 - d. £176.89 being the amount at 7(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (at 5 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;
- 8 The Council Tax level for the Borough Council for 2019/20 of £176.89 (an increase of £5.14 (2.99%) on the 2018/19 level of £171.75) at Band D;
- 9 An aggregate Council Tax (comprising the respective demands of the Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority) of £1,715.41 at Band D for 2019/20 be noted (£1,648.36 in 2018/19)
- 10 The Council Tax levels at each band for 2019/20
- 11 The sum of £1,408,174 be transferred from General Fund Revenue Balances in 2019/20
- 12 The Summary General Fund Revenue Budget for 2019/20
- 13 The Provisional Budgets for 2020/21 to 2021/22, summarised at Appendix G, as the basis for future planning;
- 14 Minimum level for balances of £500k to be held for each of the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, General Capital Fund and Housing Capital Fund;
- 15 Cabinet be authorised to release funding from the General Contingency budget and that the release of funding for Specific Contingency items be delegated to the Corporate Management Team in consultation with the Leader of the Council;
- 16 Proposed HRA Expenditure level of £13,164,850 for

- 2019/20
- 17 Rents for Council House Tenants in General Accommodation for 2019/20 be set at an average of £85.52 (2018/19 £86.50), over a 49 week rent year (including the required 1% reduction);
 - 18 Rents for Council House Tenants due for 53 weeks in 2019/20 be collected over 49 weeks;
 - 19 The proposed 5 year General Fund Capital Programme of £5.297m, as detailed in Appendix I to the report;
 - 20 The HRA deficit of £115,050 be financed through a transfer from Housing Revenue Account Balances in 2019/20
 - 21 The proposed 5 year Housing Capital Programme of £44.496m, as detailed in Appendix J to the report;
 - 22 To delegate authority to Cabinet to approve/add new capital schemes to the capital programme where grant funding is received or there is no net additional cost to the Council;
 - 23 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Treasury Management Policy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy and Annual Investment Statement 2019/20
 - 24 The Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Limits for 2019/20 to 2021/22
 - 25 Adoption of the Treasury Management Practices contained within ANNEX 8;
 - 26 The detailed criteria of the Investment Strategy 2019/20 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy within ANNEX 4; and
 - 27 The Corporate Capital Strategy and associated Action Plan

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

The Mayor