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COUNCIL

Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Thursday 6 March 2014 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00pm

PRESENT Councillor Geoff Stevens MBE - In the Chair

Councillors Jacque Bevan, Jennifer Bower, Steve Bull, David Burton, Bob Cartwright, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, David Fearn, Richard FitzHerbert, Steve Flitter, David Frederickson, Chris Furness, Neil Horton, Cate Hunt, Mike Longden, Tony Millward, Jean Monks, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Jacque Stevens, Colin Swindell, Philippa Tilbrook, Judith Twigg, Carol Walker, Joanne Wild.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Peter Foley (Corporate Director), Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Phil Colledge (Head of Resources), Karen Henrikson (Accountancy and Exchequer Manager), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Organisational Development), Sandra Lamb (Head of Democratic Services), and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Bright, Ken Bull, Sue Burfoot, Andrew Lewer, Garry Purdy, Irene Ratcliffe, Andrew Statham and Barrie Tipping.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman acknowledged Councillor Lewer in his absence, in respect of his receiving an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. Councillor Lewer is one of the youngest leaders of the County Council to receive this honour, whilst also working for the LGA in London. Members joined the Chair in congratulating Councillor Lewer on his achievement.

355/13 – MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Stevens MBE, seconded by Councillor Richard FitzHerbert and

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on 23

(unanimously) January 2014 be approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

356/13 – PERFORMANCE PLAN AND REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15

Council considered a report requesting approval of the District Council's Performance Plan 2014/15, revised spending proposals for 2013/14 and the spending proposals for 2014/15.

In commenting on the past year Councillor Rose commended all Members and Officers for their hard work in helping to make Derbyshire Dales District Council one of the top performing District Council in England. Particular mention was given to the Council's achievements in the provision of affordable housing, resulting in the Council being nominated for the 'Strategic Local Authority of the Year' in the 2014 Housing Awards, and to progress with regard to economic development and the assistance given to new businesses in the area.

The Democratic Services Manager advised the Council that a new Statutory Instrument had come into force making it mandatory to show a recorded vote in respect of the Revenue Budget.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED

1. That the level of Council Tax for 2014/15 be frozen at the 2013/14 level.
2. The revised estimate of net revenue expenditure for 2013/14 of £5,248,875 as detailed in the Summary Revenue Account.
3. The net sum of £1,083,334 be transferred from earmarked reserves in 2013/14, as shown in Appendix 6 to the report.
4. The estimated net revenue expenditure for 2014/15 totalling £5,284,764 as detailed in the Summary Revenue Account.
5. The minimum level of uncommitted working balances be approved at £1,000,000 at 1st April 2014, and £1,000,000 at 1st April 2015.
6. The net sum of ££434,992 be transferred from earmarked reserves in 2014/15, as shown in Appendix 6 to the report.
7. The following amounts be calculated by the Council for the chargeable financial year 2014/15 in accordance with Section 31A of the Localism Act 2011:-
 - i aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2)(a) to (f) thereof is £40,567,236;
 - ii aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d) thereof is £34,012,285;
 - iii calculation under Section 31A(4) being the amount of which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate of (ii) above as the Council Tax Requirement for 2013/14 is £6,554,951;
8. The Derbyshire Dales District Council Performance Plan and Summary Budget.
9. The Head of Resources' report on the robustness of the budget

and the adequacy of reserves in accordance with clause 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Voting:

In favour Councillors Jacque Bevan, Jennifer Bower, Steve Bull, Bob Cartwright, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, Richard FitzHerbert, David Frederickson, Chris Furness, Neil Horton, Cate Hunt, Mike Longden, Tony Millward, Jean Monks, Lewis Rose OBE, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Geoff Stevens MBE, Jacque Stevens, Colin Swindell, Philippa Tilbrook, Judith Twigg, Carol Walker, Joanne Wild (26).

Against (0)

Abstentions David Burton, David Fearn, Steve Flitter and Mike Ratcliffe (4)

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

357/13 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME & FINANCING – PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS – INVESTMENT & TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGIES – MRP STRATEGY

The Council considered a report which:

- Determined the revised Capital Programme for 2013/14
- Determined the Capital Programme and Financing arrangements for 2014/15.
- Outlined Capital Programme proposals for 2015/16 to 2017/18.
- Determined the Investment and Treasury Management Policy and Strategies as required by the Local Government Act 2003 and CIPFA.
- Determined Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy for 2014/2015.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the revised Capital Programme for 2013/14 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report in the sum of £2,453,424 be approved.
2. That the Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2014/15 in the sum of £2,971,776 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
3. That the Capital Programme proposals for 2015/16 to 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.
4. That the Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.
5. That the Investment and Treasury Management Policy and Strategies set out in Appendix 3 to the report be approved.
6. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy set out in Appendix 4 to the report for 2014/15 be approved.

358/13 – COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2014/15

The Council considered a report enabling it to calculate and set the Council Tax for

2014/15.

The Localism Act 2011 had made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and now required the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not its budget requirement as previously.

The precept levels of other precepting bodies were listed in the report, and a table showing the total Band D Council Tax based on approval of the Council Tax Resolution in Appendices A-C of the report was included.

The Democratic Services Manager advised the Council that a new Statutory Instrument had come into force making it mandatory to show a recorded vote in respect of Council Tax settings.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Bull, seconded by Councillor Jacquie Stevens and

RESOLVED That the Council approves the formal Council Tax resolution set out
(unanimously) in Appendices A to C of the report.

Voting:

In favour Councillors Jacque Bevan, Jennifer Bower, Steve Bull, David Burton, Bob Cartwright, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Ann Elliott, David Fearn, Richard FitzHerbert, Steve Flitter, David Frederickson, Chris Furness, Neil Horton, Cate Hunt, Mike Longden, Tony Millward, Jean Monks, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Geoff Stevens MBE, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell, Philippa Tilbrook, Judith Twigg, Carol Walker, Joanne Wild. (30).

Against (0)
Abstentions (0)

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

359/13 – CORPORATE PLAN 2014/15

The Corporate Plan 2014/15 set out the vision, values and aims of the District Council for the coming years, and listed the key improvement priorities as adopted in November 2013. This was the key strategy from which the District Council's Budget and Performance Plan cascaded. The Plan set out specific new action targets to maintain and (where possible) improve priority services in the coming year, based on the District Council's three corporate priorities (and underpinning priority to make savings) and budgetary position for 2014/15. The report also gave an update on progress against targets in last year's Corporate Plan.

In November 2013, the District Council agreed two priorities for improvement for 2014/15 (the main areas where we wished to see improved outcomes) and a third priority to maintain essential services valued by local people. An underpinning priority, recognising the need to manage the long term financial pressures on the Council was also agreed (report of 21 November 2013 refers). The improvement priorities described the areas where our new activities were primarily focused.

The Council also agreed five target areas for 2014/15 (main areas for service improvement) to ensure its activities are focused and achieve impact, as set out below:

1. increase affordable housing
2. Increase business growth and job creation
3. Maintain street cleaning, waste collection, safe and healthy communities.

Alongside setting a balanced budget for 2014/15, the District Council needed to agree its corporate targets for the coming year. The report set out proposed actions for 2014/15, based on the District Council's agreed priorities and target areas, and the budget setting process.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Service Plans included more detail on the 2014/15 corporate targets along with a reduced set of Key Performance Indicators. Progress towards the corporate targets was measured and continually reviewed using the District Council's established 'traffic light' performance management system, and reported to Council every six months. These classifications should be interpreted as follows:

Green – Target achieved, or on track to achieve/exceed target

Amber – Target on track to be achieved after the deadline

Red – Unlikely to be achieved.

Details of achievements against the 2013/14 Corporate Plan targets were shown in Appendix 1 to the report. These translated into real improvements for residents as summarised below:

NEW CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS 2014/15

For each priority, the District Council must set clear targets each year. This was so that specific actions could be carried out and achievements measured.

The approach to setting targets for 2014/15 followed the key principles used to establish the District Council's corporate priorities and target areas i.e. to focus on fewer things so that improvements, albeit smaller in number, could still be achieved in priority areas.

Eleven targets were proposed, focusing on priorities for improvement, investment priorities and deliverable actions with realistic targets based on funding available, as listed in Appendix 2 to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Chris Furness, seconded by Councillor Jennifer Bower and

RESOLVED 1. That progress with the Corporate Plan 2013/14 be noted.
(unanimously) 2. That the Corporate Plan targets for 2014/15 be adopted.

360/13 – DALES HOUSING – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report by waiver of procedure, as an

urgent item of business.

Members were asked to consider a report which set out a request to amend the Articles of Association governing the management of Dales Housing Limited which principally ended the formal right to membership by members of the District Council and Tenant representatives on the Board of Dales Housing.

Dales Housing Limited had proposed amendments to the current Memorandum and Articles of Association which governed the management arrangements and membership of its Board. The agreement, upon which the new Articles are based, was first agreed in 2002, when the District Council's social housing stock was transferred to Dales Housing to manage. Council first considered this issue at its meeting on 23 January, and agreed to defer making a decision in order to consult with Harborough District Council who was in a similar position partnership arrangement with Dales Housing.

Harborough District Council was due to consider the matter at an Executive meeting on 24th March 2014. The report to the Executive will be recommending that the proposed changes were supported and the amended articles of association adopted which would effectively withdraw the Council's formal involvement with Seven Locks Housing

Currently, the Memorandum and Articles provided for 4 elected members of the District Council and Tenant Members to be appointed to the Board. The District Council seats are filled on the basis of political proportionality.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Revised Articles of Association have now been proposed for Council's consideration. Apart from minor amendments to the Articles to reflect legislative change, the principle changes were summarised in the report and a proposal as to how future stakeholders may be engaged in the future was attached to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED

1. That the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association governing the management of Dales Housing Limited be agreed.
2. That the arrangements for Dales Community Connect be welcomed, but that Dales Housing Limited be requested to consider including a provision for tenant representation and all involved work together to make it effective; and that progress reports be presented to the Community Committee at least annually.
3. That Council place on record its thanks to the District Council's representatives on Dales Housing for their hard work over the years.

- Voting:** Councillors Steve Flitter and Colin Swindell requested a recorded vote.
- In favour:** Councillors Steve Bull, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Richard FitzHerbert, Neil Horton, Cate Hunt, Mike Longden, Tony Millward, Lewis Rose OBE, Andrew Shirley, Geoff Stevens MBE, Jacque Stevens, Philippa Tilbrook, Judith Twigg, Carol Walker and Jo Wild (17)
- Against:** Councillor Jacque Bevan, Jennifer Bower, David Burton, Bob Cartwright, Ann Elliott, Steve Flitter, David Frederickson, Chris Furness, Jean Monks, Mike Ratcliffe, Peter Slack, Colin Swindell (12)
- Abstentions:** Councillor David Fearn (1)

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

361/13 – REFERRED ITEM – ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Council was asked to consider a recommendation from the Environment Committee relating to the Annual Pay Policy Statement.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Bull, seconded by Councillor Chris Furness and

RESOLVED That the Pay Policy Statement be approved.
(Unanimously)

362/13 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

It was moved by Councillor Carol Walker, seconded by Councillor Judith Twigg and

RESOLVED That the Common Seal of the Council be fixed to those documents, if
(Unanimously) any, required to complete transactions undertaken by Committees or by way of delegated authority to Officers since the last meeting of the Council.

MEETING CLOSED 7.55PM

CHAIRMAN