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Minutes of the meeting of the **Special Council** held in Committee Rooms, East Pallant House on Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 2.00 pm

Members Present: Mrs E Hamilton (Chairman), Mr H Potter (Vice-Chairman), Mrs T Bangert, Mr G Barrett, Miss H Barrie, Rev J H Bowden, Mr B Brisbane, Mr R Briscoe, Mr A Dignum, Mrs J Duncton, Mr J Elliott, Mr G Evans, Mrs N Graves, Mr F Hobbs, Mrs D Johnson, Mr T Johnson, Mrs E Lintill, Mr A Moss, Mr S Oakley, Dr K O'Kelly, Mr D Palmer, Mrs P Plant, Mr R Plowman, Mrs C Purnell, Mr D Rodgers, Mrs S Sharp, Mr A Sutton, Mrs S Taylor and Mr P Wilding

Members not present: Mrs C Apel, Mr M Bell, Mr J Brown, Mrs J Fowler, Mrs S Lishman, Mr G McAra and Mr C Page

Officers present all items: Mr N Bennett (Divisional Manager for Democratic Services), Mr A Frost (Director of Planning and Environment), Mrs J Hotchkiss (Director of Growth and Place), Mrs L Rudziak (Director of Housing and Communities), Mrs D Shepherd (Chief Executive) and Mr J Ward (Director of Corporate Services)

208 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

209 **Declarations of Interests**

Mr Bennett explained that members were not required to declare any interests in relation to the Budget as members of the council or district residents. He added that it is a criminal offence for any member to vote on the Council Tax if they themselves are in arrears. He confirmed officers had checked and no members were in such arrears.

210 **Chair's Announcements**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Apel, Cllr Bell, Cllr Brown, Cllr Fowler, Cllr McAra and Cllr Lishman.

Cllr Hamilton explained that she had decided to amend the running order to begin with item 5 - the Capital Strategy before moving to the budget spending plans and council tax resolutions.

211 **Capital Strategy 2023/24 - 2027/28**

Cllr Wilding moved the recommendation which was seconded by Cllr Lintill. Cllr Wilding then introduced the report.

Cllr Oakley commented on the council's debt free status, its significant reserves and ability to fund its asset replacement programme.

Cllr Plowman requested information on the link to the Local Plan. Mrs Belenger outlined the community link to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the schemes listed in the capital programme which are to be funded from this source .

In a vote the following resolution was agreed:

RESOLVED

That the Council's draft Capital Strategy for 2023-24 to 2027-28 be approved.

212 Budget Spending Plans 2023-24

Cllr Wilding proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Cllr Lintill. Cllr Wilding then introduced the item. Mr Ward then clarified that the final settlement had been agreed on 6 February 2023. He confirmed the 2.99% Council Tax threshold at a value of £5.26 equating to a £296,000 per annum revenue. He then drew members attention to the revised Appendix 4 circulated at the Cabinet meeting, revised (PART II) Appendix 5, a supplement containing revised pages 25, 33 and 35 and the Supplement containing the minor amendments to Cllr Moss's Motion. He then explained that the Staff Pay Award negotiations for 2023 were underway. Early indications are that it will exceed the total in the budget. Mr Ward advised members that this should be dealt with in year as it had in 2022.

Cllr Lintill then spoke as Leader. She spoke in favour of the proposed budget outlining how it would support the council's five main Corporate Priorities.

Cllr Moss was then invited to speak as Leader of the Opposition. He clarified that Cllr Evans would be presenting the Amendment Motion. He noted that the Future Services Framework discussions had been in Part II prior to the Budget. He commented that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations to Cabinet in November 2022 had not been carried forward. He requested a review of the Budget following the elections.

Cllr Moss then proposed his Motion Amendment as amended. This was seconded by Cllr Evans. Cllr Evans then introduced the Motion Amendment. He explained that Cllr Brown would have introduced the Motion but was unable to attend the meeting. He explained that the Motion Amendment sought to create a vibrant night time economy for younger people.

Cllr Sutton responded. He spoke in favour of recognising the needs of younger people and local events. He drew members attention to the role of the council's Events Officer.

Cllr Bangert then spoke in favour of the Motion.

Mr Bennett requested that the Motion Amendment be read out. Cllr Evans then read the Motion Amendment.

Cllr Moss then summed up his Motion Amendment as amended.

Mrs Shepherd carried out a recorded vote on Cllr Moss's Motion Amendment as amended.
The results were as follows:

Cllr Apel – Absent
Cllr Bangert – For
Cllr Barrett – For
Cllr Barrie – For
Cllr Bell – Absent
Cllr Bowden – For
Cllr Brisbane – For
Cllr Briscoe – For
Cllr Brown – Absent
Cllr Dignum – For
Cllr Duncton – For
Cllr Elliott – For
Cllr Evans – For
Cllr Fowler – Absent
Cllr Graves – For
Cllr Hamilton – For
Cllr Hobbs - For
Cllr Donna Johnson – For
Cllr Tim Johnson – For
Cllr Lintill – For
Cllr Lishman – Absent
Cllr McAra – Absent
Cllr Moss – For
Cllr Oakley – For
Cllr O'Kelly – For
Cllr Palmer – For
Cllr Page - Absent
Cllr Plant – For
Cllr Plowman – For
Cllr Potter – For
Cllr Purnell – For
Cllr Rodgers – For
Cllr Sharp – For
Cllr Sutton – For
Cllr Taylor – For
Cllr Wilding - For

For = 29

Against = 0

Abstain = 0

Absent = 7

RESOLVED

Organisation of 'Young People Welcome' City Centre Events commencing in September/October 2023.

This Council resolves to work alongside Chichester BID, the University, College, City Council and local City businesses to help fund the organisation and delivery of events in Chichester City Centre to:

- **Welcome College and University students**
- **Support the evening and night time economy and the 'Alive After Five' initiative**
- **Encourage the use of the City Centre**
- **Increase footfall**
- **Gather feedback from Chichester's young people and local businesses to lay the groundwork for further events that will give a sustainable boost to the evening and night time economy**

Up to £30,000 to be taken from reserves for 2023-24 and seek partnership funding.

Members took a short break.

Mr Ward was invited to speak. He outlined some minor amendments to the original Motions which had been circulated to members by officers during the break (attached to the minutes). He confirmed that the minor amendments did not result in any change to the figures. He added that recommendation C would now be redundant.

Cllr Oakley spoke in favour of the Budget. He asked members to consider that reserves are finite when considering what the council can support within the Budget.

Cllr Plowman supported Cllr Moss's request for the Budget to be reviewed following the elections.

Cllr Tim Johnson wished to commend Mr Ward and his officers for their work on the Budget. He welcomed a review of how the Budget was progressing in year.

Cllr O'Kelly commented on the officer time required to apply for grant funding to support projects in year. She also raised concern that the Future Services Framework had been considered in Part II prior to the Budget meeting and had not been scheduled as part of this meeting.

Cllr Purnell responded to Cllr Moss's comments relating to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations from November 2022 to Cabinet. She clarified that the recommendations agreed carried the same principles with different wording. She also drew attention to the politically balanced nature of all the council's Committees and Panels. Mr Ward added that a savings programme had been agreed by Full Council three years ago. As part of the programme a number of income generation methods had been implemented.

Mrs Shepherd then carried out a recorded vote on the original recommendations as amended. The result was as follows:

Cllr Apel – Absent
Cllr Bangert – For
Cllr Barrett – For
Cllr Barrie – Abstain
Cllr Bell – Absent

Cllr Bowden – For
Cllr Brisbane – For
Cllr Briscoe – For
Cllr Brown – Absent
Cllr Dignum – For
Cllr Duncton – For
Cllr Elliott – For
Cllr Evans – For
Cllr Fowler – Absent
Cllr Graves – For
Cllr Hamilton – For
Cllr Hobbs - For
Cllr Donna Johnson – For
Cllr Tim Johnson – For
Cllr Lintill – For
Cllr Lishman – Absent
Cllr McAra – Absent
Cllr Moss – For
Cllr Oakley – For
Cllr O’Kelly – For
Cllr Palmer – For
Cllr Page - Absent
Cllr Plant – For
Cllr Plowman – For
Cllr Potter – For
Cllr Purnell – For
Cllr Rodgers – For
Cllr Sharp – For
Cllr Sutton – For
Cllr Taylor – For
Cllr Wilding - For

For = 28

Against = 0

Abstain = 1

Absent = 7

RESOLVED

- a) That a net budget requirement of £15,845,400 for 2023-24 be approved.**
- b) That Council Tax be increased by £5.26 from £175.81 to £181.07 for a Band D equivalent in 2023-24.**
- c) The capital programme, including the asset renewal programme (appendices 1c and 1d of the agenda report) be approved.**
- d) The capital prudential indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy (appendix 4 of the agenda report) be approved.**
- e) That the Government’s Council Tax Support Fund Scheme for 2023-24 be allocated as set out in paragraph 6.7 of this report, using the £170,515 grant received in the 2023-24 financial settlement. Any residual balance from this grant to be used to fund a discretionary scheme, with delegated authority to the Director of Housing & Communities in consultation with the Cabinet**

member for Corporate Services, Revenue and Benefits to agree the criteria of the discretionary scheme.

213 Council Tax Resolution

Cllr Wilding proposed the recommendation which were seconded by Cllr Lintill. Cllr Wilding then introduced the item. He drew attention to the handout circulated by officers following the agreement of Cllr Moss's Motion amendment (attached to the minutes). Mr Ward explained the changes to the figures that arose as a result of the amendment.

Mrs Shepherd carried out a recorded vote. The results were as follows:

Cllr Apel – Absent
Cllr Bangert – For
Cllr Barrett – For
Cllr Barrie – Abstain
Cllr Bell – Absent
Cllr Bowden – For
Cllr Brisbane – For
Cllr Briscoe – For
Cllr Brown – Absent
Cllr Dignum – For
Cllr Duncton – For
Cllr Elliott – For
Cllr Evans – For
Cllr Fowler – Absent
Cllr Graves – For
Cllr Hamilton – For
Cllr Hobbs - For
Cllr Donna Johnson – For
Cllr Tim Johnson – For
Cllr Lintill – For
Cllr Lishman – Absent
Cllr McAra – Absent
Cllr Moss – For
Cllr Oakley – For
Cllr O'Kelly – For
Cllr Palmer – For
Cllr Page - Absent
Cllr Plant – For
Cllr Plowman – For
Cllr Potter – For
Cllr Purnell – For
Cllr Rodgers – For
Cllr Sharp – For
Cllr Sutton – For
Cllr Taylor – For
Cllr Wilding - For

For = 28

Against = 0

Abstain = 1

Absent = 7

RESOLVED

That having considered the Cabinet's budget proposals from their meeting of 7 March 2023 Council approve the Council Tax Resolutions as set out in Appendix A.

214 Members Allowance Scheme

Cllr Wilding proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Cllr Lintill. Cllr Wilding then introduced the report. Cllr Lintill also welcomed Mr Bevis and Mr Thompson from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Cllr Oakley asked Mr Bevis and Mr Thompson to clarify the reason for the additional £100 per member of a political group for opposition party leaders with groups of more than two members. Mr Bevis and Mr Thompson explained that consideration had been given to the role of the opposition Leader and how the increase could help the role be carried out most effectively. Cllr Plant questioned why it did not apply to the Leader of the majority party. Cllr Lintill confirmed it was for the opposition group leaders.

Cllr Oakley asked why additional allowance had not been granted to members of the Planning Committee. Mr Thompson explained that there had not been support for the addition raised by Cllr Oakley.

Cllr Plowman commented that members did not have to take their allowances. Cllr Donna Johnson responded and explained that many members required them.

In a vote the following recommendation to Council was agreed:

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Chair thanked Mr Bevis and Mr Thompson and the rest of the Panel for their work.

215 Late Items

There were no late items.

216 Exclusion of the press and public

There was no requirement to exclude the press or the public.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm

CHAIRMAN

Date:

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