

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Wednesday, 20 February 2019

Present: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Malcolm Dearden, Alan Ewart-James, Peter Gane, Clive Goddard, Miss Susie Govett, Mrs Claire Jeffrey, Mrs Mary Lawes, Len Laws, Rory Love, Michael Lyons (Vice-Chair), Philip Martin, Frank McKenna, Ian Meyers, David Monk, David Owen (Chairman), Dick Pascoe, Paul Peacock, Stuart Peall, Russell Tillson, Mrs Susan Wallace, Mrs Rodica Wheeler and Roger Wilkins

Apologies for Absence: Councillors David Godfrey, Ms Janet Holben, Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Damon Robinson and Mrs Carol Sacre

68. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

69. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2018 were submitted, approved and signed by the Chairman.

70. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman reported the following:

“A few words only from me this evening as we have other excitements ahead!

Firstly, I would like to mention Holocaust Memorial Day and the observation of this by Folkestone Town Council. Holocaust Memorial Day is an internationally recognised day to remember the millions who were murdered by the Nazis during the Second World War. It also recognises other genocides including those more recently in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and currently in Darfur, Sudan and Syria. Pupils from Folkestone Academy, Folkestone School for Girls, Harvey Grammar School and Brockhill Park Performing Arts College researched each of these atrocities and made moving presentations to the assembled guests. While many Towns and Cities observe Holocaust Memorial Day, Folkestone is apparently the only town in the UK to have a permanent Holocaust Memorial Stone.

Back at the end of January, I was pleased to welcome a group of students from Stella Maris Primary School Folkestone to the Civic Centre. I think that this was the third time that they had visited, the first visit having been suggested by Councillor Mrs Jeffrey who if I may digress for a moment, has I understand a milestone birthday today which she is spending here with us this evening rather than with her family! To return to the School visit, the children are all Members of their School Council and I was able to explain how this council works. They tried on the Civic Chain for photographs. I then chaired a debate here in the Chamber on the subject of “Should the lunch break be extended from 45 minutes to 1 hour?”. I am pleased to report that democracy was seen to take

place and it was wonderful to see the level of debate that was achieved. Voting was unanimously in favour!

For a number of years, the Chairman of this council has regularly attended the AGM of the Shepway Volunteer Centre to acknowledge this council's recognition of the voluntary sector here in our district. The past month has seen the announcement of a new organisation, Kent Coast Volunteers. Our local group have now therefore merged with similar organisations in Thanet and Dover with a streamlined management structure. Kent Coast Volunteers are part of the Stronger Kent Communities consortium who have the KCC contract to deliver community support in our Area. I have spoken of my strong support for the Voluntary sector before, and it was a pleasure to re-demonstrate this on this occasion.

Thank you”.

71. **Petitions**

There were no petitions to be presented to the meeting.

72. **Questions from the Public**

The questions asked, including supplementary questions (if any), and the answers given are set out in Schedule 1, appended to these minutes.

73. **Questions from Councillors**

The questions asked, including supplementary questions (if any), and the answers given are set out in Schedule 2, appended to these minutes.

74. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council**

The Leader made the following announcements:

“Good evening to all,

The first thing I must do is to congratulate Councillor Rory Love on the award of his OBE that was given in recognition of his service to Local Government. I must say that it is well deserved with his long service to South Eastern Employers and of course currently his chairmanship of the CCA. Well done Rory!

As you have just heard in the answer to Councillor Goddard's question, our Area Officer Team is making a tremendous impact on the appearance of the District. I am pleased to announce that they have made it to a short list for this year's iESE Awards in two categories: “Community Focus – Place” and “Transforming Environmental Services”. The awards will take place on 6 March in London and I am sure that we all wish them well.

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On the subject of the Area Officers, we are recommending to the council that the team is made permanent and is included in the base budget. We are also in negotiation with KCC to take over the cleansing of the road traffic signs that are so often dirty or obscured and so detract from the appearance of the District.

I am also pleased to announce that finance having done some calculations after the Government lifting the cap on HRA borrowing, we are now able to revert to our target 300 new council homes in ten years up from 200 that the rent reduction caused us to adopt.

Now for an update on Otterpool Park Green Town. I am promised that outlined planning permission will be applied for before the end of this month. Formal consultation will start about mid-March. It seems to be taking forever, but I am assured that in fact we are doing extremely well when compared to the other green towns. This is probably reflected in the further £1.25million grant the Government has given us to assist our Masterplanning.

Finally, hot off the press, our Head of Paid Service has managed to negotiate an extra £136,000 over and above the original £35,000 for Brexit Planning. Well done!"

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Meyers, responded and stated that as usual, there was little in the Leaders announcements which he could disagree with. He passed his personal congratulations on to Councillor Love for a well-deserved award, and added that Councillor Love had spent a lot of time serving the community, both as a politician and as a community champion.

He stated that the lifting of the cap on the HRA borrowing was welcomed, as was the reversion to the new target of 300 Council homes. He hoped that they could be delivered.

With regard to Otterpool Park, although it would not be good news for everyone, but for young families seeking a home, it would be good news.

Regarding Brexit, a lot of people were nervous as what was to come, and living in close proximity to the EU made the potential impact for our district even greater. It was sensible to make some planning to cope with what may happen, and he was pleased to see that the Head of Service had obtained some additional funding towards this.

The Leader responded that the new Council House target was on target. Not only this, but the council were on target to do some Shared Equity houses (around 30), which was also very good news.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Love; and

RESOLVED:

That the announcements of the Leader be noted.

(Voting figures: 25 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

75. Opposition Business

There was no opposition business submitted to the meeting.

76. Motions on Notice

There were no motions on notice.

77. Empty Homes Premium

From 1 April 2019, billing authorities will be given the ability to amend long term empty home Council Tax premiums. The report reviewed these proposals and recommended that some changes be introduced from the new financial year 2019/20.

Proposed by Councillor Dearden,
Seconded by Councillor Ewart-James; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/18/18 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the new Council Tax empty home premiums from the 2019/20 financial year onwards as demonstrated in Table 1 of the report be adopted.**
- 3. That the exemption of a property when it is 'actively marketed' if it meets the premium criteria rules (3.3 to 3.5), be removed.**

(Voting figures: 23 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions).

78. Update to the General fund Medium Term Capital Programme and Budget Monitoring 2018/19

The report updated the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme for the five year period ending 31 March 2024. The report provided a projected outturn for the General Fund capital programme in 2018/19, based on expenditure to 30 November 2018. The General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme was required to be submitted to full Council for consideration and approval as part of the budget process. The report also set out both the Prudential Indicators for capital expenditure and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2019/20 to be approved by full Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet had both considered the report to be submitted to Full Council.

Proposed by Councillor Dearden,
Seconded by Councillor Monk; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/18/19 be received and noted.**

2. That the updated General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme as set out in appendix 2 to the report be approved.
3. That the Prudential Indicators for capital and borrowing set out in the appendix 3 to the report be approved.
4. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement for 2019/20 set out in appendix 4 to the report be approved.

(Voting figures: 22 for, 3 against, 0 abstentions).

79. **General Fund Budget & Council Tax Requirement 2019/20**

The report concluded the budget setting process for 2019/20. It set out recommendations for setting the council tax after taking into account the district's Council Tax requirement (including town and parish council requirements and special expenses in respect of the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity), the precepts of Kent County Council, the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Service.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Dearden, advised on the following amendments to the recommendations set out in the report:

- Recommendation 3(h) had contained a minor formatting error, and a replacement table had been provided and put before Members.
- Recommendation 5 had contained some minor rounding errors, and a replacement table had been provided and put before Members.
- At the Cabinet Meeting held earlier that evening, Cabinet had resolved to add an additional recommendation to report C/18/74 as follows:
"To agree the establishment of an earmarked reserve titled "High Streets Regeneration" to support the delivery of regeneration projects within the Folkestone and Hythe district area. To earmark £3 million to be transferred from the Council's forecast general reserve balance". This recommendation would replace recommendation 2 of the Council report. The revised recommendation read "To approve the District Council's budget for 2019/20 as presented in the revised Appendix 1 to this report and the Council Tax requirement for 2019/20, to be met from the Collection fund, of £12,598,350". The revised appendix 1 had been put before Members at the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Lawes,
Seconded by Councillor Miss Govett;

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had not had an opportunity to consider the additional recommendation put forward by Cabinet, and therefore the report should be rejected, and put back before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

(Voting figures: 3 for, 22 against, 0 abstentions).

The motion was therefore LOST.

Proposed by Councillor Dearden,
Seconded by Councillor Monk; and

RESOLVED:

1. That report A/18/22 be received and noted.
2. That the District Council's budget for 2019/20 as presented in the revised Appendix 1 to the report and the Council Tax requirement for 2019/20, to be met from the Collection Fund, of £12,598,350, be approved.
3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2019/20 in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act), be approved:
 - a) £97,090,012 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act (as in Appendix 2).
 - b) £84,491,662 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act (as in Appendix 2).
 - c) £12,598,350 – being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year (as in Appendix 2).
 - d) £322.56 – being the amount at 3(c) above divided by the tax base of 39,057.21 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) £2,864,903 – being the aggregate of all special items (including parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - f) £249.21 - being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the tax base of 39,057.21 calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates, ie Old Romney and Snargate.
 - g) Part of the Council's area

Folkestone	338.60	Being the amounts given
Sandgate	322.92	by adding to the amount
Hythe	302.24	at 3(f) above the special
Lydd	310.94	items relating to

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New Romney	367.72	 dwellings in those parts of the Council area mentioned here divided in each case by the appropriate tax base calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
Acrise	251.46	
Elham	274.32	
Elmsted	260.61	
Hawkinge	347.01	
Lyminge	283.11	
Lympne	294.66	
Monks Horton	258.63	
Newington	295.70	
Paddlesworth	259.89	
Postling	277.16	
Saltwood	274.47	
Sellindge	308.36	
Stanford	286.36	
Stelling Minnis	270.62	
Stowting	265.89	
Swingfield	300.74	
Brenzett	294.54	
Brookland	322.17	
Burmarsh	283.61	
Dymchurch	312.10	
Ivychurch	300.24	
Newchurch	283.01	
Old Romney	249.21	
St Mary in the Marsh	283.31	
Snargate	249.21	

(h) Part of the Council's area**Valuation Bands**

Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Folkestone	225.73	263.35	300.97	338.60	413.84	489.08	564.33	677.20
Sandgate	215.28	251.16	287.04	322.92	394.68	466.44	538.20	645.84
Hythe	201.49	235.07	268.65	302.24	369.40	436.56	503.73	604.48
Lydd	207.29	241.84	276.39	310.94	380.03	449.13	518.23	621.88
New Romney	245.14	286.00	326.86	367.72	449.43	531.15	612.86	735.44
Acrise	167.64	195.58	223.52	251.46	307.34	363.22	419.10	502.92
Elham	182.88	213.36	243.84	274.32	335.28	396.25	457.21	548.64
Elmsted	173.74	202.70	231.65	260.61	318.53	376.44	434.35	521.22
Hawkinge	231.34	269.90	308.46	347.01	424.13	501.24	578.36	694.02
Lyminge	188.74	220.20	251.65	283.11	346.02	408.94	471.85	566.22
Lympne	196.44	229.18	261.92	294.66	360.14	425.62	491.10	589.32
Monks Horton	172.42	201.16	229.89	258.63	316.10	373.58	431.05	517.26
Newington	197.13	229.99	262.85	295.70	361.41	427.12	492.84	591.40
Paddlesworth	173.26	202.14	231.01	259.89	317.64	375.39	433.15	519.78
Postling	184.77	215.57	246.36	277.16	338.75	400.34	461.93	554.32
Saltwood	182.98	213.48	243.97	274.47	335.47	396.46	457.45	548.94
Sellindge	205.57	239.83	274.10	308.36	376.88	445.41	513.93	616.72
Stanford	190.91	222.73	254.54	286.36	350.00	413.63	477.27	572.72
Stelling Minnis	180.42	210.49	240.55	270.62	330.76	390.90	451.04	541.24
Stowting	177.26	206.80	236.35	265.89	324.98	384.06	443.15	531.78
Swingfield	200.49	233.91	267.32	300.74	367.57	434.40	501.23	601.48
Brenzett	196.36	229.09	261.81	294.54	359.99	425.45	490.90	589.08
Brookland	214.78	250.58	286.37	322.17	393.77	465.36	536.95	644.34
Burmarsh	189.07	220.59	252.10	283.61	346.63	409.66	472.68	567.22
Dymchurch	208.07	242.75	277.43	312.10	381.46	450.82	520.17	624.20
Ivychurch	200.16	233.52	266.88	300.24	366.96	433.68	500.41	600.48
Newchurch	188.68	220.12	251.57	283.01	345.90	408.80	471.69	566.02
Old Romney	166.14	193.83	221.52	249.21	304.59	359.97	415.35	498.42
St Mary in the Marsh	188.88	220.35	251.83	283.31	346.27	409.23	472.19	566.62
Snargate	166.14	193.83	221.52	249.21	304.59	359.97	415.35	498.42

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) 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 listed in different valuation bands.

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4. That it be noted that for the year 2019/20 Kent County Council, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Service have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Kent County Council	866.28	1,010.66	1,155.04	1,299.42	1,588.18	1,876.94	2,165.70	2,598.84
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner	128.77	150.23	171.69	193.15	236.07	278.99	321.92	386.30
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue	51.84	60.48	69.12	77.76	95.04	112.32	129.60	155.52

Major preceptor amounts remained subject to confirmation at the time of preparing this report.

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

(i) Part of the Council's area Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parish	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Folkestone	1,272.62	1,484.72	1,696.82	1,908.93	2,333.13	2,757.33	3,181.55	3,817.86

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Sandgate	1,262.17	1,472.53	1,682.89	1,893.25	2,313.97	2,734.69	3,155.42	3,786.50
Hythe	1,248.38	1,456.44	1,664.50	1,872.57	2,288.69	2,704.81	3,120.95	3,745.14
Lydd	1,254.18	1,463.21	1,672.24	1,881.27	2,299.32	2,717.38	3,135.45	3,762.54
New Romney	1,292.03	1,507.37	1,722.71	1,938.05	2,368.72	2,799.40	3,230.08	3,876.10
Acrise	1,214.53	1,416.95	1,619.37	1,821.79	2,226.63	2,631.47	3,036.32	3,643.58
Elham	1,229.77	1,434.73	1,639.69	1,844.65	2,254.57	2,664.50	3,074.43	3,689.30
Elmsted	1,220.63	1,424.07	1,627.50	1,830.94	2,237.82	2,644.69	3,051.57	3,661.88
Hawkinge	1,278.23	1,491.27	1,704.31	1,917.34	2,343.42	2,769.49	3,195.58	3,834.68
Lyminge	1,235.63	1,441.57	1,647.50	1,853.44	2,265.31	2,677.19	3,089.07	3,706.88
Lympne	1,243.33	1,450.55	1,657.77	1,864.99	2,279.43	2,693.87	3,108.32	3,729.98
Monks Horton	1,219.31	1,422.53	1,625.74	1,828.96	2,235.39	2,641.83	3,048.27	3,657.92
Newington	1,244.02	1,451.36	1,658.70	1,866.03	2,280.70	2,695.37	3,110.06	3,732.06
Paddlesworth	1,220.15	1,423.51	1,626.86	1,830.22	2,236.93	2,643.64	3,050.37	3,660.44
Postling	1,231.66	1,436.94	1,642.21	1,847.49	2,258.04	2,668.59	3,079.15	3,694.98
Saltwood	1,229.87	1,434.85	1,639.82	1,844.80	2,254.76	2,664.71	3,074.67	3,689.60
Sellindge	1,252.46	1,461.20	1,669.95	1,878.69	2,296.17	2,713.66	3,131.15	3,757.38
Stanford	1,237.80	1,444.10	1,650.39	1,856.69	2,269.29	2,681.88	3,094.49	3,713.38
Stelling Minnis	1,227.31	1,431.86	1,636.40	1,840.95	2,250.05	2,659.15	3,068.26	3,681.90
Stowting	1,224.15	1,428.17	1,632.20	1,836.22	2,244.27	2,652.31	3,060.37	3,672.44
Swingfield	1,247.38	1,455.28	1,663.17	1,871.07	2,286.86	2,702.65	3,118.45	3,742.14
Brenzett	1,243.25	1,450.46	1,657.66	1,864.87	2,279.28	2,693.70	3,108.12	3,729.74
Brookland	1,261.67	1,471.95	1,682.22	1,892.50	2,313.06	2,733.61	3,154.17	3,785.00
Burmarsh	1,235.96	1,441.96	1,647.95	1,853.94	2,265.92	2,677.91	3,089.90	3,707.88
Dymchurch	1,254.96	1,464.12	1,673.28	1,882.43	2,300.75	2,719.07	3,137.39	3,764.86
Ivychurch	1,247.05	1,454.89	1,662.73	1,870.57	2,286.25	2,701.93	3,117.63	3,741.14
Newchurch	1,235.57	1,441.49	1,647.42	1,853.34	2,265.19	2,677.05	3,088.91	3,706.68
Old Romney	1,213.03	1,415.20	1,617.37	1,819.54	2,223.88	2,628.22	3,032.57	3,639.08
St Mary in the Marsh	1,235.77	1,441.72	1,647.68	1,853.64	2,265.56	2,677.48	3,089.41	3,707.28
Snargate	1,213.03	1,415.20	1,617.37	1,819.54	2,223.88	2,628.22	3,032.57	3,639.08

- 6. That the District Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 be determined as not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**

The motion was put to a recorded vote in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as set out below:

FOR: Councillors Mrs Berry, Mrs Carey, Collier, Dearden, Ewart-James, Gane, Goddard, Mrs Jeffrey, Laws, Love, Lyons, Martin, Meyers, Monk, Owen, Pascoe, Peacock, Peall, Tillson, Wallace, Wheeler and Wilkins (22)

AGAINST: Councillors Miss Govett, Mrs Lawes and McKenna (3).

ABSTENTIONS: (0)

(Voting: For 22; Against 3; Abstentions 0).

80. Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Original budget 2019/20

The report set out the Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Budget for 2019/20 and proposed a decrease in weekly rents and an increase in service charges for 2019/20.

Proposed by Councillor Ewart-James,
Seconded by Councillor Dearden; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/18/20 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2019/20 (refer to paragraph 2.1 and Appendix 1) be approved.**
- 3. That the decrease in rents of dwellings within the HRA on average by £0.83 per week, representing a 1.0% decrease with effect from 1 April 2019 (refer to paragraph 3.2), be approved.**
- 4. That the increase in service charges (refer to section 3.5), be approved.**
- 5. That the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme budget 2019/20 (refer to paragraph 4.1 and Appendix 2), be approved.**

(Voting figures: 24 for, 0 against, 1 abstentions).

81. Capital Strategy 2019/20

The report set out the council's proposed strategy in relation to capital expenditure, financing and treasury management in 2019/20.

Proposed by Councillor Dearden,
Seconded by Councillor Monk; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/18/23 be received and noted.**

- 2. That the 2019/20 Capital Strategy set out in the appendix to the report be adopted.**

(Voting figures: 23 for, 2 against, 0 abstentions).

82. Investment Strategy 2019/20

The report set out the council's proposed strategy for its service and commercial investments in 2019/20. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the report on 29 January 2019 ahead of Cabinet approving it on 30 January 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Dearden,
Seconded by Councillor Monk; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/18/21 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the 2019/20 Investment Strategy, including the Investment Indicators, set out in the appendix to the report be approved.**

(Voting figures: 23 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions).