

COUNCIL

MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Michael Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Neil Heavens, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Ann Richards, James Robbins, Rochelle Russell, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams, Robert Wright and Julie Wright.

88. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nicky Sewell, Steve Wakefield and David Wood.

89. Minutes Silence

The Worshipful The Mayor reported the recent deaths of former Councillors Anne Baxter and Judith Peppitt. The Council held a Minutes Silence in respect of former Councillors Anne Baxter and Judith Peppitt.

90. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that no communications had been received.

91. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2014, be confirmed and signed.

92. Declarations of Interest

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that all Members had dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of the setting of the Council Tax.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors Steve Allsopp, Fionuala Foley, Colin Lovell and Keith Williams made personal declarations of interest in respect of Agenda Item 6 (Council Budget 2014/15) as they were Council appointed Non-Executive Directors of Thamesdown Transport Ltd.

93. Public Question Time

Mr. Matthew Davies submitted written questions relating to the redevelopment of the Oasis Leisure Centre. Written responses were tabled at the meeting.

Mr. David Parkinson submitted written questions on proposed work to Queen Elizabeth Drive and public consultations on any proposed work. Written responses were tabled at the meeting.

Mr. David Parkinson asked a series of supplemental questions regarding proposed works to improve the road layout on Queen Elizabeth Drive. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

Mrs Linda Kasmaty submitted a written question regarding the current consultation on possible leisure centre disposals within the Borough. A written response was tabled.

Mrs Linda Kasmaty asked a supplemental question regarding the options set out in the current consultation on leisure centre disposals within the Borough. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

Ms Jane Milner-Barry submitted a written question regarding the disposal of leisure facilities within the Borough. A written response was tabled.

Ms Jane Milner-Barry asked a supplemental question regarding the disposal strategy. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

Mr Brian Cockbill submitted a written question relating to the Council's current financial position. A written response was tabled.

Mr Brian Cockbill asked a supplemental question regarding monies being forwarded from Swindon Borough Council to parish and town councils. The Cabinet Member for Finance responded at the meeting.

Mr Brian Cockbill submitted written questions regarding the work of the Council's Standards Committee. The Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee responded at the meeting.

Mr Brian Cockbill asked a public question relating to the content of a previous Freedom of Information request made to the Council. The Cabinet Member for Finance responded at the meeting.

Mr Peter Falding asked a public question regarding the proposed lease arrangements for the disposal of leisure centres within the Borough. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

Mr Peter Falding asked a supplemental question regarding the wider implications of tendering the running of Council leisure centres. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

Mrs Kareen Boyd asked a public question relating to the redevelopment of village centres within the Borough. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability responded at the meeting.

Mrs Kareen Boyd asked the Worshipful The Mayor a public question relating to the Standards Committee. The Worshipful The Mayor responded at the meeting.

Mrs Kareen Boyd asked the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee a public question relating to outstanding responses to public questions put to the Standards Committee. The Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee responded at the meeting.

Mr Terry Reynolds asked a public question relating to outstanding answers to public questions put to the January meeting of the Council. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

94. Council Budget 2014/15

The Council considered joint reports of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Board Director, Resources, considered by the Cabinet on 5th February 2014 relating to (i) Special Expenses, (ii) Budget 2014/15 and Beyond, (iii) Capital Programme, (iv) Treasury Strategy Statement 2014/15, (v) Updated Recommendations submitted at the Cabinet meeting on 5th February 2014, and (vi) Minute 84 of the Cabinet (Special Expenses), Minute 85 of the Cabinet (Budget 2014/15 and Beyond) Minute 86 of the Cabinet (Capital Programme 2014/15 to 2016/17) and Minute 87 of the Cabinet (Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2014/15).

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That, in line with Cabinet’s stated intent when the New Homes Bonus was introduced, the balance of the 2014/15 allocation (£2.9m) be set aside in an Infrastructure Fund. This will be used to support schemes that are directly linked to unlocking Swindon’s full economic potential and that a further report be brought to the Cabinet in March 2014 setting out the details of how such a Fund will operate.

That subject to this change the motions contained in Cabinet Minute 84 (Special Expenses) be noted and the recommendations in Cabinet Minutes 85 (Revenue Budget), 86 (Capital Programme) and 87 (Treasury Management Statement) of the Cabinet be confirmed and adopted.”

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Des Moffatt seconded:

“That Council resolves to amend the Council’s Revenue Budget for 2014/15 as proposed at the February 5th Cabinet Meeting to:

(1) Continue with the existing free and universal Borough-wide green waste collection service through the following additional savings:

1. Management Savings through the merging of senior responsibilities (£75K)

2. Forward Swindon (£250K)

- £50K saved by moving Forward Swindon’s Offices back within Council Premises
- The remaining savings will be found through more integrated and efficient working arrangements

3. Saving from reduced spend on Consultants (£162K)
4. Cuts in the Communications and Insight Budget (£100K)
 - Savings to be made from staffing costs
5. Law and Democratic Services (£116K)
 - £16K saved from the start of the 2014/15 Municipal Year, by reducing the maximum number of fully-funded Cabinet Member posts by 2 to leave a maximum of 8 available
 - £16K saved from a 10% cut in Special Responsibility Allowances
 - The rest of the savings to be found from a reduction in dedicated scrutiny support for council committees. This staffing saving is intended to be accompanied with the reduction of the number of committees on the Council for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.
6. Other Savings (£17K)
 - Complete cut in refreshments and bottled water costs, leading to a £17K saving.

Total sum reallocated: £720,000

(2) Use funding from unallocated earmarked reserves for 2014/15 to meet any one-off costs (anticipated to be in the order of £250,000) resulting from the reintroduction of a free, universal Green Waste collection service.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the amendment were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mark Dempsey, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Julian Price, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

Councillors voting against the amendment were: Councillors Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Brian Mattock, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

Councillors Anne Richards and Stan Pajak abstained during the vote.

Councillor Des Moffatt moved and Councillor Kevin Small seconded:

“That the detail of one-off investment in services as listed on page 20, paragraph 10.1, table 3 be amended as follows:

£000

| | |
|---|------------|
| Capacity and technology to allow customers to undertake more transactions on-line | 140 |
| Investment to allow customers to report issues using up to date "App" technology (delete) | 75 |
| Refresh road line painting in areas where the lines are not clear | 25 |
| Widen Queen Elizabeth Drive (delete) | 100 |
| Undertake access works to allotments off Greenbridge Road (delete) | 25 |
| Funding to allow a 20% discount off the price of compost bins purchased from Enterprise Works up to a ceiling of £40k | 40 |
| Create school safety zones at <u>Haydonleigh, Chiseldon and Peatmoor</u> Schools AS IDENTIFIED AS THE MOST DANGEROUS BY PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT (delete underlined bits) | 30 |
| Appoint a temporary part-time post to focus on the prevention of child sexual exploitation within the Borough | 60 |
| Additional funding for pot hole and pavement repairs | 350 |
| Add, fund first year of business case for the Thamesdown Drive Barnfield ring road design and case preparation. | 200 |
| Total One-Off Investment in Services | 845 |

The Worshipful The Mayor ruled, upon the advice of the Director of Law and Democratic Services, that the amendment should not be considered as part of it did not relate to the 2014/15 Budget which was the subject of the debate but referred to a decision already taken by Cabinet in relation to the 2013/14 Budget.

Councillor Kevin Small moved and Councillor Des Moffatt seconded that the Motion be amended as follows:

"That £200,000 of the £355,000 added to the 2014/15 budget to help mitigate risk within 2014/15, be allocated to the 2014/15 Capital Programme to fund the start of the design and preparation work for the Thamesdown Drive/Barnfield Link Road."

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the amendment were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mark Dempsey, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page,

Julian Price, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

Councillors voting against the amendment were: Councillors Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Brian Mattock, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Anne Richards, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

There were no abstentions.

Councillor Stan Pajak moved and Councillor Anne Richards seconded:

“That Council resolves to amend the Council’s Revenue Budget for 2014-15 as proposed by the Cabinet on February 5th 2014 as follows:-

(a) To reduce Residents’ Parking charges by £5 per annum for the first car, for permits renewed from 1st April 2014. The estimated cost of £20,000 should be funded from savings by introducing online applications for permits, increased efficiency and enforcement income across car parking services. To reduce Residents’ Parking charges further by £5 per annum for the first car from 1st April 2015. The estimated cost of £20,000 should be funded by ending funding for Residents’ Parking zonal reviews.

(b) To fund a new environmental enforcement officer post within the residential Town Centre locality at a cost of £20,000 to be funded from new penalty charge notice income raised from dog fouling and fly-tipping fines.

(c) To increase the number of Bus trips on the No. 25 bus service through Kingshill from three per day to five per day (Monday to Saturday) at a cost of £8,200. This cost will be met from specific grant funding for public transport.”

The Amendment was put to the vote and carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the amendment were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, Jim Grant, John Haines, Neil Heavens, Councillors Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Anne Richards, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

There were no Councillors voting against the Motion or abstaining.

Councillor Anne Richards moved and Councillor Wayne Crabbe seconded:

“That Council resolves to amend the Council’s Revenue Budget for 2014/15 as proposed by the Cabinet on February 5th 2014 as follows:-

To add £2,500 to the Budget to fund additional managerial hours to support Wroughton’s youth worker. This sum should be redirected from the Corporate Contingency Fund.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the amendment were: Councillors Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Brian Mattock, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Anne Richards, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mark Dempsey, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Julian Price, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright abstained during this vote.

There were no Councillors voting against the amendment.

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Julian price seconded that the Motion be amended as follows:

“This Council recognises the concerns raised by local residents regarding the state of many of Swindon’s roads and resolves to allocate an additional £2m of the New Homes Bonus for 2014/15 towards resurfacing Swindon’s roads.

Council requests the Board Director, Service Delivery to bring a report to the Cabinet detailing the new timetable of highways resurfacing for 2014/15 with this additional funding.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the amendment were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mark Dempsey, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Julian Price, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

Councillors voting against the amendment were: Councillors Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Brian Mattock, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

Councillors Anne Richards and Stan Pajak abstained during the vote.

The Substantive Motion (as amended) was put to the vote and declared carried.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Brian Mattock, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Anne Richards, David Renard, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

Councillors voting against the Motion were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Julian Price, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright

There were no abstentions.

(Councillors Steve Allsopp, Fionuala Foley, Colin Lovell and Keith Williams made personal declarations of interest in respect of this Item as they were Council appointed Non-Executive Directors of Thamesdown Transport Ltd.)

95. Council Tax Setting 2014/15

The Council considered a joint report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources concerning the amount of Council Tax for each Valuation Band for dwellings in each part of the Borough for 2014/15, and related matters including legal advice.

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded and the Council agreed:

“(1) That it be recorded that the advice of the Director of Law and Democratic Services’ has been taken into account when setting the level of Council Tax for 2014/15.

(2) That it be noted that the Council’s revenue budget is £142,667,544 as recommended by the Cabinet to this Council on 5th February 2014.

(3) That it be noted that in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) the Council’s Tax Base for 2014/15 is 66,245.5 in total with the breakdown by Parish set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

(4) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011:-

- (a) Borough / Parish Gross Expenditure £444,563,803 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the 1992 Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) Borough Gross Income plus Collection Fund Balance £368,590,639 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) Borough/Parish Net Expenditure £75,973,164 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- (d) Basic Amount of Tax (including Average Parish Precepts) £1,174.71 being the amount at 4(c) above, less the amount at 4(d) above, all divided by the amount at 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011, this sum is not considered to be excessive.
- (e) Special Items £2,901,237 being the aggregate of Special Expenses and Parish Precepts and collectively known as special items and referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (f) Basic Amount of Tax (Unparished Area) £1,130.92 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by the amount at 3, 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.
- (g) Basic Amount of Tax (Special and Parished Areas) the amounts shown in Appendix 2 of the report, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(f) above, the amounts of the special items relating to dwellings in the appropriate part of the Council's area - divided by the appropriate amount at 3 above, 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 a special item relates.
- (h) Borough/Parish Council Tax Rates the amounts shown in Appendix 1 of the report, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) 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 a particular valuation band, divided by valuation 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.

(5) Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon That it be noted that for the year 2014/2015 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon has stated the following amounts in precept 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:

| Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| £107.28 | £125.16 | £143.04 | £160.92 | £196.68 | £232.44 | £268.20 | £321.84 |

(6) Swindon and Wiltshire Fire Authority That it be noted that for the year 2014/2015 the Swindon and Wiltshire Joint Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precept 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:

| Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| £42.41 | £49.48 | £56.55 | £63.62 | £77.76 | £91.90 | £106.03 | £127.24 |

(7) That this Council note that there will be no increase in the Council Tax levels for the Borough element of the 2014/15 Council Tax bills in accordance with the budget proposed by Cabinet on 5th February 2014.

(8) That this Council determines that the Basic Amount of Council Tax for the Financial Year, 2014/15 is not excessive within the statutory definitions set out within Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and that therefore no referendum is required.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, Jim Grant, John Haines, Neil Heavens, Councillors Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Anne Richards, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

There were no Councillors voting against the Motion or abstaining.

96. Council Tax Setting 2014-15

The Council considered a joint report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources concerning the amount of Council Tax for each Valuation Band for dwellings in each part of the Borough for 2014/15, and related matters including legal advice.

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded and the Council agreed:

“(1) That it be recorded that the advice of the Director of Law and Democratic Services’ has been taken into account when setting the level of Council Tax for 2014/15.

(2) That it be noted that the Council’s revenue budget is £142,667,544 as recommended by the Cabinet to this Council on 5th February 2014.

(3) That it be noted that in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) the Council’s Tax Base for 2014/15 is 66,245.5 in total with the breakdown by Parish set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

(4) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011:-

- (a) Borough / Parish Gross Expenditure £444,563,803 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the 1992 Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) Borough Gross Income plus Collection Fund Balance £368,590,639 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) Borough/Parish Net Expenditure £75,973,164 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- (d) Basic Amount of Tax (including Average Parish Precepts) £1,174.71 being the amount at 4(c) above, less the amount at 4(d) above, all divided by the amount at 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011, this sum is not considered to be excessive.
- (e) Special Items £2,901,237 being the aggregate of Special Expenses and Parish Precepts and collectively known as special items and referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (f) Basic Amount of Tax (Unparished Area) £1,130.92 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by the amount at 3, 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.
- (g) Basic Amount of Tax (Special and Parished Areas) the amounts shown in Appendix 2 of the report, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(f) above, the amounts of the special items relating to dwellings in the appropriate part of the Council's area - divided by the appropriate amount at 3 above, 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 a special item relates.
- (h) Borough/Parish Council Tax Rates the amounts shown in Appendix 1 of the report, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) 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 a particular valuation band, divided by valuation 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.

(5) Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon That it be noted that for the year 2014/2015 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon has stated the following amounts in precept 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:

| Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| £107.28 | £125.16 | £143.04 | £160.92 | £196.68 | £232.44 | £268.20 | £321.84 |

(6) Swindon and Wiltshire Fire Authority That it be noted that for the year 2014/2015 the Swindon and Wiltshire Joint Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precept 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:

| Band A | Band B | Band C | Band D | Band E | Band F | Band G | Band H |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| £42.41 | £49.48 | £56.55 | £63.62 | £77.76 | £91.90 | £106.03 | £127.24 |

(7) That this Council note that there will be no increase in the Council Tax levels for the Borough element of the 2014/15 Council tax bills in accordance with the budget proposed by Cabinet on 5th February 2014.

(8) That this Council determines that the Basic Amount of Council Tax for the Financial Year, 2014/15 is not excessive within the statutory definitions set out within Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and that therefore no referendum is required.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, Jim Grant, John Haines, Neil Heavens, Councillors Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Anne Richards, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

There were no Councillors voting against the Motion or abstaining.

97. Housing Revenue Account - Rents and Charges 2014/15

The Council considered (a) a report of the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery) and the Board Director, Service Delivery concerning the proposed Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Investment Budgets 2014/15, and (b) Minute 88 of the Cabinet (Housing Revenue Account – Rents and Charges 2014/15).

Councillor Richard Hurley moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

- The proposed average rent for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) dwellings for 2014/15 of £79.23 per week (52 week basis), which is an increase of 3.7%, be approved. This will be an average increase of £2.82 per week (52 week basis). The range of increases are shown in paragraph 3.12 of the joint report.
- That officers seek authority from the Secretary of State to extend the permission for the use of the Housing Revenue Account for payments to the Council's tenants under the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme, to enable any underspend on the 2013/14 budget of £420,000 to be used in 2014/15, as detailed at paragraph 3.17 of the joint report.
- The housing related support charges for 2014/15 and service charges for 2014/15 as outlined in Appendix 2 of the joint report are approved.
- Leaseholder service charges are set for 2014/15 as shown in Appendix 3 of the joint report.
- Based on the proposals set out within this report that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) proposed budget 2014/15, shown in Appendix 4 of the joint report, be approved and that the HRA Capital Budget and Funding be approved as shown in Appendix 5 of the joint report.
- That the draft 3 year capital projects and planned maintenance programme be approved at an indicative funding level of £16.8m (2014/15 prices) per annum for each of the years 2014/15 through to 2016/17 as shown in Appendix 6 of the joint report.
- Rents charged on General Fund properties are increased by an average increase of 3.7% and the rents and charges for the David Murray John Apartments, as shown in Appendix 7 of the joint report be approved.
- Rents charged for plots at the Hay Lane Residential Gypsy Site are increased by £1.74 per week (3.7%) to £48.74 per week (52 week basis) and the rents for workpens, as shown in Appendix 7 of the joint report, be approved.
- The charges for Private Sector Leased accommodation for those accepted as homeless outlined in Appendix 7 of the joint report be approved.
- Any underspend on the 2013/14 Housing Revenue Account is earmarked to fund additional works resulting from the abnormal amount of rainfall, commencing as soon as possible."

Councillor Steve Allsopp moved and Councillor Bob Wright seconded:

"This Council resolves to amend the Cabinet's recommendations for the Housing Revenue Account in 2014/15, to increase rents by RPI only and absorb the loss of income through reducing by £207,000 the sum earmarked from revenue income to support the HRA capital programme (the Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay)."

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

98.

Pay Policy Statement 2014/15

The Council considered (a) a report of the Cabinet Member for Customer Support and Corporate Services and the Head of People and Development on the requirement, under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, for the Council to agree and publish a Pay Policy Statement by 1st April each year, and setting out the Council's proposed Pay Policy Statement for consideration, (b) Minute 90 of the Cabinet (Pay Policy Statement), and (c) the Council's draft Pay Policy Statement (Appendix A - tabled).

Councillor Calire Ellis moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

"That the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved and adopted."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

99.

Motion - Recycling

Councillor Stan Pajak moved and Councillor Roderick Bluh seconded:

"This Council notes:

- a) The recent re-introduction of charges for Green Waste collection in Swindon.
- b) The changes already made at Swindon Commercial Services and the Council to implement this change.
- c) The distinctive nature of homes in the Eastcott ward and Town Centre, with larger than average gardens but less space than would be expected for storage for green waste, as well as a greater likelihood of fly tipping as a result.

This Council requests that:

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and StreetSmart (Delivery) to bring a report to the Cabinet as soon as practicable suggesting ways that a weekly green waste recycling service, free at the point of use, could be re-introduced for Eastcott ward and the Town Centre."

Councillor Kevin Small moved and Councillor Bob Wright seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

"This Council notes:

- a) The recent re-introduction of charges for green waste collection in Swindon.
- b) The changes already made at Swindon Commercial Services and the Council to implement this change.

c) The distinctive nature of homes in the Eastcott ward and Town Centre, with larger than average gardens but less space than would be expected for storage for green waste, as well as a greater likelihood of fly tipping as a result.

This Council requests that:

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and StreetSmart (Delivery) to bring a report to the Cabinet as soon as practicable suggesting ways that a weekly green waste recycling service, free at the point of use, could be re-introduced for Eastcott ward, the Town Centre and the wider Borough.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

100. Minutes for Confirmation

Councillor Garry Perkins moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That Minute 91 of the Cabinet (Motion at Council – Bringing Empty Shops back into Use) be noted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

101. Councillors Question Time

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that Standing Order 15 questions had been received from Councillors Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut and Jim Robbins.

Councillor Derique Montaut asked a supplementary question regarding costs for additional use of school facilities. The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services responded at the meeting.

Councillor Jim Robbins asked a supplementary questions regarding working with local groups on a specific project. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability responded at the meeting.

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