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COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held at 6.00pm on Thursday 3rd March 2022 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock DE4 3NN.

PRESENT

Councillor Sue Bull - In the Chair

Councillors: Jacqueline Allison, Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Matthew Buckler, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Paul Cruise, Richard Fitzherbert, Steven Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Clare Gamble, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Dermot Murphy, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Colin Swindell, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman.

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), Steve Capes (Director of Regeneration & Policy), Karen Henriksen (Director of Resources), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate & Customer Services), Jim Fearn (Communications & Marketing Manager) and Jason Spencer (Democratic Services Manager).

Public - None.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Richard Bright, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Graham Elliott, Tom Donnelly, Dawn Greatorex Peter O'Brien, Andrew Shirley and Alasdair Sutton.

303/21 - MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Jason Atkin seconded by Councillor Mark Wakeman and

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 27th January 2022
(Unanimously) be approved as a correct record.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

304/21 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Item 7 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2024/25

The following question was submitted in writing:

STATEMENT and QUESTION from Ms Vicki Raynes, Tansley Local Resident

1. *In Appendix A Capital Programme 21/22 all villages are named that are to have a social housing grant except one village. Which is numbered 282 Social Housing Grant -Rural Village there is a grant of £210k*

Please could DDDC tell me the name of the Rural Village 282 is, and the name of the development to which the grant applies?

2. *Page 39 of Appendix A item 624 States £250k for potential purchase of land at Longcliffe. Please can the Council explain clearly what the proposals are for the use of this land?"*

RESPONSE:

1. The Social Housing Grant Rural Villages supports development opportunities principally with Peak District Rural Housing Association. In 2021/22 £45,000 was allocated to support the acquisition of 5 new homes at Appletree Farm in Marston Montgomery
2. The purchase of land at Longcliffe is for economic development purposes, with the aim of providing additional employment sites for Derbyshire Dales' businesses.

Following public participation Councillor Michele Morley shared her first-hand experiences of life in Poland and Eastern Europe to illustrate the impact of recent events in Ukraine. The Council stood in silent tribute to the people of Ukraine and reflect on their suffering.

Councillor Archer arrived at 6.10pm during consideration of this item.

305/21 - INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

306/21 – CORPORATE PLAN 2022/23 (ITEM 5)

The Council considered proposals for the Corporate Plan 2022/23 targets for the previously adopted priorities, and noted the performance to date against the 2021/22 Corporate Plan targets.

For the coming financial year (2022/23), the report recommended 27 specific targets for the Corporate Plan priority action areas adopted by the Governance and Resources Committee on 20 January 2022.

The report indicated that 10 of the targets for which data was available were currently on track to be fully achieved during 2021/22. A further 9 targets were still in progress and were likely to be achieved later than originally planned. Two actions had not yet been achieved although progress had been made. It was noted that some of the delays had been caused by the focus of the Council being on the response during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to questions and comments Councillors received an update on:

- Progress made on an evaluation of land on Nab Hill Lane as a permanent traveller's site

- Work carried out to make sure that staffing resources were sufficient to deliver the actions set out in the Plan.
- Discussion on increasing strategic leadership
- How the appointment of Waste Recycling Officers would help address issues relating to the contamination of recyclable waste.
- The provision of additional electric vehicle recharging points
- The air quality action plan for Buxton Road, Ashbourne

It was moved by Councillor Susan Hobson, seconded by Councillor Chris Furness and

- RESOLVED**
(Unanimously)
1. That Corporate Plan targets 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 3 of the report be approved.
 2. That performance to date against 2021/22 Corporate Plan targets, as set out in the report, be noted.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Councillor Andrew Statham arrived at 6.40pm during consideration of this item.

307/21 – THE COUNCIL TAX (DEMAND NOTICES AND REDUCTION SCHEME) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2022 – AND THE £150 ENERGY BILLS REBATE (ITEM 6)

The Council considered a report providing information relating to the Government's announcement and subsequent regulations related to a £150 Energy Bills Rebate for most households in council tax bands A-D, along with a discretionary fund to support people on low incomes that do not pay council tax, or who pay council tax for properties in bands E-H.

Approval was sought to fully disregard such payments as income so that entitlement to Council Tax Support was not adversely impacted, and to make such payments from April 2022 in accordance with the government's scheme and guidance.

It was noted that the Director of Resources intended to circulate correspondence to residents in advance of the arrival of Council Tax bills to explain who would receive payments and the timescales in an attempt to reduce the volume of calls received.

It was moved by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

- RESOLVED**
(Unanimously)
1. That a £150 Energy Bills rebate granted to a household in receipt of or qualifying for a reduction of their council tax under Council Tax Support be fully disregarded as income for the purposes of deciding that entitlement.
 2. That approval is given to pay the £150 Energy Bills Rebates to eligible households / people from April 2022 in accordance with the government's scheme and guidance.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

308/21 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2024/25 (ITEM 7)

The Council considered a report setting out proposals to re-phase capital projects due to be completed in 2021/22 and seeking approval of the associated financing and to approve an updated capital programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25 and associated financing.

A revised report was tabled at the meeting to reflect a recent announcement that the Council had been successful in obtaining funding for two energy efficiency projects.

It was moved by Councillor Jason Atkin, seconded by Councillor Mark Wakeman and

RESOLVED

1. That the project for Resurfacing Paths in Hall Leys Park be re-phased for completion in 2021/22 further to an opportunity to complete earlier, and approval be given for additional costs of £6,000, which to be fully funded by a revenue contribution for which there is an approved budget.
2. That additional project costs of £8,000 be approved for the project for resurfacing work at Harrison Way, Northwood in 2021/22, which will be fully funded from a revenue contribution for which there is an approved budget.
3. That expenditure of £26,973 for the Middleton Play Area project be added to the capital programme in 2021/22, to be fully funded by a grant.
4. That the following changes be approved for the capital programme for 2022/23:
 - a. Climate change energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects at the Town Hall, the Council Depot and the Agricultural Business Centre be removed (£737,000) and replaced with more advanced projects at the same locations totalling circa £912,000. A successful grant application has reduced the Council's own funding contribution from £737,000 to circa £313,000.
 - b. Increase the cost of the Bakewell Road project by £380,000 to be funded from the Capital Programme Reserve £178,529, Corporate Plan Priority Reserve £201,471.
 - c. Add the energy efficiency projects for off gas grid homes (HUG1) £495,000 and for on gas grid homes (LAD3) £412,500, bot to be financed by grants.
5. That financing of the Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2024/25 from the sources summarised at paragraph 2.6 of the report also be approved. Contributions into and from capital reserves have been further updated in accordance

with matters reported in the Revenue Budget Setting report also part of this Agenda.

Voting:

For	25
Against	1
Abstention	1

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

309/21 – REVENUE BUDGET AND SERVICE PLANS 2022/23 (ITEM 8)

The Council considered a report seeking approval for the Council's Service Plans and Revenue Budget for 2022/23 and updated Medium Term Financial Plan.

Appendix 1 to the report set out revenue spending proposals for all the Council's services and activities. These were linked to the service plans for 2022/23 circulated separately. It was noted that service plans and annual revenue budgets were prepared as an integrated process to ensure that plans are resourced. The forecasts of revenue spending requirements included both the revenue financing costs and running/operating expenditure associated with the Capital Programme.

In addition to considering the spending proposals for the forthcoming year, the CIPFA's Financial Management Code required the preparation of a Medium Term Financial Plan. This showed the known changes in financial commitments for future years, so that the implications for future spending requirements were identified in advance and included in the strategic planning process. An updated Medium Term Financial Plan was provided in Appendix 4.

The report also covered the following topics:

- Local Government Finance Settlement
- Net Spending and Council Tax Requirement
- Council Tax
- Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)
- Reserves and Balances
- Savings
- Chief Finance Officer's Statutory Report
- Financial Management Code
- Supplementary Budgets
- Town / Parish Council Precepts
- Consultation (details of feedback had been circulated on the day of the meeting).

It was moved by Councillor Richard FitzHerbert, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

RESOLVED

1. That the level of the Derbyshire Dales District Council's Council Tax (excluding parish requirements) for 2022/23 be increased by £4.25 per band D (1.94%) from the 2021/22 level, i.e. to £223.52 for Band D.

2. The estimated net revenue expenditure for 2022/23 totalling £11,260,035 as detailed in the Summary Revenue Account in Appendix 2, be approved.
3. The net revenue expenditure for 2021/22 (revised budget) totalling £11,536,356 as detailed in the Summary Revenue Account in Appendix 2, be approved.
4. The minimum level of uncommitted working balances be approved at £1,000,000 at 1st April 2022, and £1,000,000 at 1st April 2023.
5. The net sum of £1,738,219 be transferred from strategic reserves in 2022/23, as shown in Appendix 2 and detailed in Appendix 5.
6. The net sum of £4,782,817 be transferred to strategic reserves in 2021/22 (revised budget), as shown in Appendix 2 and detailed in Appendix 5.
7. The following amounts are calculated by the Council for the chargeable financial year 2022/23 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 £42,622,186;
 - ii. aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d) thereof is £33,903,403;
 - 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 2022/23 is £8,718,783.
8. That the updated Medium Term Financial Plan, shown in Appendix 4, be approved.
9. That service reductions to achieve the Corporate Savings Target “Continue a programme to identify efficiency savings and/or additional income of £250,000 a year by 2023/24” as identified in the Corporate Plan be put on hold pending the outcome of the government review of Council funding.
10. That the Director 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 be noted.
11. That the Waste Contract Fluctuations Reserve be renamed the “Waste & Recycling Reserve” and that its purpose should

be redefined as “To provide funding to offset the impact of additional expenditure or lost income associated with waste and recycling services”.

12. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and the Director of Resources, following consultation with the Chairman of the relevant policy committee, to carry out any function of the Council requiring spend (revenue or capital) of up to £25,000 or to receive up to £25,000 capital, in order to carry out that function, provided that the spending or receipt is in advancement of an approved policy position or project or in accordance with a specific Committee or Council decision.

13. That, subject to 11 above being approved, authority be delegated to Director of Resources and Director of Corporate and Customer Services to amend the Constitution to reflect the amendment to financial thresholds.

14. That the Derbyshire Dales District Council Service Plans (circulated separately) be approved.

Voting: Statutory legislation required a recorded vote in respect of the Council Tax Setting in accordance with rule of procedure 19e

For Councillors: Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Paul Cruise, Richard Fitzherbert, Steven Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Dermot Murphy, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman.

Against Councillor Colin Swindell

Abstention Councillors: Jacqueline Allison and Clare Gamble

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

310/21 – COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2022/23 (ITEM 9)

The Council considered a report setting the Council Tax 2022/23 in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 along with the Empty Homes Premium. The precept levels of other precepting bodies were included in the report together with the Empty Homes Premium staying at 100%.

Approval of the Council Tax Resolution set out in appendices A – C would result in the total Council Tax for a Band D property as follows:

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Increase £	Increase %
Derbyshire Dales District Council	219.27	223.52	4.25	1.94

Derbyshire County Council	1,383.07	1,424.56	41.49	3.00
Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire	241.60	251.60	10.00	4.14
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority	79.27	80.84	1.57	1.98
Sub-Total	1,923.21	1,980.52	57.31	2.98
Town and Parish Council (average)	60.92	61.97	1.05	1.72
Total	1,984.13	2,042.49	58.36	2.94

An Empty Homes Premium of 100% would apply to homes that had been empty for more than two years.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Steve Flitter and

RESOLVED

1. That the formal Council Tax resolution set out in Appendices A to C of the report be approved.
2. That the Empty Homes Premium at 100% for homes that have been 'unoccupied' and 'substantially unfurnished' for two years or more be retained.

Voting:

Statutory legislation required a recorded vote in respect of the Council Tax Setting in accordance with rule of procedure 19e

For

Councillors: Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Paul Cruise, Richard Fitzherbert, Steven Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Dermot Murphy, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Steve Wain and Mark Wakeman.

Against

None

Abstention

Councillors: Jacqueline Allison, Clare Gamble and Colin Swindell.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Councillor Paul Cruise left the meeting at 8.25pm following consideration of this item.

311/21 – MOTION TO CONTINUE

During the discussion of the previous item It was moved by Councillor Jason Atkin, seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

RESOLVED

(Unanimously)

That, in accordance with Rule of Procedure 13, the meeting continue beyond 2 hours 30 minutes to enable the business on the agenda to be concluded.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

312/21 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS (ITEM 10)

It was moved by Councillor Jason Atkin, seconded by Councillor Andrew Statham and

RESOLVED
(Unanimously)

That the common seal of the Council be affixed to those documents, if any, required to complete transactions undertaken by Committees or by way of delegated authority to officers since the last meeting of the Council.

The Chairman declared the motion **CARRIED**.

Meeting Closed: 8:30pm

Chairman