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COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Council Meeting held on Monday 5 March 2018 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 7.38pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Richard FitzHerbert - In the Chair

Councillors Jason Atkin, Deborah Botham, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Ann Elliott, Graham Elliott, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, Neil Horton, Vicky Massey Bloodworth, Tony Morley, Dermot Murphy, Joyce Pawley, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell and John Tibenham.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services), Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services), Karen Henriksen (Head of Resources), Rob Cogings (Head of Housing), Ashley Watts (Head of Community and Environmental Services), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), Jim Fearn (Communications and Marketing Manager) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Bright, Tom Donnelly, Jean Monks, Garry Purdy, Philippa Tilbrook and Joanne Wild.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with the procedure for public participation, Mr Garry Lewis, Chairman of the Derbyshire & Lancashire Gliding Club made a statement about the impact of the proposed changes on the Club and commented on the three proposed options outlined in the report, and Mr Andrew Redfern, representative of Derbyshire Dales Cricket Development Group, made a statement on the impact of the proposals on local charities and clubs, with particular reference to the criterion under the CASC membership.

333/17 – INTERESTS

Cllr Graham Elliott declared a pecuniary interest in Item 4 on the Agenda as his family business was in receipt of rural discretionary rate relief. Cllr Steve Flitter declared a pecuniary interest in the same item as he was a Director of a company in receipt of rural discretionary rate relief. Cllr Graham Elliott left the meeting at 7.40pm and Cllr Flitter left the meeting at 7.59pm prior to discussion of this item.

334/17 – BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF POLICY

Councillor Andrew Shirley left the meeting at 8.29pm during discussion of this item.

Council considered the consultation results and equality implications on preferred options of discretionary reliefs for National Non-Domestic Rates (business rates), that aimed to assist local charities and not-for-profit organisations whilst supporting those businesses delivering additional high-quality jobs in the Derbyshire Dales.

When a new policy was adopted, it would be effective immediately for *new* applications for discretionary relief. However, any changes affecting *existing* organisations currently in receipt of relief would only apply with effect from April 2020, i.e. more than a year's notice of any changes would be given.

Consultation on Draft policy options took place between 7 December 2017 and 21 January 2018, as set out in the report. Three preferred options were recommended for further consultation, as set out below, with brief analysis of each in the report:

- Option A - the discretionary relief to be awarded to any one property per annum would be capped at £5,000 and all organisations pay the first £150 of any discretionary award.
- Option B - the discretionary relief to be awarded to any one property per annum would be capped at £10,000 and all organisations pay the first £150 of any discretionary award.
- Option C - all organisations pay the first £300 of any discretionary award.

It was recommended that these three preferred options be subject to consultation during Spring 2018, with a report being brought to Council in July 2018 along with a new business rates policy for adoption.

The Head of Regeneration and Policy updated the Council on Rural Action Derbyshire's response both to the comments in paragraph 3.2 of the report and to the consultation. RAD were responding to the consultation in their own right, and not as an umbrella organisation. RAD also advised that they also represented the views of village halls and community buildings and welcomed the recognition placed on them in the report and felt that they should continue to receive 100% rate relief. RAD were in favour of preserving cash facilities in rural areas given that the closure of post offices and convenience stores seemed to be ongoing, and also recognised the need to grow small businesses in rural areas to ensure that rural

communities were sustainable and provide local work for local people. In summary, RAD felt that the proposals were broadly in line with the needs of rural areas.

The Head of Regeneration and Policy agreed to provide Ward Members with lists of all relevant organisations in their wards when the proposed further consultation was undertaken, in order to encourage responses.

The Head of Regeneration and Policy reiterated that the proposed further consultation would ask individual organisations whether they were currently registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) or whether they would seek to do so. It was noted that registration was controlled by HM Revenue and Customs, who provided guidance on their website.

Councillor Irene Ratcliffe requested a recorded vote on Item 4 of the Agenda; this was seconded by Councillor Peter Slack.

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

- RESOLVED**
1. That the initial consultation results are noted.
 2. That the preferred options set out in section 5 of the report are approved for consultation.
 3. That a new Business Rates Discretionary Relief policy is brought to Council in July 2018 on the basis of the further consultation results
- Voting**

In favour Councillors Jason Atkin, Sue Bull, Albert Catt, David Chapman, Richard FitzHerbert, Helen Froggatt, Susan Hobson, Neil Horton, Vicky Massey Bloodworth, Tony Morley, Dermot Murphy, Lewis Rose OBE and Jacquie Stevens. (13)

Against Councillors Deborah Botham, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Ann Elliott, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Joyce Pawley, Irene Ratcliffe, Mike Ratcliffe, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Colin Swindell and John Tibenham. (13)

Abstentions (0)

The Chairman exercised his right to a casting vote, voting in favour of the recommendation, and the motion was therefore carried 14:13.

335/17 – MOTION TO CONTINUE

It was moved by Councillor Irene Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor Alyson Hill and

- RESOLVED** That, in accordance with Rule of Procedure 13, the meeting continue beyond 2 ½ hours to enable the business on the agenda to be concluded.
(unanimously)

MEETING CLOSED 8.46PM

CHAIRMAN