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COUNCIL

Minutes of a Virtual Council Meeting held at 6.00 pm on Thursday, 4 March 2021.

Under Regulations made under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the meeting was held virtually. Members of the public were able to view the virtual meeting via the District Council's website at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk or via our YouTube channel.

PRESENT

Councillor Richard Fitzherbert - In the Chair

Councillors, Jacqueline Allison, Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Graham Elliott, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Chris Furness, Clare Gamble, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Peter O'Brien, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Claire Raw, Lewis Rose OBE, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Colin Swindell and Mark Wakeman.

Paul Wilson (Chief Executive), James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate & Customer Services), (Tim Braund (Director of Regulatory Services), Steve Capes (Director of Regeneration and Policy), Rob Cogings (Director of Housing), Karen Henriksen (Director of Resources), Ashley Watts (Director of Community & Environmental Services), Becky Bryan (Community Development Manager), Paul Frith (Financial Services Manager) , Vikki Hatfield (Neighbourhoods Manager), (Angela Gratton (Democratic Services Officer).

This meeting was recorded and broadcast live on YouTube

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Bright, Paul Cruise and Steve Wain.

262/20 – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chairman requested one minutes silence in memory of Councillor Joyce Pawley, Masson Ward who had sadly passed away on 27 February 2021.

The Leaders of each group, Councillors Mike Ratcliffe, Gary Purdy, Steve Flitter and Neil Buttle paid tribute to Councillor Pawley and sent their deepest sympathy to all her family.

The Chairman asked it be noted that Councillor Elisa McDonagh had resigned 1st March 21 due to ill health.

263/20 – INTERESTS

None.

264/20 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Richard Fitzherbert seconded by Councillor Jason Atkin and

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Derbyshire Dales District Council held on
Council 21 January 2021

be approved as a correct record with the addition of Councillor Gamble's Supplementary question

Voting	In favour	35
	Against	0
	Abstain	1

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

265/20 - CORPORATE PLAN 2021/22

The Council considered proposals for the Corporate Plan 2021/22 targets for the previously adopted priorities, and noted the performance to date, against the 2020/21 Corporate Plan targets

For the coming financial year (2021/22), the report recommended 23 specific targets for the 21 Corporate Plan priority action areas adopted by Council on 14 December 2020. Proposed targets for these priority action areas were set out in section 2 of the report with the detail in Appendix 2.

The report highlighted the Corporate Plan targets that had been progressed but were unlikely to be fully met on schedule due to the impact of COVID and the need for the Council to focus on the emergency response during the pandemic. Despite this there had been some successes such as adaptations to the homes of 76 people with disabilities and progress made on achieving the Council's Climate Change strategies and plans, for example the installation of 27 electric vehicle charging points in Ashbourne [8], Matlock [8], Bakewell [8] and Wirksworth [3].

Councillors acknowledged that the plan was ambitious, and commended Officers on what had been achieved.

It was moved by Councillor Garry Purdy, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson, and

- RESOLVED**
1. That the Corporate Plan targets for adopted priorities for 2021/22 be set as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.
 2. That performance to date against 2020/21 Corporate Plan targets, as set out in the report, be noted.

Voting:

For	33
Against	0
Abstentions	1

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

266/20 - SERVICE PLANS 2021/22

The Council considered approval of the Council's Service Plans for 2021/22,

The Service Plans included operational details for individual service areas and had been prepared alongside the budget for 2021/22.

It was moved by Chris Furness, seconded by Councillor Helen Froggatt, and

- RESOLVED**
1. That the Service Plans 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 be approved for operational purposes for the year 2021/22.

Voting:

For	32
Against	0
Abstentions	2

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

267/20 – CARBON REDUCTION WORKS: ASHBOURNE LEISURE CENTRE

The Council considered a report seeking approval for the inclusion of the sum of £734,006 within the Capital Programme for 2021/22, for decarbonisation works at Ashbourne Leisure Centre and approval to continue to work with Freedom Leisure and Leisure Energy to deliver the scheme of decarbonisation works targeted to be implemented by 30 September 2021.

It was noted that Ashbourne Leisure Centre had been identified as it was the closest fit in terms of the grant criteria at the time of applying. It was confirmed that others would be looked at in future.

It was moved by Councillor Tom Donnelly seconded by Councillor Robert Archer and

- RESOLVED**
(unanimously)
1. That Council a sum of £734,006 be included within the Capital Programme for 2021/22, for proposed decarbonisation works at Ashbourne Leisure Centre;
 2. That Officers continue to work with Freedom Leisure and Leisure Energy to deliver the scheme of decarbonisation works to Ashbourne Leisure Centre.

268/20 - CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

Council considered the District Council's Capital Strategy Report for 2021/22.

The Council had approved the initial Capital Programme for 2020/21 at the Council meeting on 5th March 2020. The programme had subsequently been updated at the Council meeting on 27th August 2020, following closure of the Council's accounts for 2019/20, and on 14 December 2020 to approve new bids and cost revisions on some schemes. The latest report identified one new bid for the Ashbourne Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Scheme, costing £734,006 and funded by a grant. Some capital spending that had been expected to take place in 2020/21 had been delayed and carried forward into 2021/22 as slippage. This slippage amounted to £2,706,173.

The Director of Resources advised that, if the capital programme proposals set out in this report were approved, sources of capital funding were forecast to reduce to £3,850,054 by 31 March 2024. However, if grants and contributions and the amounts in other strategic reserves set aside for specific purposes were excluded the amount available for new capital schemes would reduce to £210,146.

The Corporate Leadership Team had identified a number of future capital liabilities and potential new projects that would be required in the next two years that had not been included in this revised capital programme. These projects were set out in Appendix 2 of the report and totalled £85,000. It was noted that these did not include the estimated cost of traveller site, works at Lovers Walk or the works identified in condition surveys at the Town Hall.

It was confirmed that for a small district council a capital programme of £17 million could be seen as fairly healthy in the current economic climate. It was however noted that much of the capital programme would be spent on enhancing and replacing existing assets and that existing funds would likely be depleted by 2023/24 and with a requirement for internal borrowing of £617,000

It was moved by Councillor Sue Bull seconded by Councillor David Chapman and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the revised Capital Programme and financing arrangements for 2020/21, as detailed in Appendix 1, in the sum of £7,790,985 be approved
2. That the Revised Capital Programme for 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix 1, in the sum of £7,578,159 (including slippage from 2020/21 of £2,706,173) be approved
3. That the Programme for years 2022/23 onwards, as detailed in Appendix 1 in the sum of £1,731,162 be approved;
4. That the Programme be financed as set out in the report and the use of internally borrowed funds from the Council's cash balances of £617,000 be approved.
5. That the potential future liabilities outlined in Appendix 2 be noted

269/20 – REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22

The Council was asked to approve the District Council's Revenue Budget for 2021/22 and the update to the revised Revenue Budget for 2020/21 attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and an updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) attached as Appendix 5 to the report, in line with the Code of Practice on a Prudential Approach to Local Authority Commitments.

The report covered the following topics, which were detailed in the relevant appendices to the report:

- 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
- Town / Parish Precepts
- Consultation (details of feedback had been circulated on the day of the meeting).

It was moved by Councillor Sue Bull, seconded by Councillor David Chapman and

RESOLVED

1. That the level of Council Tax for 2021/22 be increased by £5 per band D (2.33%) from the 2021/22 level to £219.27 for Band D.
2. The estimated net revenue expenditure for 2021/22 totalling £11,015,556 as detailed in the Summary Revenue Account in Appendix 2, be approved.
3. The net revenue expenditure for 2020/21 (revised budget) totalling £12,671,464 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 2021, and £1,000,000 at 1st April 2022.
5. The net sum of £4,419,167 be transferred from strategic reserves in 2021/22, as shown in Appendix 2 and detailed in Appendix 6.
6. The net sum of £3,066,860 be transferred to strategic reserves in 2020/21 (revised budget), as shown in Appendix 2 and detailed in Appendix 6.
7. The following amounts are calculated by the Council for the chargeable financial year 2021/22 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 £44,090,313;
 - ii. aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d) thereof is £35,691,106;

- 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 2021/22 is £8,399,207.
8. 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.
9. 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 is noted

Statutory Legislation required a recorded vote in respect of the Revenue Budget in accordance with rule of procedure 19e.

Voting:

For

Councillors, Jacqueline Allison, Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Graham Elliott, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Richard Fitzherbert, Chris Furness, Clare Gamble, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Colin Swindell and Mark Wakeman (32)

Against

-

Abstentions

Councillor Peter O’Brien

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED

Councillor Claire Raw left the meeting at 20:10 during consideration of this item

270/20 – MOTION TO CONTINUE

Following consideration of Revenue Budget item the meeting was adjourned from 8.40pm to 8.50 pm

It was moved by Councillor Richard Fitzherbert, seconded by Councillor Jason Atkin 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.

271/20 – COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2021/22

Council considered a report setting the Council Tax 2021/22 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%.

The recommendations of the Council were set out in the formal Council Tax Resolution in Appendices A – C.

If the formal Council Tax Resolution at Appendices A – C was approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	Increase £	Increase %
Derbyshire Dales District Council	214.27	219.27	5.00	2.33
Derbyshire County Council	1,349.34	1,383.07	33.73	2.50
Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire	226.60	241.60	15.00	6.62
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority	77.73	79.27	1.54	1.98
Sub-Total	1,867.94	1,923.21	55.27	2.96
Town and Parish Council (average)*	58.37	60.92	2.55	4.37
Total	1,926.31	1,984.13	57.82	3.00

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

Members asked that it be noted that, although this was a relatively small increase in Council Tax, it was recognised that it could cause hardship to some households and wished it could be avoided.

It was moved by Councillor Gary Purdy, seconded by Councillor Susan Hobson and

RESOLVED

1. That the Council approves the formal Council Tax resolution set out in Appendices A to C of the report.
2. That the Council retains the Empty Homes Premium at 100% for homes that had been empty for more than two years.

Voting:

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

For

Councillors, Jacqueline Allison, Robert Archer, Jason Atkin, Matthew Buckler, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Tom Donnelly, Steve Flitter, Helen Froggatt, Richard Fitzherbert, Chris Furness, Alyson Hill, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Tony Morley, Michele Morley, Garry Purdy, Lewis Rose OBE, Mark Salt, Andrew Shirley, Peter Slack, Andrew Statham, Alasdair Sutton, Colin Swindell and Mark Wakeman (29)

**Against
Abstentions**

-
Councillor Claire Gamble

The Chairman declared the motion CARRIED.

Councillor Mike Ratcliffe left the meeting at 21:00 prior to the vote

272/20 – SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

It was moved by Councillor Sue Hobson, seconded by Councillor Gary Purdy 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

As the meeting had exceeded the timescales set out in procedure rule 13, the following items were deferred to the Council meeting to be held on 18 March 2021:

Item 11 - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26

Item 12 – Capital Strategy Report for 2021/22

Item 13 – Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22

Item 14 – Corporate Investment Strategy and Commercial Investment Strategy for 2021/22

MEETING CLOSED 9:10PM

CHAIRMAN