

# DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

## COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

**THURSDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2012**

**Councillors Present:** Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Brian Bedwell, Dominic Boeck, Jeff Brooks, Keith Chopping, Hilary Cole, Roger Croft, Richard Crumly, Billy Drummond, Adrian Edwards (Chairman), Marcus Franks, Dave Goff, Manohar Gopal, Paul Hewer, John Horton, Roger Hunneman, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Mollie Lock, Royce Longton, Gordon Lundie, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Geoff Mayes, Tim Metcalfe, Irene Neill, Graham Pask, David Rendel, Garth Simpson, Anthony Stansfeld, Julian Swift-Hook, Ieuan Tuck, Tony Vickers, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster, Keith Woodhams and Laszlo Zverko

**Also Present:** John Ashworth (Corporate Director - Environment), Nick Carter (Chief Executive), David Holling (Head of Legal Services), Andy Walker (Head of Finance), Moira Fraser (Democratic Services Manager) and Linda Pye (Principal Policy Officer)

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor David Allen, Councillor David Betts, Councillor Paul Bryant, Councillor George Chandler, Councillor Sheila Ellison, Councillor David Holtby, Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge, Councillor Tony Linden, Councillor Joe Mooney, Councillor Andrew Rowles and Councillor Virginia von Celsing

#### PART I

##### 24. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2012 and the Special meeting on the 27 September 2012 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the inclusion of the following amendment:

**Minutes of the 27 September 2012, Item 17 Page 7 Paragraph 5:**

Insert the words Liberal Democrat into the sentence as follows: 'Councillor Gordon Lundie supported the idea and stated that he looked forward to debating the Liberal Democrat Medium Term Financial Strategy, Revenue and Capital Programme budgets in full at the meeting'.

##### 25. Declarations of Interest

The Monitoring Officer announced that all Members present, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, had applied for and had been granted a dispensation to consider any matter which had a bearing on the setting of the council tax (items 16 and 17 on this agenda). Failure to grant this dispensation would impede the transaction of the business because of the number of Councillors having the same disclosable pecuniary interest.

Councillor Tim Metcalfe declared an interest in Agenda Item 15 and reported that, as his interest was a disclosable pecuniary interest he would be leaving the meeting during the course of consideration of the matter.

Councillor Emma Webster declared an interest in Agenda Item 23(a) and reported that, as her interest was a disclosable pecuniary interest, she would be leaving the meeting during the course of consideration of the matter

Councillors Royce Longton, Keith Woodhams, Graham Jones, Gordon Lundie and Richard Crumly declared an interest in Agenda Item 14, but reported that, as their interest was personal and not prejudicial, they determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

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Councillor Pamela Bale declared an interest in Agenda Item 15, but reported that, as her interest was personal and not prejudicial, she determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

Councillor Jeff Beck declared an interest in Agenda Item 16, but reported that, as his interest was personal and not prejudicial, he determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

Councillors Jeff Brooks, Billy Drummond, Roger Hunneman, David Rendel, Gwen Mason, Keith Woodhams, Tony Vickers, Julian Swift-Hook, Graham Jones, Alan Macro, Tim Metcalfe, Mike Johnson and Anthony Stansfeld declared an interest in Agenda Item 17, but reported that, as their interest was personal and not prejudicial, they determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

During the discussion on item 17 Councillors Paul Hewer and Marcus Franks' declared an interest in the item. They determined not to take part in the debate and did not vote on the matter.

Councillor Jeff Beck declared an interest in Agenda Item 20, but reported that, as his interest was personal and not prejudicial, he determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

Councillors Tim Metcalfe, Jeff Brooks, Pamela Bale, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Mollie Lock, Adrian Edwards, Bill Drummond, Alan Law and Keith Chopping declared an interest in Agenda Item 23 (c) but reported that, as their interest was personal and not prejudicial, they determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

### **26. Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman reported that he had attended 47 events since the last Council meeting. He thanked the Vice Chairman for her help with four other engagements which she had attended when he was unavailable to do so. He also thanked Councillors Andrew Rowles, Keith Chopping and Jeff Brooks for attending events on his behalf.

Councillor Edwards reported that the Macmillan Coffee Morning had raised £1900 for the charity and he thanked all staff who had contributed to the morning and those that had attended it. Councillor Edwards was also pleased to report that the Quiz Night held in November had raised £1074 for his charity Help for Heroes. He thanked the 130 employees and Councillors and their spouses for attending. He thanked Jude Thomas and Linda Pye for organising the event and also the quiz master for the challenging questions.

Other highlights included the opening of the Crown Court at the Minster in Reading, the United Nations Day Celebration Flag Raising, the Annual Achievement Event for the Council's Looked After Children at the Newbury Rugby Club, the Burghfield Remembrance Day Parade, a presentation evening at Little Heath School at Tilehurst, the Christmas Toy appeal launch, the opening of the new cycleway at Aldermaston Wharf which had been funded by the Atomic Weapons Establishment, the MacMillan Cancer Charity Carol Concert in St Nicolas Church Newbury and three citizenship ceremonies.

The Chairman on behalf of the Council congratulated the Duchess of Cambridge on her impending arrival and wished her a speedy recovery. He also noted that the Council had received an award from Thames Valley Police to recognise the partnership working that had taken place over the Olympics and Paralympics. He also congratulated Councillor Jeff Brooks on the lifetime achievement award he had recently received.

**27. Junior Citizen of the Year 2012**

The Chairman, prior to presenting the Junior Citizen of the Year Awards for 2012 announced that, this year, eleven Junior Citizen nominations were received from across the district. The panel assessed the nominations against four qualifying categories namely:

- Has helped someone in trouble
- Has achieved excellence in school or an outside activity
- Has made West Berkshire a better place to live and work
- Has demonstrated an act of bravery

The Panel decided to award a special mention certificate this year. It was awarded to Georgina Blandford, aged nine of Newbury. Georgina was nominated by her Headteacher at the Willows School, for the support that she had given to another, much younger pupil with medical needs. The judges were particularly impressed with Georgina's caring attitude and her commitment in helping her fellow pupil every day.

The Panel decided to award two 'Highly Commended' awards as well as an overall winner. The first highly commended winner was JJ Hine, aged 14 and a student at Denefield School. JJ was nominated by his tutor and Student Manager at school for the impressive fundraising that he has been doing for the Ronald McDonald House Charity, which helps support families with children in hospital, following an extensive stay in hospital himself in 2009. To date JJ had raised an impressive £15,000. The panel felt that JJ's long-term commitment to fundraising was over and above that of most young people of his age.

The second highly commended winner was Denise Harris aged 11 from West Woodhay. Denise was nominated twice; once by her father, Mr Paul Harris and also by Mrs Leila Ferguson, the Chief Executive of Mencap, for her voluntary work at Mencap and her fundraising for Mencap and other charities. Denise volunteers every week at West Berkshire Mencap, working with adults with learning disabilities and had been a regular and long term supporter of a number of national charities such as The British Heart Foundation and Save the Children. The panel was again, particularly impressed with the long-term nature of Denise's commitment.

The overall winner of the 2012 Junior Citizen of the Year Award was Victoria Moxon, aged 14 from Newbury. Victoria was nominated by Mrs Charlotte Duly, her House Head at St Bartholmew's School. Victoria had worked as a volunteer for the Royal British Legion for the last five and a half years. She was a very active youth member and had completed the training to be a standard bearer. Victoria won the county competition for standard bearers and was now competing regionally and nationally and carried the Newbury British Legion Standard in the Remembrance Parade this year. Victoria was a real ambassador for the charity, organising social events and leading assemblies at school to encourage others to join her in fundraising. The panel was particularly impressed with the breadth of Victoria's achievements; her commitment to excel herself and her enthusiasm to encourage and support others to get involved and wanted Victoria's efforts to be recognised and celebrated as Junior Citizen of the Year 2012.

The Chairman thanked the panel (Mrs Pat Eastop, Ms Lindsey Appleton and Mrs John Aldis) for their input in considering the nominations and selecting the winners.

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### 28. Petitions

There were no petitions submitted at this meeting.

### 29. Public Questions

There were no public questions received.

### 30. Licensing Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Licensing Committee had met on 5 December 2012.

### 31. Personnel Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Personnel Committee had met on 12 December 2012.

### 32. Governance and Audit Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Governance and Audit Committee had met on 5 November 2012 (special meeting) and 26 November 2012.

### 33. District Planning Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the District Planning Committee had not met.

### 34. Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission had met on 30 October 2012, 26 November 2012 (Special meeting) and 11 December 2012.

### 35. Standards Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Standards Committee had met on 12 November 2012 and 12 December 2012.

### 36. Leisure Centres' Fees and Charges 2013 (C2567)

*(Councillor Royce Longton declared a personal interest in Agenda item 14 by virtue of the fact that he was a member of the Willink Joint Management Committee. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillors Keith Woodhams and Richard Crumly declared a personal interest in Agenda item 14 by virtue of the fact that they were members of the Kennet JAC. As their interest was personal and not prejudicial they determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillors Gordon Lundie and Graham Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda item 14 by virtue of the fact that they were members of the Lambourn Centre Management Committee. As their interest was personal and not prejudicial they determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 14) concerning the implementation of the contractual requirement for an annual price review for 2013 for Parkwood Community Leisure to come into effect from the 01<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Hilary Cole and seconded by Councillor Tim Metcalfe:

That the Council:

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“approves the proposed increase in Fees and Charges for the Leisure Management Contract as set out in the table below:

### Core Charges for Leisure Centre Users

	2012		2013	
	WB Card price	Non WB Card price	WB Card price	Non WB Card price
West Berkshire Card Resident	Free		Free	
West Berkshire Card - non resident	£20.00		£20.00	
Swimming				
Adult	£3.30	£3.70	£3.40	£3.80
Junior	£2.10	£2.30	£2.15	£2.35
Early Morning Swim				
Adult	£2.55	£2.80	£2.60	£2.85
Junior	£1.45	£1.60	£1.50	£1.65
Gym				
Casual User	£6.70	£7.40	£6.90	£7.60
Casual User Induction	£15.00	£20.00	£15.00	£20.00
Classes	£5.20	£5.80	£5.30	£6.00
Activity for Health – GP Referral	£2.90	£3.15	£3.00	£3.25
Hall Hire/Sports				
Full Sports Hall (4 courts) - adult	£41.00	£46.00	£41.00	£46.00
Full Sports Hall (4 courts) - junior	£21.00	£24.00	£21.50	£24.50
Badminton Court - adult	£8.25	£9.30	£8.40	£9.45
Badminton - junior	£5.25	£5.80	£5.30	£5.90
Squash Court - adult	£9.50	£10.60	£9.70	£10.80
Squash Court - junior	£3.40	£3.90	£3.60	£3.90
Monthly Direct Debit	£35.00	38.00	£36.00	39.00
Concession				
Gym	£3.15		£3.20	*
Swimming/Badminton/Squash/ Table Tennis	£1.65		£1.70	*

\* During concessionary periods”

In proposing this item Councillor Cole reported that it was a contractual requirement that the Council introduce any increase in fees and charges on the 01<sup>st</sup> of January each year and the report was therefore not presented with the other fees and charges at the March Council meeting. The discounts afforded by the West Berkshire Council, Leisure Card meant that access to core services remained affordable to all.

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Councillor Alan Macro was concerned about the level of increase and was concerned this might make residents reluctant to use the sports facilities. Councillor Cole noted that a benchmarking exercise had been undertaken and that she was confident that the prices remained competitive.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

Councillors Mollie Lock, Keith Woodhams and Royce Longton abstained from voting on this item.

### 37. **Adventure Dolphin Fees and Charges**

*(Councillor Tim Metcalfe disclosed a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda item 15 by virtue of the fact that he was a member of the Adventure Dolphin Trust. As his interest was a disclosable pecuniary interest he left the meeting and took no part in the debate or voting on the matter).*

*(Councillor Pamela Bale declared a personal interest in Agenda item 15 by virtue of the fact that she was a member of the Adventure Dolphin Stakeholder Group. As her interest was personal and not prejudicial she determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*Councillor Tim Metcalfe left the meeting at 7.47pm.*

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 15) concerning an agreement on increases in fees and charges for the 2013/14 Adventure Dolphin activity programme in line with fair market price in order to maximise advance bookings and income.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Hilary Cole and seconded by Councillor Irene Neill:

That the Council:

“approves the proposed increase in Fees and Charges for the Adventure Dolphin programme as set out below:

Membership charges

Participants	Cost 12/13	Proposed cost 13/14	@% increase
Student/young people annual membership	£15	£18	20%
Student/young people session charge	£3	£3.50	17%
Adults annual membership	£30	£36	20%
Adult session charge	£4	£4.50	13%

School Holiday activities – core commercial activity

Participants	Cost 12/13	Proposed cost 13/14	@% increase
Taste of Adventure non WB Card (1 day)	£30	£36	20%
Taste of Adventure WB Card (1 day)	£28	£34	20%
Multi Activity Week non WB Card (5 day)	£220	£385	75%
Multi Activity Week WB Card (5 day)	£200	£350	75%
Local Activity Day Camp non WB Card (5 day)	£200	£300	50%
Local Activity Day Camp WB Card (5 day)	£180	£280	50%
School Holiday all day courses non WB Card (5 day)	£180	£200	14%
School Holiday all day courses WB Card	£165	£190	14%

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(5 day)			
School Holiday half day canoeing courses –adult (5 half days)	£120	£130	8%
School Holiday half day canoeing courses –young person non WB Card (5 half days)	£100	£110	10%
School Holiday half day canoeing courses –young person WB Card (5 half days)	£90	£100	10%
School Holiday half day climbing courses – Adult non WB Card (4 half days)	£110	£120	10%
School Holiday half day climbing courses – Adult WB Card (4 half days)	£100	£110	10%
School Holiday half day climbing courses – young person non WB Card (4 half days)	£90	£100	12%
All day climb & canoeing course (5 days) new for 2013		£200	N/A
Evening canoe course (7 weeks) non WB Card young person	£55	£60	10%
Evening canoe course (7 weeks) WB Card young person	£50	£55	10%
Evening canoe course (7 weeks) non WB Card adult	£65	£70	8%
Evening canoe course (7 weeks) WB Card adult	£60	£65	8%

### School Block prices

	2012/13 price	Price per head 12/13	2013/14 proposed	Price per head	@% increase
West Berks School (groups of 8)	£70	£8.75	£84	£10.50	20%
Non W Berks schools (inc Academies)	£80	£10	£120	£15	50%

Councillor Hilary Cole in introducing this item noted that the prices of the commercial activity at Adventure Dolphin had been raised in line with market prices following a benchmarking exercise. The report was being brought before Members in advance of the March Fees and Charges report in order that accurate information regarding prices could be included in advertising material.

Councillor Irene Neill in seconding the item noted that this was an important service which reached many groups including vulnerable groups. As concessionary prices would still apply she was happy to second the proposal. Councillor Alan Macro was concerned that the price increases might stop people from using this wonderful facility which would in turn threaten the viability of the centre.

Councillor Cole noted the comments but explained that she was confident that the increases would not result in a decrease in usage at the centre.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

*Councillor Tim Metcalfe returned to the meeting at 7.51pm.*

**38. Council Tax Support Scheme (C2561)**

*(Councillor Jeff Beck declared a personal interest in Agenda item 16 by virtue of the fact that his son was in receipt of Council Tax Benefit. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 16) concerning the outcome of the Council Tax Support consultation exercise and to consider a recommended scheme for Council Tax support for the Financial Year 2013-2014."

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Alan Law and seconded by Councillor Tim Metcalfe:

That the Council:

1. "notes the outcome of the Consultation Exercise;
2. approves the recommended scheme of Local Council Tax Support for the financial year 2013-2014;
3. applies for the DCLG Voluntary Grant. "

In introducing the item Councillor Law proposed the following minor amendments to the report.

**AMENDMENT 1:** Proposed by Councillor Alan Law and seconded by Councillor Gordon Lundie:

That the Council accepts the recommendation set out in the report subject to the inclusion of the amendments set out below:

1. "Financial implications page 32, paragraph 2, second bullet point - 4,137 should read 4,317
2. Executive report page 39 paragraph 4.3 - 4,137 should read 4,317"

Councillor David Rendel raised an additional error in the paperwork. The number of working age claimants should have been 4,044 and not the 4, 317 or 4,137 referred to in the report. Officers confirmed that the revised figure (4,044) was correct. As a consequence the estimated additional Council Tax income generated through proposed reductions in Council Tax income should be £961k and not the £957k as reported.

Councillor Law noted that there would be a 14% reduction in national expenditure on Council Tax Benefit introduced by Central Government in order to decrease the countries welfare bill. The reduction would mean that the Council would receive £1.13m less funding annually. Amendments were therefore required to the local arrangements in respect of these benefits. A number of options had been considered and consulted on. Adjustments had been made to the proposals following the consultation exercise.

The preferred option was based on four principles:

1. those that were better off should pay more;
2. everyone should contribute wherever possible;
3. benefits should not be paid to those with large capital or savings;
4. the most vulnerable in the community should be protected.

It was accepted that the changes should not impact on pensioners, the vulnerable or war widows and war pensioners. The most equitable solution would therefore be for all claimants (except those expressly excluded) to have to pay a minimum of 8.5% of their liability. This would equate to a payment of around £2.17 per week. The adoption of this scheme would then secure a one off payment from the Department of Communities and



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Local Government (DCLG) of £170k. The income from this scheme and the payment would still leave a funding gap of around £576k which would be met from the proposals set out in item 17 of this agenda.

The amendment (no1) (including the corrections put forward by Councillor Rendel), was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

**AMENDMENT 2:** Proposed by Councillor David Rendel and seconded by Councillor Tony Vickers:

That the Council:

“A) Add at end of recommended action 2 (after “2014”):

Subject to the following amendments to the scheme as described in paragraph 21.2 of the report:

1. Add, in (1), after “vulnerable claimants” the words “(as listed in paragraph 17.2).”
2. In (2), amend “91.5 %” to “100 %” and omit the words after “2014”.

B) Add, as recommendation 4, the recommendation laid out in paragraph 21.4”

Councillor Rendel noted that he understood that recommendations A(1) and B had cross party support and he would therefore restrict his comments to recommendation A(2). He felt that the amendments proposed by the administration would not act as an incentive to get residents not in work back into employment and would also act as a disincentive to some already in work. He clarified that the additional 8.5% would be applied to residents already receiving partial discounts and that this was not clearly articulated in the report.

Councillor Rendel was concerned that as the sums that had to be collected would be so small that the costs of collection, court costs and administration would not be sufficiently covered by the income generated.

Councillor Rendel stated that the £1.13m shortfall in income could be met from the £961k that would be generated if item 17 was adopted and the one off payment of £170k from the DCLG.

Councillor Graham Jones explained that the proposals set out in the report were designed to implement the Coalition Government’s policy designed to try and get more people back to work. He noted that if the 8.5% decrease was not accepted the Council would not receive the £170k from the DCLG. Therefore if Councillor Rendel’s proposal was accepted there would still be a shortfall in income. He announced that a hardship fund would be set up to assist those most affected by the cuts to their benefits. Councillor Rendel noted that Central Government had proposed a maximum charge of 8.5% and noted that no minimum had been proposed.

It was noted that as cross party support existed for amendments (No 2) A(1) and B the recommendations would be voted on individually.

Amendment A1 was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

Amendment A2 was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

Amendment B was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.17.3 it was requisitioned that the voting on the Amendment be recorded. The names of those Members voting for and against were as follows:

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### **FOR the Amendment:**

Councillors Jeff Brooks, Billy Drummond, Roger Hunneman, Mollie Lock, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Geoff Mayes, David Rendel, Julian Swift-Hook, Tony Vickers and Keith Woodhams (12)

### **AGAINST the Amendment:**

Councillors Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Brian Bedwell, Dominic Boeck, Keith Chopping, Hilary Cole, Roger Croft, Richard Crumly, Adrian Edwards, Marcus Franks, Dave Goff, Manohar Gopal, Paul Hower, David Holtby, John Horton, Mike Johnson, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Gordon Lundie, Tim Metcalfe, Irene Neill, Graham Pask, Garth Simpson, Anthony Stansfeld, Ieuan Tuck, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster, Laszlo Zverko (29)

Councillor Law reminded Members that West Berkshire was a prosperous area and this recommendation was designed to encourage people to go back to work. Those affected would be required to receive £2.17 less per week. The administration recognised that for some residents this would constitute a real hard ship and a fund would therefore be set up to support these individuals and families.

The substantive Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.17.3 it was requisitioned that the voting on the substantive motion be recorded. The names of those Members voting for and against were as follows:

### **FOR the Substantive Motion:**

Councillors Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Brian Bedwell, Dominic Boeck, Keith Chopping, Hilary Cole, Roger Croft, Richard Crumly, Adrian Edwards, Marcus Franks, Dave Goff, Manohar Gopal, Paul Hower, David Holtby, John Horton, Mike Johnson, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Gordon Lundie, Tim Metcalfe, Irene Neill, Graham Pask, Garth Simpson, Anthony Stansfeld, Ieuan Tuck, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster, Laszlo Zverko (29)

### **AGAINST the Substantive Motion:**

Councillors Jeff Brooks, Billy Drummond, Roger Hunneman, Mollie Lock, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Geoff Mayes, David Rendel, Julian Swift-Hook, Tony Vickers and Keith Woodhams (12)

## **39. Technical Reforms to Council Tax (C2562)**

*(Councillors Jeff Brooks, Billy Drummond, Roger Hunneman, David Rendel, Gwen Mason, Keith Woodhams, Tony Vickers and Julian Swift-Hook declared a personal interest in Agenda item 17 by virtue of the fact that they were members of Newbury Constituency Liberal Democrats, which organisation owned a residential property from which it received income. As their interest was personal and not prejudicial they determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Graham Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda item 17 by virtue of the fact that he owned a rental property in Lambourn. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Jeff Brooks declared a personal interest in Agenda item 17 by virtue of the fact that he benefited from income received as a landlord from a property he owned in the District. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Alan Macro declared a personal interest in Agenda item 17 by virtue of the fact that his wife owned four rental properties albeit that they were not in West Berkshire.*

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*As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Tim Metcalfe declared a personal interest in Agenda item 17 by virtue of the fact that he owned two tenanted properties. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillors David Rendel declared a personal interest in Agenda item 17 by virtue of the fact that his wife owned two tenanted properties. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Mike Johnson declared a personal interest in Agenda item 17 by virtue of the fact that his wife owned a tenanted property. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Anthony Stansfeld declared a personal interest in Agenda item 17 by virtue of the fact that his wife owned a tenanted property. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(During discussion on this item Councillors Marcus Franks and Paul Hewer declared a personal interest in Agenda item 17 by virtue of the fact that they were employed by Sovereign Housing. They determined not to take part in the debate and did not vote on the matter).*

*Item 17 was considered before item 16 at the meeting under the direction of the Chairman under paragraph 4.5 of the Constitution.*

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 17) concerning the establishment of a policy for the administration of Council Tax discounts and exemptions where changes were permitted by the Local Government Finance Act 2012.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Alan Law and seconded by Councillor Tim Metcalfe:

“That the existing scheme of council tax exemptions and discounts be amended by:

- (1) Removal of discount on second homes
- (2) Applying a 50% empty homes premium on property vacant for two years or more
- (3) Reducing the amount of exemption class A1 (repairs completed) to 0%
- (4) Reducing the amount of exemption class A2 (repairs incomplete) to 0%
- (5) Limiting the duration of exemption class C (empty and unoccupied property) to a maximum of 4 weeks in any 6 month period and allowing 100% relief during that period.

That the making of decisions on applications for discount under S13A of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 on individual properties be delegated to the Head of Finance. Appeals against the head of Finance's decisions will be dealt with via an Appeals Panel.”

In introducing the item Councillor Law proposed the following minor amendments to the report.

**AMENDMENT 1:** Proposed by Councillor Alan Law and seconded by Councillor Tim Metcalfe:

That the Council accepts the recommendation set out in the report subject to the inclusion of the amendments set out below:

“Row 3 of table at 6.4 Column, 2 should read Empty homes premium - 50% premium charge for property empty for 2 years or more.”

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Councillor Alan Law in introducing this item noted that although it was linked to agenda item 16 it needed to be considered as a separate item. Councillor Law reported that this decision was as a result of the need to decrease the welfare bill nationally. The introduction of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 gave local authorities flexibility to amend existing council tax schemes. The proposals set out in the report would allow the Council to generate additional income (in excess of £950k) which would be used to offset the reduction in grant that would be received from Central Government for Council Tax benefit. In addition the recommendations set out in the report would support the Council's Empty Homes Strategy.

Councillor Rendel noted there were a number of errors in the table set out in paragraph 6.4 on page 118 of the agenda. Councillor Rendel referred Members to paragraph 3.4 on page 115 of the agenda. He noted that 50% of £179,181 was £89,590 and not £85,590 as reported in Item 3 in paragraph 6.4. As a consequence the totals using 6 of the options would generate £1,273,857 (not £1,269,857) and using 8 would generate £961,647 (£957,647).

Officers confirmed that the figures being proposed by Councillor Rendel were correct. On receipt of this confirmation from Officers Councillor proposed that the changes be accepted.

The Amendment (No 1) (including the corrections put forward by Councillor Rendel), was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

**AMENDMENT 2:** Proposed by Councillor David Rendel and seconded by Councillor Vickers:

That:

"In part (5) of the recommended action replace the words "Limiting the duration" by the words "Reducing the amount" and replace the words "a maximum of 4 weeks in any 6 month period and allowing 100% relief during that period" by "0%"."

Councillor Rendel noted that the recommendations in the report sought to limit the duration of exemption class C to a maximum four week period. The amendment he was proposing sought to remove the grace period entirely. This would generate an additional £310k of income and would not have a significant impact on landlords as the payments would be tax deductible. This additional income could be used alongside the existing proposals would generate around £1.27m which would address the £1.13m reduction in funding of Central Government.

Councillor Law retorted that this proposal would not give landlords the opportunity to undertake renovations or modernisation works. Councillor Croft explained that the largest landlord in the district was Sovereign Housing. Passing these costs onto them would result in rents having to be increased which would impact on their tenants.

Councillor Brooks explained that asking landlords to contribute would mean that the more vulnerable members of the community would not have to and he therefore urged Members to vote in favour of this proposal.

Amendment 2 was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.17.3 it was requisitioned that the voting on the Amendment be recorded. The names of those Members voting for, against and abstaining were read to the Council as follows:

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### **FOR the Amendment:**

Councillors Jeff Brooks, Billy Drummond, Roger Hunneman, Mollie Lock, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Geoff Mayes, David Rendel, Julian Swift-Hook, Tony Vickers and Keith Woodhams (12)

### **AGAINST the Amendment:**

Councillors Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Brian Bedwell, Dominic Boeck, Keith Chopping, Hilary Cole, Roger Croft, Richard Crumly, Adrian Edwards, Dave Goff, Manohar Gopal, David Holtby, John Horton, Mike Johnson, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Gordon Lundie, Tim Metcalfe, Irene Neill, Graham Pask, Garth Simpson, Anthony Stansfeld, Ieuan Tuck, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster, Laszlo Zverko (27)

Councillors Marcus Franks and Paul Hewer reported that given their interests they would not vote on this item (2)

Discussion then returned to the substantive motion. Councillor Tim Metcalfe explained that the proposals had been brought before members to consider as the level of Central Government grant that the Council would receive in respect of Council Tax benefit would decrease significantly. The Council had considered existing policies such as the Empty Homes Strategy to develop options for meeting this funding shortfall. Councillor Metcalfe explained that Officers and Members had considered a range of options and the proposals as set out in the report appeared to be the most equitable solution.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.17.3 it was requisitioned that the voting on the Amendment be recorded. The names of those Members voting for, against and abstaining were read to the Council as follows:

### **For the Motion:**

Councillors Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Brian Bedwell, Dominic Boeck, Keith Chopping, Hilary Cole, Roger Croft, Richard Crumly, Adrian Edwards, Dave Goff, Manohar Gopal, David Holtby, John Horton, Mike Johnson, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Gordon Lundie, Tim Metcalfe, Irene Neill, Graham Pask, Garth Simpson, Anthony Stansfeld, Ieuan Tuck, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster, Laszlo Zverko (27)

### **Against the Motion:**

Councillors Jeff Brooks, Billy Drummond, Roger Hunneman, Mollie Lock, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Geoff Mayes, David Rendel, Julian Swift-Hook, Tony Vickers and Keith Woodhams (12)

Councillors Marcus Franks and Paul Hewer reported that given their interests they would not vote on this item (2)

## **40. Gambling Act 2005 (C2553)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 18) concerning the Council's review of its Gambling Policy Statement. Councillor Hilary Cole stated that this policy had been in place since December 2006 and it was a requirement that the policy should be reviewed every three years. Following this review the policy remained largely the same. There was a very low risk of gambling in the West Berkshire area which meant that the main role of Officers was to ensure that premises were acting responsibly.

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Councillor Jeff Beck confirmed that the Licensing Committee had reviewed and approved the content of the Gambling Policy Statement and he asked Members to approve the policy which was considered to be well constructed.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Hilary Cole and seconded by Councillor Jeff Beck

That the Council:

“approves the Gambling Policy Statement”.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

### 41. **Approval of Councillor Absence (C2574)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 19) concerning a proposed delegation to the Monitoring Officer to approve absences from attendance at Council meetings in certain circumstances of Members of the Council by amending the Scheme of Delegation.

Councillor Jeff Beck confirmed that the Governance and Audit Committee had considered this issue at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and had agreed with the proposal which would address exceptional circumstances that might arise from time to time.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Jeff Beck and seconded by Councillor Quentin Webb:

That the Council:

“agrees the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation to allow the Monitoring Officer to approve applications for absent Councillors subject to consultation with Group Leaders.

Ratifies and approves this arrangement and the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

### 42. **Appointment of Co-Opted Parish Councillor to Standards Committee**

*(Councillor Jeff Beck declared a personal interest in Agenda item 20 by virtue of the fact that Mauline Akins was known to him. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 20) concerning the appointment of a replacement parish councillor as a non voting co-optee onto the Standards Committee..

Councillor Dominic Boeck reported that the new Standards Committee consisted of six Members plus two co-opted Parish Council members. One of the co-opted Parish Council members had resigned and therefore the two substitutes had been approached to see if they would be interested in becoming a co-opted member. Mauline Akins had agreed to stand.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Dominic Boeck and seconded by Councillor Gwen Mason:

That the Council:

“appoints Mauline Akins as a replacement co-opted Parish Councillor on the Standards Committee”.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

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### 43. **Amendments to the Constitution - Part 4 (Executive Rules of Procedure), Part 5 (Council Rules of Procedure), Part 11 (Contract Rules of Procedure) and Part 13 Appendices A and G (Codes of Conduct for Planning and Licensing) (C2551)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 21) concerning changes to the Executive and Contract Rules of Procedure in light of legislative changes, an amendment to paragraph 4.13.7 which dealt with substantive amendments to the Council's annual budget, and changes to the Council's Codes and Protocols which would align the training requirements of the Licensing and Planning Committees.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Jeff Beck and seconded by Councillor Alan Law:

That the Council:

1. "To agree the proposed revisions to Part 5 (Executive Rules of Procedure) of the Constitution.
2. That the Council's Rules of Procedure (Part 4) be amended to require that any substantial amendments proposed to the Council's annual budget be submitted to the Council's Section 151 Officer at least 3 clear working days before the date of the Council meeting in March.
3. That the Council's Code of Conduct for Planning and Licensing be amended to require all Members of Planning and Licensing Committees (including substitutes) to receive appropriate training before being able to make formal decisions on the Committee and then to attend subsequent refresher training to remain on the Committee.
4. To agree the proposed and any additional revisions to Part 11 of the Constitution.
5. To delegate authority to the Procurement Board to approve the Desktop Procurement Guide in consultation with the Head of Legal and Head of Finance. "

It was agreed by the Chairman that Members would vote on each of the recommendations individually.

Councillor Jeff Beck in introducing the report noted that these amendments were part of an ongoing process to ensure that the Constitution was update in accordance with legislative changes and best practice. He noted that the report and appendices had been discussed in depth at the Governance and Audit Committee on the 26 November 2012.

Councillor Rendel was concerned that recommendation 2 did not define 'substantive amendments'. He was also concerned that it might fetter Members' ability to make any corrections within the three day period which could result in flawed decision making.

Councillor Alan Law explained that the amendment was being introduced in order to provide parties, including the S151 Officer, sufficient time to consider changes properly. He felt that this would add to the quality of debate. Councillor Graham Jones felt that the amendment would aid transparency and would give sufficient time to scrutinise proposals adequately prior to decisions being made.

Recommendation 1 was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

Recommendation 2 was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

Recommendation 3 was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

Recommendation 4 was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

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Recommendation 5 was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

### 44. **2013/14 West Berkshire Council Timetable of Public Meetings (C2507)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 22) concerning a timetable of meetings for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Gordon Lundie and seconded by Councillor Pamela Bale:

That the Council:

“approves the timetable of meetings for the 2013/14 Municipal Year”.

**AMENDMENT:** Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor Tony Vickers:

That the Council:

“reschedule some of the meeting dates for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to facilitate a more timely scrutiny of the Council’s quarterly financial performance reports.

Currently the quarterly financial performance reports are discussed at Corporate Board, then Management Board, then the Executive, before being scrutinised by the OSMC. As a result, the figures could be over three months old before they were scrutinised. The process would be speeded up if the reports went to the OSMC in advance of them being presented to the Executive.”

Councillor Gordon Lundie noted the proposed amendment but felt that there were reasons why this request could not be accommodated as reports very often changed between Management Board and the Executive. Reports could also be scrutinised at the Executive meeting.

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.17.3 it was requisitioned that the voting on the Amendment be recorded. The names of those Members voting for and against were as follows:

#### **FOR the Amendment:**

Councillors: Jeff Brooks, Billy Drummond, Roger Hunneman, Mollie Lock, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Geoff Mayes, David Rendel, Julian Swift-Hook, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams (12)

#### **AGAINST the Amendment:**

Councillors Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Brian Bedwell, Dominic Boeck, Keith Chopping, Hilary Cole, Roger Croft, Richard Crumly, Adrian Edwards, Marcus Franks, Dave Goff, Manohar Gopal, Paul Hewer, David Holtby, John Horton, Mike Johnson, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Gordon Lundie, Tim Metcalfe, Irene Neill, Graham Pask, Garth Simpson, Anthony Stansfeld, Ieuan Tuck, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster, Laszlo Zverko (29)

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.17.3 it was requisitioned that the voting on the Motion be recorded. The names of those Members voting for, against and abstaining were read to the Council as follows:

**FOR THE MOTION:** Councillors Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Brian Bedwell, Dominic Boeck, Keith Chopping, Hilary Cole, Roger Croft, Richard



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Crumly, Adrian Edwards, Marcus Franks, Dave Goff, Manohar Gopal, Paul Hower, David Holtby, John Horton, Mike Johnson, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Gordon Lundie, Tim Metcalfe, Irene Neill, Graham Pask, Garth Simpson, Anthony Stansfeld, Ieuan Tuck, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster, Laszlo Zverko (29)

**ABSTAINED:** Councillors Jeff Brooks, Billy Drummond, Roger Hunneman, Mollie Lock, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Geoff Mayes, David Rendel, Julian Swift-Hook, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams (12)

### 45. Notices of Motion

*(Councillor Emma Webster declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 23(a) by virtue of the fact that her employee lobbied government and other organisations on planning matters. As her interest was personal and prejudicial she left the meeting and took no part in the debate or voting on the matter).*

*Councillor Emma Webster left the meeting at 9.30pm.*

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 23(a) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Tony Vickers relating to developer contributions.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Tony Vickers and seconded by Councillor Royce Longton:

“**This Council** wishes the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to note that local people, through their democratically elected local authorities, are the most suitable judges of what development is acceptable in an area and the suitable level of contributions that developers need to make.

#### **Council therefore opposes:**

1. the Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to have powers to override agreements between Councils and developers over the number of affordable housing units allocated to planning applications;
2. the Secretary of State's intention to override Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1990 which will allow developers to appeal immediately to the Planning Inspectorate over the allocation of affordable housing units in any scheme they maybe concerned with;
3. the Secretary of State's proposals for planning permission – currently required for extensions of more than three or four metres from the rear wall of any home – to only be needed for those reaching beyond 8m for detached homes and 6m for others;
4. the Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to take planning powers away from local authorities which he deems to be slow, or of making poor quality planning decisions in determining applications.

**Council notes** that the current Coalition government did listen earlier in the year over concerns regarding the National Planning Policy Framework and revised its plans accordingly, so urges the Government to listen to the concerns being expressed by the cross-party LGA.

**Council however welcomes** other parts of the stimulus package including:

1. £300 million to provide 15,000 affordable homes across the country;
2. an extension of the refurbishment programme to bring an extra 5,000 empty homes back into use;
3. £280m for FirstBuy, the shared equity scheme to give a further 16,500 first time buyers the chance to own their own homes;

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4. up to £10bn of guarantees to housing associations, property management companies and developers which will be able to use the guarantees to secure lower borrowing costs. This will lead to hundreds of thousands of extra rental homes being built;

### Council also notes:

1. the record of the previous Labour government on providing affordable social housing: that during their 13 years in power, the social housing stock fell by another 420,000 houses, as Labour continually failed to build more homes than they were selling off, while social housing waiting lists soared to almost 1.8million - a rise of 741,000 families;
2. the record of previous Conservative Governments where 1.1 million social homes were lost from the stock during the 18 years of Tory rule up to 1997, through a combination of Right to Buy sales and a failure to invest in replacements, so that when Labour came to power more than 1 million families were on social housing waiting lists.
3. Council resolves to write formally to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, outlining this council's opposition to the plans."

### Amendment

Councillor Tony Vickers reported that he wished to amend his Motion (as set out below) and agreed by his seconder Councillor Royce Longton:

That the words:

"the record of previous Conservative Governments where 1.1 million social homes were lost from the stock during the 18 years of Tory rule up to 1997, through a combination of Right to Buy sales and a failure to invest in replacements, so that when Labour came to power more than 1 million families were on social housing waiting lists.  
" be deleted from the motion.

The Motion, as amended, was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

*Councillor Emma Webster returned to the meeting at 9.40pm.*

The Council noted that the Motion (Agenda item 23(b) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Royce Longton relating to collective energy switching was withdrawn after the agenda had been published.

*(Councillors Tim Metcalfe, Jeff Brooks, Pamela Bale, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Mollie Lock, Adrian Edwards, Bill Drummond declared a personal interest in Agenda item 23(c) by virtue of the fact that he was a governor at a school. As their interest was personal and not prejudicial they determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillors Alan Law and Keith Chopping declared a personal interest in Agenda item 23(c) by virtue of the fact that their wives were governors at a school. As their interest was personal and not prejudicial they determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 23(c) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Alan Macro relating to school academies.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Alan Macro and seconded by Councillor Jeff Brooks:

That the Council:

"recognises that some schools feel that Academy status is the most suitable option for them. The Council provides valuable and valued support services to both Academies and LEA schools.

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The Council notes that schools converting to Academy status negatively affect the finances of the Council which, over time, will negatively affect the support we can provide to our schools.

The Council therefore resolves that the Executive Member for Children and Young People, together with senior officers, will offer to meet any of our schools who declare their intention to consult with parents on applying for Academy status to discuss:

- whether this is the best outcome for the school and its students
- the advantages of remaining an LEA school
- the services and assistance that can be offered by the Council to the school, both educational and non-educational
- whether improvements can be made to those services that would make them more attractive to the school

The purpose of such discussions will be to ensure that the school can make a real, informed choice and consider all options.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 23(d) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Tony Vickers relating to Greenham Control Tower.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Tony Vickers and seconded by Councillor Julian Swift-Hook:

That the Council notes:

1. “that Greenham Control Tower is probably the most iconic building in Greenham;
2. that it has never been used since it was acquired from MOD and is to be sold by the Council as surplus to requirements;
3. that the structure has been listed by English Heritage since the decision was made to sell it;
4. the decision of Greenham Parish Council to use the Localism Act to ask for it to be listed on the District Register of Assets of Community Value, and the reasons why the parish council wish to acquire it.

Council applauds the initiative of Greenham Parish Council and resolves to support its aims to retain the control tower as a building for community use.”

Amendment

Councillor Tony Vickers reported that he wished to amend his Motion (as set out below) and agreed by his seconder Councillor Julian Swift Hook:

“Council applauds the initiative of Greenham Parish Council and notes its aim, which is to retain the control tower as a building for community use.”

The Chairman informed the Council that should the motion be approved, under Procedural Rule 4.9.8 it would be referred to the Planning Policy Task Group for consideration.

The Amended Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 23(e) refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Julian Swift-Hook relating to the GAMA site.

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**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Julian swift-Hook and seconded by Councillor Tony Vickers:

That the Council:

“notes that:

1. the GAMA site in Greenham is a site of international heritage importance;
2. the present owners promoted their aspirations for a museum on the site when they were permitted by MOD to acquire the site in 2003;
3. the present owners re-confirmed their aspirations for a museum on the site when seeking planning consents for car storage on the site in subsequent years;
4. Members expressed support for the aspirations of the present owners when deciding to grant the planning consents on the basis that the consents will enable the museum to be created and will secure the maintenance of the site for future generations;
5. the present owners have been unable to find a tenant to rent the site and are now offering the site for sale to the highest bidder, with the benefit of the planning consents obtained.

This Council recognises:

1. the important role that it has in ensuring the preservation of this historic site for future generations;
2. the risk that the proposed sale of the site therefore poses to its effective exercise of this role.

This Council therefore resolves to do everything it can, including the setting up of a Task Group with a wide-ranging remit to explore all possible options, to work with the community and all interested parties to bring about the provision of a Cold War museum on the GAMA site together with other suitable community-based uses that will support the preservation of the site for future generations.”

It was agreed that the Motion should be referred to the Planning Policy Task Group under Procedural Rule 4.9.8.

At 9.58pm and in accordance with paragraph 4.9.12 Councillor Jeff Brooks proposed that the meeting continue past 10pm. This Motion was seconded by Councillor Keith Woodhams.

The Amended Motion was put to the vote and declared **LOST**.

### 46. **Members' Questions**

- (a) A question standing in the name of Councillor Tony Vickers on the subject of a District Register of Assets of Community Value would receive a written response by the Executive Member for Partnerships, Equality, The Visions, Communities, Emergency Planning.
- (b) A question standing in the name of Councillor David Rendel on the subject of meetings between Members of the Executive and representatives of Parkway developers would receive a written response by the Executive Member for Partnerships, Equality, The Visions, Communities, Emergency Planning.
- (c) A question standing in the name of Councillor David Rendel on the subject of meetings between Council Officers and representatives of Parkway developers

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would receive a written response by the Executive Member for Partnerships, Equality, The Visions, Communities, Emergency Planning.

- (d) A question standing in the name of Councillor Keith Woodhams on the subject of Park Way Bridge would receive a written response by the Executive Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Property.
- (e) A question standing in the name of Councillor Keith Woodhams on the subject of a flood warden covering Ashmore Green and the Henwick area north of Bowling Green Road would receive a written response by the Executive Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Property.
- (f) A question standing in the name of Councillor Keith Woodhams on the subject of 20 mph speed restrictions in new and existing housing developments would receive a written response by the Executive Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Property.

*(The meeting commenced at 7.20pm and closed at 9.59pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature** .....