

DRAFT

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

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 3 MARCH 2020

Councillors Present: Adrian Abbs, Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle, Phil Barnett, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Brooks, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Jeremy Cottam, Carolynne Culver, Lee Dillon, Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, Clive Hooker (Vice-Chairman), Gareth Hurley, Owen Jeffery, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Royce Longton, Ross Mackinnon, Alan Macro, Thomas Marino, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Graham Pask (Chairman), Erik Pattenden, Claire Rowles, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Andrew Williamson, Keith Woodhams and Howard Woollaston

Also Present: John Ashworth (Executive Director - Place), Nick Carter (Chief Executive), Sarah Clarke (Service Director (Strategy and Governance)), Paul Coe (Service Manager, Adult Social Care), Martin Dunscombe (Communications Manager), Tess Ethelston (Group Executive (Cons)), Joseph Holmes (Executive Director - Resources), Olivia Lewis (Group Executive (Lib Dem)), Matthew Pearce (Head of Public Health and Wellbeing), Shiraz Sheikh (Legal Services Manager), Jon Winstanley (Service Director (Environment)), Rebecca Bird (HR Officer), Honorary Alderman Paul Bryant, Honorary Alderman Keith Chopping, Honorary Alderman Adrian Edwards, Moira Fraser (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager), Honorary Alderwoman Mollie Lock, Honorary Alderman Andrew Rowles, James Townsend (Policy Officer) and Honorary Alderman Quentin Webb

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Honorary Alderwoman Pamela Bale, Councillor Nassar Kessell and Honorary Alderman Joe Mooney

PART I

41. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman highlighted a number of events that he had attended since the last Council meeting including a celebratory event at the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, a volunteer recruitment event at the Corn Exchange, the Community Champion Awards at Shaw House, a girl guiding event and a drinks reception at the House of Lords with colleagues from the Berkshire Youth Trust.

42. Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 9 January 2020 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to a correction that Councillor Andy Moore had sent his apologies for inability to attend both meetings and he should therefore not be marked as absent.

43. Declarations of Interest

The Monitoring Officer announced that in respect of items 16 and 17 (Capital Strategy and Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23 and Revenue Budget 2020/21): all Members had completed an Application for a Grant of a Dispensation in relation to "any beneficial interest in land within the Authority's area." The Monitoring Officer had previously granted the dispensation to allow all Members to speak and vote on this item.

There were also a number of personal interests declared in relation to agenda items and these were set out below:

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| Councillor | Description |
|----------------------|---|
| Abbs, Adrian | Ran a business from a premise in Newbury. |
| Ardagh-Walter, Steve | A Member of Thatcham Town Council |
| | Council Appointed Representative on the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee |
| Beck, Jeff | Newbury Town Councillor |
| | WBC Appointed Trustee The Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust Ltd |
| | WBC Appointed Trustee Readibus |
| | WBC Appointed Trustee Volunteer Centre West Berkshire |
| | WBC Appointed Trustee Newbury Almshouses |
| | Member of the Kennet Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee |
| Benneyworth, Dennis | Council appointed representative on the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority |
| Bridgman, Graham | Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council |
| Cottam, Jeremy | Thatcham Town Councillor |
| | Thatcham Town Council Member of the Kennet Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee – appointed by Thatcham Town Council |
| | Thatcham Town Council Appointed Representative on the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee |
| Culver, Carolyne | Teacher at Theale Green School |
| | Investments in Abundance |
| Dillon, Lee | Thatcham Town Councillor |
| | Thatcham Town Council Appointed Representative on the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee |
| Jeffery, Owen | Thatcham Town Councillor |
| | Thatcham Town Council Appointed Substitute Representative on the Henwick Worthy Joint Management Committee |
| Macro, Alan | Council appointed Governor of Theale C of E Primary School |
| Mackinnon, Ross | Council appointed representative on the Willink Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee |
| Marino, Tom | Member of Tilehurst Parish Council |
| Moore, Andy | Member of Newbury Town Council |
| | Newbury Town Council's representative to the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire |
| Vickers, Tony | Member of Newbury Town Council |
| | Member of Greenham Parish Council |
| | Director of Mabel Luke Trustee Ltd |
| | Sole trustee of The Charity of Mrs Mabel Luke. |

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44. Public Questions

A full transcription of the public and Member question and answer sessions are available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As](#). *(right click on link and 'Edit Hyperlink'. Insert URL to pdf on website in 'address' field)*

1. It was agreed that a question standing in the name of Mrs Helen Pemberton on the subject of food waste collections would receive a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Environment.

45. Membership of Committees

There had been no changes to the membership of Committees since the previous Council meeting.

46. Licensing Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Licensing Committee had met on 8 February 2020.

47. Personnel Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Personnel Committee had met on 11 February 2020.

48. Governance and Ethics Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Governance and Ethics Committee had met on 10 February 2020.

49. District Planning Committee

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

50. Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had met on 14 January 2020.

51. Joint Public Protection Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Joint Public Protection Committee had met on 30 January 2020.

52. Investment & Borrowing Strategy 2020/21 (C3809)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 14) concerning the proposed Investment and Borrowing Strategy as required by the Local Government Act 2003.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Howard Woollaston:

That the Council:

“approves the Annual Investment and Borrowing Strategy for 2020/21”.

Councillor Mackinnon stated that he was pleased to present the report which he hoped Members would support. In response to comments made by Councillors Jeff Brooks and Lee Dillon about affordability he noted that the Council was required to disclose the actual and estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue budget. While the ratio was increasing the 12.5% was affordable within the Council's overall budget requirement and was planned for as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy

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

53. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2023/24 (C3810)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 15) concerning its four year rolling strategy which was built to ensure that the financial resources, both revenue and capital, were available to deliver the Council Strategy. The MTFs should be read in conjunction with the Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and the Investment and Borrowing Strategy reports.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Lynne Doherty:

That the Council:

“approves and adopts the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23”.

Councillor Mackinnon in introducing the item noted that this four year rolling programme focused on allocating resources to those areas determined as most critical in supporting the Council’s priorities and statutory responsibilities; ensured that capital investment was affordable; and that the Council had sufficient levels of reserves.

Councillor Jeff Brooks commented that it would be useful to include a section in future reports to look back and compare what was assumed and what actually happened. This would improve rigour and assist with future planning. Councillor Graham Bridgman noted that Portfolio Holders did look at performance against budgets already. Councillor Mackinnon stated that he would consider this proposal albeit that much of this was already done via the quarterly budget monitoring process.

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

54. Capital Strategy and Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23 (C3811)

(All Members had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on this item).

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 16) which outlined the Capital Strategy covering financial years 2020/21 – 2022/23 and the supporting funding framework, providing a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management actively contributed to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk was managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.

The Chairman noted that the heading in the table on page 72 of the agenda in paragraph 5.5 should read:

| Expenditure | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | Total |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| | £000s | £000s | £000s | £000s |

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Dominic Boeck:

That the Council:

“approves and adopts the Capital Strategy and supporting Minimum Revenue Provision policy together with the revised Property Investment Strategy.”

Councillor Ross Mackinnon, in introducing the item, stated that he was delighted to propose the report. He outlined the areas where the funding would be used which included £40.5m on education, £45m on transport and infrastructure, £5.5m on maintaining a greener district and £10m to protect the district’s vulnerable children and

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adults. £63m of this funding would be derived from external sources and £47m from external borrowing. The report also set out the annual revision of the Property Investment Strategy which included amendments arising from the recently issued CIPFA guidance about borrowing for out of district commercial investment.

AMENDMENT: Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor Lee Dillon:

That the Council:

“approves and adopts the Capital Strategy and supporting Minimum Revenue Provision policy together with the revised Property Investment Strategy subject to the following amendments:

1. Place Directorate

(a) Additional Drainage Clearance

Cost £50,000

A one-off cost to help clear and improve aquifers and conduits, in light of recent flooding and localised drainage issues when there is heavy rain.

2. Resource Directorate

(a) Defibrillators

Cost £40,000”

Councillor Brooks commented that these were modest but important proposals which he encouraged the Council to adopt. Councillor Mackinnon responded by saying that there was already funding in the budget for flood alleviation works. While he agreed with the principle of funding defibrillators he felt that the best way to address gaps in provision would be through Members Bids which would then mean matched funding could be sought from the local community.

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

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.15.2 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 Amendment:

Councillors: Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Carolyn Culver, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Owen Jeffery, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Erik Pattenden, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams (18)

AGAINST the Amendment:

Councillors: Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Clive Hooker, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Tom Marino, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart, Andy Williamson, Howard Woollaston (24)

ABSTAINED:

None

AMENDMENT: Proposed by Councillor David Marsh and seconded by Councillor Carolyne Culver:

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That the Council:

“approves and adopts the Capital Strategy and supporting Minimum Revenue Provision policy together with the revised Property Investment Strategy subject to the following amendments:

(a) Page 75 5.16 (6) Transport Services Fleet Upgrade

Original text: £638k of additional funding to support community transport, increased provision of cycling facilities at schools and renewal of the council’s minibuss fleet.

Amendment: Add “with ULEV vehicles” at end.

(b) Page 87 Park House – Expansion

Original text: “Impact at Park House School of additional pupil numbers from Racecourse and Sandlesford new housing developments”

Amendment: Delete “and Sandlesford”, change “developments” to “development”.

(c) Page 88 Robin Hood Improvements

Amendment: “The improvements to include fully integrated cycling infrastructure, with cycle footbridge to offer full connectivity across the A4, A339 and Shaw Road”.

20/21 capital spend: £100,000 on a feasibility study and initial work on this project.

(d) Page 88 Sandlesford Access Improvements

Amendment: Move the £1m grant money to 21/22, subject to agreement with the LEP, and defer any such “improvements” until when and if any Sandlesford development was approved.

(e) Page 89 Natural carbon reduction measures

Amendment: Bring forward £500,000 of the £1.25m from 21/22 to 20/21.

(f) Page 89 Public transport infrastructure

Amendment: Treble the £50,000 earmarked for this, the extra £100,000 being used to start work on much needed improvements to Newbury bus station.”

Councillor David Marsh stated that while there were elements of the Capital Strategy and Programme his party supported the proposed amendments would improve it and would ensure better integration with the emerging Environment Strategy. Councillor Tony Vickers stated that while he supported most of the amendments he did not support the erection of a cycling footbridge at the Robin Hood Roundabout. In his opinion improvements to the under pass and better signage would be adequate.

Councillor Richard Somner stated that ULEV technology was not yet well enough developed to make the changes proposed in respect of minibuss replacements but that this was something that could be revisited over time. The Council would lose the funding for the school access from the LEP if that amendment was accepted.

Councillor Carolyn Culver queried whether it would be possible to vote on the proposals individually. The Monitoring Officer stated that they would have to be voted on as a single item.

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

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.15.2 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 Amendment:

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Councillors: Carolyn Culver, David Marsh, Steve Masters (3)

AGAINST the Amendment:

Councillors: Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Clive Hooker, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Tom Marino, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart, Andy Williamson, Howard Woollaston (24)

ABSTAINED:

Councillors: Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Owen Jeffery, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Erik Pattenden, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams (15)

Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter stated that he welcomed the £3m set aside in the programme for solar projects and the £1m allocated for tree planting in the district. There was also funding set aside for cycling schemes and he thanked the Officers and Members for their enthusiastic contributions in this area. He also noted that the Community Bond and other vehicles would also be used to deliver some of the projects emanating from the emerging Environment Strategy.

Councillor Richard Somner welcomed the £45m of funding that had been set aside for large and small infrastructure projects that would improve the lives of residents and assist local businesses across the District. He also welcomed the ongoing funding for flood alleviation works which would build on the successful schemes that had already been implemented.

Councillor Dominic Boeck commented that he was excited by this ambitious programme and was especially pleased to see the £41m of funding for schools over the following three years.

Councillor Mackinnon concurred that this was an exciting programme and he therefore commended it to Members.

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

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.15.2 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: Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Carolyn Culver, Lynne Doherty, Clive Hooker, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Tom Marino, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart, Andy Williamson, Howard Woollaston (27)

AGAINST the Motion:

None

ABSTAINED:

Councillors: Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Owen Jeffery, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Erik Pattenden, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams (15)

The meeting was adjourned from 8.15pm to 8.25pm

Councillor Peter Argyle left the meeting at 8.15pm

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55. Revenue Budget 2020/21 (C3812)

(All Members had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer to speak and vote on this item).

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 17) concerning the 2020/21 Revenue Budget, which proposed a Council Tax requirement of £102.06m, requiring a Council Tax increase of 1.99% and a 2% adult social care Council Tax Precept. The Council Tax increase would raise £2.1m and the precept would raise a further £2.1m ring-fenced for adult social care. The report also proposed the Fees and Charges for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix F, the Parish Expenses as set out in Appendix G and recommended the level of General Reserves as set out in Appendix E.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

“That the Council:

- (1) That Council approves the 2020/21 Council Tax requirement of £102.06 million, requiring a Council Tax increase of 1.99% with a 2% Council Tax Precept ring-fenced for adult social care.
- (2) That the Fees and Charges are approved as set out in Appendix F and the appropriate statutory notices be placed where required.
- (3) That the Parish Expenses of £29,580 are approved as set out in Appendix G.
- (4) That it be noted that the following amounts for the year 2020/21 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (by the Localism Act 2011):-
 - (a) 65,205.90 being the amount calculated by the Council, (Item T) in accordance with regulation 31B of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), as its council tax base for the year (the number of properties paying council tax).
 - (b) Part of the Council's area as per Appendix K being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates.
- (5) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/21 (excluding Parish precepts) is £102,064,186.
- (6) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, amended by the Localism Act 2011:-
 - (a) £338,583,864 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2), (a) to (f) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish councils.
 - (b) £232,095,364 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3), (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - (c) £106,488,500 being the amount by which the aggregate at 6(a) above, exceeds the aggregate at 6(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with the Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R).
 - (d) £1633.11 being the amount at 6(c) above (Item R), all divided by 4(a) above (Item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the 'basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts)'.

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- (e) £4,424,314 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Appendix K).
 - (f) £1565.26 being the amount at 6(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 6(e) above by the amount at 4(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relates.
- (7) That it be noted that for the year 2020/21, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley & The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Councils area as indicated in Appendix K.
- (8) That the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables in Appendix K as the amounts of Council Tax for 2020/21 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.”

Councillor Lynne Doherty stated that the budget was designed to ensure that West Berkshire remained a beautiful place to live and a great place to raise a family. She believed this to be a fair and progressive use of funding to balance the needs of all the District's residents. It was designed to bring about improvements in the Council's six strategic priority areas as set out in the Council Strategy so that everyone had a chance to fulfil their potential. It was also designed to make the District a place that was welcoming to businesses and enterprise. She thanked Members, Officers and partner organisations for their input into producing the budget.

Councillor Doherty noted that West Berkshire was one of the first self-funding authorities in the country despite an ongoing increase in demand on its services. While she did not welcome having to increase Council Tax by £1.15 per week for a Band D property she hoped that residents would recognise that the Council was spending it wisely and effectively.

AMENDMENT: Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor Lee Dillon:

That the Council allocates an additional £672k funded from earmarked reserves as follows:

1. People Directorate

- (a) **P13 Education - Home to School Transport**
Cost £100,000
- (b) **Educational Welfare Officer**
Cost £35,000
- (c) **Piloting lunch clubs to tackle school holiday hunger**
Cost £12,000
- (d) **Funding Musical Instruments**
Cost £20,000
- (e) **Handyman Service**
Cost £45,000

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2. Place Directorate

- A) **Linking EPC and the business community**
Cost £100,000
- B) **Hybrid Solar Farm**
Cost £100,000
- C) **Thatcham Town Centre Master planning update**
Cost £50,000
- D) **Free car Parking fund**
Cost £50,000
- (f) **Economic Development Budget**
Cost £20,000
- G) **Green Bins**
Cost £100,000

3. Resource Directorate

- (a) **Community Conversations**
Cost £40,000"

Councillor Brooks stated that he was dispirited by the budget which he felt was lacking in ambition. The reasons for the amendments were set out in the accompanying document.

Councillor Graham Bridgman commented that the Council already worked with Age UK who had a handyman service which was paid for by the Council. Councillor Dominic Boeck stated that the Council already spent £3m a year on home to school transport and he believed that it was appropriate for parents to pay a fair sum to get their children to school. Councillor Rick Jones commented that community conversations were already funded and over 20 had taken place that year in many locations across the District.

Councillor Lee Dillon in seconding the amendment noted the S151 Officer's comments in respect of the amendments. He asked that even if the proposals were rejected that funding be found to support the Thatcham Town Centre Master Plan.

Councillor Brooks urged the Administration not to rule out the proposals simply because they had not come up with the ideas.

Councillor Doherty commented that she would be happy to adopt any good ideas. However the amendments proposed were not well thought out.

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

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.15.2 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 Amendment:

Councillors Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Carlyne Culver, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Owen Jeffery, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Erik Pattenden, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams (18)

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AGAINST the Amendment:

Councillors: Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Clive Hooker, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Tom Marino, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart, Andy Williamson, Howard Woollaston (23)

ABSTAINED:

None

AMENDMENT: Proposed by Councillor David Marsh and seconded by Councillor Carolyne Culver:

That the Council:

(1) **Transfer £1.25m from the General Reserve to a new Climate Emergency Fund.** This would leave £6.72m in the General Reserve (above the minimum recommended £6.5m).

(2) **Bus Service, Hambridge Lane/Hambridge Road**

£100,000 from the Climate Emergency Fund would be used to pay for an existing peak-time bus route from Thatcham to Newbury to divert along Hambridge Lane/Hambridge Road, and on to the bus and rail stations, initially as a one-year trial.

(3) **Funding for Supported Bus Services 20/21**

In addition to the above, £108,507 has been made available to the Council from the Government's "better deal for bus users", and we support using this to improve rural services, including route 5 (Downlands villages-Newbury) and route 47 (Lambourn-Swindon)."

Councillor David Marsh stated that he hoped the Council would be able to support these good and original ideas. The Climate Emergency declared last July was the most significant issue for the Council to overcome and it should be put at the heart of all decision making. Councillor Steve Masters stated that the proposals demonstrated real commitment to overcoming the Climate Emergency and would allow the Portfolio Holder to adopt a more proactive approach to meeting the Council's commitments.

Councillor Mackinnon stated that he did not personally know enough about the Hambridge Road bus route to comment on it but that it could be looked into. In terms of taking £1.25m from the General Reserve to a new Climate Emergency Fund it should be noted that the Council had six priorities and it had to balance all of its priorities. He noted that £6.5m was the recommended minimum sum that should be left in the General Reserve and he felt that cutting it to £6.72m was too close to the minimum prudent level.

Councillor Lee Dillon commented that he would like to ask the Constitution Review Task Group to look into the issue of voting on amendments as individual items. While he supported some of the amendments proposed by the Green Party he could not support them all and would therefore have to abstain from voting on this amendment.

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

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.15.2 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 Amendment:

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Councillors Carolyne Culver, David Marsh, Steve Masters (3)

AGAINST the Amendment:

Councillors: Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Clive Hooker, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Tom Marino, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart, Andy Williamson, Howard Woollaston (23)

ABSTAINED:

Councillors Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Owen Jeffery, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Erik Pattenden, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams (15)

Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter stated that as Portfolio Holder with responsibility for the environment he would always want more money to spend on projects but he recognised the need to take a balanced view across all areas of the Council's activity. The budget had to add up and the Administration had to act responsibly. He was always willing to discuss projects and ways of delivering them with colleagues when they were raised with him.

Councillor Steve Masters commented that he was concerned about the impact of cuts on staff. Having to do more with less would have an impact on them which would in turn have a knock on effect on residents.

Councillor Hilary Cole welcomed the proposed increased expenditure on homelessness which would be used to continue to build on the successes already achieved by the Council in this area.

Councillor Graham Bridgman welcomed the additional proposed funding for Adult Social Care which reflected the demographic issues being experienced. He would continue to lobby for a proper national debate on overcoming this issue.

Councillor Doherty noted the comments from Councillor Masters about staff. She noted that the relationships between Officers and Members at the Council were good. Investment was being put into the Workforce Strategy and that she personally regularly thanked staff for their efforts. She concluded by stating that this was a well thought through balanced budget and she urged members to support it

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

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.15.2 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: Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Clive Hooker, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Tom Marino, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart, Andy Williamson, Howard Woollaston (23)

AGAINST the Motion:

Councillors Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Owen Jeffery, Royce Longton, Alan Macro, Geoff Mayes, Andy Moore, Erik Pattenden, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams (15)

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ABSTAINED:

Councillors Carolyne Culver, David Marsh, Steve Masters (3)

56. Statutory Pay Policy 2020

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 18) concerning the Statutory Pay Policy Statement for publication from 1 April 2020.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Howard Woollaston and seconded by Councillor Lee Dillon:

That the Council:

“approves and then publishes the policy statement in accordance with s38 of the Localism Act 2011”.

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

57. Proposed Member Development Programme 2020/21 (C3847)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 19) concerning a proposed Member Development Programme for 2020/21. The programme had been considered and endorsed by the Member Development Group on 23 January 2020.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Lee Diillon:

That the Council:

“approves the proposed Member Development Programme for 2020/21”

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

58. Notices of Motion

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 20a refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Erik Pattenden relating to no vehicle idling zones.

The Chairman informed the Council that the motion would not be debated at the meeting and in accordance with Procedural Rule 4.5.8 it would be referred to the Transport Advisory Group for consideration.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Erik Pattenden and seconded by Councillor Martha Vickers:

“Safer Schools Motion

(No Idling Zones; 20MPH zones; Safer School Drop-off Provision)

This Council notes that:

- Our residents, staff and children, are exposed to unnecessary levels of pollutants outside of schools at peak times in the morning and afternoon;
- Epidemiological studies show that symptoms of bronchitis in asthmatic children increase in association with long-term exposure to pollutants, as well as stunting lung growth;
- Only a handful of schools across the country are trialling “No Vehicle Idling zones” yet they bring many health benefits;
- Air pollution poses a serious threat to the health and development of young people: while many of the policy interventions to rectify this problem would have to come from central Government, this Council can do more and needs to be proactive on this issue;

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- The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Public Health England (PHE) produced new guidance in 2017 that recommended “no vehicle idling” areas in places where health-vulnerable people collect, such as outside schools, hospitals and care homes, and in areas where exposure to road-traffic-related air pollution is high;
- According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, evidence shows that 20mph zones are an effective way of preventing injuries on the road;
- Research estimates the chance of fatality from being hit by a car driving at 20mph at 1.5% versus 8% at 30mph;
- There are 80 schools across the district, some of which are in 40 mph zones.

This Council resolves to:

- Review the work done on No-Vehicle-Idling nationally in other local authorities and work this into an action plan for No-Vehicle-Idling Zones across West Berkshire;
- Implement enforceable No-Vehicle-Idling Zones around all primary schools in the District by the end of 2021, with at least 4 pilots by Spring 2020;
- Use the experience of the pilot zones to determine whether these measures should be implemented via enforceable enhancements to existing Council policies, or via a new by-law;
- Work closely with schools that are part of the scheme to inform parents and carers of the No-Vehicle-Idling Zones;
- Encourage local businesses to sponsor green walls on school buildings and tree planting near schools and the appropriate Executive Member include this in their action plan;
- Set up a task group to review the speed limit outside each school;
- Create a toolkit of potential actions for schools to take in order to make roads safer for children, as is most appropriate for that area, including requesting road-markings and additional lights from the Council;
- Offer all schools the option of signing up to a Safer School Zone which will include red road markings to prevent dangerous parking and additional visits from Traffic Enforcement Officers;
- Look at locations where appropriate additional changes could be made, such as making certain roads near schools one way.”

<http://www.rosipa.com/rospaweb/docs/advice-services/road-safety/drivers/20-mph-zone-factsheet.pdf>

<http://www.brake.org.uk/assets/docs/GO20toolkit/GO20-report-sep15.pdf>

https://www.ippr.org/files/images/media/files/publication/2011/05/streets_ahead_1266.pdf

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 20b refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Adrian Abbs relating to supporting the Local Electricity Bill.

The Chairman informed the Council that the motion would not be debated at the meeting and in accordance with Procedural Rule 4.5.8 it would be referred to the Environment Advisory Group for consideration.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Tony Vickers and seconded by Councillor Steve Masters:

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“Power for Communities Motion

West Berkshire District Council

- (i) acknowledges that this Council has made some effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;
- (ii) recognises that councils can play a central role in creating sustainable communities, particularly through the provision of locally generated renewable electricity;
- (iii) further recognises
 - that the very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers results in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so;
 - that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
 - that revenues received by councils that became local renewable electricity providers could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emission reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities;
- (iv) accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 115 MPs, and which, if made law, would make the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a Right to Local Supply; and
- (v) further resolves to
 - inform the local media of this decision,
 - write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and
 - write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN or info@powerforpeople.org.uk) expressing its support.”

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 20c refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Carolyne Culver relating to vehicle electric charging points.

The Chairman informed the Council that the motion would not be debated at the meeting and in accordance with Procedural Rule 4.5.8 it would be referred to the Transport Advisory Group for consideration.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Carolyne Culver and seconded by Councillor Steve Masters:

“The Council to Designate all current and future vehicle electric charging points that are provided by West Berkshire Council as ‘EV only’ parking spaces.”

59. Members' Questions

A full transcription of the Member question and answer session is available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As](#). *(right click on link and ‘Edit Hyperlink’. Insert URL to pdf on website in ‘address’ field)*

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- (a) A question standing in the name of Councillor Steve Masters on the subject of the contingencies which were in place should 4 The Sector remain unlet was answered by the Executive Member for Finance.
- (b) A question standing in the name of Councillor Steve Masters on the subject of the possible disposal of 4 The Sector was answered by the Executive Member for Finance.

(The meeting commenced at 6.36pm and closed at 10.14pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature