

# DRAFT

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

## COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2019

**Councillors Present:** Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle (Vice-Chairman), Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Brooks, Paul Bryant, Anthony Chadley, Keith Chopping, Jeanette Clifford, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Richard Crumly, Lee Dillon, Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, Adrian Edwards, Sheila Ellison, James Fredrickson, Dave Goff, Clive Hooker, Carol Jackson-Doerge (Chairman), Marigold Jaques, Mike Johnston, Graham Jones, Rick Jones, Tony Linden, Mollie Lock, Tim Metcalfe, Ian Morrin, Graham Pask, Anthony Pick, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Anthony Stansfeld, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster and Laszlo Zverko

**Also Present:** John Ashworth (Corporate Director - Environment), Iain Bell (Revenues and Benefits Manager), Nick Carter (Chief Executive), Sarah Clarke (Head of Legal and Strategic Support), Martin Dunscombe (Communications Manager), Tess Ethelston (Group Executive (Cons)), Olivia Lewis (Group Executive (Lib Dem)), Gabrielle Mancini (Economic Development Officer), Robert O'Reilly (Head of Human Resources), Ian Pearson (Head of Education Service), Shiraz Sheikh (Principal Solicitor), Andy Walker (Head of Finance and Property), Moira Fraser (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager), Jo Reeves (Principal Policy Officer) and Honorary Alderman Andrew Rowles

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor Dennis Benneyworth, Councillor Marcus Franks, Councillor Manohar Gopal, Councillor Alan Law, Honorary Alderman Royce Longton, Councillor Gordon Lundie, Councillor Alan Macro, Honorary Alderman Joe Mooney, Councillor James Podger and Councillor Virginia von Celsing

**Councillors Absent:** Councillor Jeremy Bartlett, Councillor Jason Collis, Councillor Rob Denton-Powell and Councillor Paul Hewer

## PART I

### 76. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman reported that former Councillors Jean Gardner and Bob Moulton had sadly passed away. The Chairman asked the Council to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect and an opportunity to reflect on their lives.

Councillor Jeff Brooks commented that Jean was a warm associate with a larger than life personality who had been well supported by her husband Bernard. She was moderate in tone and worked incredibly hard for her community.

Councillor Emma Webster noted that Jean has worked tirelessly for the local community as a member of Tilehurst Parish Council since 1973. She had chaired the Parish Council for a remarkable 33 years and in all her time on the parish council had only missed three meetings. She had been elected unanimously every year. She was also a member of West Berkshire District Council and Berkshire County Council. Jean had the honour of being Chairman of West Berkshire Council from 1997 to 1998, the year that saw Newbury District Council become a unitary authority and something that she was very proud of. She would be greatly missed by everyone who knew her and the community would be poorer for her passing.

Councillor Mollie Lock stated that she and her late husband Keith had known Jean and Bernard long before they were elected to the Council. She would be remembered for her

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firm yet inclusive manner, as someone who was not afraid to deal with controversial issues and her lovely smile. She would be greatly missed.

Councillor Tony Linden described Jean as the driving force of Tilehurst Parish Council, a dedicated public servant and that her passing would leave a big gap in her community.

Councillor Jeff Brooks commented that Bob would be remembered for his waspish sense of humour, as a councillor who worked hard for his community and that he would be remembered with great affection and pride.

The Chairman welcomed all present and reported that she and the Vice Chairman had attended 25 events since the last Council meeting.

### **77. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **78. Declarations of Interest**

The Deputy Monitoring Officer announced that in respect of items 15 and 16 (Capital Strategy and Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22 and Revenue Budget 2019/20): 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.

Councillor James Fredrickson was employed by Gigaclear and therefore had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 15 Capital Strategy and Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22. He therefore left the meeting for that item and did not take part in the debate or vote on the matter.

Councillor Jeff Beck was a Council appointed trustee of the Corn Exchange Trust, Readibus and Volunteer Centre West Berkshire and therefore had an Other Registrable Interest in item 16 Revenue Budget 2019/20. He therefore left the meeting at the start of that item and did not take part in the debate or vote on the matter.

A number of other personal interests were also declared and these had been displayed in the Council Chamber and are set out below:

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Councillor	Outside Body or Other Organisation
Somner, Richard	Holybrook Parish Councillor
Doherty, Lynne	Member of Newbury Town Council Husband is Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Councillor
Jones, Rick	WB Mencap – WBC representative West Berkshire Disability Alliance Purley on Thames Parish Councillor
Johnston, Mike	Newbury Town Councillor
Beck, Jeff	Member of Newbury Town Council
Pick, Anthony	Member of Newbury Town Council
Clifford, Jeanette	Member and Chair of Foundation governor, St Bartholomew’s School Governor, South Central Ambulance Service Member, Newbury Town Council
Cole, James	West Woodhay Parish Councillor
Bryant, Paul	WBC appointee as a director of Greenham Trust WBC appointee to Donnington Trust
Bairstow, Howard	Member of Newbury Town Council
Jackson-Doerge, Carol	Governor Burghfield St Mary’s School Burghfield Parish Councillor Berkshire Maestros
Stansfeld, Anthony	Police and Crime Commissioner
Goff, David	Member, Newbury Town Council

### 79. 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. A question standing in the name of Mr Peter Norman on the subject of congratulating the students who took part in climate change strike was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways Transport, Environment and Countryside.
2. A question standing in the name of Ms Joanne Stewart on the subject of the West Berkshire Lottery was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Transformation and Property.
3. A question standing in the name of Mr Steve Masters on the subject of a strategy to deal with climate change was answered by the Leader of the Council.
4. A question standing in the name of Mr Steve Masters on the subject of inclusion of environmental impact on the Council’s planning and decision making processes was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways Transport, Environment and Countryside.
5. A question standing in the name of Ms Carolyn Culver on the subject of salt bins for parishes was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport, Environment and Countryside.
6. A question standing in the name of Mrs Carolyn Culver on the subject of free 30 minute parking in central Newbury was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport, Environment and Countryside.

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7. A question standing in the name of Dr Julie Wintrup on the subject of cuts to public services was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Transformation and Property.
8. A question standing in the name of Mr Tom Tunney on the subject of recruitment and retention of staff was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services.
9. A question standing in the name of Mr Tom Tunney on the subject of Council Tax increases and the funding gap received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Transformation and Property.
10. A question standing in the name of Mr Tom Tunney on the subject of schools in deficit received a written response from the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People.
11. A question standing in the name of Mr Tom Tunney on the subject of the uptake of the Get Your Coat Ap received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for .
12. A question standing in the name of Mr Tom Tunney on the subject of budgetary impacts on the goals of the Health and Wellbeing Board received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture.
13. A question standing in the name of Mr Steve Masters on the subject of references to climate change in the budget would receive a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport, Environment and Countryside.
14. A question standing in the name of Mrs Miriam Lee on the subject of renewable energy suppliers was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways Transport, Environment and Countryside.
15. A question standing in the name of Mrs Miriam Lee on the subject of switching to a renewable energy supplier received a written answer from the Portfolio Holder for Highways Transport, Environment and Countryside.
16. A question standing in the name of Mr Paul Morgan on the subject of adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy was answered by the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture.

### **80. Membership of Committees**

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

### **81. Licensing Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Licensing Committee had met on 11 February 2019 and 21 February 2019.

### **82. Personnel Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Personnel Committee had met on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### **83. Governance and Ethics Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Governance and Ethics Committee had not met.

### **84. District Planning Committee**

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

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### 85. Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission had met on 6 December 2018, 15 January 2019 and 26 February 2019.

### 86. Joint Public Protection Committee

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Joint Public Protection Committee had not met.

### 87. Investment and Borrowing Strategy 2019/20 (C3613)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 13) which, in compliance with The Local Government Act 2003, summarised the Council's borrowing limits as set out by CIPFA's Prudential Code, and requested Council approval of the Annual Investment and Borrowing Strategy for 2019/20

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Anthony Chadley and seconded by Councillor Emma Webster:

That the Council:

“approves the Annual Investment and Borrowing Strategy for 2019/20”

Councillor Anthony Chadley stated that this area of work was scrutinised regularly and was supported by a cross party working group.

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

### 88. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22 (C3614)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 14) concerning its three year rolling strategy which was built to ensure that the financial resources, both revenue and capital, were available to deliver the Council Strategy. The medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) should be read in conjunction with the Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Investment and Borrowing Strategy reports.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Anthony Chadley and seconded by Councillor Graham Jones:

That the Council:

“approves and adopts the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22.”

Councillor Anthony Chadley stated that the Council had an excellent record of delivering its budget.

Councillor Lee Dillon commented that it seemed incongruous that New Ways of Working (reviewing how and why the Council delivered services and establishing how they might be delivered in a more efficient and effective way) was an area of focus at the same time the budget was being cut. Councillor Jeff Brooks was concerned that not enough financial planning and contingency work had taken place around BREXIT.

Councillor Graham Jones responded by saying that it was not always necessary to spend money in order to save it. He also noted that there was £210k in the budget to mitigate the impact of BREXIT. This was additional funding from Central Government. The Council had also put in place adequate reserves which could be called on if necessary. He stated that it was essential that better national dialogue took place around how social care was funded in the future.

Councillor Anthony Chadley stated that while the Administration would prefer not to have to increase Council Tax it had to be realistic about its financial planning.

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

### 89. **Capital Strategy and Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22 (C3615)**

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

*(Councillor James Fredrickson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 15 by virtue of the fact that he was employed by Gigaclear. As his interest was personal and prejudicial he left the meeting and took no part in the debate or voting on the matter).*

*(Councillor Fredrickson left the meeting at 7.40pm)*

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 15) which outlined the three year Capital Strategy for 2019 - 2022, including the minimum revenue provision (MRP) and set out the funding framework for Council's three year capital programme for 2019 - 2022.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Anthony Chadley and seconded by Councillor Lynne Doherty:

That the Council:

“approves the Capital Strategy and Programme 2019/20 to 2021/22.”

Councillor Chadley explained that the Capital Programme was designed to deliver the key priorities for improvement set out in the Council Strategy including improving educational attainment and closing the educational attainment gap, infrastructure improvements in relation to roads, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, supporting communities to help themselves and generating income. The three year Programme was also aligned to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

It was noted that there was one figure missing from the 5<sup>th</sup> column on the 1<sup>st</sup> line of figures on page 93 (Capital Strategy and Programme Appendix E): Council funded spend on OT Equipment (in Adult Social Care) in 2020/21 should be £609,480. This error did not affect the text of the report, but created errors in appendices D and E (on pages 92, 93 and 101 of the Council Agenda).

**AMENDMENT:** Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Anthony Chadley:

That the Council:

“award Volunteer Centre West Berkshire an additional capital allocation of £5,000 in 2019/20 to be funded from the Corporate Allocation fund shown on page 99 of the agenda.”

Councillor Graham Jones stated that this amendment was proposed in recognition of the important work undertaken by the Voluntary Centre and had been included as an amendment after a meeting with representatives of the organisation.

The Amended Motion 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, against and abstaining were read to the Council as follows:

**FOR the Motion:**

Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Brooks, Paul Bryant, Anthony Chadley, Keith Chopping, Jeanette Clifford, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Richard Crumly, Lee Dillon,

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Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, Adrian Edwards, Sheila Ellison, Dave Goff, Clive Hooker, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Marigold Jaques, Mike Johnston, Graham Jones, Rick Jones, Tony Linden, Mollie Lock, Tim Metcalfe, Ian Morrin, Graham Pask, Anthony Pick, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Anthony Stansfeld, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster and Laszlo Zverko.

### **AGAINST the Amendment:**

None

### **ABSTAINED:**

None

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

That the Council:

“Adds the following to the guiding principles on page 80

(11) To prioritise projects that address the social needs within West Berkshire whilst still delivering an income stream. “

Councillor Lee Dillon stated that he felt that it would be useful to insert this principle so that the social value of projects would be taken into consideration. Councillor Graham Jones commented that he was concerned that the inclusion of this amendment might have the opposite effect to that which was intended. Councillor Jones therefore proposed that the amendment be withdrawn and discussed outside the chamber. Councillor Dillon agreed to this suggestion.

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:

The debate then returned to the substantive motion. Councillor Lee Dillon stated that in general he supported the motion which would help to improve the district's schools, roads and environment. He was however disappointed to note that although £200k had been set aside for works in Newbury Town entre the same could not be said of Thatcham, Theale and Hungerford.

Councillor Chadley stated that he would be willing to discuss funding for projects in Thatcham outside of the meeting.

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 Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Brooks, Paul Bryant, Anthony Chadley, Keith Chopping, Jeanette Clifford, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Richard Crumly, Lee Dillon, Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, Adrian Edwards, Sheila Ellison, Dave Goff, Clive Hooker, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Marigold Jaques, Mike Johnston, Graham Jones, Rick Jones, Tony Linden, Mollie Lock, Tim Metcalfe, Ian Morrin, Graham Pask, Anthony Pick, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Anthony Stansfeld, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster and Laszlo Zverko.

### **AGAINST the Amendment:**

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None

### **ABSTAINED:**

None

*(Councillor Fredrickson returned to the meeting at 8.10pm)*

The meeting was adjourned from 8.10pm to 8.18pm

### **90. Revenue Budget 2019/20 (C3616)**

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

*(Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dominic Boeck, Richard Crumly, Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, Adrian Edwards, Dave Goff and Anthony Pick declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 16 by virtue of the fact that they were dual hatted Members and a number of proposals would affect them in that capacity. As their interest was personal and not an other registrable nor a disclosable pecuniary interest they determined to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Jeff Beck declared an other registrable interest in Agenda item 16 by virtue of the fact that he was a Council appointed Trustee of The Corn Exchange (Newbury) Trust Limited, Readibus and Volunteer Centre West Berkshire. As his interest was an other registrable interest he determined to leave the chamber and neither take part in the debate nor vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Jeanette Clifford declared a personal interest in Agenda item 16 by virtue of the fact that she was a Governor and Foundation Governor of St. Bartholomew's School, a Trustee of the Charity of Mrs. Mable Luke and a Governor of South Central Ambulance Service. As her interest was personal and not prejudicial she was permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Lynne Doherty declared a personal interest in Agenda item 16 by virtue of the fact that her husband was co-opted onto Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council. As her interest was personal and not prejudicial she was permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Rick Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda item 16 by virtue of the fact that he was a Council representative on WB Mencap and a member of West Berkshire Disability Alliance. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he was permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Tim Metcalfe declared a personal interest in Agenda item 16 by virtue of the fact that he was a Trustee of the Adventure Dolphin (Pangbourne) Charity. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he was permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

*(Councillor Billy Drummond declared a personal interest in Agenda item 16 by virtue of the fact that he was a governor at The Willows School, a Foundation Governor at St Bartholomew's School and a director of Greenham Business Park. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he was permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.)*

*(Councillor Jeff Beck left the meeting at 8.18pm and did not return)*

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 16) concerning the 2019/20 Revenue Budget, which proposed a Council Tax requirement of £97.87m requiring a Council Tax increase of 2.99% in 2019/20. The Council Tax increase would raise £2.84m. The report also proposed the Fees and Charges for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix H and the



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Parish Expenses as set out in Appendix I and recommended the level of General Reserves as set out in Appendix F and Appendix G.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Anthony Chadley:

That the Council:

- “(1) approves the 2019/20 Council Tax requirement of £97.87million, requiring a Council Tax increase of 2.99%.
- (2) approves the Fees and Charges as set out in Appendix H and the appropriate statutory notices be placed where required.
- (3) approves the Parish Expenses of £15,389 as set out in Appendix I.
- (4) acknowledges and notes the responses received to each of the public facing savings proposals in the public consultation exercise undertaken on the 2019/20 budget.
- (5) notes that the following amounts for the year 2019/20 in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (by the Localism Act 2011):-
  - (a) 65,021.46 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.
  - (b) Part of the Council’s area as per Appendix M 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.
- (6) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2019/20 (excluding Parish precepts) is £97,870,951.
- (7) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, amended by the Localism Act 2011:-
  - (a) £329,889,607 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) £227,777,905 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) £102,111,702 being the amount by which the aggregate at 7(a) above, exceeds the aggregate at 7(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) £1570.43 being the amount at 7(c) above (Item R), all divided by 5(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)’.
  - (e) £4,240,751 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Appendix M).

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- (f) £1505.21 being the amount at 7(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 7(e) above by the amount at 5(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.
- (8) notes that for the year 2019/20, 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 M.
- (9) 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 M as the amounts of Council Tax for 2019/20 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
- 2.2 notes that a petition was submitted to the Council on 14 February 2019 at a meeting of the Executive, calling on the Council to award a grant to the Corn Exchange of £50,000 in 2019/20 and 2020/21. In view of the financial implications resulting from the proposal detailed in the petition, and the fact that the Council has agreed to transfer the freehold of the Corn Exchange building to the Trustees of the Corn Exchange, it is recommended that the request within the petition for the Council to provide additional funding should be rejected”.

Councillor Graham Jones explained that the budget had to be set in the context of the national picture which was somewhat turbulent and therefore difficult to predict. The Administration had to make the difficult decision to increase Council Tax to offset increasing demand and decreasing funding from Central Government.

**AMENDMENT 1:** Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Anthony Chadley:

That the Council:

- “1. Reduction in inflation provision (page 127 Appendix D1 Ref 5). On 13 February 2019 the January inflation figures were released. The waste contract is inflated on the January RPIX which was announced as 2.5%. The budget had been built at 3%. It is therefore proposed to reduce the amount provided for by 0.5% which amounts to £89k.
2. Reduction in amount required to support Childcare Lawyers. (page 128 Appendix D2 Ref 7) The proposal is to reduce the increased budget requirement for Childcare Lawyers from £500k as originally proposed, to £320k. This is therefore a reduction of £180k.
3. Reduction in the Voluntary Sector saving proposal (page 130 Appendix E Ref 31). The proposal is to reduce the saving in the Voluntary Sector from £40k to £11k. This is therefore a reduction of £29k. The remaining £11k will be a reduction to the funding to the Alzheimer’s Society, who have confirmed that the loss of funding will have no impact on their future plans to service delivery.
4. Increase in Risk Reserves It is proposed that the additional funding arising from the points above, be used to increase the Risk Reserves by £240k. During

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2018/19, £812k has been released from the Risk Reserves to support the budget position. These reserves need to be replenished so there is adequate provision.”

The amendment 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, against and abstaining were read to the Council as follows:

### **FOR the Motion:**

Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Paul Bryant, Anthony Chadley, Keith Chopping, Jeanette Clifford, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Richard Crumly, Lynne Doherty, Adrian Edwards, Sheila Ellison, James Fredrickson, Dave Goff, Clive Hooker, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Marigold Jaques, Mike Johnston, Graham Jones, Rick Jones, Tony Linden, Tim Metcalfe, Ian Morrin, Graham Pask, Anthony Pick, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Anthony Stansfeld, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster and Laszlo Zverko.

### **AGAINST the Amendment:**

None

### **ABSTAINED:**

Councillors Jeff Brooks, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond and Mollie Lock

**AMENDMENT 2:** Proposed by Councillor Lee Dillon and seconded by Councillor Jeff Brooks:

That the Council:

1. “Reinstate the proposed deletion of Family Support Worker  
(page 129 Appendix E Ref 9) The proposal is to cancel the saving of Family Support Worker in Children and Family Services. This is therefore a saving reduction of £31k.
2. Reinstate the proposed saving from Youth Offending Team (page 129 Appendix E Ref 17) The proposal is to cancel the saving from the Youth Offending Team. This is therefore a saving reduction of £100k.
3. Reduce proposed saving against Corn Exchange (page 131 Appendix E Ref 38) The proposal is to reduce the grant saving to Corn Exchange from £174k to £124k. This is therefore a saving reduction of £50k.
4. Reinstate the proposed saving from Volunteer Centre (page 135 Appendix E Ref 99) The proposal is to cancel the saving from reduced funding to the Volunteer Centre. This is therefore a saving reduction of £5k.
5. Reinstate the proposed saving from New Ways of Working Reviews  
(page 135 Appendix E Ref 100) The proposal is to cancel the saving from reduced funding for New Ways of Working reviews. This is therefore a saving reduction of £25k.
6. Increase in Risk Reserves. It is proposed that the additional funding arising from the points in amendments 1 and 2 above, be used to increase the Risk Reserves by £58k. During 2018/19, £812k has been released from the Risk Reserves to

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support the budget position. These reserves need to be replenished so there is adequate provision.

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, against and abstaining were read to the Council as follows:

### **FOR the Motion:**

Councillors Jeff Brooks, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond and Mollie Lock

### **AGAINST the Amendment:**

Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Paul Bryant, Anthony Chadley, Keith Chopping, Jeanette Clifford, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Richard Crumly, Lynne Doherty, Adrian Edwards, Sheila Ellison, James Fredrickson, Dave Goff, Clive Hooker, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Marigold Jaques, Mike Johnston, Graham Jones, Rick Jones, Tony Linden, Tim Metcalfe, Ian Morrin, Graham Pask, Anthony Pick, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Anthony Stansfeld, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster and Laszlo Zverko.

### **ABSTAINED:**

None

Debate then returned to the substantive Motion which 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, against and abstaining were read to the Council as follows:

### **FOR the Motion:**

Councillors Steve Ardagh-Walter, Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Paul Bryant, Anthony Chadley, Keith Chopping, Jeanette Clifford, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Richard Crumly, Lynne Doherty, Adrian Edwards, Sheila Ellison, James Fredrickson, Dave Goff, Clive Hooker, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Marigold Jaques, Mike Johnston, Graham Jones, Rick Jones, Tony Linden, Tim Metcalfe, Ian Morrin, Graham Pask, Anthony Pick, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Anthony Stansfeld, Quentin Webb, Emma Webster and Laszlo Zverko.

### **AGAINST the Motion:**

Councillors Jeff Brooks, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond and Mollie Lock

### **ABSTAINED:**

None

## **91. Statutory Pay Policy 2019 (C3617)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 17) which sought approval of the Statutory Pay Policy Statement for publication from 1st April 2019.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Dominic Boeck and seconded by Councillor Graham Bridgman:

That the Council:

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

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

That the Council:

“Add the following to paragraph 3.1 on page 478 which currently states:

All jobs within the Council are paid on salary grades within five or more incremental points.

Add “All jobs within the Council will be contractually remunerated as a minimum at the National Living Wage level and we will seek our suppliers to do the same, through our procurement processes.”

Councillor Graham Bridgman noted that this report had been discussed at the Personnel Committee and it would have been more appropriate to raise this issue there. Councillor Graham Jones commented that suppliers already had a statutory duty to comply with remunerating their employees at the proposed levels and the Council already did so too.

Councillor Dillon stated that on that basis he proposed withdrawing the amendment.

Councillor Graham Bridgman commented that the Council had a statutory duty to publish the Pay Policy and he recommended that Members agree to do so.

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

### 92. Council Tax Empty Property Changes Report (C3675)

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 18) which updated Members on the legislative changes made by government in respect of Council Tax for empty home from 2019/20 onwards.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Dominic Boeck and seconded by Councillor Hilary Cole:

That the Council:

1. “agrees that the empty homes charges are increased in line with the following;
  - i) 2019/2020 – 50% premium charge to increase to 100% if a property has been empty for more than 2 years.
  - ii) 2020/2021 – 100% premium to apply to properties that have been empty for between 2 and 5 years. 200% premium where the property has been empty for more than 5 years.
  - iii) 2021/2022 – 100% to apply to properties that have been empty for between 2 and 5 years. 200% premium where the property has been empty for between 5 and 10 years. 300% premium where the property has been empty for more than 10 years.
  - iv) Not to apply the additional premium charges from 1st April 2019 where there is a genuine case that the property is up for sale and there are difficulties in the sale.”

Councillor Dominic Boeck stated that the changes were being proposed in accordance with the legislative changes and were designed to decrease the number of empty homes in the district. Councillor Jeff Brooks commented that he would like to see the estimated £377k of additional income invested into bringing more empty homes into use across the District. Councillors Hilary Cole and

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Dominic Boeck stated that they would look into this suggestion but could not state categorically that the income would be ring fenced.

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

### 93. **Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review 2019/20 (C3428)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item ) concerning feedback on the results of the public consultation into the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review 2019/20.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Dominic Boeck and seconded by Councillor Graham Bridgman:

That:

1. "in response to the Council's public consultation on its review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2019, the Council approve the recommendations set out below and in Appendix D.
2. the Returning Officer be given delegated authority to agree any further minor changes to Polling Districts and Polling Stations.
3. any Polling Places be assumed to relate to Polling Districts in their entirety.

Chieveley and Cold Ash Ward

- (1) That 2 new Polling Districts for Florence Gardens and Little Copse be created as a result of the Boundary Review and that electors in Florence Gardens and Little Copse vote in Polling Stations as set out below:
  - (i) Electors in Florence Gardens will vote in the Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club, Henwick Worthy.
  - (ii) Electors living in Little Copse in Thatcham North East will vote in the Central Family Hub, Park Lane.

Hungerford and Kintbury

- (2) That the Polling Station for Combe be moved from the Inn Keepers' Bungalow to Combe Manor.

Newbury Central Ward

- (3) That electors around the Park Way area that used to vote at St Nicholas Church Hall in future vote at St Joseph's Catholic Church Hall.

Newbury Greenham Ward

- (4) That Newbury Rugby Club be used as a future Polling Station for the Sandford Polling District, which will be in the Newbury Greenham Ward.

Newbury Speen Ward

- (5) That electors in Polling District NB7 (Brumell Grove) vote, in the future, at the Scout Hut, Poplar Place.
- (6) That SB2 and SB3 Polling Districts be merged to create a unique SB2 Polling District.
- (7) That the permanent moorings adjacent to Monkey Bridge be included in NBY14 Polling District.

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- (8) The line of the northern boundary of NBY10 has been moved north to follow the line of the River Kennet. This will ensure that the electors between the canal and the river vote at St Nicholas Church Hall.

### Newbury Wash Common

- (9) That Newbury Rugby Club be used as a future Polling Station for the Sandlesford Polling District, which will be in the Newbury Wash Common Ward.

### Ridgeway Ward

- (10) That the Swan Public House be used at a Polling Station for East Ilsley.

### Thatcham Colthrop and Crookham Ward

- (11) That a new Polling District (THA7) be created for all those residents located south of the Railway Line and Crookham Hill. These electors will continue to use the Travellers Friend as their Polling Station.

### Thatcham North East Ward

- (12) Those residents which are part of the Little Copse Polling District (in Cold Ash) Parish use the Thatcham Children's Centre as their designated Polling Station.

### Thatcham West Ward

- (13) That electors located in the Polling District of Florence Gardens (Cold Ash Parish) use the Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club, Henwick Worthy as their Polling Station.

- (14) That electors on the eastern side of Northfield Road use the Hockey Club, as opposed to the Memorial Hall.

### Tilehurst South and Holybrook Ward

- (15) That the electors north of the A4 in Calcot Row, New Lane Hill and the Golf Course form a new Polling District (ZTH1), using the Beansheaf Community Centre and their designated Polling Station."

Councillor Boeck explained that the review was usually undertaken every five years but that it had been brought forward following the Local Government Boundary Review. Councillor Lee Dillon stated that his groups supported the changes.

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

## 94. **West Berkshire 2036 Vision (C3647)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 20) concerning the final draft of the West Berkshire 2036 Vision which was agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Rick Jones and seconded by Councillor Graham Jones:

That the Council:

"endorses the West Berkshire 2036 Vision."

Councillor Rick Jones congratulated Officers on a job well done. They had consulted widely, the document was generally positively received albeit that a number of minor changes had been made as a result of the consultation.

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

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### 95. Notices of Motion

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 21a) submitted in the name of Councillor Richard Somner relating to the devolution agenda.

The Chairman informed the Council that the Motion would be debated at the meeting.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Ricard Somner and seconded by Councillor Anthony Pick:

“The District of West Berkshire has over 50 Parish/Town Councils all of which have an important part to play in continuing to make West Berkshire a great place in which to live, work, study and play.

As this Council continues to focus on the more strategic core services that it must provide Parish Councils will have an increasingly important role to play in the delivery of services at the local level. It has been acknowledged that devolution can support local communities to become more self-sufficient and ultimately do more for themselves.

The National Association of Local Councils has also welcomed the opportunity for Parish Councils to play an active role in the devolution agenda.

Members are therefore requested to confirm that they fully support the Council's collaborative approach to devolution with its Parishes with the objective of making sure that appropriate services and assets are managed at the local level where possible.”

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

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 21b) submitted in the name of Councillor Jeanette Clifford relating to the Council's commitment to green principles.

The Chairman informed the Council that the Motion would be debated at the meeting.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Jeanette Clifford and seconded by Councillor Graham Jones:

“**This council** has a long-standing commitment to ‘green principles’ of stewardship, responsibility and resilience and in order to reaffirm this commitment the Council is asked to:

- **Accept and welcome** its local leadership role, as the United Kingdom as a whole moves further towards environmental sustainability and achieving or bettering targets in line with the Paris Agreement
- **Anticipate** the advice expected from the Committee on Climate Change to the UK government on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 on how and when to achieve net zero emissions and **commit** to translating this into a programme of action for West Berkshire
- **Resolve** to maintain its strong record of leadership, innovation and partnership in protecting and enhancing the environment in West Berkshire in all spheres of its work
- **Determine to act**, not sloganise, respecting the need to consult and work with residents to deliver change
- **Achieve** this while promoting green growth and maintaining the status of west Berkshire as a vibrant and innovative world economy, with a highly skilled workforce and low unemployment”.

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

### 96. Members' Questions

There were no Member questions submitted to this meeting.



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*(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 10.25pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

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