



Committee and Date

Council

18 May 2017

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2017

In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

10.00 am - 3.15 pm

Responsible Officer: Karen Nixon

Email: karen.nixon@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257720

Present

Councillors Ann Hartley (Chairman) and Malcolm Pate (Leader)
Councillors Brian Williams (Speaker), Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader), Peter Adams, Andrew Bannerman, Nicholas Bardsley, Tim Barker, Joyce Barrow, Thomas Biggins, Andy Boddington, Vernon Bushell, Gwilym Butler, Karen Calder, Dean Carroll, Lee Chapman, Peter Cherrington, Gerald Dakin, Andrew Davies, Pauline Dee, David Evans, Roger Evans, John Everall, Hannah Fraser, Nigel Hartin, Vince Hunt, John Hurst-Knight, Jean Jones, Simon Jones, Jonny Keeley, Miles Kenny, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Nic Laurens, Christian Lea, David Lloyd, Robert Macey, Jane MacKenzie, Chris Mellings, David Minnery, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Kevin Pardy, William Parr, Vivienne Parry, John Price, Malcolm Price, David Roberts, Keith Roberts, Madge Shingleton, Jon Tandy, Robert Tindall, David Turner, Arthur Walpole, Stuart West, Claire Wild, Leslie Winwood, Michael Wood, Tina Woodward and Paul Wynn

77 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chief Executive reported that apologies for absence had been received from Mr J Cadwallader, Mr T Clarke, Mr S Davenport, Mr R Huffer, Mr R Hughes, Ms A Liebich, Mr D Tremellen and Mr K Turley.

78 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

79 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2016, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

80 ANNOUNCEMENTS

80.1 Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by herself and the Speaker since the last meeting of the Council on 15 December 2016, which had been circulated at the meeting.

80.2 New Year's Honours 2017

Chairman reported that the following Shropshire residents had been awarded honours in the Queen's New Year's Honours List 2016 and advised that she had written to each of the recipients to congratulate them on their achievement:

Order of the British Empire (OBE)

Michael John Foy

for services to Education (Market Drayton)

Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

Parkash Singh Dhani

for services to Charity and community cohesion (Telford)

Thomas John Kelly

for services to Charity fundraising (Whitchurch)

Michael Gerrard Roughan

for services to Children and the community (Shrewsbury)

Mrs Elaine Spalding

for services to Defence (Ludlow)

Edmund Van Hoof

for services to Gymnastics (Telford)

John Stewart Walker

for services to Archery (Newport)

Medallist of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)

Mrs Sheila Mary Bruce

for services in the Community (Oswestry)

80.3 Bridgnorth High Street of the Year Award 2016

The Chairman congratulated Bridgnorth on their recent success in obtaining the prestigious award of High Street of the Year 2016.

81 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Petitions

The Speaker advised that a petition bearing more than 1,000 signatures to keep Church Stretton Pool open, had been received from Mr Robert Peacey, on behalf of the 'Stretton Pool Action Group' (SPA) requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme. Unfortunately Mr Peacey was unable to attend the meeting and therefore Mrs Sandra Burgess spoke to this on the day and was given 5 minutes to open the debate and outline her case, which was briefly as follows;

- The swimming pool was an integral part of Church Stretton and should be preserved for future generations. All generations use the pool from toddlers to the retired community. It was a lifeline for the disabled too and it was hoped to build on this through the GP referral scheme in the future.
- So far over £40,000 had been secured in pledges from the local community who wanted to help fund a project to improve facilities and accessibility and thereby enhance pool usage.
- A business plan was being developed and was presented at the meeting; it was very much hoped that the SPA could work together with the Council to achieve a positive outcome.

A debate ensued and the following members spoke in support of the key points made by the petitioner; Mr L Chapman, Mr D Evans, Mr R Evans and Mrs H Fraser. In formally responding to the petition, Mr S West Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, said the Council recognised the importance of pools within communities and were looking at partnership arrangements in the future to fund such facilities. He cited the excellent example of Bishops Castle pool and fully took on board the comments made by the SPA Group. A strategy was currently being worked on and in the interim the Council was more than happy to work with groups to help secure grants and funding. He therefore proposed that the Council should take no further action at this point.

A recorded vote was requested and duly agreed. The result was as follows;

FOR (40): Mr P Adams, Mr N Bardsley, Mr T Barker, Mrs J Barrow, Mr T Biggins, Mr G Butler, Mrs K Calder, Mr D Carroll, Mr S Charmley, Mr P Cherrington, Mr G Dakin, Mr A Davies, Mr J Everall, Mrs A Hartley, Mr V Hunt, Mr J Hurst-Knight, Mr S Jones, Mr N Laurens, Mr C Lea, Mr D Lloyd, Mr R Macey, Mr D Minnery, Mrs C Motley, Mrs P Mullock, Mr W Parr, Mr M Pate, Mr J Price, Mr M Price, Mr K Roberts, Mrs M Shingleton, Mr R Tindall, Mr D Turner, Mr A Walpole, Mr S West, Mrs C Wild, Mr B Williams, Mr L Winwood, Mr M Wood, Mrs T Woodward and Mr P Wynn.

AGAINST (20): Mr A Bannerman, Mr A Boddington, Mr V Bushell, Mr L Chapman, Mrs P Dee, Mr D Evans, Mr R Evans, Mrs H Fraser, Mr N Hartin, Dr J Jones, Mr J

Keeley, Mr M Kenny, Mr D Kerr, Mrs J Mackenzie, Mr C Mellings, Mrs P Moseley, Mr A Mosley, Mr K Pardy, Mrs V Parry and Mr J Tandy.

NO ABSTENTIONS.

It was therefore agreed by the majority, to take no further action in respect of this petition.

Public Questions

The Speaker advised that 6 public questions had been received in accordance with Procedure rule 15 (a copy of the report containing each question and the formal responses was circulated at the meeting and a copy is attached to the signed minutes).

- i) Received from Mr P Holden in respect of increasing Council Tax to pay for the increasing costs of providing adult social care.
There was no supplementary question.
- ii) Received from Mrs E Bullard in respect of introducing a 20mph speed limit in all residential areas across the county.

By way of a supplementary question Mrs Bullard asked the Portfolio Holder if he would reconsider for the following reasons:

- The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, in a recent report on "The State of Child Health", recommends that "all local authorities should introduce 20mph speed limits in built up areas to create safer environments for children to work, cycle and play". This would reduce child deaths from vehicles and air pollution, and also illnesses related to physical inactivity.
- Current Shropshire Council policy is to consider specific road safety issues individually. This is not an effective policy for considering a reduction in the default speed limit as the safety benefits of reducing to a 20mph limit are relevant in all built up areas.
- Again, there is public support for the introduction of 20mph speed limits, including a petition in Oswestry with over 1000 signatures.

The Portfolio Holder undertook to look at this again after the meeting.

- iii) Received from Mr P Gilbert in respect of the lack of public consultation on the draft Shropshire Bus Strategy recently.

The Portfolio Holder apologised for this oversight, which had now been rectified. This was now a public document and was also available on the Council's website. He assured there had been no pre-determination and confirmed that the consultation exercise was underway.

- iv) Received from Mr J Dean in respect of the proposed re-development at The Barracks, Shrewsbury and the possible provision of additional school places within local primary schools.
There was no supplementary question.
- v) Received from Mr M Willmott regarding footpath access at Shrewsbury railway station from Abbey Foregate.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Willmott asked if in maintaining a dialogue with the rail stakeholders on this matter, shouldn't Shropshire Council insist on the obligation to open this access path as soon as possible?

The Portfolio Holder said he would continue to work towards this end.

- vi) Received from Mrs B Phillips (not Jones as printed) in respect of investment in a sustainable travel system for Shrewsbury, enabling a huge increase in walking, cycling and public transport.

By way of a supplementary question Mrs Phillips asked if the Council could increase its knowledge about numbers and the use of the public transport system in Shrewsbury by drawing up a business case.

The Portfolio Holder thanked Mrs Phillips for her question and said that all of those issues were contained within the Local Transport Plan and would of course be considered in any future decision-making.

82 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

It was proposed by Mrs K Calder, Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, and seconded by Mr L Chapman that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes be received.

Mrs Calder presented and amplified her report and responded to the questions, queries and concerns raised by Members, including Mr M Kenny, Mrs H Fraser, Mr A Mosley, Mrs J Mackenzie, Mrs V Parry, Mrs C Motley and Mr D Kerr.

In conclusion, she thanked officers for their hard work and continued commitment.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report of the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing be received.

83 REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULTS

It was proposed by Mr L Chapman, Portfolio Holder for Adults, and seconded by Mrs K Calder that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes be received.

Mr Chapman presented and amplified his report and responded to the questions, queries and concerns raised by Members, including Mr R Tindall, Mr M Kenny, Mr A Mosely, Mr M Price and Mrs J Mackenzie.

In conclusion, Mr Chapman thanked and congratulated staff on continuing to operate under very difficult circumstances.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report of the Portfolio Holder for Adults be received.

84 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2015/16

It was proposed by Mr G Dakin, Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, and seconded by Mr D Evans that the Annual Report 2015/16, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, be received and agreed.

Mr Dakin presented his report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes. He thanked all those who had been involved in the work of this Scrutiny Committee for their continued support.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the Annual Report of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee 2015/16 be received.

85 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

It was proposed by Mr M Pate, Leader and seconded by Mr N Laurens that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendation contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the current Members' Allowances Scheme, attached at Appendix 1 be approved.

86 FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017/18 - 2019/20

It was proposed by the Leader Mr M Pate and seconded by Mr M Wood that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Mr R Evans proposed an amendment on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, which he said was prudent, affordable and brought benefits. This was seconded by Mrs H Fraser (copy attached to the signed minutes). In brief, the amendment was as follows;

'Shropshire Schools' - It was proposed that the sum of £643,020 (currently to be deducted from the schools budget) be funded by diverting monies currently allocated to delivering the Digital Transformation programme. The financial impact

of this proposal would be to increase the borrowing requirement for the Digital Transformation programme by £643,020, thereby reducing the potential savings from this project by approximately £73,000 per annum.

Street Lighting – It was proposed that an additional sum of £2.2m per year for the life of this Financial Strategy be funded by internal borrowing to introduce an enhanced street lighting programme; accelerating the replacement of street lights with LED lights. A good example of ‘Invest to Save Policy’.

Sites of Community Concern - It was proposed to increase the budget for traffic calming measures identified by Parish Councils by £500,000 for year 2017/18 and that an additional capital spend of £500k be funded by re-prioritising the Highways and Transport LTP budget. The total budget was £21.19m.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was lost with the majority voting against.

Mr A Mosley, Mr R Evans and Mrs P Dee exercised their right as Group Leaders to speak to the budget proposition. After debate the Leader exercised his right to reply to the comments made on the Administration’s budget proposals as a whole.

On being put to a recorded vote the proposition was then carried with 42 Members voting in favour and 14 against as follows:

FOR (42)

Mr P Adams, Mr N Bardsley, Mrs J Barrow, Mr T Biggins, Mr G Butler, Mrs K Calder, Mr D Carroll, Mr L Chapman, Mr S Charmley, Mr P Cherrington, Mr G Dakin, Mr A Davies, Mrs P Dee, Mr D Evans, Mr J Everall, Mrs A Hartley, Mr V Hunt, Mr J Hurst-Knight, Mr S Jones, Mr N Laurens, Mr C Lea, Mr D Lloyd, Mr R Macey, Mr D Minnery, Mrs C Motley, Mrs P Mullock, Mr W Parr, Mr M Pate, Mr J Price, Mr M Price, Mr K Roberts, Mrs M Shingleton, Mr R Tindall, Mr D Turner, Mr A Walpole, Mr S West, Mrs C Wild, Mr B Williams, Mr L Winwood, Mr M Wood, Mrs T Woodward and Mr P Wynn.

AGAINST (14)

Mr A Bannerman, Mr V Bushell, Mr R Evans, Mrs H Fraser, Mr N Hartin, Mr J Keeley, Mr M Kenny, Mr D Kerr, Mrs H Kidd, Mr C Mellings, Mrs P Moseley, Mr A Mosley, Mr K Pardy and Mrs V Parry.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the 2017/18 budget of £563.350m including the savings proposals previously approved by Council and the revised proposals to deliver a balanced budget in 2017/18 as outlined in Appendix 3 be approved.
- b) That the changes required to the 2016/17 budget as a result of the Local Government Settlement and the revised business rates and collection fund estimates be noted.

- c) That the changes required to future years budgets as a result of the Local Government Settlement be noted.
- d) That the revised funding gap for the years 2018/19 and 2019/20 be noted.
- e) That the revised Capital Programme as set out in the report be approved.
- f) That the Policy for Flexibility around the use of Capital Receipts as set out in Appendix 7 be approved.
- g) That the Statement of Chief Financial Officer on the Robustness of the Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves 2016-20 as set out in Appendix 8, noting the Council's general fund balance over this period be approved.
- h) That the Pay and Rewards Policy for all Council staff for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix 9 be approved.

Council adjourned at 1.40 pm and reconvened at 2.10 pm.

87 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2017/18

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr M Pate, and seconded by Mr S Charmley, that the report of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

On being put to a recorded vote the proposition was carried with 43 Members voting in favour, 1 against and no abstentions as follows:

FOR (43)

Mr P Adams, Mrs J Barrow, Mr T Biggins, Mr V Bushell, Mr G Butler, Mrs K Calder, Mr D Carroll, Mr L Chapman, Mr S Charmley, Mr P Cherrington, Mr G Dakin, Mrs P Dee, Mr D Evans, Mr R Evans, Mrs H Fraser, Mrs A Hartley, Mr J Hurst-Knight, Mr S Jones, Mr M Kenny, Mr N Laurens, Mr D Lloyd, Mr R Macey, Mr C Mellings, Mrs P Moseley, Mrs C Motley, Mrs P Mullock, Mr K Pardy, Mr W Parr, Mr M Pate, Mr J Price, Mr M Price, Mr K Roberts, Mrs M Shingleton, Mr R Tindall, Mr D Turner, Mr A Walpole, Mr S West, Mrs C Wild, Mr B Williams, Mr L Winwood, Mr M Wood, Mrs T Woodward and Mr P Wynn.

AGAINST (1)

Mr D Kerr

RESOLVED:

- i. That a 3.99% Council Tax rise be approved, resulting in a basic amount of council tax for a Band D property of £1,259.51 in the billing authority's area, calculated in

accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (section 44) and the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Further Financial Provisions and Amendment) Regulations 2008.

- ii. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 40 (2) of the 1992 Act, the amount of Council Tax calculated for each category of dwelling in the billing authority's area be approved as follows:

Property Band	2017/18 Charge £
A	839.68
B	979.62
C	1,119.57
D	1,259.51
E	1,539.40
F	1,819.29
G	2,099.19
H	2,519.02

- iii. That a total precept of £134,220,817 be approved and duly levied.
- iv. That the formal council tax resolution as set out in Appendix 1 to determine the levels of Council Tax for Shropshire Council for 2017/18 be approved.

88 INCOME REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2017/18

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr M Pate and seconded by Mr K Roberts that the report of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

Mr Bannerman requested that the introduction of a Cultural Strategy be considered in the future, which the Leader took on board, saying he would ask the Portfolio Holder to look at this.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the breakdown of the total income for 2016/17 and 2017/18 be noted and in particular that the proposed 2017/18 charges for discretionary services represent only £33.413m of the £73.446m of income derived from Fees and Charges.

- b) That the charges for 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix 3 to be implemented 1 April 2017, be approved, recognising that managers have proposed varying policies for 2017/18.
- c) That it be noted that as previously agreed, any changes to fees and charges proposed by Shropshire Community Leisure Trust Ltd. in relation to the outsourced leisure facilities will only be referred to cabinet and council for approval if the proposed increases exceed Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding November.
- d) Subject to restrictions or exemptions identified in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill Council agreed that:
 - i. Social Housing rents for 2017/18 be reduced by 1% from 3rd April 2017.
 - ii. Affordable rents for 2017/18 be reduced by 1% from 3rd April 2017.
 - iii. Shared Ownership rents continue to be set at 2.75% of the outstanding capital value of the home at the time of sale and thereafter increased each April by the greater of the preceding September Consumer Price Index plus 1% or 1%.
 - iv. Service charges continue to be set on the basis of actual cost.

89 SOCIAL VALUE CHARTER FOR SHROPSHIRE

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support, Mr M Wood, and seconded by Mr L Chapman, that the report of the Director of Place and Enterprise, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

On being put to the vote this was duly agreed by the majority.

RESOLVED: That the Social Value Charter for Shropshire as recommended by Cabinet and as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.

90 AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION - GOVERNANCE OF STAR HOUSING THROUGH THE ASSET ASSURANCE BOARD

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment, Mr M Price, and seconded by Mr D Turner, that the report of the Director of Adult Services, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

The Portfolio Holder placed on record his thanks to Mr T Barker for chairing the Housing Governance Board

On being put to the vote this was duly agreed by the majority.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the changes to Part 3 (Responsibility for function – p44) of the Constitution be approved by Council, reflecting that the Housing Governance Board, set up to deliver the appropriate governance, has now changed its name to that of the Asset Assurance Board.
- b) That the changes to Part 3 (Responsibility for function – p44) of the Constitution be approved by Council, reflecting that the Housing Governance Board's overarching advisory role, to inform Cabinet/Council on developing and discharging the Council's Housing Strategy, will be transferred to the existing Social Housing Forum in recognition of the Asset Assurance Board's more business focussed approach.

91 MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Mr N Bardsley and duly seconded by Mr D Carroll:

"This Council is pleased to note that the first steps towards the construction of the North West Relief Road have been taken with the award of nearly £1million towards developing the Business Case for the new road - the publication of firm plans for the Oxon Link Road where work is due to start in 2019.

Once completed the North West Relief Road and Oxon Link Road will provide a strategic road link from the Churncote roundabout on the A5 to Battlefield bypassing the town centre completely.

The Council believes that the new roads will not only provide a much needed stimulus for the economic development of Shropshire as a whole, but will also relieve Shrewsbury and villages in rural communities North of the town of through traffic which currently causes so much congestion, pollution and danger to school children and other local residents.

The Council congratulates Portfolio Holders and Officers on recent success in developing plans for the new roads and urges that, working with the LEP, local MPs and Ministers, every effort should be made to bring forward the construction of the North West Relief Road and looks forward to further reports of progress in coming months."

After some debate and on being put to the vote, the amended motion was carried with a large majority of members voting in favour (and 4 abstentions).

92 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The Speaker advised that the following six questions from Members had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15 (a copy of the report containing the detailed questions and their formal responses is attached to the signed minutes).

- (i) Received from Mr D Kerr and answered by Mr M Price, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment regarding profits made by Bromford Housing Association.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Kerr asked if consideration could be given to Shropshire Council acting as an Enabler?

Mr Price asked Mr Kerr to discuss this with him after the meeting.

- (ii) Received from Mr D Kerr and answered by the Leader, Mr M Pate regarding Council Tax increases.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Kerr asked if with hindsight it had been wrong for Shropshire Council not to increase council tax over the last 10 years.

In response Mr Pate said he could not confirm either way.

- (iii) Received from Mr D Carroll and answered by Mr S West, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure regarding the recent Archive Accreditation Award for Shropshire Archives.

There was no supplementary question.

- (iv) Received from Mrs P Moseley and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Adults, Mr L Chapman, regarding levels of adult social care today and in the future and requesting that efforts be made to reduce unnecessary time in hospital before patients were discharged.

A detailed supplementary question was asked by Mrs Moseley. The Portfolio Holder was keen to answer this and asked Mrs Moseley to see him after the meeting to discuss.

- (v) Received from Mr R Evans and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, Mr S West regarding how Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) monies had been spent and the latest position regarding libraries in Shropshire.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Evans said that he understood there was a TCA balance of £160,000. Where would this be spent please?

In response Mr West said he would provide a written response.

- (vi) Received from Mr R Evans and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transportation, Mr S Jones, regarding 20 mph zones outside schools in Shropshire.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Evans asked if any of the 18 requests for a 20 mph speed limit outside their school, how many were still outstanding.

In response Mr Jones confirmed the current position regarding Shropshire Council schools; 5 were in progress, 1 was a traffic calming issue, 3 required more detail. In total 12 had not scored highly and remained to be reconsidered in subsequent years.

93 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and Paragraph 10.4(3) of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item.

94 SHREWSBURY BUSINESS PARK, PHASE THREE - EXEMPT ITEM

The Council received an exempt report by the Strategic Asset Manager, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, the proposed disposal of land identified for Phase 3 of the Shrewsbury Business Park.

RESOLVED: That the exempt report and recommendations contained therein be approved.

95 LAND AT WELSHPOOL ROAD, BICTON - EXEMPT ITEM

The Council received an exempt report by the Strategic Asset Manager, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, on the proposed disposal of land at Welshpool Road, Bicton Heath.

RESOLVED: That the exempt report and recommendation contained therein be approved.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: