

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2013

Present: Councillors Peter Tyson (Mayor); David Banks; Geoffrey Blackwell; John Bowman; Jackie Bowman; Hugh Branney; Yvonne Clarkson; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Brian Dixon; Eileen Eastwood; Anne Faichney; Geoffrey Garrity; Phil Greatorex; Stephen Haraldsen; Reg Heathcote; Ian Hill; Keith Hitchen; Lena Hogg; Allan Holliday; Joan Hully; John Jackson; Alan Jacob; Michael McVeigh; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Sam Pollen; David Riley; Robert Salkeld; Gilbert Scurrah; Dave Smith William Southward; Peter Stephenson; Graham Sunderland; Gillian Troughton; Jeanette Williams; Doug Wilson; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman; Elaine Woodburn; Henry Wormstrup

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Karl Connor; Margarita Docherty; Jon Downie; John Fallows; Fred Gleaves; John Kane; Peter Kane; Jack Park; Paul Whalley

C 83 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2013 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C 84 Declarations of Interests

Councillors Peter Tyson; David Banks; Geoffrey Blackwell; John Bowman; Jackie Bowman; Hugh Branney; Yvonne Clarkson; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Brian Dixon; Eileen Eastwood; Anne Faichney; Geoffrey Garrity; Stephen Haraldsen; Reg Heathcote; Ian Hill; Keith Hitchen; Lena Hogg; Allan Holliday; Joan Hully; John Jackson; Alan Jacob; Michael McVeigh; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Sam Pollen; David Riley; Robert Salkeld; Gilbert Scurrah; Dave Smith William Southward; Peter Stephenson; Graham Sunderland; Gillian Troughton; Jeanette Williams; Doug Wilson; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman; Elaine Woodburn; Henry Wormstrup declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Item 9 - Council Tax 2013. It was noted that a dispensation had been granted which enabled Members to participate and vote on this item.

Councillor Yvonne Clarkson declared a non Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 8 – Budget proposals 2013/14 due to being a trustee in a company which involved in the Whitehaven townscape initiative and left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillor Graham Sunderland declared a non Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 8 (Fees and Charges) and left the meeting during their consideration.

Councillor Carole Woodman declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Item 8 - Budget Proposals due to being in receipt of small business rates relief and Agenda Item 10 – Grants Review

C 85 Mayor's Announcements

Prior to the consideration of item on the main agenda the Mayor informed Members of the Communication Manager's recent cycling accident and wished him a speedy recovery from all Members and Officers of the Council.

The Mayor indicated that he had agreed to take Agenda Items 6 – 11 on grounds of urgency.

C 86 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public

C 87 Corporate Plan 2013/15

Consideration was given to the Council's Corporate Plan which sets out the Council's new strategic direction for 2013-15.

- RESOLVED** – That a) the Corporate Plan 2013-15 be agreed;
- b) the Corporate Policy Framework including those policies which will (A) Retained; (B) Introduced in 2013/14; (C) Deleted be agreed; and
- c) it be agreed that the Executive review the Corporate Plan in line with corporate policy framework and make any minor amendments as necessary.

C 88 The Role of the Council in 2015 – Service Change Options

Consideration was given to a report setting out service change options for the Role of the Council in 2015.

In moving the report and recommendations the Leader of the Council further moved that: -

- a) the number of Members on the Executive be reduced by 1 giving a saving of £6178.65;
- b) mileage rates for Members be reduced to that of the staff level;
- c) the £900 allocated for the now disbanded Standards Committee be removed from the members allowance budget;
- d) the unclaimed executive allowance of £6178.65 be removed from the members allowance budget;
- e) payments for members broadband connection be ceased;

The Independent Remuneration Panel's views be sought on:-

- f) the payment of £1184.51 to the Deputy Leader of the Main Opposition Group be ceased;
- g) payments of £ £3006.84 to the two Overview and Scrutiny Chairs be ceased;
- h) the payment of £3673.95 to the Planning Panel Chair be ceased
- i) the Mayors Allowance be reduced to £2000;

- j) the Deputy Mayors Allowance be reduced to £500; and
- k) subject to approval of all savings identified in a) – j) above, £20,000 of the savings identified be given to the Citizens Advice Bureau to assist in their additional work load following the provisions in the Welfare Reform Act.

this was duly seconded and it was:-

RESOLVED – That

1. the potential impact of the proposed policy decisions and the mitigating actions as set out within Table 1 together with the Equality Impact Assessment as set out in Appendix B of the report be noted; and
2. the policy decisions set out within the report for which the Executive will implement be approved;
3. the number of Members on the Executive be reduced by 1 giving a saving of £6178.65;
4. mileage rates be reduced to that of the staff level;
5. the £900 allocated for the now disbanded Standards Committee be removed from the members allowance budget;
6. the unclaimed executive allowance of £6178.65 be removed from the members allowance budget;
7. payments for members broadband connection be ceased;

Subject to consultation with the Independent Remuneration Panel: -

8. the payment of £1184.51 to the Deputy Leader of the Main Opposition Group be ceased;
9. payments of £ £3006.84 to the two Overview and Scrutiny Chairs be ceased;
10. the payment of £3673.95 to the Planning Panel Chair be ceased;
11. the Mayors Allowance be reduced to £2000; and
12. the Deputy Mayors Allowance be reduced to £500; and
13. subject to the approval of 3 – 12 above £20,000 of the savings identified be given to the Citizens Advice Bureau to assist in their additional work load following the provisions of the Welfare Reform Act.

C 89 Budget Proposals 2013/14

Consideration was given to a report summarising recommended Budget proposals for 2013/14 including Revenue and Reserves, Capital and Treasury Management Strategy.

RESOLVED - That

1. with regard to the Revenue Budget 2013/14:

- (i) the proposals for increases in Fees and Charges set out in Appendix 1D of the report be approved;
- (ii) the savings proposals for 2013/14 of £1.76m set out in Appendix 1E be approved, which seeks to balance the Council's budget and address the 2013/14 projected budget shortfall be approved;
- (iii) the use of Earmarked Reserves, as set out in Para 2.6 (iii) and detailed in Appendix 1G of the report, which includes the release of £132k for specific projects be approved;
- (iv) the impact of the proposals on General Reserves as set out in Para 2.6 (iii) and detailed in Appendix 1F of the report which includes a contribution to Reserves of £30k be approved;
- (v) the increase in Council Tax of 1.9% for 2013/14 set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report, with the implication that the Council will not accept the Council Tax freeze grant of 1% from Government be approved;
- (vi) the decisions on the National Non Domestic Rate return, the calculation of the Collection Fund surplus and the calculation of the Council Tax Base as set out in Appendix 1A, B and C remain delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer be approved; and

As a result of (i) – (vi) above being approved

- a) A Copeland Borough Council Net Revenue Budget requirement of £9.986m comprising net expenditure on Services of £10.088m with net contributions from Reserves of £102k (£132k earmarked offset by £30k contribution to unallocated reserves) as set out in Para 2.5, Table 3 of the report be approved;
- b) A combined Net Budget Requirement (inclusive of Parish Precepts of £454) of £10,440m be approved.

2. with regard to Capital Programme 2013/14:

- (i) the Capital Programme for 2013/14 at £1,599,524 and future years at £865,000 for 2014/15 and £600,000 for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 2A and summarised in Para 3.1(i) of the report be approved: This be subject to a further appraisal of the schemes set out in Para 3.1 (ii) of the report, via a PID / Project Brief as appropriate being presented and formally approved by the Executive prior to the commencement of any project be approved in principle;
- (ii) the funding of the proposed programme as summarised in Para 3.2, subject to an annual review by the Head of Corporate Resources during the preparation of the annual Statement of Accounts to optimise the use of Council Resources be approved; and

3. with regard to Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14

- (i) the Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14 to 2015/16, incorporating the Annual Investment Strategy 2013/14 and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2013/14 as set out in Appendix 3 be approved.

C 90 Council Tax 2013/14

Consideration was given to a report setting out the formal calculation for the setting of the Council Tax for 2013/14.

It was noted that the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioners tax requirements had not been received and under these circumstances the setting of the Council Tax could be delegated to a committee established specifically for this purpose under section 67(3) of the Local Government & Finance Act 1992.

RESOLVED – That a) the Council Tax requirements for its own purpose and the precepts notified by the parishes and Cumbria County Council be noted;

b) it be noted that the Council Tax requirements from the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioners have not yet been received; and

c) the Leader of the Council; Leader of the Opposition Group, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Asset Management or their nominees be appointed as a committee under section 67(3) of the Local Government Act 1992 to set the final level of Council Tax for the year under chapter 111 of the 1992 Act in accordance with the draft figures detail in appendix A of the report, which will be finalised once the Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner precepts have been received.

C 91 Grants Review – Summary of Consultation Responses on Grant Review and Recommendations for Future Grant Fund

Consideration was given to a report setting out proposed new principles and arrangements for Copeland Borough Council grant funding. The report summarised the feedback received as a result of the Council's consultation "Grant Review 2012 Proposals" and proposed new arrangements for future grant funding. It would contribute to the Council's overall transformation programme, in particular the delivery of proposed new strategic priorities and policy framework.

RESOLVED – That a) the principles and operational policies set out in 2.2 and section 4 of the report be approved;

b) implementation on a case by case basis be delegated to the Director of Services in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder, including exercise of discretion available within the principles set out in Recommendation 1 above; and

c) the changes be effective from 01 April 2013.

C 92 Nuclear Issues

Consideration was given to a way forward following the decision of Cumbria County Council not to proceed to stage 4 of the MRWS process. Both the leaders of Copeland and Allerdale have established contact with the ministerial team at DECC and sought to engage in dialogue at a ministerial level in order consideration a way forward in the context of the outstanding issues.

RESOLVED - That a) the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council be delegated authority to continue dialogue with relevant Ministers and Government departments and other stakeholders over the long term provisions for the handling and storage of legacy

waste and potential new waste streams. Discussion should have particular regard to the willingness of Copeland to continue to be party to appropriate investigations and discussions relating to the need for a long term disposal solution to higher activity nuclear wastes; the scale and nature of waste which is already stored in West Cumbria and the need to continue to ensure that the area secures maximum social and economic benefit from its historic and developing relationships with the energy sector and the nuclear industry; and

b) a clear reporting process be agreed through the Executive and to Council in order to ensure all Members are kept informed and to support consideration of the need for wider consultation and community engagement.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Mayor