

3 DECEMBER 2014

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Wednesday, 3 December 2014.

- p Cllr B Rickman (Chairman)
- p Cllr E J Heron (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

- p Mrs D M Brooks
- p Mrs J L Cleary

Councillors:

- p F P Vickers
- p C A Wise

In Attendance:

Councillors:

Mrs D Andrews
G C Beck
Mrs S Bennison
S Clarke
A T Glass
M R Harris
C J Harrison

Councillors:

Mrs M E Lewis
J Penwarden
A W Rice
M Southgate
Mrs C Ward
R A Wappet

Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, G Bettle, A Colenutt, S Cook, Miss J Debnam, M Devine, C Elliott, A Groom, A Herring, Miss G O'Rourke and Mrs K Williams

Also In Attendance:

Ms D Wyatt – Public Participant (for Minute 40)

37. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2014 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item.

39. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

40. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTIONS AND DISCOUNTS 2015/16 (REPORT A).

The Cabinet was addressed by Ms Wyatt who considered that the Council was making insufficient efforts to help poor people in the District.

The Cabinet considered the operation of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme in the light of performance over the last year. The Cabinet was satisfied that the current scheme was meeting the Council's objectives. They were pleased to note the Council's excellent performance in collecting Council Tax, which suggested that the correct balance had been achieved.

RESOLVED:

That, in so far as it is empowered to do so by law, the Cabinet agrees that:

- (a) No changes shall be made to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Discounts for 2015/16 and that the policies be reviewed again in the autumn of 2015; and
- (b) That the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 shall be as shown in Appendix 1 to Report A to the Cabinet.

RECOMMENDED

That, in so far as it is empowered to do so by law, the Council agrees that:

- (a) No changes shall be made to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Discounts for 2015/16 and that the policies be reviewed again in the autumn of 2015; and*
- (b) The Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 shall be as shown in Appendix 1 to Report A to the Cabinet.*

41. THE COUNCIL TAX 2015/16 – SETTING THE TAX BASE (REPORT B).

The Cabinet considered the Tax Base for 2015/16, which was an important step in setting the Council Tax payable for that period. The factors taken into account in the calculation of the tax base were set out in Report B to the Cabinet and a summary of the tax base in 2015/16 compared to 2014/15 was attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

RESOLVED:

That, in so far as it is empowered to do so by law, the Cabinet agrees that:

- (a) The calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2015/16 be approved; and

- (b) Pursuant to this report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by this Council as its council tax base for the year 2015/16 be as follows and as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet:

PARISH/TOWN	TAX BASE 15/16
Ashurst & Colbury	916.6
Beaulieu	512.1
Boldre	1040.9
Bramshaw	346.1
Bransgore	1792.3
Breamore	177.2
Brockenhurst	1855.1
Burley	776.4
Copythorne	1191.9
Damerham	224.1
Denny Lodge	152.1
East Boldre	382.2
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	594.5
Exbury & Lepe	111.3
Fawley	4477.4
Fordingbridge	2225.8
Godshill	224.4
Hale	258.6
Hordle	2361.8
Hyde	516.7
Hythe & Dibden	7286.1
Lymington & Pennington	6874.6
Lyndhurst	1399.4
Marchwood	2051.2
Martin	192.2
Milford on Sea	2787.7
Minstead	357.6
Netley Marsh	807
New Milton	10233
Ringwood	5096.7
Rockbourne	162.2
Sandleheath	272.9
Sopley	288.4
Sway	1667.5
Totton & Eling	9231
Whitsbury	96.6
Woodgreen	252.4
Whole District	69194

RECOMMENDED:

That, in so far as it is empowered to do so by law, the Council agrees that:

- (a) ***The calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2015/16 be approved; and***
- (b) ***Pursuant to this report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by this Council as its council tax base for the year***

2015/16 be as follows and as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet:

PARISH/TOWN	TAX BASE 15/16
<i>Ashurst & Colbury</i>	<i>916.6</i>
<i>Beaulieu</i>	<i>512.1</i>
<i>Boldre</i>	<i>1040.9</i>
<i>Bramshaw</i>	<i>346.1</i>
<i>Bransgore</i>	<i>1792.3</i>
<i>Breamore</i>	<i>177.2</i>
<i>Brockenhurst</i>	<i>1855.1</i>
<i>Burley</i>	<i>776.4</i>
<i>Copythorne</i>	<i>1191.9</i>
<i>Damerham</i>	<i>224.1</i>
<i>Denny Lodge</i>	<i>152.1</i>
<i>East Boldre</i>	<i>382.2</i>
<i>Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley</i>	<i>594.5</i>
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<i>Hythe & Dibden</i>	<i>7286.1</i>
<i>Lymington & Pennington</i>	<i>6874.6</i>
<i>Lyndhurst</i>	<i>1399.4</i>
<i>Marchwood</i>	<i>2051.2</i>
<i>Martin</i>	<i>192.2</i>
<i>Milford on Sea</i>	<i>2787.7</i>
<i>Minstead</i>	<i>357.6</i>
<i>Netley Marsh</i>	<i>807</i>
<i>New Milton</i>	<i>10233</i>
<i>Ringwood</i>	<i>5096.7</i>
<i>Rockbourne</i>	<i>162.2</i>
<i>Sandleheath</i>	<i>272.9</i>
<i>Sopley</i>	<i>288.4</i>
<i>Sway</i>	<i>1667.5</i>
<i>Totton & Eling</i>	<i>9231</i>
<i>Whitsbury</i>	<i>96.6</i>
<i>Woodgreen</i>	<i>252.4</i>
<i>Whole District</i>	<i>69194</i>

42. PHASE II OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF REGIONAL COASTAL MONITORING PROGRAMMES (2016/17 – 2021/22) (REPORT C).

The Cabinet was advised that this Council was currently the lead authority for the Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme, operating from the Channel Coastal Observatory at the Southampton Oceanography Institute. There was also considerable voluntary cooperation between Regions, with the other 5 Regions having adopted the model established in this area as best practice. In consequence, this Council's team had developed a considerable body of expertise and was frequently expected to take a leading role in nationally based initiatives.

This authority took responsibility for the financial control of the south east regional programme. The way in which the regional partnerships had been established however meant that this Council was not exposed to any direct financial risk should the funding arrangements be terminated. All the costs associated with the delivery of the programme were covered by dedicated programme budgets that attracted 100% grant aid. The Council would be in a position to wind up any outstanding contractual obligations within the funding period.

An application was being prepared to cover the period April 2016 to March 2022. To this end, a Strategy Appraisal Report was being prepared by this Council on behalf of the lead partners for the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes. The anticipated date for the submission of the report was January 2015. The proposal continued the current funding model, with 100% of costs covered by grants. It was anticipated that no additional staff would be required. The current estimated cost of the national monitoring programme for that period was in the order of £28 million. The financial responsibility for the delivery of the Southeast Regional Monitoring Programme along with the management and co-ordination of the National network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes was £10 million.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the continued integration of the Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme into the National Network of Regional Monitoring Programmes be approved in principle;
- (b) That it be approved in principle that New Forest District Council continue to act as the Lead Coordinating Authority in the development and management of Phase II of the National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes; and
- (c) That it be approved in principle that New Forest District Council continue to act as the Lead Authority in the application to the Environment Agency for funding of Phase II of the National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes.

Action: Steve Cook and Andrew Colenutt

43. HORDLE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT – ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (REPORT D).

The Cabinet considered the Village Design Statement for Hordle, which covered the settlements of Hordle, Tiptoe and Everton. The Village Design Statement provided design guidance that would consequently help to improve the built environment in those settlements. It supplemented Policy CS2: Design Quality of the adopted Core Strategy for the District.

As part of the area covered by the Village Design Statement fell within the New Forest National Park, the Park Authority would also need to adopt the document for use in its area. Consultation had taken place in respect of the draft document in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. A Statement of Consultation was attached as Appendix 3 to Report D.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Hordle Village Design Statement, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report D to the Cabinet, be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document to Policy CS2 (Design Quality) in the adopted Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1); and
- (b) That the community views expressed in the recommendation sections of the Supplementary Planning Document be noted.

Action: Andrew Herring

44. UNIT 8 HARDLEY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE – DEMOLITION (REPORT E).

The Cabinet was advised that this building was currently vacant. Marketing exercises had demonstrated that the building was no longer fit for purpose and that the majority of interest was for a clean site with potential to build.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council approve a Supplementary Budget of £165,000 for the cost of the demolition of Unit 8 Hardley Industrial Estate.

45. RUM WALK PATH, TOTTON (REPORT F).

The Cabinet was advised that, in the severe weather last winter, a substantial part of the bank supporting the footpath alongside Bartley Water had collapsed. The restoration of the bank and the footpath, in addition to securing adjacent residential properties from the effects of further collapse, would restore public access to a well-used and popular footpath link. Bartley Water Linear Park had been identified as a key mitigation project to assist in protecting European nature conservation sites from the effects of the recreational needs of the residents of new development in the area.

RESOLVED:

That the undertaking of works to the footpath at Rum Walk, Totton, as set out in Report F to the Cabinet, be approved.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council approve a Supplementary Budget of £95,000 (£15,000 in 14/15 and £80,000 in 15/16) in order to undertake works to the footpath at Rum Walk, Totton as stated in the report.

46. SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY AND NEW FOREST BASICS BANK

The Leader reminded all Members that Small Business Saturday, to promote small businesses throughout the District, would be held on 6 December and would be launched in Lymington, which was the Brand New Forest town for 2015.

Cllr Lewis thanked all members and officers for their continuing support for the New Forest Basics Bank, with a Christmas collection once again being held in the Council's offices.

CHAIRMAN

(CB011214)