

24 FEBRUARY 2014

## NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 24 February 2014.

- p Cllr Ms L C Ford – Chairman
- p Cllr Mrs M D Holding – Vice-Chairman

### Councillors:

- p A R Alvey
- ap Mrs D E Andrews
- p G C Beck
- p Mrs S V Beeton
- p Ms R Bellows
- p Mrs S M Bennison
- p J E Binns
- ap D A Britton
- p Mrs D M Brooks
- p S J Clarke
- p Mrs J L Cleary
- p G F Dart
- p S P Davies
- p W H Dow
- p A T Glass
- ap M R Harris
- p C J Harrison
- p D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p J D Heron
- ap Miss A J Hickman
- ap Mrs A J Hoare
- Mrs P Jackman
- p M J Kendal
- p A N G Kilgour
- p C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs P J Lovelace
- p B D Lucas

### Councillors:

- p Mrs A E McEvoy
- p Mrs M McLean
- p A D O'Sullivan
- p N S Penman
- p J Penwarden
- p L R Puttock
- p A W Rice
- p B Rickman
- p W S Rippon-Swaine
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- p Mrs A M Rostand
- p D J Russell
- p R F Scrivens
- p Miss A Sevier
- p M D Southgate
- p A J Swain
- p M H Thierry
- p A R Tinsley
- p D B Tipp
- p F P Vickers
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p R A Wappet
- ap Mrs C V Ward
- p J G Ward
- p C A Wise
- p Mrs B M Woodifield
- p P R Woods
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

### Officers Attending:

D Yates, R Jackson, J Mascall, Miss G O'Rourke, Mrs R Rutins and Ms M Stephens.

### 45. MINUTES (PAPER A).

#### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2013 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Kendal disclosed an interest in Minute 49 (Report of Audit Committee dated 10 January 2014)

Cllrs Lagdon, M S Wade, S S Wade and Mrs Wyeth disclosed interests in Minute 49 (Report of General Purposes & Licensing Committee dated 10 February) and Minute 49 (Report of Cabinet dated 2 January, Item 1).

Cllrs Ms Bellows and Mrs McLean disclosed interests in Minute 49 (Report of Cabinet dated 5 February, Item 2).

All members of the Council had been granted dispensations to speak and to vote on Minute No. 52, the 2014/15 Council Tax.

**47. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Chairman reminded members of her up-coming charity fundraising events: -

- A coach trip to Bletchley Park on Friday 28 February.
- A boat trip to Hurst Castle on Sunday 23 March.
- A dinner at Rhinefield House Hotel on Thursday 1 May.

She was also hosting a reception for volunteers on Thursday 6 March.

**Storms over weekend 14/16 February**

The Chairman referred to the violent storms experienced in parts of the District over the weekend of 14/16 February and the Council's outstanding response. She expressed her thanks and admiration to Council employees and partner organisations for their magnificent efforts to help, both while the storms were in progress in some atrocious conditions, and in the clear-up afterwards.

**Retirement of Head of Housing, Dave Brown**

The Chairman referred to the recent retirement of Dave Brown, Head of Housing, after 24 years' service with the Council. Dave had made an outstanding contribution to the work of the authority over that time, and was very well-liked and respected by Councillors, fellow employees and Council tenants. On behalf of the Council the Chairman wished Dave a long and happy retirement and thanked him for his service to the Council.

**Budget Meeting**

Members would be setting the Council's budget for 2014/15 at the meeting. The Chairman reported that she intended to ask the Council to agree to suspend Standing Order 47.6 to allow the Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the Opposition Groups to exceed the time limit of five minutes on their speeches under Item 3 of the report of the Cabinet meeting on 5 February.

**48. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Leader of the Council announced that the Government had made new regulations that required principal authorities to amend their standing orders to provide that decisions relating to the budget at budget decision-making meetings be taken by recorded vote.

The regulations would come into force on 25 February 2014, and applied to substantive motions as well as to any amendments that might be proposed. The Government encouraged all councils which were setting their budgets in advance of the new regulations coming into force, to take their budget decisions by recorded vote.

The Leader of the Council supported this principle so that Council taxpayers could easily ascertain how each Councillor had voted on the tax residents would pay. Council officers would prepare appropriate amendments to the Council's Standing Orders to give effect to the new regulations.

Members agreed that recorded votes be taken.

**49. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND CABINET.****Report of Audit Committee**

Cllr Kendal disclosed an interest in this item as Executive Member for Hampshire County Council. He concluded that there were issues under common law that prevented him from remaining in the meeting to speak and to vote. He withdrew from the meeting for consideration and voting.

Cllr O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 10 January 2014.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations adopted.

**Report of General Purposes and Licensing Committee**

Cllr M S Wade disclosed a pecuniary interest in this item as his wife worked for the authority. Cllrs Lagdon, S S Wade and Mrs Wyeth disclosed non-pecuniary interests in this item as family members worked for the Authority. They did not speak or vote.

Cllr Beck, Chairman of the General Purposes & Licensing Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 10 January 2014.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendation adopted, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendation adopted.

## Reports of Cabinet

Cllrs Lagdon, M S Wade, S S Wade and Mrs Wyeth disclosed interests in item 1 of the Cabinet report dated 2 January 2014 (Workforce Strategy 2014-2016) as family members worked for the Authority. They concluded that there were no issues under common law that prevented them from remaining in the meeting to speak and to vote. There was no discussion on this item.

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the meetings held on 2 January and 5 February 2014.

### **2 January, Item 2 – Members’ Allowances 2014/15 – 2017/18**

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group referred to the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel to remove the special responsibility allowance for Shadow Portfolio Holders. The Group did not challenge the recommendation but suggested that the resulting savings be directed to the Totton Luncheon Clubs.

### **5 February, Item 1 – Car Parking Charges 2014**

A member said that he was pleased that the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transportation had decided not to increase charges for car parking and not to introduce charges for disabled drivers. He hoped that the latter proposal would never come before members again.

### **5 February, Item 2 – Housing Revenue Account Budget and Housing Capital Expenditure Programme**

Cllrs Ms Bellows and Mrs McLean disclosed pecuniary interests in this item on the grounds that they were Council tenants. They took no part in the discussion or voting.

Concern was expressed by a member that financially vulnerable tenants would face a rent increase of 5.73% at a time of changes to and reductions in housing benefit. Any decision to increase rents would place additional financial burdens on those already facing financial hardship. It was suggested that any decision to increase rents be delayed to allow some respite to those on low incomes.

Other members referred to the thorough research and consideration that had led to the recommendation, and tenants’ support for the proposed HRA budget.

### **5 February, Item 3 – The Medium Term Financial Plan 2013-2017 Budget & Council Tax 2014/2015**

The Chairman moved that Standing Order 47.6 be suspended to allow the Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the Opposition Groups to exceed the time limit for making their speeches. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Chairman ruled that in accordance with Standing Order 47.11 she would allow more than one amendment to be proposed and discussed.

The Leader of the Council made the statement on the Administration’s proposed budget attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

The Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder seconded the recommendation.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group then made a statement (attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes) and moved the following amendments: -

1. The Council will issue one free 3-hour car parking pass to every household in order to proactively encourage locals to shop locally, and that in order to ensure that the income matches the expenditure for car parking, there will be an appropriate increase in car park ticket machine prices.
2. Any parish or town council that wishes to continue with the ACSO scheme on its own behalf will receive an agreed amount of part funding from NFDC in order to enhance the safety and security in their own towns or parishes, with their own dedicated ACSOs.
3. That this council will pass on all of the transitional grant support that has been given to it by Government to pass on to town and parish councils to help mitigate any reduction in their tax base due to the local council tax support scheme.

Cllr D Harrison seconded the amendments.

Members discussed the Cabinet's budget proposals together with the amendments.

The Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder said that the Leader had worked hard to ensure that the Council had a balanced budget despite the fact that over the last four years there had been a drop in income of approximately £4 million. He felt that the amendments put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group were frivolous and would cost a considerable sum to implement. He supported the budget proposals put forward by the Leader of the Council.

The Leader of the UKIP Group said that the budget put forward by the Leader of the Council demonstrated a common-sense approach and was well thought out. He supported the proposals.

A number of members expressed the view that the amendments proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group were meaningless without being costed. Members should not be asked to vote on proposals without knowing the full financial implications. Mention was made of the work of the budget task and finish group which had met on numerous occasions to scrutinise the budget strategy across the portfolios and committees. That group had been impressed by the work undertaken by the individual Portfolio Holders and officers in arriving at a balanced budget.

Members supporting the Liberal Democrat Group's amendments were of the view that the Council should support issues that were important to local taxpayers.

The Liberal Democrat Group's amendments were put to the vote. In accordance with the decision taken under Minute No 48, a recorded vote was taken. The outcome of this was:

Members voting for:	6
Members voting against:	46
Abstentions	0

Details are shown in Appendix 3 to these minutes.

The motion was lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote. In accordance with the decision taken under Minute No 48, a recorded vote was taken. The outcome was:

Members voting for:	47
Members voting against:	3
Abstentions	2

Details are shown in Appendix 4 to these minutes.

The motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That the reports of the Cabinet dated 2 January and 5 February 2014 be received and the recommendations adopted.

**50. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.**

There were none.

**51. QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A.**

**Question:** from Cllr D Harrison to Cllr E J Heron, Environment Portfolio Holder

“On the 24 October 2011, Conservative Councillor Derek Tipp submitted a motion to Council, seconded by Conservative Councillor Allan Glass, on climate change. During the debate, Conservative Councillors supported the motion and indeed voted it through. It called on the Government, urging it not to make commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions further or faster than other major industrialised nations.

How many more extreme weather events, causing hardship to businesses and communities all around the country and a great deal of extra work for our staff, will it take to make your fellow Conservative Councillors think again about trying to influence government policy in the wrong direction?”

**Answer:**

The Portfolio Holder replied that he continued to support the previously expressed view, particularly when, in comparison to other countries, the UK's emissions were relatively low. The Government was continuing to make efforts to find alternative fuel sources and reduce the cost of fuel. These were important to residents in fuel poverty and those struggling financially.

**Question:** from Cllr M S Wade to Cllr Wise, Finance & Efficiency Portfolio Holder

“Please can you explain how 31 New Forest District Council Tenants wrongly suffered a reduction in Housing Benefit by being illegally hit with the bedroom tax by this authority?”

**Answer:**

The Portfolio Holder replied that as part of the Government's welfare reforms, from 1 April 2013, housing benefit was restricted to those tenants of social housing with a "spare" bedroom in their property. This policy was commonly known as "The Bedroom Tax".

The reductions were 14% if a tenant had one spare bedroom and 25% if there were two or more spare bedrooms.

A loophole in the regulations had come to light, this affected any claimant who had been in continuous receipt of housing benefit, at the same address, since 1 January 1996.

The DWP had notified all Local Authorities on 8 January 2014 that any claimant who satisfied those conditions should be exempt from the restrictions to their housing benefit from 1 April 2013.

The Council had identified 31 claimants who were entitled to the exemption. Letters were sent notifying tenants of the change to their housing benefit entitlement back to 1 April 2013, and that the exemption was only temporary.

On 12 February 2014 the DWP notified local authorities that the regulations had been amended and that the exemption would not apply from 3 March 2014. The Council had therefore once again applied the restrictions to housing benefit from 3 March 2014 and had notified all claimants. The Council had acted promptly and efficiently to deal with the matter.

Cllr M S Wade asked a supplementary question regarding the cost to the authority as a result of the loophole and whether any other cases had been identified. The Portfolio Holder explained that the costs were borne by the Government. The only cost to the Council was officer time which had not been significant.

**52. THE 2014/15 COUNCIL TAX (REPORT B).**

All members of the Council had been granted dispensations to speak and to vote on this matter.

The Council considered the Council Tax for 2014/15.

In accordance with the decision take under Minute No. 48, a recorded vote was taken. The outcome was:

Members voting for:	43
Members voting against:	0
Abstentions	6

Details are shown in Appendix 5 to these minutes.

With 43 members voting in favour of the motion and 6 abstaining, the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That it be noted that on 9 December 2013 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for the year 2014/15:
  - (a) for the whole Council area as 68,581.20 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in Appendix 3.
2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £10,682,210.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011: -
  - (a) £139,425,371 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
  - (b) £124,045,500 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £15,379,871 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Act).
  - (d) £224.26 being the amount at 3.3(c) above (Item R), all divided by the Council Tax Base, Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
  - (e) £4,697,661 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per Appendix 4).
  - (f) £155.76 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(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 specifically for the District Council. There are no non-parished areas.
  - (g)



LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	184.25
BEAULIEU	171.04
BOLDRE	174.23
BRAMSHAW	172.23
BRANSGORE	202.01
BREAMORE	177.49
BROCKENHURST	187.41
BURLEY	172.75
COPYTHORNE	168.06
DAMERHAM	191.96
DENNY LODGE	186.80
EAST BOLDRE	193.37
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	187.40
EXBURY & LEPE	196.49
FAWLEY	252.29
FORDINGBRIDGE	239.42
GODSHILL	202.74
HALE	188.12
HORDLE	195.79
HYDE	175.04
HYTHE & DIBDEN	237.16
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	250.19
LYNDHURST	202.95
MARCHWOOD	256.24
MARTIN	183.28
MILFORD-ON-SEA	189.28
MINSTEAD	181.33
NETLEY MARSH	170.39
NEW MILTON	206.69
RINGWOOD	243.78
ROCKBOURNE	229.39
SANDLEHEATH	174.44
SOPLEY	223.42
SWAY	185.79
TOTTON & ELING	265.94
WHITSBURY	177.04
WOODGREEN	181.57

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (h) These are the District plus Town/Parish Council elements only. See below and page 14 for the full amounts of Council Tax.

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	122.83	143.31	163.78	184.25	225.19	266.14	307.08	368.50
BEAULIEU	114.03	133.03	152.04	171.04	209.05	247.06	285.07	342.08
BOLDRE	116.15	135.51	154.87	174.23	212.95	251.67	290.38	348.46
BRAMSHAW	114.82	133.96	153.09	172.23	210.50	248.78	287.05	344.46
BRANSGORE	134.67	157.12	179.56	202.01	246.90	291.79	336.68	404.02
BREAMORE	118.33	138.05	157.77	177.49	216.93	256.37	295.82	354.98
BROCKENHURST	124.94	145.76	166.59	187.41	229.06	270.70	312.35	374.82
BURLEY	115.17	134.36	153.56	172.75	211.14	249.53	287.92	345.50
COPYTHORNE	112.04	130.71	149.39	168.06	205.41	242.75	280.10	336.12
DAMERHAM	127.97	149.30	170.63	191.96	234.62	277.28	319.93	383.92
DENNY LODGE	124.53	145.29	166.04	186.80	228.31	269.82	311.33	373.60
EAST BOLDRE	128.91	150.40	171.88	193.37	236.34	279.31	322.28	386.74
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	124.93	145.76	166.58	187.40	229.04	270.69	312.33	374.80
EXBURY & LEPE	130.99	152.83	174.66	196.49	240.15	283.82	327.48	392.98
FAWLEY	168.19	196.23	224.26	252.29	308.35	364.42	420.48	504.58
FORDINGBRIDGE	159.61	186.22	212.82	239.42	292.62	345.83	399.03	478.84
GODSHILL	135.16	157.69	180.21	202.74	247.79	292.85	337.90	405.48
HALE	125.41	146.32	167.22	188.12	229.92	271.73	313.53	376.24
HORDLE	130.53	152.28	174.04	195.79	239.30	282.81	326.32	391.58
HYDE	116.69	136.14	155.59	175.04	213.94	252.84	291.73	350.08
HYTHE & DIBDEN	158.11	184.46	210.81	237.16	289.86	342.56	395.27	474.32
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	166.79	194.59	222.39	250.19	305.79	361.39	416.98	500.38
LYNDHURST	135.30	157.85	180.40	202.95	248.05	293.15	338.25	405.90
MARCHWOOD	170.83	199.30	227.77	256.24	313.18	370.12	427.07	512.48
MARTIN	122.19	142.55	162.92	183.28	224.01	264.74	305.47	366.56
MILFORD-ON-SEA	126.19	147.22	168.25	189.28	231.34	273.40	315.47	378.56
MINSTEAD	120.89	141.03	161.18	181.33	221.63	261.92	302.22	362.66
NETLEY MARSH	113.59	132.53	151.46	170.39	208.25	246.12	283.98	340.78
NEW MILTON	137.79	160.76	183.72	206.69	252.62	298.55	344.48	413.38
RINGWOOD	162.52	189.61	216.69	243.78	297.95	352.13	406.30	487.56
ROCKBOURNE	152.93	178.41	203.90	229.39	280.37	331.34	382.32	458.78
SANDLEHEATH	116.29	135.68	155.06	174.44	213.20	251.97	290.73	348.88
SOPLEY	148.95	173.77	198.60	223.42	273.07	322.72	372.37	446.84
SWAY	123.86	144.50	165.15	185.79	227.08	268.36	309.65	371.58
TOTTON & ELING	177.29	206.84	236.39	265.94	325.04	384.14	443.23	531.88
WHITSBURY	118.03	137.70	157.37	177.04	216.38	255.72	295.07	354.08
WOODGREEN	121.05	141.22	161.40	181.57	221.92	262.27	302.62	363.14

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- That it be noted that Hampshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority have issued precepts for 2014/15 to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in below:

**PRECEPTING AUTHORITY**

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	691.92	807.24	922.56	1,037.88	1,268.52	1,499.16	1,729.80	2,075.76
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE AUTHORITY	102.84	119.98	137.12	154.26	188.54	222.82	257.10	308.52
HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY	40.92	47.74	54.56	61.38	75.02	88.66	102.30	122.76
	<u>835.68</u>	<u>974.96</u>	<u>1,114.24</u>	<u>1,253.52</u>	<u>1,532.08</u>	<u>1,810.64</u>	<u>2,089.20</u>	<u>2,507.04</u>

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown on the next page:-

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	958.51	1,118.27	1,278.02	1,437.77	1,757.27	2,076.78	2,396.28	2,875.54
BEAULIEU	949.71	1,107.99	1,266.28	1,424.56	1,741.13	2,057.70	2,374.27	2,849.12
BOLDRE	951.83	1,110.47	1,269.11	1,427.75	1,745.03	2,062.31	2,379.58	2,855.50
BRAMSHAW	950.50	1,108.92	1,267.33	1,425.75	1,742.58	2,059.42	2,376.25	2,851.50
BRANSGORE	970.35	1,132.08	1,293.80	1,455.53	1,778.98	2,102.43	2,425.88	2,911.06
BREAMORE	954.01	1,113.01	1,272.01	1,431.01	1,749.01	2,067.01	2,385.02	2,862.02
BROCKENHURST	960.62	1,120.72	1,280.83	1,440.93	1,761.14	2,081.34	2,401.55	2,881.86
BURLEY	950.85	1,109.32	1,267.80	1,426.27	1,743.22	2,060.17	2,377.12	2,852.54
COPYTHORNE	947.72	1,105.67	1,263.63	1,421.58	1,737.49	2,053.39	2,369.30	2,843.16
DAMERHAM	963.65	1,124.26	1,284.87	1,445.48	1,766.70	2,087.92	2,409.13	2,890.96
DENNY LODGE	960.21	1,120.25	1,280.28	1,440.32	1,760.39	2,080.46	2,400.53	2,880.64
EAST BOLDRE	964.59	1,125.36	1,286.12	1,446.89	1,768.42	2,089.95	2,411.48	2,893.78
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	960.61	1,120.72	1,280.82	1,440.92	1,761.12	2,081.33	2,401.53	2,881.84
EXBURY & LEPE	966.67	1,127.79	1,288.90	1,450.01	1,772.23	2,094.46	2,416.68	2,900.02
FAWLEY	1,003.87	1,171.19	1,338.50	1,505.81	1,840.43	2,175.06	2,509.68	3,011.62
FORDINGBRIDGE	995.29	1,161.18	1,327.06	1,492.94	1,824.70	2,156.47	2,488.23	2,985.88
GODSHILL	970.84	1,132.65	1,294.45	1,456.26	1,779.87	2,103.49	2,427.10	2,912.52
HALE	961.09	1,121.28	1,281.46	1,441.64	1,762.00	2,082.37	2,402.73	2,883.28
HORDLE	966.21	1,127.24	1,288.28	1,449.31	1,771.38	2,093.45	2,415.52	2,898.62
HYDE	952.37	1,111.10	1,269.83	1,428.56	1,746.02	2,063.48	2,380.93	2,857.12
HYTHE & DIBDEN	993.79	1,159.42	1,325.05	1,490.68	1,821.94	2,153.20	2,484.47	2,981.36
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	1,002.47	1,169.55	1,336.63	1,503.71	1,837.87	2,172.03	2,506.18	3,007.42
LYNDHURST	970.98	1,132.81	1,294.64	1,456.47	1,780.13	2,103.79	2,427.45	2,912.94
MARCHWOOD	1,006.51	1,174.26	1,342.01	1,509.76	1,845.26	2,180.76	2,516.27	3,019.52
MARTIN	957.87	1,117.51	1,277.16	1,436.80	1,756.09	2,075.38	2,394.67	2,873.60
MILFORD-ON-SEA	961.87	1,122.18	1,282.49	1,442.80	1,763.42	2,084.04	2,404.67	2,885.60
MINSTEAD	956.57	1,115.99	1,275.42	1,434.85	1,753.71	2,072.56	2,391.42	2,869.70
NETLEY MARSH	949.27	1,107.49	1,265.70	1,423.91	1,740.33	2,056.76	2,373.18	2,847.82
NEW MILTON	973.47	1,135.72	1,297.96	1,460.21	1,784.70	2,109.19	2,433.68	2,920.42
RINGWOOD	998.20	1,164.57	1,330.93	1,497.30	1,830.03	2,162.77	2,495.50	2,994.60
ROCKBOURNE	988.61	1,153.37	1,318.14	1,482.91	1,812.45	2,141.98	2,471.52	2,965.82
SANDLEHEATH	951.97	1,110.64	1,269.30	1,427.96	1,745.28	2,062.61	2,379.93	2,855.92
SOPLEY	984.63	1,148.73	1,312.84	1,476.94	1,805.15	2,133.36	2,461.57	2,953.88
SWAY	959.54	1,119.46	1,279.39	1,439.31	1,759.16	2,079.00	2,398.85	2,878.62
TOTTON & ELING	1,012.97	1,181.80	1,350.63	1,519.46	1,857.12	2,194.78	2,532.43	3,038.92
WHITSBURY	953.71	1,112.66	1,271.61	1,430.56	1,748.46	2,066.36	2,384.27	2,861.12
WOODGREEN	956.73	1,116.18	1,275.64	1,435.09	1,754.00	2,072.91	2,391.82	2,870.18

### 53. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS.

#### RESOLVED:

That Cllr J G Ward be appointed to the Audit Committee in place of Cllr Mrs Woodfield.

**54. DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS.**

**RESOLVED:**

That with effect from 24 February 2014 all powers previously delegated to the Head of Customer and Financial Services and to the Head of Housing be delegated to the Head of Housing and Customer Services.

CHAIRMAN

**Attachment:** Minute No. 49 Appendices 1 - 4  
Minute No. 52 Appendix 5

(CL240214)

Leader of the Council - BUDGET SPEECH 2014 – “Getting the job done”

My theme this year is “getting the job done”. After years of tough financial settlements and months of terrible weather, it would be easy to get depressed and start moaning. But that is not the New Forest way, and I remain confident about the prospects for the Council and our residents and businesses.

We’ve made major reductions in spending, we’ve reduced employee numbers and we’ve reviewed every area of activity but we have not reduced services. In fact, in many areas we’ve improved services or brought in fresh services and ideas. We continue to get the job done and deliver excellent services. And... this will be no surprise ... FOR THE FIFTH YEAR RUNNING, there will be no increase in Council Tax.

As usual, I do not propose to go into all the financial details. Under the leadership of Colin Wise and Bob Jackson, these have been well set out in a number of Cabinet reports leading up to today’s decisions. There have been no panics and no surprises. We continue to plan, not just for the year ahead, but for the next year as well. And while a tough draft settlement for 2015/16 follows that for 2014/15, we are already planning how to once again bridge the gap without penalising our residents by either reduced services or increased taxes.

I will draw attention to one issue. Last year Government changed the rules and devolved responsibility to local councils to fund Council Tax reduction schemes. Against our advice to Government, Towns and Parishes were financially disadvantaged by this. In the first year, grant was clearly given overall to compensate Towns and Parishes, this we passed on in full. We talked early and often with Towns and Parishes and agreed a transparent way forward that gives them a firm understanding of the grant to expect this year of £300,000 and what could be likely in future years. I know many share my belief that we have acted fairly and openly with this issue, and I am grateful for their co-operation.

Colin Wise has also overseen our drive to make the most of our assets, building on successes in Lymington and Ringwood, where the sale of our old offices have just been completed. A number of negotiations are underway, which will deliver funds to support our future financial strategy, and allow us to invest where necessary to maintain high quality building and equipment. We now have clear plans for capital investment over the next four years, with enough flexibility to fund investments where there is a clear business case.

And talking of investment, under the direction of Edward Heron and Colin Read, we have completed the roll out of our new household glass collection scheme funded by £1.8m of Government grant which we achieved. This offers an improved service to residents, environment benefits through additional glass collected and increased safety for our employees as glass is kept out of our other collections.

We have commented in the financial pages on the excellent income generation of our Health & Leisure Centres. Yet, as I said last year, it is not all about money and led by Di Brooks, Martin Devine and the Leisure officers, the use of the Health and Leisure Centres continues to rise with over six

million visits in the year. In doing so, we are reaching out across our communities with increases across many aspects of the service and I will give you some examples – 4,506 children enrolled on group swimming lessons (up 4.6%); 6,451 fitness direct members (up 7%) and particularly pleasing to me is that we now have 848 young people enrolled in Club 8-16 (up 32%). As well as these large numbers, we know that the Service continues to have a significant impact on individuals and improve the wellbeing of our residents.

Once again the New Forest and Hampshire County Show is an important part of the New Forest calendar and this year was no exception. Following her Majesty the Queen's visit in 2012 as part of her Jubilee Celebrations, it was wonderful for the people of the New Forest that the Show had Royal patronage again this year, with the visit of the Earl and Countess of Wessex. The Council's participation in the show was acknowledged by winning the prize of the best trade stand as well as a visit from the Earl of Wessex. The Show itself was again a great success as a wonderful celebration of the New Forest attended by almost 100,000 people, and I am pleased and proud that the Council played a full part.

My thanks go to Paul Vickers for his stewardship of the Planning and Transportation brief. Working with Chris Elliott and our excellent team, we are confident that we will have the first fully approved local plan of any local authority in Hampshire. Paul has also made the right decision to freeze parking charges and not introduce blue badge or any other charges. Paul has carefully considered the needs of our residents and our businesses in not increasing or introducing new car parking charges next year. This means our blue badge holders will be able to park for free and, together with our short stay clock, this continues to provide great value for money to all users.

Housing and especially Affordable Housing, remains a key priority. Under Jill Cleary, supported by Dave Brown and recently Glynne Miles, our Affordable Housing Strategy has begun to deliver. To 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 we have purchased 63 properties and are currently developing 4 houses which are under construction in Milford on Sea. We have increased our Private Sector Leasing properties to 112 units, reducing pressure on expensive use of B & B's. And through reviewing and re-classifying long term empty properties, we have attracted an additional £365K in New Homes Bonus.

Turning to my own economic portfolio, the big story of late has been the emergence of Local Enterprise Partnerships. We are now actively involved in both the Solent and Enterprise M3 Partnerships, and I am grateful for the interest shown by colleagues in the new Task and Finish Groups on this subject. Together, we must ensure we gain the maximum benefit for New Forest businesses and take every opportunity to improve the connectivity of our infrastructure, not least broadband, to support the increasing number of those working from home in our beautiful environment. We will continue to work with our partners NFBP, NFTA to help the increasing numbers of our residents who are contributing towards the regeneration of our economy in working from home.

With reference to Task and Finish Groups, can I thank members of all parties who have got involved with these and helped Cabinet and Council to deal with difficult issues on the basis of evidence and engagement rather than dogma and propaganda.

I have mentioned officers as well as Portfolio Holders in my thanks this year because I feel it is a hallmark of our approach that we work together. And I have again referred several times to partnerships which are also at the heart of our success.

I sometimes feel that during times of adversity, the Council is shown at its best. This is shown in our response to financial hard times. It is also shown in our response to the recent storms and flooding issues that have hit our District. We managed the threats to our communities and the devastation caused by the elements through working with our partners Police, Fire and Rescue, Military, County Council and even the Environment Agency. These agencies, together with the commitment of our staff and their local knowledge, have in the main seemed to help us avoid much of the devastation seen in other places. We will need to use much of that local knowledge and commitment as we work towards re-building and looking towards withstanding future events.

Our sympathies are with those affected in their homes, in their businesses and indeed at their beach huts. I echo the thoughts of our Chief Executive that the Council can be proud of its response to the flooding and coastal damage, and we will continue to get the job of emergency response and recovery done.

There will be further difficulties, financial and weather ahead. We have the spirit and the expertise to face them unafraid.

Members, I commend our Council and I commend these budget proposals.



## Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group - Budget Speech

Recap from last year

2 amendments seconded by the leader

1. Investigate the reduction of councillors required

At least this has provoked a debate

2. Investigation into rough sleeping in the NFDC area and the release of funds from the 'no second night out' budget

I was privileged to chair a T&F group and I thank all the members of this group for their input. It was difficult to establish the number of rough sleepers in our area although it was established that they do exist. The conclusion we reached was that a hostel would not be appropriate in our area – (a) because of the cost and (b) because of the large geographical size of our area. We concluded that the best way forward was to ask 'nightstop' to run a pilot scheme for rough sleepers aged 25 and over. We had established that Southampton City Council were holding £0.4 million of government money to be used by central southern English councils under the 'no second night out' budget. Nightstop managed to secure £25,000 to run a pilot scheme for the over 25s – similar to the scheme they run for 16-24 year olds. This is now in operation and the money received will be used for extra admin support and we hopefully will receive 3 monthly feed-back.

The reason I am telling you this now is to pre-warn you that if this pilot scheme is successful, as we hope it will be, then they will, of course, require a budget from some source or other to fund the scheme in future years. At present we give £17,000 to nightstop which part funds their existing scheme so I am really just laying down a marker to say that we on the T&F group would hope that you will continue to support not only their existing scheme, but to support any future scheme for 25s and over that arises.

We don't have a 'legal' responsibility for this group of people but we do have a moral responsibility for those who find themselves in this unfortunate position.

**You may recall at the last council meeting I asked a portfolio holder's question asking for the cost of the repairs to the roof on its original estimate and subsequent estimate.**

**I thank the portfolio holder for his reply; however, it appears that we do have some form of secrecy over tenders. At my parish council when tenders are received for any supply then the tenders are obviously opened under strict rules and checked that they meet the specification. These tenders are then placed on the council meeting agenda with the names of companies tendered and the cost tendered and the recommendation for which tender to accept - so this information with names and figures is open for all to see. In the interests of being open as well as honest I would like to make a challenge that in future all tenders with names, prices and recommendations/decisions are available for all to see.**

---

**I note in the report of cabinet dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 that in order to assist local businesses and residents you do not intend to change any of the car parking charges at this time. It does not state this in this report, but I understand from officers that this also means that there will also be no introduction of car park charges for blue badge holders.**

**So, firstly can I welcome the u-turn on the non-introduction of car parking charges for blue badge holders. As you will recall the Lib Dem group was totally against this introduction as we saw it as a tax on a vulnerable group in our community and indeed you showed this proposed introduction in your figures as a means of increasing your car park income by a further £76,000 per annum.**

**You may recall I made this council aware that it was already making illegal profits from car parking charges. Two years ago £780,000 and last year £1.08 million. These figures are not my figures but officers' figures and were net after all expenses had been paid. The relevant act....the 1984 road traffic regulation act..... quite clearly states that this is not allowed....and you are not even allowed to budget for a profit to be spent on other transport issues..... other councils have been challenged in the High Court on this issue. It doesn't matter how cheap your prices are they must be set to cover costs and not make a profit. Any surpluses and a surplus is different to a profit, are dictated to in the Act as being available for use on certain projects. Your charges were clearly designed to make profits.**

So the Lib Dems would proactively wish to assist local businesses who are suffering from a shortage of footfall by introducing the following amendment to the budget.

1/. 'This Council will issue ONE free 3-hour car parking pass to every household in order to proactively encourage locals to shop locally and in order to ensure that the income matches the expenditure for car parking there will be an appropriate increase in car park ticket machine prices.'

This is, of course, to ensure that visitors who wish to frequent our beautiful area pay appropriately..... just the same as we do when we visit their areas.

---

I have spoken to officers and they have told me of the great value that the ASCOs play as part of the Community Safety Team in the NFDC area and I understand that this is also the view of the Police and Crime Commissioner. You are aware that Hampshire County Council will cease funding the ASCOs at the end of this year so I wish to propose an amendment to the budget as follows :

2/.'Any parish or town council that wishes to continue with the ASCO scheme on its own behalf, will receive an agreed amount of part funding from NFDC in order to enhance the safety and security in their own towns or parishes, with their own dedicated ACSOs.

---

I have great disappointment that even after many protestations you are still unwilling to pass on the transitional grant support for town and parish councils to help mitigate any reduction in their tax base due to the local council tax support scheme ....This money was given to them by their conservative minister Brandon Lewis, and I am even more upset that the budgets for further years shows a further reduction of £100,000 each year so that within a few years you are keeping it all for yourselves. This is not right - this money was given to you to pass on to the town and parish councils and I think it a very

**wrong decision to not only keep part of this grant this year..... but to withhold even more in future years.**

**Many town and parish councils have had to increase their precepts by large amounts and this is in part due to this withholding of this grant that is due to them. I have even noticed in the press that Ringwood town council is proposing a massive 18% rise in its precept.**

**As we are instructed now to have a recorded vote I wish to propose the following amendment and that is.....**

**3/. 'That this council will pass on all of the transitional grant support that has been given to it by government to pass on to town and parish councils to help mitigate any reduction in their tax base due to the local council tax support scheme.**

**This recorded vote will allow all those members of the public who voted for you and me to look after their interests.....to see which members are looking after their interests.'**

## APPENDIX 3

### RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 49 – LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP AMENDMENTS TO ITEM 3 OF THE REPORT OF THE CABINET DATED 5 FEBRUARY 2014

Votes for	Votes against		Abstentions
Cllr C Harrison	Cllr Alvey	Cllr Penman	
Cllr D Harrison	Cllr Mrs Beeton	Cllr Penwarden	
Cllr Mrs McLean	Cllr Ms Bellows	Cllr Puttock	
Cllr Mrs Robinson	Cllr Mrs Bennison	Cllr Rice	
Cllr M S Wade	Cllr Binns	Cllr Rickman	
Cllr S S Wade	Cllr Mrs Brooks	Cllr Rippon-	
	Cllr Clarke	Swaine	
	Cllr Mrs Cleary	Cllr Mrs Rostand	
	Cllr Dart	Cllr Russell	
	Cllr Davies	Cllr Scrivens	
	Cllr Dow	Cllr Miss Sevier	
	Cllr Ford	Cllr Southgate	
	Cllr Glass	Cllr Swaine	
	Cllr E Heron	Cllr Thierry	
	Cllr J Heron	Cllr Tinsely	
	Cllr Mrs Holding	Cllr Tipp	
	Cllr Kendal	Cllr Vickers	
	Cllr Kilgour	Cllr Wappet	
	Cllr Lagdon	Cllr Ward	
	Cllr Mrs Lewis	Cllr Mrs Woodfield	
	Cllr Mrs Lovelace	Cllr Woods	
	Cllr Lucas	Cllr Wyeth	
	Cllr Mrs McEvoy		
	Cllr O'Sullivan		

**Total:**

**6**

**46**

**0**

## APPENDIX 4

### RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 49 – SUBSTANTIVE MOTION ON ITEM 3 OF THE REPORT OF THE CABINET DATED 5 FEBRUARY 2014

Votes For		Votes Against	Abstentions
Cllr Alvey	Cllr Rice	Cllr D Harrison	Cllr C Harrison
Cllr Mrs Beeton	Cllr Rickman	Cllr Mrs McLean	Cllr M S Wade
Cllr Ms Bellows	Cllr Rippon-	Cllr S S Wade	
Cllr Mrs Bennison	Swaine		
Cllr Binns	Cllr Mrs Robinson		
Cllr Mrs Brooks	Cllr Mrs Rostand		
Cllr Clarke	Cllr Russell		
Cllr Mrs Cleary	Cllr Scrivens		
Cllr Dart	Cllr Miss Sevier		
Cllr Davies	Cllr Southgate		
Cllr Dow	Cllr Swain		
Cllr Ms Ford	Cllr Thierry		
Cllr Glass	Cllr Tinsley		
Cllr E Heron	Cllr Tipp		
Cllr J Heron	Cllr Vickers		
Cllr Mrs Holding	Cllr Wappet		
Cllr Kendal	Cllr Ward		
Cllr Kilgour	Cllr Wise		
Cllr Lagdon	Cllrs Mrs		
Cllr Mrs Lewis	Woodifield		
Cllr Mrs Lovelace	Cllr Woods		
Cllr Lucas	Cllr Mrs Wyeth		
Cllr Mrs McEvoy			
Cllr O'Sullivan			
Cllr Penman			
Cllr Penwarden			
Cllr Puttock			

**Total:**

**47**

**3**

**2**

## APPENDIX 5

### RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 52- THE 2014/15 COUNCIL TAX (REPORT B)

Votes For		Votes Against	Abstain
Cllr Alvey	Cllr Penman		Cllr C Harrison
Cllr Mrs Beeton	Cllr Penwarden		Cllr D Harrison
Cllr Ms Bellows	Cllr Puttock		Cllr Mrs McLean
Cllr Mrs Bennison	Cllr Rice		Cllr Mrs Robinson
Cllr Binns	Cllr Rickman		Cllr M Wade
Cllr Mrs Brooks	Cllr Rippon-		Cllr S Wade
Cllr Clarke	Swaine		
Cllr Mrs Cleary	Cllr Mrs Rostand		
Cllr Dart	Cllr Scrivens		
Cllr Davies	Cllr Miss Sevier		
Cllr Dow	Cllr Southgate		
Cllr Ms Ford	Cllr Swain		
Cllr Glass	Cllr Thierry		
Cllr E Heron	Cllr Tinsley		
Cllr J Heron	Cllr Tipp		
Cllr Mrs Holding	Cllr Vickers		
Cllr Kilgour	Cllr Wappet		
Cllr Lagdon	Cllr Ward		
Cllr Mrs Lewis	Cllr Wise		
Cllr Mrs Lovelace	Cllrs Mrs		
Cllr Lucas	Woodifield		
Cllr Mrs McEvoy	Cllr Mrs Wyeth		
Cllr O'Sullivan			

**Total:**

**43**

**0**

**6**