

25 FEBRUARY 2019

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 25 February 2019

- * Cllr M J Kendal (Chairman)
- * Cllr A T Glass (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

A R Alvey
* Mrs D E Andrews
* W G Andrews
* P J Armstrong
* G C Beck
* Mrs S M Bennison
* J E Binns
* G R Blunden
* D A Britton
* Mrs D M Brooks
* Mrs F Carpenter
* Mrs L D Cerasoli
* S J Clarke
* Mrs J L Cleary
* I C Coombes
* Ms K V Crisell
* S P Davies
A H G Davis
* W H Dow
* Ms L C Ford
* R L Frampton
* A A Gossage
* L E Harris
* M R Harris
* D Harrison
* E J Heron
* J D Heron
* Mrs A J Hoare
* Mrs M D Holding

Councillors:

* Mrs C Hopkins
* Mrs E L Lane
M Langdale
Mrs P J Lovelace
* Mrs R Matcham
* Mrs A E McEvoy
* A D O'Sullivan
* J M Olliff-Cooper
* N S Penman
* A K Penson
* D M S Poole
* L R Puttock
* B Rickman
W S Rippon-Swaine
Mrs A M Rostand
D J Russell
* Miss A Sevier
* M A Steele
* M H Thierry
* Mrs B J Thorne
* D B Tipp
* D N Tungate
* A S Wade
* Mrs C V Ward
J G Ward
* M L White
* C A Wise
* Mrs P A Wyeth

*Present

Officers Attending:

A Bethune, D Groom, R Jackson, Miss G O'Rourke, C Read, Mrs M Sandhu and Mrs K Wardle

Apologies

Cllr Alvey, Davis, Mrs Lovelace, Rippon-Swaine, Mrs Rostand, Russell and J Ward.

52 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2018 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Kendal disclosed a non pecuniary interest in Minute no 56 of the Report of Audit Committee dated 25 January 2019.

Cllr Mrs Thorne disclosed a pecuniary interest in Minute No 59 (Item 6 of the Report to Cabinet dated 6 February 2019).

Cllrs Mrs D and W Andrews disclosed pecuniary interests in Minute No 58 of the Report of the Planning Committee dated 13 February 2019.

All members of the Council had been granted dispensations to speak and to vote on Minute No 59 (Item 7 – MTFP and Annual Budget 2019/20) and Minute No 62, the Council Tax 2019/20.

54 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Matt Wisdom, the new Democratic Services Manager to Members.

The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with the law, recorded votes would be taken on the budget and Council tax items.

The Chairman reported he had attended the 1,000 edition celebration event of the New Milton Talking Newspaper.

The Chairman reminded members that the Hampshire County Chamber Orchestra and Choir would perform in a charity concert at St Thomas Church in Lymington on 23 March 2019. The event would raise funds for his chosen charity, Oakhaven Hospice in Totton and tickets could be purchased online.

55 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader had no announcements.

56 REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Cllr Kendal disclosed a non pecuniary interest in this item as a member of Hampshire County Council. It was noted that he had been granted a dispensation which allowed him to speak and vote on the matter.

Cllr O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 25 January 2019.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

57 REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Cllr Clarke, Chairman of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 25 February 2019.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

58 REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllrs Mrs D and W Andrews disclosed pecuniary interests in this item on the grounds that the decision might affect their financial affairs. They did not vote on this matter.

Cllr Armstrong, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 13 February 2019.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

59 REPORTS OF THE CABINET

Cllr Mrs Thorne disclosed a pecuniary interest in item 6 (Housing Revenue Account Budget and Housing Public Sector Capital Expenditure Programme 2019/20) of the report of Cabinet dated 6 February 2019 on the grounds that she rented a council garage. She had been granted a dispensation which allowed her to speak and to vote on the matter.

The Leader of the Council, as Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the reports of the meetings held on 18 December 2018 and 6 February 2019.

Item 7 (6 February 2019) – Medium Term Financial Plan and Annual Budget 2019/20

The Chairman moved that Standing Order 47.6 be suspended to allow the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition Group 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 he would allow more than one amendment be proposed and discussed at the same time.

The Leader of the Council made the statement on the Administration's proposed budget, attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes, which was accompanied by some photographs.

The Deputy Leader of the Council seconded the recommendation.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group then made a statement, attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

Members discussed the Cabinet's budget proposals together with the statement made by the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Some members commented that the Liberal Democrat Leader in his speech had repeated what had been said in previous years, adding nothing new or substantive. No alternative budget had been proposed and therefore it was not possible to know how the proposals would be financed.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat party had raised the issue of the health and leisure centres in his budget speech, and he considered that the partnership approach was "privatisation". Some members however, pointed out that a Liberal Democrat member had been involved in the Task and Finish Group which had considered options for the future of the leisure centres. The partnership approach had been fully agreed by the Liberal Democrat member as the best and most efficient approach for residents of the New Forest.

Members spoke in support of the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner who had committed to deliver an additional 210 front line officers across Hampshire.

The Leader of the Council commended the budget to the Council.

The motion was put to the vote. A recorded vote was taken on the budget recommended by the Cabinet. The outcome was:

Members voting for:	58
Members voting against:	2
Abstentions:	1

Details are shown in Appendix 3 to these minutes.

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the reports of the Cabinet dated 18 December 2018 and 6 February 2019 be received and the recommendations adopted.

60 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22

There were none.

61 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A**Question 1**

From Cllr David Harrison, to Cllr Jeremy Heron, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Services and Improvement:

"I see that the government have generously allocated the sum of £33,000 to New Forest District Council in respect of Brexit. To what extent do you think that will mitigate the negative aspects of Brexit to the New Forest area and exactly how will this sum be spent?"

Answer

The Portfolio Holder reported he saw Brexit as an opportunity for change. Other funding was expected to be made available in order to assist with any costs arising as a result of Brexit. To date no money had been spent or allocated for specific expenditure in relation to the proposed grant. The District Council would not immediately be affected by Brexit as it did not have a major port, for example, however, the Council would consult and work with other neighbouring authorities and the Government, in order to address any issues arising from Brexit.

Question 2

From Cllr Michael Thierry, to Cllr Jill Cleary, Portfolio Holder for Housing Services:

"Rough-sleepers is a national problem.

Would the Portfolio Holder please inform Council members what measures New Forest District Council is implementing to address and assist rough-sleepers within the District?"

Answer

The Portfolio Holder reported that over the last 12 months the Housing Options Team had responded to all reports of rough sleepers, visiting each one in person and encouraged all to engage with the service. The Council had continued to accommodate rough sleepers beyond periods of severe weather. Successful long term accommodation had been obtained for many of them. The proposed new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy contained four key priorities for the Council to tackle and prevent homelessness. Ending rough sleeping was identified as one of those key priorities which meant, the Council would carry out specific work and projects to tackle the issue further. The aim was to prevent rough sleeping where possible, working with hospitals and prisons to identify those with no fixed abode as early as possible before discharge, as one example. Over the next 12 months a programme would be put in place to increase Council owned emergency accommodation. This would, for the first time provide a suitable furnished home and platform for rough sleepers to settle before moving on to more permanent accommodation. The Portfolio Holder also expressed the aspiration to provide additional dedicated street outreach and accommodation support to build relationships and assist rough sleepers access services and local volunteer support in order to sustain accommodation long term.

Question 3

From Cllr David Harrison, to Cllr Diane Andrews, Portfolio Holder for Community Affairs:

“Would she acknowledge the critically important work that the charity "Nightstop" undertakes in the New Forest area and outline how the District Council will support the organisation?”

Answer

The Portfolio Holder reported that Nightstop in 2017/18 had placed eight people in volunteer accommodation over a total of 48 nights. This cost £312.50 per night, per person. It was felt that this expenditure was not a good use of the Council's resources. The Council needed to make decisions on how best to accommodate the homeless people in the District. An increased number of complex homeless cases had been reported and officers were developing a range of solutions. The community grants process had been transparent and open. The Council had carefully considered all applications. It was however, considered that the Council could achieve better value for money helping homeless people by leading on the initiatives set out in the Council's draft Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy, which included the Council creating its own portfolio of temporary accommodation.

Question 4

From Cllr Michael Thierry, to Cllr Barry Rickman, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Affairs

“The Council budget discussed today is the nineteenth Conservative budget which I have witnessed being presented. In consideration of all nineteen New Forest District Council budgets prepared by the Conservative group this century, would the Leader accept a mark of nine and half out of ten overall or would ten out of ten be a more just, accurate marking for Conservative budgets?”

Answer

The Leader reported that work would continue to provide sound and balanced finances.

Question 5

From Cllr David Harrison to Cllr. James Binns, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing:

“Will he provide a detailed breakdown of the £100,000 that the Council intends spending on exploring a possible change in the way our Health & Leisure Centres are run?”

Answer

The Portfolio Holder reported that it was important to use the right skills and expertise to undertake the procurement process. It was expected that leisure market expertise and external legal services would cost up to £50,000. A full condition survey of the centres would also be undertaken. Eastleigh Borough Council had explored a partnership approach for one of its leisure centres in 2012 at a cost of £45,000, and therefore the cost of £50,000 for five leisure centres in the New Forest was considered to be very good value for money.

Cllr Harrison asked a supplementary question regarding the £100,000 proposed in the Cabinet report to be spent on the partnering exercise and sought clarification regarding whether the condition survey would form part of this expenditure. The Portfolio Holder reported that at the time the report had been put together up to £100,000 had been proposed. He confirmed that the condition survey was necessary regardless of any decision on the future of the leisure centres and therefore did not form part of the partnering exercise.

62 COUNCIL TAX 2019/20

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

The Council considered the Council Tax for 2019/20.

A recorded vote was taken on the recommendation.

The outcome was:

Members voting for:	49
Members voting against:	0
Abstentions:	2

Details are show in Appendix 4 to these minutes.

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That it be noted that on 10 December 2018 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for the year 2019/20:
 - (i) for the whole Council area as 71,074.40 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (ii) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates.
- (b) To calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2019/20 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £12,321,460.
- (c) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2019/20 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: -
 - (i) £140,057,764 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.

- (ii) 121,629,850 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (iii) £18,427,914 being the amount by which the aggregate at (c) (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (c) (ii) 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).
- (iv) £259.28 being the amount at (c) (iii) above (Item R), all divided by the Council Tax Base, Item T ((a) (i) 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).
- (v) £6,106,454 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (vi) £173.36 being the amount at (c) (iv) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (c) (v) above by Item T ((a) (i)) 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.
- (vii)

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	212.75
BEAULIEU	188.88
BOLDRE	199.33
BRAMSHAW	194.51
BRANSGORE	231.18
BREAMORE	201.09
BROCKENHURST	215.85
BURLEY	190.36
COPYTHORNE	190.59
DAMERHAM	211.30
DENNY LODGE	209.14
EAST BOLDRE	213.05
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	204.76
EXBURY & LEPE	173.36
FAWLEY	294.49
FORDINGBRIDGE	274.57
GODSHILL	219.57
HALE	219.84
HORDLE	218.77
HYDE	192.71
HYTHE & DIBDEN	274.89
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	278.84
LYNDHURST	235.02
MARCHWOOD	290.08
MARTIN	210.31
MILFORD-ON-SEA	211.85
MINSTEAD	201.37
NETLEY MARSH	195.53
NEW MILTON	268.20
RINGWOOD	267.50
ROCKBOURNE	248.84
SANDLEHEATH	201.81
SOPLEY	235.33
SWAY	212.21
TOTTON & ELING	302.19
WHITSBURY	191.01
WOODGREEN	204.74

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (c) (vi) 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 (a) (ii) 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.

- (viii) These are the District plus Town/Parish Council elements only. See pages 10 and 12 for the full amounts of Council Tax.

LOCAL COUNCIL AREA	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ASHURST & COLBURY	141.83	165.48	189.10	212.75	260.02	307.31	354.58	425.50
BEAULIEU	125.92	146.91	167.89	188.88	230.85	272.83	314.80	377.76
BOLDRE	132.88	155.04	177.17	199.33	243.62	287.92	332.21	398.66
BRAMSHAW	129.67	151.29	172.89	194.51	237.73	280.96	324.18	389.02
BRANSGORE	154.12	179.81	205.49	231.18	282.55	333.93	385.30	462.36
BREAMORE	134.06	156.41	178.74	201.09	245.77	290.46	335.15	402.18
BROCKENHURST	143.90	167.89	191.86	215.85	263.81	311.78	359.75	431.70
BURLEY	126.90	148.06	169.20	190.36	232.66	274.97	317.26	380.72
COPYTHORNE	127.06	148.24	169.41	190.59	232.94	275.30	317.65	381.18
DAMERHAM	140.86	164.35	187.81	211.30	258.25	305.21	352.16	422.60
DENNY LODGE	139.42	162.67	185.89	209.14	255.61	302.09	348.56	418.28
EAST BOLDRE	142.03	165.71	189.37	213.05	260.39	307.74	355.08	426.10
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	136.50	159.26	182.00	204.76	250.26	295.77	341.26	409.52
EXBURY & LEPE	115.57	134.84	154.09	173.36	211.88	250.41	288.93	346.72
FAWLEY	196.32	229.05	261.76	294.49	359.93	425.38	490.81	588.98
FORDINGBRIDGE	183.04	213.56	244.05	274.57	335.58	396.60	457.61	549.14
GODSHILL	146.38	170.78	195.17	219.57	268.36	317.16	365.95	439.14
HALE	146.56	170.99	195.41	219.84	268.69	317.55	366.40	439.68
HORDLE	145.84	170.16	194.45	218.77	267.38	316.00	364.61	437.54
HYDE	128.47	149.89	171.29	192.71	235.53	278.36	321.18	385.42
HYTHE & DIBDEN	183.26	213.81	244.34	274.89	335.97	397.06	458.15	549.78
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	185.89	216.88	247.85	278.84	340.80	402.77	464.73	557.68
LYNDHURST	156.68	182.80	208.90	235.02	287.24	339.47	391.70	470.04
MARCHWOOD	193.38	225.62	257.84	290.08	354.54	419.01	483.46	580.16
MARTIN	140.20	163.58	186.93	210.31	257.04	303.78	350.51	420.62
MILFORD-ON-SEA	141.23	164.78	188.30	211.85	258.92	306.01	353.08	423.70
MINSTEAD	134.24	156.63	178.99	201.37	246.11	290.87	335.61	402.74
NETLEY MARSH	130.35	152.08	173.80	195.53	238.98	282.43	325.88	391.06
NEW MILTON	178.80	208.60	238.39	268.20	327.80	387.40	447.00	536.40
RINGWOOD	178.33	208.06	237.77	267.50	326.94	386.39	445.83	535.00
ROCKBOURNE	165.89	193.55	221.18	248.84	304.13	359.44	414.73	497.68
SANDLEHEATH	134.54	156.97	179.38	201.81	246.65	291.50	336.35	403.62
SOPLEY	156.88	183.04	209.17	235.33	287.62	339.92	392.21	470.66
SWAY	141.47	165.06	188.62	212.21	259.36	306.53	353.68	424.42
TOTTON & ELING	201.46	235.04	268.61	302.19	369.34	436.50	503.65	604.38
WHITSBURY	127.34	148.57	169.78	191.01	233.45	275.90	318.35	382.02
WOODGREEN	136.49	159.25	181.98	204.74	250.23	295.74	341.23	409.48

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (c) (vii) 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.

- (d) 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 2019/20 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 below:

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	824.58	962.01	1,099.44	1,236.87	1,511.73	1,786.59	2,061.45	2,473.74
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE AUTHORITY	134.31	156.69	179.08	201.46	246.23	291.00	335.77	402.92
HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY	45.14	52.66	60.19	67.71	82.76	97.80	112.85	135.42
	1,004.03	1,171.36	1,338.71	1,506.04	1,840.72	2,175.39	2,510.07	3,012.08

That the Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority to implement any variation to the overall level of Council Tax arising from the final notification of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority precept.

- (e) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (c) (viii) and (d) 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 2019/20 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	1,145.86	1,336.84	1,527.81	1,718.79	2,100.74	2,482.70	2,864.65	3,437.58
BEAULIEU	1,129.95	1,318.27	1,506.60	1,694.92	2,071.57	2,448.22	2,824.87	3,389.84
BOLDRE	1,136.91	1,326.40	1,515.88	1,705.37	2,084.34	2,463.31	2,842.28	3,410.74
BRAMSHAW	1,133.70	1,322.65	1,511.60	1,700.55	2,078.45	2,456.35	2,834.25	3,401.10
BRANSGORE	1,158.15	1,351.17	1,544.20	1,737.22	2,123.27	2,509.32	2,895.37	3,474.44
BREAMORE	1,138.09	1,327.77	1,517.45	1,707.13	2,086.49	2,465.85	2,845.22	3,414.26
BROCKENHURST	1,147.93	1,339.25	1,530.57	1,721.89	2,104.53	2,487.17	2,869.82	3,443.78
BURLEY	1,130.93	1,319.42	1,507.91	1,696.40	2,073.38	2,450.36	2,827.33	3,392.80
COPYTHORNE	1,131.09	1,319.60	1,508.12	1,696.63	2,073.66	2,450.69	2,827.72	3,393.26
DAMERHAM	1,144.89	1,335.71	1,526.52	1,717.34	2,098.97	2,480.60	2,862.23	3,434.68
DENNY LODGE	1,143.45	1,334.03	1,524.60	1,715.18	2,096.33	2,477.48	2,858.63	3,430.36
EAST BOLDRE	1,146.06	1,337.07	1,528.08	1,719.09	2,101.11	2,483.13	2,865.15	3,438.18
ELLINGHAM HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY	1,140.53	1,330.62	1,520.71	1,710.80	2,090.98	2,471.16	2,851.33	3,421.60
EXBURY & LEPE	1,119.60	1,306.20	1,492.80	1,679.40	2,052.60	2,425.80	2,799.00	3,358.80
FAWLEY	1,200.35	1,400.41	1,600.47	1,800.53	2,200.65	2,600.77	3,000.88	3,601.06
FORDINGBRIDGE	1,187.07	1,384.92	1,582.76	1,780.61	2,176.30	2,571.99	2,967.68	3,561.22
GODSHILL	1,150.41	1,342.14	1,533.88	1,725.61	2,109.08	2,492.55	2,876.02	3,451.22
HALE	1,150.59	1,342.35	1,534.12	1,725.88	2,109.41	2,492.94	2,876.47	3,451.76
HORDLE	1,149.87	1,341.52	1,533.16	1,724.81	2,108.10	2,491.39	2,874.68	3,449.62
HYDE	1,132.50	1,321.25	1,510.00	1,698.75	2,076.25	2,453.75	2,831.25	3,397.50
HYTHE & DIBDEN	1,187.29	1,385.17	1,583.05	1,780.93	2,176.69	2,572.45	2,968.22	3,561.86
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON	1,189.92	1,388.24	1,586.56	1,784.88	2,181.52	2,578.16	2,974.80	3,569.76
LYNDHURST	1,160.71	1,354.16	1,547.61	1,741.06	2,127.96	2,514.86	2,901.77	3,482.12
MARCHWOOD	1,197.41	1,396.98	1,596.55	1,796.12	2,195.26	2,594.40	2,993.53	3,592.24
MARTIN	1,144.23	1,334.94	1,525.64	1,716.35	2,097.76	2,479.17	2,860.58	3,432.70
MILFORD-ON-SEA	1,145.26	1,336.14	1,527.01	1,717.89	2,099.64	2,481.40	2,863.15	3,435.78
MINSTEAD	1,138.27	1,327.99	1,517.70	1,707.41	2,086.83	2,466.26	2,845.68	3,414.82
NETLEY MARSH	1,134.38	1,323.44	1,512.51	1,701.57	2,079.70	2,457.82	2,835.95	3,403.14
NEW MILTON	1,182.83	1,379.96	1,577.10	1,774.24	2,168.52	2,562.79	2,957.07	3,548.48
RINGWOOD	1,182.36	1,379.42	1,576.48	1,773.54	2,167.66	2,561.78	2,955.90	3,547.08
ROCKBOURNE	1,169.92	1,364.91	1,559.89	1,754.88	2,144.85	2,534.83	2,924.80	3,509.76
SANDLEHEATH	1,138.57	1,328.33	1,518.09	1,707.85	2,087.37	2,466.89	2,846.42	3,415.70
SOPLEY	1,160.91	1,354.40	1,547.88	1,741.37	2,128.34	2,515.31	2,902.28	3,482.74
SWAY	1,145.50	1,336.42	1,527.33	1,718.25	2,100.08	2,481.92	2,863.75	3,436.50
TOTTON & ELING	1,205.49	1,406.40	1,607.32	1,808.23	2,210.06	2,611.89	3,013.72	3,616.46
WHITSBURY	1,131.37	1,319.93	1,508.49	1,697.05	2,074.17	2,451.29	2,828.42	3,394.10
WOODGREEN	1,140.52	1,330.61	1,520.69	1,710.78	2,090.95	2,471.13	2,851.30	3,421.56

63 DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

That the Council's scheme of delegation of powers to officers, that are the responsibility of the Council, be amended to the effect that the Chief Planning Officer be delegated the same powers, throughout as the Executive Heads.

64 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

There were no changes.

CHAIRMAN

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL BUDGET SPEECH 2019

	Over the past 4 years steps have been taken by this Conservative Council to deliver quality frontline services, despite significant reductions in central government grants. As we set our Council Tax and Budget for 2019 – 2020 our track record of sound financial management and prudent maintenance of reserves, we remain in a strong position to continue delivering essential services to our residents.
Our help to local business was recognised by the Federation of Small Businesses	We have worked hard to promote local business to make the New Forest prosperous.
Helping local business to grow is a priority	As sponsors of the New Forest Brilliance in Business Awards the Council works to promote business, whether big or small, within the District.
Helping local business benefits the whole economy	As a conservative Council we will continue to work with partners such as the New Forest Business Partnership and the Federation of Small Businesses to grow the New Forest economy and local business.
Our apprenticeship scheme supports the local economy for now and for the future	We will work with trade and professional bodies, education providers and local businesses to promote the benefits of apprenticeships, highlighting the opportunities they provide to both the apprentice, employment and the future.
Supporting local business such as the Royal Mail in their support of other businesses	Supporting all areas of local business is important to us.
Helping local business through investment	We are prepared to invest to support business. Last year we, together with Hampshire County Council, invested £75,000 in the imaginative '49' to help others in the New Forest develop their businesses, skills and knowledge.
Local Plan Submitted	More homes for local people starts with our Local Plan which we submitted in November 2018. This sets out providing 10,000 new homes over the next 20 years.
Championing our priority for homes for local people	Over the next four years we will buy or build more than 100 extra council houses for local families and we will continue to work with partners to provide even more.
The Housing team have developed new approaches to providing more homes for local people	Our Housing team have developed new approaches to provide more homes for local people.
Our community matters	Volunteers and community groups are the backbone of our vulnerable residents, helping protect our environment and cultural centres. In the last year we have supported many organisations, ranging from £229,500 to the Citizens' Advice Bureau to numerous small grants based on the recommendation of Councillors to organisations all working for the New Forest Community.
Review of Health and Leisure Centres demonstrates our commitment to long term solutions for community benefit	With over 1.6 million customer visits a year, our Health and Leisure Centres help to keep residents of all ages fit and healthy. We will protect and enhance this service by working with partners or creating an arm's-length organisation.

New investment reinforces our commitment to our community	The Council continues to invest in the District's five Health & Leisure Centres, including refurbishment of facilities at New Milton, Ringwood and Applemore.
Providing solutions that work for our community is our approach	We provide over 100 local services which our residents value highly, including refuse, planning, street cleaning, benefits, health and leisure and housing advice. We regularly review our services to understand how we can improve in line with what our customers want.
Setting high standards	Excellent services delivered to a high standard and value for money - that is our aim.
The achievements we have made have been recognised	"We are mighty impressed with the progress NFDC has made, and the speed in which it embraces change. Keep on doing what you are doing." That is what the Local Government Association peer challenge follow up review said.
Supporting our environment locally	While our street cleaning teams do an impressive job of keeping our streets clean and tidy we wouldn't be so effective without the numerous community groups who assist with litter initiative such as the Great British Spring Clean.
Supporting our environment nationally	We also do our bit Nationally, to try and support the recycling message. This year we launched at the New Forest Show our six in the sack initiative. A message for local residents but also visitors to the area to take home with them as well.
Supporting our environment worldwide	We have all seen the issues regarding plastics and the harm it has on the environment. We have removed all of the council's plastic cups and are setting an example with reusable water bottles.
Protecting our community through investment	We will continue to invest in our excellent services, like CCTV to help prevent crime working with others such as Hampshire Constabulary to protect our community.
Protecting our special environment by taking action against those who care less	We will continue to investigate and take action against those individuals who care less for our environment by fly-tipping and littering and we will also look at proactive ways to discourage these unsightly activities.
Protecting our special environment by working with others	The Council continues to work with others, both public and private sector to protect our special environment as well as understanding the impact that change has on other local communities.
Working with statutory and voluntary organisations to help support our community	We have provided over £450,000 of grant aid to support those working in our community for our residents.
Working with other statutory organisations to be more efficient	Working with others has enabled us to move our office staff from Lymington Town Hall, but maintaining a public front-desk, freeing up space that we have made available to the National Park, Police and private companies, reducing our costs and generating income. This helps us to continue to provide front-line services in an efficient and sustainable way and to ensure that residents of the New Forest can enjoy continuing excellent public services in the future.

Working with Solent LEP to help local business grow	The recent review of Local Enterprise Partnerships means that we are now working solely with the Solent LEP. We are using this opportunity to promote the New Forest and secure more investment funding for our local business. The New Forest Business Partnership is now being regularly attended by the Solent LEP Chief Executive and I have been offered the opportunity to present a key note address to the Solent LEP AGM on the "Vision for a future New Forest".
Investing in technology	We are investing in new technology. This will help us modernise. This is not only aimed at supporting our staff but also at Councillors, residents and customers. Next year will see us launch a new website and be able to offer customers new and more efficient services that they can access when it suits them.
Improving our workspace	We recognise the importance of a good well motivated workforce. It is therefore important as we develop more efficient services that our staff can work in modern and pleasant workspaces. Together with our investment in technology this will help ensure we attract and retain good quality staff that want to deliver good outcomes to our community. This is our objective to smarter working.
Delivering better services	As a Council we provide many services and everything we do is to ensure we provide both excellent services and excellent value for money.
Our employees work to achieve our goals	We have achieved a lot and I am grateful to my conservative Councillors, our Chief Executive Bob Jackson and NFDC staff for all their efforts.
We live within our means to benefit our community – because it matters	While the District Council collects council tax on behalf of the County Council, Fire Authority, Police and Town & Parish Councils, our share is currently £3 per household per week for a Band D dwelling.
	We will only increase our share of Council Tax in order to protect core services such as our refuse & recycling collections, health and leisure centres and environmental protection services.
	I commend the budget for 2019/2020 to you.

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Liberal Democrat Leader Budget Speech 2019

Members won't perhaps be too surprised to learn that I enjoy writing speeches. I only wish that my joy was matched by those that have to listen to them.

The annual budget speech is the one chance I get to provide Council colleagues with a reflections on the performance of this council, how it uses the resources available to it and to offer some alternatives to that being proposed by the Leader.

Can I start, please, with a message of thanks.

Thank you to the officers and staff of the Council for all that you do, delivering services to our residents, not always in the most ideal circumstances. I think this Council has always been blessed with high calibre employees who work really hard, with a strong public service ethic. I hugely admire their fortitude, often facing uncertainty about the future, having to cope with huge demands, but always delivering for our residents.

And on the subject of thanks, I am grateful also to fellow Councillors, Conservative, Independent and Liberal Democrat, for another year of doing what we do, usually in a friendly manner. With elections around the corner, may I wish everyone, particularly those choosing to stand down, all the very best for the future.

Some of you will be hoping to retain the confidence of the voters, subjecting yourself to the possibility of my company for another 4 years. That deserves some respect.

In my memorable speech of 2018, I made six requests.

The first of these was to ask that you lobby government to abolish the post of Police & Crime Commissioner. I don't believe you accepted that challenge. I can only say that most of our residents are dismayed by the lack of community policing. Police resources are far too thin on the ground. The police we have are doing an incredible job. However, for too long, the numbers of officers have been allowed to reduce, whilst the demands on them have heavily increased. We have a police force that can only react to crimes already committed, rarely deter it from happening in the first place.

We should be playing our part in making our communities safer and I commend the actions of some of you who are trying hard to allay community fears and offer advice and assistance and support the police. However, I feel that a remote Police & Crime Commissioner is no substitute for what should be direct accountability of locally elected Councillors who understand what their communities are suffering and should have the means to decide on the right level of resources.

My second plea was for the Council to improve performance when it comes to housing. None of us can feel proud about the lack of affordable housing in the district. It's an increasingly common situation now that our young people are forced to move away from the New Forest area because of very high house prices. Free market economics isn't delivering for our young people. I am extremely discomforted by the fact that some of our New Forest villages comprise of 50% or more of second homes for wealthy people.

I know that the ability of this Council is restrained by government policy such as the loss of half our housing stock under the "Right to Buy" scheme. However, if you conservatives cannot, or will not, influence a conservative government, who else will?

My third plea? I am sure you will remember it. It was to improve our performance when it comes to recycling. Most people would expect a place like the New Forest, much of it a National Park, to have a first rate record when it comes to recycling.

Not even being in the top 300 of 351 local authorities is a bit embarrassing. I don't see much action being taken locally that is likely to improve matters.

Judging by what I read, it may be necessary for central government to compel this authority to collect food waste and provide a free garden waste scheme. Almost everyone I know thinks that recycling could and should be made simpler. Are we too proud to take on lessons from better performing authorities? Are we too short-sighted when it comes to removing most of the bring back mini recycling sites around the New Forest?

My fourth plea was that you start behaving in a more pro-active fashion. In some ways, this Council has been very sluggish. Other local authorities realised the benefits of commercial property investments a decade or so ago. I suspect that all the relatively lower risk, higher return investments have all been snaffled up. I have grave doubts about entering the market at this late stage in the knowledge that there will very likely be a downturn in the economy. I am also decidedly uncomfortable with the idea that delivery of vital public services should depend on having a good year of investments.

It pains me also to remind you that had you resolved to reduce the number of Council members by about a third when I first proposed it, we would already be better off to the tune of about £400,000.

My fifth plea was about good governance. Many of you have remarked privately to me how unhappy they are with the decision making processes of the Council. We have seen a very small number of elite Councillors get to decide what happens, with most of the other members feeling that they can't give proper scrutiny or challenge for fear of appearing disloyal to the ruling group.

I would also say be honest with the voters. You may have always denied that you would privatise the Health & Leisure Centres. The fact that you have decided to spend £100,000 on exploring a different model of running them is something you are entitled to do, but such an idea never appeared in a Conservative manifesto and the decision to do so was undertaken without any consultation.

It really seem a bit pathetic to now insist that you are only considering a “partnership” when the likely outcome is that the management of the centres will be completely taken away from the Council, and staff transferred from our employment. It is “privatisation”.

My final, sixth, plea was aimed at bringing in some extra money, to offer support for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our community. I invited you to consider the idea of a voluntary extra council tax payment, which could bring in a few hundred thousand pounds, (as it has done in the case of Westminster City Council).

Sadly, this idea has not been adopted. Perhaps, another opportunity lost.

Chairman, I recognise a brick wall when I see it. The forthcoming elections give me an opportunity to go around the wall, rather than for me to be bashing my head against it with a detailed alternative budget.

The political times are changing. I would invite any members who listened carefully to what I have said to consider whether they want the Council to carry on as now or maybe to switch their tribal allegiance and improve things. I am always available for a coffee and a chat.

Councillor David Harrison
Leader, New Forest Liberal Democrat Group
New Forest District Council.

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APPENDIX 3

RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 59

MOTION ON ITEM 7 (MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND ANNUAL BUDGET) OF THE REPORT OF THE CABINET DATED 6 FEBRUARY 2019

	Votes For	Votes Against	Abstentions	
	Cllr Mrs Andrews Cllr Andrews Cllr Armstrong Cllr Beck Cllr Mrs Bennison Cllr Binns Cllr Blunden Cllr Britton Cllr Mrs Brooks Cllr Mrs Carpenter Cllr Mrs Cerasoli Cllr Clarke Cllr Mrs Cleary Cllr Coombes Cllr Ms Crisell Cllr Davies Cllr Dow Cllr Ford Cllr Frampton Cllr Glass Cllr Gossage Cllr L Harris Cllr M Harris Cllr E Heron	Cllr J Heron Cllr Mrs Hoare Cllr Holding Cllr Hopkins Cllr Mrs Lane Cllr Mrs Matcham Cllr Mrs McEvoy Cllr O'Sullivan Cllr Olliff-Cooper Cllr Penman Cllr Penson Cllr Poole Cllr Puttock Cllr Rickman Cllr Miss Sevier Cllr Steele Cllr Thierry Cllr Mrs Thorne Cllr Tipp Cllr Tungate Cllr Mrs Ward Cllr White Cllr Wise Cllr Mrs Wyeth	Cllr Harrison Cllr Wade	Cllr Kendal
TOTAL	48	2	1	

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APPENDIX 4

RECORDED VOTE MINUTE NO. 62 - COUNCIL TAX 2019/20

	Votes For	Votes Against	Abstentions	
	Cllr Mrs Andrews Cllr Andrews Cllr Armstrong Cllr Beck Cllr Mrs Bennison Cllr Binns Cllr Blunden Cllr Britton Cllr Mrs Brooks Cllr Mrs Carpenter Cllr Mrs Cerasoli Cllr Clarke Cllr Mrs Cleary Cllr Coombes Cllr Ms Crisell Cllr Davies Cllr Dow Cllr Ford Cllr Frampton Cllr Glass Cllr Gossage Cllr L Harris Cllr M Harris Cllr E Heron	Cllr J Heron Cllr Mrs Hoare Cllr Holding Cllr Hopkins Cllr Kendal Cllr Mrs Lane Cllr Mrs Matcham Cllr Mrs McEvoy Cllr O'Sullivan Cllr Olliff-Cooper Cllr Penman Cllr Penson Cllr Poole Cllr Puttock Cllr Rickman Cllr Miss Sevier Cllr Steele Cllr Thierry Cllr Mrs Thorne Cllr Tipp Cllr Tungate Cllr Mrs Ward Cllr White Cllr Wise Cllr Mrs Wyeth		Cllr Harrison Cllr Wade
TOTAL	49	0	2	

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