

# Dorchester Town Council

## Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

29 January 2019

Present: Mayor D. Taylor and Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, C. Biggs, R. Biggs, A. Canning, A. Chisholm, G. Duke, J. Hewitt, G. Jones, S. Jones, T. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, A. Lyall, R. Potter, M. Rennie, K. Rice and P. Stein.

Apologies: Councillors T. Harries and S. Hosford.

### 38. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 27 November 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### 39. Communications & Questions

Sergeant Ged Want of Dorset Police provided an update regarding local policing issues, focusing particularly on the local drugs market, the night time economy and the work the Police are trying to do to recognise where victims of criminal activity are affected. He also explained the severe resource pressures on the local team.

Sergeant Want responded to questions regarding the night time economy, traffic offence fines, CCTV monitoring and hate crime.

Councillor S. Jones provided feedback from a meeting with the Youth Council. The Youth Council were pleased that they had now received sufficient funding to provide 2 toilets in Africa. They offered views in support of the local night time economy, the retention of a bright colour scheme for the Kings Road steam engine, the retention of parcour equipment and the continued community use of sports facilities at St Osmunds School.

The Mayor reported on a very busy round of engagements over the Christmas period, in particular events organised by Weldmar and at the Dorset County Hospital. He congratulated those involved in preparations for Holocaust Memorial Day. The Mayor also noted high levels of sales for his forthcoming Hidden History talks, being presented to raise funds for the Mayor's charity.

Finally he congratulated Councillor Molly Rennie on her award of the MBE honour for services to victims of Domestic Violence.

### 40. Updates from Partner Authorities

Councillor R. Biggs provided an update regarding the work of Dorset County Council, highlighting the plan in place for roads during cold weather, the costs of residential care placements and further delays to the implementation of traffic speed measures in Lubbecke Way. He also updated Members regarding the winding down of Dorset County Council.

A Member asked for an update regarding the Town Council's request to Dorset County Council for a report regarding the potential for charging vehicles for using High Street. Councillor Canning reported the outcome of the report, that such a proposal was not supported by Dorset County Council. Councillor Canning added extra information regarding DTEP projects, but highlighted that uncertainty surrounded future meetings of the Stakeholder Group due to reorganisation.

Councillor R. Potter highlighted that, other than preparation for the new Dorset Council, there was limited new activity at West Dorset District. At a recent Council meeting responses had been given regarding the consideration of a potential major development site at Upper Woodsford in the draft Local Plan. A report on funding support for St Osmunds School sports facilities was due at the next Strategy Committee.

41. **Planning and Environment Committee – 3 December 2018**  
It was proposed and seconded that the minutes be adopted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3 December 2018 be adopted.

42. **Planning and Environment Committee – 7 January 2019**  
It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Councillor Kent-Ledger asked that the Minutes reflect that she had not attended the meeting.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7 January 2019 be adopted.

43. **Management Committee – 15 January 2019**  
It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

A visitor who had attended a recent event at the Municipal Buildings spoke about her daughter's experience of being stuck in the lift when it had broken down, how poor the immediate response had been and how badly her complaint had been handled. Her complaint was compounded by the fact that the lift was not in operation on the evening of the Council meeting, making it impossible for her daughter to attend to express her views. The Chairman of the Committee offered a full apology and several Members left the meeting to discuss the complainant's concerns with her daughter elsewhere in the building.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 15 January 2019 be adopted.

**44. Policy Committee – 22 January 2019**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

The Chairman introduced the Budget report, highlighting additional costs, both one off and ongoing, and the exercises being undertaken to continue a programme of cost reductions.

He identified that the Committee had considered two options for the Council Tax, being a 0% increase and a 2% increase, and that the Committee were recommending the 2% option to put the Council in the better position to respond to the threat to discretionary services emerging as a result of local government reorganisation.

A Member asked questions regarding the assumption for the potential for increased Council Tax Base due to planned building at Poundbury. He also asked about the level of risk that new services did not transfer from the Dorset Council and about the treatment of potential underspends in the 2018/19 budget. The Clerk responded that in all cases a prudent approach had been adopted and then outlined the levels of reserves being held, their future use, and how this compared to the sector's guidelines.

Other Members highlighted their support for small annual increases in Council Tax to avoid significant one-off increases and also recognised that Council Tax Band growth also resulted in demands for increased levels of service.

A Member proposed an amendment to the budget based on a reduced contribution to the Corporate Projects Reserve, a lower precept and consequently a 0% tax increase. The amendment was put to a vote and defeated.

**Resolved**

- i) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2019/20 are adopted as laid out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes, to include:
  - a. A Council Tax Band D charge of £192.78, an increase of £3.78 (2.00%)
  - b. A precept of £1,463,971, an increase of 5.45%
- ii) That the Statement of Policy on the Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 Discretions, appended to the agenda of the Policy Committee, is approved
- iii) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 22 January 2019 be adopted.

**45. Calendar of Meetings 2019/20**

The Town Clerk made a minor amendment to the calendar as published in the

agenda.

**Resolved**

That the Calendar of Meetings 2019/20, as laid out at Appendix 2 to these Minutes, be approved

The Council rose at 8.30pm

Mayor

There were no public questions after the meeting

## APPENDIX 1

<b>REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20</b>	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
	£	£	£	£
Parks & Open Spaces	581,490	532,915	582,495	605,191
Allotments	3,254	3,738	3,541	4,952
Municipal Buildings	148,740	183,983	187,036	312,528
Cemeteries	66,894	44,908	56,433	51,407
Cultural & Twinning Activities	54,576	56,944	52,370	54,770
Corporate & Democratic Manage.	210,632	204,021	220,174	223,581
Other Services	24,627	100,272	109,029	136,483
<b>Operational Budget</b>	<b>1,090,213</b>	<b>1,126,781</b>	<b>1,211,078</b>	<b>1,388,911</b>
Precept	1,251,000	1,296,336	1,388,243	1,463,971
<b>Transfer to General Reserves</b>	<b>160,787</b>	<b>169,555</b>	<b>177,165</b>	<b>75,060</b>
<b>Subjective Analysis of Revenue</b>				
Employees	642,954	694,035	718,718	729,201
External Payments	462,382	509,860	491,610	548,260
Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	157,505	141,100	144,000	246,800
Capital Financing Costs	54,528	48,500	46,400	44,300
Income	-227,156	-195,160	-189,650	-179,650
<b>Operational Budget</b>	<b>1,090,213</b>	<b>1,198,335</b>	<b>1,211,078</b>	<b>1,388,911</b>
<b>General Reserve</b>				
Opening Balance at 1 April	751,931	464,377	322,261	250,261
Transfer from Ops Budget	160,787	169,555	177,165	75,060
Council Tax Support Grant	46,659	23,329	0	0
To Corporate Projects Reserve	-495,000	-335,000	-249,165	-75,060
<b>Closing Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>464,377</b>	<b>322,261</b>	<b>250,261</b>	<b>250,261</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>				
Opening Balance at 1 April	613,584	956,392	1,043,492	909,058
Transfer from Revenue Budget	652,856	494,100	534,165	321,860
Expenditure from Reserves	310,048	407,000	668,600	228,750
<b>Closing Balance 31 March</b>	<b>956,392</b>	<b>1,043,492</b>	<b>909,058</b>	<b>1,002,168</b>
<b>All Reserves held at year end</b>	<b>1,420,769</b>	<b>1,365,753</b>	<b>1,159,319</b>	<b>1,252,429</b>
Tax Base	6,950	7,065	7,345	7,594
Band D Charge	180.00	183.50	189.00	192.78
O/s PWLB Debt at 31 March	264,000	230,000	196,000	162,000

<b>Medium Term Financial Strategy</b>	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Revenue Budget</b>				
Employees	719	729	744	759
External Payments	492	548	534	545
Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	144	247	150	153
Capital Financing Costs	46	44	42	40
Income	-190	-180	-183	-187
New/Transferred Services	0	0	192	200
<b>Operational Budget</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>1,479</b>	<b>1,510</b>
Precept	1,388	1,464	1,493	1,523
<b>Transfer to General Reserves</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>General Reserve</b>				
Opening Balance at 1 April	322	250	250	265
Transfer from/to Operational Budget	177	75	15	14
Transfer to Corporate Projects Reserve	-249	-75	0	0
<b>Closing Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>278</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>				
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,043	768	861	511
Transfer from Revenue Budget	393	322	150	153
Expenditure from Reserves	-669	-229	-500	-350
<b>Closing Balance 31 March</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>314</b>
<b>All Reserves held at year end</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>592</b>
Corporate Project Unallocated at Year End	179	254	0	0
Outstanding Debt at Year End	£k	196	162	128
Council Tax	£	189	193	197
Tax Base		7,345	7,594	7,594

#### Notes

1. Inflation at 2.00%, Debt repayment per current debt profiles
2. Precept assumes Council Tax rise @ 2.00% from 2020, no Tax Base growth
3. Best estimate of new or transferred services, driven by cuts in other tiers
4. Operational surplus transferred to Corporate Projects Reserve
5. Corporate Projects Reserve allocated as part of next Corporate Plan
6. Earmarked Reserves expenditure reflects best available knowledge
7. Further savings may be identified in budgets as a result of review processes

## CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019-20

	2019								2020				
	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
COUNCIL, MAYOR MAKING AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING	20 MM 21		23		24		26		28		24 +ATM		18 MM 19
CIVIC EVENTS		Hardy Sun 2 D-Day Sat 8					Remem Sun 10						
POLICY & MAYORAL SELECTION			16		17		19		21		17 MS@ 1830		12
MANAGEMENT & SITE VISITS	SV 28 0930		9	SV 20 1700	10		12		14	SV 25 1630	10		5
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		3	1	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	2, 30	27	
MARKETS JOINT PANEL *		19							22				
<i>BANK HOLIDAYS</i>	6,27			26				25,26	1			10,13	4,25

MM Mayor Making      ATM Annual Town Meeting      MS Mayoral Selection Committee  
 SV Management Committee Sites Visit, open to all councillors

Meetings will ordinarily take place at 19.00 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings.

\* The dates and timing of Markets Joint Panel meetings are still to be agreed with the Dorset Council