

COUNCIL - 27 February 2020

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: A Adeyemo, M Allen, K Allsopp, K Blunt, M Brain, J Burn, J Butler, C Buxton-Sait, S Caudwell, D Cole, I Courts, P Davies, S Davis, T Diccico, J Fairburn, M Gough, K Grinsell, R Grinsell, B Groom, J Hamilton, K Hawkins, A Hodgson, T Hodgson, P Hogarth MBE, Mrs D Holl-Allen MBE, R Holt, D Howell, A Mackenzie, A Mackiewicz, K Macnaughton, M McLoughlin, F Nash, M Parker, J Potts, W Qais, A Rebeiro, T Richards OBE, A Rolf, J Ryan, R Sexton, R Sleigh OBE, K Thomas, P Thomas, J Tildesley, Mrs K Wild, C Williams and M Wilson

1. APOLOGIES.

Councillors Ashraf, McCarthy, Meeson and Slater submitted their apologies.

2. COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 February 2020 were presented.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 February 2020 were approved as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICTING INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

Councillor Mackiewicz made a declaration of interest as a Director of AMPA Associates Ltd who provided contracts procured by Solihull Council.

4. PETITIONS

Councillor Hawkins submitted a petition on behalf of local residents which called on Solihull Council to reverse proposals to reduce opening hours at Dickens Heath Community Library.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Ball would take place on 14th March with entertainment and food.

6. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9 AND 12

No questions or deputations were received.

7. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8 (30 MINUTES)

Councillor Allen to Councillor Hawkins, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways

"The A34 Stratford Road in Shirley has been identified in the Council's Road Safety strategy because of the high collision history especially at the junction with Stanton Road. Despite concerns raised by local residents, businesses and councillors over a long period time, there is still no definitive timescale for the review to be undertaken.

COUNCIL - 27 February 2020

Can the cabinet member say why there is still no date and when he anticipates it will happen?"

The Cabinet Member responded with the following points:

- At that junction, there had been two recordable accidents in the last five years. The A34 was looked into by road safety partnership, but the junction itself was not dangerous.

Councillor Allen questioned when actions from the road safety partnership would take place.

The Cabinet Member explained that the report from the partnership's findings would be available at the next Environment and Highways Cabinet Decision session.

Councillor K Thomas to Cllr Hawkins Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways

"When it comes to inconsiderate and illegal parking please could you clarify who between Solihull MBC and the police is responsible for taking the lead on tackling these issues?"

- Double yellow lines
- Across someone's drive (drop kerb)
- Across the pavement preventing wheelchairs or prams getting past
- In a disabled space without a blue badge correctly displayed
- On a junction or other unsafe location?"

The Cabinet Member responded by outlining that:

- If an individual parked across double yellow lines or in a disabled space without a blue badge it would be the responsibility of the local authority to enforce.
- If an individual parked across someone's drive, across the pavement or on a junction or other unsafe location it would be the responsibility of the police to enforce.

Councillor K Thomas to Councillor Meeson Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Skills

"If I was 15 and living in Lyndon, where could I go to hang around with my mates in an evening?"

In Councillor Meeson's absence, Councillor Rolf, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Stronger and Safer Communities responded with the following points:

- The Council encouraged young people to access safe spaces and get involved in activities within their local area. This approach was formalised through the Thriving Communities Programme. This involved:
 - Community development workers who worked to support organisations in each of the three localities
 - Maximised the use of library facilities
 - Developed an online tool called My Solihull to highlight activities within the borough
 - The Family Information Service provided an online family service directory
 - The Solihull Active website provided information on opportunities within Solihull

COUNCIL - 27 February 2020

- The long term aim of this would be to show all the activities within Solihull, which enabled people of any age to keep active, meet people and become an active member of their community.

Councillor Thomas asked whether there was anywhere within Lyndon that young people could hang out at informally.

Councillor Rolf explained that she was not aware of locations in Lyndon specifically, but encouraged the Member to contact her to look into this further.

8. COUNCIL TOPIC OF DEBATE

No topic of debate was submitted.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

No notice of motion was submitted.

10. BUDGET FRAMEWORK, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND THE CORPORATE CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020/21- 2022/23

The Leader presented the Council budget for 2020/21, the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Corporate Capital Strategy 2020/21-2022/23 (item 10(a))

The Leader moved the following recommendation under 10(a):
That Full Council be **recommended** to:

- (i) approve a budget for 2020/21 of £159.077 million, including the forecast balances on the budget strategy reserve set out in paragraph 3.8 of the Leaders report;
- (ii) approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23, as updated by the Leaders report, and the Corporate Capital Strategy, incorporating the Council’s strategy on the flexible use of capital receipts;
- (iii) approve the fees and charges proposed within each portfolio (Appendix F of the report of the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive (agenda item 9)) for including the amendment outlined at paragraph 3.3 of the Leaders report and shown at Appendix C to the Leaders report;
- (iv) approve the proposed approach to carbon reduction budgeting, as outlined at paragraph 3.38 and detailed in the report to the Budget Strategy Group attached at Appendix G of the report of the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive (agenda item 9);
- (v) approve an increase in the level of the general council tax in 2020/21 of 1.90%;
- (vi) approve an increase in council tax for adult social care in 2020/21 of 2.00%; and

COUNCIL - 27 February 2020

- (vii) approve Solihull's element of the council tax in 2020/21 is £1,411.00 (£1,285.53 for general council tax and £125.47 for adult social care).

There then followed a sequence of amendments which were proposed as follows:

Climate Emergency Measures (Amendment one)

Councillor Allen proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Burn.

Costs

A) We will run a project to bring Solihull residents, businesses, land owners and other organisations together through an ambitious programme with a target of planting one native tree for every resident in Solihull Borough Council's area. This will require employing one FTE (£48,000 p.a.).

B) We will set up an internal taskforce to look at how the Council can help the rest of Solihull to reduce their emissions. This will require employing one FTE (£48,000 p.a.).

C) Solihull Council will become the first Council to be certified as a Silver Carbon Literate Organisation, seeing a substantial number of our staff (particularly those who are decision-makers or who can act as influencers and change agents externally) trained in our own Carbon Literacy Course (£6,500 in year 1, then £2,000 in years 2 and 3).

Funding

Council pledges in principle to generate savings by making changes to the members' allowance scheme to reduce payments to scrutiny and governance chairs and to reduce the cabinet composition by one member (saving £35,000 p.a). These are decisions which would need to be made at a future Council meeting, but in the interests of legality and compliant accounting, they will be nominally funded from the budget strategy reserve for the purposes of this budget in the interim.

Additional savings are also proposed in reducing the postage and printing budgets for sending papers to Councillors and by removing water coolers in council buildings (saving £26,000 p.a).

The net additional costs will be funded from the budget strategy reserve.

The impact on the figures shown in the budget reports to Full Council is attached for information.

	2020/21 One-off	£'000	2021/22 One-off	£'000	2022/23 Ongoing	£'000
Costs	103		98		98	
Additional cost savings	(58)		(61)		(61)	
Additional use of budget strategy reserve	(45)		(37)		(37)	
Impact on proposed net budget	0		0		0	

The following Members voted in favour:

COUNCIL - 27 February 2020

Councillors Allen, Burn, Buxton-Sait, Caudwell, Cole, Groom, Hamilton, A Hodgson, T Hodgson, Macnaughton, McLoughlin, Nash, Dr Sexton, Williams and Wilson.

The following Members abstained:

Councillors Adeyemo, Davies, Davis and K Thomas.

The following Members voted against:

Councillors Allsopp, Blunt, Butler, Courts, Diccico, Gough, K Grinsell, R Grinsell, Hawkins, Hogarth, Mrs Holl-Allen, Holt, Howell, Mackenzie, Mackiewicz, Parker, Potts, Qais, Rebeiro, Richards, Rolf, Ryan, Sleigh, P Thomas, Tildesley and Mrs Wild.

Amendment one was lost

Fairness Commission (Amendment Two)

Councillor Macnaughton proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Burn.

Solihull Council will set up a Fairness Commission to run for one year to explore the very high and entrenched levels of inequality (and health inequality) seen in our borough and make recommendations as to how we can begin to reduce these gaps. This will be initially funded from the budget strategy reserve (one half time FTE for a year, plus £10k running costs for a year = £34,000 p.a.) but we would expect this to generate substantial savings in years 2 and 3 onwards, far more than the cost of the commission, as our costs of providing services to people in need reduces as the level of need reduces.

The impact on the figures shown in the budget reports to Full Council is attached for information.

	2020/21£'0000 ne-off	2021/22£'0000 ne-off	2022/23£'0000 ngoing
Costs	34	0	0
Additional savings	0	(34)	(34)
Additional contribution to/ (use of) budget strategy reserve	(34)	34	34
Impact on proposed net budget	0	0	0

The following Members voted for:

Councillors Adeyemo, Allen, Brain, Burn, Buxton-Sait, Caudwell, Cole, Davies, Hamilton, A Hodgson, T Hodgson, Macnaughton, McLoughlin, Nash, Rebeiro, Dr Sexton, K Thomas, Williams and Wilson

The following Members abstained:

Councillor Davis

COUNCIL - 27 February 2020

The following Members voted against:

Councillors Allsopp, Blunt, Butler, Courts, Diccico, Gough, K Grinsell, R Grinsell, Hawkins, Hogarth, Mrs Holl-Allen, Holt, Howell, Mackenzie, Mackiewicz, Parker, Potts, Qais, Richards, Rolf, Ryan, Sleigh, P Thomas, Tildesley and Mrs Wild

Amendment Two was lost.

Shirley High Street (Amendment Three)

Councillor T Hodgson proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor McLoughlin.

Ring-fence £1 million from the remaining £2.9m in capital receipts from the Powergen site to be spent on economic and community infrastructure to support Shirley High Street.

This amendment would have no impact on the figures shown in the budget reports to Full Council.

The following Members voted for:

Councillors Allen, Burn, Buxton-Sait, Caudwell, Hamilton, A Hodgson, T Hodgson, Macnaughton, McLoughlin, Dr Sexton, Williams and Wilson

The following Members abstained:

Councillors Adeyemo, Brain, Cole, Davies, Davis, Nash and K Thomas

The following Members voted against:

Councillors Allsopp, Blunt, Butler, Courts, Diccico, Gough, K Grinsell, R Grinsell, Hawkins, Hogarth, Mrs Holl-Allen, Holt, Howell, Mackenzie, Mackiewicz, Parker, Potts, Qais, Rebeiro, Richards, Rolf, Ryan, Sleigh, P Thomas, Tildesley and Mrs Wild.

Amendment Three was lost.

Council was then asked to vote on the Leaders recommendation and Council **RESOLVED:**

- (i) To approve a budget for 2020/21 of £159.077 million, including the forecast balances on the budget strategy reserve set out in paragraph 3.8 of the Leaders report;
- (ii) To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23, as updated by the Leaders report, and the Corporate Capital Strategy, incorporating the Council's strategy on the flexible use of capital receipts;
- (iii) To approve the fees and charges proposed within each portfolio (Appendix F of the report of the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive (agenda item 9)) for including the amendment outlined at paragraph 3.3 of the Leaders report and shown at Appendix C to the Leaders report;

COUNCIL - 27 February 2020

- (iv) To approve the proposed approach to carbon reduction budgeting, as outlined at paragraph 3.38 and detailed in the report to the Budget Strategy Group attached at Appendix G of the report of the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive (agenda item 9);
- (v) To approve an increase in the level of the general council tax in 2020/21 of 1.90%;
- (vi) To approve an increase in council tax for adult social care in 2020/21 of 2.00%; and
- (vii) To approve Solihull's element of the council tax in 2020/21 is £1,411.00 (£1,285.53 for general council tax and £125.47 for adult social care).

The following Members voted in favour:

Councillors Adeyemo, Allsopp, Blunt, Butler, Courts, Davies, Diccico, Gough, K Grinsell, R Grinsell, Hawkins, Hogarth, Mrs Holl-Allen, Holt, Howell, Mackenzie, Mackiewicz, Parker, Potts, Qais, Rebeiro, Richards, Rolf, Ryan, Sleigh, K Thomas, P Thomas, Tildesley and Mrs Wild

The following Members voted against:

Councillors Allen, Brain, Burn, Buxton-Sait, Caudwell, Cole, A Hodgson, T Hodgson, Macnaughton, McLoughlin, Nash, Dr Sexton, Williams and Wilson

The Following Member abstained.

Councillor Davis

The Leader then presented the recommendation under item 10(b)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the sums required for the purposes of sections 31A, 31B and 34-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and to set the Council Tax for 2020/21 in accordance with section 30 of the same Act. (pages 145-149 of the minute book)

The following Members voted in favour:

Councillors Adeyemo, Allsopp, Blunt, Brain, Butler, Cole, Courts, Davies, Diccico, Gough, K Grinsell, R Grinsell, Hawkins, Hogarth, Mrs Holl-Allen, Holt, Howell, Mackenzie, Mackiewicz, Nash, Parker, Potts, Qais, Rebeiro, Richards, Rolf, Ryan, Sleigh, K Thomas, P Thomas, Tildesley and Mrs Wild

The following Members voted against:

Councillors Allen, Burn, Buxton-Sait, Caudwell, Hamilton, A Hodgson, T Hodgson, Macnaughton, McLoughlin, Dr Sexton, Williams and Wilson

The following Members abstained:

Councillor Davis.

COUNCIL - 27 February 2020

The recommendation as above was carried.

11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE URGENT MATTERS

The Deputy Chief Executive stated there were no urgent matters.

12. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

There were no remaining questions.

The meeting finished at 8.35 pm