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Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd March, 2023 at The Ballroom, Retford Town Hall, DN22 6DB

Present: Councillor M Richardson (Chairman)

Councillors:

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| G Freeman | H M Brand | R B Carrington-Wilde |
| D Challinor | G Clarkson | A Coultate |
| K Dukes | J Evans | S Fielding |
| K M Greaves | S Greaves | M Introna |
| S Isard | J A Leigh | D J Merryweather |
| J Naish | J W Ogle | J Potts |
| D R Pressley | D E Pulk | M W Quigley MBE |
| A Rhodes | N J Sanders | J M Sanger MBE |
| L Schuller | S Scotthorne | S E Shaw |
| J C Shephard | B Sofflet | L Stanniland |
| C Troop | J White | |

Officers in attendance: D Armiger, C Hopkinson, C Taylor, M Wildman and S Wormald.

(The meeting opened at 6.30 pm.)

70 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J R Anderson, J P Bowker, T P Eaton BCA, G Jones, D G Pidwell, J C Plevin, H L Tamblyn-Saville, C Tindle and M G Watson.

71 Declarations

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

72 Minutes

Councillor D E Pulk advised that his initials were missing from the attendance in the minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meetings held on 8th December 2022 and 26th January 2023 be approved subject to the inclusion of Councillor D E Pulk's initials.

73 Previous Motions Action and Implementation

Resolved that the Previous Motions Action and Implementation be noted.

74 Communications

Chairman's Communications:

The Chairman advised that since Christmas she attended events including her Civic Service. She thanked those for attending the Service which raised nearly £200 for Centre Place.

She thanked the Standard Bearers Royal British Legion, MSVG and RAFA, the Worksop Miners Welfare Brass Band, the Southwell Quartet, the 9th Worksop Brownies and officers involved.

Chief Executive's Communications:

The Chief Executive commented that it was the last meeting for a number of Members. He thanked retiring Members for their contribution over the years on behalf of residents and officers.

Leaders Update:

The Leader gave an update on a number of key items:

- The cost of living crisis.
- STEP Project
- Devolution
- Flooding
- Future Cabinet reports

He thanked Officers and Members for their support throughout the term of office.

75 Questions by the Public

From David Bamford:

"I note with interest and excitement the leaflets being posted stating that 3,800 jobs are to be created at Apleyhead.

There were similar leaflets delivered to households around a year ago, which also suggested I believe over a thousand apprenticeships.

Could the council detail what these jobs are, which companies are coming to Apleyhead as well as which companies have signed up to locating there and when they are planned?"

Response from Councillor J White:

"Thank you for your question, Mr Bamford, I share your interest and excitement and am very pleased to have this opportunity to provide you with much more detail.

This Council has led with a strong ambition to create 10,000 new jobs within the district, and we have committed to do through the work of our Growth and Enterprise Team, our Economic Development Service, our planning service and finance departments, all working together to attract inward investment to ensure that future enterprises see Bassetlaw as the right and best place to establish new business.

These ambitions have been locked into our Local Plan process that is currently being examined by the Planning Inspector. The Local Plan has to identify employment sites, the types of jobs that will come to those sites and calculate how many jobs will be created through development on those sites.

The Local Plan has identified that there will be up to 9,800 jobs on sites in and around Worksop, Retford and Harworth & Bircotes, including up to 3,800 at Apleyhead.

Most of these sites have recently been built out or are under construction. Take a look at Blyth roundabout, where we have B&Q, Butternut Box dog food, Irizar coach company, Eddie Stobbart's and Curries. We are on target with job creation.

Apleyhead has been defined as a regional hub for large scale logistics, so it has the potential to provide a strong mix of jobs, including higher skilled and technology driven roles, with the potential for artificial intelligence being used to manage warehouse processes.

At this stage it is too early to say which companies will be coming to the site. I am aware that the site developers are actively promoting it and are working on submitting a planning application. The requirements of development will include the need for cycle and bus routes for easy access for local people.

The Local Plan is requiring all new employment sites to put together an Employment and Skills Plan, engaging with the Council and local education providers during the construction phase to support apprenticeships, direct employment and advanced training for people already in the sector.

The Council is working in partnership with the North Notts BID, delivering What Next careers events – these are shows with local employers and education providers exhibiting to post-16 and post-18 on local career opportunities. Apprenticeships are a key feature of this. The next one will be on 29th March. We have been organising two of these a year.

We are also focused on hosting events during the annual National Apprenticeship week and supporting ongoing activities like delivering career cafes in school to link education with the world of work.

We continue to promote information through the North Notts Skills and Employment Board and Partnership on what apprenticeships are available in the area.

One of the most innovative new companies to come to Bassetlaw in recent times is Thatcham's, who are developing driverless car technology and they intend to build an academy to train people locally to meet their skills needs.

We have a company, based in Harworth, with a training academy for the repairs and maintenance of wind turbines, at height, with people being trained to work on the huge structures in the North Sea.

The biggest news in Bassetlaw in recent times, was the October decision for the STEP fusion programme to be sited at West Burton, where the power station is shortly to be decommissioned.

This will bring many new employment opportunities for local people, both in the construction phase and when the site is built out. This will create approximately 3,500 jobs linked to comparable projects, an anticipated 6,500 jobs during the contraction phase and 1,000 jobs once the project is complete plus huge numbers within the supply chain.

They have already launched plans to build an on-site academy with alternative local sites to be used for the training during its construction phase.

I am very pleased to say that there are big opportunities for Bassetlaw people that are exciting and rewarding! This is about building our local skills levels, increasing wealth, raising aspirations, and ensuring that Bassetlaw is the place for people to choose to live their lives and raise their families.”

76 Questions by Members

None.

77 Motions

Proposed by Councillor L Stanniland and seconded by Councillor A Coultate:

“Around half of the UK concentrations of Particulate Matter (pm) comes from anthropogenic sources such as tyre and break wear from vehicles, according to the government.

North Tuxford has the highest level of pm 2.5 in Bassetlaw, pm 2.5 is particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns. According to DEFRA, exposure to high concentrations of PM can exacerbate lung and heart conditions, significantly affecting quality of life, and increase deaths and hospital admissions. Children, the elderly and those with predisposed respiratory and cardiovascular disease, are known to be more susceptible to the health impacts from air pollution. Long-term exposure to pm 2.5 increases the age-specific mortality risk, particularly from cardiovascular causes.

Currently, data is modelled by Bassetlaw to calculate levels of pm in Tuxford, and other areas in Bassetlaw. As such, we are unsure on the actual levels of pm 2.5 in North Tuxford. With Tuxford being dangerously close to national limits on occasion, bringing with it huge potential health risks for residents, this council agrees to the following:

- The purchase of a gravimetric pm sensor, at an estimated cost of £15,000 (figures from Bassetlaw District Council's Pollution Officer).
- The placing of this sensor in a semi-permanent station in North Tuxford to monitor pm levels
- The funding for this may be found from within the Health and Safety contingency budget in the 2023/24 financial year”

Councillors A Coultate, H M Brand, J Leigh and L Stanniland spoke to the motion.

It was proposed and seconded that the question now be put.

Resolved that the question now be put.

Resolved that the motion not be supported.

78 Referrals

78a Cabinet - 9th February 2023 - Minute No. 105(b)- General Fund Budget 2023/24 to 2027/28 (Key Decision No. 963)

Members received a referral from Cabinet which provided details of the General Fund Budget.

Resolved that:

1. The budget for 2023/24 and future years, together with the associated comments from the Audit and Risk Scrutiny Committee on 08th February 2023, be approved.
2. A council tax increase of 2.99% for Band D equivalent properties for 2023/24 be approved.
3. The declaration of a £2.865m surplus on the Collection Fund for 2023/24 as summarised in para 3.43 of this report be noted.
4. The Business Rates figures shown on the NNDR1 form regarding
 - the net yield from local business rates;
 - the cost of collection allowance;
 - the amounts retained in respect of renewable energy schemes;

- the declared surplus at the end of 2023/24. be noted.
- 5. Authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance for addressing any issues arising from the Business Ratepayers consultation in February 2023.
- 6. Authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer to deal with amendments to the budget for any changes to Drainage Board and Parish Town Council precepts.

78b Cabinet 9th February 2023 - Minute No. 105(c) - Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 (Key Decision No. 962)

Members received a referral from Cabinet which sought approval of the Treasury Management Strategy incorporating the Borrowing Strategy, Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy and Prudential Indicators as updated in accordance with latest guidance.

Resolved that the following be approved:

1. The Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26, incorporating the Borrowing Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy (Appendix 1).
2. The Capital Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2023/24 to 2025/26, contained within Section 2.
3. The Capital Financing Requirement as detailed in Section 2.2.
4. The Affordability Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 2.3.
5. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement as contained within Section 2.5 which sets out the Council's policy on MRP.
6. The Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator contained within Section 3.2.
7. The maturity structure of borrowing as set out in Section 3.3.

78c Cabinet 9th February 2023 - Minute No. 105(d) - Capital Investment Strategy 2023/24 to 2027/28 - (Key Decision No. 964)

Members received a referral from Cabinet which sought approval for the Capital Investment Strategy 2023/24 to 2027/28.

Resolved that:

The Capital Investment Strategy 2023/24 to 2027/28 be approved.

78d Cabinet 9th February 2023 - Minute No. 105(e) Property Asset Management Plan 2023/24 (Key Decision No. 960)

Members received a referral from Cabinet which sought approval of the Property Asset Management 2023//24 Update.

An elected Member asked for an update on the number of regular courses held at The Bridge Skills Hub and the number of units let at Middeltons Yard.

Resolved that:

1. The Property Asset Management Plan 2023/24 be approved.
2. A written update on the Bridge Skills Hub and Middeltons Yard be provided to Members.

78e Cabinet 9th February 2023 - Minute No. 106(a) - Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24 (Key Decision No. 961)

Resolved that:

1. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023/24, as set out in section 4 and paragraph 6.1 of the report be approved and that this is subject to any further prescribed legislation changes and annual up-ratings notified by the Government prior to 01st April 2023.

79 Report of the Chief Executive

79a Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers

The report sought to appointment Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DEROs). If appointed, DEROs are able to perform and exercise any of the duties and powers of the Electoral Registration Officer.

Resolved that:

1. That the Head of Corporate Services be appointed as a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.
2. That the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager be appointed as a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.

79b Pay Policy Statement

Members were presented with the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 for consideration and agreement by Members of the Council.

Resolved that:

1. The information contained within the report and the attachment be noted.
2. The Pay Policy Statement be approved for publication by 1 April 2023.

80 Report of The Director of Corporate Services

80a Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Working Group

At its meeting of the 24th September 2022 the Council adopted the following motion “In recognition of the life and death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, this Council resolves to establish a cross-party taskforce to identify meaningful ways across the District to acknowledge her life of public service. “

The taskforce has met on four occasions, the report detailed the proposals under a number of categories.

Resolved that the recommendations to identify meaningful ways across the District to acknowledge the life of public service of her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II be approved.

81 Council Tax Resolution

The report sought to assist Members of the Council to consider the background to their budgetary and Council Tax decisions, and set out the recommendations from Cabinet on the 9th February 2023.

Members were asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor J Evans, Cabinet Member for Finance, presented the Budget proposals for 2023/24.

The proposals were seconded by Councillor D Merryweather.

There were no responses to the proposals on behalf of the Opposition Group and no alternative Budget proposal was tabled.

Councillors D Merryweather, A Rhodes, J Potts, D R Pressley, R Carrington-Wilde and S Greaves spoke to the Budget and thanked Councillor J Evans. Councillor J Evans concluded the report.

A recorded vote was taken in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

Voting for the proposed Budget:

For: Councillors H M Brand, R B Carrington-Wilde, D Challinor, G Clarkson, K Dukes, J Evans, S Fielding, G Freeman, K M Greaves, S A Greaves, J A Leigh, D J Merryweather, J N Naish, J Potts, D R Pressley, D E Pulk, A Rhodes, M Richardson, N J Sanders, J M Sanger, B L Schuller, S Scotthorne, S E Shaw, J C Shephard, B Sofflet, C Troop and J White.

Against: None

Abstained: Councillors A K Coultate, M Introna, S Isard, J W Ogle, M W Quigley and L Stanniland.

Resolved:

1. It be noted that on 26th January 2023 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2023/24:
 - (a) For the whole Council area as 37,260.45 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by The Localism Act 2011 (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate as in the attached Appendix C.
2. The Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts and Special Expenses) is calculated at £7,232,800.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £85,838,000 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 and any additional special expenses.
 - (b) (£77,097,100) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £8,740,900 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 of the Act).
 - (d) £234.59 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts and special expenses).
 - (e) £1,508,100 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts and special expenses) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C).

(f) £194.12 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 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept or special item relates.

4. To note that the County Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Fire & Rescue Authority have issued precepts 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 the table below.
5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

| | Valuation Bands | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Bassetlaw District Council | 129.41 | 150.98 | 172.55 | 194.12 | 237.26 | 280.40 | 323.53 | 388.24 |
| Nottinghamshire County Council | 995.81 | 1,161.77 | 1,327.74 | 1,493.71 | 1,825.65 | 2,157.58 | 2,489.52 | 2,987.42 |
| Nottinghamshire County Council - Adult Social Care | 153.30 | 178.85 | 204.40 | 229.95 | 281.05 | 332.15 | 383.25 | 459.90 |
| Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner | 179.46 | 209.37 | 239.28 | 269.19 | 329.01 | 388.83 | 448.65 | 538.38 |
| Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Authority | 59.71 | 69.67 | 79.62 | 89.57 | 109.47 | 129.38 | 149.28 | 179.14 |
| Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements | 1,517.69 | 1,770.64 | 2,023.59 | 2,276.54 | 2,782.44 | 3,288.34 | 3,794.23 | 4,553.08 |

6. That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
7. The Council hereby authorises the Section 151 Officer to administer the provisions of the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992 with regard to the demand, collection and recovery of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates and the operation of the Collection Fund.
8.
 - (a) The Council hereby specifies that the Business Rates shall be collected in accordance with respective statutory monthly instalment schemes laid down in Regulations within a 10-month period from April to January, or a 12-month period April to March.
 - (b) The Council hereby specifies that the Council Tax shall be collected in accordance with respective statutory monthly instalment schemes laid down in Regulations within a 10-month period from April to January, or a 12-month period April to March, except where agreements are made with the taxpayer to pay in weekly instalments.

(c) Payments will fall due on the first day of each month except where specific arrangements for Direct Debit apply for Council Tax and Business Rates.

82 Any Other Business Which the Chairman Considers to be Urgent

As there was no other urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.)

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