

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2010

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (P) (In the Chair);

Councillors Allen (P), Mrs Bailey (P), Ms Ballard (P), Beavis (P), Bradley (P), Burgess (P), Carter (P), Champion (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Cully (P), Dickson (P), Edgar (P), Edwards (P), Mrs Forder (P), Forder (P), Foster-Reed (P), Geddes (P), Gill (P), Hicks (P), Hook (P), Hylands (P), Kimber (P), Langdon (P), Mrs Mitchell-Smith, Mrs Mudie (P), Murphy (P), Philpott (P), Smith (P), Ward (P), Miss West (P) and Wright (P).

Also in attendance: Honorary Freeman Mrs Simpson and Honorary Aldermen Mrs Bailey, O'Neill and Searle.

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

In order to express their sympathy regarding the recent deaths of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jackie Carr and former Councillor Malcolm Taylor, Members of the Council stood in silent tribute for one minute.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Mitchell-Smith and Honorary Aldermen Foster, Hayward, Lucas and Train.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary meetings of the Council held on 25 November 2009 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

(A) HONORARY FREEMAN MRS SIMPSON

The Mayor read out a card received from Honorary Freeman Mrs Simpson thanking Councillors for their good wishes when she was recently taken ill in hospital.

(B) HASLAR TASK FORCE

The Mayor reported that as the Haslar Task Force's work was now complete, she had in order to show the Task Force the Council's appreciation, invited Members of the Task Force to a Reception in the Parlour in December. The Mayor and the Leader of the Council had expressed on behalf of the Council and the Public their gratitude to the Task Force for their tireless campaign to keep Haslar Hospital open over the last 11 years.

The Mayor concluded that she felt the Task Force's hard work had led to the potentially exciting scheme now planned for the Haslar site. In the circumstances the Council supported the Mayor in putting forward a proposition thanking the Haslar Task Force.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That a vote of thanks be recorded for the Haslar Task Force for their exceptional work in trying to save Haslar Hospital.

(C) NEW YEAR'S DAY SWIM AT STOKES BAY

The Mayor thanked Members, Officers, Council staff and Members of the Public for supporting her and Julie Gillies from Civic in the New Year's Day Swim at Stokes Bay. The sponsorship for this event had raised £360 towards the Mayor's Charities.

(D) MURDER, CHEESE AND WINE CHARITY NIGHT (29 JANUARY)

The Mayor thanked supporters of the above event last Friday night. The Murder Cheese and Wine Charity Night had raised £456 towards the Mayor's Charities.

The Mayor advised that tickets were now available from her PA for the 60's Night at the Thorngate Halls on the 6 March and the Dinner and Dance on 13 March 2010.

(E) YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY NIGHT DISCO

The Mayor stated that herself and the Mayor's Consort had been trying to get the Sunday Night Disco started for young people. Thanks to the hard work of her Consort and Councillor Hook, Youth Champion, the first Young People's Sunday Night Disco had been held on 31 January 2010. This Disco would continue until April on the last Sunday of each month. Monies collected after expenses would be donated by the Youth Council to the Mayor's Charities.

The Mayor thanked all concerned, especially Councillor Hook, Youth Champion, the Youth Council and Thorngate Halls for their commitment to the Disco.

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4

Question No 1 standing in the name of Councillor Forder on the Council's Officer and Service Providers response to the challenges posed by the recent severe weather was answered by the Leader of the Council.

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BOARDS

COUNCIL DWELLING RENTS 2010/11

At its meeting on 3 February 2010, the Housing Board recommended:

That , as from 5 April 2010:

- a) the average weekly Council Dwelling rents increase by 3.1%; and
- b) Garage rents increase by £1 per week plus 3.1%.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

COUNCIL BUDGET 2010/11

At its meeting on 3 February 2010, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended:

That, having considered the budget requirements of all of the Council's Boards (including Fees and Charges and Capital Programme), Council approve a revised 2009/10 Budget totalling £12,972,000 and a Budget for 2010/11 totalling £12,844,100 (net of a contribution from reserves of £114,110).

MOTION: That, having considered the budget requirements of all of the Council's Boards (including Fees & Charges and Capital Programme), Council approve a revised 2009/10 Budget totalling £12,972,000 and a Budget for 2010/11 totalling £12,844,100 (net of a contribution from reserves of £114,110).

AMENDMENT: That, having considered the budget requirements of all of the Council's Boards (including Fees & Charges and Capital Programme), Council approve a revised 2009/10 Budget totalling £12,972,000 and a Budget for 2010/11 totalling £12,844,100 (net of a contribution from reserves of £132,110).

This to be made up as per the budget book with the following amendments:

Page

4	Arts and Events	Reduce By	£5,000
10	Xmas Decorations	Reduce By	£10,000
30	Other Civic Events	Reduce By	£4,000
32	Community Strategy & LSP	Reduce By	£9,000
32	Best Value Performance	Reduce By	£2,500
32	Other Corporate Expenditure	Reduce By	£8,000

Total Savings	£38,500
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To Increase Concessionary Travel Tokens by £5 =	£42,500
Introduce Youth Grant for Under 17 years of Age	£14,000
(To be Administered by Grants Sub-Board)	

From Revenue Financing Reserves	£18,000
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The Amendment was put to the meeting and declared LOST.

SECOND AMENDMENT: That, having considered the budget requirements of all of the Council's Boards (including Fees & Charges and Capital Programme), Council approve a revised 2009/10 Budget totalling

£12,972,000 and a Budget for 2010/11 totalling £12,844,100 (net of a contribution from reserves of £294,110).

This Council notes the Budget Strategy approved by the Council in late 2009 which included a clear pledge not to cut Council services.

This Council regrets that the budget moved tonight by Cllr. Hook and the Conservative Group breaks that pledge and goes against the Council's own Budget Strategy by cutting over £200,000 from Council services while also increasing charges for some other Council services by a sum far greater than the rate of inflation.

In the current economic recession the Liberal Democrat Group believes the Council should not increase its Council Tax or cut services to the most vulnerable members of society.

The Liberal Democrat Group therefore propose:

- i) A Council Tax 'freeze' with no increase in Gosport's share of the overall Council Tax**
- ii) The original Council Budget Strategy of no cuts to services be reaffirmed**
- iii) The cost of protecting public services be met by transferring an additional £180,000 from the Revenue Financing Reserve which will still leave the Reserve at the same level as a year ago.**

The Second Amendment was put to the meeting and declared LOST.

The Motion was put to the meeting and declared TIED; the Mayor abstaining from voting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the Council meeting at 8.40pm so that the Motion could be considered by Members of the Council. The meeting re-convened at 9.26pm.

STANDING ORDER 4.11.18

In order for the meeting to continue beyond 9.30pm the Mayor moved Standing Order 4.11.18.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That in accordance with Standing Order 4.11.18 the Council meeting continues beyond 9.30pm

SECOND ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor adjourned the Council meeting for a second time at 9.27pm so that further consideration could be given to the Motion by Members of the Council. The meeting re-convened at 9.58pm

THIRD AMENDMENT: That, having considered the budget requirements of all of the Council's Boards (including Fees & Charges and Capital Programme), Council approve a revised 2009/10 Budget totalling £12,972,000 and a Budget for 2010/11 totalling £12,844,100 (net of a contribution from reserves of £164,110).

This to be made up as per the budget book with the following amendments:

Page

9	Car Parking Income	Increase By	£25,500
30	Other Civic Events	Reduce By	£2,000
32	Community Strategy & LSP	Reduce By	£5,000
32	Other Corporate Admin	Reduce By	£20,000

Total Savings £52,500

To increase:

Concessionary Travel Tokens By £5	=	£42,500
Introduce Youth Grant for Under 17 Years of Age (To be Administered by Grants Sub-Board)	=	£10,000

Page 27	Job Creation	=	£25,000
Page 27	Crime and Disorder	=	£25,000
	From Revenue Financing Reserves	=	£50,000

The Third Amendment was put to the meeting and declared LOST.

FOURTH AMENDMENT: That, having considered the budget requirements of all of the Council's Boards (including Fees & Charges and Capital Programme), Council approve a revised 2009/10 Budget totalling £12,972,000 and a Budget for 2010/11 totalling £12,844,100 (net of a contribution from reserves of £124,110).

This to be made up as per the budget book with the following amendments:

Page

9	Car Parking Income	Increase By	£25,500
30	Other Civic Events	Reduce By	£2,000
32	Community Strategy and LSP	Reduce By	£5,000
32	Other Corporate Admin	Reduce By	£20,000
Total Savings			£52,500

To Increase:

Concessionary Travel Tokens by £5	=	£42,500
Introduce Youth Grant for Under 17 Years of Age	=	£10,000
(To be Administered by Grants Sub-Board)		

Page 27	Job Creation	=	£5,000
Page 27	Crime and Disorder	=	£5,000
From Revenue Financing Reserves		=	£10,000

The Fourth Amendment was put to the meeting and declared CARRIED.

COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That the Substantive Motion as amended be approved and adopted.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2010/11

At its meeting on 3 February 2010, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that:

- a) Council formally approve:
- The Prudential Indicators

- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy (Appendix A)
- The Treasury Management Strategy
- The Investment Strategy; and

b) it be noted that officers will be reviewing the provisions relating to Treasury Management in the Constitution and will bring forward any amendments to a future meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

PART II MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following Part II Minutes be received.

Policy and Organisation Board: 25 January 2010
(Minute Nos 49 – 54) and 3 February 2010 (Minute No 61)

Community and Environment Board: 18 January 2010 (Minute Nos 35 – 38) and
3 February 2010 (Minute No 43)

Housing Board: 20 January 2010 (Minute No 37) and 3 February 2010 (Minute
No 43)

HARBOUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Councillor Hylands be nominated to the vacancy on the Harbour Economic Development Forum for the remainder of the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2010 - 2011

The Council was informed that in accordance with Standing Order 2.4 the Borough Solicitor had written to Group Leaders and Members of the Council to invite Member nominations for the selection of Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-

Elect for the next Municipal Year.

It was reported that one nomination each had been received by the Borough Solicitor from the Liberal Democrat Group and Conservative Group respectively; Councillor K L Gill for Mayor-Elect and Councillor R P Allen for Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2010-2011 Municipal Year.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That because of the exceptional sad circumstances regarding the Mayor-Elect for 2010/11, Council approve Councillor K L Gill for Mayor-Elect and Councillor R P Allen for Deputy Mayor-Elect for the 2010/2011 Municipal Year.

Councillors Gill and Allen briefly returned thanks for their nominations.

The meeting started at 6.45pm and ended at 10.15pm