

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE
HELD AT 6.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2018
BOURGES VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Parish Councillor Ian Allin
Parish Councillor Geoff Smith
Parish Councillor Jean Mead
Parish Councillor Keith Lievesley
Parish Councillor Richard Clarke
Parish Councillor Vince Moon
Parish Councillor Peter Lee
Parish Councillor Andrew Kenedler
Parish Councillor Jane Hill
Parish Councillor Phillip Thompson
Parish Councillor Joseph Dobson
Parish Councillor Martin Greaves
Parish Councillor John Haste
Parish Councillor John Bartlett
Ian Dewar

Orton Longueville Parish Council
Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Helpston Parish Council
Ufford Parish Council
Wansford Parish Council
Werrington Parish Council
Sutton Parish Council
Hampton Parish Council
Deeping Gate Parish Council
Deeping Gate Parish Council
Helpston Parish Council
Werrington Neighbourhood Council
Glington Parish Council
Thorney Parish Council
CAPALC

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Peter Carpenter
Sylvia Radouani
Joanna Morley

Service Director: Financial Services
Parish Council Community Co-ordinator
Democratic Services Officer

Appointment of Chairman (for this meeting only)

The Democratic Services Officer opened the meeting and advised the Committee that as the Chairman was unable to attend, a new Chairman for the meeting would need to be appointed. Nominations were sought from the members of the Committee who were present. Ian Dewar was nominated by Keith Lievesley and seconded by Richard Clarke and there being no further nominations Ian Dewar was appointed Chairman.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Chairman, Councillor Walsh.

Apologies were also received from Parish Councillors Henry Clark, Jason Merrill, Susie Lucas, Neil Boyce, Lynn George, Dennis Batty and Richard Perkins.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

2.1 20 December 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. PHASE 2 BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Service Director: Financial Services introduced the report on the Phase 2 Budget proposals. Discussion took place around the following points:

- One of the key considerations was making sure that the proposed budget was sustainable going forward.
- Over the next three years there would be a budget gap of £43.5m
- Current government funding did not take into account population growth or demand levels and as Peterborough was one of the fastest growing cities in the Country and was facing unprecedented demand it had been particularly affected by this.
- The revenue support grant from Government would have been cut by 80% over seven years, down from £55m in 2013/14 to £10m in 2019/20.
- The cost of providing adult social care services alone for a year was £46m.
- 23,000 homes were due to be built under the Local Plan so demand would continue to grow.
- Demand was also exacerbated by the fact that house prices were unusually low so other Authorities, mainly London boroughs, had started to house people in Peterborough.
- The average council tax band in Peterborough was Band B compared with an average Band D in other areas.
- There had been a comprehensive review of the Council's fixed assets over the last six months so that this year the budget would be supported by the sale of £12m worth of assets.
- The pay award this year was expected to be 2% which would increase costs by a further £400k.
- There were plans for a number of shared services with Cambridgeshire in order to get the requisite economies of scale to reduce spending whilst maintaining service levels.
- Income was generated through Peterborough Highway Services and the SKANSKA contract which, when sold on to other councils, gave PCC a 'joiners' fee.
- There would be additional income from raising the Council tax by 1% in addition to the 1.99% already allowed.
- Preventative measures were being taken to alleviate the homelessness pressures and it was hoped that these would reduce costs.
- Following the Phase 2 Budget position would mean that the Council's budget gap would drop from £43.5m to £19.2m over the next three years.
- More recent census figures have not been used to calculate population increases partly because for every net gainer there was a new loser and the Government could never get agreement between these winners and losers.
- Extra schools and classrooms needed to be built to cope with increasing demand. The funding for this would have to be found from developers section 106 agreements or the Council would have to debt fund it.
- Devolution funding had yet to be allocated but the Council was trying to get members and officers on to all the decision making committees as there was still a lot of strategizing and policy work going on.
- The pressures that the Council were under had not affected their reserves policy. There was a general, absolute emergency fund of £6m, earmarked reserves of £7m for such things as schools and insurance and £31m of other emergency funding. This last reserve was down to £21 million as funds had been used to offset the reduction of revenue grant funding.
- If the Government offered any match funding schemes the Council spent money to take part in these.
- The Stand Up For Peterborough was a three year cross party campaign aimed at getting fairer funding for Peterborough.
- The Fletton Quays development had been a great success as all of the penthouse

apartments had been sold and a Hilton hotel was due to open soon. The Council would be moving to their new offices there in July.

- The proposed Council Tax for 2018/19 was 5.99%. This consisted of the 1.99% allowed, the extra 1% flexibility given in the LG Provisional Finance Settlement 2018/19 and the 3% Adults Social Care precept. For those residents on Band B Council tax this would mean an increase of £1.10 a week and for those on Band D this would mean an increase of £1.40 a week.
- The Council had looked at increasing the Council Tax even further but this would have necessitated a referendum which was not favoured as it was expensive to stage and also if not enough people participated there would be questions about its legitimacy.
- The Stand Up For Peterborough campaign had attracted national coverage and local authority pressures were being highlighted by key figures such as the LGA Chair Lord Porter.
- Northamptonshire County Council had been warning central government that it would be unable to balance its budget and on 2 February it had issued a section 114 notice which meant that all its commitments (unless exceptionally urgent) would be frozen for 21 days. A section 114 notice had not been issued for more than 20 years and so all Councils would be taking a keen interest in what the Government's approach to the situation would be.
- Peterborough City Council did not have any joint ventures with Northamptonshire but it did have shared services with Cambridgeshire who in turn had joint back office services with Northamptonshire.
- The Council was working hard to close the funding gap over the next three year period and Officers were trying to give Cabinet Members options to do so. As part of this approach, officers were putting processes in place so that budgets could be implemented throughout the year in order that the Council could be both proactive and responsive to situations much earlier.

ACTIONS AGREED:

1. The Parish Council Community Co-ordinator to circulate the Phase 2 Budget proposal presentation to all parish clerks for distribution to their Councillors.

4. CO-OPTED MEMBERS FEEDBACK SESSION

The Co-opted Member of the Growth Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee provided feedback on the last meeting of this scrutiny committee which had been held on 16 January 2018.

Discussion took place around the following points:

- The meeting scrutinised the following the reports: Peterborough Trees and Woodland Strategy, Draft PCC Biodiversity Strategy, Peterborough Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, Peterborough Flood and Water Management Supplementary Planning Document, and the Developers Contributions Supplementary Planning Document. The reports can be found in the link here: <http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=657&MId=3953&Ver=4>
- Every tree in the City had been surveyed and logged into a tree database that enabled the Council to undertake maintenance of them.
- The strategy did not mention hedgerows which the Co-opted Member felt was an omission that needed to be rectified and which he would be taking up with officers outside of the committee forum.
- It was felt that the Trees and Woodland Strategy was too urban focussed.

- The Biodiversity strategy included sites that were not managed directly by the Council.
- The restoration of old quarry sites was covered by the Council's Minerals plan which was undergoing revision. It was a shared plan undertaken by Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Councils as it was linked to the geography of the quarries which cut across counties.

5. FEEDBACK FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH CONFERENCE

The Parish Council Co-ordinator provided an update on the outcomes from the Parish Council Annual Conference which had taken place on 14 November 2017. Discussion took place around the following points:

- Parishes had received the evaluation feedback which showed that 91% of delegates felt that the Conference was well organised. 94% felt that the information presented was very useful with the Health and Wellbeing presentation rated the most interesting topic followed by the CIL presentation.
- A number of people who had registered for the conference failed to turn up and in total there were about 30 no-shows. To combat this and to avoid the considerable food waste that there had been, it was proposed that this year there would be a charge of approximately £15 per head.
- The layout for this year's conference would also be different with delegates seated around tables rather than formal lecture style seating.
- The date for the next Parish Conference had provisionally been set for 15 November 2018.

ACTIONS AGREED:

1. The Parish Council Community Co-Ordinator to inform Parishes what section 106 monies each had to spend.

6. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- The Transparency Fund still had funds available to spend and Parishes were urged to get applications in, which could be submitted online, within the next week, as the deadline had been extended until then. Applications could be for any equipment that helped the Parishes become more transparent in their dealings so would cover a range of digital and IT equipment.
- Lobby day was being held on 20 March 2018 which was where any issues could be fed in to the CAPALC office for NALC reps to take forward to MPs.
- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) would be coming into force on 25 May 2018 and had implications for Parish Councils as any breaches of GDPR could be liable for a fine of up to 4% of turnover. CAPALC would be running information sessions on GDPR on 15 and 16 May, in both the afternoon and evening.
- The new CAPALC e-bulletin was now available for all member Councillors and Clerks. Parishes needed to check whether they had received the mailchimp bulletin.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 14 March 2018

CHAIRMAN 6.30 – 8.00pm