

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2020  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR GUL NAWAZ**

**Present:** Councillors Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Barkham, Bashir, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Andrew Coles, Louise Coles, Day, Dowson, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Haynes, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Holdich, Howard, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lane, Lillis, Murphy, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Sandford, Seaton, Shaheed, Simons, Skibsted, Walsh, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin and Yurgutene.

**44. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ellis, Fower and Lamb.

**45. Declarations of Interest**

The Mayor announced that the Audit Committee had granted a general dispensation for all Members should they have a pecuniary interest on the budget item.

Councillor Ash declared later in the meeting that he was a trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and confirmed with the Legal Officer he had dispensation to speak.

**46. Minutes of the Meetings held on 16 October 2019**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16 October 2019 were debated and the following amendment was proposed by Councillor Seaton:

The addition of, "Councillor Seaton made the point that the Liberal Democrats wanted to introduce a park and ride in this city and pay for that by increasing car parking charges. Councillor Wiggin then denied this," to the points of debate of item 43(4) – Motion from Councillor Sandford.

This was seconded by Councillor Holdich:

A vote was taken (27 voted in favour, 23 voted against, 5 abstained from voting).

**Councillors For:** Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Andy Coles, Louise Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

**Councillors Against:** Ali, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

**Councillors Abstaining:** Ash, Day, John Fox, Judy Fox, Howell

### **Councillors Not Voting: Nil**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the normal meeting held on 16 October 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to the following changes:

The addition of, "Councillor Seaton made the point that the Liberal Democrats wanted to introduce a park and ride in this city and pay for that by increasing car parking charges. Councillor Wiggan then denied this," to the points of debate of item 43(4) – Motion from Councillor Sandford.

The minutes of the Special Full Council meeting held on 16 October 2019 were debated and the following amendment proposed:

Alteration of, "Councillor Casey addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations contained within the report regarding Bella Saltmarsh in recognition of his service to the Council and the City of Peterborough," to, "Councillor Casey addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations contained within the report regarding Bella Saltmarsh in recognition of her service to the Council and the City of Peterborough," to item 31(b) – Bella Saltmarsh.

A vote was taken (51 voted in favour, 0 voted against, 1 abstained from voting).

**Councillors For:** Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ayres, Barkham, Bashir, Bisby, Sandra Bond, Andrew Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Louise Coles, Andy Coles, Day, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Goodwin, Harper, Haynes, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Holdich, Howard, Howell, Hussain, Azher Iqbal, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Sandford, Seaton, Shaheed, Simons, Skibsted, Walsh, Warren, Wiggan, Yasin, Yurgutene

**Councillors Against:** Nil

**Councillors Abstaining:** Ash

**Councillors Not Voting:** John Fox, Judy Fox, Murphy

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the special meeting held on 16 October 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to the following changes:

Alteration of, "Councillor Casey addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations contained within the report regarding Bella Saltmarsh in recognition of his service to the Council and the City of Peterborough," to, "Councillor Casey addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations contained within the report regarding Bella Saltmarsh in recognition of her service to the Council and the City of Peterborough," to item 31(b) – Bella Saltmarsh.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **47. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor announced he would be holding the following events and all Members were welcome to attend:

1. Afternoon tea in the Mayors Parlour 3 March 2020
2. Quiz Night 6 March 2020
3. Curry night 10 March 2020

#### **48. Leader's Announcements**

There were no announcements from the Leader.

#### **49. Petitions**

##### **(a) Presented by Members of the Public**

A petition was presented by John Whitby requesting that the council reverse the biodiversity descriptor on Tenterhill and revert to managing the area on a regular basis to allow more use for local residents. He explained the request was not for the whole area to be mown short and some areas could be left wild.

##### **(b) Presented by Members**

There were no petitions presented by Members.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS**

#### **50. Cabinet Recommendation – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-21 to 2022-23**

Council received a recommendation from Cabinet in relation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2022/23, which outlined the future strategic direction for the Council, the forecast reserves position and feedback received on the budget proposals from the consultation as detailed in the appendices and supplementary information pack.

Councillor Seaton introduced the report and moved the recommendations. Members were advised that the Council faced a severe financial challenge as government grants were reducing whilst the demand for services was increasing. The Council had a duty to agree a balanced budget and would benefit from applying budget changes sooner rather than later. Councillor Seaton highlighted services that had been maintained and improved, and acknowledged the support of volunteer services and staff in achieving this. It was explained that Youth Services continued to receive £1million per annum and libraries remained open for longer hours due to the innovative use of technology. Community Centres had remained open and the Family Safeguarding Initiative had received government funding to reduce the number of children going into care. Hospital discharge procedures continued to perform well. The streetlights had been upgraded to LED bulbs, addressing the Council's carbon footprint and light pollution, and the city had full fibre broadband. Reductions had been made to the voluntary sector partners who would continue to provide the same service with the exception the Rainbow Credit Union whose customer base had reduced as commercial banks now provided the same service.

Councillor Seaton also advised that Peterborough had one of the lowest levels of council tax in the country. It was confirmed that services would not be reduced for the most vulnerable adults, although care packages would be reviewed. Youth Services would be reviewed, concentrating on those considered most at risk, and support and development for young people would continue and be tailored to meet local needs within the community.

Members were informed that there had been investment in systems, processes, and people. The Council would now make further efficiencies and maximise the opportunities made available by new technology.

Councillor Holdich seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Sandford moved the first and second amendments to the motion together. It was suggested that the issue of Members car park permits should be referred to the Independent Members Allowances Panel and their recommendations should be mandatory as per a previous motion agreed in principle by Full Council.

It was explained that the Independent Members Allowances Panel had previously recommended to remove Members travel allowances and instead provide Councillors with a flat rate to cover all travel costs. The recommendations were generally accepted by Full Council with the exception of car parking permits. It was advised that to supply a member of the public with the same parking privileges as those enjoyed by Members it would cost the Council approximately £800.00 per person, per annum, and that in this time of climate emergency Members were being subsidised which was not considered to be a green or sensible way forward.

The Council had made a commitment to the climate emergency zero carbon emissions target. As travel accounted for 20% of carbon emissions, it was felt that the Council and Councillors should set an example in the shift towards more sustainable transport.

Councillor Sandford went on to explain that the proposed changes to services to young people and Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) were damaging and should be furthered considered and debated at the final council budget.

The Youth Services budget would be cut by 50% which he considered a severe cut. Most public survey forms collected by Ward Councillors indicated that facilities for young people were insufficient and evidence showed that when young people were short of things to do, there was an increase in antisocial behaviour, which resulted in greater expenditure by the Council, social services and council partners such as the police.

Members were advised that staff redundancies were taking place at the CAB as a result of the cut to the Council grant and suggested this was evidence that the service would be affected. 15% of adults in the UK did not have any savings and loans were at an all-time high and, at a time when people needed help managing their personal finances the council was withdrawing funding which would help them do that.

Comment was made that the budget did not mention the Council's own climate emergency commitment and the council was failing to meet its targets on recycling. The tourist information centre and bus information kiosk had been closed and bus usage in Peterborough had fallen by 20% over a four year period.

Councillor Sandford also expressed his concerns over the cross-party budget working group, whilst acknowledging that cross party groups usually worked well, he felt that proposals had already been agreed by Cabinet prior to being presented at the meeting, information was withheld, and meetings were held too late in the process to influence the outcome.

Councillor Wiggin seconded the first and second amendments and reserved his right to speak.

Council debated the original recommendation and both amendments and Members raised the following key points and comments:

- Some Members felt that a decision should be made on the Budget proposals at the meeting and not postponed to another date.
- It was advised that the CAB had been reviewing its operating model for some time, which included online and centralised support, and the funding they received from the Council had not been reviewed for a number of years. Funding was discretionary and some councils did not provide funding for this area.
- The Council could provide advice on wide range of issues, housing, homelessness, adult social care payments and benefits. The Think Communities strategy would seek to identify and fill gaps in the provision of services.
- It was suggested that it would be more beneficial for the public to approach the council directly rather than through a third party, such as CAB.
- The budget reduction to the CAB would result in cuts to services affecting the people in most need, with the CAB moving away from a drop in service which was often used by those who had left issues to the last minute and needed immediate hands on assistance.
- Historically there were several agencies funded by the council such as Racial Equality Council and Step One who had carried out some of the work which had now moved over to CAB and the funding to these had been reduced. These agencies had been able to use Council grants to obtain match funding.
- Ward councillors had referred residents to the CAB from their surgeries on occasion and did not want to feel obliged to provide financial advice as a result of the council no longer funded such services.
- Members suggested that the CAB and Rainbow Saver Anglia Credit Union Ltd could be given space within the Town Hall at a reasonable charge.
- Members sought clarification on the amount of youth service funding and were advised by the Cabinet Member for Finance that the budget would be £1.2million following this budget reduction.
- Statutory youth offending duties were unaffected by the proposal.
- Alternative youth provision could be developed with community support for which the council could provide guidance and support. Existing youth provisions would be more widely publicised.
- The Council would continue to apply for government funding towards youth services.
- Youths standing around remained a problem and Youth Services in the past targeted those who were thought to be at risk.
- It was suggested that the CAB and Youth Services saved the Council, the police and other agencies money and these cuts would be false economy.
- Youth workers were positive role models who provided confidence to young people and were available to talk to young people about any concerns.
- Members questioned the credibility and qualifications of the organisations that could support young people compared to the youth workers currently in place.
- Members referred to the costs of parking allowances paid to Members which allowed them to park within controlled areas in the city. The current allowance was £2640.00 however if Members parked in controlled areas the cost would be approximately £6300.00.
- Some Members suggested that they should pay the same rate for an annual parking permit as the public with a discount given to those who car share.
- Other Members felt this meeting was not the appropriate forum to discuss the Independent Review Panel and their take on parking matters.
- Council had previously agreed that payments made to Members would be considered by the Independent Review Panel and Members felt the budget was not the correct forum to discuss changes to Members allowances.

- Members advised that past members expenses schemes had included various travel benefits which were costly to administer and the Independent Review Panel had recommended that they were combined into one allowance although Councillors at that time agreed to retain the free members parking permit.
- Some Members felt the use of parking permits was abused and that some Members used them to park whilst going shopping.
- Buses were not always available late at night when Members may need them to carry out their council business.
- Some Members car-shared and cycled to attend council meetings in the city.
- The costs to the public to purchase a season ticket to use the council car parks was £899.00 and to park in a residential area would cost £25.00.
- Members were concerned that elderly and frail residents did not use their Lifeline and asked if there was any data available on falls detectors to establish how effective they were.
- Members expressed concern that removing the Lifeline service could have a detrimental impact on the hospital discharge efficiencies.
- The Cabinet Member advised that it was anticipated that the Lifeline service would continue and there would be a charge for those who could afford to pay and those who could not afford to pay the service would retain the service free of charge.
- Discussion continued throughout the meeting on Lifeline with Members re-iterating that the budget book stated that people would be required to pay for the Lifeline Service after the first six weeks and Members requested data confirming that alternative solutions would be as effective as Lifeline. Director of Finance was asked to make this clearer in the final budget book.
- It was considered that past mistakes had cost the Council money and Members made reference to St Michel's Gate, Rhubarb Bridge and missed opportunities with solar farms.
- Some Members felt that the proposed savings anticipated using alternative computer processes and the new ways working with the county had been a costly mistake.
- Some Members expressed concern that the full report on Rhubarb Bridge had only become available following a Freedom of Information (FOI) request which was published in the press.
- Members stated that the Joint Scrutiny Committee had asked for the budget proposal to be referred to Cabinet for consideration on the climate emergency element.
- Councillors were waiting for an internal report on the reasons behind the closure of the Northminster car park due to a lack of maintenance.
- Councillors asked that Council reflected on the cuts to the grant to the Rainbow Saver Anglia Credit Union Ltd and asked for an investigation into bank accounts now commercially available in order to assess if the service was still required. It was also suggested that the Council could assist with the rent if the grant was to be cut.
- Members felt that the only budget elements rejected by the Cabinet were the changes to car park permits and car use should not be promoted in consideration of the climate emergency.
- Members thought there had been no changes since the scrutiny meeting to the bridging of the £5million difference and wanted to know if any risks to the savings items had been identified since the meeting.
- Members suggested the Town Hall could be used as a wedding venue.
- The cuts to services for the frail and vulnerable in the city were considered significant.
- Members suggested that, in the absence of hearing tests for children, the Council purchased devices to detect hearing loss that could be easily operated via a computer.

- Members felt the budget did not address the commitments to improving educational attainment and skills for young people and Peterborough remained towards the bottom of the league table for education.
- It was felt that there was little mention of growth, regeneration, economic development or environmental matters in the budget.
- Members had not seen evidence of the £7.5million promised to the New England and Millfield areas of Peterborough a few years ago.
- Members expressed concern over the number of consultants the Council contracted which should be reduced and the Cabinet Member for Finance explained that these details were regularly reported to the Audit Committee.
- No alternative budgets had been proposed from other parties.
- Cabinet Members informed the Council the loan for £15million would generate income although to date the loan had not yet been made
- Cabinet Members also advised that the Council had paid market value for St Michel's Gate which had saved the council £100,000 on the costs of renting although other Members did not agree saying statements made during the call-in for St Michel's Gate indicated the cost had been above market rate to secure the purchase.
- Following mention of Google and Microsoft, Members explained that last year the Acting Corporate Director of Finance had agreed to conduct an investigation into SERCO and other people, the conclusion of which is still awaited but was said to have a potential of £10million.
- It was felt regrettable that cuts to services were necessary and officers had looked to impose the least impact on the most vulnerable and the Think Communities campaign hoped to ease the burden by working closely and supporting communities whilst balancing the budget. The Council could not supply every need and society needed to play its own role in supporting itself.
- Members were advised that increases in council tax were restricted although the government was moving towards devolved decisions and localisation.
- To ensure the budget remained balanced, any savings removed from the budget proposal would need to be replaced by savings achievable elsewhere and Members were invited to make suggestions before the budget was closed. However other Members advised that if the budget proposal was deferred the finance officers would be asked to prepare an alternative.
- Members were advised that a balanced budget must be agreed by March and it was therefore impractical to delay any decisions until July.
- The Budget Working Group was a forum for discussing budget options and was open to suggestions.
- Members felt it would be useful if officers could present alternative proposals for consideration to the Budget Working Group and the membership arrangements were debated.
- The Youth Council were quoted as asking why youth services were always subject to cuts first. The generation who were leaving education had been educated in austerity on a decreasing budget and were sceptical on the future.
- There were concerns about the effects of family breakdown and child exploitation on young people.
- Members discussed the effectiveness of the Stand Up for Peterborough campaign.
- Members felt that the Cabinet had considered the budget proposals and removed £4000 car park charges and £15,200 savings on IT equipment and Members wanted to know where the commensurate funding would be found.
- Cabinet Members felt there had been plenty of time to present objections and any objections or suggestions should have been raised before the meeting.
- Members felt it was frustrating to put budget ideas forward but not to receive a response.

- Cabinet Members advised a passage had been created across Bourges Boulevard to allow disabled people to cross the road.
- Cabinet Members advised that a private wire and heat pipes were being installed from the power station to Maskew Avenue to provide services to local authority buildings and others and all council buildings were being assessed to bring them up to standard. These services would generate income and save citizens money.
- Members were concerned that lights and heating were left on in the Town Hall whilst the council offices were closed.
- The focus needed to be positive, thinking about tomorrow without reference to history and why the council was the position it was in.
- Parish councils had the ability to raise funds through the precept.
- Members expressed concern that work had commenced on Rhubarb Bridge when research had suggested it might be dangerous and maybe the work should be stopped.
- Members debated whether a wind farm had been proposed and/or rejected in years past.

Councillor Wiggin addressed the chamber as seconder of both amendments and thanked officers and heads of service for the budget briefings supplied at their meetings. He acknowledged that some savings could not be implemented earlier as Purdah was enforced following the announcement of the general election.

With reference to the amendment to defer the savings possible from cuts to Youth Services and CAB, it was suggested that there was time for constructive conversation to see how this could be achieved. Social landlords were not suitable providers of alternative services and the CAB was very knowledgeable on financial matters, which was why the Council had trusted it to provide this service.

Concern was raised over the cuts to youth services and it was felt that the comments about the Council providing the services it was obligated to provide suggested a Council that didn't care. Faith groups were fantastic but would have difficulty providing services to suit everyone as those who had no faith would be unlikely to attend a religious based faith group. Anti-social behaviour continued to be a problem as there was little to keep older children occupied. Money was already being provided for youth groups by parish councils and charities who did very good work but who were limited in what they could achieve. He referenced a recent proposal by the YMCA to run a youth club in Serpentine Green which could not go ahead as they were unable to secure funding.

Council tax in Peterborough was considered low however it was going to rise and increase the pressures on low income households and the precept would be increased by the fire and police services.

It was suggested that Lifeline was not as affordable as some people thought, and Members were advised against street-light dimming in certain areas to avoid unnecessary risks. Concern was also expressed in relation to the use of consultants to identify savings.

As seconder of the original motion Councillor Holdich advised Members that the Council had chosen to retain youth services. It was noted that the Fair Funding Campaign had been very successful and had ended last March, however the government had delayed addressing the matter due to Brexit. Response was also provided in relation to earlier comments regarding St Michel's Gate, advising that the 400 people who had been housed within it would have otherwise been placed in hotels, costing the Council money. Repairs to Rhubarb Bridge, Junction 18, were underway following public demands, however, in 10 years' time it would not be repairable. The current gradient was 1:12 and to comply with legislation in relation to

disabled access, this needed to be 1:20. Previous surveys had been based on London traffic and modifications had been made to the design as a result and the situation would continue to be monitored. Other at-grade crossings in the city had proved safe although there would always be an element of risk when pedestrians and motorists were in close proximity.

The Leader was disappointed no-one had made reference to those council employees who were being made redundant as part of the budget cuts and advised that if the £600,000 was put back into the budget another 12 people would need to be made redundant.

Councillor Seaton summed up as mover of the original motion and expressed support for much of what had been said and commented on the requirement of £60,000 by the YMCA to fund a youth facility. He stressed that if the Council awarded £60,000 to one parish, the remaining parishes would also expect similar funding, which would cost the council £1.5million.

It was advised that many CAB services were now online. It was felt that those Members who attended Council meetings held in the evening did not impact the council's car parking income as at that time car parks were generally empty and parking was available at no cost. Cabinet Members paid higher parking costs.

A number of earlier comments were referenced and Councillor Seaton advised the chamber that every proposal within the budget had been subject to a Climate Emergency Assessment and in March, and Climate Emergency proposals would be brought forward. Investment in the wind and solar farm previously proposed would have provided green investment and an income of £10million, making the city carbon neutral and meeting the city's energy needs. He praised the work of the voluntary sector and officers and expressed regret at staff being made redundant.

A vote was taken on the second amendment submitted by Councillor Sandford to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020-21 to 2022-23, in relation to referring Councillors' travel costs to the Independent Members Allowances Panel (10 voted in favour, 47 voted against, 0 abstained from voting).

**Councillors For:** Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Haynes, Hogg, Lillis, Sandford, Shaheed, Wiggin

**Councillors Against:** Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Louise Coles, Andy Coles, Day, Dowson, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hemraj, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Howell, Hussain, Azher Iqbal, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lane, Murphy, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Skibsted, Walsh, Warren, Yasin, Yurgutene

**Councillors Abstaining:** Nil

**Councillors Not Voting:** Nil

The amendment was **DEFEATED**.

A vote was taken on the first amendment submitted by Councillor Sandford to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020-21 to 2022-23, in relation to Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme and the discretionary youth services budget (27 voted in favour, 30 voted against, 0 abstained from voting).

**Councillors For:** Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

**Councillors Against:** Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Andy Coles, Louise Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Judy Fox, John Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

**Councillors Abstaining:** Nil

**Councillors Not Voting:** Nil

The amendment was **DEFEATED**.

A vote was taken on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020-21 to 2022-23, recommendation as originally moved by Councillor Seaton (30 voted in favour, 26 voted against, 1 abstained from voting).

**Councillors For:** Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Andy Coles, Louise Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Judy Fox, John Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

**Councillors Against:** Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

**Councillors Abstaining:** Dowson

**Councillors Not Voting:** Nil

It was **RESOLVED** that Council agreed:

1. The Tranche One service proposals, outlined in Appendix C, subject to:
  - Removal of the proposed £15,200 saving from Members allowances for IT equipment
  - A revision to the wording around the proposed saving of £59,000 a year to reduce fly-tipping, keeping the 2day response time, with the £59,000 savings to be delivered via the following efficiencies in Aragon Direct Services:
    - Restructure of Grounds Maintenance management team to remove one post following a retirement - £29,000;
    - Further recruitment to achieve 100% direct employment and eliminate the remaining agency use - £30,000.
  - To maintain the current car parking charge to members of £44 a year. This puts a £4000 cost back into the budget.
2. The updated budget assumptions, to be incorporated within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23. These are outlined in section 5.2 and 5.3.
3. The additional resourcing required to deliver the outlined proposals, in order to achieve future financial benefits. These are outlined in section 5.4 (strategic approach) and section 6 (reserves) of the report.

4. The revised capital programme outlined in section 5.5 and referencing Appendix B.
5. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2022/23-Tranche One, as set out in the body of the report and the following appendices:
  - Appendix A – 2020/21 – 2022/23 MTFS Detailed Budget Position-Tranche One
  - Appendix B – Capital Programme Schemes 2020/21- 2024/25
  - Appendix C – Budget Consultation Document, including Tranche One Budget Proposal detail
  - Appendix D – Equality Impact Assessments 37
  - Appendix E – Carbon Impact Assessments - draft
  - Appendix F – Budget Consultation Feedback

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS TIME**

### **51. Review of Polling Districts, Places, and Stations**

Council received a report on the revised polling districts, polling places, and polling stations following the recent Polling District Review, which had been carried out under the terms of The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006). This act placed a duty on all local authorities to review their UK polling districts and polling places at least once every four years.

Councillor Allen introduced the report and moved the recommendations. He advised that whilst supporting the proposals for Way Family Church and Peakirk Village Hall he had reservations regarding the use of a mobile unit at the Elm Tree Tavern, as the costs of using a mobile unit were more expensive than a fixed unit. A fixed unit would also be more comfortable for tellers and suggested that the decision surrounding the Elm Tree Tavern was reviewed.

Council debated the recommendations and Members raised the following key points and comments:

- Members felt that the comfort of tellers was not a priority.
- Members proposed St Jude's or somewhere nearby was considered as an alternative venue. Facilities at Hampton were also discussed.
- Members had received numerous complaints from voters who did not want to visit a pub to vote.
- The provision within GUN1 ward was more accessible to wheelchair users and was central to Werrington with a shorter distance for voters to travel.

A vote was taken on the review of Polling Districts, Places, and Stations (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council approved the following changes to polling districts, places and stations as follows:

1. The Way Family Church, The Green, Werrington, to be assigned as the dedicated polling station for the GUN1 (Gunthorpe Ward) Polling District.
2. Peakirk Village Hall to be assigned as the polling station for the GLC (Glinton and Castor Ward) polling district.
3. A mobile unit to be sited in the Elm Tree Tavern Car Park and used as the polling station for the PAR2 (Park Ward) polling district, however, that it would be preferable for the polling station to be within the fixed building if at all possible.

The Mayor  
6.00pm – 9:38pm  
15 January 2020

Town Hall  
Bridge Street  
Peterborough