

COUNCIL
03 MARCH 2010
7.30 - 9.35 PM



Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Bob Wade), Councillors Leake (Deputy Mayor), Mrs Angell, Baily, Mrs Ballin, Mrs Barnard, Dr Barnard, Mrs Beadsley, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Blatchford, Brossard, Bowers, Dudley, Edger, Finch, Finnie, Mrs Fleming, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Kendall, Kensall, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, McLean, Osborne, Packham, Phillips, Mrs Ryder, Mrs Shillcock, Thompson, Turrell, Ward, Ms Wilson and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Mrs Birch, Brunel-Walker, Burrows, Mrs Pile, Virgo and Ms Whitbread

47. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 March 2010 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

48. Declarations of Interest

All Members of the Council declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in item 8, Members' Allowances Scheme – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and Related Issues due to their being in receipt of allowances.

49. Petition Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 9

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 (Public Participation), a petition was submitted by Mr T Pearce resident of Heathmoors, Bracknell on behalf of the Save the Look In Committee with regard to their concern about the proposed closure of the Look-In.

The Mayor invited Mr T Pearce to present the petition and to make his submission to the meeting, following which Members asked a number of factual questions. Councillor Bettison formally received the petition.

The Mayor thanked Mr T Pearce and the large number of petitioners for attending the meeting.

50. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Ms. Wilson to the meeting and confirmed that item 9, Absence from Council meetings of Councillor Ms Wilson, would no longer be required.

Late Councillor Simonds

The Mayor read a letter of thanks from the late Councillor Simonds' wife and announced that £700 of donations kindly received would be passed onto Berkshire Air Ambulance.

Mayoral Award Scheme – Ellie-May Wiggins and Amy Collins

The Mayor presented Ellie-May Wiggins with a certificate in recognition of her dedication and industry and being an ambassador for Children and Young People in care.

Both Ellie-May and Amy were congratulated on their outstanding contribution in helping set-up and run the Children in Care Council, known as: "Say It Loud Say It Proud". They have contributed to a quarterly newsletter and supported regular management meetings, presented "Say It Loud Say It Proud" to other local authorities and have represented the Borough at Conferences.

Unfortunately Amy Collins was unable to attend the meeting but the Mayor congratulated her on her hard work and her achievement at the Special Olympics in 2009 where she won a Gold medal in an equestrian event.

Mayoral Award Scheme – Jed Wesolowski

The Mayor presented Jed Wesolowski with a certificate in recognition of his initiative and quick thinking in an emergency when his carer collapsed.

Civic Drinks Reception

The Mayor announced that the Grange Hotel would host the Civic Drinks Reception on Friday 23 April from 7.30pm with some financial backing from Panasonic, Mace-Plus and BMW. Due to this generous sponsorship the Mayor would be able to offer invitations to residents, volunteers and business people whose efforts would be celebrated during the evening.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

The Mayor announced that the charity had raised £22,230 and anticipated exceeding the £22,400 target. He thanked the Crowthorne & District RNLI committee for all their hard work.

He advised members of upcoming events including:

- Dinner at the Tamarind Tree, Monday 8 March 2010;
- Mayor's Charity Concert at South Hill Park on Saturday 27 March 2010 ; and
- Golf Day, Friday 30 April 2010

Executive Member for Children and Young People

Councillor Dr Barnard launched the new logo 'The Zone' which had been designed by Kaley Freeman and Ryan Haslock for the Great Hollands Youth Centre. The Centre was due to open in the summer and a new Centre manager had been appointed. Councillor Dr Barnard particularly thanked Don McLaren, Head of Youth Services, Paul Crawte, Youth Service Manager and Barry Francis, Chief Officer: Property.

Councillor Dr Barnard was pleased to announce that the Bracknell Awards for TeenAgers (BAFTAs) had been held on 26 February 2010. More than 160 13-19 year olds attended the annual event organised by Bracknell Forest Youth Council to celebrate young people's achievements and good work across the borough. Every teenager who attended was presented with a medal in recognition of their

achievements in the previous year, and 14 individuals were singled out and presented with a 'young person of the year' award.

Councillor Dr Barnard was also pleased to report that the Borough had seen the largest fall in teenage conceptions (45%) with Lorraine Parker, Project Manager - Teenage Pregnancy working with young parents to educate young people in the borough on the realities of parenthood.

51. **Executive Report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bettison, presented his report on the work of the Executive since that reported at the Council meeting on 27 January 2010. The Executive had met once on 16 February 2010.

The Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

- Local Development Framework – Site Allocations Consultation
- Council Strategy:
 - Medium Term objectives
 - Local Area Agreement
 - Comprehensive Area Assessment Action Plans
 - Revenue & Capital Budgets

52. **Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets 2010/11**

The Council considered the report by the Borough Treasurer which set out the financial plans and revenue budgets for the financial year 2010/11 and supporting information which presented the Council's spending plans for 2010/11 and detailed budgets for the General Fund and capital programme.

Councillor Ward gave a comprehensive presentation elaborating on the proposals and highlighting some of the key issues including feedback from the consultation, the impact of financial changes such as grant provision and reduced interest rates and the low level of the Council tax rate compared to other unitary authorities.

On the proposition of Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Resources and Assets, seconded by Councillor Bettison, it was

RESOLVED that

1. Capital Programme 2010/11 - 2012/13

- i) capital funding of £8.069m for 2010/11 in respect of new schemes listed in Annexes A-E of the report, be approved;
- ii) in addition to the capital funding of £8.069m for 2010/11, the release of £1.28m in respect of new affordable housing resulting from the LSVT in 2008 be approved;
- iii) the inclusion of an additional budget of £1m for 'Invest to Save' schemes based on the underlying principles set out in the Capital Strategy approved by the Executive on 15 December 2009, be approved;
- iv) those schemes that attract external grant funding be approved for inclusion within the 2010/11 capital programme, at the level of funding received;

- v) the release of £3.1m from S106 monies be approved to fund capital schemes outlined in 5.10 of the 16 February 2010 Executive report [incorporated in Annexes A to E of the summary report for Council];
- vi) those schemes which require external funding can only proceed once the Council is certain of receiving the grant.
- vii) that the indicative programme for 2011/12 and 2012/13 be reviewed in the light of resources available and spending priorities in December 2010.

2. Revenue Budget 2010/11

- i) no changes to the budget proposals were required as a result of the budget consultation;
- ii) fees and charges as set out in Annexe G of the Supporting Information be approved;
- iii) a provision for inflation of minus £0.068m be approved;
- iv) the changes to the commitment budget as set out in Annexe A of the Supporting Information be approved;
- v) the changes to the budget proposals identified in section 7.3 (other revisions) of the 16 February 2010 Executive report be agreed (Annexe D of the Supporting Information)
- vi) the Schools Budget be set at the level set out in section 8.1 of the 16 February 2010 Executive report, subject to any amendments agreed by the Executive Member for Education;
- vii) a contingency of £1.000m be included, use of which is authorised by the Executive Member for Finance, Resources and Assets and the Chief Executive;
- viii) subject to the above recommendations the revised draft budget proposals in Annexe D of the Supporting Information be agreed;
- ix) Total expenditure of £74.030m, be approved;
- x) a contribution of £0.557m be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- xi) the Council's total requirement for the Collection Fund, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set at £47.915m;
- xii) the Council Tax for the Council's services for each Valuation Band be set as follows:

Band	Tax Level Relative to Band D	£
A	6/9	729.30
B	7/9	850.85
C	8/9	972.40
D	9/9	1093.95
E	11/9	1337.05
F	13/9	1580.15
G	15/9	1823.25
H	18/9	2187.90

- xiii) the following indicators, limits, strategies and policies included in Annexe E of the 16 February 2010 Executive report be approved:
 - a) The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2010/11 to 2012/13;
 - b) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy;
 - c) The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, and the Treasury Prudential Indicators;
 - d) The Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator;

- e) The Investment Strategy 2010/11 to 2012/13;
- f) Treasury Management Limits on Activity; and
- g) The revised Treasury Policy Statement. This revision nominates the Governance and Audit Committee to be responsible for examining and assessing the effectiveness of the Treasury Management Strategy and Policies;
- xiv) the payment of £1.162m for the surrender of the lease of Enid Wood House as set out in section 11.3.3 of the 16 February 2010 Executive report be approved; and
- xv) the virement requests relating to the 2009/10 budget set out in Annexe A to the Council report be approved.

3. Council Tax Resolution

3.1 the recommendations of the Executive outlined in section 2 be agreed

3.2 it be noted that the amounts calculated for the year 2010/11 in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 are :-

(a) **43,800 TAX BASE FOR WHOLE BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA**

being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, as its council tax base for the year

(b) **TAX BASE FOR PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA**

EACH PARISH AREA

Binfield	3,450
Bracknell	18,740
Crowthorne	2,610
Sandhurst	7,950
Warfield	4,500
Winkfield	6,550

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as amended, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

3.3 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2010/11 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-

(a) **£242,234,333 TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCLUDING GENERAL FUND AND PARISH PRECEPTS**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act

(b) **£164,971,533 TOTAL INCOME INCLUDING GENERAL FUND**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (b) of the Act

(c) £557,233 **DECREASE IN GENERAL FUND BALANCES**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(c) of the Act

(d) £76,705,567 **BOROUGH AND PARISH EXPENDITURE TO BE FINANCED FROM GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND COUNCIL TAX**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 3.3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3.3(b) and 3.3(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year

(e) £26,114,989 **GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SERVICES**

being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant and relevant special grants

(f) £0 **COUNCIL TAX**

being the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Surplus).

(g) £1,155.04 **AVERAGE BAND "D" COUNCIL TAX FOR WHOLE BOROUGH**

being the amount at 3.3(d) above less the amount at 3.3(e) less the amount at 3.3(f) above, all divided by the amount at 3.2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year

(h) £2,675,568 **PARISH PRECEPTS**

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act

(i) £1,093.95 **BOROUGH COUNCIL TAX FOR BAND "D" PROPERTIES**

being the amount at 3.3(g) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3.3(h) above by the amount at 3.2(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 if there were an area of the Borough to which no special item relates

(j)	Part of the Council's area	BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH PARISH FOR BAND "D"	
		Binfield	£1,130.63
		Bracknell	£1,165.22
		Crowthorne	£1,162.92

Sandhurst	£1,164.42
Warfield	£1,123.42
Winkfield	£1,145.95

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3.3(i) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 3.2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

(k) Part of the Council's area	BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX IN EACH PARISH FOR EACH VALUATION BAND							
Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	753.75	879.38	1,005.00	1,130.63	1,381.88	1,633.13	1,884.38	2,261.26
Bracknell	776.81	906.28	1,035.75	1,165.22	1,424.16	1,683.10	1,942.03	2,330.44
Crowthorne	775.28	904.49	1,033.71	1,162.92	1,421.35	1,679.77	1,938.20	2,325.84
Sandhurst	776.28	905.66	1,035.04	1,164.42	1,423.18	1,681.94	1,940.70	2,328.84
Warfield	748.95	873.77	998.60	1,123.42	1,373.07	1,622.72	1,872.37	2,246.84
Winkfield	763.97	891.29	1,018.62	1,145.95	1,400.61	1,655.26	1,909.92	2,291.90

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3.3(j) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands

- 3.4 That it be noted that for the year 2010/11 the Thames Valley Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Thames Valley Police Authority	£102.87	£120.01	£137.16	£154.30	£188.59	£222.88	£257.17	£308.60

- 3.5 That it be noted that for the year 2010/11 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	£37.11	£43.29	£49.48	£55.66	£68.03	£80.40	£92.77	£111.32

- 3.6 having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.3(k), 3.4 and 3.5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2010/11 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

(a) Part of the Council's area	TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND							
Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	893.73	1,042.68	1,191.64	1,340.59	1,638.50	1,936.41	2,234.32	2,681.18
Bracknell	916.79	1,069.58	1,222.39	1,375.18	1,680.78	1,986.38	2,291.97	2,750.36
Crowthorne	915.26	1,067.79	1,220.35	1,372.88	1,677.97	1,983.05	2,288.14	2,745.76
Sandhurst	916.26	1,068.96	1,221.68	1,374.38	1,679.80	1,985.22	2,290.64	2,748.76
Warfield	888.93	1,037.07	1,185.24	1,333.38	1,629.69	1,926.00	2,222.31	2,666.76
Winkfield	903.95	1,054.59	1,205.26	1,355.91	1,657.23	1,958.54	2,259.86	2,711.82

53. Members' Allowances Scheme - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and Related Issues

The Council considered a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel inviting them to approve the recommendations arising from their review of the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme. Council was also asked to consider updating the list of Approved Conferences and adding a section to the scheme relating to Civic Dignitaries Allowances.

On the proposition of Councillor Bettison, Leader of the Council and seconded by Councillor Ward it was

RESOLVED that

- i) the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in bold in the Panel's report be agreed with the exception of
 - a) the proposed increase of basic allowance by £100 as detailed in paragraph 23 of Annex A of the report and
 - b) the proposed decrease in the special responsibility allowance for the Leader of the Opposition as detailed in paragraphs 39 to 41 of Annex A of the report.
- ii) the proposed additional special responsibility allowances for the Chairmen of Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Governance and Audit Committee be implemented from the start of the municipal year or when the post holder took up their post, whichever is sooner, as detailed in paragraph 60 of Annex A of the report.
- iii) all other recommendations be implemented from 1 April 2010.
- iv) the revised list of approved conferences, set out in Annex B of the report, be approved for insertion in the Scheme.
- v) the scope of the Civic Dignitaries' Allowance be expanded as defined in paragraph 4.14 of the report and
- vi) the proposed text, set out in Annex C of the report, in relation to Civic Dignitaries Allowances be approved for insertion in the scheme and that current Civic Dignitaries Allowances be added to Schedule 1 of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

MAYOR