

COUNCIL
3 MARCH 2004
(7.30 pm – 10.10 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Pile), Adams, Baily, Mrs Ballin, Mrs Barnard, Barnard, Mrs Beadsley, Beadsley, Bettison, Mrs Birch, Birch, Browne, Brunel-Walker, Dudley, Earwicker, Edger, Finch, Finnie, Grayson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Kendall, Leake, McCracken, Mihell, Mills, North, Osborne, Piasecki, Mrs Ryder, Sargeant, Mrs Shillcock, Thompson, Turrell, Wade, Ward and Worrall.

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Jones, McLean, Packham and Thomas.

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting, all those present joined the Mayor in observing one minute's silence as a mark of respect for former Councillor Mrs Dorothy Benwell, who had recently passed away. The Reverend Brian Meardon, Vicar of St Michael the Archangel, Warfield, opened the proceedings with prayers.

65. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 January 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

66. Declarations of Interest (Item 3)

Councillors Barnard and Finch each declared personal interests in Paragraph 3 [the Legal Agreement for Garth Hill College and Bracknell and Wokingham College Post-16 Centre] of Item 5 [The Executive Report] by virtue of their being members of the Governing Body of Garth Hill College.

Councillor Mrs Hayes declared a personal interest in Paragraph 3 [the Legal Agreement for Garth Hill College and Bracknell and Wokingham College Post-16 Centre] of Item 5 [The Executive Report] by virtue of her being a member of the Governing Body of Bracknell and Wokingham College.

No other interests were declared at the meeting.

67. Mayor's Announcements (Item 4)

Director of Environment and Leisure

The Mayor congratulated Mr Vincent Paliczka on his recent appointment as the Director of Environment and Leisure.

Mr John Osborne

On the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Mills paid tribute to Mr John Osborne who was attending his last Council meeting as the Director of Environment, a position which he had held since prior to the Council's assumption of unitary status in 1998. John Osborne responded in appropriate terms and thanked the Council for its tribute.

Regional Renewable Energy Award

On the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Mills referred to the outstanding performance of the Council in achieving a Regional Renewable Energy Award and referred in particular to correspondence from the Government Office for the South East which had referred to the Council's "visionary work" in this area.

Achievement Awards for Young People

On the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Miss Haydon, the Children and Young Persons' Champion, referred to the Fun Day which was taking place on 3 April at which achievement awards for young people would be made. She was also seeking a contribution from all Members of the Council for the awards and stressed the importance of the corporate parenting role.

The Charity Pancake Race

The Mayor thanked all those who had participated in the Charity Pancake Race on Shrove Tuesday and congratulated the winning team from Princess Square.

Charity Golf Day

The Mayor reminded all those present that the Charity Golf Day would be taking place on Tuesday 6 April at Downshire Golf Club.

The Annual Civic Reception

The Mayor confirmed that the Annual Civic Reception would be held at the Coppid Beech Hotel on Friday 23 April.

Abseiling from the roof of The Grange Hotel

The Mayor reminded those present that she would be abseiling from the roof of the Grange Hotel on 13 March and she would be pleased to receive sponsorship in aid of the Mayor's charity.

The Chief Executive and Mrs Wheadon

All those present joined the Mayor in congratulating the Chief Executive, Mr Wheadon, and Mrs Wheadon on the birth of their baby daughter on 12 February.

68. The Executive Report (Item 5)

The Leader of the Council presented the Executive Report to the Council. Since the last Executive Report on 21 January 2004, the Executive had met on 17 February 2004 and had made decisions on the following matters:

- Budget Proposals 2004/2005
- The National SmartCard Project
- The Legal Agreement for Garth Hill College and Bracknell and Wokingham College Post-16 Centre
- Approval of the Disposal of the land at Freeborn Way

The Leader of the Council in particular highlighted the work which had been undertaken in the final preparation of the budget proposals; and the Council's leadership in the national SmartCard Project. He also referred to work in relation to the housing stock options and the forthcoming Scrutiny Work Programme Conference which was taking place on 24 March.

The Leader of the Council and Executive Members responded to questions on the Executive Report.

69. Policy and Budget Framework – Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets 2004/2005 (Item 6)

The Council considered the report by the Director of Corporate Services which set out the financial plans and revenue budgets for the financial year 2004/2005, together with *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005*. A revised draft resolution had been circulated, which reflected the final precept set by the Thames Valley Police Authority.

The recommendations in paragraph 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the report of the Director of Corporate Services and the revised draft Council Tax resolution were moved by Councillor Bettison and seconded by Councillor Birch.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Beadsley and seconded by Councillor Piasecki, the effect of which was to insert the words:

“except that the licensing legislation budget be reduced by £25,000 to £35,000 (page 68 of *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005*) and the saving be used to withdraw the proposed concessionary fares charges amount to £25,000 (page 70 of *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005*)”

into sub paragraph (i) of paragraph 2.3 of the recommendations.

In accordance with paragraph 16.4 of the Council Procedure Rules, a recorded vote was taken in relation to the amendment set out above, with the voting as follows.

For the amendment (6) Councillors Adams, Beadsley, Mrs Beadsley, Earwicker, Piasecki and Mrs Shillcock.

Against the amendment (32) Councillors Baily, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Mrs Barnard, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Browne, Brunel-Walker, Dudley, Edger, Finch, Finnie, Grayson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Kendall, Leake, McCracken, Mihell, Mills, North, Osborne, Mrs Pile, Mrs Ryder, Sargeant, Thompson, Turrell, Wade, Ward and Worrall

Abstain (0)

The amendment was thus declared lost.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Mrs Shillcock and seconded by Councillor Mrs Beadsley the effect of which was to insert the words:

“except that the proposed reduction of £43,000 (page 45 of *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005*) in the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Budget being withdrawn”

to sub paragraph (i) of paragraph 2.3 of the recommendation.

On being put to the meeting, the amendment set out above was declared lost.

The motion moved by Councillor Bettison and seconded by Councillor Birch above was put to the meeting and declared carried. It was therefore

RESOLVED that

1 Housing Revenue Account 2004/2005

- (i) the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2004/2005 as set out on page 210 of *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005* be approved;
- (ii) garage rents and charges for car ports and parking spaces be increased by 3.6% (being 24 pence per week for garages and 12 pence per week for car ports and parking spaces);
- (iii) rents on dwellings increase by an average of 3.6% in line with the Government guidelines on rent restructuring; and
- (iv) housing related Supporting People charges increase by 2.9% in line with the 2003/2004 grant inflation rate.

2 Capital Programme 2004/2005 – 2006/2007

- (i) capital funding of £11.940 million for 2004/2005, in respect of new schemes set out on pages 195 – 199 of *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005*, be approved;
- (ii) those schemes attracting external grant funding be approved for inclusion, at the level of funding received, within the 2004/2005 capital programme;

- (iii) the release of £1 million from funds contributed under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 be approved to fund capital schemes, outlined in paragraph 5.21 of the report submitted to the Executive on 17 February 2004 and incorporated within pages 195 – 199 of *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005*;
- (iv) those schemes which require external funding may only proceed once the Council is certain of receiving the grant; and
- (v) the indicative capital programme for 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 be reviewed in the light of resources available and spending priorities in December 2004.

3 Revenue Budget 2003/2004

- (i) the revised draft budget proposals set out on pages 64 – 76 of *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005* be approved;
- (ii) the new budget proposals identified in section 3.4 on pages 18-19 of *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005* be approved;
- (iii) the 2004/2005 Treasury Management Annual Strategy Document (pages 77 - 92 of *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005*) be approved;
- (iv) fees and charges as set out on pages 28 – 63 of *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2004/2005* and a provision for inflation of £2.145 million be approved;
- (v) a contingency of £0.4 million be approved;
- (vi) total expenditure of £100.859 million be approved;
- (vii) a contribution of £1.794 million be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- (viii) the Council's total requirement for the Collection Fund, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set as £34.592 million;

- (ix) 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	556.50
B	7/9	649.25
C	8/9	742.00
D	9/9	834.75
E	11/9	1,020.25
F	13/9	1,205.75
G	15/9	1,391.25
H	18/9	1,669.50

4 Council Tax Resolution

- (i) it be noted that at its meeting on 21 January 2004 the Council had calculated the following amounts for the year 2004/2005 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) 41,440 **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 its council tax base for the year;

- (b) **Tax Base for Part of The Council's Area**
Each Parish Area

Binfield	3,200
Bracknell	17,310
Crowthorne	2,410
Sandhurst	7,820
Warfield	4,340
Winkfield	6,360

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, 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;

- (ii) the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2004/05 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) £184,532,070 **Total Expenditure including General Fund, Housing Revenue Account 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) £80,662,260 **Total Income including General Fund and Housing Revenue Account**
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) £1,794,422 **Decrease in General Fund and Housing Revenue Account 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) £102,075,388 **Borough and Parish Expenditure to be Financed from Government Grants and Council Tax**
being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(ii)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(ii)(b) and 4(ii)(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;
- (e) £65,726,538 **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) £254,000 **Council Tax**
being the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year to its collection fund from its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Deficit);
- (g) £883.27 **Average Band "D" Council Tax for Whole Borough**
being the amount at 4(ii)(d) above less the amount at 4(ii)(e) plus the amount at 4(ii)(f) above, all divided by the amount at 4(i)(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) £2,010,810 **Parish Precepts**
being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
- (i) £834.75 **Borough Council Tax for Band "D" Properties**
being the amount at 4(ii)(g) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(ii)(h) above by the amount at 4(i)(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	£868.77
Bracknell	£887.84
Crowthorne	£888.69
Sandhurst	£895.53
Warfield	£857.60
Winkfield	£878.54

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(ii)(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 4(i)(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	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
	£	£	£	£
Binfield	579.18	675.71	772.24	868.77
Bracknell	591.89	690.54	789.19	887.84
Crowthorne	592.46	691.20	789.95	888.69
Sandhurst	597.02	696.52	796.03	895.53
Warfield	571.73	667.02	762.31	857.60
Winkfield	585.69	683.31	780.92	878.54

Parish	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£
Binfield	1,061.83	1,254.89	1,447.95	1,737.54
Bracknell	1,085.14	1,282.44	1,479.73	1,775.68
Crowthorne	1,086.18	1,283.66	1,481.15	1,777.38
Sandhurst	1,094.54	1,293.54	1,492.55	1,791.06
Warfield	1,048.18	1,238.76	1,429.33	1,715.20
Winkfield	1,073.77	1,269.00	1,464.23	1,757.08

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(ii)(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;

- (iii) it be noted that for the year 2004/2005 the Thames Valley Police Authority has 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:-

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Thames Valley Police Authority	80.34	93.73	107.12	120.51	1147.29	174.07	200.85	241.02

- (iv) it be noted that for the year 2004/2005 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority has 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:-

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	29.31	34.20	39.08	43.97	53.74	63.51	73.28	87.94

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4(ii)(k), 4(iii) and 4(iv) 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 2004/2005 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of the Council's area	Total Council Tax for each Valuation Band			
Parish	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
	£	£	£	£
Binfield	688.83	803.64	918.44	1,033.25
Bracknell	701.54	818.47	935.39	1,052.32
Crowthorne	702.11	819.13	936.15	1,053.17
Sandhurst	706.67	824.45	942.23	1,060.01
Warfield	681.38	794.95	908.51	1,022.08
Winkfield	695.34	811.24	927.12	1,043.02

Parish	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Binfield	1,262.86	1,492.47	1,722.08	2,066.50
Bracknell	1,286.17	1,520.02	1,753.86	2,104.64
Crowthorne	1,287.21	1,521.24	1,755.28	2,106.34
Sandhurst	1,295.57	1,531.12	1,766.68	2,120.02
Warfield	1,249.21	1,476.34	1,703.46	2,044.16
Winkfield	1,274.80	1,506.58	1,738.36	2,086.04

- (vi) the Prudential Indicators under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance for Local Authorities (as set out at Annex A to the report at Item 6 of the Council agenda) be approved.

70. Berkshire Valuation Tribunal Appointment of Members (Item 7)

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services, which invited the Council to appoint members to the Berkshire Valuation Tribunal. On the proposition of Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor Bettison, it was

RESOLVED that

- (i) one Member of the Council and one other person (not a Member of the Council) be appointed to serve on the Berkshire Valuation Tribunal for a term of office with effect from 1 April 2004 until 31 March 2010; and
- (ii) the Chief Executive be authorised to notify the Valuation Tribunal of the appointments before 31 March 2004.

THE MAYOR