

Cherwell District Council

Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote,
Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 21 January 2013 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Colin Clarke (Chairman)
Councillor Lawrie Stratford (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ken Atack
Councillor Alyas Ahmed
Councillor Andrew Beere
Councillor Maurice Billington
Councillor Norman Bolster
Councillor Ann Bonner
Councillor Margaret Cullip
Councillor Surinder Dhesi
Councillor John Donaldson
Councillor Tim Emptage
Councillor Andrew Fulljames
Councillor Michael Gibbard
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Simon Holland
Councillor Alastair Milne Home
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Russell Hurle
Councillor Tony Ilott
Councillor Victoria Irvine
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Melanie Magee
Councillor Kieron Mallon
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Nigel Morris
Councillor P A O'Sullivan
Councillor Lynn Pratt
Councillor Neil Prestidge
Councillor Nigel Randall
Councillor G A Reynolds
Councillor Alaric Rose
Councillor Gordon Ross
Councillor Daniel Sames
Councillor Trevor Stevens
Councillor Rose Stratford
Councillor Lynda Thirzie Smart
Councillor Nicholas Turner
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Douglas Williamson
Councillor Barry Wood
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Apologies for absence: Councillor Fred Blackwell
Councillor Patrick Cartledge
Councillor Mrs Diana Edwards
Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Jon O'Neill
Councillor D M Pickford
Councillor Leslie F Sibley

Officers: Ian Davies, Director of Community and Environment
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer
Andrew Taplin, Local Taxation and Recovery Manager
Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections

55 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

56 **Communications**

Calendar of Meetings 2013/14

The Chairman reported that, as previously notified to Members, there had been some errors in the calendar of meetings 2013/14 agreed at the last meeting. Copies of the correct version had been tabled.

Resolved

- (1) That the updated version of the calendar of meetings 2013/14 (annex to the minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be agreed.

Member Briefing

The Chairman advised Members that the briefing on the Implications of the Local Settlement due to take place after the Council meeting would no longer be taking place due to the snow. It would be rearranged in due course.

Snow

The Chairman reported on the action being undertaken by the Incident Management Team (IMT) to assess the on-going situation in relation to service delivery and safety in light of the extreme weather. Council joined the Chairman in commending officers for their continued hard work during the adverse weather conditions and noted that the majority of staff had successfully made it to the office.

57 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

58 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

59 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

60 **Minutes**

a) **Minutes of the Executive, Lead Member Decisions and Executive Decisions made under Special Urgency**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive and Lead Member decisions as set out in the Minute Book be received and that it be noted that since the last meeting of Council, no Executive decisions had been taken that were subject to the special urgency provisions of the Constitution.

b) **Minutes of Committees**

Resolved

That the minutes of Committees as set out in the Minute Book be received.

61 **Questions**

a) **Written Questions**

There were no written questions.

b) **Questions to the Leader of the Council**

Questions were asked and answers received on the following issues:

Houses in multiple occupation: Councillor Woodcock

c) **Questions to Committee Chairmen on the minutes**

There were no questions to Committee Chairmen on the minutes of meetings.

62 **Motions**

There were no motions.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Implications of the Local Government Resource Review

The Head of Finance and Procurement submitted a report which informed Members of the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme that would be introduced from 1 April 2013, and sought authority for the Director of Resources and Head of Finance and Procurement to make the necessary arrangements for implementation and to enable the setting of the 2013/14 taxbase.

In introducing the report, the Lead Member for Financial Management explained that from April 2013 council tax benefit would be replaced by a locally defined council tax reduction scheme with a 10% reduction in Government funding.

District councils in Oxfordshire, the County Council and Thames Valley Police had worked together to develop a scheme which would primarily mirror the existing council tax benefit regulations with some small amendments. Rather than make reductions in the level of support that customers would receive, for year of the scheme, additional income would be generated using technical changes to council tax discounts and exemptions.

Resolved

- (1) That the introduction of a local council tax reduction scheme for the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 the implementation scheme with effect from 1 April 2013 be approved.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Director of Resources and the Head of Finance and Procurement, in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management, to make further amendments to the scheme up to and including 31 January 2013 as regulations are finalised.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Director of Resources and the Head of Finance and Procurement, in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management, to make amendments as required to the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Regulations.
- (4) That the proposed changes to Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (annex to the minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.
- (5) That authority for approval of the Nation Non Domestic Rate 1 form be delegated to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management.

Council Tax Base for 2013/14

The Head of Finance and Procurement submitted a report which sought consideration of the calculation of the council tax base for 2013/14. The taxbase would be used to calculate council tax amounts for council tax setting purposes at the February meeting of Council.

Resolved

- (1) That the report of the Head of Finance and Procurement, made pursuant to the Local Authorities [Calculation of Tax Base] [England] Regulations 2012 and the calculations referred to therein for the purposes of the Regulations be approved.
- (2) That it be agreed that, in accordance with the Regulations, as amended, the amount calculated by Cherwell District Council as its council tax base for the year 2013/2014 shall be 46,672.
- (3) That it be agreed that the tax base for the parts of the area be in accordance with the figures shown in column 13 of Appendix 2 (annex to the minutes as set out in the Minute Book).
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Director of Resources and Head of Finance and Procurement, in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management, to make any changes to the tax base if required as a result of the consideration of agenda item 10 on Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The meeting ended at 7.00 pm

Chairman:

Date: