

COUNCIL (BUDGET MEETING)**28 January 2016****7.00 pm – 10.00 pm****Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud****3****Minutes****Membership:**

Liz Ashton	P	Colin Fryer	P	Mark Rees	P
Martin Baxendale	P	Chas Fellows	A	Lesley Reeves	P
Dorcas Binns	P	Paul Hemming	P	Steve Robinson	P
Tim Boxall	P	Nick Hurst	P	Mattie Ross	P
Rowland Blackwell	P	Julie Job	P	Emma Sims	P
Chris Brine	P	Haydn Jones	P	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	P
Miranda Clifton	P	John Jones	P	Haydn Sutton	P
Nigel Cooper	P	Stephen Lydon	P	Brian Tipper	P
June Cordwell	P	John Marjoram	P	Chas Townley	P
Doina Cornell	P	Russell Miles	P	Ken Tucker	P
Gordon Craig	P	Stephen Moore	P	Geoff Wheeler	P
Kevin Cranston	P	Dave Mossman	P	Martin Whiteside	P
Karon Cross	A	Keith Pearson	P	Rhiannon Wigzell	P
Stephen Davies	P	Elizabeth Peters	P	Tim Williams	P
Paul Denney	P	Simon Pickering	P	Tom Williams	P
Julie Douglass	P	Gary Powell	P	Penny Wride	P
Jonathan Edmunds	P	Nigel Prenter	A	Debbie Young	P

** = Chair of Council * = Vice Chair of Council P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present

Chief Executive	Accountancy Manager
Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer	Principal Accountant
Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services)	Principal Elections Officer
	Democratic Services Officer

CL.034 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Karon Cross, Chas Fellows and Nigel Prenter.

CL.035 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

After seeking advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer the following declarations were noted for reasons of transparency in connection with agenda item 4f:-

Councillor Simon Pickering's wife is the Chief Executive of the Stroud Branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau and Councillor Miranda Clifton is a trustee of the same organisation. Councillor Penny Wride's husband is employed as the accountant for a local drainage board and Councillor John Jones is the Council's representative on the Lower Severn Drainage Board.

Councillors Liz Ashton, Rowland Blackwell, Miranda Clifton, June Cordwell, Kevin Cranston, Paul Hemming, Nick Hurst, John Jones, Steve Lydon, John Marjoram, Dave Mossman, Keith Pearson, Liz Peters, Gary Powell, Steve Robinson, Emma Sims, Haydn Sutton, Brian Tipper, Chas Townley and Penny Wride are all Town or Parish Councillors and their councils' wards would be affected by the proposal not to proceed with payments of local council tax support to town and parish councils.

CL.036 POLLING DISTRICT, POLLING PLACE AND POLLING STATION REVIEW

The Leader outlined the above report. The Principal Elections Officer answered Members' questions and clarified a number of points.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried unanimously.

- RESOLVED a. That the schedule of polling districts and polling places as attached at Appendix A be adopted by the Council, except where variations are identified in the recommendations below.**
- b. Electors within Stonehouse (Ebley Ward) are to vote at Ebley Chapel.**
 - c. Electors within Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill are to vote at the Paganhill Maypole Hall.**
 - d. Electors within Stroud Slade (Div 1) are to vote at Stroud Valley Scouting Centre, Chapel Street, Stroud, GL5 1DU.**
 - e. Electors within Stroud Uplands are to vote at The Community Room, Grange View, Folly Lane, Stroud, GL5 1SJ.**
 - f. Electors within Thrupp (Div 1) are to vote at Brimscombe and Thrupp Social Centre.**
 - g. To delegate responsibility to the Returning Officer to make any further polling place and polling station changes as necessary for the elections on the 5 May 2016.**

The Chair of Council stated that for convenience agenda item 4g would be considered following item 4a as both were recommendations from the Audit and Standards Committee.

CL.037 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**Audit and Standards Committee – 26 November 2015****(a) Half Year Treasury Management Activity Report 2015/16**

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy, the Chair of Audit and Standards Committee outlined the above report drawing Members' attention to various paragraphs and clarified points that Members' raised.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED To approve the treasury management activity half year report for 2015/2016, including the revisions to the 2015/16 strategy as set out in paragraphs 3.5, 5.2 and 5.3.

Audit and Standards Committee – 21 January 2015**(g) Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2016/17**

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy outlined the above report highlighting various paragraphs. He confirmed that the Council had a lot of restrictions when making investments and any revenue was placed into the Council's reserves.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED a) To adopt the prudential indicators and limits for 2016/17 to 2018/19.
b) To approve the treasury management strategy 2016/17, and the treasury prudential indicators.
c) To approve the investment strategy 2016/17, and the detailed criteria for specified and non-specified investments; and approve the Minimum Revenue Policy Statement 2016/17.

Strategy and Resources Committee – 3 December 2015**(b) Canal Project Update and Phase 1B Funding**

Councillor Geoff Wheeler, Leader outlined the above report and responded to Members' questions. Councillor Nigel Cooper requested that it was recorded within the minutes that a limit of £1 million had been set by Strategy and Resources Committee.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That subject to final discussions and a formal funding agreement SDC will assist in the management of Phase 1B of the Canal Project, subject to a maximum exposure of £1 million in cashflow.

Strategy and Resources Committee - 7 January 2016**(c) Housing Revenue Account Revised Estimates 2015/16 and Original Estimates 2016/17**

Councillor Mattie Ross, Chair of Housing Committee outlined the above report which had already been discussed at various forums and committees. The Principal Accountant clarified various points in reply to Members' questions. Members' attention was drawn to the three priorities listed in paragraph 11 of the report.

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (amended 29 January 2014), a recorded vote was taken, the results of which are as follows:

FOR:	<u>Councillors</u>		
(40)	Liz Ashton	Jonathan Edmunds	Steve Robinson
	Martin Baxendale	Colin Fryer	Mattie Ross
	Dorcas Binns	Paul Hemming	Emma Sims
	Rowland Blackwell	Julie Job	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
	Chris Brine	Stephen Lydon	Haydn Sutton
	Tim Boxall	John Marjoram	Chas Townley
	Miranda Clifton	Russell Miles	Ken Tucker
	June Cordwell	Stephen Moore	Geoff Wheeler
	Doina Cornell	David Mossman	Martin Whiteside
	Gordon Craig	Keith Pearson	Tim Williams
	Kevin Cranston	Elizabeth Peters	Tom Williams
	Stephen Davies	Simon Pickering	Debbie Young
	Paul Denney	Gary Powell	
	Julie Douglass	Mark Rees	

AGAINST:
(0)

ABSTAIN:	<u>Councillors</u>		
(8)	Nigel Cooper	John Jones	Rhiannon Wigzell
	Nick Hurst	Lesley Reeves	Penny Wride
	Haydn Jones	Brian Tipper	

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

- RESOLVED a)**
- i) The revised HRA budget for 2015/16 and original HRA revenue and capital budgets for 2016/17 are approved;**
 - ii) The movements to and from earmarked reserves as detailed in table 3 are approved.**
- b) That from 01 April 2016:**
- i) Subject to implementation of proposed government legislation namely, the Housing Bill, social rents and affordable rents be decreased by 1% as calculated in accordance with such legislation.**
 - ii) Garage rents increase by 1% (as detailed in Appendix A).**

- iii) Other landlord service charges at general needs properties remain at 2015/16 levels (as detailed in Appendix A).
- iv) Landlord service charges at Sheltered Housing Schemes are increased by 1% (See para 24 and Appendix A).

- c) That the Capital Programme for 2016/17 be approved.
- d) That the Head of Asset Management be authorised to dispose of the freehold interest in land at Fountain Crescent, Wotton Under Edge on the open market.
- e) To appropriate the former Ship Inn site, Stonehouse from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account at market value to add it to the new build programme for social housing.
- f) To appropriate land at Wharfdale Way, Stonehouse from the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund at market value for canal related development.

(d) General Fund Revenue Estimates – Revised 2015/16 and Original 2016/17

The Leader outlined the above report drawing particular attention to Table 4 and the budget pressures facing the Council in 2016/17.

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (amended 29 January 2014), a recorded vote was taken, the results of which are as follows:

**FOR:
(47)**

Councillors

Liz Ashton	Paul Hemming	Steve Robinson
Martin Baxendale	Nick Hurst	Mattie Ross
Dorcas Binns	Julie Job	Emma Sims
Rowland Blackwell	Haydn Jones	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
Chris Brine	John Jones	Haydn Sutton
Tim Boxall	Stephen Lydon	Brian Tipper
Miranda Clifton	John Marjoram	Chas Townley
June Cordwell	Russell Miles	Ken Tucker
Doina Cornell	Stephen Moore	Geoff Wheeler
Gordon Craig	David Mossman	Martin Whiteside
Kevin Cranston	Keith Pearson	Rhiannon Wigzell
Stephen Davies	Elizabeth Peters	Tim Williams
Paul Denney	Simon Pickering	Tom Williams
Julie Douglass	Gary Powell	Penny Wride
Jonathan Edmunds	Mark Rees	Debbie Young
Colin Fryer	Lesley Reeves	

**AGAINST:
(0)**

**ABSTAIN:
(1)** **Councillor**
Nigel Cooper

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED The estimates set out in Appendix B of this report be approved.

(e) Capital Programme and Proposed Schemes

Councillor Leader outlined the above report. In reply to a Member's question Councillor Simon Pickering confirmed that a report on the Ebley Mill Hydro Scheme would be presented to the March meeting of the Environment Committee. The Leader also confirmed that each service committee reviewed their own budgets on an annual basis and the works to the Merrywalks Car Park would be taking place.

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (amended 29 January 2014), a recorded vote was taken, the results of which are as follows:

FOR:	<u>Councillors</u>		
(40)	Liz Ashton	Jonathan Edmunds	Mark Rees
	Martin Baxendale	Colin Fryer	Lesley Reeves
	Dorcas Binns	Paul Hemming	Steve Robinson
	Rowland Blackwell	Julie Job	Mattie Ross
	Chris Brine	Haydn Jones	Emma Sims
	Tim Boxall	John Jones	Haydn Sutton
	Miranda Clifton	Stephen Lydon	Chas Townley
	June Cordwell	John Marjoram	Ken Tucker
	Doina Cornell	Russell Miles	Geoff Wheeler
	Gordon Craig	Stephen Moore	Martin Whiteside
	Kevin Cranston	David Mossman	Tim Williams
	Stephen Davies	Elizabeth Peters	Tom Williams
	Paul Denney	Simon Pickering	
	Julie Douglass	Gary Powell	

AGAINST:
(0)

ABSTAIN:	<u>Councillors</u>		
(8)	Nigel Cooper	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	Penny Wride
	Nick Hurst	Brian Tipper	Debbie Young
	Keith Pearson	Rhiannon Wigzell	

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED a) That the revised current year's programme in Appendix A to this report is approved.
b) That the programme is funded by the capital resources shown in Appendix B.

(f) The General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 – 2019/20

The Leader outlined the above report drawing Members' attention to the revised Appendix A which had been circulated prior to the meeting by email and copies made available to all members prior to the meeting. He confirmed that the report was based on assumptions and the final settlement would not be available until mid-February; future financing was uncertain. He took the opportunity to thank all of the staff in finance for their work in producing timely reports.

The Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services) referred to the statement in paragraph 5 of the report regarding section 25 of the LGA 2003. More information was required before she was able to make a commitment and highlighted various risks.

The Leader highlighted a correction to paragraph a) of the report's decision box (and as such similar references throughout the report), namely the figures '2% to £190.67' should be deleted and replaced with '1.99% to £190.65'. This amendment was estimated to cost £1,000.

Councillor Steve Lydon stated that from satisfaction surveys the Council's ratings had increased and the Council was well run.

The Leader confirmed that the Council's cuts were greater than the rest of the county and all town and parish councils were aware 3 years ago that the Council would not be able to continue to provide council tax support. The topic was also discussed with town and parish councils in November 2015.

Councillor Simon Pickering confirmed that in 2007 £8 million had been earmarked for the carbon management fund to look into ways that the Council could invest into schemes that made energy savings. This Council was the first in Europe to be carbon neutral.

The Chief Executive clarified that the new homes bonus figure for 2016/17 was calculated on the performance of the current year 2015/16. It was confirmed that 342 homes had been brought back into occupation.

Councillor Rhiannon Wigzell moved an amendment to paragraph d) of the report's decision box that the following words were added to the third line, 'and all group leaders'. This amendment was not supported.

The Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services) confirmed that the final settlement was due on 3 February and this report could be considered at the next full Council on 25 February 2015.

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (amended 29 January 2014), a recorded vote was taken, the results of which are as follows:

FOR: (36)	<u>Councillors</u>		
	Liz Ashton	Jonathan Edmunds	Gary Powell
	Martin Baxendale	Colin Fryer	Mark Rees
	Rowland Blackwell	Paul Hemming	Steve Robinson
	Chris Brine	Nick Hurst	Mattie Ross
	Tim Boxall	Julie Job	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
	Miranda Clifton	Haydn Jones	Haydn Sutton
	June Cordwell	Stephen Lydon	Chas Townley
	Doina Cornell	John Marjoram	Ken Tucker
	Kevin Cranston	Stephen Moore	Geoff Wheeler
	Stephen Davies	David Mossman	Martin Whiteside
	Paul Denney	Keith Pearson	Rhiannon Wigzell
	Julie Douglass	Simon Pickering	Tom Williams
AGAINST: (5)	<u>Councillors</u>		
	Nigel Cooper	Emma Sims	Debbie Young
	Elizabeth Peters	Brian Tipper	
ABSTAIN: (7)	<u>Councillors</u>		
	Dorcas Binns	Russell Miles	Penny Wride
	Gordon Craig	Lesley Reeves	
	John Jones	Tim Williams	

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

- RESOLVED**
- a) **To increase the council tax by 1.99% to £190.65 at Band D, an increase of 7p per week for the services provided by Stroud District Council.**
 - b) **To approve the Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendix A.**
 - c) **To approve the changes to the reserves as set out in paragraphs 60 to 62 of the report and Appendix B.**
 - d) **To authorise the Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services) in consultation with the Chair of Strategy and Resources committee, to accept the Government's offer on a 4-year settlement when further details are announced with the final settlement if it is in the best interest of the Council to do so.**

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Chair of Council