

## CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL duly convened and held on Thursday, 14th February, 2019 at 7.00 pm in The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Canterbury

**Present:** Councillor Spooner Councillor Spooner (Lord Mayor)

Councillor B Baker, Councillor N Baker, Councillor Baldock, Councillor Bartley, Councillor Clark, Councillor A Cook, Councillor S Cook, Councillor Dixey, Councillor Doyle, Councillor Eden-Green, Councillor Fitter-Harding, Councillor Fisher, Councillor Glover, Councillor Hirst, Councillor Howes, Councillor L Jones, Councillor R Jones, Councillor MacCaul, Councillor Samper, Councillor Sonnex, Councillor I Stockley, Councillor J Stockley, Councillor D Thomas, Councillor I Thomas, Councillor R Thomas, Councillor Todd, Councillor Walker, Councillor Warley, Councillor Waters, Councillor Westgate and Councillor Williams

#### 689 PRAYERS

The meeting was opened with prayers by the Lord Mayor's Chaplain Reverend John Currie.

#### 690 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Baker, Butcher, Fawcett, Metcalfe, A Taylor, H Taylor and Wimble.

#### 691 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS OR OFFICERS

Councillors S Cook, Baldock and Dixey each made a statement that any declarations of interests by Councillors of their respective groups that were recorded in the minutes for this meeting were deemed to be declared again by any of those Councillors present at this meeting.

#### 692 PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS

There were no petitions or questions from the public for the meeting.

#### 693 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor announced that tickets were still available for the Lady Mayoress' Ball and proceeds would be going to the Lady Mayoress' chosen charities.

#### 694 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON BUDGET ITEMS

- (a) The Leader delivered his priorities speech regarding the Budget proposals for 2019/20 and proposed that the budget as recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee be accepted.

- (b) Councillor Baldock then replied, on behalf of the Labour Group. He moved an amendment to both the General Fund Budget and the Housing Revenue Account budget as follows -

Facilitate £120,000 for funding a new Affordable Homes Team, jointly from the General Fund, nominally covering the acquisition process within the team and from the Housing Revenue Account Capital Budget addressing the detailed planning and finance by:

- i. General Fund contribution of £60K made from reserves.
  - ii. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) contribution of £60,000 by deferring £1 million of Capital work (Refurbishment, replacement and repairs – lines) scheduled for 2019/20 to the following two years (1920-214 and 1921/22). This deferral allows a reduction in external borrowing from £4.5M to £3.5M offering a saving of around £60,000 this year on interest payments. That saving will complete the funding of the Affordable Homes Team. The funding used from the HRA account for the 18-month improvement program to be repurposed to support the increase borrowing in future years.
- (c) Councillor Dixey then replied, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, to the Leader's priorities speech.
- (d) The Leader replied to the speeches by Councillors Baldock and Dixey.
- (e) Following debate a vote was then taken on the amendment made at (B). The vote was LOST.

A record of the voting was taken as follows:  
For: Councillors Baldock, Fisher, Warley (3)

Against: Councillors B Baker, N Baker, Bartley, Clark, A Cook, S Cook, Doyle, Fitter-Harding, Glover, Howes, L Jones, R Jones, Samper, Sonnex, I Stockley, J Stockley, D Thomas, R Thomas, Todd, Walker, Westgate, Waters, Williams (23)

Abstaining: Councillors Dixey, Eden-Green, Hirst, MacCaul, I Thomas, Spooner (6)

- (f) Following debate a vote was then taken on the original recommendations which were proposed at (A). The vote was carried and the Council RESOLVED -
- i. Financial outlook and draft revenue and capital budgets 2019/20:
    - a. that the Council approves the net revenue budget amount of £17.063 million for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 2;
    - b. that the Council approves a Council Tax for Band D of £211.32 for 2019/20, an increase of £6.12 a year (2.98%) when compared with 2018/19;
    - c. that the Council approves the Financial Plan for 2019/20 to 2023/24 set out in Appendix 2 as the basis for the budget in each of those years;
    - d. that, in order to deliver a robust budget in future years, the Council continues to identify further opportunities to generate additional savings and income;

- e. that the movements in reserves set out in Appendices 5 and 6 be approved;
  - f. that authority be given to the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and directors to incur expenditure and otherwise exercise the powers delegated to them in the Constitution in order to implement the capital programme for 2019/20 set out in Appendix 7 including any schemes brought into the programme since the Council meeting in February 2018;
  - g. that, subject to any alterations necessary, the draft capital programme set out in Appendix 7 be adopted as the basis for planning the approved four year capital budget; and that the fees and charges set out in Appendix 9 be approved.
- ii. Housing Revenue Account - Budget 2019/20  
To approve the Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budgets set out in the appendices A to C of the report.
  - iii. Treasury Management, Capital and Investment Strategy 2019/20
    - a. That the attached Treasury Management Strategy including the Minimum Revenue Provision policy for 2019/20 be approved;
    - b. That the attached Capital Strategy for 2019/20 be approved;
    - c. That the attached Investment strategy for 2019/20 be approved.
  - iv. Council Tax 2019/20
    - a. That the Council approves the formal resolution based on that set out in Appendix B (attached) to set the Council Tax for 2019/20 and that, if any of the precepting authorities change their precept figures before Council on 14 February, the Deputy Chief Executive be authorised to present to council a revised resolution;
    - b. That that the long term empty homes premium be increased from 50% to 100% from 1 April 2019
    - c. That the Council approves the continuation of the following policies:
      - i. that the empty homes discount is 0% for Class C empty properties;
      - ii. that there is no discount for long term empty properties; and
      - iii. that Council Tax will be payable in full on second homes.

A record of the voting was taken as follows:

For: Councillors B Baker, N Baker, Bartley, Clark, A Cook, S Cook, Doyle, Fitter-Harding, Glover, Howes, L Jones, R Jones, Samper, Sonnex, I Stockley, J Stockley, D Thomas, I Thomas, R Thomas, Todd, Walker, Waters, Westgate, Williams (24)

Against: Councillor Baldock, Dixey, Eden-Green, Fisher, Hirst, MacCaul, Warley (7)

Abstaining: Councillor Spooner (1)

## 695 **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FULL COUNCIL FROM COMMITTEES**

The Lord Mayor advised that there were no further recommendations for Council to consider.

## 696 **COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

**Question by Councillor Fisher:**

“Will EU citizens be able to vote in the election on May 2nd?”

**Reply by Councillor S Cook:**

No certainties had been given either way but the Cabinet Office has indicated that, pending any further legislation which would almost certainly follow 2nd May, EU Citizens would be able to stand as candidates, and to vote, in the local election.

**Supplementary question by Councillor Fisher:**

“Given the election has to be called before 29 March what instructions are being given about who can vote.”

**Reply by the Chief Executive:**

The current legislation allows EU Citizens to vote. Regardless of what happens with the withdrawal of the UK from Europe, until the law is changed EU citizens would continue to have the right to vote in the election on 2 May. Any change to legislation before that time is extremely unlikely.

697 **NOTICE OF MOTION: GRAFFITI**

The following Motion had been received for the meeting which was proposed by Councillor Dixey and seconded by Councillor Eden-Green -

“This council is saddened by the increasing amount of graffiti which blights so many of our buildings, walls, street furniture, kiosks, etc. It is worse than it ever has been despite the efforts of community groups, Serco and others to clean it off. This council will therefore:

1. Install hidden cameras in graffiti hotspots so that taggers can be identified and prosecuted
2. Offer rewards of £500 for information which leads to the conviction of taggers
3. Write to relevant local retailers reminding them that it is an offence to sell spray paint to minors
4. Publicly confirm that the council will remove graffiti from private property
5. Redouble efforts to remove graffiti across the district.”

The Lord Mayor referred the Notice of Motion to the Community Committee for consideration with a report by the Officers.”

698 **PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2019/20**

It was proposed by Councillor S Cook, seconded by Councillor N Baker, and

RESOLVED: That the draft programme of meetings for 2019/20, now reported, be recommended for adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

A record of the voting was taken as follows -

For: Councillors B Baker, N Baker, Baldock, Bartley, Clark, A Cook, S Cook, Dixey, Doyle, Eden-Green, Fisher, Fitter-Harding, Glover, Hirst, Howes, L Jones, R Jones,

MacCaul, Samper, Sonnex, I Stockley, J Stockley, D Thomas, I Thomas, R Thomas, Todd, Walker, Warley, Waters, Westgate, Williams (31)

Against: None

Abstaining: Councillor Spooner (1)

**699 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING - THURSDAY, 10 JANUARY 2019**

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Lord Mayor.

**700 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - 23 JANUARY 2019**

It was proposed by Councillor N Baker and seconded by Councillor Howes and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting above be received.

A record of the voting was taken as follows -

For: Councillors B Baker, N Baker, Baldock, Bartley, Clark, A Cook, S Cook, Dixey, Doyle, Eden-Green, Fisher, Fitter-Harding, Glover, Hirst, Howes, L Jones, R Jones, MacCaul, Samper, Sonnex, I Stockley, J Stockley, D Thomas, I Thomas, R Thomas, Todd, Walker, Warley, Waters, Westgate, Williams (31)

Against: None

Abstaining: Councillor Spooner (1)

**701 PLANNING COMMITTEE - 8 JANUARY 2019**

It was proposed by Councillor Samper and seconded by Councillor Clark and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting above be received.

A record of the voting was taken as follows -

For: Councillors B Baker, N Baker, Baldock, Bartley, Clark, A Cook, S Cook, Dixey, Doyle, Eden-Green, Fisher, Fitter-Harding, Glover, Hirst, Howes, L Jones, R Jones, MacCaul, Samper, Sonnex, I Stockley, J Stockley, D Thomas, I Thomas, R Thomas, Todd, Walker, Warley, Waters, Westgate, Williams (31)

Against: None

Abstaining: Councillor Spooner (1)

**702 REGENERATION AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE - 24 JANUARY 2019**

It was proposed by Councillor Fitter-Harding and seconded by Councillor R Thomas and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting above be received.

A record of the voting was taken as follows -

For: Councillors B Baker, N Baker, Baldock, Bartley, Clark, A Cook, S Cook, Dixey, Doyle, Eden-Green, Fisher, Fitter-Harding, Glover, Hirst, Howes, L Jones, R Jones, MacCaul, Samper, Sonnex, I Stockley, J Stockley, D Thomas, I Thomas, R Thomas, Todd, Walker, Warley, Waters, Westgate, Williams (31)

Against: None

Abstaining: Councillor Spooner (1)

703 **TO RECEIVE ANY NOTICES OF URGENT DECISIONS MADE BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE UNDER DELEGATION A3**

There were no relevant notices reported.

704 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS TO BE DEALT WITH ON THE NIGHT**

There were no additional urgent matters to be considered at the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.06 pm