

COUNCIL (BUDGET MEETING)**29 January 2015****7.00 pm – 9.20 pm****Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud****3****Minutes****Membership:**

Liz Ashton	P	Paul Hemming	P	Lesley Reeves	P
Martin Baxendale	P	Nick Hurst	P	Steve Robinson	P
Dorcas Binns	P	Julie Job	P	Mattie Ross	P
Tim Boxall	P	Haydn Jones	P	Roger Sanders	P
Chris Brine	P	John Jones	P	Emma Sims	P
Miranda Clifton	P	Stephen Lydon	P	Paul Smith	P
Nigel Cooper	P	John Marjoram	P	Ken Stephens	P
June Cordwell	A	Russell Miles	A	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	P
Doina Cornell	A	Caroline Molloy	A	Brian Tipper	P
Gordon Craig	P	Stephen Moore	P	Geoff Wheeler	A
Karon Cross	A	Dave Mossman	P	Martin Whiteside	P
Paul Denney	P	Keith Pearson	P	Rhiannon Wigzell	P
David Drew	P	Elizabeth Peters	P	Tim Williams	P
Julie Douglass	P	Simon Pickering	A	Tom Williams	P
Jonathan Edmunds	P	Gary Powell	P	Penny Wride	P
Colin Fryer	P	Nigel Prenter	P	Debbie Young	P
Chas Fellows	P	Mark Rees	P	1 vacancy	

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

Officers Present

Chief Executive	Building Control Manager
Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer	Head of Planning
Strategic Head (Development Services)	Interim Multi Services Contracts Manager
Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services)	Head of Asset Management (Joint)
Accountancy Manager	Head of Housing Management
Principal Accountant	Asset Manager
	Democratic Services and Election Officer

CL.034 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors June Cordwell, Karon Cross, Doina Cornell, Russell Miles, Caroline Molloy, Simon Pickering and Geoff Wheeler.

CL.035 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

CL.036 BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Chris Brine, the Deputy Leader of Council outlined the above report which sought approval for the creation of a building control partnership with Gloucester City Council. This would enable staff to gain more experience, improve efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Councillor Nigel Cooper inquired whether it would be more cost effective to set up a purpose vehicle because of the added costs of +30% for pension costs to payroll and a reply would be circulated after the meeting.

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

- RESOLVED (a) Enter into an agreement under Section 101 Local Government Act 1972 for the joint provision of a building control service with Gloucester City Council.**
- (b) Authorise the Strategic Head of Development Services, the Strategic Head of Corporate Services and the Strategic Head of Finance and Business Services to negotiate and sign the necessary agreements.**

CL.037 MULTI SERVICE CONTRACT – DEPOT ACQUISITION

The Deputy Leader of Council confirmed that negotiations were ongoing and he did not want to prejudice these discussions. A report would be presented at the next meeting of Council on 26 February 2015.

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

- RESOLVED To delegate authority to the Head of Asset Management, in consultation with the Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee and the Chair of Environment Committee, to continue negotiations for acquisition of a depot and present a report to Council on 26 February 2015.**

CL.038 BUDGET SETTING PARAMETERS**(a) Council Tax Base**

Councillor Steve Lydon, the Vice-Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee outlined the above report which sought approval of the calculation for the Council's tax base for 2015/16 which had been calculated at 41,428.97. He also thanked all of the finance staff for their timely advice they had given Members, the speed and accuracy in producing the reports within the very tight timescales.

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

- RESOLVED (a) To set the Council tax base for 2015/16.**

- (b) That pursuant to this report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Stroud District Council as its tax base for the year 2015/16 shall be 41,428.97.
- (c) From 2015/16, to authorise the Council's Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services) in her capacity as Section 151 Officer, to set the tax bases for Council tax setting purposes.

(b) Estimation of Surpluses or Deficits on the Collection Fund

The Vice-Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee informed Members of the position regarding the estimation of any surpluses or deficit on the Collection Fund 2014/15.

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

- RESOLVED** (a) The sum of £1,007,890 is the estimated surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund at 31 March 2015.
- (b) From 2015/16, to authorise the Council's Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services) in her capacity as Section 151 Officer, to calculate and set the estimate surplus on the Council Tax Collection Funds.

CL.039 CALCULATION OF BUSINESS RATES 2015/16 (NNDR1)

The Vice-Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee presented the above report which sought authority to be delegated to the Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services) to approve the final NNDR1 form and make budget adjustments accordingly.

Clarification was given to Members regarding the different NNDR forms and confirmation given that all outstanding appeals are closely monitored and managed.

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

- RESOLVED** (a) To authorise the Council's Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services) in her capacity as Section 151 Officer to approve the final NNDR1 form for 2015/16 and include the amount in the Council's budget.
- (b) From 2015 /16, to authorise the Council's Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services) in her capacity as Section 151 Officer to approve final NNDR1 forms and include the relevant amount in the appropriate Council budget.

CL.040 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**Audit and Standards Committee – 25 November 2014****(a) Half Year Treasury Management Activity Report 2014/15**

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy, the Chair of Committee outlined the above report drawing Members' attention to various paragraphs.

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

RESOLVED To approve the treasury management activity half year report for 2014/2015, including the revisions to the 2014/15 strategy as set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 of this report.

Strategy and Resources Committee – 8 January 2015**(b) Housing Revenue Account Revised Estimates 2014/15 and Original Estimates 2015/16**

Councillor Mattie Ross, Chair of Housing Committee outlined the above report and confirmed that budgets had been debated by tenants at Stroud Council Housing Forum and also at other tenant groups.

In reply to questions it was confirmed that an external body examined the work undertaken by the Council's contractors to ensure value for money, as a secondary check. At present there are two separate IT systems which are 15 years old and more efficient automated systems are now available. Any future spending on the budget would seek approval of the Housing Committee.

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:
(41)**

Councillors

Liz Ashton	Nick Hurst	Steve Robinson
Martin Baxendale	Julie Job	Mattie Ross
Dorcas Binns	Haydn Jones	Roger Sanders
Chris Brine	John Jones	Emma Sims
Tim Boxall	Stephen Lydon	Paul Smith
Miranda Clifton	John Marjoram	Ken Stephens
Nigel Cooper	Stephen Moore	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
Gordon Craig	David Mossman	Martin Whiteside
Paul Denney	Keith Pearson	Rhiannon Wigzell
David Drew	Elizabeth Peters	Tim Williams
Julie Douglass	Gary Powell	Tom Williams
Jonathan Edmunds	Nigel Prenter	Penny Wride
Colin Fryer	Mark Rees	Debbie Young
Paul Hemming	Lesley Reeves	

AGAINST: **Councillors**
(2) Chas Fellows Brian Tipper

ABSTAIN: **Councillors**
(0)

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

RESOLVED (a) The revised HRA budget for 2014/15 and original HRA revenue and capital budgets for 2015/16 are approved.

(b) That from 1 April 2015 the following increases to existing rent and service charges as detailed in Appendix A are applied.

i) Dwelling rents increase by 3%, being CPI of 1.2% + 1.8% for growth. (For an explanation of rents please see Appendix F).

ii) Garage rents increase by CPI, i.e. 1.2% (see details in Appendix A).

iii) Other landlord service charges increase by CPI i.e. 1.2% (see details in Appendix A).

iv) Landlord service charges at Sheltered Housing Schemes are increased by CPI i.e. 1.2% (see details in Appendix A).

(c) That the Capital Programme for 2015/16 be approved.

(c) General Fund Estimates – Revised 2014/15 and Original 2015/16

The Vice-Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee outlined the report. Concern was raised regarding the youth service budget. It was confirmed that some town and parish councils had their own initiatives. A task and finish group would be set up to look into the youth service.

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>		
(42)	Liz Ashton	Nick Hurst	Steve Robinson
	Martin Baxendale	Julie Job	Mattie Ross
	Dorcas Binns	Haydn Jones	Roger Sanders
	Chris Brine	John Jones	Emma Sims
	Tim Boxall	Stephen Lydon	Paul Smith
	Miranda Clifton	John Marjoram	Ken Stephens
	Nigel Cooper	Stephen Moore	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
	Gordon Craig	David Mossman	Brian Tipper
	Paul Denney	Keith Pearson	Martin Whiteside
	David Drew	Elizabeth Peters	Rhiannon Wigzell
	Julie Douglass	Gary Powell	Tim Williams
	Jonathan Edmunds	Nigel Prenter	Tom Williams
	Colin Fryer	Mark Rees	Penny Wride
	Paul Hemming	Lesley Reeves	Debbie Young

AGAINST: **Councillors**
(1) Chas Fellows

ABSTAIN: **Councillor**
(0)

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

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

(d) Capital Programme and Proposed Schemes

The Vice-Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee outlined the above report. Officers replied to Members' questions on different aspects of the report. The core committees would be presented to reports for decisions regarding budgets.

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>		
(41)	Liz Ashton	Nick Hurst	Steve Robinson
	Martin Baxendale	Julie Job	Mattie Ross
	Dorcas Binns	Haydn Jones	Roger Sanders
	Chris Brine	John Jones	Emma Sims
	Tim Boxall	Stephen Lydon	Paul Smith
	Miranda Clifton	John Marjoram	Ken Stephens
	Nigel Cooper	Stephen Moore	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
	Gordon Craig	David Mossman	Martin Whiteside
	Paul Denney	Keith Pearson	Rhiannon Wigzell
	David Drew	Elizabeth Peters	Tim Williams
	Julie Douglass	Gary Powell	Tom Williams
	Jonathan Edmunds	Nigel Prenter	Penny Wride
	Colin Fryer	Mark Rees	Debbie Young
	Paul Hemming	Lesley Reeves	

AGAINST: **Councillors**
(2) Chas Fellows Brian Tipper

ABSTAIN: **Councillor**
(0)

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

RESOLVED (1) That the revised current year's programme in Appendix A to this report is approved.

(2) That the programme is funded by the capital resources shown in Appendix B to this report.

(e) The General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/16 and Medium

The Vice-Chair of Strategy and Resources Committee outlined the above report which would help small businesses, create more apprenticeships and jobs.

It was clarified that the final decision on the budget for the public space at Wallbridge would be made by Strategy and Resources Committee.

During debate Councillor Nigel Cooper disagreed with certain aspects of the proposed budget in the Capital Programme (Appendix A) which contained a 'wish list', without any business plans having been submitted. Money had been moved around from one pot into another. He proposed the following amendment to the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Debbie Young:-

"That the following projects are removed from Appendix A (page 14):-

1. Car Park Ticket machines
2. Stroud Valleys initiative
3. New house building in the district, and
4. Public open space at Wallbridge

Pending further detailed reports and business plans being presented to Strategy and Resources Committee and recommendations back from that Committee, as appropriate being approved by Council."

The Deputy Leader confirmed that the six identified projects would only be taken forward provided that their business plans were approved.

The amendment was debated by Members. On being put to the vote the amendment was lost by 20 votes to 23.

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: (23)	<u>Councillors</u> Liz Ashton Martin Baxendale Chris Brine Miranda Clifton Paul Denney David Drew Julie Douglass Jonathan Edmunds	Colin Fryer Paul Hemming Stephen Lydon John Marjoram Stephen Moore Gary Powell Nigel Prenter Mark Rees	Steve Robinson Mattie Ross Roger Sanders Paul Smith Ken Stephens Martin Whiteside Tom Williams
AGAINST: (19)	<u>Councillors</u> Dorcas Binns Tim Boxall Nigel Cooper Gordon Craig Nick Hurst Julie Job Chas Fellows	Haydn Jones John Jones David Mossman Keith Pearson Elizabeth Peters Lesley Reeves Emma Sims	Brian Tipper Rhiannon Wigzell Tim Williams Penny Wride Debbie Young

ABSTAIN: **Councillor**
(1) Nigel Studdert-Kennedy

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED (subject to the Governments final settlement announcements):

- (a) To approve the budget proposals as set out in Appendix A including a proposed council tax Band D rate of £186.93 (0% increase) for the services provided by Stroud District Council.**
- (b) To approve the changes to the reserves as set out in paragraphs 38 to 41 of the report and Appendix C.**
- (c) To approve that Stroud's share of any surplus from the Gloucestershire Business Rates Pool is set aside in the Jobs and Growth reserve to further support the Council's Jobs and Growth agenda.**
- (d) To approve the Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendix B subject to any decisions made at (a) and (b) above.**

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Chair of Council