

COUNCIL MEETING

24 January 2019

7.00 pm – 10.37 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

Minutes**3****Membership:**

Martin Baxendale	P	Nick Hurst	P	Skeena Rathor	P
Dorcas Binns	A	Julie Job	P	Sue Reed	P
Catherine Braun	P	Haydn Jones	P	Mark Reeves	A
Chris Brine	P	John Jones	P	Steve Robinson	P
George Butcher	P	Norman Kay	P	Mattie Ross	P
Miranda Clifton	P	Darren Loftus	P	Tom Skinner	P
Nigel Cooper	P	Stephen Lydon	P	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy	P
Doina Cornell	P	John Marjoram	P	Haydn Sutton	P
Gordon Craig	P	Phil McAsey	A	Brian Tipper	P
Rachel Curley	P	Karen McKeown	A	Chas Townley	P
Stephen Davies	P	Jenny Miles*	P	Jessica Tomblin	A
Paul Denney	A	Dave Mossman	A	Ken Tucker	P
Jim Dewey	A	Gill Oxley	P	Martin Whiteside	P
Jonathan Edmunds	P	Keith Pearson	P	Tim Williams	P
Chas Fellows	A	Simon Pickering	P	Tom Williams	P
Colin Fryer	P	Gary Powell**	P	Debbie Young	P
Trevor Hall	P	Nigel Prenter	P		

**Chair *Vice-Chair P = Present A = Absent

Officers Present:

Chief Executive	Community Services Manager
Director of Customer Services	Head of Community Services
Director of Development Services	Elections Manager
Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer	Democratic Services Officer
Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer	

The Chair confirmed that with the agreement of the Chief Executive, the activist group Extinction Rebellion would be allowed to make a statement and ask questions following on from last weeks Strategy and Resources Committee. Agenda item 6b would be brought forward.

All present stood for a minute's silence, as a mark of respect, for both Councillor Penny Wride and former Stroud District Council Chair and Parish Councillor Roy Nicholas who had both recently passed away. Members paid tribute. Both had given so much of their time to their communities and would be greatly missed.

CL.043 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Binns, Denney, Dewey, Fellows, McAsey, McKeown, Mossman, Reeves, and Tomblin.

CL.044 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pickering declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 - Car Park Review 2018 because of his Air B&B in Stonehouse where visitors often use the Council's car park.

CL.045 RECOMMENDATION(S) FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**Environment Committee – 13 December 2018****Motion regarding Achieving Stroud District Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment**

Councillor Pickering, Chair of Environment outlined the background and discussion that had taken place at Environment Committee resulting in an amendment in funding, and unanimous support. The next steps would be to draft a document setting out how we are going forward. There is wide support around the district and Members fully endorsed the motion.

Councillor Butcher, the seconder for the motion stated that the public needed to be educated which would lead to small changes becoming bigger ones.

In summing up Councillor Pickering thanked members for their support.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED To endorse the 'Climate Emergency' announced by the administration on 16 November 2018 and pledge to do everything within the Council's power to make Stroud District carbon neutral by 2030.

A statement was read out by Lyndon Edwardson, a representative of the activist group Extinction Rebellion. Questions had also been asked by Katerina Hasapopoulos and Senan Clifford, which were answered by Councillor Pickering. Supplementary questions were also asked (refer to [webcast](#)).

CL.046 2018 SOUTH WEST CHALLENGE

The Chair congratulated the team members for winning the 2018 South West Challenge, Alison Robinson, Chloe Lloyd, Susan Turner, Charlotte Boileau, Ben Falconer and Helen Edwards and presented them with the trophy.

CL.047 APPOINTMENTS

The Leader introduced the above report. On being put to the vote, the Motion was unanimous.

RESOLVED 1. Appoint Kathy O'Leary, Chief Executive as Electoral Registration Officer pursuant to section 8(2)(a) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 with immediate effect.

2. **Appoint Kathy O’Leary, Chief Executive as Returning Officer pursuant to section 35(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 with immediate effect**
3. **Appoint Hannah Emery, Elections Manager as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer, with the full powers of the Electoral Registration Officer in her absence.**

CL.048 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

On being put to the vote the Motion was unanimous.

RESOLVED To appoint Councillor Trevor Hall to Environment Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

(a) Audit and Standards Committee

Half Year Treasury Management Activity Report 2018/19

Councillor Studdert-Kennedy, Chair of Audit and Standards Committee outlined the above report, highlighting paragraph 5. He also stated that the timing and understanding of the financial markets for investment needed to be explored and opportunities for investment could not be ignored.

Members were aware that the Council needed to invest to produce more income but there would always be a level of risk. Members recalled the problems that had occurred with investments that had been made by the Council in Icelandic banks.

The Leader confirmed that no decision to invest was being made only the opportunity for officers to explore the markets and to build more financial resilience into the Council.

The Head of Finance explained the remit of the various Committees and Council.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED 1. That the Council approves the treasury management activity half year report for 2018/2019, and
2. Approves the proposals to increase the limit for investment in property funds to £10m set out in paragraph 15.

(b) Strategy and Resources Committee

(bi) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) - Revised 2018 and Original 2019/20 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 – 2022/23

The Chair of Housing Committee, outlined the above report making reference to various paragraphs therein. He confirmed that there was currently a legal debate over the 53 week payment. A briefing note had been circulated prior to the meeting outlining the calculation for Universal Credit. The Chief Executive and Leader will be raising the issue of the 52 week year for people on Universal Credit with the Department of Works and Pensions.

Members debated the length of the loan; whether it should be 48 or 60 years. A decision would be taken annually at Council. It was suggested that if there were any surplus in the account this would be used to pay off some of the debt.

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

FOR:	<u>Councillors</u>		
(28)	Catherine Braun	Norman Kay	Mattie Ross
	Chris Brine	Stephen Lydon	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
	George Butcher	Jenny Miles	Haydn Sutton
	Miranda Clifton	Gill Oxley	Chas Townley
	Doina Cornell	Simon Pickering	Ken Tucker
	Rachel Curley	Gary Powell	Martin Whiteside
	Jonathan Edmunds	Nigel Prenter	Tim Williams
	Colin Fryer	Skeena Rathor	Tom Williams
	Trevor Hall	Sue Reed	
	Julie Job	Stephen Robinson	

NO:	<u>Councillors</u>		
(5)	Martin Baxendale	Haydn Jones	Brian Tipper
	Nigel Cooper	John Marjoram	

ABSTAIN:	<u>Councillors</u>		
(8)	Gordon Craig	John Jones	Tom Skinner
	Stephen Davies	Darren Loftus	Debbie Young
	Nick Hurst	Keith Pearson	

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

- RESOLVED 1. The revised HRA revenue budget for 2018/19 and original budget 2019/20 are approved.**
- 2. The movement to and from HRA balances and capital reserves as detailed in Appendix B and section 9 are approved.**
- 3. That from 1 April 2019:**
- i) Social rents and affordable rents are decreased by 1%, as calculated in accordance with legislation.**
 - ii) Garage rents are increased by 2.4%.**
 - iii) Landlord service charges are increased by 2.4%, except district heating charges which are increased by 14%, capped at £1 per week.**
- As detailed in Appendix A.**
- 4. That provision for repayment of HRA borrowing is made on an annual basis, with flexibility retained for this to be made from revenue, the Major Repairs Reserve, capital receipts, or any combination of these.**
- 5. That the HRA Capital Programme for 2018/19 to 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix C, be included in the Council's Capital Programme.**

(bii) General Revenue Estimates – Revised 2018/19 and 2019/20

The Leader outlined the above report. Confirmation was given that because of the shift in the market the energy costs had risen when the contract was renewed.

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

FOR:
(34)

Councillors

Martin Baxendale	Julie Job	Sue Reed
Catherine Braun	Norman Kay	Stephen Robinson
Chris Brine	Darren Loftus	Mattie Ross
George Butcher	Stephen Lydon	Tom Skinner
Miranda Clifton	John Marjoram	Haydn Sutton
Nigel Cooper	Jenny Miles	Chas Townley
Doina Cornell	Gill Oxley	Ken Tucker
Rachel Curley	Keith Pearson	Martin Whiteside
Jonathan Edmunds	Simon Pickering	Tim Williams
Colin Fryer	Gary Powell	Tom Williams
Trevor Hall	Nigel Prenter	
Nick Hurst	Skeena Rathor	

NO:
(1)

Councillor

Brian Tipper

ABSTAIN:
(6)

Councillors

Gordon Craig	Haydn Jones	Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
Stephen Davies	John Jones	Debbie Young

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED The estimates set out in the report be considered and approved for inclusion in the General Fund Revenue Budget 2019/20 and Medium Term Financial Plan report to Council elsewhere on this agenda.

At 21.13 pm the meeting adjourned and was reconvened at 21.22 pm.

(biii) The General Fund Budget 2019/20, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Plan

The Leader drew Members' attention to the key headlines and the increasing pressures on the budgets. An amendment had been agreed at Strategy and Resources Committee to increase the amount of Market Town Centre grant to Wotton-under-Edge Town Council. This made no change to the Medium Term Financial Plan, but a minor change to the printed total capital programme in the report. The fund would be reviewed annually by the Environment Committee. Members were concerned that not all towns within the district had been considered and this would be reviewed for future allocations.

Councillor Kay declared an interest in the Subscription Rooms because his wife was a trustee.

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

FOR: **Councillors**
(26) Martin Baxendale Nick Hurst Sue Reed
 Catherine Braun Julie Job Stephen Robinson
 George Butcher Stephen Lydon Mattie Ross
 Miranda Clifton John Marjoram Haydn Sutton
 Doina Cornell Jenny Miles Chas Townley
 Rachel Curley Simon Pickering Ken Tucker
 Jonathan Edmunds Gary Powell Martin Whiteside
 Colin Fryer Nigel Prenter Tom Williams
 Trevor Hall Skeena Rathor

NO: **Councillors**
(7) Nigel Cooper Tom Skinner Debbie Young
 Gordon Craig Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
 Stephen Davies Brian Tipper

ABSTAIN: **Councillors**
(3) Haydn Jones John Jones Keith Pearson

On being put to the vote Motion was carried.

RESOLVED (Subject to the Government's final settlement announcements):

1. **To approve the updated Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Appendices A-C.**
2. **To increase the council tax by 2.99% to £207.52 at Band D, an increase of less than 12p per week for the services provided by Stroud District Council.**
3. **To note the uncertainty around the impact of changes to local government funding in 2020/21.**
4. **To approve the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix D.**
5. **To approve the planned changes to the reserves as set out in Section 4 of the report and Appendix E.**

(biv) Stroud District Council Capital Strategy

The Leader presented the above report and a debate ensued. The Leader re-emphasised that the Council needed to be more commercial. The cost of the Subscription Rooms was also mentioned by members. It was important to have a capital strategy and to invest wisely. The report was debated.

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

FOR: **Councillors**
(34) Martin Baxendale Haydn Jones Mattie Ross
 Catherine Braun John Jones Tom Skinner
 George Butcher Norman Kay Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
 Miranda Clifton Stephen Lydon Haydn Sutton
 Nigel Cooper John Marjoram Brian Tipper
 Doina Cornell Jenny Miles Chas Townley
 Gordon Craig Keith Pearson Ken Tucker
 Stephen Davies Simon Pickering Martin Whiteside

Jonathan Edmunds	Gary Powell	Tom Williams
Colin Fryer	Nigel Prenter	Debbie Young
Trevor Hall	Sue Reed	
Julie Job	Stephen Robinson	

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

RESOLVED 1. **To approve the Capital Strategy at Appendix A.**
 2. **To grant the S151 Officer Delegated Powers to re-profile capital budgets in consultation with the relevant service Committee chairs.**

(bv) The Fair Pay and Senior Pay Policy Statement 2018/19

The Leader introduced the above annual report. On being put to the vote the Motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED To approve the statement.

(bvi) Council Tax Discount for Care Leavers

The Chair introduced the above report and made reference to the paper that the Revenue and Benefit's Manager had circulated prior to the meeting.

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

RESOLVED To adopt the scheme to be effective from 1 April 2019.

Councillor Pickering left the meeting.

CL.048 CAR PARKING REVIEW 2018

The Director of Customer Services summaries the steps that had been taken from the last Council meeting, in particular drawing members' attention to the options in the report's decision box.

Councillor Pearson questioned why it had not been considered to give free parking for two hours in both Stonehouse and Painswick. The Community Services Manager confirmed that the maximum stay for parking in the long stay car park in Painswick was 23 hours at a cost of £2.50 and the existing waiting restrictions would apply. The Head of Finance confirmed that after tonight's decision, if necessary, the budget would be adjusted.

During debate a few members were not satisfied that money would be taken out of the reserves; the charges had been doubled in Painswick for parking and would therefore not be supporting this motion.

The Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer drew members' attention to the legal implications within the report.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

- RESOLVED 1.** The amended Variation Order (appended to this report) and summarised as follows, be approved for implementation, effective from 1st April 2019:
- The parking charges at Stonehouse Car Park shall be removed;
 - The parking charges at Painswick Car Park shall be removed;
 - All off–street parking places except for Stratford Park shall have a maximum gross vehicle weight of 3,500kg;
 - Alterations are made to the boundaries of the off-street parking places at Church Street, Stroud and Newmarket Road and Old Market West, Nailsworth;
 - The maximum stay at Cheapside Car Park, Stroud is extended to 72 hours;
 - The car park at Stratford Park, Stratford Road, Stroud shall be designated as an off-street parking place;
 - Provision is made for payments by credit and debit card where appropriate machinery is installed and for the potential future installation of electric vehicle charging points;
 - The MTFP for 2019/20 to 2022/23 is amended to remove income targets of £55,700 p.a. with implications as shown in the financial implications box;
- 1.a The 23 hour waiting restriction in Stonehouse Car Park is retained.

The meeting closed at 10.37 pm.

Chair