

**COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 APRIL 2014**

**Present:** Councillors Geoffrey Garrity; (Mayor); David Banks; Geoffrey Blackwell; Jackie Bowman; John Bowman; Hugh Branney; Yvonne Clarkson; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Brian Dixon; Margarita Docherty; Eileen Eastwood; Anne Faichney; Allan Forster; Fred Gleaves; Phil Greatorex; Stephen Haraldsen; Ian Hill; Lena Hogg; Allan Holliday; John Jackson; John Kane; Peter Kane; Michael McVeigh; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Jack Park; Sam Pollen; Robert Salkeld; Dave Smith; Peter Stephenson; Graham Sunderland; Gillian Troughton; Peter Tyson; Paul Whalley; Doug Wilson; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman; Henry Wormstrup

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Karl Connor; Jon Downie; John Fallows; Reg Heathcote; Keith Hitchen; Joan Hully; Alan Jacob; David Riley; Gilbert Scurrah; William Southward; Jeanette Williams; Elaine Woodburn

**C 73 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 February 2014 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to Minute C72 being amended to: -

**“C 72 Budget Proposals 2014/15**

Prior to the consideration of this item Councillor Allan Holliday moved the suspension of Standing Order 15.3 which limits the length of time for the debate.

The motion was duly seconded and upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED** – That Council Procedure Rule 15.3 (length of Speeches) be suspended for this item.

Consideration was given to recommendations from the Executive setting out proposals for the Council’s budget 2014/15.

Councillor Gillian Troughton moved recommendation 1 (i) that

“1. Revenue Budget 2014/15:

(i) the policy decisions in 3.3 and resulting savings proposals for 2014/15 of £662k set out in Appendix AE of the report, that seek to balance the Council’s budget and address the 2014/15 projected budget shortfall be approved;”

The motion was duly seconded and a recorded vote taken

For the Motion: Councillors David Banks; Geoffrey Blackwell; John Bowman; Jackie Bowman; **Hugh Branney**; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Margarita Docherty; Jon Downie; Eileen Eastwood; Geoffrey Garrity; Fred Gleaves; Phil Greatorex; Stephen

Haraldsen; Ian Hill; **Keith Hitchen**; Lena Hogg; Allan Holliday; Alan Jacob; Peter Kane; Michael McVeigh; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Bob Salkeld; Gilbert Scurrah; Dave Smith; William Southward; Peter Stephenson; Graham Sunderland; Gillian Troughton; Peter Tyson; Jeanette Williams; Doug Wilson; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman.

Against the Amendment – None  
Abstention from the vote – None

On a vote of **35** For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions the Motion was declared **CARRIED**.  
It was therefore:

**RESOLVED** - That

1. Revenue Budget 2014/15:

(i) the policy decisions in 3.3 and resulting savings proposals for 2014/15 of £662k set out in Appendix AE of the report, that seek to balance the Council's budget and address the 2014/15 projected budget shortfall be approved;

The remaining recommendations were then put to a recorded vote and

For the Motion: Councillors David Banks; Geoffrey Blackwell; John Bowman; Jackie Bowman; **Hugh Branney**; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Margarita Docherty; Jon Downie; Eileen Eastwood; Geoffrey Garrity; Fred Gleaves; Phil Greatorex; Stephen Haraldsen; Ian Hill; **Keith Hitchen**; Lena Hogg; Allan Holliday; Alan Jacob; Peter Kane; Michael McVeigh; David Moore; Alistair Norwood; Bob Salkeld; Gilbert Scurrah; Dave Smith; William Southward; Peter Stephenson; Graham Sunderland; Gillian Troughton; Peter Tyson; Jeanette Williams; Doug Wilson; Felicity Wilson; Carole Woodman.

Against the Amendment – None  
Abstention from the vote – None

On a vote of **35** For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions the Motion was declared **CARRIED**.  
It was therefore:

**RESOLVED** – That

1. Revenue Budget 2014/15:

(ii) subject to the Crematorium and Cemeteries surcharges not being introduced in 2014/15 but offset with funding from within the Council's Transformation Fund allocated for 14/15 and look to introduce in 2015/16 if no other lines of funding can be found the proposals for increases in Fees and Charges set out in Appendix AD of the report be approved;

(iii) the use of Earmarked Reserves, as set out in paragraph 4.2 and detailed in Appendix AH of the report, which includes the release of £275k for specific projects be approved;

- (iv) the impact of the proposals on General Reserves as set out in paragraph 4.2 and detailed in Appendix AI which includes the use of £213k to balance the Council's budget and address the 2014/15 projected budget shortfall be approved;
- (v) the increase in Council Tax of 1.95% for 2014/15 set out in paragraph 3.9(ii) with the implication that the Council will not accept the Council Tax freeze grant of 1% from Government be approved;
- (vi) the setting of the council tax be delegated to the Council Tax Setting Committee each year, and which this year will meet on 4 March 2014, as detailed in paragraph 3.12 of the report;
- (vii) the technical change and clarifications to the council tax, and confirm the continuation of the LCTS as detailed in paragraphs 3.10 and 3.9 of this report be approved;
- (viii) that the decisions on the National Non Domestic Rate return, the calculation of the Collection Fund surplus and the calculation of the Council Tax Base as set out in Appendix AA, B and C remain delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer be approved;
- (ix) a Copeland Borough Council Net Revenue Budget (excluding parish council precepts) requirement of £9.134m comprising net expenditure on Services of £9.622m with net contributions from Reserves of £488k as set out in paragraph 4.1, Table 4 of the report be approved.

## 2. Capital Programme 2014/15:

- (i) the Capital Programme for 2014/15 at £1.34m and future years at £600,000 for 2015/16 and £600,000 for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix BA and summarised in paragraph 5.1(i). This is subject to a further appraisal of the schemes set out in paragraph 5.1(ii), via a PID / Project Brief as appropriate being presented and formally approved by the Executive prior to the commencement of any project be approved in principle.
- (ii) the funding of the proposed programme as summarised in paragraph 5.2, subject to an annual review by the Head of Corporate Resources during the preparation of the annual Statement of Accounts to optimise the use of Council Resources be approved;

## 3. Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15

- (i) the Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17, incorporating the Annual Investment Strategy 2014/15 and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix C of the report be approved.

## **C 74 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Henry Wormstrup declared a non-disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 – Urgent Action – Heat Distribution Network due to being a County Councillor.

**C 75 Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Anne Faichney back to the Council following her recent illness.

**C 76 To Receive Petitions under Procedure Rule 19**

There were no petitions.

**C 77 Questions from Members of the Public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**C 78 Questions from Members of the Council**

There were no questions from members of the Council.

**C 79 Executive Report**

In moving the Executive report Councillor Allan Holliday, in the absence of the Leader of the Council, and in response to a question from the Leader of the Main Opposition Group, Councillor David Moore, undertook to brief Members on the outcomes of the meetings with the Business Support Team, Britain's Energy Coast and Council Officers who have met with local business in the lead up to the Albion Square development.

**C 80 Urgent Action – Accountable Body to Environment Agency for Release of Funds to Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners to Repair Whitehaven Harbour**

(Note: Councillor Brian Dixon left the meeting during consideration of this item)

**RESOLVED** – That actions taken and the decision to act as accountable body for the sum of £324k to enable the completion of the urgent repair works for Whitehaven Harbour be noted.

**C 81 Urgent Action – DECC Network Development Grant Funding**

**RESOLVED** – That actions taken and decision to agree the Memorandum of Understanding, supported by the back-to-back agreement with BEC protecting the Council's position, to enable funding for the studies into potential heat networks to be accessed be noted.

**C 82 Council Tax Resolution**

**RESOLVED** - That subject to it being noted that Minute **CTSC 01** being amended to "RESOLVED – That Councillor Allan Holliday be appointed Chairman for the meeting" the Council Tax Resolution 2014/15 be noted.

**C 83 Apprenticeship Scheme**

Arising from the Executive report and a request from Councillor Sam Pollen the Portfolio Holder Councillor Hugh Branney undertook to thank officers and Members involved in the success of the apprenticeship scheme.

**C 84 Individual Electoral Registration**

Arising from the Executive report and a question from Councillor Alistair Norwood the Portfolio Holder Councillor Gillian Troughton undertook to provide a written reply on the costs of IER both financial and in officer time, what grants are available and what benefits are expected.

**C 85 FLAGG Board**

Arising from a question from Councillor Brian Dixon the Portfolio Holder Councillor Hugh Branney undertook to provide a written reply on what the process was for representation on the FLAGG Board.

**C 86 HCA Funding**

Arising from the Executive report and questions from Councillors Yvonne Clarkson and Alistair Norwood the Portfolio Holder Councillor George Clements undertook to give a written reply regarding the 6 empty properties brought back into use after receiving HCA funding, stating how much was paid per household, does the council get the money back on the sale of the property and the terms of agreement for the drawdown of funding.

**C 87 Civica Payment Upgrade**

Arising from the Executive report and a request from Councillor Gillian Troughton the Portfolio Holder Councillor Allan Holliday undertook to send thanks to Officers for their work of the Civica Upgrade.

**C 88 Allocation of Duties to Statutory Officers**

(Note: Councillor Stephen Haraldsen left the meeting during consideration of this item)

To consider the allocation of duties to statutory officers following the recent restructure of the Council's Corporate Leadership Team

**RESOLVED** – That a) the post of Financial Services Manager be designated as the Chief Financial Officer with immediate effect; and

b) the designated Deputy remains as the Accountant, Financial Management and Treasury.

**C 89 Nominations for Election of Mayor and Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2014/15**

It was moved by Councillor David Moore duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Eileen Eastwood be nominated as Mayor for 2014/15

It was further moved by Councillor Jackie Bowman duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** - that Councillor John Kane be nominated as Deputy Mayor for 2014/15

**C 90 Notice of Motion Under Procedure Rule 14**

It was moved by Councillor Allan Holliday duly seconded and following a full and open debate and upon being put to the vote it was:-

**RESOLVED** - That this Council supports a proposed financial transaction tax (or Robin Hood tax) as a means of raising revenue for HM Treasury through a 0.05% tax on financial transactions including the purchase and sale of stocks, bonds, commodities, unit trusts, mutual funds, and derivatives such as futures and options.

**The Meeting closed at 6.35pm**

Mayor