

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2014

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Yvonne Clarkson; Karl Connor; Anne Faichney; John Fallows; Allan Forster; Joan Hully John Jackson; John Kane; Jack Park; Sam Pollen; Paul Whalley; Elaine Woodburn; Henry Wormstrup.

C 62 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5 December 2014 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C 63 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor referred to a recent visit to the Parlour from St Bees Primary School children.

C 64 To Receive Petitions under Procedure Rule 19

There were no petitions.

C 65 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

C 66 Questions from Members of the Council

Councillor David Moore asked the following to the Leader of the Council:-

“Now that Britain's Energy Coast has confirmed its commitment to a Social investment fund which should be at a minimum of 500k.

Which group will determine the Councils priorities, and what is the time scale as the fund is available from April 2014 and secondly will this fund be distributed equally around the localities?”

Councillor Allan Holliday, in the absence of the Leader of the Council, replied as follows:-

“The BEC Board supported the request from the Local Authorities for a dedicated fund for social investment activities that underpin the local economy and the Economic Blueprint. The activities bought with this funding to be determined by the two West Cumbrian Local Authorities.

80% of the money will be in support of our residents access to leisure through our key sites in the NCL contract and 20% will be used to deliver a range of environmental projects throughout the Borough. Some of these projects will go through the localities.”

Councillor David Moore then asked the following supplementary question:

“Which group on this Council will it be determining it will it be the Executive, or is it something that’s going to be cross party in looking at how this funding is distributed. I understand that the two groups sit on the BEC board but from a letter that we have received it is clear that BEC is expecting from us a response on how we expect to spend that money and can we be reassured that the funding has not been to the cost of West Cumbria Tourism now loosing it’s £430k”

Councillor Allan Holliday replied as follows:

“I don’t believe it has had any effect on West Cumbria Tourism. In Copeland the Executive and Corporate Leadership Team investigated opportunities of using these resources in two key areas maintenance of leisure facilities and to grow a workforce that want to live in the area. So it was the Executive and CLT who decided what the money was to be spent on in line with our economic blueprint and our Copeland Priorities. A lot of the money was spent through North Country Leisure and we also helped the Millom recreation centre but the other ones were through the local areas so should be spread equally throughout the Borough.

C 67 Review of Arrangements for Determining Allegations of Breaches of the Code of Conduct

Consideration was given to recommendations from the Audit and Governance Committee to agree the recommendations from the review group appointed to review arrangements for determining breaches of the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED – That a) the proposed changes to the Procedure for Local Determination of Complaints and Procedure for hearings be approved; and

b) the vacancies for a independent third person and Parish Representative be filled as soon as possible.

C 68 Directly Elected Mayor – Proposed Alternative Executive Governance Arrangements

Consideration was given to proposals for the operation of a Directly Elected Mayor form of executive governance following the receipt of a valid petition for a referendum, as required by Regulation 17 (1) and (2) of the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulation 2012.

Councillor Stephen Haraldsen moved by way of amendment to delete the appointment of Members outside bodies from being a full council function to being a function of the Executive.

The amendment was duly seconded and upon a show of hands the Amendment was declared **LOST**

The substantive Motion was then put to Members and it was

RESOLVED – That (a) the position concerning the receipt of a valid petition, and the consequential process prescribed by legislation for a referendum to be held on 22 May 2014 and, in the event of an affirmative outcome in the referendum, an election on 16 October 2014 be noted;

(b) the proposals set out in this report on the operation of Executive arrangements under a Directly Elected Mayor model for the purposes of the publication of a notice required by Regulations 17 (1) and (2) of the Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions) (England) Regulations 2011 and Regulation 4(1) of the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2012 be approved; and

(c) the proposals in paragraph 3 of the report for seeking recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in the event of an affirmative outcome in the referendum be approved.

C 69 Pay Policy Statement 2014/15

Consideration was given to the proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15 as required by Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to publish a Pay Policy Statement articulating its policies towards a range of issues relating to the pay of the workforce, particularly its senior staff (“Chief Officers”) and its lowest paid employees. This report updates the Policy in line with structural changes and guidance from Department for Communities and Local Government.

Councillor Stephen Haraldsen moved by way of amendment

That paragraphs 17 and 30 be amended to: -

“17.The Council’s policy and procedures with regard to recruitment of its Chief Executive and Chief Officers is set out within the Officer Appointment Procedure Rules in Chapter 12 of the Constitution
http://www.copeland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/constitution_2013.pdf Posts over £50,000 will be the subject of a report to Personnel Panel and Full Council.” and

“30. Any severance package over £50,000 will be the subject of a report to Personnel Panel and Full Council. This will clearly set out the components of the package including salary paid in lieu, redundancy compensation, pension entitlements, holiday pay and bonuses, fees or allowances paid.”

The amendment was duly seconded and upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared **CARRIED**

RESOLVED - That subject to paragraph 17 being amended to

“17.The Council’s policy and procedures with regard to recruitment of its Chief Executive and Chief Officers is set out within the Officer Appointment Procedure Rules in Chapter 12 of the Constitution

http://www.copeland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/constitution_2013.pdf Posts over £50,000 will be the subject of a report to Personnel Panel and Full Council.” and paragraph 30 being amended to

“30. Any severance package over £50,000 will be the subject of a report to Personnel Panel and Full Council. This will clearly set out the components of the package including salary paid in lieu, redundancy compensation, pension entitlements, holiday pay and bonuses, fees or allowances paid.”

the Pay Policy Statement 2014/15 be approved.

C 70 Calendar of Meeting 2014/15

It was moved by Councillor Allan Holliday duly second and

RESOLVED – That the calendar of meeting 2014/15 be approved.

C 71 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2014/15 to 2017/18

Consideration was given to the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2017/18

RESOLVED – That the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2017/18 be approved.

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; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Margarita Docherty; Jon Downie; Eileen Eastwood; Geoffrey Garrity; Fred Gleaves; Phil Greatorex; Stephen Haraldsen; Ian Hill; 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 34 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; George Clements; Peter Connolly; Margarita Docherty; Jon Downie; Eileen Eastwood; Geoffrey Garrity; Fred Gleaves; Phil Greatorex; Stephen Haraldsen; Ian Hill; 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 34 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.

The meeting closed at 4.35 pm

Mayor