

BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 29th January 2013 at Worksop Town Hall

Present: Councillor I J Campbell (Chairman)

Councillors	B Barker	A Mumby
	A Battey	J W Ogle
	H M Brand	G A N Oxby
	H Burton	D G Pidwell
	R B Carrington-Wilde	J Potts
	D Challinor	D R Pressley
	A Chambers	T Rafferty
	P Douglas	A Rhodes
	C Entwistle	J B Rickells
	J Evans	J M Sanger
	S Fielding	J C Shephard
	G Freeman	A Simpson
	M T Gray	M Storey
	S A Greaves	K Sutton
	M Gregory	T Taylor
	B Hopkinson	S Toms
	G Jones	C Troop
	J A Leigh	C Wanless
	R Leigh	J White
	S May	G J Wynne

Officers in attendance: A Burton, J Hamilton, M Hill, M Ladyman, N Taylor and S Wormald.

(The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and read out the Fire Alarm/Evacuation Procedure.)

63. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B A Bowles, F Hart, K H Isard, S A Isard, C Palmer, D Potts and M W Quigley.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

There were no declarations of interest by Members on matters to be discussed at the meeting.

(b) Officers

There were no declarations of interest by officers on matters to be discussed at the meeting.

65. REFERRALS FROM CABINET HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2013

(a) Minute No. 117(a) - Housing Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2017/18 (Key Decision No. 332)

A Ward Member thanked A1 Housing on behalf of the tenants of Ashford Court for listening to their concerns about their district heating scheme, and for the work to date to replace it; most tenants were extremely satisfied.

RESOLVED that:

1. The programme for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
2. The indicative programmes for 2014/15 to 2017/18, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
3. The Housing Capital Receipt Policy, as set out at paragraph 3.25 of the report, be approved.

(b) Minute No. 117(b) - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2013/14 and Future Years to 2015/16 (Key Decision No. 333)

RESOLVED that:

1. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
2. The indicative HRA budgets for 2014/15 and 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
3. An average rent increase of 2.54% for 2013/14 be approved, in accordance with the nationally set rent guideline criteria.
4. The indicative rent increases of 2.42% for 2014/15 and 2.43% for 2015/16 be approved, in accordance with best practice.
5. The increase of the minimum level of HRA reserves from £1.0m to £1.3m from 2013/14 onwards be approved, in recognition of the increased overall funding value of the HRA.

(c) Business Rate Budget 2013/14 (Key Decision No. 355)

The final National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) 1 return was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the final calculation of the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) 1 return and the final estimated net yield from local business rates for 2013/14 be approved.

(d) Minute No. 119(a) – The Council Tax Reduction (Bassetlaw District Council) Scheme 2013/14 (Key Decision No. 315)

An explanatory note was appended to the report and the Council Tax Reduction (Bassetlaw District Council) Scheme 2013/14 had been produced as a separate document for future reference by Members.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council Tax Reduction (Bassetlaw District Council) Scheme 2013/14 for the year 2013/14 be approved and adopted, including the following:
 - (i) The definition in the scheme (at Class G) of vulnerable working age households entitled to full discount protection.
 - (ii) That war widows, widowers and the war disabled have their income treated in accordance with the existing local scheme (e.g. the full war pension weekly

- amount ignored).
- (iii) That pensioner households will also be fully protected as prescribed by the Default Scheme.
 - (iv) That 92% of a claimant's weekly Council Tax liability will be presented for the Council Tax reduction calculation for working age households excluding those mentioned in (i).
 - (v) No provision for the back-dating of working age claims.
2. The former scheme under Council Tax Benefit, for working age claimants called Second Adult Rebate, be abolished.
 3. Delegated authority be given to the Interim Chief Executive to determine a hardship fund for households who meet extreme financial difficulty due to the transition from full benefit to part benefit under this scheme.
 4. Officers amend the existing war widows, etc, Housing and Council Tax Benefit (disregard of income) local scheme policy and bring back to Council an up-to-date policy, taking into account Council Tax reductions agreed by this scheme in respect of them.

66. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

(a) Council Tax Base 2013/14

Members' approval was sought for the calculation of the Council's tax base for the next Council Tax year starting on 1st April 2013. The Council Tax Base form for 2013/14 and the Parish Council etc Taxbase for 2013/14 were appended to the report.

RESOLVED that:

1. The 2013/14 tax base calculation for the area, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved and officers notify this figure to the major precepting authorities.
2. The tax bases for parts of the area shown at Appendix 2 of the report be approved, and officers notify these figures to parish council, parish meetings and Charter Trustees as soon as is practicable.

67. REPORT(S) OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

(a) Localism Act 2011 – Code of Conduct New Arrangements

Members' approval was sought for new arrangements for dealing with complaints made against District, Town and Parish Councillors in relation to Code of Conduct in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. A draft Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure was appended to the report.

An Elected Member asked why the current Complaints Procedure, as detailed on the Council's website, could not be adapted for complaints regarding Members' Code of Conduct. The Leader of the Council replied that this was for general complaints and not specific ones about Members' Code of Conduct, but that he would make enquiries as to whether an on-line form could be drafted.

RESOLVED that the proposed new arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints be approved and appropriate amendments be made to the Council's Constitution to reflect these changes.

(b) Independent Remuneration Panel

Members were advised that the Panel is currently operating with less than three members due to the death of a member in October 2012, therefore any recommendations made by the Panel at full Council will be made by the Panel's temporarily reduced membership. Arrangements have been put in place for the recruitment of a third member but this may not be completed before the end of the current financial year.

RESOLVED that the situation with regard to the Independent Remuneration Panel be noted.

The Chairman closed the meeting.