

Extraordinary Council – 29 January 2013

Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **29 January 2013** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr M Maddocks
Cllr J P Cottis	Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr T E Mountain
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr J D Griffin	Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr B T Hazlewood	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs D Hoy	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr M Hoy	Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr I H Ward
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C I Black, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, M R Carter, K H Hudson, Mrs H L A Glynn, Mrs A V Hale, Mrs C M Mason, J R F Mason, D J Sperring and P F A Webster.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
A Bugeja	-	Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
Y Woodward	-	Head of Finance
M Petley	-	Senior Accountant
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

10 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2012

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following:-

Minute 276: that the following bullet point be added to the award criteria to be applied in determining eligibility for the local Council Tax support scheme:-

- Second Adult Rebate can be granted to single people who have a high income if they share their home with someone who is on a low income (not their partner). This scheme will be stopped for working-age claims.

11 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2013/14 – 2017/18

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance on approving the integrated three year Medium Term Financial Strategy starting in 2013/14.

It was observed that a nearby local authority with a similar demographic to Rochford District Council receives a higher grant per head than Rochford. In response to a question, the Head of Finance advised that if Rochford District Council received the same level of capital grant as this other authority, that is, £40 per head compared with the Rochford level of just under £35 per head, this would amount to an additional £470,000 per year. Rochford District Council receives £5 per head in respect of the New Homes Bonus whereas the nearby Council receives £10.50 per head.

Resolved

- (1) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2013/14 to 2017/18 including the proposals contained within this report, be agreed, with the following key budgetary changes for 2013/14:-
 - (a) Reduce the draft budget for the cost of the Grounds Maintenance Contract by £117,000.
 - (b) Increase the budget for Bulky Waste income by £4,000.
 - (c) Increase the budget for sales of logs/kindling by £5,000.
 - (d) Increase in the salary budget for Economic Development of £32,300.
- (2) That the core estimates for 2013/14, as shown in the attached Draft Budget Book, be agreed.
- (3) That the 2013/14 Council Tax for Rochford District Council, at £205.11 for a Band D property, be agreed.
- (4) That the schedule of fees and charges for 2013/14 be agreed.
- (5) That the Capital Programme, as detailed in the report, be agreed.
- (6) That the use of Earmarked Reserves, as detailed in the report, be agreed.
- (7) That the Non Domestic Rates Return, which must be submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government by 31 January 2013, be agreed.
- (8) That from 2014/15 the Head of Finance be delegated to set the amount of LCTS grant to be allocated to individual parish/town councils on the basis of the principles agreed by Council.
- (9) That with effect from 1 April 2013 properties under Section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that fall within Class B of the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings (England) Regulations 2003 classified as unoccupied and furnished (Second Homes) receive a Council Tax discount of 10%.

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- (10) That with effect from 1 April 2013 properties in need of major repair, as defined under Section 11A(4A) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that fall within Class D of the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003, receive a Council Tax discount of 100% for twelve months.
- (11) That with effect from 1 April 2013 properties which are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished, as defined under Section 11A (4A) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that fall within Class C of the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003, receive a Council Tax discount of 100% for a period of six months after which a discount of 50% will apply for a further six months.
- (12) That with effect from 1 April 2013 properties which are long-term empty dwellings for over a period of two years, under Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 will not be charged a Council Tax premium.
- (13) That the level of Council Tax discounts and exemptions be reviewed during 2013/14.
- (14) That the Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 be adopted with, as required by the Localism Act 2011, submission of the 2014/15 being made to Full Council for approval by 31 March 2014, subject to any necessary amendments being approved by Full Council during the year.

The meeting closed at 7.43 pm.

Chairman

Date

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