

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes for the meeting of the Council held at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre Folkestone on Thursday, 10 February 2022

Present: Councillors Mrs Ann Berry, *Danny Brook, *Miss Susan Carey, John Collier, Laura Davison, Ray Field, Gary Fuller, Peter Gane, Clive Goddard, David Godfrey, Anthony Hills (Vice-Chair), Mrs Jennifer Hollingsbee, Nicola Keen, Michelle Keutenius, Jim Martin, Philip Martin (Chairman), Connor McConville, Jackie Meade, Ian Meyers, David Monk, Terence Mullard, Stuart Peall, Tim Prater, Patricia Rolfe, Rebecca Shoob, Georgina Treloar, Lesley Whybrow, David Wimble and John Wing

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Douglas Wade

* For part of the meeting.

52. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Rolfe, Gane and Mullard made voluntary declarations in respect of the Budget Strategy 2022/23 (Minute No 56), and the update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme (Minute No 57) as they are Directors of Oportunitas, but had been given dispensations by the Audit and Governance Committee.

Councillors Shoob and Mrs Hollingsbee also made voluntary declarations in respect of the Budget Strategy 2022/23 (Minute No 56), and the update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme (Minute No 57) as they are directors of the Otterpool Park LLP.

53. Change in Governance arrangements - Progress of the Governance Working Group

The report summarised the work of the group to date and set out the various governance models available.

Proposed by Councillor Prater,
Seconded by Councillor Whybrow; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/21/22 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the work of the Governance Working Group be noted.**
- 3. That the next steps, set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report be noted.**

(Voting figures: 25 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions).

(Councillors Brook and Miss Carey were not present for the vote on this item).

54. Appointment of external auditor

The report set out an update on the options available and a recommended course of action regarding the appointment of the External Auditor to the Council, following consideration by the Audit & Governance Committee on 8 December 2021 (AuG/21/19).

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/21/26 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the recommendation of the Audit & Governance Committee to enter into the procurement exercise led by the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors (option 3) be accepted for a period of five financial years from 1st April 2023.**

(Voting figures: 28 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

(Councillor Miss Carey was not present for the vote on this item).

55. Senior management restructure

The report sought the council's approval to meet the costs of the redundancy (of the post) of the Director of Transformation & Transition.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/21/25 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the redundancy of the Director of Transformation and Transition be approved with the associated costs to be funded through the use of flexible capital receipts and added to the Medium Term Capital Programme.**

(Voting figures: 20 for, 0 against, 9 abstentions).

56. Budget Strategy 2022/23

The Budget Strategy takes account of current and future financial issues, sets out the underlying assumptions and initial budget-setting proposals and provides a timetable for delivering a balanced budget in 2022/23.

This Budget Strategy set out the guidelines for preparing the 2022/23 Budget. It supports the Corporate Plan and aligns with the direction and objectives of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Proposed by Councillor Monk,

Seconded by Councillor Mrs Hollingsbee; and

RESOLVED:

1. That the Budget Strategy for 2022/23 be adopted

(Voting figures: 24 for, 5 against, 0 abstentions).

57. Update to the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme

The report updated the General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme for the five year period ending 31 March 2027. The General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme is required to be submitted to full Council for consideration and approval as part of the budget process. The report also updated Members on the required capital budget and proposed funding for the Princes Parade scheme following the two stage procurement process for the construction contract and the anticipated residential development capital receipts.

Proposed by Councillor Prater,
Seconded by Councillor Whybrow;

That the following recommendation be inserted as recommendation two (and subsequent recommendations be renumbered):

“That Princes Parade (Princes Parade Leisure and Housing Development) allocated budget of £45,400,579 be deleted and that a future capital programme considers the required budget for a leisure centre on an alternative site, probably at Martello Lakes”.

In accordance with the council procedure rule 17.5 five members present demanded a recorded vote.

FOR: Councillors Davison, Fuller, Gane, Keen, Keutenius, J Martin, McConville, Meade, Prater, Shoob, Treloar, Whybrow and Wing (13).

AGAINST: Councillors Mrs Berry, Brook, Miss Carey, Collier, Field, Goddard, Godfrey, Hills, Mrs Hollingsbee, P Martin, Meyers, Monk, Mullard, Peall, Rolfe and Wimble (16).

ABSTENTIONS: None (0).

(Voting figures: 13 for, 16 against, 0 abstentions).

The amendment was therefore **LOST**.

Proposed by Councillor Monk,
Seconded by Councillor Godfrey; and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That report A/21/27 be received and noted.**
- 2. That the updated General Fund Medium Term Capital Programme be approved, as set out in appendix 1 to the report.**

In accordance with the council procedure rule 17.5 five members present demanded a recorded vote.

FOR: Councillors Mrs Berry, Brook, Miss Carey, Collier, Field, Goddard, Godfrey, Hills, Mrs Hollingsbee, P Martin, Meyers, Monk, Mullard, Peall, Rolfe and Wimble (16).

AGAINST: Councillors Davison, Fuller, Gane, Keen, Keutenius, J Martin, McConville, Meade, Prater, Shoob, Treloar, Whybrow and Wing (13).

ABSTENTIONS: None (0).

(Voting figures: 16 for, 13 against, 0 abstentions).