

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday, 25 February 2019 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Shepton Mallet commencing at 6.30 pm.

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT: Dick Skidmore (Chairman) and Bryan Beha (Vice Chairman)
Eve Berry, Adam Boyden (left at 8.30 pm), Peter Bradshaw,
John Brunsdon MBE, Carole Bullen, John Carter, John Coles,
Shane Collins, Nick Cottle, Edward Drewe, John Greenhalgh,
Stina Falle, Philip Ham, Des Harris, Bente Height (left at 8.30 pm),
Steve Henderson, Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, Claire Hudson, Lloyd Hughes
(left at 8.30 pm), Tom Killen, Roy Mackenzie, Jeannette Marsh (left at
8.30 pm), Clive Mockford, Terry Napper (left at 8.30 pm) , Graham Noel,
John North, Linda Oliver, John Osman, John Parham, Mike Pullin,
Adam Sen, Harvey Siggs, Helen Sprawson-White (left at 8.30 pm),
Nigel Taylor, Alan Townsend, David van Dyk, Nigel Woolcombe-Adams
and Ros Wyke

OFFICERS

PRESENT: Tracy Aarons Deputy Chief Executive
Stuart Brown Chief Executive
Jade Chant Marketing and Media Officer
David Clark Group Manager Law and Governance
Paul Deal Section 151 Officer
Claire Dicken Committee Officer
Lesley Dolan Legal Advisor
Jason Kirkwood Principal Licensing Officer
Beth Price Strategic Marketing and Media Manager

ALSO

PRESENT: Ian Partington Chairman of the Somerset Joint Independent
Remuneration Panel

Agenda Item	Subject	Actioned by
1	<p>Opening comments</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>He announced, there had been requests by various groups, including the Green Party, Extinction Rebellion Frome and Anti Fracking, Frome, to film parts of the meeting for use in social media.</p> <p>No members of the public nor elected Members objected to the filming.</p>	

<p>2</p>	<p>Evacuation Procedures, Induction Loop and Turning Off Mobile Phones</p> <p>The Chairman explained the evacuation procedures and informed everyone on the use of the induction loop. He requested that mobile phones be switched to silent.</p> <p>Councillor Coles was asked to offer an opening prayer.</p>	
	<p>The Chairman altered the order of the items as follows</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Chairman’s Engagements, Communications and Announcements</p> <p>The Chairman listed some of the events that he and the Vice Chairman had attended since the last meeting.</p> <p>He highlighted one particular visit to the Frome Medical Centre where he was privileged to meet the Duchess of Cornwall. He outlined the important work the Frome Medical Centre carried out.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Councillors Joanna Beale, Rachel Carter, Simon Davies, Damon Hooton, Alvin Horsfall, Tom Ronan and Tim Rice.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Previous Minutes of Council</p> <p>The minutes of 17 December 2018 were agreed subject to the following changes:</p> <p>That page 3, paragraph 3 be amended to read in part “Mr Davis noted that the local plan identified a site West of Street and East of Walton”</p> <p>That page 14, paragraph 4, be amended to read in part “Councillor Tom Killen noted that previously there had been a number of licences to frack within the district, but no such licences were still in place.”</p>	<p>Claire Dicken</p>

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Update from the Leader of the Council

The Leader of Council noted that the meeting was to be the last time the full Council would meet before the next election. He outlined some of the achievements the Council had made during its term. He particularly highlighted those made by the housing and planning teams.

He updated Council with regard to the Saxonvale site in Frome. Including the way in which the Council had been working with Frome Town Council.

He went on to outline other investments and ways in which the Council was supporting businesses, old and new, within the district.

Work was continuing with Strode College. It was hoped that even more opportunities for apprenticeships could be made in the district.

He said the Council was already used to partnership working, including the shared Legal Services, Audit Services and various contracts. Discussions with other authorities in the South West of England would continue to see if more partnership arrangements could be beneficial for the district.

The arrangement with the 5 Councils Partnership was ongoing. He outlined some of the high numbers of customers that were processed by Capita Business Services on behalf of the 5 Councils especially within the Council Tax and Benefits Services.

He was pleased to say the independent markets within Mendip were continuing to grow.

He noted various investments which Cabinet had agreed to, in order to support the district. These included innovative ideas such as a possible new rail link into the district. He further noted the need to understand the challenges of meeting energy needs.

He thanked the Members of the Phoenix Sponsorship Board for their hard work to find sound investments. This work would continue in the year ahead.

He announced that budget included a further £175,000 for partnership working with organisations supporting young people. Also funding would be found to help support Parish and Town Councils. For instance, the newly formed Shepton Mallet regeneration project.

	<p>He was pleased to say the budget being put before Members during the meeting was sound and robust.</p> <p>He reminded Councillors that they had been elected to serve their residents. He said it was important for all Councillors to get involved in the process and be committed to it.</p> <p>He particularly thanked the following Members for their work to make the Council a success; Councillors Claire Hudson, John Brunsdon, Dick Skidmore and Roy Mackenzie, all of whom were likely to stand down at the upcoming election.</p> <p>Councillor Ros Wyke was invited to speak. She said with regard to finance, the Council had been through a challenging time, but it was important for the Council to continue to press for Mendip to get fair treatment.</p> <p>She was pleased to note that Officers and the Portfolio Holder for Finance had been able to balance the budget. However, she was concerned that this should not be at the loss of essential services. She was pleased to note that planning enforcement service had received additional investment.</p> <p>She said it was important that the quality of new housing and buildings in the district should be set high. She particularly noted the project at Saxonvale, Frome and said this was an opportunity for the site to be an example of best design.</p> <p>She was concerned about the 5 Councils Partnership. She noted the efforts that had been made to get the best contract. However, she also noted the Council had outsourced a lot of services and this would need careful monitoring.</p> <p>She said the opposition worked well when it challenged and supported the Council. However, its aim was always to seek the best outcome for the residents and the district.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>The following speakers had request to speak about item 15 Motions to Council – Declare a Climate Emergency</p> <p>Jenny Shackleford was invited to speak. She was seriously concerned about the rapid decline of insects. She explained the importance of insects in pollination and food production. She said the decline of insects was noticeable. She urged the Council to do what it could to limit emissions and preserve habitats in order to help the situation.</p>	

	<p>May Schymczyk was invited to speak. She said she was 18 years old and she was representing a group of friends of a similar age. She said that young people were concerned about climate change. She said the globe had less than 13 years to act. After 2030 the damage to the climate would be irreversible. She asked the Council to acknowledge the situation was an emergency and pledge to help where it could be combat the change.</p> <p>Michael Dunk was invited to speak. He said he had lived in Frome for more than 30 years. He said he felt it was time to speak up because politicians needed to be asked to take the lead to combat climate change. He said many Councils had already pledged to do what they could to combat climate change. He asked that Mendip District Council reconsider the use of Glyphosate weed control. He said the Council needed to take practical steps like this to reverse the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Francis Hayden was invited to speak. He was a retired physics teacher. He explained that climate change was not just a change in the weather. Rather the change of temperature at the Arctic was impacting on the jet stream, this change would mean disrupted weather causing long spells of unusual weather. Such weather would inevitably upset food production.</p> <p>Theo Simon was invited to speak. He said that today had been the warmest day of winter on record. He said it had been a lovely day, but he was seriously concerned about it because the wildlife would not be able to survive it due to lack of food supply. He noticed the nation had been pre-occupied with their own lives and topics such as Brexit. However, he believed the topic of climate change could no longer be ignored. He said it would be a hard issue to face but that Councils were placed to take the lead in it.</p>	
15	<p>Motions to Council</p> <p>Climate Emergency</p> <p>This motion had been proposed by Councillor Shane Collins and seconded by Councillor Ros Wyke:</p>	

That Full Council notes:

1. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;
2. In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible;
3. Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;
4. Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;
5. Mendip District Council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, having banned single use plastics in its activities, setting up a climate change working group and banning fracking in Mendip;
6. Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050;
7. The International Panel on Climate Change - IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published October 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible if the UK gets to zero emissions by 2030 but only with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities;
8. Councils around the UK and the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency;

Full Council believes that:

1. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Mendip and the UK that districts commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

2. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority;
3. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide);

Full Council calls on Mendip District Council to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Pledge to make the district of Mendip carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3);
3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Work with other councils and governments to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
5. Continue to work with partners across the district and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
6. Submit a bid as part of the Council's budget setting process for an additional £80,000 to fund a 'Sustainability' Officer Post for a two year period to champion the scoping and delivery of the District Council's Climate Emergency 2030 commitment.
7. Report to Full Council every six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.

Councillor Collins formally submitted a petition which asked Mendip District Council to "Declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency". The e-petition had 2,712 signatures to date.

During the discussion that followed Members agreed that the Council should be committed to taking care of the environment and leaving it in good condition for generations to come. Members broadly supported the motion in principle. However, it was noted that the nation had already cut emissions by a great deal. Any further measures would have to be balanced against the growth of the economy.

Councillor Tom Killen proposed amendments to the motion:

- 1) to remove the word 'pledge' from the last bullet point 2 and reword to 'Make best endeavours, using its powers and resources, including both financial and officer time, to enable the district of Mendip to be carbon neutral by 2030'

2) to replace the last bullet point 6 with 'Commit £100k to fund action in the scoping and delivery of the District Council's Climate Emergency 2030 commitment'

Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper seconded the amendment.

As the discussion continued Members noted other possible reasons for climate change including the increase in population.

Members further noted there were measures which the Council could take. Members said issues such as fracking and single use plastics had already been tackled. However, it was hoped that the Council could do more with regard to recycling.

Members went on say what measures individuals could take to help combat climate change.

One Member was concerned about the term “emergency”. Councillor John North proposed a further amendment that the motion be referred to as a Climate Action Plan rather than an emergency. This amendment was not seconded and Councillor North withdrew it.

Councillor Ros Wyke said she had seconded the motion and was happy to take the amendment. She thanked the speakers. She said that there were a number of things that individuals could do help sustain the ecology. She said it was important for Councillors in their role as community leaders to set an example with regard climate change. She was delighted to see cross party support for the motion.

Cllrs Wyke and Hudson requested a recorded vote.

The proposed amendments put by Councillor Tom Killen and seconded by Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper was carried by 38 votes to 0 votes. Councillors Terry Napper and Clive Mockford abstained from the vote.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote. This was carried by 38 votes to 0 votes. Councillors Terry Napper and Clive Mockford abstained from the vote.

RESOLVED

To:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. To make best endeavours, using its powers and resources, including both financial and officer time, to

	<p>enable the district of Mendip to be carbon neutral by 2030;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible; 4. Work with other councils and governments to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C; 5. Continue to work with partners across the district and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans; 6. Commit £100K to fund action in the scoping and delivery of the District Council's Climate Emergency 2030 commitment. 7. Report to Full Council every six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency. 	
<p>9</p>	<p>Joint Independent Remuneration Panel</p> <p>The Chairman of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel presented a report. The Panel's recommendations focused on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Basic Allowance (BA) and the annual indexing arrangement. Other aspects of the Scheme, including Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA), were subject to 'no change' recommendations. 2. The present review of the BA (2019) continued to have as background the fundamental review of 2015. The Panel at that time were strongly of the view that in respect of the level of the BA and SRAs, the overriding concern and focus should be the declining real value of the allowances, especially the BA, compared with levels (inflation-adjusted) set by the Council in 2007/8 and the need therefore to recommend a move to recovering the previous real values. The Panel also suggested a firmer rationale for the BA should be established once the real value of the BA had been recovered and could be a later task for the Panel. <p><u>BA and indexing provision</u></p> <p>The Panel recommendations of 2015 extended for 6 years (subject to review after 4) and therefore the detailed recommendations at that time have a bearing on the present review in 2019. The 2015 recommendations, which were accepted in full by the Council, were:</p>	<p>Claire Dicken</p>

- (i) that the BA for 2015/16 should be increased to £3733 which represented an increase of £128 over the current BA of £3605;
- (ii) that further annual increases in the BA of £128 (inflation linked) should be agreed over a period of up to 6 years (the last 2 years of this period would be an 'in principle' decision at this stage) to achieve a Basic Allowance of £4373 in Year 6;
- (iii) that such a level of BA (adjusted for inflation) should, approximately adjust the BA to its earlier (2008) real value;
- (iv) that a review after 4 years of these arrangements is necessary because annual increases and indexing arrangements can only be agreed for a maximum of 4 years and this Council cannot bind the newly-elected Council, to be elected in 2019, to this decision.

The Chairman thanked Mr Partington for the report and the dedication of the whole Independent Remuneration Panel in preparing such a detailed consideration of Members' allowances.

During the discussion there was some concern about the changing role of Councillor going forward. Members felt it was important that Members' Allowances be reviewed regularly in order to keep up with real values and changing roles.

RESOLVED

To accept the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, namely that:

- (i) the current BA and indexing provisions should continue with a paramount objective of maintaining and enhancing the real value of the present BA in accordance with the decisions of 2015;
- (ii) there would be no change in the value of the BA for 2019/20, aside from the application of the annual indexing provision which will increase the BA by a minimum of £128 from the 2018/19 value of £4132;
- (iii) the BA target of at least £4,373pa and the indexing arrangement (an annual increase of £128, index-linked), established in 2015, would be maintained

	<p>and continue up to and including Year 6 (2020/21) of the scheme;</p> <p>(iv) the Panel in Years 5/6 should conduct a fundamental review of the level of BA (rationale, real value and relative position as compared to other councils) to consider whether there is a need for at least a one-off adjustment in the BA in 2021/22. This review should also consider the role and functions of councillors, in the light of the development of the Five Councils Partnership, as part of the assessment of the adequacy of the BA.</p> <p>(v) the fundamental review in Years 5/6 should include a review of the indexing arrangement to examine alternatives to the current provision and ensure that the real and relative values of the BA, and by association SRAs, are maintained and protected from the effects of inflation.</p> <p>(vi) SRAs: The Panel recommended no changes to the structure or values of SRAs for 2019/20 at this time (other than to acknowledge that they will increase in line with the indexing arrangement), but that a note of SRAs, and report if necessary, be made after the May 2019 elections following the formation of the new council.</p> <p>(vii) Carers', Travel and Subsistence Allowances: The Panel recommended no changes to the present arrangements, level and structure, of carers', travel, and subsistence allowances and the Scheme rules.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Mental Health Champion Report</p> <p>The Champion for Mental Health presented a report which noted that the Council continued to promote and support mental wellbeing of staff, residents, members and partner organisations.</p> <p>There was an update on the work around mental health and next steps.</p> <p>The Council now had Mental Health First Aiders, Dementia Friends and Community Connectors who were able to bring comfort and signpost to a relevant service any resident in need of support in and outside our offices as well as continue good relationships across the Shape Mendip site.</p>	<p>Nataliya Wills</p>

	<p>The Champion hoped that members would be satisfied as to the progress of these matters and agree to endorse continuing promotion and facilitation of events relating to mental health, including room provision wherever possible, as well as appointment of Mental Health Champions at the earliest opportunity following the 2019 elections.</p> <p>He thanked the Officers who had worked hard to bring the issues of mental health to the fore.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Community Health congratulated Councillor Bradshaw for his dedication as the Mental Health Champion. Full Council applauded Councillor Bradshaw for his contribution in the field. Members noted that many residents and businesses had already benefitted from innovations such as the Dementia Friends programme.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the progress made and endorsed continuing promotion and facilitation of events including room provision wherever possible. • Supported the appointment of Mental Health Champions at the earliest opportunity following the 2019 elections. 	
18	<p>Urgent Business</p> <p>The Chairman agreed that the following item should be considered as Urgent Business:</p> <p>Sexual Entertainment Venues</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Community Health presented a report which stated that the Council had adopted Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. This legislation controlled sex establishments such as sex shops and sex cinemas.</p> <p>With the implementation of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, Schedule 3 of the 1982 Act was amended in order to introduce the <u>additional</u> control of Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) i.e. lap dancing clubs as sex establishments.</p> <p>In order to use these powers in a local authority area, the Council concerned must follow due process and adopt the legislation.</p>	Jason Kirkwood

The Licensing Board discussed the adoption on 20 January 2011 and recommended that the Council adopt the additional controls. Cabinet considered that recommendation, and agreed.

Finally, on 16 February 2011 Full Council considered those recommendations and resolved to adopt the amended Schedule 3 of the 1982 Act.

Unfortunately, the required public notice was not given by the Council and therefore the adoption did not take legal affect. This was due to an oversight by officers.

Although Central Government gave Councils the choice to adopt this legislation, it seemed clear that they were expected to utilise the powers and regulate these activities.

It was recommended that the Council provide public notices on Wednesday 27 February 2019 and Wednesday 6 March 2019 in the Western Daily Press to advertise the adoption.

In response to queries the Principal Licensing Officer explained that each application was considered on its own merits. He confirmed there were no such venues currently within the district.

Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper proposed that the recommendations in the report be approved. Councillor Roy Mackenzie seconded the proposal.

Members noted that the Principal Licensing Officer was leaving the Council soon. They thanked him for his work.

RESOLVED

To confirm the resolution of Full Council on the 16 February 2011 to adopt Schedule 3 of the 1982 Act, as amended by section 27 of the 2009 Act. To confirm that this resolution will now take effect from 00:01 hours on 1 April 2019.

Also, to confirm that it will not adopt a policy in connection with the licensing of sex establishments at this time, as originally agreed in 2011.

Further, to approve the draft schedule of fees for all applications relating to sex establishments, now including Sexual Entertainment Venues.

<p>11</p>	<p>2019/20 to 2023/24 Capital Strategy</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Governance, Finance and Corporate Support presented a report which introduced the new Capital Strategy and made recommendations on the level of the Council's Capital Budgets and the associated funding requirements spanning 2019/20 and 2023/24.</p> <p>He used presentation slides to explain the budget in detail.</p> <p>He was pleased to be able to present a budget which balanced.</p> <p>He thanked his Cabinet colleagues for the work that had gone into the budget along with the Section 151 Officer team.</p> <p>Full Council applauded the presentation and thanked the Portfolio Holder and his team for their hard work.</p> <p>Councillor John Parham proposed that the recommendations be approved.</p> <p>In response to queries the Portfolio Holder said the Council was very close to being financially independent.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Audit Committee reported that the Council's external auditors had been very positive about the Council's accounts and capital strategy.</p> <p>Councillor John North seconded the proposal to accept the recommendations.</p> <p>The Leader of the Opposition congratulated the Officers along with the Portfolio Holder. She hoped to see regular reports from the Economic Growth Board. Members agreed any expenditure needed to be made wisely. The Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth said he would continue to report regularly via the Cabinet.</p> <p>The Leader of the Opposition went on to say she was concerned that one year's worth of settlement figures from the government were not enough to give certainty.</p> <p>She was further concerned that where the Council was permitting new homes, that adequate infrastructure should be provided too.</p> <p>The proposal to accept the recommendations as set out in the report was put to the vote. The vote was recorded in accordance with the constitution.</p>	<p>Paul Deal</p>
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Cllr Bryan Beha - For
Cllr Eve Berry - For
Cllr Peter Bradshaw - For
Cllr John Brunson - For
Cllr Carole Bullen - For
Cllr John Carter - For
Cllr John Coles - For
Cllr Shane Collins - For
Cllr Nick Cottle – Abstained
Cllr Edward Drewe - For
Cllr Stina Falle - For
Cllr John Greenhalgh - For
Cllr Philip Ham - For
Cllr Des Harris - For
Cllr Steve Henderson - For
Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper - For
Cllr Claire Hudson - Abstained
Cllr Tom Killen - For
Cllr Roy Mackenzie - Abstained
Cllr Graham Noel - For
Cllr John North - For
Cllr Linda Oliver - For
Cllr John Parham - For
Cllr Mike Pullin - For
Cllr Adam Sen - Abstained
Cllr Dick Skidmore - For
Cllr Nigel Taylor - For
Cllr Alan Townsend – For
Cllr David van Dyk - For
Cllr Nigel Woollcombe-Adams – For
Cllr Ros Wyke - Abstained

RESOLVED

1. Capital Strategy

Council agreed the Capital Strategy, which gave rise to the following financial implications.

2. Capital Investment Programme

Council agreed:

- (i) The new Capital Investment Programme for 2019/20 of £6,763,400 and note the indicative programmes for 2020/21 to 2023/24 as summarised including the detailed proposals included within Appendix A;
- (ii) To set an overall Capital Borrowing Envelope at £80m for 2019/20 to provide sufficient flexibility to

	<p>enable the Council to respond to investment opportunities or requirements if they arise in-year.</p> <p>(iii) That the Section 151 Officer, in conjunction with Portfolio Holder(s), Chief Executive and relevant Group Manager(s) be given delegation to decide on the specific individual service capital projects to be delivered within generic approvals for their area of control, or any new investment opportunities or needs arising in-year, following any consultation as necessary.</p>	
12	<p>2019/20 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Governance, Finance and Corporate Support presented a report which sought approval for the Treasury Management Strategy for the forthcoming financial year 2019/20.</p> <p>Councillor John Parham proposed that the recommendations in the report be approved. Councillor John North seconded the proposal.</p> <p>The vote was recorded in accordance with the constitution.</p> <p>Cllr Bryan Beha - For Cllr Eve Berry - For Cllr Peter Bradshaw - For Cllr John Brunsdon - For Cllr Carole Bullen - For Cllr John Carter - For Cllr John Coles - For Cllr Shane Collins - For Cllr Nick Cottle – For Cllr Edward Drewe - For Cllr Stina Falle - For Cllr John Greenhalgh - For Cllr Philip Ham - For Cllr Des Harris - For Cllr Steve Henderson - For Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper - For Cllr Claire Hudson - For Cllr Tom Killen - For Cllr Roy Mackenzie - For Cllr Graham Noel - For Cllr John North - For Cllr Linda Oliver - For Cllr John Parham - For Cllr Mike Pullin - For Cllr Adam Sen - for</p>	Paul Deal

	<p>Cllr Dick Skidmore - For Cllr Nigel Taylor - For Cllr Alan Townsend – For Cllr David van Dyk - For Cllr Nigel Woollcombe-Adams – For Cllr Ros Wyke - For</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>Council agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Treasury Management Strategy as laid out in the report; 2. The Prudential Indicators as laid out in Appendix A to the report; 3. Approved Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy included in Appendix B to the report. 	
	<p>Urgent Business</p> <p>The Chairman agreed the following item should be considered as urgent business</p> <p>2019/20 Council Tax Setting</p> <p>The Section 151 Officer was invited to present a report which presented a recommendation for the resolution required to set the Council Tax for the financial year 2019/20. The recommendation was based on a flat £5 (five pounds) increase on Council Tax for the 2019/20 year. This represented an increase of 3.30%.</p> <p>This increase had not been applied to the Special Expenses Rate which had been capped at previous levels.</p> <p>In addition the Council would continue to raise a demand to fund the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) equivalent to 1.25% of the 2015/16 Council Tax Charge. This had been detailed in the Medium Term Resource Strategy paper on this agenda.</p> <p>The precepts included within this report were those <u>proposed</u> to the respective Preceptors Full Council meetings for approval. Due to alterations by the Fire Service any resolution to accept the recommendation would be subject to such alterations.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed Members queried why the precept by the Avon and Somerset Constabulary and some of the larger towns was so high.</p>	<p>Paul Deal</p>

Members requested that the Chief Inspector of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary be invited to a meeting of the Cabinet to provide an update.

Councillor Hewitt-Cooper proposed that the recommendations be approved subject to alterations by the Fire Service. This proposal was duly seconded.

The vote was recorded in accordance with the constitution.

Cllr Bryan Beha - For
Cllr Eve Berry - For
Cllr Peter Bradshaw - For
Cllr John Brunsdon - For
Cllr Carole Bullen - For
Cllr John Carter - For
Cllr John Coles - For
Cllr Shane Collins - For
Cllr Nick Cottle – For
Cllr Edward Drewe - For
Cllr Stina Falle - For
Cllr John Greenhalgh - For
Cllr Philip Ham - For
Cllr Des Harris - For
Cllr Steve Henderson - For
Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper - For
Cllr Claire Hudson - For
Cllr Tom Killen - For
Cllr Roy Mackenzie - For
Cllr Graham Noel - For
Cllr John North - For
Cllr Linda Oliver - For
Cllr John Parham - For
Cllr Mike Pullin - For
Cllr Adam Sen - For
Cllr Dick Skidmore - For
Cllr Nigel Taylor - For
Cllr Alan Townsend – For
Cllr David van Dyk - For
Cllr Nigel Woollcombe-Adams – For
Cllr Ros Wyke - For

RESOLVED

To approve the formal tax resolutions for 2019/20, subject to the approval by each Precepting Authority of their own Precepts as included within the report.

13	<p>2019/20 to 2023/24 Medium Term Resource Strategy (MTRS) and 2019/20 Detailed Revenue Budget</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Governance, Finance and Corporate Support presented a report that made recommendations on the level of the Council's Revenue Budgets, the Band D Council Tax and Special Expenses Rate for 2019/20.</p> <p>Councillor John Parham proposed that the recommendations in the report be approved. Councillor John North seconded the proposal.</p> <p>The vote was recorded in accordance with the constitution.</p> <p>Cllr Bryan Beha - For Cllr Eve Berry - For Cllr Peter Bradshaw - For Cllr John Brunsdon - For Cllr Carole Bullen - For Cllr John Carter - For Cllr John Coles - For Cllr Shane Collins - For Cllr Nick Cottle – Abstained Cllr Edward Drewe - For Cllr Stina Falle - For Cllr John Greenhalgh - For Cllr Philip Ham - For Cllr Des Harris - For Cllr Steve Henderson - For Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper - For Cllr Claire Hudson - Abstained Cllr Tom Killen - For Cllr Roy Mackenzie - Abstained Cllr Graham Noel - For Cllr John North - For Cllr Linda Oliver - For Cllr John Parham - For Cllr Mike Pullin - For Cllr Adam Sen - Abstained Cllr Dick Skidmore - For Cllr Nigel Taylor - For Cllr Alan Townsend – For Cllr David van Dyk - For Cllr Nigel Woollcombe-Adams – For Cllr Ros Wyke - Abstained</p>	Paul Deal
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RESOLVED

1. Final Local Government Finance Settlement

Council noted:

- The outcome of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement as detailed within Appendix A of the report.

2. Revenue Budget Proposal

Council agreed:

- The overall Net Revenue Budget for 2019/20 of £15,905,070 after taking into consideration all proposals and supporting documentation within the following appendices:

Appendix B(i) – Revenue Control Totals by Service

Appendix B(ii) – Revenue Control Totals by Subjective

Appendix C – Fees and Charges

Appendix D – Summary of Reserves and Balances

Appendix E – Special Expenses Rate

3. Council Tax Setting

Council agreed:

- (i) In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulation 1992, as amended, the amount calculated by the Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2019/20 shall be £40,496.05. This figure included the adjustments made as a result of the Council Tax Support Scheme.
- (ii) A Council Tax Requirement of £6,342,100 representing a Council Tax of £156.61 for a Band D property, an increase of £5 or 3.30% from 2018/19 (excluding the Special Expenses Rate).
- (iii) The continuation of the additional Council Tax Precept equivalent to 1.25% of Mendip's 2015/16 Council Tax Charge for the Shadow Somerset Rivers Authority only. This equates to a Band D value of £1.84 resulting in a Council Tax Requirement of £74,500 for 2019/20.

	<p>4. <u>Special Expenses Rate</u></p> <p>Council agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Special Expenses Rate of £204,300 capping the rate to £12.50 as in previous years. 	
14	<p>Pay Policy Statement</p> <p>Senior Officers of the Council left the meeting for the duration of consideration of this item due to their conflict of interests in it.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council presented a report which stated that the Localism Act 2011 (the Act) required all Councils to produce and publish a pay policy statement. The contents had been determined by the Act and related guidance and statements must be approved by Full Council.</p> <p>Councillor Harvey Siggs proposed that the Pay Policy Statement be agreed. Councillor Nigel Taylor seconded the proposal.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Full Council agreed the Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 at Appendix 1 to the report.</p>	David Clark
16	<p>Questions from the Public</p> <p>None</p>	
17	<p>Questions from Members</p> <p>None</p>	

The meeting closed at approximately 9.45 pm.