

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TANDRIDGE

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 23rd April 2015 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: The Chairman of the Council (Councillor Mrs. Parker), the Vice-Chairman of the Council (Councillor Mrs. Thorn) and Councillors Ainsworth, Bangs, Mrs. Black, Bond, Botten, Mrs. Bradbury, Cannon, Caudle, Childs, Compton, Mrs. Connolly, Cooley, Cooper, David, Duck, Mrs. Dunbar, Elias, Fisher, Gascoigne, Gosling, Harwood, Mrs. Ingham, Jones, Keymer, Morrow, Pannett, Perkins, Pursehouse, Stead, Mrs. Steeds, Turner, Mrs. Vickers, Mrs. Webster, Weightman and Mrs. Young.

The Meeting was preceded with a prayer read by the Reverend Anna Eltringham, vicar at St. John's Hurst Green and St. George's, Crowhurst.

256. MINUTES

*** Subject to the insertion of additional text regarding Councillor Morrow's proposed amendments to the Housing Committee's budget recommendations of 19th January 2015 (denoted by the shaded text at Appendix 'A') the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 19th February 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

257. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Charity Coffee Morning - 26th May at the United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted

Whilst the Chairman was disappointed at having to cancel her Charity Ball due to a lack of numbers, she thanked those Members who had made donations to her charities (Papworth Hospital Charity and Mighty Oaks Youth Club). To raise further funds for both charities, the Chairman announced that she would be holding a coffee morning on Tuesday 26th May at the United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted from 10.00am until noon and would be grateful for any offers of help with either setting up, serving tea, washing up, providing cakes or donating a raffle prize.

258. PETITION SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER 30

Hurst Green & Holland Children's Centre

Mrs. Susan Batley presented a petition urging TDC to lobby Surrey County Council against the proposed closure of this Children's Centre.

The Chairman allowed the subject matter to be discussed forthwith. During the ensuing debate, Members expressed strong support for the petition. It was confirmed that discussions had taken place with the Chief Executive and Leader of the County Council to highlight the strength of feeling among local residents and stakeholders. Members thanked Mrs. Batley for her presentation and assured her that efforts would continue to engage with the County in pursuit of a satisfactory outcome.

- NOTE:** (i) The Chairman of the Council declared a non-pecuniary interest in connection with the petition on the basis that she was a member of the Hurst Green Sure Start Childrens' Centre Advisory Board.
- (i) Councillor Botten declared a non-pecuniary interest in connection with the petition on the basis that he was Chairman of Governors at Marden Lodge School which, in turn, managed the Caterham Sure Start Children's Centre. This Centre could, potentially, be affected should the Hurst Green facility be forced to close. Councillor Botten also advised that he was a friend and colleague of Mrs. Batley.

259. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the reports of the Committees shown below be received and adopted:

- (i) Planning Committee - 12th February
- (ii) Community Services Committee - 5th March
- (iii) Housing Committee - 10th March
- (iv) Planning Committee - 12th March
- (v) Planning Policy Committee - 19th March
- (vi) Resources Committee - 26th March
- (vii) Planning Committee - 9th April

260. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked Members for their support during the past year and offered her best wishes to those who would no longer be Councillors after May.

Rising: 8.48 p.m.

Amendments to the 19th February 2015 Council minutes - additional text (denoted by shading)

Housing Committee – 19th January 2015

Minute 184 – Housing General Fund Budget Process - 2015/16

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Morrow and seconded by Councillor Bangs:

Recommendation A - fees and charges:

the insertion of the following words at the beginning of the Recommendation,
“subject to the charges in respect of the Meadowside Mobile Homes Park being held at the 2014/15 level.....”

Recommendation C – Housing General Fund revenue budget:

the insertion of the following words at the beginning of the Recommendation:
“subject to an additional £3,000 being drawn from reserves to offset the loss of income arising from the freezing of Meadowside Mobile Homes Park charges.....”

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

Minute 185 – Budget process - Housing Revenue Account 2015/16 (rent levels for housing properties)

The following amendment to Recommendations A and C was moved by Councillor Morrow and seconded by Councillor Caudle:

- (i) Recommendation A (proposed housing rent increase): replacement of 2.2% with 0.39%; and
- (ii) Recommendation C (HRA revenue budget): replacement wording as follows:

“the 2015/16 revenue budget for the HRA at Appendix G be amended to reflect a 0.39% rent increase with a reduced net operating surplus of £5,138,600 before allowing for repayment of debt, capital expenditure and interest charges, the reduced income to be funded from the cancellation of the £221,600 transfer to reserves”

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was lost.