

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 11 December 2018 at 2.00 pm

Council Members Present

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor
Councillor Lee Mason (in the Chair)

Councillors

David Fuller	Hugh Mason
Dave Ashmore	Gemma New
Simon Boshier	Robert New
Jennie Brent	Steve Pitt
Ryan Brent	Will Purvis
Tom Coles	Darren Sanders
Yahiya Chowdhury	Jeanette Smith
Ben Dowling	Lynne Stagg
Ken Ellcome	Judith Smyth
Jason Fazackarley	Luke Stubbs
George Fielding	Ben Swann
John Ferrett	David Tompkins
Scott Payter-Harris	Claire Udy
Hannah Hockaday	Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Suzy Horton	Steve Wemyss
Frank Jonas BEM	Matthew Winnington
Donna Jones	Neill Young
Ian Lyon	Rob Wood
Leo Madden	Tom Wood

81. Declarations of Interests under Standing Order 13(2)(b)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

82. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 November 2018

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 November 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on
13 November 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

83. Communications and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor James Fleming, Councillor Jo Hooper and Councillor Stephen Morgan MP. Councillor David Fuller, Councillor Jason Fazackarley, Councillor Neill Young, Councillor Ken Ellcome, and Councillor Ryan Brent each sent apologies for lateness.

The Lord Mayor gave detailed information concerning filming in the chamber and reiterated the council's rules which strictly prohibit the filming, photographing or recording of members of the public unless they are addressing the meeting and only then if they do not actively object. Filming from gallery to gallery is also prohibited. The Lord Mayor advised that in order to assist online viewers a webcast camera will take an overview of members in the chamber when any voting takes place.

The Lord Mayor then gave details of the evacuation procedure and reminded everyone that there are building evacuation signs displayed both inside the public galleries and in the chamber itself. He advised that the evacuation assembly point for this meeting is King Henry I Street by the university building (in view of the ice rink being set up in Guildhall Square.)

84. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24

The City Solicitor advised that two deputation requests had been made for this meeting both in respect of agenda item 7 - Recommendations of the Cabinet regarding the Revenue Budget Savings Proposal.

The first deputation was made by Alan Tier, Unison.
The second deputation was made by Mr Alan Burgess.

85. Questions from the Public under Standing Order No 25

There were no questions from the public.

86. Appointments

There were no appointments.

87. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

88. Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 4 December 2018

Minute 67 - Revenue Budget 2019/20 - Savings Proposals

This was opposed.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt

That the recommendations contained in the report entitled "Portsmouth City Council Revenue Budget 2019/20 - Savings Proposals" be approved.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson spoke on the budget proposals which had been produced by the Liberal Democrat group and he commended to the Council. He placed on record his thanks to Chris Ward and Julian Pike and to all the staff working for the city council.

The Leader paid tribute to councillors from all groups who have worked hard for the good of the city.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones
Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

That the recommendations set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes (Conservative revenue amendment) be adopted.

Councillor Donna Jones spoke to her group's proposed budget amendment. She thanked all staff across the city council for their hard work and in particular expressed her thanks to Chris Ward and Julian Pike.

As the Leader of the Labour group was unable to attend the meeting, it was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That Standing Order 38 be waived so that Councillor Judith Smyth of the Labour group would be allowed to have unlimited speaking time when speaking to the Labour revenue budget proposals on behalf of the Labour Group Leader. This was agreed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Judith Smyth of the Labour group be allowed unlimited speaking time when speaking to the revenue budget proposals.

Councillor Smyth was then invited to respond on behalf of the Labour group which she then did. No amendment was proposed by Councillor Smyth.

Council adjourned at 3.32 pm.

Council resumed at 3.45 pm.

Following debate, the Lord Mayor called upon the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson to sum up the debate which he then did.

The Lord Mayor advised that the revenue budget and the amendment would be voted on using the recorded vote method in accordance with the regulations.

Upon the Conservative group amendment standing in the name of Councillor Donna Jones being put to the vote, the following members voted in favour.

Councillors	Simon Boshier	Gemma New
	Ryan Brent	Robert New
	Ken Ellcome	Scott Payter-Harris
	John Ferrett	Luke Stubbs
	Hannah Hockaday	Ben Swann
	Frank Jonas	David Tompkins
	Donna Jones	Steve Wemyss
	Ian Lyon	Neill Young
	Lee Mason	

The following members voted against the amendment.

Councillors	Dave Ashmore	Will Purvis
	Jennie Brent	Darren Sanders
	Ben Dowling	Jeanette Smith
	Jason Fazackarley	Lynne Stagg
	David Fuller	Claire Udy
	Suzy Horton	Gerald Vernon-Jackson
	Leo Madden	Matthew Winnington
	Hugh Mason	Rob Wood
	Steve Pitt	Tom Wood

The following members abstained.

Councillors	Tom Coles
	Judith Smyth
	George Fielding

The Conservative group amendment was therefore **LOST**.

Upon the recommendations from Cabinet being put to the vote, the following members voted in favour.

Councillors	Dave Ashmore	Will Purvis
	Jennie Brent	Darren Sanders
	Ben Dowling	Jeanette Smith
	Jason Fazackarley	Lynne Stagg
	John Ferrett	Claire Udy
	David Fuller	Gerald Vernon-Jackson
	Suzy Horton	Matthew Winnington
	Leo Madden	Rob Wood
	Hugh Mason	Tom Wood
	Steve Pitt	

The following members voted against.

Councillors	Simon Boshier	Gemma New
	Ryan Brent	Robert New
	Ken Ellcome	Scott Payter-Harris
	Hannah Hockaday	Luke Stubbs
	Frank Jonas	Ben Swann
	Donna Jones	David Tompkins
	Ian Lyon	Steve Wemyss
	Lee Mason	Neill Young

The following members abstained.

Councillors Tom Coles
Judith Smyth
George Fielding

This was therefore **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED

(1) that the following be approved:

- (a) That the overall aim of the MTFs and its key strands as described in Section 8 of the report be adopted by the Council**
- (b) That the Council's Budget for 2019/20 be prepared on the basis of a 2.99% Council Tax increase for general purposes**
- (c) That the Council continues to take advantage of the opportunity to increase the level of Council Tax for an "Adult Social Care Precept" within the limits set by Central Government (i.e. a 1.5% increase for 2019/20), and consequently that the additional funding is passported direct to Adult Social Care to provide for otherwise unfunded cost pressures**
- (d) The savings proposals for each Portfolio amounting, in total, to £4m for 2019/20 and continuing into future years as set out in Appendix A to enable appropriate consultation and notice periods to be given to affected parties**

(2) That the following be noted:

- (a) The Budget Savings Requirement for 2019/20 of £4m approved by the City Council is predicated on a total Council Tax increase of 4.49%; each 1% change (increase or decrease) in the Council Tax results in a change to the savings requirement of £747,000¹**

¹ Tax increases will be subject to Council Tax referendum thresholds which are at this stage unknown

- (b) The key themes arising from the Budget Consultation**
- (c) The indicative savings proposals set out in Appendix B which are provided for the purpose of demonstrating to the Council that the Portfolio savings as recommended in recommendation 1(d) above are robust and deliverable**
- (d) The likely impact of savings as set out in Appendix B**
- (e) That the responsibility of the City Council is to approve the overall Budget and the associated cash limits of its Portfolios and Committees; it is not the responsibility of the City Council to approve any individual savings within those Portfolios / Committees**
- (f) That it is the responsibility of the individual Portfolio Holders (not full Council) to approve the individual savings proposals and the Portfolio Holder can therefore, in response to any consultation, alter, amend or substitute any of the indicative savings proposal(s) set out in Appendix B with alternative proposal(s) amounting to the same value within their Portfolio**
- (g) Managers will commence the implementation of the approved savings required and any necessary consultation process or notice process**
- (h) That there is no general provision for Budget Pressures and that it is the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder to manage any Budget Pressures which arise from the overall resources available to the Portfolio (which includes their Portfolio Reserve)**
- (i) In accordance with the approved financial framework, it is the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Director of Finance & Information Technology (S151 Officer), to release funds from the Portfolio Reserve in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 10.16 of the report**
- (j) The MTRS Reserve held to fund the upfront costs associated with Spend to Save Schemes, Invest to Save Schemes and redundancies currently holds a modest uncommitted balance of £4.0m and will only be replenished from an approval to the transfer of any non-Portfolio underspends at year end into this reserve.**

89. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17

Question 1 was from Councillor Judith Smyth

"Please can we put an end to the differences between the Portsmouth city council interpretation of the rules and regulations about Child Performance Licences and surrounding authorities including Hampshire County council? At the moment the way in which Portsmouth city council interprets the rules and regulations causes huge problems for the Portsmouth Music festival, for the Groundlings theatre company and other organisations wanting to involve children and young people in performance as a charitable and educational opportunity. The PMF has moved its annual competition to a Hampshire venue as a result?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport, Councillor Steve Pitt.

Question 2 was from Councillor Tom Coles

"Can the Cabinet Member confirm what action the Council is taking to address youth antisocial behaviour in Fratton and across the city as a whole?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety, Councillor Dave Ashmore.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety agreed to ask the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport, Councillor Steve Pitt, who is responsible for allotments, to provide an update to members on antisocial behaviour following the capital budget provision last year for security cameras for Horsea Lane allotments in Hilsea.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety placed on record his thanks to the community wardens for their work in tackling antisocial behaviour across the city.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety also placed on record his thanks to Maggie Blyth who has been running the police in the city and who is now moving on.

The Lord Mayor wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year and invited members back to the parlour for some festive refreshments.

The meeting concluded at 4.35 pm.

Lord Mayor