

**COUNCIL**

**7.30pm – 9.40pm**

**23 February 2016**

Present: Councillor Arthur (Lord Mayor), Councillors, Ackroyd, Bogelein, Bradford, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Carlo, Coleshill, Driver, Grahame, Harris, Haynes, Henderson, Herries, Howard, Jackson, Jones, Kendrick, Lubbock, Manning, Maxwell, Neale, Packer, Peek, Price, Raby, Ryan, Sands (M), Sands (S), Schmierer, Stonard, Thomas (VA), Thomas (VI), Waters, Woollard and Wright

Apologies: The Sheriff and Councillor Blunt

**1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Lord Mayor said that since the last meeting she had attended a large number of varied engagements including the Holocaust Memorial Service; a celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Big C; the launch of the Vikings Guide to Deadly Dragons at the Castle Museum; opening of the King's Lynn Mart; a fundraising event for the civic charity celebrating Chinese New Year; the mayoral court for Freeman of the City of Norwich which continued a 700 year old tradition and she had also opened a post office in a pub!

Together with 60 other people, including the sheriff, she had slept out in cardboard boxes on a very cold February night to raise money for the YMCA.

The outstanding event in the last month had been hosting the presentation of the Legion D'Honneur by the Maire of Blainville-Sur-Orme to four Royal Norfolk Regiment Normandy veterans and a widow of a fifth. The medals were presented on behalf of the French President to men who had landed on Sword beach and marched inland to free the town.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2A. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No questions had been received.

### 3. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016 subject to Councillor Boswell being added to the list of those present.

### 4. CORPORATE PLAN 2015-2020

Councillor Waters moved and Councillor Harris seconded the recommendations in the annexed report.

**RESOLVED**, with 24 voting in favour, none against and 13 abstentions, to note –

- (1) the corporate plan 2015-20;
- (2) that a review of the corporate plan 2015-20 will be undertaken within six months to consider the need to reflect any changes in national financing arrangements to both general and housing revenue funds.

### 5. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND NON-HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016-17

Councillor Stonard moved and Councillor Maxwell seconded the recommendations in the annexed report.

Councillor Schmierer moved and Councillor Neale seconded the following amendment –

“To reduce the level of general reserves by £45000 and use this money to employ an officer on a one-year trial basis to pursue external funding for the council”

**RESOLVED** with 16 voting for (Ackroyd, Bogelein, Boswell, Carlo, Grahame, Haynes, Henderson, Howard, Jackson, Jones, Lubbock, Neale, Price, Raby, Schmierer and Wright), 22 against (Arthur, Bradford, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Coleshill, Driver, Harris, Herries, Kendrick, Manning, Maxwell, Packer, Peek, Ryan, Sands(M), Sands(S), Stonard, Thomas(VA), Thomas (VI), Waters and Woollard and no abstentions, the amendment was declared lost.

Councillor Carlo moved and Councillor Price seconded the following amendment –

“To reduce the grounds maintenance budget by £37000 and allocate this amount to the replanting of street trees outside conservation areas”

**RESOLVED** with 16 voting for (Ackroyd, Bogelein, Boswell, Carlo, Grahame, Haynes, Henderson, Howard, Jackson, Jones, Lubbock, Neale, Price, Raby, Schmierer and Wright), 22 against ( Arthur, Bradford, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Coleshill, Driver, Harris, Herries, Kendrick, Manning, Maxwell, Packer, Peek, Ryan, Sands(M), Sands(S), Stonard, Thomas(VA), Thomas (VI), Waters and Woollard and no abstentions, the amendment was declared lost.

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public to enable debate on appendix 5, which appears on the agenda as item \*9, because it would disclose information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person as in paragraph 3 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Following the debate the public were invited back into the council chamber.

**RESOLVED** with 25 voting in favour (Ackroyd, Arthur, Bradford, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Coleshill, Driver, Harris, Herries, Kendrick, Lubbock, Manning, Maxwell, Packer, Peek, Ryan, Sands(M), Sands(S), Stonard, Thomas (VA), Thomas (VI), Waters, Woollard and Wright), 8 against (Boswell, Carlo, Haynes, Henderson, Neale, Price, Raby and Schmierer) and 5 abstentions (Bogelein, Grahame, Howard, Jackson and Jones), to approve –

- (1) cabinet's recommendations for the 2016-17 financial year –
  - (a) to set the council's budgetary requirement for the 2016-17 financial year to £16.120 million (para 6.1 in annex A);
  - (b) the proposed general fund budgets for 2016-17 taking into account the savings, income and other budget movements set out in appendices 2 and 5 (item \*9 on the agenda);
  - (c) to set the council's council tax requirement for 2016-17 at £8.495 million and set council tax at £244.01 for Band D, which is an increase of 1.95% (para 5.5 in annex A), the impact of the increase for all bands is shown in table 7.2 of Annex A;
  - (d) to set the Norwich City Council precept on the council tax collection fund for 2016-17 at £8.375 million calculated in accordance with sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (as shown in para 7.1 of annex A);
  - (e) to set the prudent level of reserves for the council at £4.273 million in accordance with the recommendation of the chief finance officer (as shown in para 8.11 of annex A); and
  - (f) the proposed non-housing capital programme 2016-17 to 2020-21 (as shown in table 10.3 of annex A);
- (2) calculate the aggregate of all the precepts of the collection fund in accordance with sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (shown in annex B) taking into account precepts notified by Norfolk County Council and the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk.

## 6. HOUSING RENTS AND BUDGETS 2016-17

Councillor Harris moved and Councillor Woollard seconded the recommendations as set out in the annexed report.

**RESOLVED** with 35 voting in favour, none against and 1 abstention –

- (1) to approve cabinet's recommendations for the 2016-17 financial year to
  - (a) implement the minimum 1% rent reduction in accordance with legislation is anticipated to be approved as part of the welfare reform and work bill 2015/16 (paragraph 6.8 of annex A);
  - (b) approve the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget (paragraph 3.1 of annex A);
  - (c) approve the prudent minimum level of housing reserves (paragraph 7.6 of annex A);
  - (d) approve the proposed housing capital programme 2016-17 to 2020-21 (paragraph 9.1 of annex A);
  - (e) approve that garage rents remain unchanged (paragraph 6.13 of annex A);
- (2) approve a 1% rent reduction for supported housing rents in line with the reductions required for other rents (paragraph 4);
- (3) note that service charges will be determined under delegated powers in compliance with the constitution (paragraph 6.14 of annex A).

(Two hours having passed since the start of the meeting, the Lord Mayor asked if the remaining item could be taken as unopposed business.)

## 7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016-17

**RESOLVED**, unopposed, to approve cabinet's recommendations in relation to the following key elements of the report –

- (a) the capital prudential indicators and limits for 2016-17 to 2018-19 contained within paragraphs 10-15;
- (b) the minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy statement (paragraph 16) and the change to MRP policy as set out in annex 1;
- (c) the borrowing strategy 2016-17 to 2018-19 (paragraphs 21-25);
- (d) the treasury prudential indicators (paragraphs 26 -29), including the authorised limit (paragraph 27);
- (e) the investment strategy 2016-17 (paragraphs 30-55) and the detailed criteria included in appendix 3.

LORD MAYOR