

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council for the District of Dover held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Wednesday, 26 January 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor M D Conolly

Councillors:

J S Back	D G Cronk	K Mills
T J Bartlett	D R Friend	D P Murphy
M Bates	D Hannent	O C de R Richardson
D G Beaney	J P Haste	M Rose
S H Beer	D A Hawkes	C A Vinson
E A Biggs	M F Hibbert	R S Walkden
T A Bond	S J Jones	P Walker
P M Brivio	P D Jull	H M Williams
S S Chandler	L A Keen	C D Zosseder
N J Collor	N S Kenton	

Officers: Chief Executive
Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)
Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)
Solicitor to the Council
Democratic and Corporate Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer

52 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C F Woodgate.

53 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 were approved as a correct record for signing by the Chairman.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared an interest in items of business on the agenda:

Councillor M Bates declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 60 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his wife's employment and stated his intent to withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of that item of business.

Councillor D Friend declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 60 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his being a personal license holder and stated his intent to withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of that item of business.

Councillor T A Bond declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 60 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his

employment as a consultant for hotels and stated his intent to withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of that item of business.

Councillor S J Jones declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 60 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to her being a license holder and stated her intent to withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of that item of business.

Councillor O C de R Richardson declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 60 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his son owning a pub and stated his intent to withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of that item of business.

55 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor M D Conolly, made the following announcements:

- (a) To advise that he had attended the Christmas light switch on at Sandwich.
- (b) To express condolences to the Chief Executive over the death of his mother.

56 LEADER'S TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) To advise his attendance at the Dover Winter Light Up on Saturday 4th December 2021. The event was well attended, and it was a great example of collaborative working. He welcomed that the Christmas light events at Deal and Aylesham had also been well attended.
- (b) To welcome the news that the Lonely Planet guide had rated Kent's Heritage Coast, which included Dover, amongst its best places to visit.
- (c) To highlight the funding that had been distributed as part of the Winter Community Grants to local groups.
- (d) To highlight the money raised through the DDC Lotto for local good causes.
- (e) To praise the good work going on at Maison Dieu and the chance for the public to see the conservation work being undertaken.
- (f) That the Sandwich Guildhall Forecourt works were scheduled to take place in the autumn.
- (g) That the electric bus fleet for the Dover Fastrack scheme had been confirmed.
- (h) That consideration was being given to how to proceed with the works for Tides that had been postponed due to the pandemic.
- (i) That Port Health would be moving to a new facility.

- (j) To thank all Members who attended the briefing for the Local Plan that had been organised. He also thanked the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Development for her work during her time with the Council and wished her a happy retirement.
- (k) To announce that the Household Support Grant funding to help vulnerable households during winter had been received from Kent County Council. The support could be accessed through a number of local organisations including Dover and Deal Food Banks, Age Concern, the Citizens Advice Bureau and others.
- (l) That talks over the future of the former Regent Cinema were on-going. In addition, it was hoped that there would be a meeting with the Roman Painted House, Dover soon and there was on-going work to bring the Phoenix Centre back into use. He advised that Kent County Council were also talking to the Roundhouse Theatre group.
- (m) To advise that the Council's website contained details to assist residents and organisations in planning events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

The Leader of the Opposition Labour Group, Councillor K Mills, included the following matters in his report:

- (a) To highlight the effective cross-party working involved with the grants. He also pointed to the problem of the number of good causes exceeding the available funding.
- (b) To welcome the news of the electric fleet for the Dover Fastrack scheme.
- (c) The importance of securing the future of a Tides suitable for all of the residents in Deal.
- (d) To express hope that there would be a future for the Regent Cinema, though noting that nothing promised had happened so far.
- (e) To express concerns over the funding pressure on primary care and the impact this could have on GP services taking over the provision of blood tests that were previously performed at Deal Hospital.
- (f) To question the causes of the frequent use of the Dover TAP traffic management scheme given that the Port of Dover was rarely closed and highlight the impact on the residents of Aycliffe who suffered from noise and pollution as a result. There was a need for TAP to be pushed further back from Aycliffe and efforts made to stop lorries trying to avoid TAP from entering the town with the resulting traffic chaos it caused. He questioned why this matter wasn't a priority for the Council.
- (g) To emphasise the need for a district-based group over an east Kent group for dealing with food and heating poverty issues.
- (h) To stress the need for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme to be run again at half-term.

- (i) To thank officers for their hard work in getting the Council's housing service out of the special measures it was put in following the dissolution of East Kent Housing. He welcomed the press release on this and also thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its work in monitoring the work that officers undertook to get the housing service out of special measures.
- (j) To ask for an update on the Council's bid for Levelling Up funding as he had heard that the Council had been unsuccessful. If the Council had been unsuccessful, he felt that people needed to be told. He also raised how the Council would engage with the public in respect of future funding bids.
- (k) To welcome the news of the Household Support Grant in the face of the rising cost of living, the coming increase in National Insurance and council tax rises.
- (l) To ask the Leader of the Council to join him in calling for the Government to delay or suspend the proposed rise in National Insurance in light of the rising cost of living.

In response the Leader of the Council advised:

- (a) To agree that the problems related to Dover TAP needed to be addressed. He advised that he was meeting with the local Member of the Parliament the next day and that he would be raising it as a high priority.
- (b) To advise that he would find out if the HAF programme was running at half-term.
- (c) To advise that the Council had not been successful in its Levelling Up Fund bid and that it would be receiving written feedback in respect of the bid. Once the Council knew the reasons for why its bid had not succeeded it would look at issuing a press release. He advised that the Council would bid for the second round of Levelling Up funding.
- (d) To welcome the work by officers in getting the housing service out of special measures.
- (e) To state that the issue of food poverty was an important concern to him and that there was a need to tackle this issue.

57 SEAT ALLOCATION AND GROUP APPOINTMENTS

There were no changes to the seat allocations or group appointments advised.

58 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- (1) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 a question from John Hayter was put to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change, Councillor C A Vinson:

"DDC have declared a "Climate Emergency". The Queen on the 19th of October stated "that it is up to all political leaders, business and civil society to align in the SHARED RESPONSIBILITY of saving the planet". Currently DDC employees are able to park free of charge outside their offices at

Whitfield. Why then aren't DDC employees incentivised in the same manner as the Dover residents parking permits and pay parking/emission charge when parked outside their place of work at Whitfield?"

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance, Digital and Climate Change stated:

"DDC has, as you have noted, recognised the challenge posed to all of us by the climate emergency and is working to deliver a wide range of initiatives that will see a significant reduction in the carbon emissions from the Council's activities. Progress is already being made and for example the Council's greenhouse gas emissions have dropped from 3045 tonnes in 2017/18 to 1740 tonnes in 2020/21 and over recent months we have installed a network of EV chargers across the District including 7 at the Whitfield offices which support the Council's own fleet of electric vehicles.

In addition to these initiatives, the Council is currently considering introducing additional EV charging facilities to enable staff and visitors to charge their vehicles at the offices, subject to payment for the cost of the energy and are also considering introducing a salary sacrifice scheme specifically aimed at public sector employees, which specialises in low emission vehicles.

As regards the car park at the Whitfield offices, this is managed in accordance with the off-street parking order and provides free parking for all those using the offices, which includes DDC staff, CCG staff and all those members of the public who visit and use the offices."

(2) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 a question from Graham Wanstall was put to the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

"It is encouraging that you have established a committee to consider plans for the Platinum Jubilee, however, it is frustrating that only district members invited to serve on it as this important national celebration concerns us all. It should be inclusive not exclusive! To date there has been little imagination or vision with ideas to permanently mark this unique jubilee. I put forward five proposals listed now and ask that you please give them proper consideration.

- 1) A commemorative clock at Pencester Gardens by the bus station to replace the clock removed about five years ago by DDC.
- 2) To relight again the Town Hall clock that was lit up until about 40 years ago with a plaque to explain why again lit up.
- 3) To name Castle Hill from its junction with Victoria Park to the top "Queen Elizabeth II Hill". This is a busy main road next to Dover Castle and has no residents to consult. This is an appropriate location for these reasons, I submit.
- 4) One or two slabs imprinted or similar into the pavements in front of the war memorial or/and in the Market Square to show the crown etc and the relevant 70 years. This was done in Canterbury in 1977 and still there today! (For the silver jubilee).

- 5) To rename the Eastern Docks “Jubilee Eastern Docks” so the whole world will remember the jubilee when travelling.

Will you please give these constructive proposals serious consideration as time is now short, in the spirit intended?”

In response the Leader of the Council stated:

“The limited time frame, together with the considerable pressure on resources from a number of sources, has meant that it is not possible for DDC both to set up a fully inclusive consultation process and deliver the outcomes from that consultation before the Jubilee. I do however welcome your thoughts and suggestions and can confirm that the Council are already exploring the options for reintroducing a clock in Pencester Gardens to mark the Jubilee. The Council also consider your suggestions of lighting the clock at Maison Dieu and the imprinting of slabs both worthy of further consideration, although not necessarily in connection with the Jubilee. Any request to rename Castle Hill is likely to be rejected by the palace for the same reasons that DDC’s request last year to create the ‘Duke of Edinburgh steps’ was rejected. The Council will not therefore pursue that suggestion. The renaming of the Eastern docks is something that only Dover Harbour Board can decide on.

Platinum Jubilee Planning is ongoing across the District, and within DDC, and the Council will announce its support and plans in due course.”

59 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Rule 12(1) of the Council Procedure Rules, Members of the Cabinet responded to the following questions:

- (1) Councillor N J Collor asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, Councillor M Bates:

“The A2 was heavily congested for many hours making it extremely difficult for our residents living to the east of the road to gain access to retail facilities in the town.

Dover TAP was also in place on the A20 continually for nearly 33 hours. Of the 63 times that Dover TAP has been put in place since March on 17 of these occasions the Trigger Point to consider bringing in the next stage has been reached.

Although DDC is not a highway authority, we have a duty to our residents so will the Leader of the Council advise what steps this Council is taking to keep the pressure up on finding a solution once and for all as well as what steps were taken after the TAP Trigger Points were reached as well as advising the next steps after TAP is full?”

Reply by the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services:

“As you are aware Councillor Collor, TAP A20 is there to help protect the town from gridlocking and it is good to hear that it’s been deployed so many times and ensuring free movement around Dover.

The A2 has no such scheme but residents can use alternative routes to access the town such as Whitfield Hill, Melbourne Avenue and Castle Hill therefore avoiding this route entirely.

DDC continues to work with the highway's agencies and government dept to find a suitable solution to the impacts of having one of the busiest roro ports in Europe.

The Keep Dover Clear plans are progressing well, and work is continuing with regards CCTV to monitor traffic flows, improvements to Duke of York's and Whitfield roundabouts, HGV restrictions for Castle hill and improvements to signage on and around these routes.

DDC continues to lobby DfT for improvements to the strategic road network on every occasion.

With regards to the trigger points, once the queue has reached the Roundhill tunnels the on-duty gold commander will need to decide whether M20 Brock should be deployed. This is a huge undertaking and places enormous pressure on National Highways and Kent Police.

DDC does not calculate the trigger point it National Highways. Again, the emails would have to be reviewed to confirm this, but I am not aware of Brock being deployed for this alone. We again are entering into the Brock plans and Kent Police make this decision based on the flow rates, etc."

- (2) Councillor N J Collor asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services, Councillor M Bates:

"Will the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services kindly advise the income, after VAT has been deducted, separately, for Stembrook Car Park and Bench Street Car Park for 2019, 2020 and 2021?"

Reply by the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Licensing and Regulatory Services:

Bench St

2019/20: minus VAT =£20,775.01

2020/21: minus VAT =£21,746.47

2021/22 (to date): minus VAT =£29,895.72

Stembrook

2019/20: minus VAT =£36,623.79

2020/21: minus VAT =£41,462.18

2021/22 (to date): minus VAT =£54,002.81

- (3) Councillor D Friend asked the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing and Port Health, Councillor D P Murphy:

"Could the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing, update the Council on the latest position in respect of the Special Measures status regarding Compliance Certification of the utility appliances in its housing stock"

Reply by the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing and Port Health:

“In October 2020, when Dover District Council took the housing service under direct control, the service was in a worse state than even the most pessimistic expectations. The information systems were incomplete, inaccurate and could not be trusted. In addition, a large backlog of work had built up. Of particular concern were the various compliance safety checks, designed to ensure that people are safe in their own homes. Compliance was the reason that the service was taken into special measures.

An immense piece of work was undertaken by the Assets & Building Control team, to create a route map back to business as usual. The first stage was to investigate the information in forensic detail to understand the gaps. Some properties had no certificates at all, some were out of date and some had outstanding remedial actions. The second stage was to put in place the on-going inspection regimes, engaging contractors to carry out inspections and put right any deficiencies found. All of this was against a background of Covid when vulnerable people were shielding - so gaining access to inspect appliances was difficult. Despite all the challenges the team worked extremely hard to make progress and this resulted in the Regulator for Social Housing removing the special measures in December 2021.”

- (4) Councillor E A Biggs asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“Why when funds of 35k were allocated by cabinet for an allegedly joint approach to progressing the Cable Car project with English Heritage, now that the project is no longer going ahead the final bill for DDC is in fact £135K.”

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

“As you have said, in December 2020, an additional £35,000 was agreed, to supplement the previously allocated and budgeted resources, to progress the Cable Car project working with English Heritage as a delivery partner - under a jointly signed memorandum of understanding and within a programme of monthly meetings.

Other previously allocated and agreed project funds, as partly documented in June 2020, included vital specialist work undertaken by SCJ Alliance at a cost of £83,000; taken from the then Cable Car and Land Bridge related Dover Waterfront Project Budget. Other related feasibility and viability costs, related to the final total you have mentioned, are detailed within the December 2021 cabinet report.

This crucial feasibility work and consultation – importantly - demonstrated that the cable car between Dover Town Centre and Dover Castle would be both technically feasible and, potentially, commercially viable. Generating substantial employment opportunities and economic growth. However, it also highlighted – as reported - that the cable car would only be viable if it were jointly delivered by the Council and English Heritage.

Unfortunately in May 2021 English Heritage’s Senior Management Team decided that they could no longer support further development of the project, due to the anticipated un-acceptable impact upon the heritage of Dover Castle. For this reason, in the absence of partnership, progress upon the Cable Car Project came to a close before any further costs were incurred.

With total Cable Car Project delivery costs estimated at around £32 million, it is felt that total expenditure of £135,000 is a reasonable sum to provide due diligence, fully appraise proposals and mitigate risk.

The information and advice gained will be retained for use should the situation change with English Heritage.

All remaining funds earmarked for the Cable Car project, as part of the related Dover Waterfront Project Budget, will be included in next year's budget as funding for projects associated with the wider regeneration of Dover."

- (5) Councillor P M Brivio asked the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing and Port Health, Councillor D P Murphy:

"Can you please advise what the take up of the shared ownership scheme at Harold Street has been and how this fits in with ambition of filling the obvious housing gap left by the lack of affordable housing in the district."

Reply by the Portfolio Holder for Social Housing and Port Health:

"Horizons', the shared ownership component of the development of the former William Muge and Snelgrove site, comprises 29 No. one -bed and two-bed flats in a four-storey block. This section of the development was partially funded by a Homes England grant and consequently the shared ownership arrangements are in accordance with the Homes England criteria. All 29 units have been sold with the final unit completion in the past few weeks. The vast majority of the units have been sold to local people and the development thus contributes to filling the housing gap, whilst also demonstrating to developers that quality and space do not have to be compromised."

- (6) Councillor H M Williams asked the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property, Councillor O C de R Richardson:

"Can the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property explain the lack of a meaningful response to several letters dating between 23.7.21 and 15.11.21 to yourself and officers from the Dover & District Sunday Football League. The subject of the letters is the unacceptable state of Dover football pitches at Elms Vale and the Danes, and the changing rooms there.

The League pay a fee to DDC for the use of these pitches and changing rooms. As amateur sport was restarting after the summer lockdown, the League suggested a plan to bring the pitches up to a playable and decent standard.

In late July they contacted you and you replied saying you would talk to the department. The League have since heard nothing. The pitches continue to be neglected, and after inspecting them again, pronounced them unsafe to play on, and the changing rooms not fit for purpose."

Reply by the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property:

“This question is lacking some facts as letters were not received and neither were direct reports made to the supervisor who has been in regular contact with this complainant.

Works to improve the pitches is taking place and is part of our regular maintenance plan.

Improvement works have been carried out over the past few years and some pitches are under more pressure than others, The Danes especially as this is used almost daily by the local schools, the public and the football clubs.

No match officials or clubs have cancelled games due to unsafe pitches and DDC continues to ensure pitches are available to avoid matches being cancelled wherever possible. All DDC pitches are inspected every week prior to the weekend fixtures.

We are working with the FA to secure more funding for improvements to our facilities across the district.

The pavilion building at Elms Vale is regularly subjected to much vandalism, due to its isolated location. The severity of the vandalism increased significantly during the lockdowns. There is significant damage to the roof, which in turn has led to water ingress causing damage to the electrical systems. There will be significant costs to repair the roof and restore the electrical systems. Similarly, there is likely to be significant costs to reduce the carbon footprint of the building – in particular the shower facilities. Work to establish the full extent, nature and indicative cost of the work needed will be undertaken over the coming months.”

(7) Councillor K Mills asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor T J Bartlett:

“As a District we were allocated £171,000 Household Support Grant, to organisations with a track record of delivery to support households who would otherwise struggle to buy food, pay essential energy bills or meet other essential living costs this winter. With the predicted fuel cost increases of at least 50% expected to last up to two years what sustainable support is this council going to provide to those most in need, who will have to continue to decide to heat or eat.”

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

“The Council have set up a ‘Food and Fuel Working Group’ in partnership with Citizens Advice Bureau, Dover District Food Bank, Deal District Food Bank, Deal Age UK, Dover Age Concern, Sandwich Age Concern and United Families. This working group is supported by the Head of Community & Digital Services and Chaired by the Community Development Team Leader.

The Food and Fuel Action Group meets monthly and have also set up a WhatsApp group for day-to-day issues and ideas.

The aim of the group is to work in collaboration and to assist in dealing with this challenging subject. The group provides support, food parcels, household goods and appliances.”

- (8) Councillor P M Brivio asked the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property, Councillor O C de R Richardson:

“What are the future plans for the Gateway premises in Castle Street, Dover which remain closed.”

Reply by the Portfolio Holder for Community and Corporate Property:

“The long-term future of the Gateway depends to a large extent on the plans of KCC. The partnership arrangements pertaining to the building expire in 2024. The medium-term plans are much clearer. Subject to final agreement being reached between DDC and KCC, the Gateway will become the temporary home of Dover library, enabling KCC to provide library services to the town during the construction phase of the redevelopment of the Discovery Centre.”

60 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY - LICENSING ACT 2003

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003.

It was moved by Councillor D A Hawkes, duly seconded by Councillor P D Jull, and

RESOLVED: That the revised Statement of Licensing Policy be approved.

(Councillor M Bates declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 60 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his wife’s employment and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

(Councillor D Friend declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 60 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his being a personal license holder and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

(Councillor T A Bond declared an Other Significant Interest (OSI) in Minute No. 60 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his employment as a consultant for hotels and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

(Councillor S J Jones declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 60 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to her being a license holder and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

(Councillor O C de R Richardson declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in Minute No. 60 (Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003) due to his son owning a pub and withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item of business.)

COUNCIL TAX BASE AND COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2022

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the Council Tax Base and Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022.

It was moved by Councillor C A Vinson, duly seconded by Councillor M Bates, and

RESOLVED: (a) That for the financial year 2022/23, the empty homes discount for properties unoccupied and unfurnished remain at 0%, so that Council Tax will be payable in full on these properties.

(b) That the District's Council Tax Base for 2022/23 be approved as 39,763.21 and the tax base for the towns and parishes in the Council's administrative area, as set out in the table at Appendix 2 as follows:

Parish	2021/2022 Tax Base using collection rate	2022/2023 Tax Base using collection rate	Difference
Alkham	303.93	310.10	6.17
Ash	1,177.32	1,203.63	26.31
Aylesham	1,567.16	1,647.44	80.28
Capel-Le-Ferne	677.79	680.39	2.60
Deal	6,763.64	6,875.00	111.36
Denton-with-Wootton	177.95	176.26	-1.69
Dover	8,162.52	8,243.29	80.77
Eastry	807.20	825.06	17.86
Eythorne	793.06	799.38	6.32
Goodnestone	173.63	176.71	3.08
Guston	417.05	427.12	10.07
Hougham Without	179.72	184.29	4.57
Langdon	237.42	242.16	4.74
Lydden	260.97	288.11	27.14
Nonington	293.20	298.12	4.92
Northbourne	277.73	272.93	-4.80
Preston	384.78	392.19	7.41
Ringwould with Kingsdown	1,025.62	1,027.50	1.88
Ripple	142.39	151.39	9.00
River	1,487.93	1,492.72	4.79
St Margarets-at-Cliffe	1,299.06	1,324.47	25.41
Sandwich	1,939.66	2,027.45	87.79
Shepherdswell-with-Coldred	766.76	777.73	10.97
Sholden	722.01	727.78	5.77
Staple	232.32	237.18	4.86
Stourmouth	117.02	119.30	2.28
Sutton by Dover	307.89	310.16	2.27
Temple Ewell	666.71	675.20	8.49
Tilmanstone	159.70	164.23	4.53
Whitfield	2,079.88	2,231.59	151.71
Wingham	749.80	715.13	-34.67
Woodnesborough	494.80	510.88	16.08

Parish	2021/2022 Tax Base using collection rate	2022/2023 Tax Base using collection rate	Difference
Worth	490.17	498.09	7.92
Great Mongeham	271.50	288.33	16.83
Walmer	3,385.65	3,441.90	56.25
<i>Total Band D Equivalents</i>	38,993.94	39,763.21	769.27

- (c) That the “Long Term Empty Premium” for properties that have been left empty and substantially unfurnished be set at:
- (i) for periods of 2 years but less than 5 years, a Long-Term Empty Premium to be charged at 100%; and
 - (ii) for periods of 5 years but less than 10 years, a Long-Term Empty Premium to be charged at 200%; and
 - (iii) for periods of 10 years or more a Long-Term Empty Premium to be charged at 300%
- (d) That the Council Tax Reduction Scheme be approved as unchanged from 2021/22, using the ‘income bands’ set out in Appendix 3.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 18.6 (voting on budget decisions) a recorded vote was held. The manner of voting was as followed:

For (29)	Against (0)	Abstain (0)
J S Back		
T J Bartlett		
M Bates		
D G Beaney		
S H Beer		
E A Biggs		
T A Bond		
P M Brivio		
S S Chandler		
N J Collor		
M D Conolly		
D G Cronk		
D R Friend		
D Hannent		
D A Hawkes		
M F Hibbert		
S J Jones		
P D Jull		
L A Keen		
N S Kenton		
K Mills		

For (29)	Against (0)	Abstain (0)
D P Murphy		
O C de R Richardson		
M Rose		
C A Vinson		
R S Walkden		
P Walker		
H M Williams		
C D Zosseder		

62 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS 2023/24 TO 2027/28

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report on the Appointment of Auditors 2023/24 to 2027/28.

It was moved by Councillor D Hannent, duly seconded by Councillor M Rose, and

RESOLVED: That the Council accept the invitation of Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) to continue its current participation in the national scheme for auditor appointments.

63 DRAFT CALENDAR OF ORDINARY MEETINGS 2022-23

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager presented the Draft Calendar of Ordinary Meetings 2022-23 report.

It was moved by Councillor D A Hawkes, duly seconded by Councillor D G Beaney, and

RESOLVED: That the Draft Calendar of Ordinary Meetings for 2022-23 be approved in principle subject to final ratification at the Annual Meeting of Council on Wednesday 18 May 2022.

64 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2022/23

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager presented the report on the Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23.

Members were advised that the East Kent Joint Independent Remuneration Panel (EKJIRP) had met earlier that day and had advised that it would support an increase in allowances, including those related to travel and subsistence, up to the levels recommended in its last full Review.

Members were advised that the proposed Members' Allowances Scheme set out in Appendix 1 of the report represented no increase in the Basic or Special Responsibility Allowances.

It was moved by Councillor P D Jull, duly seconded by Councillor N J Collor, and

RESOLVED: That the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2022-23 be made at the levels set out in Appendix 1 of the report subject to an increase in the car mileage allowance from 40 pence per mile to 45 pence per mile.

65 PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY FOR COUNCILLORS

The Democratic and Corporate Services Manager presented the Parental Leave Policy for Councillors report. The Governance Committee was thanked for its proposed amendments to the Policy which had been incorporated into the draft before Members for consideration.

It was moved by Councillor C A Vinson, duly seconded by Councillor S S Chandler, and

RESOLVED: That the draft Parental Leave Policy for Councillors be adopted and incorporated into the Constitution.

66 CORPORATE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Chairman advised that the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service had withdrawn his report.

67 AMENDMENT OF THE SCHEME OF OFFICE DELEGATIONS IN RELATION TO PLANNING FUNCTIONS

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer presented the Amendment to the Scheme of Officer Delegations in Relation to Planning Functions. Members were advised that the Leader of the Council had already agreed those functions that were Executive functions.

It was noted that the title for the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Development was incomplete in the recommendation set out in the report and that this would need to be corrected in any motion moved.

It was moved by Councillor N S Kenton, duly seconded by Councillor T A Bond, and

RESOLVED: That the Scheme of Officer Delegations contained in Section 6 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution be amended as follows:

- (a) Where the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Development is authorised to discharge any council function, (whether solely or concurrently with any other officer), each of the following shall similarly be authorised to discharge that function:

Planning and Development Manager
Planning Policy and Projects Manager

- (b) Where, prior to the date hereof, the Council or a Committee of the Council has authorised The Head of Planning, Regeneration and Development to discharge any council function, either acting alone or in consultation with any member(s) of the executive or other officer(s), then, in addition to the Head of Regeneration and Development, each of the Planning and Development Manager and the Planning Policy and Projects Manager shall be similarly authorised to discharge the function in question.

68 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Solicitor to the Council and the Monitoring Officer presented the Review of the Constitution.

The Leader of the Council would be asked separately to approve any changes relating to executive functions, but the Council was asked to approve the Scheme of Officer Delegations in its totality in the event that there had been an erroneous misclassification of functions.

It was moved by Councillor T J Bartlett, duly seconded by Councillor O C de R Richardson, and

RESOLVED: That the proposed changes in the Review of the Constitution 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 1, and specifically those changes relating to Part 3, Responsibility for Functions, Section 1 (Responsibility for Local Choice Functions), Section 2 (Responsibility for Council Functions) and Section 6, Sub Section C (Scheme of Officer Delegations) that relate to Council functions be approved and incorporated into the Council's Constitution, issue no. 24.

69 URGENT BUSINESS TIME

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm