

## CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MINUTES of the Meeting of the CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

held on **26 FEBRUARY 2014**

**PRESENT:** Councillor N L Brown - Chairman of the Council  
Mrs M Harker - Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillors:	Miss P A Appleby	Councillors:	D W Phillips
	A K Bacon		M Prince
	S P Berry		D Spate
	M Z Bhatti		N M Rose
	R Burns-Green		J J Rush
	Mrs J A Burton		J S Ryman
	M J Cunnane		P N Shepherd
	Mrs I A Darby		C H Spruytenburg
	J L Gladwin		Mrs L M Smith
	A S Hardie		M R Smith
	G K Harris		M Stannard
	P J Hudson		N Stewert
	P M Jones		H A Trevette
	D J Lacey		M Vivis
	P E C Martin		J F Warder
	D G Meacock		C J Wertheim
	S A Patel		A P Williams

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillors A D Garnett, A J Garth, Mrs A Pirouet and F S Wilson

#### 92 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 14 January 2014 were approved as a correct record.

#### 93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members noted that the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Standards Committee and one of the Independent Persons appointed by the Council, had requested and granted dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to all Members in relation to the setting of Council Tax. It was noted that the dispensations applied for this meeting (in particular item 12 - Council Tax 2014/15) and for the remainder of the Council term (to May 2015). Councillor N Stewert advised that as he did not own property or land in the district he therefore did not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 12.

Councillor S Berry declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 7 (Cabinet Minutes) in particular Minute 103 (Solar PV for Amersham Multi-Storey Car Park Overroof) being employed in that industry, and would leave the meeting if there was a discussion on that item.

After noting that an advice note had been circulated to all Members to provide guidance on any declarations of interest in relation to item 13 (HS2), the following Members declared an interest in that item:

Councillor A Williams declared a personal and prejudicial interest being the owner of land affected by the HS2 safeguarding direction, and would leave the meeting for that item.

Councillor J Gladwin declared a personal interest being a trustee of the Chiltern Society.

Councillor J Ryman declared a personal interest being a board member of the Chiltern Conservation Board.

Councillor Mrs J Burton declared a personal interest being a member of the Chilterns Woodlands Trust.

All Members declared a personal interest in item 16, and item 17 (applicable for those Members who were also a Parish Councillor), being entitled to receive allowances. In accordance with paragraph 7(2)(c) of the Code of Conduct Members were not required to declare a prejudicial interest.

## **94 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(a) Chairman's Engagements**

A list of Engagements carried out by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council between 15 January and 26 February 2014 had been circulated.

### **(b) Chairman's Announcements**

This year's Chairman's Reception would be held on 7 March at 7.30 pm and Members were kindly asked to reply to the invitation if they had not already done so.

The Council's Environmental Health Manager was participating in this year's London Marathon to raise money for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Sponsorship forms were available in the Members' Room.

An additional meeting of the Joint Appointments & Implementation Committee would be held on 29 May at 6pm (South Bucks District Council).

### **(c) Announcements from the Leader of the Cabinet**

The Leader of the Cabinet had no announcements to make.

**(d) Announcements from the Head of Paid Service**

The Chief Executive had no announcements to make.

**(e) Petitions**

No petitions were submitted.

**95 PLANNING - 9 JANUARY 2014**

It was moved by Councillor D W Phillips, seconded by Councillor Mrs J A Burton and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Planning Committee held on 9 January 2014 be received.**

**96 JOINT APPOINTMENTS & IMPLEMENTATION - 15 JANUARY 2014**

It was moved by Councillor M Smith, seconded by Councillor Mrs I Darby and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Joint Appointments and Implementation Committee held on 15 January 2014 be received.**

**97 PERSONNEL - 16 JANUARY 2014**

It was moved by Councillor N Rose, seconded by Councillor D Phillips and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Personnel Committee held on 16 January 2014 be received.**

**98 HOUSING & PLANNING OVERVIEW - 21 JANUARY 2014**

Councillor N Stewert advised that he had submitted apologies for the Housing & Planning Overview Committee meeting and requested that this correction be recorded.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J Burton, seconded by Councillor J Wertheim and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Housing and Planning Overview Committee held on 21 January 2014 be received.**

**99 COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW - 22 JANUARY 2014**

It was moved by Councillor J Ryman, seconded by Councillor P Jones and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Community and Environment Overview Committee held on 22 January 2014 be received.**

**100 PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES OVERVIEW - 28 JANUARY 2014**

It was moved by Councillor C Spruytenburg, seconded by Councillor D Phillips and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Performance and Resources Overview Committee held on 28 January 2014 be received.**

**101 PLANNING - 30 JANUARY 2014**

It was moved by Councillor D Phillips, seconded by Councillor Mrs J Burton and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Planning Committee held on 30 January 2014 be received.**

**102 JOINT APPOINTMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION - 5 FEBRUARY 2014**

It was moved by Councillor M Smith, seconded by Councillor D Spate and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Joint Appointments and Implementation Committee held on 5 February 2014 be received.**

**103 PERSONNEL - 6 FEBRUARY 2014**

It was moved by Councillor N Rose, seconded by Councillor D Phillips and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Personnel Committee held on 6 February 2014 be received.**

*Note: The adoption of the recommendation in Minute 27 – Pay Policy Statement 2014/15 - was taken with Item 14.*

#### **104 LICENSING & REGULATION - 13 FEBRUARY 2014**

In response to a question, the Chief Executive advised that the Minutes of the Licensing and Regulation Committee had been circulated separately to the Revised Agenda.

It was moved by Councillor N Shepherd, seconded by Councillor M Vivis and

#### **RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Licensing and Regulation Committee held on 13 February 2014 be received, and the recommendations in Minute 14 – Mobile Homes Act 2013 – be adopted.**

#### **105 CONSTITUTION REVIEW - 18 FEBRUARY 2014**

It was moved by Councillor N Rose, seconded by Councillor D Spate and

#### **RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Constitution Review Committee held on 18 February 2014 be received, and the recommendation in Minute 8 – Recorded Votes at Budget Meetings – be adopted.**

#### **106 CABINET MINUTES**

It was moved by Councillor N Rose, seconded by Councillor M Smith and

#### **RESOLVED –**

**That the Minutes and Resolutions of the Cabinet held on 11 February 2014 be received and the recommendations contained in Minutes 89 and 103 be adopted.**

*Note: The adoption of the recommendations in Minutes 87 (Budget 2014/15) and 92 (HS2 Update) were taken with items 12 and 13 respectively.*

#### **107 CABINET REPORTS**

##### **a) Councillor M Smith – Aylesbury Crematorium**

Councillor M Smith reported that the Chilterns Crematorium Joint Committee, a joint partnership with Aylesbury Vale District Council and Wycombe District Council, had recently secured an option on a site for a new Crematorium in Berton, Aylesbury. This follows an extensive site search carried out over a number of years. The proposed new Crematorium was required in order to help increase capacity.

## **b) Councillor P E C Martin – Joint Waste Collection Contract**

Councillor P Martin provided an update on the performance of the joint waste collection contract, and advised that the previous week had seen the lowest number of missed collections since the roll out of the contract. Recycling levels were continuing to improve, with over 11,000 tonnes of waste having been recycled or composted in the third quarter of 2013. The Council was on track to reach its target of recycling 60% of waste by 2015. The next stage of the programme involved rolling out the new service to communal areas which would be rolled out from April 2015.

## **c) Councillor P Hudson – Free Health Fair**

A free Health Fair would be held on Wednesday 12 March, 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm at Amersham Free Church. Residents would have an opportunity to receive a free mini health check and find out more about local services. A free guide to services in Amersham would be available at the Health Fair, which follows the launch of a similar guide for Chesham. A guide to services in Chalfont St Giles was being prepared and would be available in March.

## **d) Councillors N Rose and Mrs I A Darby – Flooding**

Councillor N Rose reported on the flooding that had occurred at the beginning of February which had affected a number of businesses and homes in the district. Thanks were expressed to the Council's teams of staff that had worked hard, including during the weekend, to hold back water where they could and provide support to residents. Particular thanks were expressed to individual officers from the following sections: Health and Housing; Facilities and Customer Services; Engineering; Environmental Health, and Communications.

Councillor Mrs I Darby endorsed the thanks expressed to staff and added that the Council continued to monitor the situation and work in collaboration with other agencies to deal with further emergencies. The Council had distributed approximately 1,600 Floodsax (modern sandbags) and had opened the Council offices on a Saturday morning to enable residents to collect them. Information was provided to residents via the website, social media, and out of hour's telephone message service. Specific advice was provided to those most at risk. Officers responded to calls of potential flooding and also visited areas identified at risk.

Residents throughout the district had been affected, though residents in Old Amersham and Chalfont St Peter had been particularly badly affected. Chalfont St Peter had experienced an incident involving sewage in the high street which had been resolved by joint working with partner agencies. The swift action of officers and other agencies had also averted a potentially serious pollution incident in Old Amersham. Residents were particularly grateful of the information provided to them and also the ability to speak to people about the problems they had experienced.

Councillor N Brown advised that positive comments had been received from the public regarding advice provided by Environmental Health officers. The Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service were also thanked for their swift

response to the flooding. The County Council's Local Area Technicians were praised for their work, in particular the clearing of drain holes which had been carried out as part of the Surface Water Management Plan for Chesham.

Councillor Mrs M Harker reiterated the thanks expressed to staff and partner agencies and advised that the public were particularly grateful that the council offices were open on a Saturday and that Floodsax were made available.

#### **e) Councillor G Harris – Delivery Development Plan Document**

Following approval by Cabinet on the 11 February 2014 the Council was now consulting on the Submission version of the Delivery Development Plan Document (DDPD) which would build upon the strategic policies contained within the adopted Core Strategy. Hard copies of the document had been circulated to all Members who were invited to look through the document carefully. The consultation would close on Friday 4 April 2014 at 5.00 pm.

Councillor P Jones stated that he has previously advised against the proposals relating to GB4 and GB5. Councillor Jones referred to the consultation feedback form for the DDPD, in particular questions 7 and 9, and stated that the document was unclear. Councillor Jones acknowledged that the form was prescribed by the Department for Communities and Local Government, but requested that the Council took steps to review the form and also extend the consultation. In response, Councillor Harris advised that he would ask officers to look into the scope for reviewing the form as a matter of urgency, but confirmed that it would not be possible to extend the consultation. Councillor N Brown suggested that it may be useful to provide a summary of all the changes made to the DDPD.

Councillor D Phillips advised that a document showing a summary of changes made to the DDPD would be quite large, and then endorsed the comments made by Councillor Jones regarding the DPPD consultation form and the proposals regarding GB4 and GB5. Members noted that an important Planning Seminar for all Members would be held on Tuesday 4 March at 6.00 pm to provide information about the implications of the DDPD when taking decisions on planning applications. It was important for Members to think about the impact on their ward and also the district overall.

Councillor Rose advised that officers were asked to carefully consider the consultation. Councillor Rose also shared the concerns made regarding GB4 and GB5. It was advised however that in light of the comments from the Inspector the Council had no alternative, and that officers had done the best they could in the circumstances. Tribute was paid to the offices involved for the enormous amount of work involved in the DDPD.

Councillor D Meacock stated that the National Trust had stated that the current housing policies were already having an effect on the Green Belt. In response, Councillor Rose advised that he had raised this issue at a recent meeting with Nick Boles MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Planning.

## **f) Councillor N Rose – HS2**

Members noted that a joint response to the Environmental Statement (ES) consultation had been prepared with the County Council. The Council would also be submitting its own response. Councillor Rose expressed his thanks to all the staff involved in preparing the document within the Government's limited timescale. Particular thanks were expressed to the Senior Environmental Health Officer, Senior Solicitor, and Principal Strategic Environment Officer.

Councillor Rose advised that the HS2 Major Projects Authority Assessment Review report had still not been made publically available and that requests were continuing to be made for this to be published.

Councillor Rose stated that there were numerous errors, omissions and inaccuracies contained in the ES consultation document produced by HS2. It was also pointed out that 49 ancient woodlands would be affected by HS2, rather than the 19 referred to by HS2.

The Environment Audit Committee (House of Commons Select Committee) would be launching an inquiry on environmental protection in Phase 1 of HS2. This would review a number of locations, but would not include Chiltern AONB. The Council would continue to oppose HS2, but it was recognised that the Council must now focus on mitigation and petitioning.

Councillor Berry advised that he had not received a copy of the latest version of the ES consultation response and expressed concern regarding the proposed station at Aylesbury which had appeared late in the day. An assurance was requested that the proposal would not be included in the ES consultation response. The source of the proposal was discussed and it was noted that the proposal had been reconsidered and quickly abandoned. Councillor Rose shared Councillor Berry's concerns regarding the proposal and confirmed that this had been deleted from the ES consultation response. It was noted that the ES consultation response would be made available on the Council's website.

*Note: Councillor Mrs M Harker left the meeting at 7.31 pm.*

## **108 QUESTIONS**

Councillor C Spruytenburg asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Community regarding a donation to the Chesham Town Bell Appeal.

Councillor P Hudson advised that no funding was available to support this project in the current financial year. However, this was a prime candidate for the community grants fund and applications for this could be submitted in April. The Community Team had also been asked to support the work and additional support may also be available from other organisations such as Community Impact Bucks.



Councillor Spruytenburg detailed how much had already been raised by the appeal and stressed the timescales involved. Councillor Mrs P Appleby suggested that the Council could provide a loan to support the project.

## **109 JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

There were no reports.

## **110 MOTIONS**

In accordance with Rule 10 of the Council Procedural Rules, the following Motion had been submitted by and was consequently moved by Councillor A Hardie, and seconded by Councillor N Rose:

“Recent disastrous events, principally in the South West of England due to exceptional weather conditions, have left road and rail infrastructure, villages, farmlands, rivers, bridges and coastal defences completely devastated and this Council extends its deepest sympathy to those affected and to the communities of the Thames Valley.

The Government needs to allocate huge financial resource to the restoration of all these affected areas and it would be obscene if funding for HS2 were to take precedence. The Treasury’s financial requirements of the Environment Agency for an 8:1 Benefit Cost Ratio before approval for any major capital expenditure compared with the BCR for HS2 of 1:1.4 is beyond comprehension.

This Council calls upon the Government to reconsider the proposed investment in HS2 which adversely affects this and many other communities and divert a substantial part of the colossal funding to such infrastructure repairs and rebuilding which will help the shattered communities rebuild their lives and thus provide a real and lasting regeneration of the economy.”

Councillor A Hardie explained the Motion to those present and stated that a letter should also be sent to the Prime Minister and relevant Government departments, including the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Councillor Rose referred to the devastating effects of the flooding, particularly in the West Country, and stated that it was important to encourage Ministers to support regeneration, rather than pursue HS2.

In accordance with Rule 12.6 of the Council Procedure Rules, Councillor S Berry moved an amendment to the Motion to replace the word “reconsider” with “scrap”. This was seconded by Councillor P Jones.

Councillors A Hardie, N Rose, N Stewert and R Burns-Green then spoke against the amendment suggesting that the original wording of the Motion had been chosen very carefully and that the amendment may risk contempt from the Government.

Councillor Phillips suggested that the word “abandon” may be a suitable alternative since the area would continue to be blighted if HS2 was deferred.

Councillor Bhatti spoke in favour of the amendment and suggested that the amendment was justified by the huge costs to the Council arising from HS2.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost by the Chairman (For 9; Against 23).

There followed debate on the substantive Motion.

Councillor D Meacock stated that he fully supported the Motion, but was concerned that it was ultra vires since it referred to areas outside the district that were flooded. Councillor Meacock then referred to the effects of flooding in areas such as Chalfont St Peter and Chalfont St Giles and felt that local agencies should be urgently held to account regarding their inaction. Councillor Meacock recognised that flood defences were expensive, but advised that greater flood protection was required immediately in order to protect areas in the district and in the UK in the future. Councillor Meacock then referred to the budget for HS2 and foreign aid, and stated that those budgets would be better spent on flood defences.

Councillor Mrs I A Darby responded by advising that partner agencies acted in response to problems experienced in Chalfont St Peter, and as a result the problems were resolved. It was felt therefore that Thames Water did not need to be called to appear before Members, but had been requested to address the next meeting of the Community & Environment Overview Committee.

Councillor Miss P Appleby then moved that the question be now put.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried by the Chairman, following which it was

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Motion be carried.**

*Note: Councillor M Bhatti left the meeting at 7.45 pm.*

## **111 COUNCIL TAX 2014/15**

Councillor Rose spoke about this year’s budget which had been one of significant challenge; there had been a 13% reduction in Government funding and there were greater demands for local authorities. It was felt that the budget would put the Council on a firm foundation for the future.

A summary of this year’s budget was provided which included: freezing the district’s Council Tax precept, maintaining a sound level of reserves, continued partnership working, supporting affordable housing, taking the local development plan forward, continuing to invest to save and continuing to oppose HS2 and pursue the best outcomes for residents. Joint working with South Bucks on shared services and the joint waste service with Wycombe

had also helped to reduced costs. Revising the Council Tax Support Scheme had been a major challenge and thanks were expressed to Councillor Mrs I Darby who had led this work.

Councillor Rose then summarised by stating that the budget would stand the Council in good stead to focus on the priorities. The budget had involved a lot of hard work and thanks were expressed to all those involved including Cabinet colleagues, in particular Councillor Stannard who had led the budget review, and officers.

Councillor N Stewert endorsed the Council freezing its Council Tax precept, but expressed disappointed that some of the parishes had increased their Council Tax precept. In response to a number of questions raised by Councillor Stewert, Councillor Rose then advised that he was unable to confirm if any additional financial support would be made available by the Government in future. It was also confirmed that particular attention had been paid to ensure that the calculations for the parish precepts were correct.

Councillor P Jones thanked Councillor Rose for his speech. It was acknowledged that savings had been made and it was highlighted that this had been done with the support from the Liberal Democrat Group. Concern was raised about relying too much on the continuation of the New Homes Bonus Grant.

In order to comply with the Government's new requirements regarding recorded votes at budget setting meetings, Councillor Rose requested a recorded vote in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.4.

It was then moved by Councillor N Rose, and seconded by Councillor M Stannard.

On being put to the recorded vote the recommendations were agreed, with the votes being cast as follows

For (34): Councillors Miss P Appleby, A K Bacon, S Berry, N L Brown, R Burns-Green, Mrs J A Burton, M J Cunnane, Mrs I A Darby, A Gladwin, A S Hardie, G K Harris, P J Hudson, P M Jones, D J Lacey, P E C Martin, D G Meacock, S A Patel, D W Phillips, M Prince, N M Rose, J Rush, J S Ryman, P N Shepherd, Mrs L Smith, M R Smith, D Spate, C H Spruytenburg, M Stannard, N Stewert, H A Trevette, M Vivis, J F Warder, C J Wertheim, and A Williams.

Against (0)

Abstained (0)

## **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That it be noted that the following amounts for 2014/15 have been determined under delegated authority and in accordance with regulations made under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**

- a) 42,809.31 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year.
- b) The amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amount of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items (ie Parish precepts) relate, are shown below.

<b>Council Tax Base 2014/15</b>	
<b>Amersham</b>	<b>6,556.52</b>
<b>Ashley Green</b>	<b>443.69</b>
<b>Chalfont St Giles</b>	<b>3,087.76</b>
<b>Chalfont St Peter</b>	<b>6,221.97</b>
<b>Chartridge</b>	<b>819.98</b>
<b>Chenies</b>	<b>128.39</b>
<b>Chesham</b>	<b>7,681.21</b>
<b>Chesham Bois</b>	<b>1,635.33</b>
<b>Cholesbury</b>	<b>492.47</b>
<b>Coleshill</b>	<b>323.28</b>
<b>Great Missenden</b>	<b>4,827.70</b>
<b>Latimer &amp; Ley Hill</b>	<b>504.23</b>
<b>Little Chalfont</b>	<b>3,087.86</b>
<b>Little Missenden</b>	<b>3,099.44</b>
<b>Penn</b>	<b>2,327.46</b>
<b>Seer Green</b>	<b>1,179.89</b>
<b>The Lee</b>	<b>392.13</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,809.31</b>

2. That the Council calculates the following amounts for 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011):
- a) £38,447,758 being the aggregate expenditure which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act (including the General Fund and Parish Precepts).
- b) £29,062,813 being the aggregate income which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- c) £9,384,945 as its council tax requirement for the year including Parish Precepts, being the amount by which the aggregate expenditure at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate income at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act.

- d) £219.23 as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year, being the council tax requirement at 2(c), divided by the Council Tax Base for the year at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act.
- e) £2,427,149 being the aggregate of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (ie Parish precepts, there being no other special items).
- f) £162.53 as the basic amount of its Council Tax for dwellings in its area, excluding Parish Precepts, being the amount at 2(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(e) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act.
- g) The amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(f) above the amounts of the Parish Precepts for the relevant Parish divided in each case by the Council Tax Base for the Parish at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in each Parish is.

2014/15 Basic Council Tax		
	Parish Amount	CDC + Parish Amount
Amersham	76.00	238.53
Ashley Green	34.71	197.24
Chalfont St Giles	58.51	221.04
Chalfont St Peter	46.60	209.13
Chartridge	11.92	174.45
Chenies	46.10	208.63
Chesham	102.27	264.80
Chesham Bois	29.57	192.10
Cholesbury	19.67	182.20
Coleshill	24.45	186.98
Great Missenden	37.14	199.67
Latimer & Ley Hill	21.48	184.01
Little Chalfont	66.42	228.95
Little Missenden	25.25	187.78
Penn	22.51	185.04
Seer Green	35.42	197.95
The Lee	20.25	182.78

- h) The amounts given by multiplying the basic amounts for each Parish 2(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

3. That it be noted for the year 2014/15 the main precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with s40 of the Local Government Act 1992.

Band	Bucks County Council Precept £	Bucks & Milton Keynes Fire Authority Precept £	Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley £	Total Preceptors £
A	729.27	39.42	107.01	875.70
B	850.81	45.99	124.84	1,021.64
C	972.36	52.56	142.68	1,167.60
D	1,093.90	59.13	160.51	1,313.54
E	1,336.99	72.27	196.18	1,605.44
F	1,580.08	85.41	231.85	1,897.34
G	1,823.17	98.55	267.52	2,189.24
H	2,187.80	118.26	321.02	2,627.08

4. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts of the District's and preceptors' requirements, in accordance with s30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets amounts of the council tax for the year 2014/15 for each category of dwellings as follows.

Band	District & Parishes Council Tax £	Preceptors £	Total 2014/15 Council Tax £
A	146.15	875.70	1,021.85
B	170.51	1,021.64	1,192.15
C	194.87	1,167.60	1,362.47
D	219.23	1,313.54	1,532.77
E	267.95	1,605.44	1,873.39
F	316.67	1,897.34	2,214.01
G	365.38	2,189.24	2,554.62
H	438.46	2,627.08	3,065.54

The council tax for each category of dwelling by parish is shown in below.

TOWN/PARISH	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amersham	1,034.72	1,207.16	1,379.63	1,552.07	1,896.98	2,241.88	2,586.79	3,104.14
Ashley Green	1,007.19	1,175.05	1,342.92	1,510.78	1,846.51	2,182.24	2,517.97	3,021.56
Chalfont St Giles	1,023.06	1,193.56	1,364.08	1,534.58	1,875.60	2,216.62	2,557.64	3,069.16
Chalfont St Peter	1,015.12	1,184.30	1,353.49	1,522.67	1,861.04	2,199.42	2,537.79	3,045.34
Chartridge	992.00	1,157.32	1,322.67	1,487.99	1,818.66	2,149.32	2,479.99	2,975.98
Chenies	1,014.79	1,183.91	1,353.05	1,522.17	1,860.43	2,198.69	2,536.96	3,044.34
Chesham	1,052.23	1,227.60	1,402.98	1,578.34	1,929.08	2,279.83	2,630.57	3,156.68
Chesham Bois	1,003.77	1,171.05	1,338.36	1,505.64	1,840.23	2,174.82	2,509.41	3,011.28
Cholesbury	997.17	1,163.35	1,329.56	1,495.74	1,828.13	2,160.52	2,492.91	2,991.48
Coleshill	1,000.35	1,167.07	1,333.80	1,500.52	1,833.97	2,167.42	2,500.87	3,001.04
Great Missenden	1,008.81	1,176.94	1,345.08	1,513.21	1,849.48	2,185.75	2,522.02	3,026.42
Latimer & Ley Hill	998.37	1,164.76	1,331.16	1,497.55	1,830.34	2,163.13	2,495.92	2,995.10
Little Chalfont	1,028.33	1,199.71	1,371.11	1,542.49	1,885.27	2,228.05	2,570.82	3,084.98
Little Missenden	1,000.89	1,167.69	1,334.52	1,501.32	1,834.95	2,168.58	2,502.21	3,002.64
Penn	999.06	1,165.56	1,332.08	1,498.58	1,831.60	2,164.62	2,497.64	2,997.16
Seer Green	1,007.67	1,175.60	1,343.56	1,511.49	1,847.38	2,183.27	2,519.16	3,022.98
The Lee	997.55	1,163.80	1,330.07	1,496.32	1,828.84	2,161.36	2,493.87	2,992.64

5. Determine that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 is not excessive, in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, [and thus there is no need to hold a Council Tax referendum].
6. To approve the introduction of a six week minimum occupation period before a new council tax discount can apply with effect from 1st April 2014.
7. That the recommendations in Minute 87 - Budget 2014/15 - of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 February 2014 be adopted.

## 112 HS2

On 11 February 2014, the Cabinet received a report detailing the outcome of the legal challenge, the response to the Environment Statement and petitioning issues and implications for resources. The Cabinet had recommended that the Council oppose the Hybrid Bill and earmark additional funding to support the petitioning process. As such, Members were now asked to approve authority to oppose the High Speed Rail Hybrid Bill, and a simple majority (21 Members) of all Members was required in order to pass this resolution.

Councillor S Berry asked for an indication of the costs to the Council arising from the various HS2 items of work where costs were to be shared with other external bodies. Councillor N Rose confirmed that it was impossible to know the total costs to the Council until the process had been fully completed, but

advised that so far contributions of approximately £45,000 had been provided from other organisations.

Councillor D Meacock referred to the scale of the County Council's budget in comparison to that of Council, and asked why the County Council's level of financial contribution had been so modest. Councillor Rose advised that the Council had requested financial contributions. The level of contribution was however a matter for each Council to decide and that not all of the County would be affected by HS2 to the same extent. The County Council had however made significant contributions via the HS2 opposition group 51M, and although the County had not participated in the legal challenge to the Supreme Court, and instead focused on mitigation, contributions had been made to support the work associated with Council's mitigation activities.

It was then moved by Councillor Rose, and seconded by Councillor M Stannard, and on being put to the vote it was agreed (For: 31; Against: 0), and

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the issues raised in the report as matters of concern for the Council be noted and that these reflect current thinking which will be developed by the officers/experts in the lead up to the submission of the petition to the Select Committee in April/May 2014.**
- 2. That the Council resolves under Section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 that it is expedient for the Council to oppose the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Bill deposited in the Session of Parliament 2013-14.**
- 3. That the Council authorises the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to take all necessary steps to carry resolution 2 above into effect including approval of the contents of the petition, affixing the Common Seal to any necessary documents and authorising Sharpe Pritchard (Parliamentary Agents) to sign the Petition of the Council against the Bill.**
- 4. That the recommendations in Minute 92 – HS2 Update - of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 February 2014 be adopted.**

*Note: Councillor A Williams left the meeting for the discussion on the above item.*

## **113 PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

Members were asked to approve the pay policy statement 2014/15 which had been considered by the Personnel Committee held on 6 February 2014. It was moved by Councillor N Rose, and seconded by Councillor M Smith, and



**RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the 2014/15 Pay Policy be approved.**
- 2. That the recommendation in Minute 27 – Pay Policy Statement 2014/15 - of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 6 February 2014 be adopted.**

**114 CHILTERN HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE POLICY**

Members were asked to approve the amended Chiltern District Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy. It was moved by Councillor N Rose, and seconded by Councillor Mrs I Darby, and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Council adopts the recommendations in Minute 5 - Chiltern Hackney Carriage And Private Hire Policy - of the Licensing and Regulation Committee held on 13 June 2013 and approves the Chiltern District Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy to apply from 1 March 2014.**

**115 CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES FOR 2014/15**

At the Council meeting held on 14 January 2014, Members agreed to defer consideration of the Chiltern District Council Scheme of Allowances to provide more time for Members to consider the Panel's recommendations. Since the last meeting, officers had received a proposal from the Conservative Group. As such, the Council was now asked to agree a Scheme of Allowances, based on either the Independent Panel's recommendation or the Conservative Group proposal.

Councillor N Rose advised that the Conservative Group had put forward a Scheme that was fair and realistic, and moved that the Scheme contained in appendix 3 be agreed by the Council. This was seconded by M Councillor Stannard.

Councillor D Meacock spoke in favour of the Scheme based on the recommendations of the Independent Panel. It was felt that Members should accept the Panel's recommendations which were based on research, rather than adopt a Scheme proposed by Members which increased the total cost of allowances.

In response to a question from Councillor S Berry it was confirmed that the total cost of the Conservative Group proposal was £8,303 greater than that of the Independent Panel's recommendations. Councillor Berry stated that the increase could not be justified, and suggested that the £100 increase in the Basic Allowance would not encourage younger residents to become Councillors, and that this could instead be put towards a community grant.

Councillor P Jones stated that the Constitution provided checks and balances between the various Committee roles, such as Vice-Chairman, and that it was important to reflect this in the Scheme of Allowances. As such, Councillor Jones moved an amendment to the Conservative Group proposal that the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committees be shared with the Vice-Chairman on a proportion of 25% for the Vice-Chairman, and 75% for the Chairman. Councillor C Spruytenburg seconded the amendment.

On being put to the vote, the Chairman declared the amendment lost. There was then a discussion on the substantive Motion.

Councillor A Bacon opined that the Council should respect the recommendations of the Independent Panel.

Councillor R Burns-Green spoke in favour of the Conservative Group proposal and argued in support of a per meeting SRA for the Chairman of those Committees where additional work and responsibility was involved. It was highlighted that this proposal was simply restoring an arrangement that was in place previously and was sensible and reasonable.

Councillor Stannard opined that it was right for the Council to adopt the recommendations of the Conservative Group, as it had done in previous years, because it was reasonable to do so. This would put right errors contained in the Panel's recommendations, such as reducing the SRA for the Chairman of the Council which was not considered justified. The Conservative Group's proposal represented a modest £332 increase in comparison to the total cost of the current scheme.

On being put to the vote the it was agreed (25 For; 6 Against), and

**RESOLVED –**

**That a Scheme of Members Allowances for 2014/15 be agreed as detailed in Appendix 3 (Conservative Group proposal).**

#### **116 SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS FOR 2014/15**

It was moved by Councillor N Rose, and seconded by Councillor M Stannard, and

**RESOLVED –**

**That the recommendations of the Independent Review of Members Allowances Panel regarding the Scheme of Allowances for 2014/15 for Town and Parish Councils be forwarded to Town and Parish Councils.**

## **117 FINANCE SHARED SERVICE REVIEW**

At a meeting on 4 February 2014, the Chiltern and South Bucks Joint Committee considered the Business Case for a Joint Finance Service, and endorsed all of the recommendations contained in the report.

As such, full Council were invited to formally adopt the recommendations. It was moved by Councillor N M Rose, seconded by Councillor M Stannard and

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the case for a joint Finance service is proven and that Chiltern District Council proceed to establish a joint Finance service with South Bucks District Council.**
- 2. That subject to consultation with staff and a formal agreement between the Councils, the services of staff in Chiltern District Council's Finance service be put at the disposal of South Bucks District Council under Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 so they can work across the two local authority areas.**
- 3. That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Leader and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to finalise the terms of any legal documentation required to give effect to resolution 2 above.**

## **118 SHARED SERVICE REVIEW OF PARKING SERVICES**

At a meeting on 4 February 2014, the Chiltern and South Bucks Joint Committee considered the Business Case for a Joint Parking Service, and endorsed all of the recommendations contained in the report.

As such, full Council were invited to formally adopt the recommendations. It was moved by Councillor N M Rose, seconded by Councillor M Smith and

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1. That the case for a joint Parking service is proven and that Chiltern District Council proceed to establish a joint Parking service with South Bucks District Council.**
- 2. That subject to consultation with staff and a formal agreement between the Councils, the services of staff in Chiltern District Council's Parking service be put at the disposal of South Bucks District Council under Section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972 so they can work across the two local authority areas.**
- 3. That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Leader and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to finalise the terms of any legal documentation required to give effect to resolution 2 above.**

**The meeting ended at 8.37 pm**