

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the COUNCIL held as a Remote Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, 24 February 2021.

PRESENT: Councillor J W Davies – Chairman.

Councillors T D Alban, B S Banks, L A Besley,
Mrs M L Beuttell, G J Bull, S M Burton, E R Butler,
S Bywater, J R Clarke, Mrs S Conboy, J C Cooper-Marsh,
S J Corney, S J Criswell, D B Dew, Ms A Diaz,
Mrs A Dickinson, R Fuller, I D Gardener, Dr P L R Gaskin,
D A Giles, Mrs S A Giles, J A Gray, M S Grice, K P Gulson,
M J Humphrey, Dr N Johnson, Mrs P A Jordan, P Kadewere,
D N Keane, C J Maslen, H V Masson, L W McGuire,
D J Mead, J P Morris, J Neish, J M Palmer, K I Prentice,
A Roberts, T D Sanderson, Mrs S Smith, D Terry,
R G Tuplin, D M Tysoe, S Wakeford, R J West and
Mrs S R Wilson.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs P E Shrapnel and D J Wells.

39 COUNCILLOR JILL TAVENER

The Chairman referred to some sad news regarding the recent death of Councillor Jill Tavener who had passed away after an illness in February 2021. The Council then observed a minute's silence in memory of their former colleague.

Following which the Executive Leader and the Leaders of the HDC Independent Group, Liberal Democrat Group and the Labour Group paid tribute to the contributions which Councillor Tavener had made to the District Council and the communities which she had served. Individual tributes were also made by Councillors R J West, T D Alban, G J Bull and D A Giles.

(At 18.05pm during this item, Councillor D Mead joined the meeting).

(At 18.12pm during this item, Councillor B S Banks joined the meeting).

(At 18.16pm during this item, Councillor J C Cooper-Marsh joined the meeting).

40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 16th December 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

41 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

42 CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that he had no physical engagements to report owing to the Coronavirus pandemic. Regrettably, the Council had been unable to mark the Holocaust Memorial Day this year, an event which the Council has been holding for the past 10 years. It was hoped that it would be possible to resume marking this event from January 2022.

43 2021/22 BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23 TO 2025/26

In conjunction with a report by the Chief Finance Officer (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), Councillor J A Gray, Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources, presented to Members the 2021/22 Revenue Budget, the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2022/23 to 2025/26, the Fees and Charges schedule for 2021/22, the Treasury Management Strategy, the Capital Strategy, the Investment Strategy, the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2021/22 and other associated matters for the Council's consideration and approval.

In accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council also considered proposals for levels of Council Tax in 2021/22 for various parts of Huntingdonshire District.

With the assistance of a power-point presentation (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), Councillor Gray proceeded to set out the guiding principles which had been used to put together the Budget for 2021/22. He then went on to outline some of the highlights within the proposed Revenue Budget which included the expected income pressures, the retention of all key services with investment, additional resources to drive economic development and growth, the accommodation of pressure from Covid-related growth and the receipt of ongoing Government support.

Members were reminded that the Budget for 2020/21 was set at £17,688M on a net basis and the forecast outturn was expected at £18,486M. The proposed Budget for 2021/22 included a further 3,684M of growth bids which almost entirely related to the impact of the pandemic. Work had also been undertaken to identify savings and efficiencies and there had been a number of inflation adjustments. The proposed Budget for 2020/21 appears at 20,686M, a picture which did not seem possible in the early part of the year and reflected the hard work which had been undertaken internally and the support from Central Government. A detailed impact of the changes in the Budget from 2020/21 to 2021/22 broken down by service area was provided to members for clarification.

With regard to Capital Expenditure for 2021/22, Councillor Gray went on to outline some of the highlights in this area which included the impact of Covid on the delivery of the programme in the current year, a new focus on town centre improvement plans and a wider focus on seeking more grant funding to lessen the burden on the Council's MRP.

In terms of Reserve Policies, the Council was in a strong position compared to other Cambridgeshire Authorities because of the decisions which had been

made over the previous 10 years and a strong level of usable reserves in comparison to other Cambridgeshire Authorities. The Council had also some years ago established a Budget Surplus Reserve to further build resilience with other earmarked reserves.. It was proposed that the 2021/22 Budget would add £0.76M to reserves before utilising 17% of usable reserves over the course of the period of the MTFs. At the end of this period it was proposed that the use of Reserves would fall to £0.4M per annum which would last the Council in the region of a further 36 years. A new risk-based General Fund Reserve formula had also been introduced in the proposed Budget which it was intended to carry forward.

Turning to Funding Sources for 2021/22, Councillor Gray explained that an assumption of a flat NNDR contribution had been made and it had been decided to divert £2.0M from the New Homes Bonus into the Revenue Budget for this extraordinary year. The Commercial Investment Strategy was yielding £4.8M income into the Budget for 2021/22 and it was anticipated that the fair funding adjustment would have a growing effect on the Authority over the life of the MTFs. An assumption of a slower growth in the Tax Base than originally had been planned was also included due to increased Council Tax Support and a slower build rate and it was proposed to freeze Council Tax for 2021/22 due to the ongoing financial uncertainties for Huntingdonshire residents. A detailed breakdown of the funding which made up the £21,462M Budget requirement was provided to Members at this point.

Attention was then drawn to the Council's Strategy for Treasury and Capital Management for the forthcoming year, as set out in pages 125 to 176 of the Council Agenda papers. Members were reminded that the Strategy was required to be approved by full Council and sets out the way the financial assets of the Council will be protected, together with liquidity and yield considerations and interest rates. The Strategy also outlines the Council's Minimum Revenue Policy.

Finally, Councillor Gray extended his thanks to all Officers and Executive Councillors who had been involved in putting together the Budget for 2021/22, with particular reference being made to the Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant Director of Corporate Resources. He reiterated that the robustness of the proposed Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy had been confirmed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

Councillor Gray concluded by reminding the Council that this was a surplus Budget for people, for growth and for jobs against the ongoing backdrop of the Coronavirus pandemic. He also paid tribute to the resilience and the high performance of Huntingdonshire District Council as an Authority during the preceding twelve months.

Councillor Gray moved the recommendations which were duly seconded by the Executive Leader Councillor R Fuller who reserved his right to speak.

In response and on behalf of the HDC Independent Group, the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group, Councillor T D Sanderson thanked Councillor Gray for his presentation and the contributions by the Chief Finance Officer and her finance team for their work in putting this Budget together, together with the efforts of Executive Councillors and the Overview and Scrutiny Panels within this process.

Councillor Sanderson reported that the Independent Group would not be submitting an alternative Budget this year. Given the fluid situation it was not practical or realistic to make further demands on Officer time and it was his view that residents would like the Groups to work collaboratively as far as possible.

Councillor Sanderson reiterated that historically Cambridgeshire has always been underfunded by Central Government and he was pleased that this had not been the case this year. He made reference to being in tranche 4 of the income compensation scheme and the allocation of funds to Huntingdonshire to tackle the problems which had been faced as part of the pandemic. As a result, Huntingdonshire were in a stronger position than other local authorities even in more prosperous parts of the Country.

Councillor Sanderson referred to the savings in the proposed Budget and the fact that Council would continue to provide key services to residents. Councillor Sanderson was pleased to see the recent announcement on Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) and he credited the administration for taking that forward. In response to his question regarding future funding, Councillor Gray re-iterated that CPE continued to be a priority for the administration and the funding allocated within the Capital Budget would be carried over in the Budget for 2021/22, once the outturn for 2020/21 had been completed.

Looking to the future, Councillor Sanderson questioned whether consideration could be given to the better use of the Council's buildings and reiterated that the green agenda would become a bigger factor in the months to come as the Government seeks to phase out petrol and diesel cars by 2030. He also referred to the effect that climate change had had on flooding, which the Council would be dealing with through its planning system in due course.

In concluding his remarks, Councillor Sanderson recognised that there were significant factors outside of the Council's control but he hoped that the District Council Leisure Centres would open, Huntingdonshire's high streets would re-open and that the next financial year would be a far calmer one for everyone.

On behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor S Conboy took the opportunity to respond to the Budget and to thank everyone who had worked to produce it in a year which had been far from routine. Councillor Conboy made reference to the comments which she had made at the Council meeting last year with regards to the Council's level and use of reserves at which point she had no idea as to what was to come. Councillor Conboy was pleased to see a balanced budget before the Council this evening, however she reiterated her opinion regarding the use of Council reserves.

Looking to the future, Councillor Conboy suggested that the Council would need to ensure that income streams enabled the Authority to continue to deliver those key services yet also be creative about some of our future financial opportunities. She also reiterated that it may become a reality that some of the services which the Council delivers are no longer viable in their current form. Having said that she referred to the fact that adversity often produces the greatest opportunities and thanked the Executive Leader and those responsible for putting the budget together in these difficult times.

Councillor Conboy went on to explain that the Liberal Democrats would not be opposing the proposed Budget on this occasion. Whilst it may have been better to take bolder steps at an earlier opportunity, the public need their essential services at this time and it was pleasing that the District Council would continue to be here to provide them.

In concluding her remarks, Councillor Conboy enquired as to whether the need to increase Council tax during the MTFs may need to be reviewed if there were any further unforeseen circumstances as a result of the pandemic. In response to which the Executive Councillor explained that 2.6% had been stated as the average council tax increase over the life of the MTFs although each year would need to be taken as it comes going forward, given the uncertainty at the current time.

On behalf of the Labour Group, Councillor P Kadeware expressed his thanks to the Executive Councillor for his presentation and the work undertaken by all those preparing the Budget in the most turbulent of financial circumstances. The Labour Group agreed that trying to focus the future much beyond the coming year is a false errand given the uncertainty of the economic climate. He explained that the Labour Group were not unduly concerned with the deficit implications in the medium term although this would need to be monitored as it developed in future budgets. The proposed use of reserves to help tide the Council and its services through the coming year was also considered to be a sensible decision. The Group welcomed the emphasis on improving the Council's financial position through supporting local growth which is a political priority shared by all and in the circumstances the relatively limited change represented by this budget is also pragmatic. The Labour Group were content to support it and would be voting accordingly.

In concluding his remarks, Councillor Kadeware reiterated that the Council's most important assets were its employees and the Group had been reassured from other discussions that the Executive Councillor also held this view.

With regard to the comments which had been made regarding the use of the Council's reserves, Councillor Gray sought to clarify the position to the Council. In doing, so he reiterated that at no point during the previous year did the Council's level of reserves drop below 15 percent and in fact the Council were carrying many millions of pounds more than that number. He reiterated that during the last year, the Council were using the budget surplus reserve which had been built up to get the Council through the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. He went on to stress that the Council would be adding to reserves in the current year and then using reserves over the life of the MTFs. As the proposals stood currently, approximately 65 per cent of the budget surplus reserve would be used.

Councillor A Roberts welcomed the investment in St Ives Town centre as part of a focus on town centre improvement plans and the District Council's ambition to continue to achieve economic growth even during a pandemic. He also welcomed the pragmatic approach to the use of reserves and the proposals for Council Tax and the fact that the Council was retaining and investing in key services which reflected a number of years of sound financial management.

Councillor R J West welcomed the proposed Budget which prioritised economic development, jobs and prosperity and stated that it was a prudent move to utilise the District Council's reserves. He made reference to the £12.3M funding which would be made available to St Neots through the future High Streets fund and hoped that Huntingdon, St Ives and Ramsey would follow. Councillor West commended the Executive Councillor, Cabinet and the Senior Management Team for their work in preparing this Budget and reiterated that even during a pandemic, excellent services had continued to be delivered by the District Council to the residents of Huntingdonshire. He welcomed the proposals before the Council which were visionary and aspirational, yet also prudent and sensible.

Councillor S J Corney also commended the District Council for enabling the Authority be in a position in which it was still able to invest within the Market Towns at such a difficult time. He looked forward to seeing that investment come to fruition.

Councillor D A Giles referred to that fact that this was an interesting budget in a difficult pressured year for all Councils within the Country. He welcomed the £12.3M investment in St Neots to assist in the regeneration of the town centre and also suggested (with reference to the County Council's forthcoming move to Alconbury) that future consideration should be given to the better utilisation / future use of the District Council Offices and workspaces.

In concluding the discussion on this item, the Executive Leader took the opportunity to convey his appreciation to all officers who had worked incredibly hard to prepare the Budget for 2021/22 and also to individual Cabinet members who had been working for the last few months with their respective Service Managers and Heads of Service to bring this together. He also paid tribute to the Executive Councillor for Finance himself for his professional oversight and preparation of the Budget every year, a role he has now been undertaking for several years.

Having made reference to the budget discussions at a neighbouring authority, Councillor Fuller was pleased that the District Council were not in a position where difficult choices had to be made as to whether investment should be made in people or services. He reiterated that the proposed Budget provided for investment in both whilst also meeting the requirements of the Covid response and also making preparation for the Covid recovery with a strong emphasis on jobs and economic development going forward. He also referred to the strong focus within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy on town centre regeneration.

With reference to his discussions with Leaders in other local authorities, Councillor Fuller expressed his sense of pride that the District Council were not in the position of many who were discussing cuts to services and savings due to their financial predicaments. In Huntingdonshire, the proposed Budget reflected an investment in both revenue and capital, which protecting key services and also planning for the future through the delivery of growth, investment in the town centres and in additional services such as Civil Parking Enforcement. Councillor Fuller re-iterated that he was incredibly proud to be meeting his manifesto commitments and to be freezing in Council Tax this year in line with the pledge made in 2018. Councillor Fuller also sought to reassure Councillor Conboy that the District Council had sufficient reserves.

Finally, the Executive Leader expressed his appreciation to Opposition Leaders for their constructive input over the course of the last few months and the positive contributions they had made on behalf of the Groups this evening.

It having been previously moved and seconded, upon being put to the vote it was RESOLVED

- a) that the proposed overall Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2025/26 (Appendix 1) to include the Revenue Budgets at Section 2, the Capital Programme at Section 3 and the 2021/22 Fees and Charges at Section 7, Annex A be approved;
- b) that an increase of 0% Council Tax for 2021/22 be approved, i.e. the Band D Charge remain at £145.86;
- c) **that the Council note the Council Tax Base for the whole Council area and individual Towns and Parishes (para 6.2) as approved on the 8th December 2020 (and subsequent publication as a key decision).**
The tax base (T) which is the amount anticipated from a District Council Tax of £1 is £63,355;
- d) that the following amounts calculated by the Council for 2021/22 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (the Act), the Local Government Finance Act 2012 and associated regulations :-
 - i. the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act **Gross revenue expenditure including benefits, Town/Parish Precepts - £79,453, 376**
 - ii. the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d)
Revenue income including reimbursement of benefits, specific and general grants, use of reserves and any transfers from the collection fund - £62,681,424
 - iii. the amount by which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii) above in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act
This is the “Council Tax Requirement” including Parish / Town Precepts (item 1 minus item ii). It is the cash sum to be funded from District, Town and Parish Council Taxes - £16,771,852
 - iv. the Council Tax requirement for 2021/22 divided by the tax base (T) in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act
District plus average Town/Parish precepts (item iii divided by District taxbase) - £264.82
 - v. the aggregate of all “Special items” referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act.

The total value of Parish/Town precepts included in i and iii above - £7,536,929

- vi. the Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 being item iv less item v divided by the tax base (T) in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act.

The District Council's Band D Tax for 2021/22 - £145.86.

- vii. the basic amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for those parts of the District to which one or more special items (Parish/Town precepts) relate in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act are shown by adding the Huntingdonshire District Council amount to the appropriate Parish Council amount in column "band D" set out in Table 1 attached.

- viii. the amounts to be taken into account for 2021/22 in respect of categories of dwellings listed in particular valuation bands in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act are shown by adding the Huntingdonshire District Council amount to the Parish Council amount for each of the valuation bands in the columns "bands A to H" set out in Table 1 attached.

- e) That the amounts of the precept issued to the Council by Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Police Authority, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority and for each Parish Council for each of the categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands in accordance with Section 40 of the Act shown in para 6.3 attached be noted.
- f) That having regard to the calculations above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Act, hereby sets the figures shown in para 6.4 as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwelling shown. **This is the total Council Tax to be collected, incorporating the requirements of all of the relevant bodies, for each town or parish area.**
- g) The Council notes that, in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 is not excessive. **The basic amount at b(vi) above is not excessive as defined by the Government.**

Tax Base 2021/22

Abbots Ripton	132
Abbotsley	264
Alconbury	578
Alconbury Weston	297
Alwalton	122
Barham & Woolley	30
Bluntisham	753
Brampton	2356
Brington & Molesworth	179
Broughton	95
Buckden	1219

Buckworth	53
Bury	648
Bythorn & Keyston	153
Catworth	163
Chesterton	67
Colne	379
Conington	76
Covington	46
Denton & Caldecote	30
Earith	605
Easton	77
Ellington	237
Elton	288
Farcet	534
Fenstanton	1313
Folksworth & Washingley	348
Glatton	134
Godmanchester	2820
Grafham	239
Great & Little Gidding	123
Great Gransden	473
Great Paxton	366
Great Staughton	330
Haddon	21
Hail Weston	249
Hamerton & Steeple Gidding	51
Hemingford Abbots	327
Hemingford Grey	1282
Hilton	450
Holme	250
Holywell-cum-Needingworth	996
Houghton & Wyton	784
Huntingdon	7625
Kimbolton	593
Kings Ripton	84
Leighton Bromswold	78
Little Paxton	1538
Morborne	12
Offord Cluny & Offord D'Arcy	542
Old Weston	105
Oldhurst	100
Perry	267
Pidley-cum-Fenton	183
Ramsey	2972
Sawtry	1939
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	230
Somersham	1403
Southoe & Midloe	159
Spaldwick	249
St Ives	6007
St Neots	11084
Stilton	768
Stow Longa	74

The Stukeleys	900
Tilbrook	126
Toseland	39
Upton & Coppingford	90
Upwood & The Raveleys	441
Warboys	1575
Waresley-cum-Tetworth	142
Water Newton	38
Winwick	50
Wistow	231
Woodhurst	152
Woodwalton	84
Wyton-on-the-Hill	437
Yaxley	2949
Yelling	152
Total	63,355

- h) that the future savings targets of £0.4m of Net Expenditure by 2025/26 be approved (Appendix 2); and
- i) that the 2021/22 Treasury Management, Capital and Investment Strategies, MRP Statement and Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy be approved (Appendix 3).

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the following Members voted for, against or abstained from the Motion -

For the Motion – Alban, Banks, Besley, Beuttell, Bull, Burton, Butler, Bywater, Clarke, Conboy, Cooper-Marsh, Corney, Criswell, Davies, Dew, Diaz, Dickinson, Fuller, Gardener, Gaskin, Gray, Grice, Gulson, Humphrey, Johnson, Jordan, Kadeware, Keane, Maslen, Masson, McGuire, Mead, Morris, Neish, Palmer, Prentice, Roberts, Sanderson, Smith, Terry, Tysoe, Wakeford, West and Wilson.

Against the Motion – None.

Abstentions – D A Giles and S A Giles.

(At 18.45pm during the discussion on this item, Councillor K P Gulson joined the meeting).

44 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/22

In compliance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, Councillor D Keane, Executive Councillor for Corporate Services presented a report by the Strategic HR Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) in connection with the District Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22.

The Statement which is required to be approved by the Council by 31st March 2021 and produced annually, details the Council's policies relating to officer remuneration. Once approved it would be published on the District Council's website.

Having noted that the Statement had been endorsed by the Employment Committee, it was moved by Councillor Keane and duly seconded and

RESOLVED

that the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 be approved.

45 QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Councillor A Roberts took the opportunity to provide feedback to the Executive Councillor for Corporate Services from residents who have been pleased with the way that the District Council has been handling their queries by phone and online, particularly in relation to the ongoing programme of Government grants. Following his question as to how the Customer Services Team had been dealing with this additional workload, Councillor D Keane commended the activities of the team over the last 11 months as the Council has moved to remote working, new technology and increased demands. He reminded Members that the District Council has been a key part in central government support and in helping local businesses during lockdown and he reported that the Call-Centre Team has done a first class job in making sure that business grants calls were dealt with quickly and efficiently. More generally, Councillor Keane then went on to commend employees and the management for the work which had been undertaken to maintain morale and well-being during this difficult time.

Councillor D A Giles questioned whether any consideration would be given to the possible future of Pathfinder House considering the changes in working practises during the last year. In response the Executive Leader reiterated that staff continued to work from the building and that staff within the Customer Services team were also meeting there with members of the public who required assistance. He went on to remind Members that in recent years there had been a move towards the establishment of a Public Sector Hub at the site. The District Council already lets out various parts of the building to other organisations such as Housing Association partners, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Job Centre and Citizens advice and discussions were already ongoing with other agencies who might also be interested in leasing space. He concluded by stating that at executive level, he would not be setting up a feasibility study into the future use of the building.

46 CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY - UPDATE

In conjunction with the decision summaries of the recent meetings of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book), Councillor J Neish presented an update of the activities of the Combined Authority Board. In doing so, he highlighted the Board's approval of the project proposals received under the Market Towns Programme Investment Prospectus. In Huntingdonshire, he was pleased to report that 14 bids had been accepted out of a total of 22 for the whole of the County. He also referred to the funding which had been received from the Combined Authority for the Future High Street Fund. The District Council would continue to work to improve Huntingdon, St Ives and Ramsey and a further £300,000 had been invested by the Combined Authority for the feasibility work to look into these.

Councillors S Corney and P A Jordan provided an update on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee. As part of which, Councillor Corney drew the Council's attention to the Committee's discussions on the funding for the Housing Programme which was still outstanding from MHCLG. Councillor Corney also reported that the A141 consultation had gone 'live' this week and that the Committee had also discussed how the road networks and public transport would be used post Covid.

Finally, Members were provided with an update on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Audit and Governance Committee by Councillor G J Bull. In doing so, the Council were informed that a Special Meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee would be held next week to discuss the assurance framework and that a meeting with Ernst and Young, the External Auditors would also be scheduled shortly.

47 OUTCOMES FROM COMMITTEES AND PANELS

A copy of the list of meetings held since the last meeting of the Council held on 16th December 2020 is appended in the Minute Book and Members were advised that any issues or questions could be raised in relation to these meetings.

During this item, the Chairman invited Councillor D M Tysoe in his role as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Group to provide a brief update on the activities of the Group. The Council were advised that meetings were ongoing between the Group and the Statutory Authorities and it was hoped that a final report would be available by the end of the Municipal Year.

48 RESOLUTION TO EXTEND 6 MONTH RULE - SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Managing Director presented a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) detailing a request to consider the extension of the six month rule of non-attendance at meetings in relation to Councillor D Wells on the grounds of his ill-health. Whereupon, the Council

RESOLVED

- (a) that Councillor D Well's non-attendance at meetings be approved until the 20th May 2021 in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (b) that the Council's best wishes be conveyed to Councillor Wells for continued improvement to his health.

49 VARIATIONS TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

On the recommendation of Councillor T D Sanderson, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that Councillor S M Burton be appointed to the membership of the Development Management Committee in place of Councillor T D Sanderson .
- (b) that Councillor J C Cooper-Marsh be appointed to the Corporate Governance Committee in place of Councillor Burton.
- (c) that Councillor T D Sanderson be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) in place of Councillor J C Cooper-Marsh.

The meeting ended at 19.58pm.

Chairman