

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Mid Sussex District
Council Cabinet held on Monday, 6 June 2016
from 4.00 p.m. to 4.19 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Andrew MacNaughton, Gary Marsh, Pru Moore, Garry Wall (Leader) and Norman Webster.

Also present: None.

Officers: Kathryn Hall, Tom Clark, Judy Holmes, Peter Stuart, Chris Tunnell, Mark Fisher, Simon Hughes, Craig Marshall and Mark Bristow.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

2. APOLOGIES

None.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

None

5. OUTTURN 2015/16

Peter Stuart introduced the report which details a net underspend due to increased income. Investment income is double what it was a year ago with income from investment up, planning fees up and car parking charges up. It was further stated that slippage in the delivery of projects had been reduced with an increased level of scrutiny having taken place. This meant that projects were over ready and spend had been better controlled.

The underspend has allowed funds to be set aside for other projects such as the apprentice scheme highlighted on page 12 of the report and two interviews are taking place later this week. It was also noted that the Council had healthy reserves.

The Leader, Councillor Garry Wall welcomed the report which highlighted the strong fiscal foundation that this Council has achieved. This financial wellbeing would allow the council to continue to deliver good services on behalf of Mid Sussex residents.

The Deputy Leader, Johnathan Ash-Edwards concurred and welcomed the report. He took significant comfort that services for residents could be supported by the strong financial position. The investment the council had made was bearing fruit for the community and the property fund in particular was a significant income stream he noted. This sound financial footing would allow for further provision for investments in order to continue delivering good services for residents across Mid Sussex.

Councillor Pru Moore drew Members' attention to paragraph 27 of the report on page 13 and explained that playground projects were delayed owing to adverse weather conditions which affected installation, they were however now back on track.

Councillor Norman Webster stated that the contents of the report was a culmination of effort over a number of years and that he was especially pleased to hear about the apprentice fund. This would improve lives and livelihoods for residents of Mid Sussex. He further noted paragraph 11 in appendix A to the report which illustrated the efforts this council goes to in accepting the homeless and doing its best to assist in getting things back to normal for those affected. Finally the ICT initiative discussed on page 25 was an important initiative in moving this council forward to be cost effective.

The Leader stated that the future will continue to be challenging. The Council was well equipped to deal with this by this report and as such residents could take comfort. Of note were the in year investments and workstreams such as the Burgess Hill development that would continue. He then took Members to the recommendations outlined in paragraph 7 of the report which were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet note and recommend to Council:

- (i) that grant income as set out in paragraph 15 to 16 of the report be transferred to the General Reserve;
- (ii) that grant income as set out in paragraph 17 of the report be transferred to the Specific Reserve
- (iii) that windfall income as set out in paragraph 18 of the report be transferred to the General Reserve;
- (iv) that the balance of interest totalling £493,000 as set out in paragraph 21 is transferred to the General Reserve;
- (v) that the 2016/17 capital programme be increased by £140,000 as a result of slippage of some 2015/16 capital projects as detailed in Table 3.
- (vi) that the revenue underspending in 2015/16 be transferred to Reserves as follows:
 - a) £73,000 be transferred to Reserves as set out in Table 1 and paragraph 14;
 - b) £271,000 be transferred to Specific Reserves as set out in Table 2;
 - c) £12,000 balance to be transferred to General Reserve
- (vii) that £80,655 be transferred from General Reserve to the Burgess Hill Growth Specific Reserve as set out in paragraph 20 of the report.
- (viii) That £117,675 be transferred to General Reserve as detailed in Appendix C General Reserve Table note 4 & 18.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ALBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION REPORT

Judy Holmes introduced the report and advised that this was the 10th Neighbourhood Plan to reach a successful Examination with a further five currently at examination.

She advised that the report outlined minor modifications to the Plan which had been accepted by the Parish Council and that in the event of Cabinet's approval the Neighbourhood Plan would go to referendum on 28 July 2016.

Post Meeting Note: At the request of the Parish Council this has been proposed to the 1st September 2016.

The Leader welcomed the report and offered his congratulations to all those involved and commended them for their hard work. He agreed that minor recommendations were made. He concluded by stating that the Parish Council had agreed every recommendation made by the Examiner.

The Cabinet Member for Planning added his congratulations and confirmed that a lot of work was involved for small parishes.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development stated that he was the Council's representative on the South Downs National Park Authority and he will make the same recommendations to the relevant National Park committee.

As there were no further comments, the Leader took Members to the recommendation which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet agrees the District Council formally accept the recommendations of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Albourne Neighbourhood Plan.

The Leader took Members to exempt session.

7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Leader proposed that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the exempt items on the agenda and this was seconded by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Service Delivery. This was agreed.

RESOLVED

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with Section 1100A of the Local Government Act 1972, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

8. EXEMPT ITEM

The Leader brought the meeting back into open session on the completion of exempt business and closed the meeting at 4:19 pm.

Chairman.