

**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL
MEETING HELD 17 JANUARY 2024**

Cllrs. Present: Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Rupert Kyrle, Cllr Ron Nichols, Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr John Shepherd (Chair), Cllr Jane Welsh

In attendance: Nigel Paterson – Kings Community Church, a member of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Keith House, Cllr Dave Kinloch, Cllr Jim Mitchell, Cllr Cliff Morris

2. **Public Questions not on the Agenda**

Nigel Paterson spoke about an app called 'Next door' and the opportunity to understand what is going on and how the council could use it to communicate positively with residents.

One Horton Heath came up on a thread recently and on visiting the Eastleigh website it was not clear what will be done. Cllr Ian Corben responded that there is a separate website <https://www.onehortonheath.co.uk/> which has all the up-to-date information.

A member of the public asked to speak in relation to item 6 and it was agreed that this would be taken at that time.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

4. **To Receive a Police Report**

PCSO Tracey Chilcott was unable to attend the meeting and no statistics were provided in advance.

Councillors commented on the news item from the PCC about having dedicated officers on the beat and what the plans are for Hedge End. Councillors also discussed that the promise was to not take them from an area to assist other teams which has been happening regularly.

5. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20 December 2023.**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 December be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6. **Matters for Resolution: To consider and agree the Hedge End Town Council Budget for the financial year 2024/2025.**

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Recommendation from Policy & Resources Committee 2 January 2024 regarding the precept figure for 2024/25 – Minute P1266.

Cllr Pretty outlined how the budget proposals have been arrived at, recognising increasing costs and decreasing income. Draft budgets were considered at three Policy & Resources Committee meetings looking at detailed information and arrived at the budget proposed for approval.

A member of public asked about the proposed increase in precept given that the Council's budget is on track for this financial year and why there is a need to increase the precept and fees and charges given that inflation is going down.

Cllr Derek Pretty responded that the Council has seen increasing costs across energy, utilities and other standing costs. Whilst the budget has been sufficient this year the increasing costs would mean it would not be sufficient in the coming year on the increases we are seeing. The increased cost to a band D household would be less than £10 per year.

Other Councillors noted that we are trying to keep the increases to a minimum, but it is more acceptable to see smaller increases each year than have to put larger increases in later years. It was also noted that inflation is still increasing. The Council needs to maintain its services, and these are getting more costly.

Cllr Corben seconded the proposal. The council unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: That the budget be accepted, and the precept figure of £919,921.83 be sent to Eastleigh Borough Council.

7. Community Speedwatch Statistics

Cllr Rupert Kyrle noted that these statistics support what local councillors have been saying about speeding on the particular roads that have already been reported.

Cllr Ian Corben was really pleased to have received this information as it provides a good overview of individual hotspots and they are picking up work that the police no longer action. It was noted that they have a number of sessions during February.

Cllr Cynthia Garton noted that when she met with Inspector Steve Goodall, he identified that the police were hoping to do more speed sessions in the area. This will be followed up. Cllr Garton also noted that the SIDs' will also be returning soon. Councillors asked for thanks to be passed onto the team.

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Councillors asked that we write to the PCC to ask what she intends to do about speeding in areas given that the statistics back this up as an issue and linked to the earlier comments about having dedicated beat officers.

8. Chair's Remarks

Cllr Shepherd noted that the Serving the Communities Award nominations close on the 31 January 2024.

9. Resolved Items for NOTING Only:

- (a) Highways & Planning Committee – 6 December 2023 and 20 December 2023
(Minute H681, H682 and H683)
That the Minutes of the meeting of the 6 December and 20 December be received.
- (b) Policy & Resources Committee – 2 January 2024.
(Minute P1261, P1265 and P1266)
That the Minutes of the meeting of the 2 January be received.
- (c) Recreation & Amenities Committee – 10 January 2024.
(Minute R447i, R448, R449, R450, R451i, ii, R452, R453 and R456)
That the Minutes of the meeting of the 10 January be received.

10. Borough and County Reports

Cllr Garton noted that the next HEWEB is the 29 January 2024, and this will hear the Ageas planning application. There are 3 other applications that will be heard at an additional HEWEB on Monday 5 February.

Community Youth Grants are open to the 14 February 2024. A meeting of the grants panel reviewed the application process which has now been changed to an expression of interest and if this accepted by the panel then it will proceed to full application process.

Cllr Ian Corben gave an update on the fair value notice and that the external reviews including a Corporate Peer Challenge and no issues were identified. The fair value notice does mean that an action plan is required for the borrowing, however this is perfectly manageable. The action plan has been prepared and some of those actions were already in place and have been completed.

Cllr Rupert Kyrle reported on the Hampshire Universal Select Committee to discuss the budget and savings that need to be made. From the universal services directorate there is an ambitious capital budget for schemes, however each of these are looking at 25-30% additional costs for these schemes.

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These inflationary pressures are meaning schemes are getting reviewed and potentially delayed until the materials costs decrease.

The HCC budget consultation is live considering discretionary funding areas for budget reductions. www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation

Hampshire are able to deliver a balanced budget, however this is not sustainable in the future. Once the services covered by discretionary funding are lost, it is unlikely that services would be reinstated.

The County Council has reviewed the 20mph speed policy. Town and parish councils can apply for these to be looked at; however this will be at a full cost recovery including commuted sums and the requirement of community support.

Cllr Rupert Kyrle was pleased to support the Councils application for a bench to be installed in Beattie Rise.

Cllr Cynthia Garton noted that the budget reductions are impacting on the young, elderly or most vulnerable. The proposed removal of school crossing patrols is going to cause issues. Cllr Kyrle noted that these services could be retained if other authorities want to pay for this service to be provided.

Cllr Ian Corben replied to Cllr Kyrle comments about the 20mph and that this would not be of any benefit when the 30mph are not being enforced. To pay for this service would not sit well with residents.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20:43pm.