

Minutes of the **Council**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Andover
on Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 4.00 pm

Attendance:

Councillor I Carr (Chairman)

Councillor M Hatley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor I Andersen
Councillor G Bailey
Councillor D Baverstock
Councillor A Brook
Councillor Z Brooks
Councillor J Budzynski
Councillor P Bundy
Councillor D Busk
Councillor D Drew
Councillor J Cockaday
Councillor A Dowden
Councillor C Dowden
Councillor B Few Brown
Councillor A Finlay
Councillor M Flood
Councillor P Giddings

Councillor K Hamilton
Councillor S Hawke
Councillor A Hope
Councillor P Hurst
Councillor I Jeffrey
Councillor A Johnston
Councillor J Lovell
Councillor C Lynn
Councillor J Neal
Councillor P North
Councillor B Page
Councillor T Preston
Councillor I Richards
Councillor G Stallard
Councillor A Ward

198

Prayers

Prayers were led by Reverend Canon Jill Bentall.

199

Apologies

Resolved:

That the apologies of Councillors Adams-King, Borg Neal, Boulton, Cooper, Denny, Hibberd, Lashbrook, Mutton and Tupper.

200

Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5 September and 10 October 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

201

Mayor's Announcements

The Worshipful the Mayor highlighted three forthcoming events

- Saturday 16 February 2019 - Murder Mystery evening at Crosfield Hall. 7pm start with a professional 'murder' company, a three course Dinner with a prize for the winners.
- Sunday 24 March 2019 Sparkling Tea. Starts at Houghton Lodge Gardens privately viewing the spring flowers, followed by a concert with Senior Moments band and followed again by a full cream tea with Prosecco- cost £20 per head.
- Friday 24 May 2019 Mayor's Ball Wallop Museum with four course meal followed by a live band with dancing etc. Museum will have been newly re-furbished so a chance to see all the new ideas before the public opening. Ticket price to be announced shortly.

For further information on any of these events please contact Councillor C Lynn.

The Worshipful the Mayor reported that 100 years ago today on 21 November 1918 women were able to exercise their right to vote.

202

To receive and adopt Committee reports

202.1 **Minutes of Meetings**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the following Committees and Cabinet meetings be received.

- 202.1.1 Northern Area Planning Committee – 23 August 2018
- 202.1.2 Southern Area Planning Committee – 28 August 2018
- 202.1.3 Cabinet – 12 September 2018
- 202.1.4 Northern Area Planning Committee – 13 September 2018
- 202.1.5 Southern Area Planning Committee – 18 September 2018
- 202.1.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 19 September 2018
- 202.1.7 Southern Area Planning Committee – 25 September 2018
- 202.1.8 Northern Area Planning Committee – 4 October 2018

- 202.1.9 Southern Area Planning Committee – 9 October 2018
- 202.1.10 Special Council – 10 October 2018
- 202.1.11 Cabinet – 10 October 2018
- 202.1.12 Planning Control Committee – 16 October 2018
- 202.1.13 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 October 2018
- 202.1.14 Northern Area Planning Committee – 25 October 2018
- 202.1.15 Southern Area Planning Committee – 30 October 2018
- 202.1.16 Planning Control Committee – 6 November 2018
- 202.1.17 General Purposes Committee – 7 November 2018
- 202.1.18 Cabinet – 7 November 2018
- 202.1.19 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 November 2018
- 202.1.20 Northern Area Planning Committee – 15 November 2018
- 202.1.21 Southern Area Planning Committee – 20 November 2018

202.2 **To adopt Recommendations from the following:**

- 202.2.1 Cabinet – 12 September 2018

- 202.2.1.1 **Designated Protected Area**

Resolved:

That the Constitution be amended to reflect the delegations of authority described in paragraph 1 of the minutes.

- 202.2.2 Cabinet – 7 November 2018

- 202.2.2.1 **Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Licensing Principles**

Resolved:

1. **That the revised Statement of Licensing Principles attached as an annex to the report be approved.**

2. That the Statement be effective for a three year period commencing 31 January 2019 subject to it being kept under review and the Council making such changes to it at such times as it considers appropriate.

202.2.2.2 **Asset Management Plan Update**

Resolved:

1. That the revised 2018/19 and original 2019/20 Asset Management Plan, as shown in annexes 1 and 2 to the report, be approved.
2. That the Head of Finance, after consultation with the Finance Portfolio Holder and Head of Service responsible for any project, be authorised to amend the Asset Management Plan during the year, as discussed in paragraph 7.3 of the report.

202.2.2.3 **Capital Programme Update – 2018/19 to 2020/21**

Resolved:

1. That the new capital schemes with a total cost of £2.765M as shown in Annex 1 to the report, be added to the 2018/19 to 2020/21 Capital Programme.
2. That the revised estimates and financing for the 2018/19 to 2020/21 Capital Programme as shown in Annex 2 to the report, be approved.

202.2.2.4 **Resources in Estates and Economic Development Service**

Resolved:

1. That the posts set out at paragraphs 6.1.4 and 6.1.5 in the report be added to the Estates and Economic Development establishment at a total cost of £164,150 p.a.
2. That the sum of up to £89,865 p.a. be vired from the Investment Property Income budget to finance the cost of the permanent posts as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the report.

3. **That the sum of up to £138,950 be drawn from the Capacity Building Reserve to finance the cost of the temporary posts as set out in paragraph 8.5.**

203

Questions on resolved items - Rule 11.1

In response to a question from Councillor Bailey regarding the Suitable Alternative Natural Green Area at Sherfield English the Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder explained that planning permission would be required for a material change of use for the land together with the delivery of a 10 space car park, fencing, gate and other works. It was anticipated that this would be finished by the end of April 2019.

204

Questions under Rule 11.2

Question 1

Councillor P Hurst asked a question of the Housing and Community Services Portfolio Holder on behalf of Councillor C Dowden which asked if the Council would take advantage of the lifting of the borrowing cap for Local Authorities, and explore opportunities to work with partners to build much needed social housing throughout Test Valley.

The Housing and Community Services Portfolio Holder responded that the Council has no housing stock and no Housing Revenue Account against which to borrow, which means there are no direct impacts or advantages for the Council resulting from the borrowing cap being lifted. However, the Council will continue to build on its excellent track record of delivering affordable housing in partnership with housing associations and developers. For four of the last five years Test Valley has delivered the highest number of completions in Hampshire which also includes 1,320 affordable homes. In 2016/17, Test Valley delivered the highest number of affordable housing units of all Hampshire authorities and continues to exceed its local target to deliver 200 new units of affordable housing per annum.

In recent years, Test Valley's affordable housing delivery has included different products to meet different levels of need. With a new emphasis on social rented housing at both the national policy level and within the business plans of our developing partners, it is anticipated that Test Valley's enabling role will continue to deliver new homes to support households in need who are registered on the waiting list. We will continue to deliver intermediate (home ownership) products, such as shared ownership, for those households in the local area who are in a position to access owner occupation but require a level of subsidy to do so.

Question 2

Councillor C Dowden then asked a question of the Leader whether he would provide a draft on the take-up of online services and for residents who have access to use services digitally, were the Council making it easy, efficient and as effective as possible.

The Leader responded that An online service for Council Tax and Business Rates was implemented in 2015 and to date has seen over 9,000 requests or changes submitted by customers. This system actually updates the customers record in real time and 85% of these go through automatically with no intervention from officers. With that came the option of receiving a council tax or business rates bill by email – overall 11% of residents have opted to receive their bill by email whilst business rates are at 22%.

In the Planning and Building service we have seen changes this year in the Building Control department. Since the 1st January we have received 1630 planning applications, 76% of those made via the online Planning Portal site.

The My Test Valley site and app was launched in 2015 and we have seen a steady increase in the number of residents choosing to report issues or request services online. There are currently 16 processes available to residents to complete themselves and we see around 35% of residents choosing to self serve in our peak time of March – May and around 25% at all other times.

The evidence of this is clear when looking at our Customer service department activities – they have met their targets consistently since 2016 and have seen a reduction in telephone calls of 13% in year 1 and a further 9% in year 2. In previous years additional temporary staff were employed to cover the peak garden waste period, this has not been needed for the last 2 years.

The communications and digital transformation teams work closely together to make sure access to these services is as straightforward as possible and aim to react quickly to feedback if things need to be changed. Signposting to the online services is available on the website, in email footers and in written correspondence.

205 **Property Purchase under Head of Estates Delegation**

Consideration was given to a report of the Finance Portfolio Holder which sought to update Council on the details of two property purchases.

In November 2015, Council approved a delegated authority to the Head of Estates, in consultation with a Member Panel, to purchase property investments where the timing of the normal Council approval process would reduce the Council's ability to complete the purchase.

The Head of Estates, after consulting the Panel, had recently exercised his authority to progress the purchase of three properties in Andover after consultation with the cross-party Member panel established for that purpose.

Resolved:

- 1. That the decision to pursue the purchase of the properties identified in the Confidential Annex, to the report, be noted.**
- 2. That, following completion of the purchases, the budget for property investments be re-established in the Council's Capital Programme at £3M, with the additional sum to be financed from the Capital Receipts Reserve.**

(The meeting terminated at 4.30 pm)