

Taunton Deane Borough Council

At a meeting of Taunton Deane Borough Council held in the John Meikle Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton on 17 February 2009 at 6.30 pm.

Present The Mayor (Councillor Slattery)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Bowrah)
Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Beaven, Bishop, Brooks, Cavill, Coles, Mrs Copley, Mrs Court-Stenning, Critchard, Denington, D Durdan, Ms Durdan, Edwards, Farbahi, Mrs Floyd, Govier, Guerrier, Hall, Hayward, Henley, Ms Herbert, C Hill, Mrs Hill, Horsley, House, Miss James, R Lees, Mrs Lees, Mrs Lewin-Harris, McMahon, Meikle, Morrell, Mullins, Murphy, O'Brien, Paul, Prior-Sankey, Mrs Smith, P Smith, Mrs Stock-Williams, Stone, Stuart-Thorn, Thorne, Watson, Mrs Waymouth, Ms Webber, A Wedderkopp, D Wedderkopp, Mrs Whitmarsh, Williams, Mrs Wilson, Miss Wood and Woolley.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Taunton Deane Borough Council held on 9 December 2008, copies having been sent to each Member, were signed by the Mayor.

2. Public Question Time

(a) Mrs D Bradley made reference to the publication titled "The Word" which covered many cultural and art events in Somerset and requested Councillors to consider subscribing to this magazine.

In response, Councillor Horsley hoped Councillors would subscribe.

(b) Ms A Reynolds referred to the Government's Free Swimming Initiative. She felt that it offered great benefits to the over 60's in helping them keep active and also aided the rehabilitation process after illness. She also stated that free swimming for the under 16's was important so that all children had the opportunity to learn how to swim. She went on to ask whether Aqua Aerobics would be free to the over 60's alongside the free swimming offer, if it was introduced, and to what extent existing swimming programmes were likely to be altered by Tone Leisure?

Councillor R Lees thanked Ms Reynolds for her comments. If the Free Swimming Initiative was agreed, Tone Leisure would obviously need to sort out the details as to the swimming activities which would be offered free and those where payment would still be required. If Ms Reynolds passed her questions to him, Councillor Lees promised to let her have a full response in due course.

(c) Mrs Cautley thanked the Council for maintaining the concessions offered to pensioners by Tone Leisure.

- (d) Mr Merritt reported that he lived in a house where the pilot card and plastic doorstep collection scheme was in operation. He fully supported this extension to the recycling service. He noted that under their alternative budget proposals, the Conservatives planned to delay the introduction of the card and plastic collection scheme. He asked what plans the Liberal Democrats had?

Councillor Mullins confirmed that the Liberal Democrats intended to roll out the cardboard and plastics scheme as soon as possible.

- (e) Mr I McCulloch representing the Taunton Deane Branch of Unison referred to the Core Council Review proposals. He pointed out that the review was not a minor re-organisation of one work area. This was a blueprint for the whole of the Core Council for the medium to long term future, changing how the Council delivered its services.

He asked Councillors to consider voting against the proposals if they had concerns about future service delivery or were not totally convinced that this was the way Taunton Deane should conduct its business in the future. He added that a decision to proceed would have far reaching implication for both the Authority and its staff.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Allgrove declared personal interests as a Member of the South West Regional Assembly and as Chairman of the Somerset Association of Local Councils. Councillor Brooks declared personal interests as a Member of both Somerset County Council and the Somerset Waste Board and as a Trustee of the Council for Voluntary Service. Councillor Coles declared a personal interest as a Director of Southwest One. Councillor D Durdan declared a prejudicial interest as a Tone Leisure Board Member. Councillor Mrs Floyd declared a personal interest as a Member of Unison. Councillor Govier declared personal interests both as a Member of the Somerset County Council and the South West Regional Assembly and as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Somerset. Councillor Henley declared personal interests both as a Member of the Somerset County Council and the South West Regional Assembly. Councillor Mrs Hill declared personal interests both as an employee of Somerset County Council and as a Member of Unison. Councillor House declared a personal interest as a Member of the Village Halls Committee. Councillor Miss James declared a personal interest as an employee of Viridor. Councillor Mullins declared a personal interest as a Member of the Somerset Waste Board. Councillor Paul declared a personal interest as a Member of Somerset County Council. Councillor Prior-Sankey declared personal interests as a Member of Somerset County Council, the Somerset Waste Board, the Local Strategic Partnership, the South West Regional Assembly, the Regional Transformation Board and the Supporting People Commissioning Body. Councillor Mrs Smith declared a personal interest as an employee of Somerset County Council. Councillor Mrs Whitmarsh declared personal interests both as a Member of the Home Furniture Trust and the Wiveliscombe Area Partnership.

4. **Non attendance at meetings – Councillor John Bone, Wiveliscombe and West Deane Ward**

Reported that Councillor John Bone had not attended any “qualifying” meetings of the Council nor any other meeting as a representative of the Council since the 15 July 2008.

The Local Government Act 1972 provided that if a Member failed to attend any such qualifying meeting for a period of six months the Council must declare the seat to be vacant. The six months expired on the 16 January 2009.

Although the Chief Executive had written to Councillor Bone inviting him to provide any contrary information, none had been received.

Resolved that:-

- (a) the seat in the Wiveliscombe and West Deane Ward be formally declared vacant; and
- (b) a letter be sent by the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, to Councillor Bone thanking him for his service to the community over the past nine years.

(At the suggestion of the Mayor, the following item was brought forward on the agenda for consideration.)

5. **Recruitment of Independent Members to Taunton Deane Borough Council’s Standards Committee**

Reported that there had been three vacancies for Independent Members on the Council's Standards Committee. Following public advertisement six candidates were interviewed for the vacancies.

From the candidates, three were provisionally invited to join the Standards Committee. The three were:-

- Alan Cottrell, a retired Head Teacher;
- Peter Malim OBE, a retired senior officer from the UK Hydrographic Office; and
- Robert Symons, a former Local Government Chief Executive and a United Nations Municipal Representative – now also retired.

In order to comply with the terms of the Council's Constitution these appointments had to be formally made by Council.

Resolved that Alan Cottrell, Peter Malim OBE and Robert Symons all be appointed as Independent Members of the Council's Standards Committee.

6. **Written Question to Member of the Executive**

Councillor Stuart-Thorn asked the following question:-

"Is there a sizeable portion of the annual Arts Council Grant that the Council withholds from the Brewhouse Theatre and, if so, why does it do so and how much is it?"

Councillor Horsley replied as follows:-

"I find Councillor Stuart-Thorn's question confusing. What does he mean by the Arts Council? This is an independent national body which decides on its own criteria which arts organisation to grant aid or not. Taunton Deane Borough Council has no influence in its funding pattern but works closely with it where possible.

If I delete the word "Arts Council" from his question, then my reply is as follows.

The annual grant to the Brewhouse is £152,000 and is given usually in four quarterly sums of £38,000. In 2008/2009, £38,000 was given in April, £76,000 was given in July and the final £38,000 was given in January 2009. The Council accepted the request from the Brewhouse to advance its autumn payment to the summer to tie it over the low takings expected in August in particular and to ease cash flow.

The Council is in negotiation with the Brewhouse Board about its payment profile for the forthcoming year.

Therefore the answer to Councillor Stuart-Thorn's question is that there is no sizeable portion of the grant that is withheld."

7. Recommendations to Council from the Executive

(a) Funding of Unauthorised Planning Issue – North Curry

As a result of the occupation of land at Oxen Lane, North Curry in October 2004 by 16 gypsy families, the Council earmarked a sum of £100,000 in the 2005/2006 budget to fund the costs of dealing with this unauthorised planning activity.

Since that time the provision of specialist legal advice, two major public inquiries and the initiation and conduct of injunction proceedings in the High Court has meant that the original budget had been fully committed.

In order to complete the action against the unauthorised incursion, the Council would incur further costs in a number of areas including a further public inquiry and the final injunction proceedings.

On the motion of Councillor Coles, it was

Resolved that a supplementary estimate of £50,000 be approved to complete the action against the unauthorised incursion of land at Oxen Lane, North Curry.

(b) Somerset Waste Partnership – Plastic and Card Recycling – Purchase of new recycling bins

If the proposed extension of the recycling service to include the kerbside collection of plastics and cardboard was introduced, extra recycling bins would be required to be purchased for every household in Taunton Deane at an estimated cost of £176,000.

Somerset County Council was in receipt of Waste Infrastructure Grant and had agreed to assist district councils in the purchase of the additional bins by offering 75% of the cost. The cost to Taunton Deane Borough Council was likely therefore to be £44,000.

On the motion of Councillor Mullins, it was

Resolved that an increase to the 2008/2009 capital programme of £44,000 be agreed to meet this shortfall in capital funding which was to be funded from uncommitted Waste Services reserves.

(c) Fees and Charges 2009/2010

Consideration had been given to the proposed fees and charges for 2009/2010 for the following services:-

- Cemeteries and Crematorium;
- Waste Services;
- Housing; and
- Licensing.

Details of the proposed increases were submitted. No increase was proposed to the Land Charges fees.

The results of both previous public consultation events “Your Council, Your Views” had clearly indicated that the public preferred to see increases in fees and charges, rather than in Council Tax, as a way for the Council to raise income. Therefore, where possible, fees had been increased to take these views into account.

On the motion of Councillor Mullins, it was

Resolved that the fees and charges for 2009/2010 in respect of Cemeteries and Crematorium, Waste Services, Housing and Licensing, as submitted, be agreed.

(d) Corporate Strategy 2009-2012

The Corporate Strategy was the Council's principal policy document and it contained the Council's Vision, Business Principles and Core Values and described the key outcomes that the Council intended to achieve in the community over the next three years.

These outcomes would be delivered by achieving Objectives that were closely aligned to the Council's ETCHED (Economy, Transport, Crime, Healthy Living, Environment and Delivery) aims. It provided an important lead for budget setting and service planning activities and was updated on an annual basis to ensure that it remained 'fit for purpose'.

The aims and objectives of the Strategy were focused entirely on achieving outcomes for the area in line with the Council's community leadership responsibilities, which would prepare the Council well for the forthcoming Comprehensive Area Assessment. Achieving the outcomes would also be dependent on close partnership working with other agencies.

On the motion of Councillor Mrs Smith, it was

Resolved that the Corporate Strategy 2009-2012 be adopted.

(e) Core Council Review Proposals

The aim of the Core Council Review was to introduce a new structure and ways of working that would enable the Core Council to:-

- Be fit for purpose, delivering the Council's vision, widened roles and ways of working; and
- Deliver substantial efficiency savings for 2009/2010 and beyond.

A thematic working model was proposed, whereby all Core Council staff would be based in one of four themes:-

- Strategy and Corporate;
- Growth and Development;
- Business (DLO); and
- Operations and Regulation.

Implementation of the proposal would occur in phases, with the Strategy and Corporate Theme as Phase 1 and detailed proposals for the other themes being developed and implemented in subsequent phases during 2009/2010.

The Human Resource implications of this proposal were significant and a number of staff within the Strategy and Corporate theme had been placed at risk of redundancy.

The actions taken by the Council to identify, address and support staff in dealing with these implications would have a significant impact on whether the new ways of working and management structure were successful.

As part of the consultation with UNISON, Members, managers and staff, a series of actions had been identified that had already, or would need to be put in place. A Corporate Support Plan had been developed as a consequence of this consultation.

Effectively three substantive teams would be formed within the Strategy and Corporate theme. They would be required to work closely together and to work with and support other staff in the organisation. Details of the proposed new staffing structure were submitted.

The recruitment to the new posts within the Strategy and Corporate theme would begin in early March 2009. Staff at risk would have an opportunity to express a preference for jobs. It was proposed not to offer salary protection to staff who applied for and were recruited to a lower grade post.

The projected revenue savings for the General Fund arising from Phase 1 of this proposal were £342,000 from 2009/2010. One-off costs of Phase 1 of the proposal were in the range £324,000 - £1,200,000. Revenue savings and one-off costs arising from subsequent phases of the review would be included as further proposals were developed.

It was also proposed that the Council's political management arrangements were reviewed separately with Members, under a project led by the Council's Monitoring Officer.

During the consultation of the Core Council Review proposals concerns had been expressed about the Council's capacity to deliver on priorities (particularly the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the Core Strategy).

Whilst the creation of a further 'lead' post in addition to the two already included in the structure was a possibility, another option was the creation of a specialist post to provide planning expertise and capacity on LDF and Core Strategy related matters. Either of these options would be affordable over a 2.5 year period, funded from external funding such as the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant.

On the motion of Councillor Henley, it was

Resolved that:-

- (i) The overall proposal for the new Core Council structure, including the establishment of four themes covering all Core Council staff;
- (ii) The detailed proposal for the Strategy and Corporate theme;
- (iii) The approach proposed in the report for phasing the

- implementation of the overall structure;
- (iv) The timetable for the proposed phasing;
 - (v) The proposals for recruitment to the Strategy and Corporate theme;
 - (vi) The proposal not to offer salary protection to staff who applied for and were recruited to lower grade posts throughout all phases of the Core Council Review;
 - (vii) The “ring-fencing” of £1,000,000 from the General Fund Reserves to fund the one off costs of this proposal (with any earmarked fund remaining at the end of this first phase being returned to the General Fund Reserve at the end of March 2009);
 - (viii) The review of the Council’s political management arrangements with Members by the end of March 2009, with the aim of achieving implementation in the new Municipal Year; and
 - (ix) The proposal to create a specialist post at the current Service Unit Manager grade and funded from external sources such as the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant to provide planning expertise and capacity on Local Development Framework and Core Strategy related matters,

all be approved.

(f) General Fund Revenue Estimates 2009/2010

The Executive had previously considered its 2009/2010 budget proposals. It contained details on:-

- (i) the General Fund Revenue Budget proposals for 2009/2010, including the proposed Council Tax increase and the Prudential Indicators;
- (ii) draft figures on the predicted financial position of the Council for the following four years.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board had also considered the draft budget proposals at its meeting on 22 January 2009.

The Council Tax calculation and formal tax setting resolution was to be considered separately. However, the proposed budget for Taunton Deane would result in a Band D Council Tax of £135.19, an increase of £3.30 (2.5%) on 2008/2009.

It was a requirement for the Council to prepare not only budgets for the following financial year but to also provide indicative figures for the two years after that. The Medium Term Financial Plan provides an indication of the expected budget gap going forward into 2009/2010 and a summary of this position was submitted.

These figures had been prepared on the assumption of a 4.5% increase in Council Tax each year, including 2010/2011. Government support was based on the draft figures. The figures took into account the ongoing impact of all of the Executive's budget proposals and the 2009/2010 proposed Council Tax level.

The estimated expenses chargeable to the non-parished area of Taunton in 2009/2010 amounted to £30,620, an increase of 4.9%, and this formed part of the total net expenditure of the Council. The precept in 2008/2009 was £29,190.

As part of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance there was a requirement for Full Council to approve the indicators as set out in the report to the Executive. These include the expected spend on the capital programme and the expected borrowing requirement for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. They also set the operational boundaries for both borrowing/investment levels and interest rate exposures for the Council.

The Council's Section 151 Officer had reviewed the procedures, outputs and outcomes of the budget setting process and felt that the Council's reserves were adequate and the budget estimates used in preparing the 2009/2010 budget were as robust as possible.

Moved by Councillor Henley, seconded by Councillor Coles that the budget proposals be amended as follows to take into account a number of the suggestions contained in the alternative budget prepared by the Conservative Group:-

- (i) **DLO Services Contribution** – It was likely the Core Council Review of Deane DLO would result in the DLO being required in future to make an annual contribution to Council funds. Pending the review it was proposed that £112,000 (7% of external turnover) should be transferred from DLO reserves to the General Fund as a one-off in 2009/2010;
- (ii) **Advertising on Car Park Tariff Boards** – Using free space on the car park tariff boards for advertising was predicted to generate new income of £15,400;
- (iii) **Car Wash Franchise** – The introduction of car washing in some of the Council's car parks was likely to generate £17,000 income;
- (iv) **Grant to Neighbourhood Care** – A grant to this organisation of £10,000 would be made funded from existing Housing budgets;
- (v) **Grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)** – In recognition of the valuable work the CAB was doing during the current economic downturn, it was proposed to top-up the current grant funding arrangements by an additional £12,500 in 2009/2010;
- (vi) **Wiveliscombe Community Office and Market and Coastal Towns Initiatives** – Additional funding of £10,000 was proposed to support the local Community Office and a number of projects in the area;
- (vii) **Flower Beds** – With different planting arrangements it was anticipated that a saving of £13,000 could be made in 2009/2010; and

- (viii) **Council Tax Proposal** – To support all Council Taxpayers, it was recommended that there should be a 0% (stand-still) tax rise for 2009/2010.

The amendment was put and was carried.

Moved by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Edwards that the budget proposals be amended by the alternative budget prepared by the Conservative Group (agenda item No.9 refers). The amendments took the form of:-

- (i) **Remove Enhancement to Recycling Service** – This would save the Council £105,000 in 2009/2010;
- (ii) **Remove Free Swimming Proposal** – This would save £45,000 during the forthcoming financial year;
- (iii) **DLO Services Contribution** – as above, although a transfer from DLO reserves of £100,000 was suggested;
- (iv) **Advertising on Car Park Tariff Boards** – as above;
- (v) **Car Wash Franchise** – as above;
- (vi) **Grant to Neighbourhood Care** – Grant funding of £10,000 was proposed;
- (vii) **Grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)** – It was proposed to top-up the current grant funding arrangements by an additional £20,000 in 2009/2010;
- (viii) **Reinstate Savings Plan – Grants to Clubs** – The proposed saving of £14,000 would be reinstated;
- (ix) **Support to Local Business** – The introduction of a dedicated budget of £43,000 to provide support specifically to local small businesses;
- (x) **Youth Initiatives** – The introduction of a dedicated budget of £15,000 in 2009/2010 to allow many of the excellent initiatives to continue and our young people to be supported;
- (xi) **Wiveliscombe Community Office and Market and Coastal Towns Initiatives** – as above;
- (xii) **Energy Efficiency / Climate Change Co-ordinator** – Funding of £35,000 for this post during the next financial year to promote energy efficiency and sustainability. The Core Council Review would be required to consider the longer term capacity issues;
- (xiii) **Council Tax Proposal** – as above.

Moved by Councillor Critchard, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hill “that the amendment be now put”. The proposal was put to the vote and carried.

The amendment was put and was lost.

The substantive Motion which is detailed below, was put and was carried:-

Resolved that:-

- (1) the budget for General Fund services for 2009/2010 as shown in the original report to Full Council and as amended above, be approved;

- (2) the transfer of any potential underspend in 2008/2009 back to General Fund reserves be approved;
- (3) the alternative proposed 2009/2010 budget set out in the original report to Full Council and as amended above, being Authority expenditure of £13,782,880 and Special Expenses of £30,620 in accordance with the Local Government Act 1992 be approved;
- (4) The predicted General Fund Reserve balance at 31 March 2009 of £1,300,000 be noted;
- (5) The Prudential Indicators for 2009/2010 as set out in the report be agreed; and
- (6) The forecast budget position for 2010/2011 onwards as outlined in the report be noted.

(As trustees of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Councillors Mrs Lewin-Harris and Stuart-Thorn declared prejudicial interests and left the room during the part of the meeting where the proposed increase in grant to the CAB was discussed.)

(g) Capital Programme 2008/2009 Onwards

Considered had been given to the proposed General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programmes for the period 2009/2010 and beyond.

For the General Fund the existing unallocated resources available were £15,000. It was however likely that some future capital receipts would arise from the sale of the existing Nursery site in Mount Street, Taunton and the sale of South Street Car Park in Wellington.

For all Housing schemes, both GF and HRA, the estimated resources available for 2009/2010 amounted to £7,716,000. The proposed capital programme for 2009/2010 amounted to £7,149,000. The unallocated resources of £567,000 were proposed to be carried forward to support the Housing Capital Programme in future years.

For both the GF and HRA any new schemes, which emerged during the lifespan of the programmes, would be funded through existing unallocated resources or through new resources, such as new capital receipts.

On the motion of Councillor Henley, it was

Resolved that the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes be agreed.

(h) Council Tax Setting 2009/2010

The Council was required to make an annual determination, which set its gross expenditure (including the Housing Revenue Account and balances brought forward) and gross income (also including the Housing Revenue Account and balances brought forward), with the difference as its budget requirement.

The estimated expenses chargeable to the non-parished area of Taunton in 2009/2010 amounted to £30,620 and this formed part of the total net expenditure of the Council. Details had also been received of the parish precepts levied and the appropriate Council Tax at Band D.

The Council's budget requirement was £14,216,203 including Parish Precepts and non-parished Special Expenses. This amount was then reduced by the amount notified in respect of Taunton Deane's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) amounting to £1,022,665 and the Non Domestic Rates Distribution (NDR) from the pool, amounting to £6,935,368.

The net amount, having taking the collection fund position into account, of £5,761,663 was used to calculate the Council Tax at Band D, reflecting the Parish Precepts, by dividing it by the total of the Council Tax base as approved by the Executive in December 2008.

As mentioned in the General Fund Budget report, the Council Tax for Taunton Deane (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses for the non-parished area) was £131.89 - a nil increase compared to the 2008/2009 Council Tax.

On the motion of Councillor Henley it was

Resolved that subject to final determination to take account of the Council Tax for Somerset County Council,

(1) That it be noted that at its meeting on 4 December 2008 the Executive calculated the following amounts for the year 2009/2010 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended):-

(i) 40,399.85 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.

(ii)

Ash Priors	76.70	Neroche	252.56
Ashbrittle	91.34	North Curry	730.57
Bathealton	81.32	Norton Fitzwarren	807.63
Bishops Hull	1,072.93	Nynehead	156.97

Bishops Lydeard / Cothelstone	1,942.94	Oake	334.07
Bradford on Tone	288.20	Otterford	166.56
Burrowbridge	202.22	Pitminster	457.35
Cheddon Fitzpaine	639.44	Ruishton / Thornfalcon	618.09
Chipstable	126.92	Sampford Arundel	130.44
Churchstanton	323.50	Staplegrove	725.08
Combe Florey	122.10	Stawley	130.96
Comeytrowe	2,087.85	Stoke St Gregory	382.12
Corfe	133.16	Stoke St Mary	204.74
Creech St Michael	947.91	Taunton	16,154.15
Durston	58.80	Trull	1,006.54
Fitzhead	125.72	Wellington	4,658.68
Halse	144.89	Wellington (Without)	299.17
Hatch Beauchamp	262.64	West Bagborough	162.97
Kingston St Mary	448.44	West Buckland	441.31
Langford Budville	235.70	West Hatch	141.84
Lydeard St Lawrence / Tolland	201.80	West Monkton	1,113.54
Milverton	597.33	Wiveliscombe	1,112.63

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items related.

- (2) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2009/2010 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(a) £77,473,698

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimated for the items set out

in Section 32(2)(a) of the Act.
(Gross Expenditure including amount required for working balance).

(b) £63,257,495

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimated for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
(Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet Gross Expenditure).

(c) £14,216,203

being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeded the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.

(d) £8,454,540

being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimated would be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates, Revenue Support Grant, additional grant or SSA Reduction Grant (increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimated would be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (*Council Tax Surplus*) and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimated would be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charge) Directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7 February 1994 (*Community Charge Surplus*).

(e) £142.62

$$\frac{(c) - (d)}{9.2.1(1)} = \frac{14,216,203 - 8,454,540}{40,399.85}$$

being the amount calculated at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount at 9.2.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. (*Average Council Tax at Band D for Borough including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses*).

(f) £433,323

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

(Parish Precepts and Special Expenses).

(g) £131.89

$$(e) - \frac{(f)}{10.2.1(a)} = 142.62 - \frac{433,323}{40,399.85}$$

being the amount at (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (f) above by the amount at 9.2.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items related.

(Council Tax at Band D for Borough Excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses).

(h)

Ash Priors	131.89	Neroche	145.35
Ashbrittle	145.03	North Curry	153.79
Bathealton	139.88	Norton Fitzwarren	160.85
Bishops Hull	150.53	Nynehead	153.87
Bishops Lydeard / Cothelstone	148.80	Oake	145.36
Bradford on Tone	149.24	Otterford	131.89
Burrowbridge	155.69	Pitminster	147.29
Cheddon Fitzpaine	141.27	Ruishton / Thornfalcon	150.09
Chipstable	146.47	Sampford Arundel	165.93
Churchstanton	155.44	Staplegrove	144.30
Combe Florey	144.99	Stawley	147.16
Comeytrowe	142.43	Stoke St Gregory	147.59
Corfe	143.15	Stoke St Mary	146.58
Creech St Michael	150.09	Taunton	133.79
Durston	131.89	Trull	143.81
Fitzhead	151.29	Wellington	148.39

Halse	142.24	Wellington (Without)	148.27
Hatch Beauchamp	147.81	West Bagborough	138.03
Kingston St Mary	145.27	West Buckland	150.02
Langford Budville	150.98	West Hatch	146.91
Lydeard St Lawrence / Tolland	146.26	West Monkton	158.47
Milverton	151.14	Wiveliscombe	149.29

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (g) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 9.2.1(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 those parts of its area to which one or more special items related.

(Council Taxes at Band D for Borough, Parish and Special Expenses).

- (i) See overleaf

(a)

Valuation Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ash Priors	87.93	102.58	117.24	131.89	161.20	190.51	219.82	263.78
Ashbrittle	96.69	112.80	128.92	145.03	177.26	209.49	241.72	290.06
Bathealton	93.25	108.80	124.34	139.88	170.96	202.05	233.13	279.76
Bishops Hull	100.35	117.08	133.80	150.53	183.98	217.43	250.88	301.06
Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone	99.20	115.73	132.27	148.80	181.87	214.93	248.00	297.60
Bradford on Tone	99.49	116.08	132.66	149.24	182.40	215.57	248.73	298.48
Burrowbridge	103.79	121.09	138.39	155.69	190.29	224.89	259.48	311.38
Cheddon Fitzpaine	94.18	109.88	125.57	141.27	172.66	204.06	235.45	282.54
Chipstable	97.65	113.92	130.20	146.47	179.02	211.57	244.12	292.94
Churchstanton	103.63	120.90	138.17	155.44	189.98	224.52	259.07	310.88
Combe Florey	96.66	112.77	128.88	144.99	177.21	209.43	241.65	289.98
Comeytrowe	94.95	110.78	126.60	142.43	174.08	205.73	237.38	284.86
Corfe	95.43	111.34	127.24	143.15	174.96	206.77	238.58	286.30
Creech St Michael	100.06	116.74	133.41	150.09	183.44	216.80	250.15	300.18
Durston	87.93	102.58	117.24	131.89	161.20	190.51	219.82	263.78

Fitzhead	100.86	117.67	134.48	151.29	184.91	218.53	252.15	302.58
Halse	94.83	110.63	126.44	142.24	173.85	205.46	237.07	284.48
Hatch Beauchamp	98.54	114.96	131.39	147.81	180.66	213.50	246.35	295.62
Kingston St Mary	96.85	112.99	129.13	145.27	177.55	209.83	242.12	290.54
Langford Budville	100.65	117.43	134.20	150.98	184.53	218.08	251.63	301.96
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	97.51	113.76	130.01	146.26	178.76	211.26	243.77	292.52
Milverton	100.76	117.55	134.35	151.14	184.73	218.31	251.90	302.28
Neroche	96.90	113.05	129.20	145.35	177.65	209.95	242.25	290.70
North Curry	102.53	119.61	136.70	153.79	187.97	222.14	256.32	307.58
Norton Fitzwarren	107.23	125.11	142.98	160.85	196.59	232.34	268.08	321.70
Nynehead	102.58	119.68	136.77	153.87	188.06	222.26	256.45	307.74
Oake	96.91	113.06	129.21	145.36	177.66	209.96	242.27	290.72
Otterford	87.93	102.58	117.24	131.89	161.20	190.51	219.82	263.78
Pitminster	98.19	114.56	130.92	147.29	180.02	212.75	245.48	294.58
Ruishton/Thornfalcon	100.06	116.74	133.41	150.09	183.44	216.80	250.15	300.18
Sampford Arundel	110.62	129.06	147.49	165.93	202.80	239.68	276.55	331.86

Staplegrove	96.20	112.23	128.27	144.30	176.37	208.43	240.50	288.60
Stawley	98.11	114.46	130.81	147.16	179.86	212.56	245.27	294.32
Stoke St Gregory	98.39	114.79	131.19	147.59	180.39	213.19	245.98	295.18
Stoke St Mary	97.72	114.01	130.29	146.58	179.15	211.73	244.30	293.16
Taunton	89.19	104.06	118.92	133.79	163.52	193.25	222.98	267.58
Trull	95.87	111.85	127.83	143.81	175.77	207.73	239.68	287.62
Wellington	98.93	115.41	131.90	148.39	181.37	214.34	247.32	296.78
Wellington Without	98.85	115.32	131.80	148.27	181.22	214.17	247.12	296.54
West Bagborough	92.02	107.36	122.69	138.03	168.70	199.38	230.05	276.06
West Buckland	100.01	116.68	133.35	150.02	183.36	216.70	250.03	300.04
West Hatch	97.94	114.26	130.59	146.91	179.56	212.20	244.85	293.82
West Monkton	105.65	123.25	140.86	158.47	193.69	228.90	264.12	316.94
Wiveliscombe	99.53	116.11	132.70	149.29	182.47	215.64	248.82	298.58

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (h) above by the number which, in 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 is that proportion 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 (Council Tax for Individual Parishes and the Borough)

(b)

That it be noted that for the year 2009/2010 the Somerset County Council, the Avon and Somerset Police Authority and the Somerset and Devon Fire and Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwelling shown below:-

Somerset County Council	684.87	799.01	913.16	1,027.30	1,255.59	1,483.88	1,712.17	2,054.60
Avon and Somerset Police Authority	107.51	125.42	143.34	161.26	197.10	232.93	268.77	322.52
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority	46.12	53.81	61.49	69.18	84.55	99.93	115.30	138.36

That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (a) and (b) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts of Council Tax for the year 2009/2010 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Valuation Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ash Priors	926.43	1,080.82	1,235.23	1,389.63	1,698.44	2,007.25	2,316.06	2,779.26
Ashbrittle	935.19	1,091.04	1,246.91	1,402.77	1,714.50	2,026.23	2,337.96	2,805.54
Bathealton	931.76	1,087.03	1,242.33	1,397.62	1,708.21	2,018.79	2,329.38	2,795.24
Bishops Hull	938.86	1,095.32	1,251.80	1,408.27	1,721.22	2,034.17	2,347.13	2,816.54
Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone	937.70	1,093.97	1,250.26	1,406.54	1,719.11	2,031.68	2,344.24	2,813.08
Bradford on Tone	938.00	1,094.31	1,250.65	1,406.98	1,719.65	2,032.31	2,344.98	2,813.96
Burrowbridge	942.30	1,099.33	1,256.39	1,413.43	1,727.53	2,041.63	2,355.73	2,826.86
Cheddon Fitzpaine	932.68	1,088.12	1,243.57	1,399.01	1,709.90	2,020.80	2,331.69	2,798.02
Chipstable	936.15	1,092.16	1,248.19	1,404.21	1,716.26	2,028.31	2,340.36	2,808.42
Churchstanton	942.13	1,099.14	1,256.16	1,413.18	1,727.22	2,041.27	2,355.31	2,826.36
Combe Florey	935.16	1,091.01	1,246.87	1,402.73	1,714.45	2,026.17	2,337.89	2,805.46
Comeytrowe	933.46	1,089.02	1,244.60	1,400.17	1,711.32	2,022.47	2,333.63	2,800.34
Corfe	933.94	1,089.58	1,245.24	1,400.89	1,712.20	2,023.51	2,334.83	2,801.78
Creech St Michael	938.56	1,094.98	1,251.41	1,407.83	1,720.68	2,033.54	2,346.39	2,815.66

Durstun	926.43	1,080.82	1,235.23	1,389.63	1,698.44	2,007.25	2,316.06	2,779.26
Fitzhead	939.36	1,095.91	1,252.47	1,409.03	1,722.15	2,035.27	2,348.39	2,818.06
Halse	933.33	1,088.87	1,244.43	1,399.98	1,711.09	2,022.20	2,333.31	2,799.96
Hatch Beauchamp	937.04	1,093.20	1,249.38	1,405.55	1,717.90	2,030.25	2,342.59	2,811.10
Kingston St Mary	935.35	1,091.23	1,247.12	1,403.01	1,714.79	2,026.58	2,338.36	2,806.02
Langford Budville	939.16	1,095.67	1,252.20	1,408.72	1,721.77	2,034.82	2,347.88	2,817.44
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	936.01	1,092.00	1,248.00	1,404.00	1,716.00	2,028.01	2,340.01	2,808.00
Milverton	939.26	1,095.79	1,252.34	1,408.88	1,721.97	2,035.06	2,348.14	2,817.76
Neroche	935.40	1,091.29	1,247.19	1,403.09	1,714.89	2,026.69	2,338.49	2,806.18
North Curry	941.03	1,097.85	1,254.70	1,411.53	1,725.21	2,038.88	2,352.56	2,823.06
Norton Fitzwarren	945.74	1,103.34	1,260.97	1,418.59	1,733.84	2,049.08	2,364.33	2,837.18
Nynehead	941.08	1,097.92	1,254.77	1,411.61	1,725.30	2,039.00	2,352.69	2,823.22
Oake	935.41	1,091.30	1,247.20	1,403.10	1,714.90	2,026.71	2,338.51	2,806.20
Otterford	926.43	1,080.82	1,235.23	1,389.63	1,698.44	2,007.25	2,316.06	2,779.26
Pitminster	936.70	1,092.80	1,248.92	1,405.03	1,717.26	2,029.49	2,341.73	2,810.06
Ruishton/Thornfolcon	938.56	1,094.98	1,251.41	1,407.83	1,720.68	2,033.54	2,346.39	2,815.66
Sampford Arundel	949.12	1,107.30	1,265.49	1,423.67	1,740.04	2,056.42	2,372.79	2,847.34
Staplegrove	934.70	1,090.47	1,246.26	1,402.04	1,713.61	2,025.18	2,336.74	2,804.08
Stawley	936.61	1,092.70	1,248.80	1,404.90	1,717.10	2,029.31	2,341.51	2,809.80
Stoke St Gregory	936.90	1,093.03	1,249.19	1,405.33	1,717.63	2,029.93	2,342.23	2,810.66
Stoke St Mary	936.22	1,092.25	1,248.29	1,404.32	1,716.39	2,028.47	2,340.54	2,808.64
Taunton	927.70	1,082.30	1,236.92	1,391.53	1,700.76	2,009.99	2,319.23	2,783.06
Trull	934.38	1,090.09	1,245.83	1,401.55	1,713.01	2,024.47	2,335.93	2,803.10
Wellington	937.43	1,093.65	1,249.90	1,406.13	1,718.61	2,031.08	2,343.56	2,812.26
Wellington Without	937.35	1,093.56	1,249.79	1,406.01	1,718.46	2,030.91	2,343.36	2,812.02
West Bagborough	930.52	1,085.60	1,240.69	1,395.77	1,705.94	2,016.12	2,326.29	2,791.54
West Buckland	938.52	1,094.92	1,251.35	1,407.76	1,720.60	2,033.44	2,346.28	2,815.52
West Hatch	936.44	1,092.50	1,248.58	1,404.65	1,716.80	2,028.95	2,341.09	2,809.30
West Monkton	944.15	1,101.49	1,258.86	1,416.21	1,730.93	2,045.64	2,360.36	2,832.42
Wiveliscombe	938.03	1,094.35	1,250.70	1,407.03	1,719.71	2,032.38	2,345.06	2,814.06

(h) Housing Revenue Account, Revenue Estimates and Rent Levels, Deane Helpline and Deane Building DLO Account for the 2009/2010 Financial Year

Consideration had been given to the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. It also included details of the proposed new rent charges for the year and it also provided information on the Deane Helpline Trading Account and Deane Building DLO Trading Account.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board had considered the 2009/2010 draft budget at its meeting on 22 January 2009. The Board had recommended that the rent increase should be reduced to 6.2% but it was still proposed to increase rents by 6.99%.

The motion of Councillor Prior-Sankey to approve the Housing Revenue Budget for 2009/2010 was put and was lost.

Councillor Prior-Sankey therefore proposed that to permit a Housing Revenue Budget to be set, the rent level should be reduced to 6.2% with the shortfall in income being met from reserves.

The Section 151 Officer, Shirlene Adam, stated that the implications of this proposed rent reduction would need to be fully considered before the Council was asked to vote on this revised proposal.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow this to happen.

When the meeting resumed, Ms Adam outlined the consequences of reducing the rent increase to 6.2%:-

- The average rent would be reduced by 48p per week from £64.44 to £63.96;
- There would be a reduction in income of approximately £150,000 or £600,000 over four years;
- Even though it was not good practice to do so, it would be safe to meet the shortfall in income from reserves;
- To meet rent convergence targets, there was the possibility that rents would have to be increased to far higher levels in the future; and
- There would be an impact on the Decent Homes programme.

In addition, Ms Adam reported that the Council Tax Determination which had previously been approved by Full Council would need to be re-visited as two of the calculations would change if a lower rent increase was approved.

On the motion of Councillor Prior-Sankey, it was

Resolved that:-

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2009/2010, incorporating a rent increase of 6.2% instead of 6.99% be agreed; and
- (2) the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2009/2010 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 :-

(a) £77,240,698 (to replace the previously approved figure of £77,473,698) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimated for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) of the Act. *(Gross Expenditure including amount required for working balance).*

(b) £63,024,495 (to replace the previously approved figure of £63,257,495) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimated for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act. *(Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet Gross Expenditure).*

8. **Reports of the Leader of the Council and Executive Councillors**

The following reports were made to the Council on the main items of current and future business.

(i) **Leader of the Council (Councillor Henley)**

Councillor Henley's report covered the following topics:-

- The Budget;
- Core Council Review;
- The Economy.

(ii) **Environmental Services (Councillor Mullins)**

The Report from Councillor Mullins drew attention to developments in the following areas:-

- Environmental Health;
- Environmental Protection;
- Taunton Deane Cemeteries and Crematorium;

(iii) **Housing Services (Councillor Prior-Sankey)**

Councillor Prior-Sankey submitted her report which drew attention to the following:-

- A new Era of Council Housing;
- Housing Associations feel the pinch;
- Tenant Empowerment Report;
- Tenant Services Authority;
- Consultation on New Developments;
- Norie House – Rough Sleepers Success.

(iv) **Resources (Councillor Mrs Smith)**

The report from Councillor Mrs Smith provided information on the following areas within her portfolio:-

- Democratic Services;
- Human Resources;
- Revenues and Benefits Service Unit;
- Financial Services;
- Performance Management.

(v) **Community Leadership (Councillor A Wedderkopp)**

Councillor A Wedderkopp presented the Community Leadership report which focused on the following areas within that portfolio:-

- Local Strategic Partnership;
- Pioneer Somerset;
- Scrutiny Review of Pioneer Somerset;
- Young People and Children's Champion;
- Provision of outreach family support services 2009-2011;
- Restorative Justice;
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership;
- CCTV;
- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Equalities.

(vi) **Communications (Councillor Brooks)**

Councillor Brooks' report covered the following topics:-

- Public Relations;
- Website Update;
- Place Survey.

(vii) **Planning Policy and Transportation (Councillor Coles)**

Councillor Coles submitted his report, which drew attention to the following:-

- Local Development Scheme;
- Regional funding allocation for Transport;

- Building Control;
- Monkton Heathfield;
- Residents' Parking;
- Southwest One.

(viii) **Economic Development and the Arts (Councillor Horsley)**

The report from Councillor Horsley covered:-

- Into Somerset;
- The Brewhouse;
- The Economic Downturn;
- Project Taunton;
- Employment and Skills;
- Networks and Events;
- Local Action for Rural Communities;
- Wellington;
- Somerset Tourism Partnership.

(ix) **Sports, Parks and Leisure (Councillor R Lees)**

The report from Councillor R Lees dealt with activities taking place in the following areas:-

- Community Leisure;
- Play;
- Tone Leisure (Taunton Deane) Limited Activities;
- Other Youth Activity Schemes.

(Councillors D Durdan, Mrs Hill and Thorne left the meeting at 8.34 pm, 8.40 pm and 8.56 pm respectively.)

(The meeting ended at 9.52 pm.)