

Taunton Deane Borough Council

At a meeting of Taunton Deane Borough Council held in the Principal Committee Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton on 19 February 2008 at 6.30 pm.

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

The late Councillor A R Floyd

The meeting started with the sad news that Councillor Tony Floyd had passed away earlier that day. Members paid tribute to his service, both to the Council and the Community and stood in silence as a mark of respect.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2007, copies having been sent to each Member, were signed by the Mayor.

2. Apologies

Councillors Bone and Edwards.

3 Public Question Time

Dennis Allen, Chairman of the Tenants Forum, asked why buses were not now including journeys around the Roman Road area at night time. He also asked, if anyone knew why Asda did not do home deliveries in the same way as other supermarkets.

Councillor Coles replied that he would investigate further with the appropriate bus company the reasons why buses were not now including journeys around the Roman Road area at night time. As far as Asda was concerned, he suggested that Mr Allen might like to contact the Manager of Asda, Mr Pat Gamble, for an answer to this question.

Paul Partington stated that in answers to his questions to Council on 11 December 2007, it was stated by Councillor Richard Lees that it was absolutely inevitable that St James Street baths will be closed in the foreseeable future. No clear explanation was made about Flook House pool. He therefore asked the following questions:-

1. Has there been any discussion by Officer's or Members of Taunton Deane Borough Council about the future of Flook House pool?
2. If there had been discussions about the future of Flook House pool, what were the outcomes from these discussions?
3. Has the future of Flook House pool ever been put into the public domain?

Councillor Richard Lees replied that he would respond to these questions in full and in writing.

Paul Partington also stated that he understood that Taunton Deane Borough Council had no longer an agency agreement with Somerset County Council to carry out functions of the Highway Authority regarding Public Rights of Way work. He therefore asked the following questions:-

1. Why is Taunton Deane Borough Council still involved with Public Rights of Way Diversion Orders, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980?
2. What is the number of and types of Public Rights of Way (ie footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways) that Taunton Deane Borough Council are currently involved in proposals/discussions for possible diversion?
3. What policies does Taunton Deane Borough Council have regarding Public Rights of Way?
4. What is the financial cost to Taunton Deane Borough Council in its involvement with Public Rights of Way Diversions?
5. From 1 October 2007, Section 69 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, commenced. This new piece of legislation will help to improve the accessibility of the footpath and bridleway network to people with mobility problems. If Taunton Deane is involved in Public Rights of Way Diversions, are you using maximum use of these powers? He added that people with mobility problems included blind or partially sighted people, and others could include, for example, older and disabled people or those with young children and pushchairs. Family and friends who accompany people with mobility problems were also affected by the accessibility of the network.

Councillor Coles informed Mr Partington that he would supply him with a written answer to all of his questions.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Brooks, Henley, Govier, Paul and Prior-Sankey all declared personal interests as Members of Somerset County Council. Councillor James declared a personal interest as an employee of Viridor. Councillor Coles declared a personal interest as a Director of Southwest One. Councillor Mrs Lewin-Harris declared a personal interest as the Taunton Deane Borough Council's representative on the Citizens Advice Bureau, and Councillor Prior-Sankey also declared a personal interest as a tenant of a Council owned garage. Councillor Cavill declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any matters relating to development at Monkton Heathfield and Councillor Leighton declared a personal interest as Chair of the Monkton Heathfield Community Engagement Panel.

5. Written Questions to Members of The Executive

(a) Councillor Mrs Lewin-Harris asked the following question:-

Please could the Leader of the Council assure residents of Cotford St Luke, that in the event of an appeal against the Planning Committee's decision to refuse permission for a mobile home, two caravans and a septic tank at Dene Road, Cotford St Luke, this Council was committed to a robust defence of the Authority's decision and would make available whatever resources were required to ensure this.

Councillor Henley confirmed that this issue was taken seriously, and that he understood the planning problems and the concerns of the Cotford St Luke residents. He pledged the Council's support in the defence of the Authority's decision and said that all necessary steps would be taken to ensure that planning regulations were enforced.

(b) Councillor Williams asked the following question:-

At the last Full Council Meeting I was personally accused of being a "spendaholic" with taxpayers' money and unfortunately I was unable to defend myself against this outrageous and unwarranted claim.

I have directed this question to the Leader, rather than Councillor Horsley, who made the accusation, in the hope that the Leader will be well aware of the very substantial funding streams we accessed during our administration so will be able to correct the record. The following is not an exhaustive list of funding gained or secured during our administration but will demonstrate quite clearly that the accusations made are groundless and bear no resemblance to the facts.

Revenues and Benefits systems	£380,000
Project Taunton Firepool	£3,530,000

Project Taunton Longrun Farm	£1,610,000
Project Taunton County Ground	£830,000
New Growth Point Funding Initial	£95,000
New Growth Point Capital	£2,700,000
New Growth Point Revenue	£200,000
New Growth Point Potential	£5,300,000
Total	£14,645,000

In addition, we released £750,000 from the sale of Bedford House for reinvestment and by securing an alternative site for the Garden Nursery site, will have released a valuable town centre site, value probably around £2 million. For the Neroche Project by pump priming we also gained around £2 million investment in Taunton Deane.

The foregoing facts are sufficient to repudiate the grossly misleading statements made at the previous Full Council on 11 December 2007 and I would ask the Leader to reaffirm that these figures are representative of the facts. Far from being a “spendaholic” this, and more besides, is a huge sum gained and invested for the benefit of the Taunton Deane community.

Councillor Henley replied that this was more of a statement than a question, but he would ask Officers to check the figures mentioned by Councillor Williams and inform him accordingly.

6. Recommendations to Council from the Executive

(a) Capital Strategy 2008-2011

Although there was no statutory requirement for the Council to prepare a Capital Strategy, in terms of setting direction for the use of the Council’s capital resources the strategy was seen as a ‘must have’ document.

The Capital Strategy was a summary of the Council’s approach to capital investment including:-

- Our Vision,
- The identification of needs and our needs gap,
- The management and monitoring of the capital programme,
- The capital programme and the level of resources available,
- Our approach to procurement and partnership working,
- Linkages to other corporate plans.

The revised draft Strategy for 2008-2011 had been updated from last year’s version by incorporating new developments being undertaken by the Council and refreshing the financial data included within the document.

The Strategy and Performance Panel had also considered the draft document.

On the motion of Councillor Henley it was **Resolved** that the draft Capital Strategy for 2008-2011 be agreed.

(b) **General Fund Revenue Estimates 2008/2009**

The Executive had considered its final 2008/2009 budget proposals. It contained details on:

- (i) the General Fund Revenue Budget proposals for 2008/2009, 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 have also considered draft budget proposals at its meeting on 24 January 2008.

The Council Tax calculation and formal tax setting resolution was to be considered separately. The proposed budget for Taunton Deane would result in a B and D Council Tax of £131.89, an increase of £3.84 (3.0%) on 2007/2008. This represented an increase of 7.4p pence per week. The B and D taxpayer would, therefore, receive all the services provided by the Council in 2008/2009 at a cost of £2.54 per week.

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 provided 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 2009/2010. 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 2008/2009 proposed Council Tax level.

The estimated expenses chargeable to the non-parished area of Taunton in 2008/2009 amounted to £29,190, an increase of 4.75%, and this formed part of the total net expenditure of the Council. The precept in 2007/2008 was £27,870.

As part of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance there was a requirement for Council to approve the indicators as set out in the report to the Executive. These included 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 S151 Officer had thoroughly 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 2008/2009 budget were sufficiently robust.

Moved by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lewin-Harris that the budget proposals be amended as follows:

Council Tax increase be reduced to 2.5%	£25,708
Increase grant to Citizens Advice Bureau 2008/2009 from £69K to £74K	<u>£5,000</u>
Total	£30,708

This will be funded by:

Removing £22,000 earmarked for Sustainable Transport Initiatives	£22,000
Taking £8,708 from the proposed £15K Revenue Contribution to Capital	<u>£8,708</u>
Total	£30,708

The amendment was put and was lost.

On the motion of Councillor Henley it was **Resolved** that the budget for General Fund services for 2008/2009 as outlined in the report to the Executive be agreed and that:-

- a) the transfer for any potential underspend in 2007/2008 back to General Fund reserves be agreed;
- b) the proposed 2008/2009 budget, being Authority expenditure of £13,614,270 and Special Expenses of £29,190 be agreed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1992;
- c) the predicted General Fund Reserve balance at 31 March 2008 of £844,203 be agreed;
- d) the Prudential Indicators for 2008/09 as set out in the report be agreed;
- e) the forecast budget position for 2009/10 onwards as outlined in the report be noted.
(Councillor Horsley declared a personal interest in the above item as a Trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau)

(c) **Capital Programme 2008/2009 Onwards**

Consideration had been given to the proposed General Fund (GF) and Housing Account (HRA) capital programmes for the period 2008/2009 and beyond.

For the General Fund the existing unallocated resources available were £43k. It was proposed to direct these resources entirely towards the replacement desktop hardware programme.

For all Housing schemes, both GF and HRA, the estimated resources available for 2008/2009 amounted to £7,280k. The proposed capital programme for 2008/2009 amounted to £6,576k. The unallocated resources of £704k 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.

(d) **Council Tax Setting 2008/2009**

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 2008/2009 amounted to £29,190 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 B and D.

The Council's budget requirement was £14,014,469 including draft Parish Precepts and non-parished Special Expenses. This amount was then reduced by the amount notified in respect of the Borough's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) amounting to £1,022,665 and the Non Domestic Rates Distribution (NDR) from the pool, amounting to £7,346,300.

The net amount, having taken the collection fund position into account, of £5,695,990 was used to calculate the Council Tax at B and D, reflecting the Parish Precepts by dividing it by the total of the Council Tax base as approved by the Executive in January 2008.

The Council Tax for the Borough (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses for the non-parished area) was £131.89, an increase of £3.84 (3.0%) compared to the 2007/2008 Council Tax.

On the motion of Councillor Henley it was **Resolved** that subject to final determination including the Council Tax for Somerset County Council, Police and Fire Authorities.

(i) That it be noted that at its meeting on 14 January 2008 the Executive calculated the following amounts for the year 2008/2009 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended):-

(1) 40,153.07 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.

(2)

Ash Priors	78.82	Neroche	248.78
Ashbrittle	90.22	North Curry	724.80
Bathealton	81.22	Norton Fitzwarren	737.28
Bishops Hull	1,075.04	Nynehead	168.96
Bishops Lydeard/ Cothelstone	1,915.67	Oake	330.56
Bradford on Tone	277.60	Otterford	168.23
Burrowbridge	203.67	Pitminster	449.53
Cheddon Fitzpaine	636.76	Ruishton/ Thornfalcon	621.22
Chipstable	120.07	Sampford Arundel	128.69
Churchstanton	313.19	Staplegrove	719.37
Combe Florey	123.09	Stawley	123.05
Comeytrove	2,088.46	Stoke St Gregory	381.60
Corfe	137.97	Stoke St Mary	212.07
Creech St Michael	940.01	Taunton	16,083.61
Durston	58.99	Trull	1,008.61
Fitzhead	124.85	Wellington	4,646.65
Halse	146.71	Wellington (Without)	297.29
Hatch Beauchamp	265.32	West Bagborough	159.39
Kingston St Mary	460.34	West Buckland	439.50
Langford Budville	220.32	West Hatch	140.64
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	199.61	West Monkton	1,104.87
Milverton	596.15	Wiveliscombe	1,104.32

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 relate.

- (ii) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2008/2009 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- (a) £72,268,826 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) of the Act. (Gross Expenditure including amount required for working balance.)
 - (b) £58,254,357 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates 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) £14,014,469 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds 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) £8,318,479 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will 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 estimates will 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 estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charge) directions under Sec. 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7 February 1994 (Community Charge Surplus).
 - (e) £141.86 $\frac{(c) - (d)}{1(i)} = \frac{14,014,469 - 8,318,479}{40,153.07}$

being the amount calculated at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount at 1(i) 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 B and D for Borough Including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses.)

(f) £400,199 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 $\frac{(e) - (f)}{1(i)}$ = $\frac{141.86 - 400,199}{40,153.07}$

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

(h)

Ash Priors	135.06	Neroche	145.56
Ashbrittle	148.52	North Curry	152.59
Bathealton	139.28	Norton Fitzwarren	155.48
Bishops Hull	150.49	Nynehead	151.42
Bishops Lydeard/ Cothelstone	147.03	Oake	143.99
Bradford on Tone	150.80	Otterford	131.89
Burrowbridge	154.06	Pitminster	147.13
Cheddon Fitzpaine	141.31	Ruishton/Thornfalcon	150.00
Chipstable	145.22	Sampford Arundel	166.39
Churchstanton	155.84	Staplegrove	145.79
Combe Florey	144.89	Stawley	148.14
Comeytrowe	141.95	Stoke St Gregory	147.61
Corfe	139.86	Stoke St Mary	149.41
Creech St Michael	147.54	Taunton	133.70
Durstun	132.57	Trull	145.77
Fitzhead	153.28	Wellington	148.39
Halse	146.20	Wellington (Without)	147.53
Hatch Beauchamp	145.27	West Bagborough	138.16
Kingston St Mary	147.10	West Buckland	150.09
Langford Budville	155.13	West Hatch	147.04
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	146.42	West Monkton	143.29
Milverton	146.99	Wiveliscombe	147.83

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

- (i) See overleaf:

(a)

Valuation Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Ash Priors	90.04	105.05	120.06	135.06	165.07	195.09	225.10
Ashbrittle	99.02	115.51	132.02	148.52	181.53	214.53	247.54
Bathealton	92.86	108.33	123.81	139.28	170.23	201.18	232.14
Bishops Hull	100.33	117.05	133.77	150.49	183.93	217.38	250.82
Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone	98.02	114.36	130.70	147.03	179.70	212.38	245.09
Bradford on Tone	100.54	117.29	134.05	150.80	184.31	217.82	251.34
Burrowbridge	102.71	119.82	136.95	154.06	188.30	222.53	256.77
Cheddon Fitzpaine	94.21	109.91	125.61	141.31	172.71	204.12	235.52
Chipstable	96.82	112.95	129.09	145.22	177.49	209.76	242.04
Churchstanton	103.90	121.21	138.53	155.84	190.47	225.10	259.74
Combe Florey	96.60	112.69	128.80	144.89	177.09	209.29	241.49
Comeytrowe	94.64	110.40	126.18	141.95	173.50	205.04	236.59
Corfe	94.45	110.19	125.93	141.67	173.15	204.63	236.12
Creech St Michael	98.74	115.19	131.66	148.11	181.02	213.94	246.85
Durston	88.38	103.11	117.84	132.57	162.03	191.49	220.99
Fitzhead	102.19	119.22	136.25	153.28	187.34	221.41	255.47
Halse	97.47	113.71	129.96	146.20	178.69	211.18	243.67
Hatch Beauchamp							

	96.85	112.99	129.13	145.27	177.55	209.84	242.12
Kingston St Mary	98.07	114.41	130.76	147.10	179.79	212.48	245.17
Langford Budville	103.42	120.66	137.90	155.13	189.60	224.08	258.55
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	97.62	113.88	130.16	146.42	178.96	211.50	244.04
Milverton	98.00	114.32	130.66	146.99	179.66	212.32	244.99
Neroche	97.04	113.21	129.39	145.56	177.91	210.26	242.60
North Curry	101.73	118.68	135.64	152.59	186.50	220.41	254.32
Norton Fitzwarren	103.66	120.93	138.21	155.48	190.03	224.58	259.14
Nynehead	100.95	117.77	134.60	151.42	185.07	218.72	252.37
Oake	96.00	111.99	128.00	143.99	175.99	207.99	239.99
Otterford	87.93	102.58	117.24	131.89	161.20	190.51	219.82
Pitminster	98.09	114.43	130.79	147.13	179.83	212.52	245.22
Ruishton/Thornfalcon	100.00	116.67	133.34	150.00	183.33	216.67	250.00
Sampford Arundel	110.93	129.41	147.91	166.39	203.37	240.34	277.32
Staplegrove	97.20	113.39	129.60	145.79	178.19	210.59	242.99
Stawley	98.76	115.22	131.68	148.14	181.06	213.98	246.90
Stoke St Gregory	98.41	114.81	131.21	147.61	180.41	213.22	246.02
Stoke St Mary	99.61	116.21	132.81	149.41	182.61	215.82	249.02
Taunton	89.14	103.99	118.85	133.70	163.41	193.12	222.84
Trull							

	97.18	113.38	129.58	145.77	178.16	210.56	242.95
Wellington	98.93	115.41	131.91	148.39	181.37	214.34	247.32
Wellington Without	98.36	114.74	131.14	147.53	180.32	213.10	245.85
West Bagborough	92.11	107.46	122.81	138.16	168.86	199.57	230.27
West Buckland	100.06	116.74	133.42	150.09	183.44	216.80	250.15
West Hatch	98.03	114.36	130.71	147.04	179.72	212.39	245.07
West Monkton	95.53	111.45	127.37	143.29	175.13	206.98	238.82
Wiveliscombe	98.56	114.98	131.41	147.83	180.68	213.53	246.35

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 2008/09 the Somerset County Council, the Avon and Somerset Police Authority and the Somerset and Devon Fire & Rescue Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each valuation band:

Somerset County Council	666.60	777.70	888.80	999.90	1,222.10	1,444.30	1,666.50
Avon & Somerset Police Authority	102.88	120.03	137.17	154.32	188.61	222.91	257.20
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority	44.39	51.78	59.18	66.58	81.38	96.17	110.97

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, has determined the following amounts of council tax for the year 2008/09 for each valuation band:

Valuation Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
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Ash Priors	903.91	1,054.56	1,205.21	1,355.86	1,657.16	1,958.47	2,259.5
Ashbrittle	912.89	1,065.02	1,217.17	1,369.32	1,673.62	1,977.91	2,282.5
Bathealton	906.73	1,057.84	1,208.96	1,360.08	1,662.32	1,964.56	2,266.5
Bishops Hull	914.20	1,066.56	1,218.92	1,371.29	1,676.02	1,980.76	2,285.5
Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone	911.89	1,063.87	1,215.85	1,367.83	1,671.79	1,975.76	2,279.5
Bradford on Tone	914.41	1,066.80	1,219.20	1,371.60	1,676.40	1,981.20	2,286.5
Burrowbridge	916.58	1,069.33	1,222.10	1,374.86	1,680.39	1,985.91	2,291.5
Cheddon Fitzpaine	908.08	1,059.42	1,210.76	1,362.11	1,664.80	1,967.50	2,270.5
Chipstable	910.69	1,062.46	1,214.24	1,366.02	1,669.58	1,973.14	2,276.5
Churchstanton	917.77	1,070.72	1,223.68	1,376.64	1,682.56	1,988.48	2,294.5
Combe Florey	910.47	1,062.20	1,213.95	1,365.69	1,669.18	1,972.67	2,276.5
Comeytrove	908.51	1,059.91	1,211.33	1,362.75	1,665.59	1,968.42	2,271.5
Corfe	908.32	1,059.70	1,211.08	1,362.47	1,665.24	1,968.01	2,270.5
Creech St Michael	912.61	1,064.70	1,216.81	1,368.91	1,673.11	1,977.32	2,281.5
Durston	902.25	1,052.62	1,202.99	1,353.37	1,654.12	1,954.87	2,255.5
Fitzhead	916.06	1,068.73	1,221.40	1,374.08	1,679.43	1,984.79	2,290.5
Halse	911.34	1,063.22	1,215.11	1,367.00	1,670.78	1,974.56	2,278.5
Hatch Beauchamp	910.72	1,062.50	1,214.28	1,366.07	1,669.64	1,973.22	2,276.5
Kingston St Mary	911.94	1,063.92	1,215.91	1,367.90	1,671.88	1,975.86	2,279.5

Langford Budville	917.29	1,070.17	1,223.05	1,375.93	1,681.69	1,987.46	2,293.00
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	911.49	1,063.39	1,215.31	1,367.22	1,671.05	1,974.88	2,278.00
Milverton	911.87	1,063.83	1,215.81	1,367.79	1,671.75	1,975.70	2,279.00
Neroche	910.91	1,062.72	1,214.54	1,366.36	1,670.00	1,973.64	2,277.00
North Curry	915.60	1,068.19	1,220.79	1,373.39	1,678.59	1,983.79	2,288.00
Norton Fitzwarren	917.53	1,070.44	1,223.36	1,376.28	1,682.12	1,987.96	2,293.00
Nynehead	914.82	1,067.28	1,219.75	1,372.22	1,677.16	1,982.10	2,287.00
Oake	909.87	1,061.50	1,213.15	1,364.79	1,668.08	1,971.37	2,274.00
Otterford	901.80	1,052.09	1,202.39	1,352.69	1,653.29	1,953.89	2,254.00
Pitminster	911.96	1,063.94	1,215.94	1,367.93	1,671.92	1,975.90	2,279.00
Ruishton/Thornfolcon	913.87	1,066.18	1,218.49	1,370.80	1,675.42	1,980.05	2,284.00
Sampford Arundel	924.80	1,078.92	1,233.06	1,387.19	1,695.46	2,003.72	2,311.00
Staplegrove	911.07	1,062.90	1,214.75	1,366.59	1,670.28	1,973.97	2,277.00
Stawley	912.63	1,064.73	1,216.83	1,368.94	1,673.15	1,977.36	2,281.00
Stoke St Gregory	912.28	1,064.32	1,216.36	1,368.41	1,672.50	1,976.60	2,280.00
Stoke St Mary	913.48	1,065.72	1,217.96	1,370.21	1,674.70	1,979.20	2,283.00
Taunton	903.01	1,053.50	1,204.00	1,354.50	1,655.50	1,956.50	2,257.00
Trull	911.05	1,062.89	1,214.73	1,366.57	1,670.25	1,973.94	2,277.00
Wellington	912.80	1,064.92	1,217.06	1,369.19	1,673.46	1,977.72	2,281.00

Wellington Without	912.23	1,064.25	1,216.29	1,368.33	1,672.41	1,976.48	2,280.3
West Bagborough	905.98	1,056.97	1,207.96	1,358.96	1,660.95	1,962.95	2,264.3
West Buckland	913.93	1,066.25	1,218.57	1,370.89	1,675.53	1,980.18	2,284.3
West Hatch	911.90	1,063.87	1,215.86	1,367.84	1,671.81	1,975.77	2,279.3
West Monkton	909.40	1,060.96	1,212.52	1,364.09	1,667.22	1,970.36	2,273.3
Wiveliscombe	912.43	1,064.49	1,216.56	1,368.63	1,672.77	1,976.91	2,281.3

(e) **Fees and Charges 2008/2009**

Consideration had been given to the proposed fees and charges for 2008/2009 for the following services:

- Cemeteries and Crematorium,
- Waste Services,
- Licensing.

The results of both the 2006 and 2007 public consultation events 'Your Council, Your Views' 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. Details of the proposed increases were submitted.

On the motion of Councillor Mullins it was **Resolved** that the fees and charges for 2008/2009 in respect of Waste Services, Cemeteries and Crematorium and Licensing, as submitted, be agreed.

(f) **Regulation of Skin Piercing Businesses**

The Council were permitted to adopt new legislation and associated new byelaws to allow for the activities of cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin-colouring to be included in the statutory control framework for skin piercing activities.

Consideration had therefore been given to adopting the new legislation and new byelaws to allow cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin colouring businesses that were already operating in the district to register and to allow for Officers to be able to regulate these activities effectively by utilising the new byelaws.

On the motion of Councillor Mullins it was **Resolved** that:-

1. That the provisions of sections 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by Section 120 of the Local Government Act 2003 (hereinafter referred to as 'these sections'), to apply to all of the Council's area and that the resolution shall apply to the following persons
 - (a) those carrying out the business of cosmetic piercing
 - (b) those carrying out the business of electrolysis
 - (c) those carrying out the business of tattooing and semi-permanent skin colouring
 - (d) those carrying out the business of acupuncture.
2. These sections to come into force in the area of the Taunton Deane Borough Council on the first day of April 2008.

3. To authorise the affixing of the Council's common seal to the following byelaws:
 - (a) Those for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises registered under Section 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and fittings in those premises and of the registered persons and persons assisting them and cleansing and, as far as appropriate, sterilization of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the business of cosmetic piercing.
 - (b) Those for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises registered under Section 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and fittings in those premises and of the registered persons and persons assisting them and the cleansing and, so far as appropriate, sterilization of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the business of electrolysis.
 - (c) Those for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises registered under section 14 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and fittings in those premises and of the registered persons and persons assisting them and the cleansing and, so far as appropriate, sterilization of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the business of acupuncture.
 - (d) Those for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises registered under Section 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and fittings in those premises and of registered persons and persons assisting them and the cleaning and, so far as appropriate, sterilization of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the business of tattooing and semi-permanent skin colouring.
4. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to carry out the necessary procedure and apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation of the new byelaws. In addition, the Council approves the repeal of the following byelaws made by the Council on 19 December 1984 –
 - (a) Those relating to ear piercing and electrolysis;
 - (b) Those relating to tattooing;
 - (c) Those relating to acupuncture.

(g) **Housing Revenue Account, Revenue Estimates and Rent Levels, Deane Helpline and Deane Building DLO Account 2008/2009**

Consideration had been given to the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. It also included details relating to the new rent level, service charges and other housing related charges such as garage rents. Finally it provided information on the Deane Helpline Trading Account and Deane Building DLO Trading Account.

On the motion of Councillor Prior-Sankey it was **Resolved** that the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2008/2009 be agreed.

7. **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).

Before submitting his report, Councillor Henley drew the Council's attention to the fact that this would be the last Council meeting to be attended by Jeremy Thornberry before his retirement at the end of March. Mr Thornberry had been a long and loyal servant to the Council since 1974 and tributes to his commitment, dignity and delivery of sound advice over the years were paid by Group Leaders and other councillors. The Council as a whole wished Jeremy a long and happy retirement.

Jeremy Thornberry thanked the Council for its good wishes and stated that he would consider very carefully the generous invitation to attend future meetings of the Council as a member of the public.

Councillor Henley's report covered the following topics:-

- The Budget;
- Concessionary Fares;
- Post Office closures;
- Meetings attended by the Leader.

(ii) Communications (Councillor Brooks)

Councillor Brooks' report covered the following topics:-

- Public Relations;
- The Council's Website;
- Consultation and Information;
- Other Communications.

(iii) Planning Policy and Transportation (Councillor Coles)

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

- Planning Restructure;
- Monkton Heathfield;
- Validation Check List;
- The Third Way;
- Draft Regional Spatial Strategy;
- Residents' Parking.

(Councillor Cavill declared a personal and prejudicial interest, as a land owner, in connection with the proposed development at Monkton Heathfield. Councillor Leighton declared a personal interest in the same item as Chair of the Monkton Heathfield Engagement Panel. Both councillors left the meeting during discussion on this part of the report. The Mayor (Councillor Hayward) also declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting. Councillor Slattery (Deputy Mayor) took the Chair during the Mayor's absence. Councillor Prior-Sankey declared a personal interest in relation to discussion on flooding issues as a member of the Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committee).

(iv) Economic Development, Asset Management and Tourism (Councillor Horsley)

The report from Councillor Horsley covered:-

- Property;
- Project Taunton, where Members were updated following meetings of both the Steering and Advisory Groups;
- Meetings with local businesses and partnerships;
- Tourism;
- Business support;
- Rural Economic Development;
- The Brewhouse.

(v) Leisure, Arts and Culture (Councillor R Lees)

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

- The Deano;
- Capital Grant to Corfe Village Hall;
- Carols in the Band Stand;
- Band Stand Concerts;
- Play;
- Planning for Developer Contributions;
- Tone Leisure;
- Somerset Art Week.

(vi) Environmental Services (Councillor Mullins)

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

- Food Safety, including Scores on The Doors;
- Health and Safety;
- Smoke Free;
- Environmental Protection Team;
- General Issues;
- Street cleansing.

(vii) Housing Services (Councillor Prior-Sankey)

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

- Disabled Facilities Grant;
- Negative Subsidy;
- The "Tax on Tenants";
- Thermostat Replacement Programme;
- Broken Glass Policy;
- Deane Helpline;

(viii) Resources (Councillor Mrs Smith)

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

- Democratic Services;
- Personnel;
- Corporate Support Services;
- ICT;
- Revenues and Benefit Services Unit;
- Financial Services;
- Scrutiny and Performance Management.

(ix) Community Leadership (Councillor A Wedderkopp)

Councillor A Wedderkopp's report focussed on the following areas within his portfolio:-

- Community Partnerships;
- LAA;
- Allotments;
- Facilities for Young People.

8. **Post Office Closures**

Moved by Councillor Henley, Seconded by Councillor Horsley.

This Council believes that people in Taunton Deane value the role of local Post Offices in their community and do not wish to see the closure of any more Post Offices in this area.

This Council notes with concern that:

- Since 1999 under the current Labour Government nine post offices have closed across the Taunton Constituency;
- A further 2,500 Post Office closures are planned nationwide;
- The urban and rural networks of Post Offices will each sustain 50% of the planned closures which will result in further reduction in the number of Post Offices within Taunton Deane;
- One in five of the remaining Post Offices in the network are due to be closed, equating to seven of the remaining 36 Post Offices in Taunton Constituency;
- The Post Office is mapping out the location of our areas Post Offices against criteria set by the Government, which will identify a potential closure profile, and commencing in February 2008 a six-week public consultation will be undertaken on the closure proposals;
- The Government has further reduced the services available in Post Offices in Taunton Deane against the wishes of customers;
- There are no longer Sunday collections of mail in Taunton;
- The latest time for posting mail in Taunton Deane is now 5.45 pm during the working week; it used to be 12 midnight.

This Council resolves to:-

- Oppose the Government's Post Office closure programme and respond to the consultation accordingly;
- Ask the Chief Executive to investigate ways that this Council can provide further services for Taunton Deane people via the network of local Post Offices;
- Ask a regional committee member of Postwatch to attend a meeting of the Executive of the Council to explain the dissatisfaction of this Council with both the intentions of the government and the process of consultation;

- Support our local MP in lobbying the Government to save the Post Office and to ask him to report back to this Council on his actions;
- To increase the viability of the Post Office network this Council calls on the Government to:-
 - (a) End the branch closure programme;
 - (b) Remove the Royal Mail restrictions on the Post Office to open up further business opportunities for the network;
 - (c) Stop removing Government business from Post Offices;
 - (d) Carry out a review of which additional Government functions could be carried out through Post Offices;
 - (e) Invest in the Post Office network.

Councillor Mullins, Seconded by Councillor Henley, requested that a formal roll call of votes be taken and recorded in the Minutes, in accordance with Standing Order 19(2). This request was supported by the votes of at least a quarter of the Councillors present. The motion was put and was carried, the voting being 34 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions, as follows:-

For Councillors Bishop, Brooks, Coles, Mrs Copley, Mrs Court-Stenning, Critchard, Durdan, Farbahi, Hayward, Henley, Horsley, House, Miss James, R Lees, Mrs Lees, Mrs Lewin-Harris, McMahon, Meikle, Mullins, Murphy, Paul, Prior-Sankey, Slattery, Mrs Smith, P Smith, Mrs Stock-Williams, Stuart-Thorn, Watson, Mrs Waymouth, D Wedderkopp, A Wedderkopp, Mrs Wilson, Miss Wood, Woolley.

Against Councillor Denington.

Abstentions Councillors Mrs Allgrove and Williams.

The motion was put and was carried.

(The following Councillors left the meeting at the times indicated. Councillors Govier, Stone and Thorne at 8.05 pm, Councillor Miss Brockwell at 8.15 pm, Councillor Hall at 8.32 pm, Councillor Mrs Herbert at 8.55 pm, Councillors Mrs Hill and Morrell at 9.17 pm, Councillors Beavan, Cavill and Leighton at 9.30 pm and Councillor Mrs Whitmarsh at 9.55 pm.)

(The meeting ended at 10.05 pm.)