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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**

23rd February 2023

Present:

Councillor Beasant (in the Chair)
Councillors Abel, Aisthorpe, Astbury, Batson, Boyd, Brasted, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Croft, Dawkins, Freeston, Furneaux, Goodwin, Harness, Hasthorpe, Holland, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, McLean, Mickleburgh, Parkinson, Patrick, Pettigrew, Reynolds, Sandford, Shepherd, Shreeve, Shutt, Silvester, Smith, S Swinburn, Westcott, Wheatley and Wilson.

Officers in Attendance:

- Rob Walsh (Chief Executive)
- Sharon Wroot (Executive Director Economy, Environment and Resources)
- Simon Jones (Assistant Director Law and Governance - Monitoring Officer)
- Paul Windley (Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager)
- Paul Wisken (Civic and Mayoral Officer)

The proceedings were opened with a moment's silence to mark the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and as a show of solidarity with the people of Ukraine. This was followed by prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain.

NEL.58 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed everyone in attendance to this meeting. He reminded Members that this year's Civic Sunday was scheduled to take place on 23rd April 2023. He also announced his 'Mayor's Birthday Bash' which was taking place on 21st April at the Carr Lane Social Club, Grimsby.

NEL.59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Councillors Farren, Green, Robinson and K. Swinburn.

NEL.60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer provided general advice to Members on declaring interests with regard to the budget and setting of the Council Tax.

Councillor Wilson declared a non-registrable interest in NEL.61 as an employee of HETA.

NEL.61 COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH

The Council considered a report from the Leader of the Council on the refresh of the North East Lincolnshire Council Plan for 2023 to reflect progress made and emerging priorities.

RESOLVED -

1. That the refreshed Council Plan be approved and adopted.
2. That the refreshed Council Plan be referred to all scrutiny panels for information.

NEL.62 BUDGET, FINANCE AND BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24 – 2025/26

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets outlining how the Council plans to deliver its agreed financial strategy over the coming three-year period.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Jackson, made his budget statement and moved the recommendations as set out in the report with the clarification that the Council Tax increase by 1.98% and the Adult Social Care precept be applied at 2%, resulting in a total increase of 3.98% rather than the indicative level of 4.98% as set out in the original budget papers.

Councillor Jackson stated that this would involve a total reduction in core spending power of £0.8M in 2023/24, which would be offset through additional use of earmarked reserves. Utilising usable revenue reserves to offset the reduction represented a one-off use which did not diminish the long-term funding availability for the Council. He noted that this proposal had been prepared in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer and felt that it would be welcomed by residents in the context of the cost-of-living challenges currently being faced.

Councillor Jackson commented that this budget focussed on our children and young people. As well as investing in the transformation and improvement of children's social services, we continue to be ambitious in the regeneration of the Borough, delivering physical transformation which would encourage growth in business, raise aspiration and improve community confidence. He wanted to ensure that children and young people were able to thrive here in North East Lincolnshire, with good jobs and careers available without them having to leave the area.

Through the capital investment programme, the Council was continuing to take a more commercial approach focussing on projects that would make a significant contribution to our strategic objective of enabling the growth of a strong and sustainable local economy, also providing more income for the council by way of business rates, council tax and new homes bonus.

The net zero and decarbonisation agenda was also a key Council priority, and this would be facilitated by an ambitious property rationalisation programme which would deliver efficiency savings, reduce our carbon footprint, support new ways of working, drive footfall in Grimsby town centre and generate capital receipts which could then be applied to support our wider transformation programme.

The budget would ensure that finances continued to be provided to support and transform children's services in North East Lincolnshire. Recruitment of permanent social workers would see a significant reduction in our reliance on expensive agency social workers, as well as providing an improved and more stable service to our children and families. The council was also working hard to repatriate children who were currently out-of-area, which would be better for the children and their families as well as saving money.

The Leader reminded Council of the grant funding it had received from the government for regeneration in North East Lincolnshire and detailed how this would be utilised to improve Grimsby town centre and help Cleethorpes to become an all-year-round resort.

The Leader felt that the 2023/24 budget also provided the investment needed to maintain first class frontline services. This included continued improvements in the waste collection and recycling services introduced by this administration, with recycling rates continuing to improve.

The Leader concluded by thanking officers for putting together the Budget, Finance and Business Plan against a very challenging backdrop, both locally and nationally. He felt it was balanced and ambitious and he commended it to the Council.

Councillors Wilson, Holland and Patrick raised Points of Order relating to the nature of the proposed change to the Council Tax increase.

The Mayor invited Ms Wroot, in her capacity as the Council's Section 151 Officer, to advise Council on the financial implications of the proposal. It was noted that the proposal had been scrutinised by the Section 151 Officer and her team and would result in a balanced budget.

Councillor Harness, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets, seconded the budget recommendations and summarised the key financial points in the report.

Councillor Patrick, as Leader of the Labour Group, voiced his opposition to the budget proposals. He raised concerns that the budget was founded on selling the 'family silver'. He welcomed more money being made available for children's services and hoped that there was now an understanding of the seriousness of the issues being faced within that area. He felt that the administration had not kept to promises regarding garden waste charges, fly tipping and keeping Council Tax low. He was concerned that the proposals would result in more tax and less services.

Following a debate, the Mayor put the budget recommendations to a recorded vote in accordance with the Constitution. The votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the Motion

Councillors Abel, Astbury, Batson, Boyd, Brasted, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Croft, Dawkins, Freeston, Furneaux, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Reynolds, Sandford, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, Smith, S. Swinburn and Westcott (28 votes).

Against the Motion

Councillors Aisthorpe, Beasant, Goodwin, Holland, McLean, Mickleburgh, Patrick, Shutt, Wheatley and Wilson (10 votes).

The motion was therefore declared carried and it was

RESOLVED –

1. That the 2023/24 Budget and summary 2023/24 – 2025/26 Medium Term Financial Plan contained within Appendix 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.
2. That there be an increase in Council Tax of 1.98% in 2023/24 and an increase in the Adult Social Care precept of 2% in 2023/24.
3. That, in anticipation of enabling powers, from 1st April 2024:
 - i. in the case of empty homes, a 100% premium of the original liability be applied after 12 months (rather than the period of 24 months previously

- agreed): and
- ii. in the case of second or holiday homes, a premium of 100% of the original liability be applied across the borough, in whole or in part, as yet to be determined, and to be reviewed upon implementation of the requisite statutory provision.
4. That the Business Plans contained within Appendix 1 (Annex 1) of the report now submitted, be approved.
 5. That an annual organisation wide uplift in fees and charges (where permissible by law) in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) or any official index replacing it, be approved.
 6. That the Capital Investment Strategy included within Appendix 1 (Annex 3) of the report now submitted, be approved.
 7. That the 2023/24 - 2025/26 Capital Programme set out in Appendix 1 (Annex 2) of the report now submitted, be approved.
 8. The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy included within Appendix 1 (Annex 7) of the report now submitted, be approved.

Note – there was a brief adjournment of the meeting at this point to allow for circulation of the proposed Council Tax resolution.

NEL.63 COUNCIL TAX 2023/24

The Council considered setting the Council Tax for North East Lincolnshire properties for 2023/24 following the decisions made in item 5 above.

A recorded vote was taken in accordance with the Constitution and the votes cast were recorded as follows:

For the Motion

Councillors Abel, Astbury, Batson, Boyd, Brasted, Brookes, Cairns, Callison, Cracknell, Croft, Dawkins, Freeston, Furneaux, Harness, Hasthorpe, Hudson, Jackson, Lindley, Parkinson, Pettigrew, Reynolds, Sandford, Shepherd, Shreeve, Silvester, Smith, S. Swinburn and Westcott (28 votes).

Against the Motion

Councillors Aisthorpe, Beasant, Goodwin, Holland, McLean, Mickleburgh, Patrick, Shutt, Wheatley and Wilson (10 votes).

The motion was therefore declared carried and it was

RESOLVED –

1. That it be noted that on 15th December 2022 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for 2023/24:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 45,710.37 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as detailed below and in the attached Appendix A.

<u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	
Parish of Ashby-cum-Fenby	124.48
Parish of Barnoldby-Le-Beck	174.89
Parish of Bradley	79.45
Parish of Brigsley	167.96
Parish of Great Coates	482.74
Parish of Habrough	203.78
Parish of Healing	1,175.25
Parish of Humberston	2,581.81
Town of Immingham	2,582.25
Parish of Laceby	1,050.74
Parish of New Waltham	1,967.71
Parish of Stallingborough	444.52
Parish of Waltham	2,228.79
Cleethorpes	9,462.14
Grimsby	22,668.36
TOTAL	45,394.87
Note - The Council tax base total for parish areas to which no special items relate is:	315.50

2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts) is £81,742,393.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £306,754,894 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

- (b) (£224,151,703) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £82,603,191 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
- (d) £1,807.10 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- (e) £907,329.17 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix A) and Charter Trustees.
- (f) £1,787.25 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (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 Parish precept relates.
- (g) £1.45 Grimsby and Cleethorpes Special Expense area £46,531.67
being the amounts to be added to the amount at 3(f) above being the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Councils area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 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 relate.

(h) Part of the Council's Area

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Parish of Ashby-cum-Fenby	1,213.25	1,415.46	1,617.67	1,819.88	2,224.30	2,628.72	3,033.13	3,639.76
Parish of Barnoldby-le-Beck	1,207.13	1,408.31	1,609.50	1,810.69	2,213.07	2,615.44	3,017.82	3,621.38
Parish of Bradley	1,237.65	1,443.92	1,650.20	1,856.47	2,269.02	2,681.57	3,094.12	3,712.94
Parish of Brigsley	1,203.88	1,404.53	1,605.17	1,805.82	2,207.11	2,608.41	3,009.70	3,611.64
Parish of Great Coates	1,242.25	1,449.30	1,656.34	1,863.38	2,277.46	2,691.55	3,105.63	3,726.76
Parish of Habrough	1,204.93	1,405.75	1,606.57	1,807.39	2,209.03	2,610.67	3,012.32	3,614.78
Parish of Healing	1,228.37	1,433.10	1,637.83	1,842.56	2,252.02	2,661.48	3,070.93	3,685.12
Parish of Humberston	1,219.39	1,422.62	1,625.85	1,829.08	2,235.54	2,642.00	3,048.47	3,658.16
Town of Immingham	1,285.50	1,499.75	1,714.00	1,928.25	2,356.75	2,785.25	3,213.75	3,856.50
Parish of Irby	1,191.50	1,390.08	1,588.67	1,787.25	2,184.42	2,581.58	2,978.75	3,574.50
Parish of Laceby	1,217.91	1,420.90	1,623.88	1,826.87	2,232.84	2,638.81	3,044.78	3,653.74
Parish of New Waltham	1,216.71	1,419.50	1,622.28	1,825.07	2,230.64	2,636.21	3,041.78	3,650.14
Parish of Stallingborough	1,258.99	1,468.82	1,678.65	1,888.48	2,308.14	2,727.80	3,147.47	3,776.96
Parish of Waltham	1,213.19	1,415.38	1,617.58	1,819.78	2,224.18	2,628.57	3,032.97	3,639.56
Grimsby	1,193.35	1,392.24	1,591.13	1,790.02	2,187.80	2,585.58	2,983.37	3,580.04
Cleethorpes	1,192.64	1,391.41	1,590.19	1,788.96	2,186.51	2,584.05	2,981.60	3,577.92
All other parts of the								
Council's area	1,191.50	1,390.08	1,588.67	1,787.25	2,184.42	2,581.58	2,978.75	3,574.50

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) above by the number which, in the 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 in that proportion is 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.

4. **To note that for the year 2023/24 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside and the Humberside Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.**

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside	178.79	208.59	238.39	268.19	327.79	387.39	446.98	536.38
Humberside Fire Authority	63.40	73.97	84.53	95.10	116.23	137.37	158.50	190.20
TOTAL	242.19	282.56	322.92	363.29	444.02	524.76	605.48	726.58

5. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

		Valuation Bands							
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
		£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p	£ . p
	Parish of Ashby-cum-Fenby	1,455.44	1,698.02	1,940.59	2,183.17	2,668.32	3,153.48	3,638.61	4,366.34
	Parish of Barnoldby-le-Beck	1,449.32	1,690.87	1,932.42	2,173.98	2,657.09	3,140.20	3,623.30	4,347.96
	Parish of Bradley	1,479.84	1,726.48	1,973.12	2,219.76	2,713.04	3,206.33	3,699.60	4,439.52
	Parish of Brigsley	1,446.07	1,687.09	1,928.09	2,169.11	2,651.13	3,133.17	3,615.18	4,338.22
	Parish of Great Coates	1,484.44	1,731.86	1,979.26	2,226.67	2,721.48	3,216.31	3,711.11	4,453.34
	Parish of Habrough	1,447.12	1,688.31	1,929.49	2,170.68	2,653.05	3,135.43	3,617.80	4,341.36
	Parish of Healing	1,470.56	1,715.66	1,960.75	2,205.85	2,696.04	3,186.24	3,676.41	4,411.70
	Parish of Humberston	1,461.58	1,705.18	1,948.77	2,192.37	2,679.56	3,166.76	3,653.95	4,384.74
	Town of Immingham	1,527.69	1,782.31	2,036.92	2,291.54	2,800.77	3,310.01	3,819.23	4,583.08
	Parish of Irby	1,433.69	1,672.64	1,911.59	2,150.54	2,628.44	3,106.34	3,584.23	4,301.08
	Parish of Laceby	1,460.10	1,703.46	1,946.80	2,190.16	2,676.86	3,163.57	3,650.26	4,380.32
	Parish of New Waltham	1,458.90	1,702.06	1,945.20	2,188.36	2,674.66	3,160.97	3,647.26	4,376.72
	Parish of Stallingborough	1,501.18	1,751.38	2,001.57	2,251.77	2,752.16	3,252.56	3,752.95	4,503.54
	Parish of Waltham	1,455.38	1,697.94	1,940.50	2,183.07	2,668.20	3,153.33	3,638.45	4,366.14
	Grimsby	1,435.54	1,674.80	1,914.05	2,153.31	2,631.82	3,110.34	3,588.85	4,306.62
	Cleethorpes	1,434.83	1,673.97	1,913.11	2,152.25	2,630.53	3,108.81	3,587.08	4,304.50
	All other parts of the								
	Council's area	1,433.69	1,672.64	1,911.59	2,150.54	2,628.44	3,106.34	3,584.23	4,301.08

6. That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

APPENDIX A

PRECEPTS 2023/24

The following precepts have been levied on North East Lincolnshire (comparable figures are shown for 2022/23) :-

	2022/23	2023/24	2023/24 Council Tax @ Band D Equivalent
	£	£	£ p
Ashby-cum-Fenby	3,716	4,062	32.63
Barnoldby-le-Beck	2,400	4,100	23.44
Bradley	4,000	5,500	69.22
Brigsley	2,997	3,118	18.57
Great Coates	34,000	36,750	76.13
Habrough	4,005	4,105	20.14
Healing	50,000	65,000	55.31
Humberston	93,000	108,000	41.83
Immingham	334,147	364,106	141.00
Irby	2,700	0	0.00
Laceby	41,631	41,631	39.62
New Waltham	62,000	74,425	37.82
Stallingborough	26,000	45,000	101.23
Waltham	54,858	72,500	32.53
Cleethorpes - Charter Trustees	23,000	2,500	0.26
Grimsby - Charter Trustees	30,000	30,000	1.32
	768,454	860,798	

**NEL.64 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY
STATEMENT 2023/24**

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets presenting the restated Treasury Policy Statement and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement

RESOLVED –

1. That the Treasury Management Policy Statement, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report now submitted, be approved.
2. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2023/24, as set out at Appendix 2 of the report now submitted, be approved.
3. That the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, as set out in Annex 2 of Appendix 2 of the report now submitted, be approved.

NEL.65 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT 2022/23

The Council considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets containing details of treasury management arrangements, activity and performance during the first six months of 2022/23.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.