

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of Full **Council** held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Tuesday 12 December 2017 from 7.30pm to 10.00pm.

Present: Councillors Diana Barber (Chairman), Martin Brooks (Vice-Chairman), Rupert Barnes, Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Eric Bishop, Phil Brading, Marilyn Butler, David Coltman, Valerie Coltman, Stephen Cox, Steve Drury, Peter Getkahn, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Alex Hayward, Paula Hiscocks, Heather Kenison, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Joy Mann, Alex Michaels, Debbie Morris, Sarah Nelmes, Reena Ranger, Alison Scarth, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Martin Trevett, Kate Turner, Alison Wall, and Chris Whately-Smith.

CL53/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kemal Butt, Angela Killick, Keith Martin, David Sansom, Ralph Sangster and Phil Williams.

CL54/17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 October 2017 were confirmed as correct record and were signed by the Chairman subject to adding Councillor Keith Martin being in attendance.

CL55/17 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

This item had not been available five clear days before the meeting, as the meeting of the Panel had not taken place until Tuesday 5 December 2017. The report was of sufficient urgency to be considered by Council to enable the changes to the Members Allowances to be included in the budget setting process.

Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd, moved the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel which recommended an increase in Members allowances by 2% and the Chairman of the Planning Committee special responsibility allowance increasing from three quarters times basic to 1 x basic.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being 21 For, 11 Against and 1 Abstention.

RESOLVED:

For 2018/19 The basic allowance to be increased from £4,673 per annum to £4,766.

That the Special Responsibility Allowances be as follows:

Leader of the Council	£8,791
Lead Members (x7)	£4,766 (1 x basic rate)
Chair of Planning Committee	£4,766 (1 x basic rate)
Chair of Licensing Committee & Regulatory Services Committee	£2,384 (half of basic rate)
Chair of Audit Committee	£2,384 (half of basic rate)
Other Group Leaders:	
Main Opposition Leader	£3,692
Other Opposition Leader	£1,363
Travel Allowance	52.2p per mile
Dependent and Carer Allowance	£12.50 per hour

CL56/17 AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION AND REVIEW OF SERVICE COMMITTEES AND RULE 17 (BUDGET SETTING)

This item had not been available five clear days before the meeting, as the Constitution Working Party had not met until 4 December 2017. The report was of sufficient urgency to be considered by Council to enable the Council to implement the changes to the Service Committees in time for the new Local Government year and to ensure the Committees had the correct proportionality.

Councillor Sara Bedford moved, duly seconded, the recommendations of the Constitution Working Party.

Councillor Alex Hayward proposed, seconded by Councillor Paula Hiscocks, an amendment to the recommendations on the review of the Service Committees that there be four Lead Members and the roles of the Lead Members be considered by the Constitution Working Party and brought back to Council for approval.

Councillor Sara Bedford stated that the Constitution Working Party had agreed there was still the same amount of work to be undertaken and there would still be 12 Service Committee meetings each year and not all the work was undertaken at the Committee meetings.

On being put to Council the amended motion was declared LOST the voting being 10 For, 22 Against and 1 Abstention.

On being put to Council the Chairman declared the motion CARRIED the voting being 22 For, 10 Against and 1 Abstention.

RESOLVED:

1. Approved the proposed amendments as detailed in Appendix A of the report with effect from May 2018;
2. That there be 3 Chairman for each of the two new Service Committees (for **Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development Committee**:
 - Lead Member for Economic Development
 - Lead Member for Infrastructure and Planning Policy
 - Lead Member for Housingfor **Leisure, Environment and Community Committee**

- Lead Member for Leisure
 - Lead Member for Environmental Services
 - Lead Member for Community Safety and Partnerships
3. Noted that the Calendar of meetings would be updated in February 2018 once the proposed amendments were agreed and that Officers would review the number of seats on the two Service Committees following the District election in May 2018.

RULE 17 (BUDGET SETTING)

On being put to Council the Chairman declared the motion on the change of Rule 17 (Budget Setting) CARRIED the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

Approved the proposed amendments as detailed in Appendix B (Rule 17 – Budget Setting) with immediate effect.

AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

RESOLVED:

Noted the minor amendments made to the Council Constitution by the CEO under delegated power.

CL57/17 SPECIAL EXPENSES

Councillor Matthew Bedford proposed, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd, the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Paula Hiscocks said the 50% general expense and the 50% special expense apportioned to Batchworth Community Council went against the guidance provided and was not a fair distribution of the expenses. She said Watersmeet did not fulfil its function as a community hall and was expensive to hire with afternoon and evening bookings costing £700 as a charity rate. This was not within the local groups' affordability. There should be charges which local groups could afford to pay. This would be a huge burden on the new parish but to the benefit of the unparished areas.

Councillor Matthew Bedford said the special expenses had not changed and had been considered in the fairest way possible with the basis being the charges from the District Council for providing the services in the District. Batchworth Parish Council was not providing/maintaining open spaces or community halls so therefore there was no double charging.

Councillor Reena Ranger said Batchworth Community Council was a new Council and to be fair to them special expenses should be reconsidered. The Community Council would be paying for two assets Watersmeet and the Aquadrome which were unique features and were a District wide asset and it was unfair to have double taxation.

Councillor Matthew Bedford explained that 50% of the Aquadrome costs were because it was a District wide facility and the other 50% was Special Expenses as a proportion of the Council tax base. The Pantomime was a net cost on the District and not a net profit as a District wide facility. The Pantomime did not make a profit.

On being put to Council the Chairman declared the motion CARRIED the voting being 19 For, 11 Against and 3 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

To apply the following resolution for special and general expenses for 2018/19:-

- (1) that the following functions being either those provided equally across the District or incurring minimal expenditure be declared general expenses:-

closed churchyards;
allotments;
litter bins;
salt bins;
dog bins;
highways, trees and roadside verges;
seats and shelters;
youth centres;
crime prevention;
land drainage;
footpath maintenance;
footpath lighting;
community arts;
off-street car park maintenance;
street naming;
Dial-A-Ride;
play-schemes
award of grants under Section 137.
cemeteries
YMCA Woodlands building in Abbots Langley
The Centre, South Oxhey

- (2) that the following functions are declared special expenses:-

Woodlands (apportioned on the basis of acreage)
Including the ranger at Leavesden Open Space and 50% of the Arboriculture and Landscape Officers' costs

Community halls (including apportionment of Oxhey Hall);

Playing fields and open spaces (excluding water-based activities and maintenance met from commuted sums); based on the Grounds Maintenance contract.

Aquadrome
Treated as 50% general expense and 50% special expense apportioned to the Batchworth Community Council.

Watersmeet (all costs except the pantomime charged to the unparished area and Batchworth Community Council as a community hall. The pantomime is treated as a general expense). The costs of Watersmeet are apportioned to both Batchworth Community Council and the unparished area on the basis of population.

CL58/17 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (CTRS) 2018/19

Councillor Matthew Bedford proposed, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, the recommendations in the report. He stated that the changes were fair and reasonable and aligned with other benefits the Council provided. The CTRS was

one of the most generous schemes in the Country and he supported the scheme being maintained.

Councillor Alex Hayward said the scheme would increase the hardship on the neediest residents and Members should bear in mind they had just awarded themselves a pay rise.

On being put to Council the Chairman declared the motion CARRIED the voting being 19 For, 11 Against and 3 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That Three Rivers District Council adopt all the proposed changes to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

CL59/17 COUNCIL TAX BASE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18

Councillor Matthew Bedford proposed, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd, the recommendations in the report.

On being put to Council the Chairman declared the motion CARRIED the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2018/19 be approved.
- 2) That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by the Three Rivers District Council as its council tax base for the year 2018/19 shall be:-

Parish	Band D Equivalents 2018/19
Abbots Langley	8,492.5
Batchworth	6,250.6
Chorleywood	6,189.8
Croxley Green	5,504.1
Sarratt	1,082.3
Watford Rural	6,996.1
Unparished Area	3,728.3
Total District	<hr/> 38,243.7 <hr/>

CL60/17 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Councillor Sara Bedford proposed, duly seconded, the recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee meetings held on 7 November and 11 December 2017 as detailed below.

PR53/17 SHEPHERD SCHOOL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Councillor Sarah Nemes proposed, seconded by Councillor Roger Seabourne, the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee. On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

1. That a Public Spaces Protection Order is made for Shepherd Primary School on the grounds outlined in 2.5-2.7 (with an amendment to the time in the morning from 0800 to 0930) for a period of 2 years starting January 2018.
2. The final wording of the Public Spaces Protection Order to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.
3. That the following officers are designated to implement the Public Spaces Protection Order:
 - Community Safety Intervention Officer
 - Community Safety Co-ordinator
 - Performance and Projects Manager
 - Head of Community Partnerships
 - Environmental Protection Enforcement Officers
4. Instructs officers to commission the building of the pathway across King George V Playing fields and continue to seek a contribution towards the costs of this from Hertfordshire County Council.
5. That the pilot be run for 12 months before considering other similar pilot schemes.
6. That the Chief Executive writes to the relevant Government Minister to request that legislation was put in place to use the current direct link to the DVLA.

PR55/17 THE CENTRE – LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

Councillor Sara Bedford proposed, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd the recommendations in the report.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

- 1 Authorises the appropriation of the land at the Leisure Centre and open space (as shown on the plan at Appendix B which is owned freehold by the Council) having first considered any objections received to the same under the provisions of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable the Council to override third party rights and easements pursuant to Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016;
- 2 It authorises the disposal of the Site as public open space pursuant to s.233 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by virtue of a lease for 20 years to the appointed operator having first considered any objections received to the same;
- 3 That the consideration of any objections be delegated to the Director of Community and Environmental Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services; and
- 4 That in doing so the Council has considered the provisions of the

Equalities Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998 contained in paragraph 4 of this report so far as they might be applicable in deciding whether or not to authorise the appropriation and resolves the following With regard to Article 1 of Protocol 1 it is considered that in balancing the rights of the individuals who are affected by the appropriation against the benefit to the community of proceeding with the appropriation, the appropriation resulting in the interference with the individuals rights is justified in the interests of providing an essential community use for an enhanced Leisure facility.

PR56/17 BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 6 (SEPTEMBER 2017)

Councillor Sara Bedford proposed, seconded by Councillor Chris Lloyd the recommendations in the report.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being 22 For, 0 Against and 11 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

That the following revenue and capital budget variations be approved and incorporated into the three-year medium-term financial plan:-

Variance	2017/18 £	2018/19 £	2019/20 £
Revenue - (Favourable)/ Unfavourable	381,050	54,110	104,110
Capital - Increase / (Decrease)	(2,051,890)	2,520,630	2,200

PR62/17 BROWNFIELD LAND REGISTER

The brownfield land register had not been available five clear days before the meeting. The register was of sufficient urgency to be considered by Council to enable the Council to publish the register by 31 December 2017.

Councillor Sara Bedford proposed, seconded by Councillor Martin Trevett, the recommendations in the report.

On being put to Council the motion was declared CARRIED by the Chairman the voting being 30 For, 0 Against and 3 Abstentions.

RESOLVED:

Approved the Three Rivers Brownfield Register (Appendix 1) for publication on the Council's website by the 31 December 2017.

CL61/17 PETITIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 19

None received

CL62/17 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER PROCEDURE R121ULE 16

None received.

CL63/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked Mike Simpson in the Committee Team for his work and support for the quiz night and Sarah Haythorpe for her assistance.

She had attended a service at Christchurch in Chorleywood, visited the RAF Northholt Centre with a new visitor centre due to open in spring 2018. The Christmas Fair in Rickmansworth had been a great success and was growing in popularity. The Rickmansworth Players had performed Made in Dagenham which had been a great success. The Pantomime this year was excellent and well worth going to see and the Christmas Carols in Bedmond had been great. She was looking forward to the lunch at the RVS on 15 December which was now fully booked, on 18 December the Hanukah service and on 20 December the Mill End Health Walk at 12 noon.

She wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

CL64/17 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND LEAD MEMBERS

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council reported that the Council had been successful in gaining funding for the Leavesden Heritage project. She thanked Lisa Cook and Jo Copley for their work and hoped for a successful outcome to the project.

The refuse and recycling crews had managed to empty 98% of the bins on Monday and 96% of the bins today including garden waste. This was an immense achievement in the challenging weather.

She congratulated Jennie Probert on her successful achievement of the Chartered Waste Manager qualification.

She congratulated the six members of staff that took part in the East of England LGA challenge. The team had finished in the top quarter and were commended for their partnership working.

The number of homelessness families had reduced from 90 to 70. She thanked Kimberley Grout and her team for all their support and hard work.

She welcomed the satisfaction expressed by the External Auditors with the Annual Accounts.

She advised that the question to the Lead Member for Public Services had in fact been to the Leader and she wished to provide the following reply:

The service was monitored by Officers for cost, efficiency and customer satisfaction. Herts Waste Partnership found TRDC had the best optimised rounds within the District together with the correct number of vehicles and employees.

The split within Hertfordshire Authorities with in-house / outsourced services was half and half.

By keeping the service in-house TRDC had made the following savings:

- Contract variations and the costs incurred.
- Greater flexibility of the service
- Six figure sum saved by not going to tender

Councillor Andrew Scarth said a number of the brown bins had only been half emptied as they had been frozen but the crews had left a slip of paper explaining why which was a credit to the service.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

Reports from the Lead Member for Economic Development, Sustainability and Transport (Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst) and the Lead Member for Housing, Planning and Strategic Schemes (Cllr Martin Trevett) and questions.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst reported that the Committee had received a report on the extension of the current cycle strategy. The Rivertech project had been a great success exceeding all targets with 40 companies and 50 individuals now using the facilities completing Phase 2. Phase 3 would see further expansion of the business. There would be a tour organised for Members of the Rivertech facilities in March 2018. Batchworth Community Council would be moving into the building in the New Year. This was a success for the businesses and wider community in Rickmansworth. Rivertech had exceeded expectations was now self-funding. A report would be presented to the Committee at their meeting in March.

Councillor Alex Hayward asked if Rivertech was now self-funding. The Lead Member for Economic Development, Sustainability and Transport advised that it would be in Year 2.

Question from Cllr Stephen Cox to Cllr Martin Trevett, Lead Member for Housing, Planning and Strategic Schemes

Who made the decision that parking in the public car park in Henbury Way, South Oxhey should be limited to that stipulated on the plates?

The decision to limit the parking at Henbury Way car park to 4 hours, with 2 hours no return, was made by the SDPT Committee in March 2017. The plates have been installed recently but incorrectly state a 2 hour limit. This is being corrected. The order will only be implemented when the correct plates are installed.

Councillor Stephen Cox asked how the mistake was made and who had made the mistake. The Lead Member for Housing, Planning and Strategic Scheme would provide a written reply on how it happened. Councillor Alison Scarth understood that the contractor employed had put up the wrong plates.

POST MEETING NOTE:

“The Consultant engaged by the Council made the mistake by advising the contractor incorrectly on the timing. The consultant will be correcting this at their own expense.”

Question from Cllr Paula Hiscocks to Cllr Martin Trevett, Lead Member for Housing, Planning and Strategic Schemes

Can the Lead Member for Housing, Planning and Strategic Schemes please advise on the full amount of CIL monies for Rickmansworth which will be retained by this Council? How it will be decided where and when the money will

be used? Can the Lead Member give assurances that there will be full consultation and discussion with Ward Councillors in regard to any decisions?

Councillor Martin Trevett advised that it depended on what was meant by 'Rickmansworth'. For the purposes of CIL the Council looked at the parished and unparished areas separately.

The total CIL monies collected from development in the unparished area of Rickmansworth as at 8 December 2017 is £221,362.87. The total CIL monies collected from development in the Batchworth Community Council area as at 8 December 2017 is £751,412.67.

80% of the CIL monies collected are retained by the Council in what is referred to as a Main Fund which, once sufficient monies have accrued, will be spent on infrastructure that is required to support growth that has been identified in the Local Plan. The Governance Arrangements for the spending of the Main Fund have yet to be finalised. Please note the Main Fund will be spent across the District.

5% of the CIL monies are used for the administration of CIL in accordance with the regulations.

The remaining 15% of CIL monies collected from development is passed to the relevant Parish Council to spend on infrastructure in their area and they must do so in consultation with local residents and stakeholders, including Ward Councillors. So, for Batchworth Community Council this currently amounts to £112,711.90 as of 8 December 2017.

Where an area is unparished, the 15% will be retained by the Council and spent on infrastructure within the unparished area in consultation with stakeholders including Ward Councillors, local residents and local businesses etc. as required by the Regulations. For the unparished area of Rickmansworth this equates to £33,204.43 as of 8 December 2017.

Councillor Paula Hiscocks referred to the Government legislation on CIL. The Lead Member for Housing, Planning and Strategic Schemes to provide a written response to Councillor Paula Hiscocks on the following question "Government legislation states that CIL is a general levy on all development designed to raise funds for Infrastructure needed as a result of an increase in development in the area. The Charging Authority should set out a draft list of the projects or the types of infrastructure that are to be funded in whole or in part by the levy. This is to provide transparency about what the charging Authority intends to fund through the levy and where it may continue to seek Section 106 contributions." Councillor Paula Hiscocks did not believe a list existed and asked that all Ward Councillors should be consulted on the development of this list.

POST MEETING NOTE:

The Regulation 123 List sets out the *type* of infrastructure that CIL will be spent on and details where the Council will still seek Section 106 contributions. This list was part of the CIL Charging Examination Process and it was adopted by Full Council on 24 February 2015. The Regulation 123 List can be viewed from the following link:

<http://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/community-infrastructure-levy>

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) identifies the specific additional infrastructure that is required to support the planned increase in new homes

and jobs in the District up to 2026. A copy is available from the Committee Team.

Question from Cllr David Sansom to Cllr Martin Trevett, Lead Member for Housing, Planning and Strategic Schemes

In the Parking Project Initiation Document (4/12/2017?) under costs it says:

“From around £78,000 (lowest possible cost, phase 2 only, cheapest machines) to around £660,000 (best likely cost for phase 2), to include TRO changes at estimated £5,000 for each iteration, new signage and publicity; most costly infrastructure is new P&D machines for which there are various costed options.

There is more detail available but on current estimates this is likely to cost from £7,000 to around £80,000 per parking place, depending on the system installed at each parking place.“

When referring to the “parking place” does this mean car park, town or district?

A parking place is a car park or other area (such as a discrete block of bays) where parking is permitted under a traffic order.

How much is the Council prepared to pay for parking charge machines per space? What is the expected rate of return?

The Council will pay the lowest price available for machines that meet the specified requirements. As civil parking enforcement is not intended to make a profit there is no expected rate of return as such. Agreed Council budgets have detailed the estimated revenue as a result of a charging regime.

How will people be required to pay for parking with these new machines?

Charges will be paid through use of a credit/debit card or contactless methods.

Some machines are to be installed solely to require the display of tickets in free parking places, in order to make enforcement more efficient.

Where machines are installed in car parks where a charge is levied, a traffic order will require the display of a ticket that is only available from a machine that requires payment.

Question from Cllr Alex Hayward to Cllr Martin Trevett, Lead Member for Housing, Planning and Strategic Schemes

This Council’s policy since 2011 is to provide 45% affordable housing on each and every development. Can you please update the Council as to how many developments as a percentage have actually achieved this and of those that haven’t? When would financial compensation be paid and how much money has been generated?

Councillor Martin Trevett advised that Policy CP4 requires all new development to contribute to the provision of affordable housing either by on-site provision, or by the use of commuted payments towards off-site provision – 10 or more dwellings we would look at on-site provision and between 1-9 dwellings a financial contribution. In both cases, viability of the development is always a consideration.

We only monitor contributions towards affordable housing (for both on-site and financial contributions) on completed development.

The table below summarises the information from the Annual Monitoring Reports from 2011/2016 which are published on the web site at the end of December each year. The AMR for 2016/2017 won't be available until the end of the year.

Monitoring Year	Gross Dwelling Completions	Gross Affordable Dwelling Completions	Percentage of Gross Dwelling Completions: Affordable	Affordable Housing Financial Contributions
2011/12	261	55	21%	£200,000
2012/13	208	39	19%	£326,118
2013/14	172	48	28%	£344,534
2014/15	308	93	30%	£562,463
2015/16	241	85	35%	£609,354
2011/2016	1190	320	27%	£2,042,469

The Government's Ministerial Statement by Brandon Lewis MP on 28 November 2014 meant that affordable housing and tariff style developer contributions could no longer be sought for developments of 10 units or less and which had a maximum combined gross floorspace of 1,000sqm. This has clearly affected the percentage of new residential development in the District that could contribute to affordable housing before the policy was reinstated in September 2017.

Question from Cllr Marilyn Butler to Cllr Martin Trevett, Lead Member for Housing, Planning and Strategic Schemes

How many houses are registered as empty within the Three Rivers District Council? Are any of these owned by the Council? How many are owned by a Housing Association?

There were no empty Council or Housing Association properties in the District that the Council were aware of, outside of the usual void periods. Officers were currently working on updating the figures regarding the number of private empty homes in the District.

Councillor Marilyn Butler asked if the Lead Member could provide details on where the Affordable Housing Financial Contributions had been spent.

LEISURE, WELLBEING AND HEALTH

Reports from the Lead Member for Leisure, Community and Wellbeing (Cllr Chris Lloyd) and the Lead Member for Health (Cllr Alison Scarth) and questions.

Councillor Chris Lloyd had nothing to report.

Councillor Alison Scarth reported the following items:

For this year's District Offer £30,000 had been applied for and, if successful £20,000 would be allocated to Physical Activities and £10,000 towards Mental Health Schemes.

The Vice-Chairman of the Council had been championing a campaign for posters to be displayed outside schools reminding bus and taxi drivers to turn off their engines when waiting in order to cut down fumes. Councillor Sara Bedford had

agreed to support a pilot for ten schools from her Council budget. A letter would be sent to all bus companies within the County to raise awareness.

Thrive and Watford Community Housing Trust had agreed to fund the TRDC Community Support Service for another year.

GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Reports from the Lead Member for Public Services (Cllr Phil Brading) and the Lead Member for Community Safety (Cllr Roger Seabourne) and questions.

The Lead Member for Public Services, Councillor Phil Brading, wished to thank the hard work of Malcolm Clark and his team for the very high percentage of collections completed during the recent bad weather.

Question from Cllr Alex Hayward to Cllr Phil Brading, Lead Member for Public Services

The refuse collection service has been in-house since 2002. Can the Lead Member advise when in the past 15 years and to best serve the residents of Three Rivers this service was last commercially reviewed and put out to tender?

Councillor Phil Brading advised that TRDC had not undertaken any formal review of the refuse collection service since returning in-house in 2002. When local government had circa 1200 different performance indicators to report, one of these was BV86 – the household cost of waste collection. As different authorities allocated varying amounts of central support costs, it was difficult to compare accurately between them.

At the September 2017 Directors' Group Hertfordshire Waste Partnership Meeting there was a discussion about a possible benchmarking exercise being carried out by Duncan Jones (Partnership Development Manager - Hertfordshire Waste Partnership). This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

It was also worth noting the following:

- TRDC had the lowest residual waste per household i.e. 346 kg and the highest recycling rate - From the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership Report for 2016/17;
- There had been a consistently high customer satisfaction rating with the refuse collection. 84% of the respondents were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the refuse collection - From the TRDC Residents Tracker Survey 2017/18 Wave 1 & 2 survey results;
- It would have been a lot more difficult to implement the Green Waste charging initiative if the service was being operated by an external provider i.e. 'not in house';
- TRDC has the 7th highest household recycling and composting rates in England for 2016/17 – From Letsrecycle.com.'

Councillor Phil Brading further responded that a good part of the question had already been answered by Councillor Sara Bedford. The three main disadvantages to an outsourced service were:

- With the Private Sector there was a need to make a rate of return which was not an issue with an in-house service.
- More flexibility to implement changes quickly with little additional cost.
- Joint working with Herts Waste Partnership would be easier due to less variation in contracts.

Councillor Alex Hayward asked a supplementary question, was the Lead Member

aware that when Watford went out to tender they saved 12% of their costs and a good service had continued to be provided to residents.

The Lead Member for Public Services advised that Watford may have had higher costs for providing the service when it was in-house. With the possible Directors Group of Herts Waste Partnership countywide benchmarking exercise they would need to ensure it compared like for like and if it did go ahead the Committee would share the results.

Community Safety

The Lead Member for Community Safety, Councillor Roger Seabourne had nothing to report.

RESOURCES AND SHARED SERVICES

Report from the Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services (Cllr Matthew Bedford)

Councillor Matthew Bedford reported that the LGA had proposed a 2% pay rise for Council staff with a higher increase for the lowest paid staff. A 1% increase had been included in the budget but a further £168,000 was required for the next financial year and £125,000 in the next two years with an overall increase of £400k. He supported the pay rise for the staff but the Council would need to accommodate the increase in the medium-term financial plan.

Question from Cllr Joan King to Cllr Matthew Bedford, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services

Is the Lead Member content that full details of progress made and upcoming developments of all natures are being provided to Members of the South Oxhey Community Board?

The Community Board had been established by the developer as a body to represent the views of residents and retailers affected by the redevelopment. Its terms of reference make it clear that it is a forum for the developer to present updates on progress and upcoming events, and for the Members of the Board to feedback community queries or concerns. It is not a decision making body.

The Council is content that Countryside and Home Group do present updates on progress and other information as was envisaged. Previous agendas have included updates on construction on site, actions being taken to relocate residents to the new homes, upcoming planning applications, local labour statistics, apprenticeships and other community initiatives.

Councillor Joan King said local residents were concerned that many of the local places were now closing including the Ox public house. The Board should be advised of this information. At the recent Local Area Forum the Community Board report had not been well received and a Local Councillor had referred to South Oxhey as being tatty and should apologise for the comment. Councillor Matthew Bedford replied that the reason the South Oxhey Initiative was underway was to rejuvenate and revitalise the town centre in South Oxhey.

Question from Cllr David Sansom to Cllr Matthew Bedford, Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services

In the Policy and Resources minutes for the meeting on the 4 September 2017 under variances it shows “£191,200 - Increase in cost of agency staff for IT” at the meeting we were told that this was a temporary increase in costs.

In the Policy and Resources papers from 7 November 2017 under Budget monitoring it shows:-

“The report highlighted that this level of budget [£191,200 increase] is required under the current resources model in order to provide a functioning service that delivers acceptable levels of performance.”

Which of these reports is correct? Will next year’s IT budget be increased by £191,200 next year or not?

A response to this question was circulated to Members of the Policy and Resources Committee on the 4 December 2017 following the Policy and Resources Committee on 7 November 2017. A copy of that response is available from the Committee team.

POST MEETING NOTE:

The information was provided by the Director of Finance dated 4 December 2017. A copy is provided below.



CL65/17 REPORTS AND QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT, PLANNING, LICENSING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Sarah Nelmes, said the Committee had met on 5 December. The AGS had required no actions to be taken by the Council on the Accounts. She wished to thank the Finance Team Officers for achieving this.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Chris Whately-Smith had nothing to report.

LICENSING

Councillor Steve Drury had nothing to report.

REGULATORY SERVICES

Councillor Steve Drury proposed, duly seconded, the recommendation from the Regulatory Services Committee at their meeting held on 6 December 2017:

Minute RG13/17 – Review of Byelaws: New Model Byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces.

Councillor Steven Drury advised that Officers had responded to the questions raised at the Committee meeting regarding the new Byelaws and would circulate this information to the Committee Members the following day.

On being put to Council the Chairman declared the motion CARRIED the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

- i. That once the Council have received approval from the Secretary of State to the new Byelaws that they are formally adopted by Full Council and come into operation in 2018.
- ii. That once the new Byelaws are adopted, Council will revoke the existing Byelaws for Parks and Open Spaces (1981).

CL66/17 MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 11

- (1) Councillor Joan King, seconded by Councillor Stephen Cox, moved under Notice duly given as follows:

A – the proposed rents for existing shopkeepers are exorbitant and that they should be significantly reduced;

B – that shopkeepers should not be asked to pay one year's rent upfront and to be held by a third party, in order for them to have new retail premises as part of the South Oxhey Initiative; and

C – that existing shopkeepers should be shown the same loyalty that they have shown to the residents of South Oxhey for many years.

After a detailed debate, a recorded vote was requested by 6 Members of Council the voting being as follows:

For: Diana Barber, Rupert Barnes, Eric Bishop, Marilyn Butler, David Coltman, Valerie Coltman, Stephen Cox, Alex Hayward, Paula Hiscocks, Heather Kenison, Joan King, Stephen King, Debbie Morris, Reena Ranger and Alison Wall

Against: Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Phil Brading, Steve Drury, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Alex Michaels, Sarah Nelmes, Alison Scarth, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Martin Trevett, Kate Turner and Chris Whately-Smith

Abstentions: Martin Brooks, Peter Getkahn and Joy Mann

The Chairman declared the vote TIED and used the Chairman's casting vote and declared the Motion CARRIED the voting now being:

For 16
Against 15
Abstentions 3

RESOLVED:

A – the proposed rents for existing shopkeepers are exorbitant and that they should be significantly reduced;

B – that shopkeepers should not be asked to pay one year’s rent upfront and to be held by a third party, in order for them to have new retail premises as part of the South Oxhey Initiative; and

C – that existing shopkeepers should be shown the same loyalty that they have shown to the residents of South Oxhey for many years.

- (2) Councillor Reena Ranger, seconded by Councillor Alex Hayward, moved under Notice duly given as follows:

This Council expresses its concern at Councillors and Candidates having to disclose their home address publicly for the purposes of their Local Government service or candidature. Accordingly, Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government asking the Government to legislate to allow choice in this respect.

On being put to Council the motion was declared LOST by the Chairman the voting being 13 For, 19 Against and 1 Abstention.

RESOLVED:

Motion LOST.

- (3) Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Alison Scarth, moved under Notice duly given as follows:

Council notes the disappointing decision by Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) on 16 November 2017 to withdraw funding from Nascot Lawn Children’s respite centre.

Council calls on:

1. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to fulfil its duty to provide short breaks and respite care for all families who need the service.
2. HCC and HVCCG to have a full discussion regarding the medical and care needs of current and future users of Nascot Lawn, which includes parents and carers, to prevent children ‘falling through’ gaps in provision.
3. The MPs representing parts of Three Rivers to request from the Government sufficient funding to enable a facility such as Nascot Lawn to continue to serve families with a severely disabled child.

On being put to Council the Chairman declared the motion CARRIED the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

Council notes the disappointing decision by Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) on 16 November 2017 to withdraw funding from Nascot Lawn Children’s respite centre.

Council calls on:

1. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to fulfil its duty to provide short breaks and respite care for all families who need the service.

2. HCC and HVCCG to have a full discussion regarding the medical and care needs of current and future users of Nascot Lawn, which includes parents and carers, to prevent children 'falling through' gaps in provision.

3. The MPs representing parts of Three Rivers to request from the Government sufficient funding to enable a facility such as Nascot Lawn to continue to serve families with a severely disabled child.

(4) Councillor Andrew Scarth, seconded by Councillor Peter Getkahn, moved under Notice duly given as follows:

Council notes with interest the research of the Energy Saving Trust regarding environmental measures on new-build homes, and supports their concept of an energy-efficient, near carbon-zero new homes policy, known as '2050-ready'.

Council further notes that:

1. Achieving carbon savings in buildings will be key to hitting the UK's legally binding target of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. Currently 18% of UK carbon emissions come from buildings – most of them homes – with a further 15% of emissions from the generation of electricity subsequently used in buildings.

2. The Government were previously committed to introducing such a policy, but scrapped it after the 2015 General Election, despite widespread support for the policy from industry and the third sector.

3. The Mayor of London has recently introduced a similar policy as part of the London Plan.

4. The additional costs of building such a home are negligible, and will be rapidly reversed by lower running costs.

Council therefore calls for the Three Rivers Local Plan to use all available mechanisms to introduce a policy requiring all new buildings to be 2050-ready, and to write to the DCLG to request that such a policy should be required in all new Local Plans, in order for them to be found compliant.

On being put to Council the Chairman declared the motion CARRIED the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

Council notes with interest the research of the Energy Saving Trust regarding environmental measures on new-build homes, and supports their concept of an energy-efficient, near carbon-zero new homes policy, known as '2050-ready'.

Council further notes that:

1. Achieving carbon savings in buildings will be key to hitting the UK's legally binding target of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. Currently 18% of UK carbon emissions come from buildings – most of them homes – with a further 15% of emissions from the generation of electricity subsequently used in buildings.

2. The Government were previously committed to introducing such a policy, but scrapped it after the 2015 General Election, despite widespread support for the policy from industry and the third sector.

3. The Mayor of London has recently introduced a similar policy as part of the London Plan.

4. The additional costs of building such a home are negligible, and will be rapidly reversed by lower running costs.

Council therefore calls for the Three Rivers Local Plan to use all available mechanisms to introduce a policy requiring all new buildings to be 2050-ready, and to write to the DCLG to request that such a policy should be required in all new Local Plans, in order for them to be found compliant.

- (5) Councillor Roger Seabourne, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and Councillor Sara Bedford moved under notice given as follows:

Council notes that:

1. There have been increases in levels of crime and antisocial behaviour, and in the fear of crime.

2. According to independent figures, under the current Police and Crime Commissioner, the number of Police staff has fallen by 331 across Hertfordshire.

3. A recent report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary "Officers and staff too often fail to make correct crime-recording decisions. This is due to deficiencies in the constabulary's crime-recording processes, insufficient understanding of crime-recording requirements, and limited supervision to correct the decisions of officers and staff and improve standards from the outset. This means that the constabulary is letting down too many victims of crime."

Council believes that whilst Hertfordshire and Three Rivers remains a low crime, it is essential that these increases are addressed before they rise further.

Council therefore calls on the Police and Crime Commissioner to secure the resources to increase the numbers of police officers and PCSOs on the streets of SW Hertfordshire.

On being put to Council the Chairman declared the motion CARRIED the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

Council notes that:

1. There have been increases in levels of crime and antisocial behaviour, and in the fear of crime.

2. According to independent figures, under the current Police and Crime Commissioner, the number of Police staff has fallen by 331 across Hertfordshire.

3. A recent report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary "Officers and staff too often fail to make correct crime-recording decisions. This is due to deficiencies in the constabulary's crime-recording processes, insufficient understanding of crime-recording requirements, and limited supervision to correct the decisions of officers and staff and improve standards from the outset. This means that the constabulary is letting down too many victims of crime."

Council believes that whilst Hertfordshire and Three Rivers remains a low crime, it is essential that these increases are addressed before they rise further.

Council therefore calls on the Police and Crime Commissioner to secure the resources to increase the numbers of police officers and PCSOs on the streets of SW Hertfordshire.

CHAIRMAN