

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City on Thursday, 28 February 2008 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: *Councillors A. Bardett (Chairman), Mrs A.G. Ashley (Vice-Chairman), D.J. Barnard, Liz Beardwell, David Billing, John Bishop, John Booth, P.C.W. Burt, Paul Clark, Melissa Davey, Lee Downie, Tricia Gibbs, Gary Grindal, Fiona Hill, T.W. Hone, A.F. Hunter, R.E. Inwood, Sal Jarvis, S.K. Jarvis, David Kearns, Lorna Kercher, Joan Kirby, Marilyn Kirkland, I.J. Knighton, Bernard Lovewell, Ian Mantle, H.M. Marshall, Alan Millard, M.R.M. Muir, Mrs L.A. Needham, Lawrence Oliver, Deepak Sangha, R.L. Shakespeare-Smith, F.J. Smith, Martin Stears, Mrs C.P.A. Strong, R.A.C. Thake and M.E. Weeks.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Chief Executive, Strategic Director of Customer Services, Strategic Director of Financial and Regulatory Services, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Financial Services, Democratic Services Manager and Senior Committee and Member Services Officer.*

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Judi Billing, Clare Body, J.M. Cunningham, David Levett, D. Miller and A.D. Young.

72. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No additional items were presented for consideration by the Council.

73. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Civic Reception – 22 February 2008

The Chairman thanked Members for their support in respect of his Civic Reception held on 22 February 2008. He was pleased to announce that the total sum raised for his chosen charity, the Living Room, was £2,952.39.

(2) Charity Race Night

The Chairman reminded Members that his Charity Race Night would take place on the evening of Saturday, 29 March 2008 at Knebworth Village Hall. He asked any Members interested in attending to inform Committee Services as soon as possible.

(3) Code of Conduct

Further to the Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee's presentation to Members at last Council meeting concerning conduct issues, the Chairman encouraged those Members who had not yet signed up for the forthcoming evening session on the Code of Conduct to do so if they possibly could. The event would take place at 7.30pm on Monday, 10th March 2008.

(4) Declarations of Interest

The Chairman reminded Members that, in line with the new Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest now needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

74. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No items were presented for consideration by the Council under public participation.

75. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2008/09

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance reminded Members that the Council, at its meeting held on 7 February 2008, had approved a 2008/09 Council Tax increase of 4.50% for North Herts. At that meeting, the Council had been unable to formally approve the Council Tax resolution because it had not been notified of the Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Police Authority precept requirements for 2008/09.

Members had been provided with the Council's Estimates Book for 2008/09, which contained the statements of the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, the schedule of potential Council Tax levels 2008/09, the General Fund Summary, Area Committee Budgets, Directorate Budgets, the Capital Estimates and the Manpower Salary Budget.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance reported that the Hertfordshire County Council precept had been set at a level which equated to a Council Tax of £1,081.12 for a Band D property, which was 4.54% higher than the Council Tax for the current year. The precept for the Hertfordshire Police Authority was set at a level which equated to a Council Tax of £136.67 for a Band D property, which was 4.99% higher than the current year.

The effect of the Council's decision made at its meeting on 7 February 2008, coupled with the County Council and Police Authority precepts, resulted in a Band D Council Tax of £1,404.20, an increase of 4.58%. This charge would be increased by the appropriate parish precepts, as detailed in the agenda papers.

It was moved by Councillor T.W. Hone, seconded by Councillor F.J.Smith, and

RESOLVED:

1. That the following, as submitted in the 2008/2009 Estimates book, be approved:-
 - a) The revised revenue estimates for 2007/2008 and the revenue estimates for 2008/2009.
 - b) The revised capital programme for 2007/2008 and the capital programme for 2008/2009 are subject to adequate resources being available.
 - c) The manpower salary estimates for 2008/2009.
2. That it be noted that at its meeting on 18th December 2007 the Cabinet calculated the amount 48,875.8 as its council tax base for the year 2008/2009 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
 - a) 48,875.8 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.
 - b)

Council		Council	
Parish/Town	Tax Base	Parish/Town	Tax Base
Ashwell	824.50	Letchworth	12,177.20
Barkway	358.00	Lilley	172.40
Barley	324.10	Nuthampstead	70.20
Bygrave	125.00	Offley	575.80
Caldecote and Newnham	52.60	Pirton	533.10

Clothall	80.10	Preston	191.30
Codicote	1,587.80	Radwell	48.00
Graveley	2,082.30	Reed	141.00
Hexton	63.80	Rushden and Wallington	196.30
Hinxworth	154.60	St. Ippolyts	912.00
Holwell	148.20	St. Pauls Walden	584.90
Ickleford	778.20	Sandon	232.30
Kelshall	78.30	Therfield	249.20
Kimpton	1,020.20	Weston	423.60
Kings Walden	425.10	Wymondley	432.30
Knebworth	1,957.30	Royston	6,080.60
Langley	84.00		

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.

3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for 2008/2009 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-
- a) £61,450,594 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
 - b) £43,227,110 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.
 - c) £18,223,484 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 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
 - d) £7,741,901 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, increased by the amount of any sums which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 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 directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 6th February 1996.
 - e) £214.45 being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.

- f) £1,370,630 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act.
- g) £186.41 being the amount at 3(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(f) above by the amount at 2(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 item relates.

h)

Parish/Town	Parish Precept		Total
	Basic		
	£	£	£
Ashwell	186.41	58.22	244.63
Barkway	186.41	32.51	218.92
Barley	186.41	38.57	224.98
Bygrave	186.41	41.60	228.01
Caldecote and Newnham	186.41	11.41	197.82
Clothall	186.41	20.35	206.76
Codicote	186.41	61.78	248.19
Graveley	186.41	7.73	194.14
Hinxworth	186.41	67.08	253.49
Holwell	186.41	45.48	231.89
Ickleford	186.41	50.12	236.53
Kelshall	186.41	31.93	218.34
Kimpton	186.41	61.00	247.41
Kings Walden	186.41	58.81	245.22
Knebworth	186.41	50.42	236.83
Letchworth	186.41	49.27	235.68
Lilley	186.41	23.90	210.31
Offley	186.41	36.47	222.88
Pirton	186.41	45.85	232.26
Preston	186.41	40.77	227.18
Radwell	186.41	15.21	201.62
Reed	186.41	17.38	203.79
Rushden and Wallington	186.41	20.38	206.79

St. Ippolyts	186.41	17.65	204.06
St. Pauls Walden	186.41	45.22	231.63
Sandon	186.41	28.84	215.25
Therfield	186.41	20.06	206.47
Weston	186.41	30.69	217.10
Wymondley	186.41	48.58	234.99
Royston	186.41	29.53	215.94

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(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 2(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.

(i)

Parish/Town	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashwell	163.09	190.27	217.45	244.63	298.99	353.35	407.72	489.26
Baldock	124.27	144.99	165.70	186.41	227.83	269.26	310.68	372.82
Barkway	145.95	170.27	194.60	218.92	267.57	316.22	364.87	437.84
Barley	149.99	174.98	199.98	224.98	274.98	324.97	374.97	449.96
Bygrave	152.01	177.34	202.68	228.01	278.68	329.35	380.02	456.02
Caldecote and Newnham	131.88	153.86	175.84	197.82	241.78	285.74	329.70	395.64
Clothall	137.84	160.81	183.79	206.76	252.71	298.65	344.60	413.52
Codicote	165.46	193.04	220.61	248.19	303.34	358.50	413.65	496.38
Graveley	129.43	151.00	172.57	194.14	237.28	280.42	323.57	388.28
Hexton	124.27	144.99	165.70	186.41	227.83	269.26	310.68	372.82
Hinxworth	168.99	197.16	225.32	253.49	309.82	366.15	422.48	506.98
Hitchin	124.27	144.99	165.70	186.41	227.83	269.26	310.68	372.82
Holwell	154.59	180.36	206.12	231.89	283.42	334.95	386.48	463.78
Ickleford	157.69	183.97	210.25	236.53	289.09	341.65	394.22	473.06
Kelshall	145.56	169.82	194.08	218.34	266.86	315.38	363.90	436.68
Kimpton	164.94	192.43	219.92	247.41	302.39	357.37	412.35	494.82
Kings Walden	163.48	190.73	217.97	245.22	299.71	354.21	408.70	490.44
Knebworth	157.89	184.20	210.52	236.83	289.46	342.09	394.72	473.66

Langley	124.27	144.99	165.70	186.41	227.83	269.26	310.68	372.82
Letchworth	157.12	183.31	209.49	235.68	288.05	340.43	392.80	471.36
Lilley	140.21	163.57	186.94	210.31	257.05	303.78	350.52	420.62
Nuthampstead	124.27	144.99	165.70	186.41	227.83	269.26	310.68	372.82
Offley	148.59	173.35	198.12	222.88	272.41	321.94	371.47	445.76
Pirton	154.84	180.65	206.45	232.26	283.87	335.49	387.10	464.52
Preston	151.45	176.70	201.94	227.18	277.66	328.15	378.63	454.36
Radwell	134.41	156.82	179.22	201.62	246.42	291.23	336.03	403.24
Reed	135.86	158.50	181.15	203.79	249.08	294.36	339.65	407.58
Royston	143.96	167.95	191.95	215.94	263.93	311.91	359.90	431.88
Rushden and Wallington	137.86	160.84	183.81	206.79	252.74	298.70	344.65	413.58
St. Ippolyts	136.04	158.71	181.39	204.06	249.41	294.75	340.10	408.12
St. Pauls Walden	154.42	180.16	205.89	231.63	283.10	334.58	386.05	463.26
Sandon	143.50	167.42	191.33	215.25	263.08	310.92	358.75	430.50
Therfield	137.65	160.59	183.53	206.47	252.35	298.23	344.12	412.94
Weston	144.73	168.86	192.98	217.10	265.34	313.59	361.83	434.20
Wymondley	156.66	182.77	208.88	234.99	287.21	339.43	391.65	469.98

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(h) 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(l) 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. That it be noted that for 2008/2009 Hertfordshire County Council and the Hertfordshire Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hertfordshire County Council	720.75	840.87	961.00	1,081.12	1,321.37	1,561.62	1,801.87	2,162.24
Hertfordshire Police Authority	91.11	106.30	121.48	136.67	167.04	197.41	227.78	273.34

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for 2008/2009 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

List of parishes and tax at different bands (County, Police, District and Parish)

Parish/Town	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashwell	974.95	1,137.44	1,299.93	1,462.42	1,787.40	2,112.38	2,437.37	2,924.84
Baldock	936.13	1,092.16	1,248.18	1,404.20	1,716.24	2,028.29	2,340.33	2,808.40
Barkway	957.81	1,117.44	1,277.08	1,436.71	1,755.98	2,075.25	2,394.52	2,873.42
Barley	961.85	1,122.15	1,282.46	1,442.77	1,763.39	2,084.00	2,404.62	2,885.54
Bygrave	963.87	1,124.51	1,285.16	1,445.80	1,767.09	2,088.38	2,409.67	2,891.60
Caldecote and Newnham	943.74	1,101.03	1,258.32	1,415.61	1,730.19	2,044.77	2,359.35	2,831.22
Clothall	949.70	1,107.98	1,266.27	1,424.55	1,741.12	2,057.68	2,374.25	2,849.10
Codicote	977.32	1,140.21	1,303.09	1,465.98	1,791.75	2,117.53	2,443.30	2,931.96
Graveley	941.29	1,098.17	1,255.05	1,411.93	1,725.69	2,039.45	2,353.22	2,823.86
Hexton	936.13	1,092.16	1,248.18	1,404.20	1,716.24	2,028.29	2,340.33	2,808.40
Hinxworth	980.85	1,144.33	1,307.80	1,471.28	1,798.23	2,125.18	2,452.13	2,942.56
Hitchin	936.13	1,092.16	1,248.18	1,404.20	1,716.24	2,028.29	2,340.33	2,808.40
Holwell	966.45	1,127.53	1,288.60	1,449.68	1,771.83	2,093.98	2,416.13	2,899.36
Ickleford	969.55	1,131.14	1,292.73	1,454.32	1,777.50	2,100.68	2,423.87	2,908.64
Kelshall	957.42	1,116.99	1,276.56	1,436.13	1,755.27	2,074.41	2,393.55	2,872.26
Kimpton	976.80	1,139.60	1,302.40	1,465.20	1,790.80	2,116.40	2,442.00	2,930.40
Kings Walden	975.34	1,137.90	1,300.45	1,463.01	1,788.12	2,113.24	2,438.35	2,926.02
Knebworth	969.75	1,131.37	1,293.00	1,454.62	1,777.87	2,101.12	2,424.37	2,909.24
Langley	936.13	1,092.16	1,248.18	1,404.20	1,716.24	2,028.29	2,340.33	2,808.40
Letchworth	968.98	1,130.48	1,291.97	1,453.47	1,776.46	2,099.46	2,422.45	2,906.94
Lilley	952.07	1,110.74	1,269.42	1,428.10	1,745.46	2,062.81	2,380.17	2,856.20
Nuthampstead	936.13	1,092.16	1,248.18	1,404.20	1,716.24	2,028.29	2,340.33	2,808.40
Offley	960.45	1,120.52	1,280.60	1,440.67	1,760.82	2,080.97	2,401.12	2,881.34
Pirton	966.70	1,127.82	1,288.93	1,450.05	1,772.28	2,094.52	2,416.75	2,900.10
Preston	963.31	1,123.87	1,284.42	1,444.97	1,766.07	2,087.18	2,408.28	2,889.94

Radwell	946.27	1,103.99	1,261.70	1,419.41	1,734.83	2,050.26	2,365.68	2,838.82
Reed	947.72	1,105.67	1,263.63	1,421.58	1,737.49	2,053.39	2,369.30	2,843.16
Royston	955.82	1,115.12	1,274.43	1,433.73	1,752.34	2,070.94	2,389.55	2,867.46
Rushden and Wallington	949.72	1,108.01	1,266.29	1,424.58	1,741.15	2,057.73	2,374.30	2,849.16
St. Ippolyts	947.90	1,105.88	1,263.87	1,421.85	1,737.82	2,053.78	2,369.75	2,843.70
St. Pauls Walden	966.28	1,127.33	1,288.37	1,449.42	1,771.51	2,093.61	2,415.70	2,898.84
Sandon	955.36	1,114.59	1,273.81	1,433.04	1,751.49	2,069.95	2,388.40	2,866.08
Therfield	949.51	1,107.76	1,266.01	1,424.26	1,740.76	2,057.26	2,373.77	2,848.52
Weston	956.59	1,116.03	1,275.46	1,434.89	1,753.75	2,072.62	2,391.48	2,869.78
Wymondley	968.52	1,129.94	1,291.36	1,452.78	1,775.62	2,098.46	2,421.30	2,905.56

REASON FOR DECISION: To set the Council Tax for the District of North Hertfordshire for 2008/09.

76. ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET – 29 JANUARY 2008 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT

The Council considered the Minute of the meeting of Cabinet held on 29 January 2008, in respect of Treasury Management (Minute 102 refers). A copy of the report considered by Cabinet was included with the agenda papers, as were the following appendices:

Appendix A – Treasury Management Policy Statement;

Appendix B – Treasury Management Practices;

Appendix C – Treasury Strategy Statement.

It was moved by Councillor T.W. Hone, seconded by Councillor F.J. Smith, and

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Strategy for 2008/09, as set out at Appendix C to the report, be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

77. ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET – 19 FEBRUARY 2008 – CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 ONWARDS – THIRD QUARTER MONITORING REPORT 2007/08 (APRIL – DECEMBER 2007)

The Council considered the Minute of the meeting of Cabinet held on 19 February 2008, in respect of the Capital Programme 2007/08 Onwards – Third Quarter Monitoring Report (Minute 115 refers). A copy of the report considered by Cabinet was included with the agenda, as was the following appendices:

Appendix A – Capital Programme 2007/08 Onwards.

It was moved by Councillor T.W. Hone, seconded by Councillor F.J. Smith, and

RESOLVED: That the capitalisation of a £1.9 million payment to the Pension Fund to reduce its annual superannuation contributions relating to the liability arising from the LSVT of the Council's housing stock be added to the Capital Programme expenditure for 2007/08.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable monitoring of the Capital Programme for 2007/08 and onwards.

78. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions from Members.

79. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Public Conveniences

Due notice having been given in accordance with Standing Order 11.1, it was moved by Councillor Deepak Sangha, and seconded by Councillor Martin Stears,

“That this Council notes the concern of residents at the closure of a number of public conveniences and the problems with the retained ones. It agrees to an urgent review in order to re-build public confidence by finding ways of opening the closed conveniences and making improvements to the existing facilities.”

As an amendment, it was proposed by Councillor Paul Clark and seconded by Marilyn Kirkland that the second sentence above be deleted and replaced with “It notes that more than £250,000 has already been spent on reviews of public convenience provision and considers that further reviews would be a waste of public money. It believes that the Council should devote resources to refurbishing and reopening the toilets at Bancroft in Hitchin, reinstating a proper toilet provision in Baldock and securing the long term future of the bus station toilets in Royston”.

During the debate, the mover and seconder of the original motion accepted the proposed amendment. Accordingly, the amended motion formed the substantive motion.

Upon being out to the vote, the substantive motion was lost.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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Chairman