



Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council

2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, SO50 7GL

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**Minutes of the FULL COUNCIL meeting
held on Monday 17 February 2020 at 7.00 pm
at 2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak**

P – present, Ab – absent, Ap – apologies.

Ab	Cllr Abbott	Ap	Cllr Douglas	Ap	Cllr Mignot
P	Cllr Anderson	P	Cllr Forfar	Ab	Cllr Scott
Ab	Cllr Barrett	P	Cllr Higby	P	Cllr Spearey (Vice Chairman)
Ap	Cllr Bird		Vacancy	P	Cllr Tennent
Ap	Cllr Couldrey	P	Cllr McGuinness	Ab	Cllr Warrillow

Officers in attendance: Ms M Stephens, Clerk, Mrs L Greenslade Deputy Clerk & Mrs J Cahill, Responsible Finance Officer.

Informal views expressed on the basis that the meeting was deemed inquorate.

PUBLIC SESSION

Several residents were present and expressed their views on the Hampshire County Council's (HCC) Library Service consultation and the proposed closure Fair Oak Library. In addressing the Council, residents highlighted the importance of the library service, not just as a place to read and learn but also as an essential community hub. All were keen to see the Library remain open.

The Chairman replied that the Parish Council would lobby HCC and advocate retention of the library and exploring alternative models if necessary. Residents were encouraged to respond to the consultation document.

County Councillor Thornton advised that he was attending a meeting on Friday 21 February with the County to discuss the retention of Fair Oak Library and invited a representative from the Parish Council to attend.

A resident highlighted the water issues coming from the Horton Heath development. The Clerk would investigate this matter.

Several residents expressed their concerns at the trees along Allington Lane being felled.

90 MINUTES OF MEETINGS (PAPER A)

This item was deferred.

92 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

This item was deferred.

93 COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Members received a presentation from the Fountain Café which had been going 14 years and provided an "inclusive" café environment. The Café is currently situated at the Wyvern College campus and operated for 2 ½ hours per week on a Wednesday. They provided work experience for young people with learning difficulties. Their aim was to seek a permanent base within the village.

The Parish Council supported this initiative and thanked the group for their

enthusiasm and dedication to the community.

The Council's Task & Finish Group would continue to explore site options for the Café and ways in which the Council could further support the Fountain Café. Final recommendations from the Group would be presented to the Council in due course.

94 HCC LIBRARY SERVICE CONSULTATION

The Clerk advised a draft response had been sent to Eastleigh Borough Councillors and the County Councillor and that she had been in consultation with officers at HCC. All options would be explored with the County. The final consultation response would be sent following the Council meeting on 16 March.

95 REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER (REPORT D)

This item was deferred.

96 INTERNAL AUDITOR – INTERIM REPORT (REPORT E)

This item was deferred.

97 FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS (REPORT F)

This item was deferred.

98 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE EXTERNAL CONTRACT WORK (REPORT G)

This item was deferred.

99 BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

See Appendix 1.

100 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

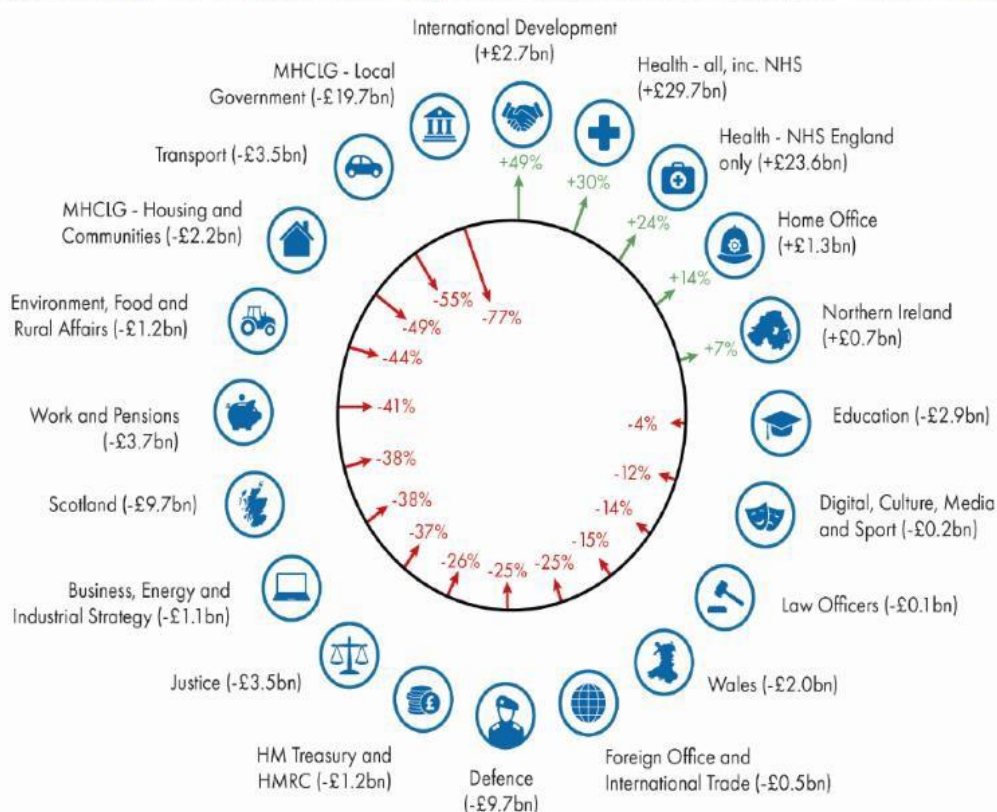
This item was deferred.

This was all the business and the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed..... Chairman

County Council Report by Cllr Bruce Tennent Hampshire County 2020-2021 Budget

Percentage change in Government Departmental revenue budget – 2009/10 to 2019/20



The above chart shows that in the last 10 years Government has reduced funding to local councils by a massive 77%, equating to £19.7bn (Source: Carolyn Williamson, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Corporate Resources, Hampshire County Council)

The financial position of the County Council is continuing its downward trajectory with year on year spending being reduced at an alarming rate. Due to the lack of Government funding, this perilous state of affairs is being reflected all around the country leading to an increase in councils having to transform from multi-tier to Unitary authorities in order to maintain public services. One of the reasons the County Council is increasing its Reserves is to reduce the risk of this happening by saving spare cash so that in the future it can replace the funding it probably will not receive from Government.

It is not known for how much longer the County Council Strategy of increasing Reserves and cutting services to the bone can survive. As of 31 March 2019, total reserves had increased to £669.5m (Remember, in the current financial climate, to increase Reserves means services have to be cut). With detailed Government funding unlikely to be released until December 2020, financial planning is extremely difficult. Therefore by the 2022/23 budget the County Council will have to make a further £40.2m of cuts in order to balance the budget and **it is proposed to increase Council Tax by 3.99%** (2.00% of this is for the Adult Social Care Precept).

Not all of the cuts to services are immediately visible, which it is why it is down to elected members to inform their constituencies. Many cuts to services are preceded by consultations, but not all. Below are some of the actions the County Council are taking to reduce spending:-

- Consultation on library closures and a reduction in operating hours. Fair Oak library is threatened with closure (Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council have submitted an excellent response). For the sake of £11,000, North Baddesley library is threatened with closure so a 600 signature petition has recently been handed to the Leader of the Council.

- The County's residents will have to register their vehicles to park when disposing of their waste so that non-residents can be billed £5 every time they park their vehicles in a council tip. This infers that if residents do not register their vehicle, then they will be billed £5 every time they visit a council tip.
 - The questions arise as to how much the Automated Number-Plate Recognition (ANPR) system is costing to commission and maintain in Hampshire and if other Counties decide to follow suit, how much this will cost the nation?
 - Would it not be more cost efficient to fund the cost of recycling centres in their annual spending review?
- The frequency of road maintenance such as pothole repairs has been reduced
- Public transport was privatised in the 1980s, but realising that a capitalist model is built on cost efficiency and not public service, local government is required to subsidise non-profitable routes. Since this subsidy is discretionary, it has been almost completely stopped.

Local Key Issues

- I have contacted Southern Water about a reported waste water overflow in Burnetts Lane, but not yet received a reply
- Stubbington Way Traffic light phasing has been altered following resident requests;- Hampshire Highways have undertaken several site surveys, peak time vehicle turning counts and traffic queue modelling (with software) and as a result, split the two side roads into separate stages, removing the existing 'late start' on Eastleigh Road in the process. The pedestrian stage will be moved to appear earlier in the cycle, to help mitigate against pedestrians having to wait for both side roads to run before crossing.
- Follow up work has been undertaken in Bubb Lane on 17 February, when the road was closed for the day.
- A planning application has been submitted to expand the existing floodlit all-weather football pitch, plus infrastructure improvements including 1.8m high safe-guarding fencing, vehicle control gates and the re-location of five parking spaces by Wyvern Technology College, Botley Road, Fair Oak <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/ApplicationDetails.aspx?RecNo=20968>