

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

19 February 2009

8:00 pm – 11:20 pm

### PRESENT

#### COUNCILLORS

Tony Hall (Chairman)  
Edna Stevens (Vice-Chairman)

David Carter  
Nick Churchill  
Sarah-Jane Dangerfield  
Tony Durcan  
Maggie Hulcoop  
Joshua Jolles  
Patrick McClarnon  
Linda Pailing  
Clive Souter  
Mark Wilkinson

Simon Carter  
Jean Clark  
Bob Davis  
Mike Garnett  
Andrew Johnson  
Muriel Jolles  
Nick Macy  
Russell Perrin  
Lorna Spenceley

Joel Charles  
Lee Dangerfield  
Manny Doku  
Mark Gough  
Shona Johnson  
Sue Livings  
Chris Millington  
Lesley Rideout  
Robert Thurston

### APOLOGIES

Eddie Johnson

Eleanor Macy

#### 73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following non-prejudicial interests were declared:  
Cllr Lorna Spenceley – Harlow Community Legal Partnership  
Cllr Lesley Rideout – Harlow Young Concern  
Cllr Muriel Jolles – Harlow Young Concern  
Cllr Simon Carter – Streets to Homes  
Cllr Clive Souter – Harlow Community Chest

#### 74. MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 11 December 2008 and the Special Council meeting held on 29 January 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

75. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

- (1) The Chairman announced that he had received a painting by Moira Jones on behalf of Bishopsfields residents. It will be hung in a prominent place in the Civic Centre.

76. **APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEE**

The Chairman announced that Council had received a recommendation from the Standards Committee that Mr Mick Granger be appointed as the third independent member of the committee.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Mick Granger be appointed as a member of the Standards Committee from 20 February 2009 for a four year term of office.

77. **PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- (1) Friends of Welfare Rights and Advice (FOWRA)

Ms Jennifer Smith presented a petition on behalf of FOWRA containing 7351 signatures, calling on Harlow Council to reverse the decision to cut advice service funding.

As the subject matter of the petition formed part of the discussion under agenda item 9, it was not referred to a Council committee.

- (2) Sheltered Housing

Ms Patricia Northcote presented a petition on behalf of a group of residents in sheltered housing containing 445 signatures objecting to proposals to re-designate some sheltered housing into general housing.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.6 the petition was referred to the next meeting of the Housing Committee.

78. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

(See Appendix 1. Note – as the person asking question 3 was not present to ask the question when it was called, the question was deleted from the list of questions to be asked.)

79. **REFERENCES FROM COMMITTEES**

- (1) Policy and Resources Committee

12 February 2009

1. Updated Medium Term Financial Strategy

Cllr Mark Wilkinson (seconded by Cllr Jean Clark) moved that the MTFs be amended to allow ongoing revenue expenditure to be funded for one year from reserves.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

**RESOLVED:** That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2009/10 to 2013/14, as set out in the report, be adopted.

2. General Fund Revenue Budget 2009/10

The above-mentioned committee recommended to Council that:

- (a) the proposed General Fund estimates for 2009/10, as set out in Appendix A based on paragraph 10, be approved;
- (b) the proposed Fees and Charges, set out in Appendix D, be approved;
- (c) an application be made to the Secretary of State for approval to transfer the maximum transitional amount of £346,000 from the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund in 2009/10 (paragraphs 24-26);
- (d) adjustments to the general uncommitted level of reserves, as set out in the table of paragraph 35 and the proposed movements and resulting balances on earmarked reserves as shown as Appendix F, be approved;
- (e) the minimum level of General Fund reserves for 2009-10 of £1,300,000 be approved (paragraph 35);
- (f) an increase in Council Tax for 2009/10 of 3.9% be approved, making Harlow Council's Band D Council Tax for 2009/10 £251.55; and
- (g) there be no cost of living increases in Members Allowances for 2009/10.

Cllr Simon Carter (seconded by Cllr Andrew Johnson)  
moved as an amendment :

In Item (f), after "£251.55", to insert:

and the detail contained in the paper circulated to  
Members entitled "COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION –  
SETTING THE AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX FOR  
THE COUNCIL'S AREA be approved.

Amendment agreed to.

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendations, as amended, be  
agreed to.

3. Non-Housing Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2013/14

**RESOLVED:** That

- (a) the forecast Non Housing Capital Programme outturn for 2008/09 be noted, as set out in Appendix B;
- (b) the Non-Housing Capital Programme for 2009/10 be approved, as set out in Appendix D;
- (c) Borrowing of up to £1.1m in 2008/09 and £1.48m in 2009/10 to support the capital programme be approved;
- (d) the receipts from the assets identified in the confidential appendix be earmarked to cover up to the maximum of £2.538m to repay the temporary borrowing referred to in (c) above and to note that a further report will be presented to committee to seek approval for repayment of this borrowing when capital receipts are realised, taking into account the financial circumstances prevailing at the time;
- (e) the Non-Housing Capital Programme forecast for 2010/11 to 2013/14 be noted, as set out in Appendix E;
- (f) the confidential report of the 'pending' asset disposals be noted.

4. Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy and Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision 2009/10

**RESOLVED:** That

- (a) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, which includes both the annual investment and borrowing strategies and the Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision for 2009/10 be approved and that a mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy be undertaken; and
- (b) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement be implemented with immediate effect (current investments made in line with the existing 2008/09 Strategy remain unaffected).

5. Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2009/2010

**RESOLVED:** That

- (a) the rent increase for individual dwellings (equating to an average weekly rent of £72.93, as set out in paragraphs 10 to 19 of the report) and that it be effective from 6 April 2009;
- (b) the service charges for individual dwellings (equating to an average weekly charge to tenants of £2.01, as set out in paragraphs 21 to 28 of the report) be effective from 6 April 2009;
- (c) heating charges be increased (equating to an average weekly general needs charge of £15.17 per week, leaseholders equivalent charge of £19.89 per week and sheltered accommodation charge of £13.48 per week, as set out in paragraphs 31 to 37 of the report);
- (d) garage rents be increased to £7.50 per week (for a standard garage) and proportionate increases for other garages, car ports and car spaces from 6 April 2009 (as set out in paragraphs 40 to 42 of the report);
- (e) other charges be increased (as set out in paragraph 43 of the report);

- (f) the growth and savings outlined in paragraphs 57 and 58 be approved and paragraph 59, noted;
- (g) a transfer of £110,000, as a one-off sum, be made from the working balance to the Council's Insurance Fund from 1 April 2009 (as outlined in paragraph 60);
- (h) the HRA budget (as set out at Appendix A) be approved; and
- (i) a minimum HRA working balance of £1,230,000 be noted.

6. Housing Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2013/14

**RESOLVED:** That

- (a) the Housing Capital Programme 2009/10 be approved, as set out in Appendix C;
- (b) the borrowing of £4.2m in 2009/10 to support the 2009/10 Capital Programme and a contribution of £NIL from the Housing Revenue Account be made towards the Housing Capital Programme during 2009/10;
- (c) the percentage of Right To Buy receipts to be used to fund the Housing Capital Programme 2009/10 be agreed at 50%;
- (d) garage receipts would no longer continue to be applied to support the Capital Programme from 1 April 2009; and
- (e) the forecast 2010/11 to 2013/14 be noted, as set out in Appendix C.

***In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1 the meeting continued after 10:00 pm.***

80. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

None received.

81. **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

None received.

82. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the following committee meetings be noted:

Audit and Improvement	04/02/09
Policy and Resources	18/12/08 (Special)
	29/01/09
	12/02/09
Housing	15/01/09
	05/02/09 (Special)
Environment and Community	20/01/09
	22/01/09
Scrutiny	03/12/08
	16/01/09 (Call-in)
	16/01/09 (Call-in)
	10/02/09

83. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.