

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TADLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT TADLEY TOWN COUNCIL AT 7.30PM ON 6 MARCH 2023

Present: Cllrs Atkinson, Burdett (Chairman), Flahive, Flake, Hankinson, Leeks, Lovegrove, Meiszner, Morrow, Mullan, Slimin and Witton

In Attendance: Clerk, County Cllr Mellor

Cllr Mullan was presented with a long service award.

1. APOLOGIES

Received and accepted from Cllr Spence

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATION REQUESTS

There were no declarations of interest and dispensation requests.

3. MINUTES

94/23FC It was

RESOLVED (12/0/0) to receive and confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting 20 February 2023

4. OPEN FORUM

There was no requirement for an open forum.

5. ACCOUNTS

95/23FC It was

RESOLVED (12/0/0) to receive and sign a statement of receipts and payments for the month of February 2023.

6. EARMARKED RESERVES

Earmarked reserves were reviewed.

96/23FC It was

RESOLVED (12/0/0) to accept the review as attached.

7. CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

The Chairman had no report.

The Vice Chairman reported that he and the Chairman had attended the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship AGM on 2 March. He also attended the Mayor's concert on 4 March where Tadley Singers performed.

8. COMMITTEES

97/23FC It was

RESOLVED (12/0/0) to receive and approve the report of the Highways and Planning Committee held on 27 February 2023.

9. REPORTS

Reports were received from the following:

- a. Hampshire County Council – Cllr Mellor – see Appendix
- b. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – Cllr Morrow - see Appendix
- c. Representatives on external organisations

Barlows Park Management Association – Cllr Slimin reported that the recent race night had made £1200 that will be matched by The Good Exchange, Greenham Trust.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed:

Dated: 15 May 2023

REVIEW OF RESERVES MARCH 2023						
	Current reserves	Total cost	Location	Completion date	Reason for precepting	Proposed reserves
Earmarked Reserves						
Equipment, vehicles and tools	4000	30000	Office and garage	Laptop every 3 years 2023, 16 iPads every 5 years 2025, vehicle every 10 years 2028	Forward planning	8000
Play area refurbishment	12000	150000	Play areas x 3, and equipment at the Common	March 2030	Forward planning	20000
					4 months running costs	62155
					Total Earmarked Reserves	90155

Appendix

County Councillor Mellor report:

1. 2023/24 budget approved

Hampshire County Council's £2.6bn spending plans for 2023/24 have been approved. I outlined these plans in my report last month. Its council tax precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2023, will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care, in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,460.25 for a Band D property – an increase of £69.45 per year or approximately £1.34 a week.

Leader of the County Council, Councillor Rob Humby, said: "Each year, the County Council is tested to the limits in continuing to deliver a balanced budget, which is required by law. Planning for this upcoming financial year has been no different, and we have had to navigate further intense pressures resulting from the cost-of-living crisis, inflation and workforce pressures which are pushing up costs, and growing demand in key areas such as social care for the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities – which far outweighs available Government funding.

"We are also acutely aware of the very difficult decisions Hampshire residents face in their own household budgets to make ends meet, but reluctantly, in order to help deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24, we have no other choice but to increase the council tax precept. This is a decision we have not taken lightly. But even after this increase, we are still left with a £50.8 million shortfall in our revenue budget which we will have to fill using our reserves – built to buffer this and next year's anticipated budget shortfalls."

The increase will generate £37m of vital extra income towards the delivery of crucial, high performing services to the people of Hampshire in 2023/24, and still means that Hampshire has one of the lowest council tax precepts of any county in England.

2. Schools

More than 97 per cent of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child at one of their three preferences for a secondary school in September 2023, with 90 per cent offered a place at their first preference school. The County Council received 15,400 on-time applications this year – an increase of 418 applications compared to the number received for places in September 2022 (14,982).

Parents and carers who have not secured a place at one of their preferred secondary schools this year are urged to please visit HCC's [website](#) for advice and guidance on their options. The Admissions Team is busy processing primary school applications with school place offers due to go out to parents on 17 April 2023.

An interesting point to note - at the time of the implementation of the SEN Reforms in 2014, Hampshire County Council was supporting around 5,000 children with special educational needs. Since the reforms, this figure has risen to over 15,000 children. Such increases do place significant pressure on local authorities' ability to provide support.

3. Parish lengthsman scheme

The County Council's parish lengthsman scheme has been maintained for the coming financial year. The term 'lengthsman' dates back to the 1800s, referring to workers who were responsible for keeping a particular length of road neat and tidy. The modern role of Parish Lengthsman was reintroduced in Hampshire in 2010, in order to give communities more say in how their local area is maintained.

The scheme funds a local 'lengthsman' to carry out straightforward and low risk maintenance activities on footways, highways, and rights of way. The work mainly involves jobs that can have a big impact, such as ditch clearing, hedge cutting and sign cleaning. The scheme has since been successful in giving 186 local parish and town councils an opportunity to prioritise and deliver their own small scale highway maintenance works that will be of high value locally.

4. Grants to fight rural crime

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has announced a fund to award grants to help tackle rural crime, supporting initiatives to reduce rural crime or support victims. The application window closes at 2pm on Friday 21 April 2023 and successful applications will be announced in mid to late May 2023. Applications can be made at <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/safer-together/funding/apply-for-funding>.

5. Consultation on post-16 transport policy

The County Council has launched its annual consultation on the Post-16 Transport Policy. This policy outlines the provision of transport for young people over the age of 16 with special needs or disabilities, who require additional support to access education or training suitable to their needs.

The consultation includes an opportunity to comment on the proposed increase in the parental contribution by 27.1%, in line with the increased costs of running the service. This increase is being driven by national driver shortages, a limited number of transport operators on the market, and an increase in fuel prices. Families in receipt of income-based free school meals and certain means-tested benefits will not be required to pay an annual charge.

The consultation will run for a period of six weeks until 11:59pm on Sunday 2 April, please visit the [Hampshire County Council website](#) for details.

6. Coronation grants

A new grant window for Hampshire County Councillors will open from 1st to 21st April. 'Member's Grants for the Coronation' will offer grants up to £1k to support local events. You can see details at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

Borough Cllr Morrow report:

Tadley Pool

My colleague Jo Slimin and I, have been meeting with Borough officers to report about the drop in standards at Tadley Health and Leisure Centre.

We have received a lot of complaints, but we are trying to keep things positive and work with all parties to push for improvements.

The operator has already made improvements in their cleaning regime. We have asked for a visual complaints procedure so that the public can provide useful feedback and better communication to keep customers informed when projects are delayed.

I have attached the officer's response which includes exciting developments in the pipeline.

Neighbourcare

As part of my cost-of-living efforts, myself and Kingsclere Parish Cllr David Conquest have come to an agreement with Neighbourcare to cover our ward. Please see the advert attached.

We are looking for volunteer drivers to support our residents who struggle with transport.

Cost of Living Advisors

I'm happy to report my Cllr grant was used to equip two part time voluntary cost of living advisors. They are available to help throughout the ward. CA Tadley are also happy to hold Energy Days at different venues. If there is an existing event that could accommodate an energy day at the same time please get in touch.

CA Tadley also successfully applied for the CLC Fund which we fought hard for, allowing CA Tadley to claim close to 5k to pay advisors for their time.

Wigmore Heath Voluntary Group

The rest of my grant was spent on tools for Wigmore Heath Voluntary group. They are meeting at Shyshack Lane at 10am on the last Saturday of the month. We are always looking for more volunteers, you can do as much or little as you like. We are currently clearing broom and gorse so that the heather can flourish.

Coronation street parties

Residents in your ward may be considering holding a street party for the King's Coronation. There is lots of useful information on our website including our street party guidance which will provide an idea of things to be considered. The deadline for Coronation street party applications is Friday 21 April 2023.

You can find out more at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/streetparties

As part of the new scheme, community organisations will be eligible for grants of up to £500 for single applications and up to £1,000 for joint applications from two or more organisations for events taking place in communities across the borough. Joint applications need to show how organisations will work together to bring Coronation events to communities.

visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/coronation-fund and to find out more about what you need to host a community event, read the council's street party guidance at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/event-supporting-guidance.

Borough Cllr Slimin report:

Further to my report in January the minutes show that the reply to the litter clearance question was not very helpful and in part not correct and referred to the litter grant but did promise that the Clerk would be contacted further but not sure that she has been.

I attended an EPH meeting in February to respond to the National Planning Policy Framework consultation and made several interventions that relate to our experience in TTC. I will attach the document I have been sent by BDBC which is a draft we have been sent for comment to Borough councillors. It was due to be sent to government on 2 March so may not be the final version. I note that the TTC H & P Committee have not discussed at their meetings although note that Whitchurch Town Council did and sent TTC a copy which was circulated. I hope that some of these comments would have been echoed by TTC councillors if they had debated at their planning meeting.

On 23 February we had a lively full council meeting where we agreed the budget which has already been covered by Cllr Morrow. You may know that the political makeup of the Borough Council is an ever changing picture. Cllr Morrow and I made some interventions in the debate and some amendments got carried which got cross party support. There was an interesting discussion on the draft council plan for the next few years that narrowly got accepted as many wanted it to have more ambition.

As a chair of governors at Bishopswood I supported a motion on raising the level of total household income families needed to be below to get free school meals – this is something that is relevant to our town and the numbers are already increasing even though the cut-off point is £7400 which is less than the basic allowance I get as a Borough councillor. This will be sent to the Dept of Education and got cross party support also.

I also asked a question about new powers to prosecute air polluters but was advised it only covers areas that have declared a clean air zone – so not Basingstoke and Deane. Asked whether they would consider doing this for Tadley and Basingstoke and got a No but could not hear the reasons why – there is a problem with the audio in the chamber which I also tried to offer some solutions for. When I get the minutes I will follow up.

We have another meeting on 23 March when there may be more to raise.

I have been dealing with some serious issues including the loss of the Lloyds pharmacy in Sainsburys and the knock-on effects of that.

The condition and running of the Tadley swimming pool has been a major item in the post bag of Cllr Morrow and myself and we have had several meetings with Borough officers and expect to be meeting again. Some improvements are on the way but mainly communications between Serco who operate the pool and their customers leaves a lot to be desired. We will elaborate further verbally at the meeting if required.

Some good news is that the Tadley Community Centre have been given a grant from my councillor grant allocation and will be getting a new freezer and shelving for the food pantry.

Tadley Town Council
Unreconciled Bank Transactions Report

Bank: Bank Account Current (1200)

Account Balance: £4,107.92

Reconciled Balance: £5,500.00

Date	Name	Reference	Type	Payment	Receipt
20/03/2023		PAYE February	Other Payment	1,392.08	0.00
TOTAL				£1,392.08	£0.00
				BALANCE	-£1,392.08

BANK RECONCILIATION		
Bank Statement Balance	PREMIUM ACCOUNT	72612.65
Bank Statement Balance	CURRENT ACCOUNT	5500.00
	Less uncleared payments	1392.08
	TRUE BANK BALANCE	76720.57
Sage Accounts	PREMIUM ACCOUNT	72612.65
Sage Accounts	CURRENT ACCOUNT	4107.92
	TOTAL ON BALANCE SHEET	76720.57

From: 01/02/2023

To: 28/02/2023

Tadley Town Council
Receipts and Payments Day Book Report

01 Mar 2023

10:48

Receipt/Payment: Receipts, Account: Bank Account Savings (1220)

Trx No	Type	Date	Name	Ref	Net	VAT	Total
4446	Other Receipt	07/02/2023		M J Sly Memorial	81.00	0.00	81.00
4412	Customer Receipt	09/02/2023	Tadley Funeralcare				158.00
4424	Other Receipt	09/02/2023		Bank Interest	53.66	0.00	53.66
4445	Other Receipt	09/02/2023		M J Sly Memorial	54.00	0.00	54.00
4425	Other Receipt	10/02/2023		Ash Brook burial	430.00	0.00	430.00
4430	Customer Receipt	15/02/2023	Miles & Daughters Funeral Directors				860.00
4453	Customer Receipt	21/02/2023	Miles & Daughters Funeral Directors				306.00
4455	Customer Receipt	23/02/2023	Tadley Funeralcare				430.00
4469	Other Receipt	24/02/2023		Ash Brook Burial	76.00	0.00	76.00
						TOTAL	£2,448.66

From: 01/02/2023
To: 28/02/2023

Tadley Town Council
Receipts and Payments Day Book Report

01 Mar 2023
10:50

Receipt/Payment: Payments, Account: Bank Account Current (1200)

Trx No	Type	Date	Name	Ref	Net	VAT	Total
4480	Supplier Payment	01/02/2023	UK Fuels Ltd	DD			96.09
4403	Supplier Payment	02/02/2023	M&C Landscapes	SO			551.00
4399	Supplier Payment	03/02/2023	CDS Group	Cemetery Extension			1,080.00
4400	Supplier Payment	03/02/2023	Kings DIY	Maint Cons			49.47
4401	Supplier Payment	03/02/2023	Greenbarnes	Perspex Noticeboard			107.39
4406	Other Payment	03/02/2023		Truck washing	10.00	0.00	10.00
4408	Supplier Payment	03/02/2023	Vitaplay	Lowes Corner roundabout			504.00
4393	Supplier Payment	07/02/2023	Inty Cascade	DD			86.86
4418	Supplier Payment	07/02/2023	Elmdale Maintenance	Photocopier			6.93
4420	Supplier Payment	08/02/2023	Streetmaster	Cemetery Bench			3,264.50
4477	Supplier Payment	08/02/2023	UK Fuels Ltd	DD			97.22
4432	Supplier Payment	11/02/2023	Arco Wessex	Fleece jacket			20.76
4423	Other Payment	13/02/2023		Land Registry	3.00	0.00	3.00
4434	Supplier Payment	13/02/2023	Canvas Spaces	Skate park			63,315.79
4473	Supplier Payment	13/02/2023	Southern Electricity	DD			405.82
4475	Supplier Payment	13/02/2023	Castle Water	DD			48.24
4405	Supplier Payment	14/02/2023	Mainstream Digital	DD			148.91
4437	Supplier Payment	14/02/2023	Turbary Allotment Charity	Meetings rent			112.00
4441	Supplier Payment	14/02/2023	Nash Contract Services Ltd	Tree 112 Almswood Road			516.00
4452	Supplier Payment	17/02/2023	Arco Wessex	Loo rolls paper towels			269.28
4411	Supplier Payment	20/02/2023	SGW Payroll	DD			38.88
4478	Other Payment	20/02/2023		January PAYE	1,392.48	0.00	1,392.48
4439	Supplier Payment	21/02/2023	EE	DD			86.96
4449	Supplier Payment	22/02/2023	UK Fuels Ltd	DD			113.62
4457	Other Payment	22/02/2023		87/23FC HIOW Wildlife	400.00	0.00	400.00
4459	Supplier Payment	24/02/2023	SAGE	DD			31.20
4463	Supplier Payment	27/02/2023	Glasdon	Litter bins (grant)			1,104.08
4465	Supplier Payment	27/02/2023	Siemens Financial Services	DD			252.10
4414	Supplier Payment	28/02/2023	Lloyds Bank	DD			16.70
4427	Other Payment	28/02/2023		Wages February	3,950.19	0.00	3,950.19
4428	Other Payment	28/02/2023		Pension February	823.31	0.00	823.31

From: 01/02/2023
To: 28/02/2023

Tadley Town Council
Receipts and Payments Day Book Report

01 Mar 2023
10:50

4467	Supplier Payment	28/02/2023	CDS Group	Planning application	300.00
4482	Supplier Payment	28/02/2023	Gradwell	DD	45.79
TOTAL					£79,248.57

From: 01/02/2023
To: 28/02/2023

Tadley Town Council
Cashbook Report — Lloyds Bank Credit Card (1260)

01 Mar 2023
10:51

Trx	Transaction Date	Date Entered	Contact	Type	Method	Currency	Reference	Money In (GBP £)	Money Out (GBP £)	Balance
							- Opening Balance: 01/02/2023			-37.42
4447	06/02/2023	15/02/2023		Bank Transfer	Electronic	GBP		17.42		-20.00
4456	22/02/2023	22/02/2023		Other Payment	Credit/Debit Card	GBP	Highways HCC		40.00	-60.00
							TOTALS	17.42	40.00	
							- Closing Balance: 28/02/2023			-60.00
							- Movement			-22.58