

Ashford Borough Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **20th February 2014**.

Present:

His Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr D O Smith (Chairman);

Cllrs. Adley, Apps, Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Bell, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Britcher, Buchanan, Burgess, Chilton, Clark, Clarkson, Claughton, Clokie, Davey, Davison, Feacey, Heyes, Mrs Heyes, Hicks, Hodgkinson, Howard, Mrs Hutchinson, Link, Marriott, Miss Martin, Mrs Martin, Michael, Mortimer, Robey, Shorter, Sims, Taylor, Wedgbury, Yeo.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Reverend Mackenzie said prayers.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Aaby, Davidson, French, Galpin.

Also Present:

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Cultural and Project Services, Head of Community and Housing, Finance Manager, Principal Solicitor (Property and Projects), Senior Member Services and Scrutiny Support Officer.

323 Exempt or Confidential Items

The Mayor asked whether any items should be dealt with in private because of the likely disclosure of Exempt or Confidential information. There were none.

324 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Burgess	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as the Council's appointed representative on the Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board.	329
Claughton	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Council appointed representative on the Ashford Almshouses and Parochial Charities.	329
Feacey	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as Chairman of the Ashford Volunteer Bureau.	329
Heyes	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Council appointed representative on the Ashford	329

Almshouses and Parochial Charities.

Hicks	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Council appointed representative on the Ashford Leisure Trust and the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board.	329
Hodgkinson	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Council appointed representative for the Singleton Environment Centre and the Ashford Almshouses and Parochial Charities as well as her involvement with the Ashford Food Bank.	329
Miss Martin	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Council appointed representative for the Ashford Almshouses and Parochial Charities and for her involvement with the Brook Agricultural Museum.	329
Mrs Martin	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Council appointed representative on the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board.	329
Sims	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Council appointed representative on the Kennington Parochial Charities.	329
Smith	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Council appointed representative on the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board and the SWAN Community Centre Trust.	329

325 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 12th December 2013 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

326 Announcements

(a) The Mayor

The Mayor said he wanted to address the Council's response to the flooding situation that had occurred in Ashford over recent weeks. He had experienced problems in his own area, South Willesborough, and had been extremely impressed that the Chief Executive and other staff had made themselves available to support the people of the area on at least two separate occasions. The Mayor said he wanted to express his thanks to the Chief Executive, Della Fackrell and the rest of the team. He said he had personally found it very helpful to have an Officer specifically seconded to his area which was at risk of flooding. Fortunately flooding of

properties did not come to fruition with only roads being flooded, but they were prepared, the right places were sandbagged and credit must be given to the staff for that.

On a related note, the Mayor said that the flooding had caused problems for horses in fields along the Romney Marsh Road. He again had been tremendously impressed with the way that the Chief Executive and the Leader had taken decisive action to move the horses to safety. Sheila Davison had then pulled together a small team who did a superb job to ensure there were no more fatalities and he asked the Chief Executive to pass on the thanks of the Council to both the flooding team and the team who dealt with the horses.

The Mayor also wished to acknowledge Councillor Jim Wedgbury who had now served 30 years as a fireman. He passed on congratulations for this achievement on behalf of the Council. He joked that he had been elated to hear a rumour that Councillor Wedgbury was soon to stand down, but understood this related to his role as a fireman rather than a Councillor! At least he would be able to assist in the event of a fire drill in the Council Chamber!

(b) Leader

The Leader said he would like to take this opportunity to update Members on some recent developments and positive news in the Borough. He said Ashford had just come through a protracted period of inclement weather. The Borough Council had been prepared and discharged its duty to residents in an exemplary way and he wished to publicly thank all those involved. The Council had received a public acknowledgement from Ashford's MP Damian Green on the way in which they had handled the situation. Interestingly, although there was plenty of surface water over Ashford, in terms of new build homes he was delighted to say that they had coped well with the weather and there had been no known serious flooding of any household or any business in Ashford. However, that did not mean the Council was going to be complacent. They were going to review all emergency arrangements in due course with particular reference to surface water and flooding.

The Leader said that last week the Cabinet gave permission for Ashford Borough Council to purchase International House and the former Crouch's garage site. This would pave the way for the Council to drive forward its bold plans for a comprehensive redevelopment of the Commercial Quarter, bringing a potential 4000 new jobs and significant spending power to the town centre. Not only would this generate new employment opportunities locally, but it would be a valuable asset for the Council. By moving forward with these purchases and plans for the Commercial Quarter they were looking at the long-term financial stability of the Council, securing services for residents and the Borough as a whole. It was vital that in these challenging times the Council looked at its revenue budget position and looked at alternative revenue streams, which these acquisitions would deliver.

This week Ashford had received significant media attention for the vast improvements it had made in terms of recycling by featuring on a regional radio broadcast and a prime time television programme. That past Monday morning the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Councillor Jessamy Blanford, had been interviewed by Radio Kent and then on the same evening, the BBC's *InsideOut* programme, which aired at 7.30pm. They had focused on Ashford's journey from the

worst to one of the best recycling authorities in the country and he personally wanted to congratulate Councillor Mrs Blanford on her portrayal of Ashford's position which had done the Authority proud. He also knew that colleagues would receive an update from Councillor Mrs Blanford herself after his announcement.

The Leader said he was also pleased to provide an update on the Conningbrook Lakes Country Park. The Council had been working closely with stakeholders including Brett's, Kent Wildlife Trust, Ashford Leisure Trust and water sports clubs to be in a position to provide access to local people within the very near future. Currently, that target was that water sports clubs would be able to start using the lake in late spring and they hoped to finalise an opening date with partners shortly and this would be widely publicised. It was hoped that works would be able to commence on site in April, subject to weather conditions, for the construction of an access road from the Julie Rose Stadium, and the installation of a floating pontoon, storage facilities, signage and safety equipment such as life buoys. He was delighted to also announce that they had been able to achieve the authority for a new road which would follow later when some of the housing had come on stream. Once the park was open people would also be able to walk around the main lake and see the wonderful natural setting. He said he had toured around the proposed parkland last summer and was amazed by the wonderful beauty of the lakes and parkland which created a wildlife sanctuary and a gateway to the Stour Valley. This would be a new country park that residents would benefit from for many years to come. The 200 acre park was actually on lease to the Council for 500 years.

The Leader advised that another exciting development on the horizon was the idea of an International Model Railway Education Centre in Ashford. This would be a Centre of Excellence that would stand both as an important heritage site and also a real legacy project for future generations. The proposals included a 30,000 square foot building on the old Klondyke Works site, comprising of a display and demonstration theatre, a specialist model shop, a first floor cafeteria overlooking Ashford Works and a second floor observation deck enabling visitors to watch the Eurostar trains traveling over the viaduct at 160mph. In addition an active model railway would operate around the site.

Colleagues would have no doubt noticed great strides being made on two current prominent town centre buildings – Charter House (now known as Panorama) and Ashdown Court – which were being transformed before their very eyes. He was also informed a planning application for the proposed 6000 square metre Morrison's store was expected in the next few months. These developments would revitalise the landscape, help provide much needed accommodation, help stimulate the town centre and provide a boost to Ashford's economy. In terms of economic growth there was much to be proud of. Ashford had the largest number of apprenticeships in Kent – 1300, larger than any other District and they also had the highest employment growth in Kent – 3.6%, twice the national average of 1.8%. He was also confident that the Minister would shortly be making an announcement on the Ashford International College. The Leader said he wanted to put on record his thanks to all Members of the Council, Officers and Management Team for working hard to boost the local economy and make the Borough a better place for residents.

Finally, the Leader said he wanted to thank Group Leaders particularly for transcending party politics to make a stance to join with him and this Administration

to deliver real economic growth and tangible cultural and legacy facilities for the benefit of the Borough.

(c) Cllr Mrs Blanford – Portfolio Holder for Culture and the Environment

Councillor Mrs Blanford said that the announcement she wished to make would also cover one of the questions Councillor Bell had submitted for later in the Meeting so she wondered if both could be covered by one address. Councillor Bell agreed that this would be sensible.

Councillor Mrs Blanford said she was pleased to announce that the new Waste and Recycling contract was operating well, with recycling performance regularly exceeding 50% month on month since its introduction in July 2013. To date they had recycled 5513 tonnes of dry mixed recyclables, 1417 tonnes of garden waste and 2493 tonnes of food waste – a total of 9423 tonnes to date. These figures were extremely encouraging, even better than expected and she said she would like to thank residents for embracing the new service so positively. They could now say with confidence that Ashford had gone from being the worst recycler in the country to amongst the best. She was also pleased to say that the Council's assisted service, which formerly helped 438 households, now assisted 1317, thus the Council was able to give more support to elderly and disabled residents. The initial roll out of the new service did not include communal developments, some 4000 residences, but during September 2013 and January 2014 a number of communal developments were successfully converted to the alternate weekly service, where wheeled bins were able to be accommodated. The Council's next step was to be able to provide a recycling service to a further 2000 homes by the end of March 2014. Many of these households were to be found in blocks of flats where waste produced was taken to communal collection points. The Council would now be providing, where practicable, additional containers for the dry mixed recyclables. As the Leader had just said, over the last few weeks there had been considerable interest from the media in Ashford's success. There had been several interviews on Radio Kent, newspapers and last Monday on BBC1's *InsideOut* programme, which showed Ashford in a very good light.

Councillor Mrs Blanford said that the Council would continue to monitor and review its service and continue to enable as many households as possible the opportunity to participate in recycling from their homes. A leaflet would be going out to all Council Tax payers encouraging residents to recycle and highlighting again the range of items which could be included. She said that she would like to stress that the materials sent to the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) in Edmonton was sold on to a range of different companies for re-use and none of it went to landfill. She put the Council's success down to an easy to manage system, good communications and the enthusiasm expressed by residents to adopt the new service.

The Mayor said that the point about nothing going to landfill was key and he thought there were still a lot of residents who did not realise that so it would be important to get that message out.

327 Questions from Members of the Public

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3, Mr Relf, a local resident, said that he had two questions he wished to ask. Mr Relf asked how many properties paying Council Tax still had not returned their voter registration forms.

Councillor Shorter, Portfolio Holder for Resource Management and Control, said that there were 2185 forms outstanding. That related to properties where there was a Council Tax liability and was currently a 96% return rate.

Mr Relf then asked how many Ashfordians were involved with the Jasmin Vardimon Company, which was supported by Ashford Borough Council, and he asked if other dance organisations would get similar support from Ashford Borough Council.

The Leader said that he thought Mr Relf had actually added to his question as submitted. His original question was how many Ashfordians were involved with the Jasmin Vardimon Company, and he thought that this was a matter for the Company itself. If, however, Mr Relf wished to know any other information, including perhaps the Council's participation with the events of Jasmin Vardimon, he would be happy to have him write in to the Council and he was sure they would give him a written reply.

328 Cabinet – 16th January and 13th February 2014

The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, which had been tabled, clarified the procedure for consideration of the Cabinet minutes.

(a) Cabinet – 16th January 2014

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3 Mr Relf, a local resident said he wished to speak on Minute No. 278. Referring to benefit fraud, he said that £38m a year for a 30 month period, equated to £95m given out in benefits. The Government had made it clear they allowed 1% for fraudulent claims which would be £900,000. At the moment the Council's Fraud Department was spending around £250,000 over a 30 month period and had recovered £280,000. How did this fit in with the Leader's statement that that there would be a recommended freeze on the level of Council Tax by managing services effectively and looking at value for money and efficiency.

His Worshipful the Mayor advised the Leader that he should respond to the question as submitted by Mr Relf rather than what had just been said.

The Leader said he was confident that the Council's budget provision would provide a balanced budget, he was sure that efficiencies would continue so that the Council could continue to serve the population of Ashford in a meaningful and effective way and as to fraud, he was satisfied that the Fraud Department at the Council took all due measures and exercised due diligence in dealing with fraud.

Resolved:

That (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 16th January 2014 be received and noted with the exception of Minute Nos. 280, 282 and 283.

(ii) Minute Nos. 280, 282 and 283 be approved and adopted.

(b) Cabinet 13th February 2014

Resolved:

That (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 13th February 2014 be received and noted with the exception of Minute Nos. 305, 306, 307 and 310.

(ii) Minute Nos. 305, 306 and 307 be approved and adopted.

(iii) the recommendations in Minute No. 310 be deferred for consideration as part of the agenda item dealing with the Budget and Council Tax Resolutions 2014/15.

329 Budget and Council Tax Resolutions 2014/15 and Minute Number 310

Prior to moving the budget the Leader drew attention to the tabled Addendum Paper which included an addendum to Cabinet Minute 310, Recommendation (ii) on Street Trading Consents and an amended set of Council Tax Resolutions.

The Leader of the Council moved

“That the budget recommendations as set out in Minute No. 310 of the Cabinet and the formal Council Tax resolutions for 2014/15 be approved”

This was seconded.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 15.4 the Leader asked that a recorded vote be taken on the budget recommendations.

This was supported by six other Members (i.e. a total of seven) who showed their support by standing.

The Mayor then invited the Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report on that Committee’s scrutiny of the Cabinet’s initial budget proposals. Councillor Chilton said he wanted to thank Councillors Apps, Burgess, Mrs Martin and Mortimer for the hard work they had put in sitting with him scrutinising the budget over many hours. He also wanted to thank Officers, in particular the Finance Team, who had been very helpful throughout the process. The Task Group had found the budget to be achievable and the risks were laid before Members. The Task Group had been very pleased that Portfolio Holders had been able to attend and answer questions from Members. The Task Group also wanted to draw the Council’s attention to the suggestion that a budget assumptions briefing might be useful in building the budget to assist Members in their knowledge and understanding of the budget. Attention was also drawn to the Task Group’s recommendation regarding New Homes Bonus and the need to ensure that funds had a lasting legacy in the Borough. Councillor Chilton said he wished to make a general comment on Local

Government Finance in that Local Government was being asked to do more and more with less and less support from Central Government and the Council's dependency on the charitable and voluntary sector was increasing and thanks should be given to those organisations who assisted and enhanced the work of the Council. As the budget papers showed, the future looked quite bleak for Local Government in terms of support from Central Government, and he considered it was crucial that everyone continued to work together to steer through what he called "Mr Pickles' Storm".

In response the Leader said the Government were attempting to ensure a good economic recovery and he was sure all would need to play a part and that's why this Council was working through it as it was.

A recorded vote was then taken on the motion and the Members voted as follows: -

For: Councillors Apps, Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Bell, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Buchanan, Burgess, Clarkson, Claughton, Clokie, Davey, Davison, Feacey, Heyes, Mrs Heyes, Hicks, Hodgkinson, Howard, Mrs Hutchinson, Link, Marriott, Miss Martin, Mrs Martin, Michael, Mortimer, Robey, Shorter, Sims, Smith, Taylor, Wedgbury.

Votes For 32

Against: None

Votes Against 0

Abstentions: Councillors Adley, Britcher, Chilton, Clark, Yeo.

Abstentions 5

Resolved:

That (i) the Budget for 2014/15 as recommended by the Cabinet in Minute No. 310 be approved.

(ii) the formal Council Tax resolutions set out below be approved.

1. It be noted that on **05 December 2013** the Cabinet calculated
 - (a) the Council Tax Base 2014/15 for the whole Council area as **41,846.00** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and,
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached **Table A**
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£6,086,500.70 (Tables F and G)**
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- £
- (a) 88,013,035 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) (80,791,810) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) 7,221,225 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 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
 - (d) 172.57 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts). **(Table C)**
 - (e) 1,134,725 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached **Table B**).
 - (f) 145.45 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2 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 Parish precept relates. **(Tables D & E)**

DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

Table A

Part of the Council's area (i.e. tax base for parished areas – Band D equivalent properties).

PARISH	LOCAL TAX BASE	PARISH	LOCAL TAX BASE
Aldington & Bonnington	572.00	Little Chart	120.80
Appledore	320.90	Mersham and Sevington	650.40
Bethersden	660.30	Molash	103.30
Biddenden	1,057.50	Newenden	101.70
Bilsington	147.00	Orlestone	518.90
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	1,030.70	Pluckley	464.10
Brabourne	590.00	Rolvenden	658.20
Brook	147.10	Ruckinge	320.10
Challock	411.00	Shadoxhurst	481.00
Charing	1,165.70	Smarden	605.40
Chilham	714.80	Smeeth	341.00
Crundale (PM)	92.40	Stanhope	692.50
Egerton	499.00	Stone	195.70
Godmersham	170.90	Tenterden (TC)	3,449.80
Great Chart with Singleton	2,318.60	Warehorne	173.20
Hastingleigh	112.60	Westwell	306.30
High Halden	690.10	Wittersham	510.70
Hothfield	275.00	Woodchurch	800.90
Kenardington	104.90	Wye with Hinxhill	982.20
Kingsnorth	4,074.90		

DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

Table B

PARISH	Parish Precept	PARISH	Parish Precept
Aldington & Bonnington	22,500	Little Chart	6,000
Appledore	26,000	Mersham and Sevington	14,420
Bethersden	21,100	Molash	4,000
Biddenden	44,360	Newenden	4,910
Bilsington	4,000	Orlestone	18,730
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	20,980	Pluckley	25,300
Brabourne	13,930	Rolvenden	20,598
Brook	5,000	Ruckinge	9,000
Challock	15,560	Shadoxhurst	12,270
Charing	66,980.00	Smarden	24,870
Chilham	25,060	Smeeth	10,664
Crundale (PM)	200	Stanhope	16,590
Egerton	16,484	Stone	4,250
Godmersham	4,000	Tenterden (TC)	304,650
Great Chart with Singleton	75,589	Warehorne	3,250
Hastingleigh	2,900	Westwell	14,926
High Halden	33,054	Wittersham	20,995
Hothfield	9,500	Woodchurch	20,000
Kenardington	4,180	Wye with Hinxhill	56,318
Kingsnorth	131,607		

DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

Table C

BILLING AUTHORITY PART OF COUNCIL TAX 2014/2015

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	123.20	143.73	164.26	184.79	225.85	266.91	307.99	369.58
Appledore	150.98	176.15	201.31	226.47	276.79	327.12	377.45	452.94
Bethersden	118.28	137.99	157.70	177.41	216.83	256.25	295.69	354.82
Biddenden	124.94	145.76	166.58	187.40	229.04	270.68	312.34	374.80
Bilsington	115.11	134.29	153.48	172.66	211.03	249.39	287.77	345.32
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	110.54	128.97	147.39	165.81	202.65	239.50	276.35	331.62
Brabourne	112.71	131.49	150.28	169.06	206.63	244.19	281.77	338.12
Brook	119.63	139.57	159.50	179.44	219.31	259.19	299.07	358.88
Challock	122.21	142.58	162.94	183.31	224.04	264.78	305.52	366.62
Charing	135.28	157.82	180.37	202.91	248.00	293.09	338.19	405.82
Chilham	120.34	140.40	160.45	180.51	220.62	260.73	300.85	361.02
Crundale (PM)	98.41	114.81	131.21	147.61	180.41	213.21	246.02	295.22
Egerton	118.99	138.82	158.65	178.48	218.14	257.80	297.47	356.96
Godmersham	112.58	131.34	150.10	168.86	206.38	243.90	281.44	337.72
Great Chart with Singleton	118.70	138.49	158.27	178.05	217.61	257.18	296.75	356.10
Hastingleigh	114.14	133.16	152.18	171.20	209.24	247.28	285.34	342.40
High Halden	128.90	150.39	171.87	193.35	236.31	279.28	322.25	386.70
Hothfield	120.00	140.00	160.00	180.00	220.00	260.00	300.00	360.00
Kenardington	123.54	144.12	164.71	185.30	226.48	267.65	308.84	370.60
Kingsnorth	118.50	138.25	158.00	177.75	217.25	256.75	296.25	355.50
Little Chart	130.08	151.76	173.44	195.12	238.48	281.84	325.20	390.24
Mersham and Sevington	111.75	130.37	149.00	167.62	204.87	242.11	279.37	335.24
Molash	122.78	143.25	163.71	184.17	225.09	266.02	306.95	368.34
Newenden	129.16	150.68	172.21	193.73	236.78	279.83	322.89	387.46
Orlestone	121.04	141.21	161.38	181.55	221.89	262.23	302.59	363.10
Pluckley	133.31	155.53	177.74	199.96	244.39	288.83	333.27	399.92
Rolvenden	117.83	137.47	157.10	176.74	216.01	255.29	294.57	353.48
Ruckinge	115.72	135.00	154.29	173.57	212.14	250.71	289.29	347.14
Shadoxhurst	113.98	132.97	151.97	170.96	208.95	246.94	284.94	341.92
Smarden	124.36	145.08	165.81	186.53	227.98	269.43	310.89	373.06
Smeeth	117.82	137.45	157.09	176.72	215.99	255.26	294.54	353.44
Stanhope	112.94	131.77	150.59	169.41	207.05	244.70	282.35	338.82
Stone	111.45	130.02	148.60	167.17	204.32	241.46	278.62	334.34
Tenterden (TC)	155.84	181.82	207.79	233.76	285.70	337.65	389.60	467.52
Warehorne	109.48	127.72	145.97	164.21	200.70	237.19	273.69	328.42
Westwell	129.46	151.03	172.61	194.18	237.33	280.48	323.64	388.36
Wittersham	124.38	145.10	165.83	186.56	228.02	269.47	310.94	373.12
Woodchurch	113.62	132.55	151.49	170.42	208.29	246.16	284.04	340.84
Wye with Hinxhill	135.20	157.73	180.26	202.79	247.85	292.91	337.99	405.58
Unparished Area	96.97	113.13	129.29	145.45	177.77	210.09	242.42	290.90

Table D

TOTAL COUNCIL TAX 2014/2015 PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	978.03	1,141.03	1,304.03	1,467.03	1,793.03	2,119.03	2,445.06	2,934.06
Appledore	1,005.81	1,173.45	1,341.08	1,508.71	1,843.97	2,179.24	2,514.52	3,017.42
Bethersden	973.11	1,135.29	1,297.47	1,459.65	1,784.01	2,108.37	2,432.76	2,919.30
Biddenden	979.77	1,143.06	1,306.35	1,469.64	1,796.22	2,122.80	2,449.41	2,939.28
Bilsington	969.94	1,131.59	1,293.25	1,454.90	1,778.21	2,101.51	2,424.84	2,909.80
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	965.37	1,126.27	1,287.16	1,448.05	1,769.83	2,091.62	2,413.42	2,896.10
Brabourne	967.54	1,128.79	1,290.05	1,451.30	1,773.81	2,096.31	2,418.84	2,902.60
Brook	974.46	1,136.87	1,299.27	1,461.68	1,786.49	2,111.31	2,436.14	2,923.36
Challock	977.04	1,139.88	1,302.71	1,465.55	1,791.22	2,116.90	2,442.59	2,931.10
Charing	990.11	1,155.12	1,320.14	1,485.15	1,815.18	2,145.21	2,475.26	2,970.30
Chilham	975.17	1,137.70	1,300.22	1,462.75	1,787.80	2,112.85	2,437.92	2,925.50
Crundale (PM)	953.24	1,112.11	1,270.98	1,429.85	1,747.59	2,065.33	2,383.09	2,859.70
Egerton	973.82	1,136.12	1,298.42	1,460.72	1,785.32	2,109.92	2,434.54	2,921.44
Godmersham	967.41	1,128.64	1,289.87	1,451.10	1,773.56	2,096.02	2,418.51	2,902.20
Great Chart with Singleton	973.53	1,135.79	1,298.04	1,460.29	1,784.79	2,109.30	2,433.82	2,920.58
Hastingleigh	968.97	1,130.46	1,291.95	1,453.44	1,776.42	2,099.40	2,422.41	2,906.88
High Halden	983.73	1,147.69	1,311.64	1,475.59	1,803.49	2,131.40	2,459.32	2,951.18
Hothfield	974.83	1,137.30	1,299.77	1,462.24	1,787.18	2,112.12	2,437.07	2,924.48
Kenardington	978.37	1,141.42	1,304.48	1,467.54	1,793.66	2,119.77	2,445.91	2,935.08
Kingsnorth	973.33	1,135.55	1,297.77	1,459.99	1,784.43	2,108.87	2,433.32	2,919.98
Little Chart	984.91	1,149.06	1,313.21	1,477.36	1,805.66	2,133.96	2,462.27	2,954.72
Mersham and Sevington	966.58	1,127.67	1,288.77	1,449.86	1,772.05	2,094.23	2,416.44	2,899.72
Molash	977.61	1,140.55	1,303.48	1,466.41	1,792.27	2,118.14	2,444.02	2,932.82
Newenden	983.99	1,147.98	1,311.98	1,475.97	1,803.96	2,131.95	2,459.96	2,951.94
Orlestone	975.87	1,138.51	1,301.15	1,463.79	1,789.07	2,114.35	2,439.66	2,927.58
Pluckley	988.14	1,152.83	1,317.51	1,482.20	1,811.57	2,140.95	2,470.34	2,964.40
Rolvenden	972.66	1,134.77	1,296.87	1,458.98	1,783.19	2,107.41	2,431.64	2,917.96
Ruckinge	970.55	1,132.30	1,294.06	1,455.81	1,779.32	2,102.83	2,426.36	2,911.62
Shadoxhurst	968.81	1,130.27	1,291.74	1,453.20	1,776.13	2,099.06	2,422.01	2,906.40
Smarden	979.19	1,142.38	1,305.58	1,468.77	1,795.16	2,121.55	2,447.96	2,937.54
Smeeth	972.65	1,134.75	1,296.86	1,458.96	1,783.17	2,107.38	2,431.61	2,917.92
Stanhope	967.77	1,129.07	1,290.36	1,451.65	1,774.23	2,096.82	2,419.42	2,903.30
Stone	966.28	1,127.32	1,288.37	1,449.41	1,771.50	2,093.58	2,415.69	2,898.82
Tenterden (TC)	1,010.67	1,179.12	1,347.56	1,516.00	1,852.88	2,189.77	2,526.67	3,032.00
Warehorne	964.31	1,125.02	1,285.74	1,446.45	1,767.88	2,089.31	2,410.76	2,892.90
Westwell	984.29	1,148.33	1,312.38	1,476.42	1,804.51	2,132.60	2,460.71	2,952.84
Wittersham	979.21	1,142.40	1,305.60	1,468.80	1,795.20	2,121.59	2,448.01	2,937.60
Woodchurch	968.45	1,129.85	1,291.26	1,452.66	1,775.47	2,098.28	2,421.11	2,905.32
Wye with Hinxhill	990.03	1,155.03	1,320.03	1,485.03	1,815.03	2,145.03	2,475.06	2,970.06
Unparished Area	951.80	1,110.43	1,269.06	1,427.69	1,744.95	2,062.21	2,379.49	2,855.38

Council Tax Schedule 2014/15

Precepting Authority	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ashford Borough Council	96.97	113.13	129.29	145.45	177.77	210.09	242.42	290.90
Kent County Council	712.44	831.18	949.92	1,068.66	1,306.14	1,543.62	1,781.10	2,137.32
Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent	96.19	112.22	128.25	144.28	176.34	208.40	240.47	288.56
Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority	46.20	53.90	61.60	69.30	84.70	100.10	115.50	138.60

DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

Table F

CALCULATION OF THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D		
	£	£
Gross Expenditure - General Fund	57,232,310	
Gross Expenditure - HRA	29,646,000	
Parish Precepts	<u>1,134,725</u>	88,013,035
Less Gross Income	(73,169,790)	<u>(73,169,790)</u>
NET EXPENDITURE		14,843,245
Add Deficit Distribution from Collection Fund	<u>0</u>	
New Homes Bonus	(1,878,000)	
Retained Business Rates	(2,457,510)	
Government Grant (RSG and S31 grants)	(3,286,510)	<u>(7,622,020)</u>
BUDGET REQUIREMENT		<u>7,221,225</u>
Less Parish Precepts		<u>(1,134,725)</u>
Council Tax Requirement		6,086,500
Band 'D' Council Tax		145.45
Average including Parishes		172.57

Table G

REVENUE BUDGET

SUMMARY

ACTUALS	ESTIMATE	PROJECTED	DETAIL	ESTIMATE
2012/13	2013/14	OUTTURN		2014/15
£	£	2013/14		£
£	£	£		£
1,825,249	1,639,060	1,823,640	Corporate, Strategy & Personnel	1,844,470
1,173,433	1,250,300	1,251,700	Legal & Democratic	1,310,750
1,490,229	1,462,340	1,610,370	Planning & Development	1,810,300
1,235,530	2,189,360	2,206,660	Financial Services	2,055,760
284,271	297,470	324,470	Communications & Technology	340,150
744,706	952,630	1,112,030	Community & Housing	1,046,190
8,606,203	7,702,360	8,052,430	Culture & the Environment	7,074,780
15,359,620	15,493,520	16,381,300	SERVICE EXPENDITURE	15,482,400
(1,974,718)	(1,905,520)	(1,905,520)	Capital Charges	(1,762,880)
753,878	(319,450)	(319,450)	Net Interest	(375,880)
66,350	60,520	60,520	Concurrent Functions Grant	50,350
240,624	235,210	235,210	Drainage Board Levies	241,000
1,138,937	233,220	118,150	Contribution to Balances	12,030
15,584,691	13,797,500	14,570,210	ABC BUDGET REQUIREMENT	13,647,020
			INCOME	
(7,628,107)	(3,778,800)	(3,778,800)	Government Grant	(2,942,520)
	(2,707,970)	(2,707,970)	Retained Business Rates	(2,457,510)
			Business Rates S31 Grants	(343,990)
	(8,100)	(8,100)	Parish CTS Payment	61,500
(1,437,684)	(1,313,000)	(1,907,000)	New Homes Bonus	(1,878,000)
(6,518,900)	(5,989,630)	(5,989,629)	Council Tax	(6,086,500)
(0)	0	178,711	Budget Gap	0

330 Licensing and Health and Safety Committee – 20th January 2014

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing and Health and Safety Committee held on the 20th January 2014 be approved and adopted.

331 Programme of Meetings 2014/15 and 2015/16

Resolved:

That the Programme of Meetings for 2014/15 and 2015/16 as appended to these Minutes be adopted.

332 Questions by Members of which Notice had been Given

(a) Question from Councillor Bell to Councillor Shorter, Portfolio Holder for Resource Management and Control

“How does Ashford’s Council Tax charge compare with those of other Councils, particularly those Districts and Boroughs in Kent?”

Reply by Councillor Shorter

“Thank you to Councillor Bell and I’m delighted to say we have an Addendum paper which is with everyone this evening showing the figures. The simple answer is that Ashford Borough Council is the lowest preceptor in Kent by some £10. I will not read all of the details but they are with you tonight. What I will say is that this is the Band D Council Tax levels, excluding the Parish precepts, but the Parish precept details are also attached with the papers so that information can also be gained”.

Supplementary Question by Councillor Bell

“Will the Portfolio Holder accept my thanks for freezing the Council Tax? It is very important for a number of residents. In many ways it is quite a pernicious tax so will he accept my thanks on that basis?”

Reply by Councillor Shorter

“Duly noted, thank you very much.”

Supplementary Question by Councillor Hodgkinson

“Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council submitted their precept to the Council late and I was wondering if it was possible for there to be a cut off point for Parishes to submit their precept to the Council so that when it comes to this Meeting we have had a chance to properly read the papers and are not given new figures?”

Reply by Councillor Shorter

“The simple answer to the question is that they did use the time available to them and the information we got was effectively just in time and could be accommodated within the figures we have in front of us, but the comments are noted.”

(b) Question from Councillor Bell to Councillor Mrs Blanford, Portfolio Holder for Culture and the Environment

“Could the relevant Portfolio Holder please give an update on how the new recycling scheme is progressing?”

A response to this question was given as part of the earlier item ‘Announcements’. The Mayor asked Members if there were any supplementary questions on this topic and there were none.

C
200214

(DS)

MINS:CXXX1308

Queries concerning these Minutes? Please contact Danny Sheppard
Telephone: 01233 330349 Email: danny.sheppard@ashford.gov.uk
Agendas, Reports and Minutes are available on: www.ashford.gov.uk/committees

Appendix 1

DATES OF MEETINGS MAY 2014 - MAY 2015

Meetings are usually held at the Civic Centre and start at 7.00pm unless otherwise stated

MAY 2014	F 11	THEAC 9.30am	Tu 23	O&S
Th 1	JCC 2.30pm	M 14	W 24	
F 2		Tu 15	Th 25	Audit
M 5	BANK HOLIDAY	W 16	F 26	
Tu 6	Selection & CR	Th 17	M 29	
W 7		F 18	Tu 30	
Th 8	Cabinet	M 21		
F 9		Tu 22	OCTOBER 2014	
M 12		W 23	W 1	
Tu 13		Th 24	Th 2	
W 14	Planning	F 25	F 3	
Th 15	Council	M 28	M 6	
F 16		T 29	Tu 7	
M 19		W 30	W 8	SGGP 10am
Tu 20	O&S	Th 31	Th 9	Cabinet
W 21			F 10	
Th 22		AUGUST 2014	M 13	
F 23		F 1	Tu 14	
M 26	BANK HOLIDAY	M 4	W 15	Planning
Tu 27		Tu 5	Th 16	Council
W 28		W 6	F 17	
Th 29		Th 7	M 20	
F 30		F 8	Tu 21	
		M 11	W 22	Parish Forum
JUNE 2014		Tu 12	Th 23	
M 2		W 13	F 24	
Tu 3		Th 14	M 27	THEAC
W 4		F 15	Tu 28	O&S
Th 5		M 18	W 29	
F 6		Tu 19	Th 30	
M 9		W 20	F 31	
Tu 10	Joint Transportation	Th 21		
W 11		F 22	NOVEMBER 2014	
Th 12	Cabinet	M 25	M 3	
F 13		Tu 26	Tu 4	
M 16		W 27	W 5	
Tu 17		Th 28	Th 6	JCC 2.30pm
W 18	Planning	F 29	EN&C Forum 3pm	
Th 19	EN&C Forum 3pm		F 7	
F 20		SEPTEMBER 2014	M 10	
M 23		M 1	Tu 11	
T 24	O&S	Tu 2	W 12	
W 25		W 3	Th 13	Cabinet
Th 26	Audit	Th 4	F 14	
F 27		F 5	M 17	
M 30		M 8	Tu 18	
JULY 2014		Tu 9	W 19	Planning
Tu 1	Standards	W 10	Th 20	
W 2		Th 11	F 21	
Th 3	JCC 2.30pm	F 12	M 24	
F 4		M 15	Tu 25	O&S
M 7		Tu 16	W 26	
Tu 8		W 17	Th 27	
W 9		Th 18	F 28	
Th 10	Cabinet	F 19		
		M 22		

DECEMBER 2014

M 1
Tu 2 Audit
W 3
Th 4 Cabinet
F 5

M 8
Tu 9 Joint Transportation
W 10
Th 11 Council
F 12

M 15
Tu 16 O&S
W 17 Planning
Th 18
F 19

M 22
Tu 23
W 24
Th 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
F 26 **BOXING DAY**

M 29
Tu 30
W 31

JANUARY 2015

Th 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
F 2

M 5
Tu 6
W 7
Th 8 JCC 2.30pm
F 10

M 12
Tu 13
W 14 Planning
Th 15 Cabinet
F 16 THEAC 9.30am

M 19 Licensing & H&S 10am
Tu 20
W 21
Th 22
F 23

M 26
Tu 27 O&S
W 28
Th 29
F 30

FEBRUARY 2015

M 2
Tu 3
W 4 Planning
Th 5
F 6

M 9
Tu 10
W 11
Th 12 Cabinet
F 13

M 16
Tu 17
W 18
Th 19 Council (C Tax)
F 20

M 23
Tu 24 O&S
W 25
Th 26
F 27

MARCH 2015

M 2
Tu 3 Audit
W 4 Planning
Th 5 JCC 2.30pm
F 6

M 9
Tu 10 Joint Transportation
W 11
Th 12 Cabinet
F 13

M 16
Tu 17
W 18
Th 19
F 20

M 23
Tu 24 O&S
W 25
Th 26
F 27

M 30
Tu 31

APRIL 2015

W 1 Planning
Th 2
F 3 **GOOD FRIDAY**

M 6 **EASTER MONDAY**
Tu 7
W 8
Th 9 Cabinet
F 10

M 13
Tu 14
W 15
Th 16 Council
F 17

M 20
Tu 21
W 22
Th 23
F 24

M 27 THEAC
T 28 O&S
W 29 Planning
Th 30

MAY 2015

F 1


M 4 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 5
W 6
Th 7 ABC Elections
F 8

M 11
Tu 12
W 13
Th 14
F 15

M 18
Tu 19
W 20
Th 21 Selection & CR
F 22

M 25 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 26
W 27
Th 28 Council
F 29

KEY

- O&S - Overview and Scrutiny
- JCC - Joint Consultative Committee
- EN&C - Environment, Nature & Conservation
- THEAC - Transportation, Highways & Engineering Advisory Committee
- SGGP - Single Grants Gateway Panel
-  = School Holidays

DECEMBER 2015

Tu 1 Audit
 W 2
 Th 3 Cabinet
 F 4

 M 7
 Tu 8 Joint Transportation
 W 9
 Th 10 Council
 F 11

 M 14
 Tu 15 O&S
 W 16 Planning
 Th 17
 F 18

 M 21
 Tu 22
 W 23
 Th 24
 F 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**

 M 28
 Tu 29
 W 30
 Th 31

JANUARY 2016

F 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

 M 4
 Tu 5
 W 6
 Th 7 JCC 2.30pm
 F 8

 M 11
 Tu 12
 W 13
 Th 14 Cabinet
 F 15 THEAC 9.30am

 M 18 Licensing & H&S 10am
 Tu 19
 W 20 Planning
 Th 21
 F 22

 M 25
 Tu 26 O&S
 W 27
 Th 28
 F 29

FEBRUARY 2016

M 1
 Tu 2
 W 3
 Th 4
 F 5

 M 8
 Tu 9
 W 10
 Th 11 Cabinet
 F 12

M 15
 Tu 16
 W 17 Planning
 Th 18 Council (C Tax)
 F 19

M 22
 Tu 23 O&S
 W 24
 Th 25
 F 26

 M 29

MARCH 2016

Tu 1
 W 2
 Th 3 JCC 2.30pm
 F 4

 M 7
 Tu 8 Joint Transportation
 W 9
 Th 10 Cabinet
 F 11

 M 14
 Tu 15 Audit
 W 16 Planning
 Th 17
 F 18

M 21
 Tu 22 O&S
 W 23
 Th 24
 F 25 **GOOD FRIDAY**

 M 28 **EASTER MONDAY**
 Tu 29
 W 30
 Th 31

APRIL 2016

F 1

 M 4
 Tu 5
 W 6
 Th 7
 F 8

 M 11
 Tu 12
 W 13
 Th 14 Cabinet
 F 15

 M 18
 Tu 19
 W 20 Planning
 Th 21 Council
 F 22

 M 25 THEAC
 T 26 O&S
 W 27
 Th 28
 F 29

MAY 2016


M 2 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 3 Selection & CR
 W 4
 Th 5 JCC 2.30pm
 F 6

 M 9
 Tu 10
 W 11
 Th 12 Cabinet
 F 13

 M 16
 Tu 17
 W 18 Planning
 Th 19 Council
 F 20

 M 23
 Tu 24 O&S
 W 25
 Th 26
 F 27

 M 30 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 31

KEY	
O&S	- Overview and Scrutiny
JCC	- Joint Consultative Committee
EN&C	- Environment, Nature & Conservation
THEAC	- Transportation, Highways & Engineering Advisory Committee
SGGP	- Single Grants Gateway Panel
	= School Holidays