



To the Members of the Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL on Thursday the 16th April 2015 at 7.00 pm.

Yours faithfully

T W Mortimer
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Agenda

	Page Nos.
1. Apologies	
2. To consider whether any items should be dealt with in private because of the likely disclosure of Exempt or Confidential Information.	
3. Declarations of Interest:- To declare any interests which fall under the following categories, as explained on the attached document:	1
a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)	
b) Other Significant Interests (OSI)	
c) Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests	
See Agenda Item 3 for further details	
4. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 19 th February 2015	
5. To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader or other Members of the Cabinet	
6. To receive any petitions	
7. To receive any questions from, and provide answers to, the public (being resident of the Borough), which in the opinion of the Mayor are relevant to the business of the Meeting	

	Page Nos.
8. To receive, consider and adopt the recommendations set out in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 12 th March 2015 with the following exception –The recommendations in Minute No 406 – Regeneration of Park Mall be deferred for consideration with Agenda Item No E1.	2-8
9. To receive, consider and adopt the Minutes of the Audit Committee held on the 3 rd March 2015.	9-13
10. To receive the Minutes of the Standards Committee on the 19 th March 2015	14-16
11. To consider Motions of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 11	
12. Questions by Members of which Notice has been given pursuant to Procedure Rule 10	

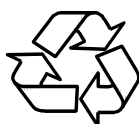
NOTE:- If debate on any item included within this Agenda gives rise to the need to exclude the press and public due to the likelihood of Exempt or Confidential information being disclosed the following resolution may be proposed and seconded and if carried, the press and public will be requested to leave the meeting for the duration of the debate.

That pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of this item as it is likely that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure of exempt information hereinafter specified by reference to the appropriate paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Act, where in the circumstances the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

E1 Park Mall Regeneration Proposals (Paragraph 3)	17-32
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KRF/AEH
8th April 2015

Queries concerning this agenda? Please contact Keith Fearon:
Telephone: 01233 330564 Email: keith.fearon@ashford.gov.uk
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Declarations of Interest (see also “Advice to Members” below)

- (a) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)** under the Localism Act 2011, relating to items on this agenda. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared, and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated.

A Member who declares a DPI in relation to any item will need to leave the meeting for that item (unless a relevant Dispensation has been granted).

- (b) **Other Significant Interests (OSI)** under the Kent Code of Conduct as adopted by the Council on 19 July 2012, relating to items on this agenda. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared, and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated.

A Member who declares an OSI in relation to any item will need to leave the meeting before the debate and vote on that item (unless a relevant Dispensation has been granted). However, prior to leaving, the Member may address the Committee in the same way that a member of the public may do so.

- (c) **Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests** not required to be disclosed under (a) and (b), i.e. announcements made for transparency reasons alone, such as:

- a. Membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items, or
- b. Where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person, or
- c. Where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position.

[Note: an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc; OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc, would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI].

Advice to Members on Declarations of Interest:

- (a) Government Guidance on DPI is available in DCLG’s Guide for Councillors, at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/240134/Openness_and_transparency_on_personal_interests.pdf
- (b) The Kent Code of Conduct was adopted by the Full Council on 19 July 2012, with revisions adopted on 17.10.13, and a copy can be found in the Constitution at <http://www.ashford.gov.uk/part-5---codes-and-protocols>
- (c) If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or OSI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer or from other Solicitors in Legal and Democratic Services as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.

Ashford Borough Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **19th February 2015**

Present:

His Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr. J Link (Chairman);

Cllrs. Aaby, Adley, Apps, Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Buchanan, Burgess, Chilton, Clark, Clarkson, Claughton, Davey, Davidson, Davison, Dyer, Feacey, Galpin, Heyes, Mrs Heyes, Hicks, Howard, Mrs Hutchinson, Marriott, Miss Martin, Mrs Martin, Michael, Mortimer, Ovenden, Robey, Shorter, Sims, Smith, Taylor, Wedgbury.

Also Present:

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Culture and Environment, Head of Finance, Principal Solicitor for Property and Projects, Head of Planning and Development, Head of Communities and Housing, Member Services and Scrutiny Manager.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Reverend Eileen Harrop said prayers.

Apologies

Cllrs. Bell, Britcher, Clokie, Hodgkinson.

356 Exempt or Confidential Information

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.

357 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 11th December 2014 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

358 Announcements

(a) Leader of the Council

The Leader said that firstly he would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Cllr. William Howard and his wife on the birth of their first child, Leo Thomas who weighed in at 9lb 3 oz.

The Leader then said he would like to take a few moments to update colleagues on some recent very positive developments in this important and significant year. He said he was very conscious that there were only 76 days to the General Election, the Borough Elections and the Parish Elections which actually represented only 53 working days. He considered that the Council and all its elected Members had an excellent record of behaving in the best interests of the people of Ashford and he wished this to continue.

Ashford had also again been named among the top 50 places to live in the UK, and an independent national survey placed Ashford 38th best place to live in the UK, which was the fourth time in the last five years Ashford had been included in the top 50.

The Leader said that this followed the results of another independent survey which showed Ashford as “Best Business Location in Kent” and that the Council had a proactive attitude towards business. Furthermore a recent residents’ survey had found that 9 in 10 residents were satisfied with the local area as a place to live, work and enjoy life, whilst 8 in 10 indicated that they were satisfied with how Ashford Borough Council ran things. The Leader said that being named as 38th best place to live in the UK was pleasing, and echoed everything residents had told the Council about the Borough as a desirable place to live. The Leader explained that Ashford had the lowest Council Tax in Kent, and the most improved recycling service in the country, and that the Borough was attracting large scale investment. There was more to be done but this would only enhance Ashford’s attraction as a special place in which to live, do business and to visit.

On this note the Leader said that the 2013/14 Tourism Review had revealed a thriving visitor economy and Ashford’s Tourism Service was performing well. The results would help shape the Council’s Tourism Action Plan for the next five years. The Leader considered that the value of tourism in the Borough must never be underestimated as it accounted for thousands of jobs and contributed millions to Kent’s economy. This had been reinforced by Ashford being given the opportunity to host the United Kingdom Annual Tourism Symposium in June this year. The Leader said that the last location for this was in Liverpool, so he considered that Ashford was moving in the right direction to promote tourism nationally and internationally.

The Leader said he could also report that the Government had recently given the green light to the new signalling works at Ashford International Station by the allocation of £2m, with a further £2m to come from European funding. The bid was currently in the process of being prepared and the deadline for submission was in the region of only a week away. This would ensure that the signalling at Ashford International Station would be upgraded to take the next generation of international trains, thus benefiting the whole of the South East. It would also allow the next generation of Eurostar trains to continue to stop in Ashford and would help the town to be one of the most connected places in the UK. This followed Eurostar’s announcement that services would be expanded from May 2015 to include daily trains to Marseille and Lyon, meaning France’s three largest cities, when including Paris, were within easy reach of Ashford, thus reinforcing the view that Ashford was the UK’s International town.

The Leader then explained that works to create a new public realm around International House and Dover Place was set to begin next month, which would create an attractive first impression of the town for visitors arriving at the International Station. The new public realm would be a visually impressive space that would include granite paving, benches, street lighting columns and greenery, which would improve the look and feel of the area, and create an attractive environment for businesses to invest in Ashford's Commercial Quarter, which would be situated right behind Dover Place thus stimulating further economic growth and development.

Public Works on Conningbrook Lakes Country Park were well under way, and it was expected that it would open later in the year. Further significant developments were also on the horizon such as the Designer Outlet Expansion, the Elwick Place Town Centre Development and the proposed Ashford International Model Railway Museum.

In conclusion the Leader said that he was sure that Members would agree that these were important times for the Borough, and there was a need to keep an eye on the ball and not be too distracted during those remaining 53 important working days to the elections on the 7th May 2015.

(b) Councillor Chilton

Councillor Chilton announced that there had been reports in the press that Labour in Ashford was in chaos, but he said he was pleased to say that tonight, quite the opposite was true in that he was delighted to welcome Councillor Jeremy Aaby from the Liberal Democrat Group to join the Ashford Labour Group with immediate effect.

359 Cabinet 15th January and 11th February 2015

(a) 15th January 2015

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 15th January 2015 be received and noted.

(b) 11th February 2015

Resolved:

That subject to the expiry of the period by which decisions arising from the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 11th February 2015 may be called in, i.e. 24th February 2015:-

- (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 11th February 2015 be received and noted with the exception of Minute Nos. 343, 344, 345 and 348.**
- (ii) Minute Nos. 343, 344 and 345 be approved and adopted.**

- (iii) **the Recommendations in Minute No. 348 be deferred for consideration as part of the Agenda Item dealing with the Budget and Council Tax Resolutions 2015/16.**

360 Council Tax 2015/16 Resolutions and General Fund and Minute No. 348

The Leader of the Council moved

“That the Budget recommendations as set out in Minute No. 348 of the Cabinet and the Formal Council Tax Resolutions for 2015/2016 be approved subject to the amended Annex C which had been tabled.

This was seconded.

The Leader also advised that in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.4(A) the Council was now required to undertake a recorded vote on the Budget Recommendations and any amendments moved and seconded during the debate. When voting Members would be asked to use the electronic voting machine.

The Mayor then invited the 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 wished to make one or two comments on the work of the Group and thanked all Members of the Task Group, Councillors Burgess, Mrs Martin, Apps and Mortimer, for the work in scrutinising the Budget and observing the risks. In addition he said he wished to thank staff in Member Services who had supported the administration of the Group, and also to those Officers who had attended on behalf of their respective Departments, as well as all Portfolio Holders who had attended. He said he would also wish to thank Councillor Galpin in his role as Portfolio Holder for his attendance at all meetings of the Task Group.

Councillor Chilton explained that the Task Group had worked well over many weeks examining the Budget and said that the report of the Task Group had been presented to Members at the Cabinet Meeting. The Task Group had concluded that for this coming year the Budget was achievable. There would be one more meeting of the Task Group taking place on 2nd March 2015 which would examine the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and he advised that all Members were welcome to attend as usual. He said that decisions made this year such as the freeze in Council Tax combined with the Coalition Government’s reductions in grant, meant that in coming years even more difficult decisions would have to be made. The report highlighted that “real risks existed in service delivery, Council performance and to the public perception of this Authority”. The Task Group had highlighted the increasing role that New Homes Bonus was playing in supporting the Budget, and he said it was vital that this revenue source was spent wisely. It was also crucial that the ambitions that different respective parties had for the Borough, particularly post the May elections, reflected what in reality the Council was to deliver. In conclusion he said the whole Budget Scrutiny process was a success and once again thanked all involved.

A recorded vote utilising the call sheet system was then taken on the Motion and the Members voted as follows:-

For: Cllrs. Apps, Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Buchanan, Burgess, Clarkson, Cloughton, Davey, Davison, Mrs Dyer, Feacey, Galpin, Heyes, Mrs Heyes, Hicks, Howard, Mrs Hutchinson, Link, Marriott, Miss Martin, Mrs Martin, Michael, Mortimer, Ovenden, Robey, Sims, Shorter, Taylor, Wedgbury.

Votes for - 31.

Against: Cllr Smith.

Votes against - 1.

Abstentions: Cllrs. Aaby, Adley, Chilton, Clark, Davidson

Abstentions - 5.

Resolved:

That (i) the Budget for 2015/16, as recommended by the Cabinet in Minute No. 348 be approved.

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

1. It be noted that on **04 December 2014** the Cabinet calculated
 - (a) the Council Tax Base 2015/16 for the whole Council area as **42,365** [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 **Annex A**.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£6,161,989.25 (Appendices A and B)**.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------|---|
| | £ | |
| (a) | 89,589,148 | 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) | (82,193,320) | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the |

- Act.
- (c) 7,395,828 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) 174.57 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).(Annex C)
 - (e) 1,233,838 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Annex 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.(Annex D & E)

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Annex 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	550.90		Little Chart	124.10
Appledore	326.00		Mersham and Sevington	627.90
Bethersden	676.80		Molash	107.20
Biddenden	1,078.40		Newenden	104.20
Bilsington	143.10		Orlestone	554.90
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	1,038.10		Pluckley	473.60
Brabourne	586.10		Rolvenden	654.60
Brook	150.30		Ruckinge	326.30
Challock	414.30		Shadoxhurst	489.60
Charing	1,204.00		Smarden	603.00
Chilham	716.70		Smeeth	349.10
Crundale (PM)	92.70		Stanhope	711.70
Egerton	499.80		Stone	209.60
Godmersham	173.80		Tenterden (TC)	3,433.10
Great Chart with Singleton	2,307.00		Warehorne	171.40
Hastingleigh	113.20		Westwell	321.60
High Halden	715.20		Wittersham	524.10
Hothfield	276.00		Woodchurch	818.00
Kenardington	102.00		Wye with Hinxhill	984.50
Kingsnorth	4,076.50			

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Parish Council Precepts

PARISH	Parish Precept		PARISH	Parish Precept
Aldington & Bonnington	23,750		Little Chart	6,000
Appledore	26,000		Mersham and Sevington	15,660
Bethersden	21,550		Molash	4,000
Biddenden	48,339		Newenden	5,030
Bilsington	4,230		Orlestone	19,030
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	21,280		Pluckley	34,000
Brabourne	14,500		Rolvenden	21,629
Brook	5,000		Ruckinge	10,000
Challock	15,770		Shadoxhurst	12,270
Charing	73,678		Smarden	26,370
Chilham	26,321		Smeeth	11,090
Crundale (PM)	200		Stanhope	17,200
Egerton	17,150		Stone	4,250
Godmersham	5,500		Tenterden (TC)	303,177
Great Chart with Singleton	137,520		Warehorne	3,250
Hastingleigh	2,950		Westwell	15,150
High Halden	33,054		Wittersham	20,995
Hothfield	9,500		Woodchurch	20,000
Kenardington	4,340		Wye with Hinxhill	57,583
Kingsnorth	136,522			

Annex C

BILLING AUTHORITY PART OF COUNCIL TAX 2015/16

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	125.71	146.66	167.61	188.56	230.46	272.36	314.27	377.12
Appledore	150.13	175.16	200.18	225.20	275.24	325.29	375.33	450.40
Bethersden	118.19	137.89	157.59	177.29	216.69	256.09	295.48	354.58
Biddenden	126.85	147.99	169.13	190.27	232.55	274.83	317.12	380.54
Bilsington	116.67	136.12	155.56	175.01	213.90	252.79	291.68	350.02
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	110.63	129.07	147.51	165.95	202.83	239.71	276.58	331.90
Brabourne	113.46	132.37	151.28	170.19	208.01	245.83	283.65	340.38
Brook	119.15	139.00	158.86	178.72	218.44	258.15	297.87	357.44
Challock	122.34	142.73	163.12	183.51	224.29	265.07	305.85	367.02
Charing	137.76	160.72	183.68	206.64	252.56	298.48	344.40	413.28
Chilham	121.45	141.70	161.94	182.18	222.66	263.15	303.63	364.36
Crundale (PM)	98.41	114.81	131.21	147.61	180.41	213.21	246.02	295.22
Egerton	119.84	139.81	159.79	179.76	219.71	259.65	299.60	359.52
Godmersham	118.07	137.74	157.42	177.10	216.46	255.81	295.17	354.20
Great Chart with Singleton	136.71	159.49	182.28	205.06	250.63	296.20	341.77	410.12
Hastingleigh	114.34	133.40	152.45	171.51	209.62	247.74	285.85	343.02
High Halden	127.78	149.08	170.37	191.67	234.26	276.86	319.45	383.34
Hothfield	119.91	139.90	159.88	179.87	219.84	259.81	299.78	359.74
Kenardington	125.33	146.22	167.11	188.00	229.78	271.56	313.33	376.00
Kingsnorth	119.29	139.18	159.06	178.94	218.70	258.47	298.23	357.88
Little Chart	129.20	150.73	172.27	193.80	236.87	279.93	323.00	387.60
Mersham and Sevington	113.59	132.53	151.46	170.39	208.25	246.12	283.98	340.78
Molash	121.84	142.15	162.45	182.76	223.37	263.99	304.60	365.52
Newenden	129.15	150.67	172.20	193.72	236.77	279.82	322.87	387.44
Orlestone	119.83	139.80	159.77	179.74	219.68	259.62	299.57	359.48
Pluckley	144.83	168.96	193.10	217.24	265.52	313.79	362.07	434.48
Rolvenden	118.99	138.83	158.66	178.49	218.15	257.82	297.48	356.98
Ruckinge	117.40	136.97	156.53	176.10	215.23	254.37	293.50	352.20
Shadoxhurst	113.67	132.62	151.56	170.51	208.40	246.29	284.18	341.02
Smarden	126.12	147.14	168.16	189.18	231.22	273.26	315.30	378.36
Smeeth	118.15	137.84	157.53	177.22	216.60	255.98	295.37	354.44
Stanhope	113.08	131.93	150.77	169.62	207.31	245.01	282.70	339.24
Stone	110.49	128.90	147.32	165.73	202.56	239.39	276.22	331.46
Tenterden (TC)	155.84	181.81	207.79	233.76	285.71	337.65	389.60	467.52
Warehorne	109.61	127.87	146.14	164.41	200.95	237.48	274.02	328.82
Westwell	128.37	149.77	171.16	192.56	235.35	278.14	320.93	385.12
Wittersham	123.67	144.29	164.90	185.51	226.73	267.96	309.18	371.02
Woodchurch	113.27	132.14	151.02	169.90	207.66	245.41	283.17	339.80
Wye with Hinxhill	135.96	158.62	181.28	203.94	249.26	294.58	339.90	407.88
Unparished Area	96.97	113.13	129.29	145.45	177.77	210.09	242.42	290.90

Annex D

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	997.57	1,163.83	1,330.09	1,496.35	1,828.87	2,161.39	2,493.92	2,992.70
Appledore	1,022.00	1,192.33	1,362.66	1,532.99	1,873.65	2,214.31	2,554.99	3,065.98
Bethersden	990.06	1,155.06	1,320.07	1,485.08	1,815.10	2,145.11	2,475.14	2,970.16
Biddenden	998.71	1,165.16	1,331.61	1,498.06	1,830.96	2,163.86	2,496.77	2,996.12
Bilsington	988.54	1,153.29	1,318.05	1,482.80	1,812.31	2,141.82	2,471.34	2,965.60
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	982.50	1,146.24	1,309.99	1,473.74	1,801.24	2,128.73	2,456.24	2,947.48
Brabourne	985.32	1,149.54	1,313.76	1,477.98	1,806.42	2,134.86	2,463.30	2,955.96
Brook	991.01	1,156.18	1,321.34	1,486.51	1,816.84	2,147.18	2,477.52	2,973.02
Challock	994.20	1,159.90	1,325.60	1,491.30	1,822.70	2,154.10	2,485.50	2,982.60
Charing	1,009.62	1,177.89	1,346.16	1,514.43	1,850.97	2,187.51	2,524.05	3,028.86
Chilham	993.32	1,158.87	1,324.42	1,489.97	1,821.07	2,152.17	2,483.29	2,979.94
Crundale (PM)	970.27	1,131.98	1,293.69	1,455.40	1,778.82	2,102.24	2,425.67	2,910.80
Egerton	991.70	1,156.99	1,322.27	1,487.55	1,818.11	2,148.68	2,479.25	2,975.10
Godmersham	989.93	1,154.92	1,319.90	1,484.89	1,814.86	2,144.84	2,474.82	2,969.78
Great Chart with Singleton	1,008.57	1,176.66	1,344.76	1,512.85	1,849.04	2,185.22	2,521.42	3,025.70
Hastingleigh	986.20	1,150.57	1,314.93	1,479.30	1,808.03	2,136.76	2,465.50	2,958.60
High Halden	999.64	1,166.25	1,332.85	1,499.46	1,832.67	2,165.88	2,499.10	2,998.92
Hothfield	991.78	1,157.07	1,322.37	1,487.66	1,818.25	2,148.84	2,479.44	2,975.32
Kenardington	997.20	1,163.39	1,329.59	1,495.79	1,828.19	2,160.58	2,492.99	2,991.58
Kingsnorth	991.16	1,156.35	1,321.54	1,486.73	1,817.11	2,147.49	2,477.89	2,973.46
Little Chart	1,001.06	1,167.91	1,334.75	1,501.59	1,835.27	2,168.96	2,502.65	3,003.18
Mersham and Sevington	985.46	1,149.70	1,313.94	1,478.18	1,806.66	2,135.14	2,463.64	2,956.36
Molash	993.70	1,159.32	1,324.93	1,490.55	1,821.78	2,153.01	2,484.25	2,981.10
Newenden	1,001.01	1,167.84	1,334.68	1,501.51	1,835.18	2,168.84	2,502.52	3,003.02
Orlestone	991.69	1,156.97	1,322.25	1,487.53	1,818.09	2,148.65	2,479.22	2,975.06
Pluckley	1,016.69	1,186.14	1,355.58	1,525.03	1,863.92	2,202.82	2,541.72	3,050.06
Rolvenden	990.86	1,156.00	1,321.14	1,486.28	1,816.56	2,146.84	2,477.14	2,972.56
Ruckinge	989.26	1,154.14	1,319.01	1,483.89	1,813.64	2,143.39	2,473.15	2,967.78
Shadoxhurst	985.54	1,149.79	1,314.05	1,478.30	1,806.81	2,135.32	2,463.84	2,956.60
Smarden	997.98	1,164.31	1,330.64	1,496.97	1,829.63	2,162.29	2,494.95	2,993.94
Smeeth	990.01	1,155.01	1,320.01	1,485.01	1,815.01	2,145.01	2,475.02	2,970.02
Stanhope	984.94	1,149.10	1,313.25	1,477.41	1,805.72	2,134.03	2,462.35	2,954.82
Stone	982.35	1,146.07	1,309.80	1,473.52	1,800.97	2,128.41	2,455.87	2,947.04
Tenterden (TC)	1,027.70	1,198.99	1,370.27	1,541.55	1,884.11	2,226.68	2,569.25	3,083.10
Warehorne	981.47	1,145.05	1,308.62	1,472.20	1,799.35	2,126.51	2,453.67	2,944.40
Westwell	1,000.24	1,166.94	1,333.65	1,500.35	1,833.76	2,167.17	2,500.59	3,000.70
Wittersham	995.54	1,161.46	1,327.38	1,493.30	1,825.14	2,156.98	2,488.84	2,986.60
Woodchurch	985.13	1,149.32	1,313.50	1,477.69	1,806.06	2,134.44	2,462.82	2,955.38
Wye with Hinxhill	1,007.82	1,175.79	1,343.76	1,511.73	1,847.67	2,183.61	2,519.55	3,023.46
Unparished Area	968.83	1,130.30	1,291.77	1,453.24	1,776.18	2,099.12	2,422.07	2,906.48

Annex E

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	726.66	847.77	968.88	1,089.99	1,332.21	1,574.43	1,816.65	2,179.98
Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent	98.10	114.45	130.80	147.15	179.85	212.55	245.25	294.30
Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority	47.10	54.95	62.80	70.65	86.35	102.05	117.75	141.30

DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

CALCULATION OF THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D		
	£	£
Gross Expenditure - General Fund	58,532,340	
Gross Expenditure - HRA	28,255,680	
Parish Precepts	<u>1,233,838</u>	88,021,858
Less Gross Income	(73,012,830)	(73,012,830)
NET EXPENDITURE		<u>15,009,028</u>
Add Deficit Distribution from Collection Fund	0	
New Homes Bonus	(2,324,000)	
Retained Business Rates	(2,628,370)	
Government Grant (RSG and S31 grants)	<u>(2,660,830)</u>	(7,613,200)
BUDGET REQUIREMENT		<u>7,395,828</u>
Less Parish Precepts		(1,233,838)
Council Tax Requirement		<u><u>6,161,990</u></u>
Council Tax Base		42,365
Band 'D' Council Tax		145.45
Average including Parishes		174.57

Appendix B

REVENUE BUDGET				
SUMMARY				
ACTUALS	ESTIMATE	PROJECTED	DETAIL	ESTIMATE
2013/14	2014/15	OUTTURN		2015/16
£	£	2014/15		£
		£		
1,279,548	1,844,470	1,893,030	Corporate, Strategy & Personnel	1,743,850
1,163,989	1,310,750	1,307,590	Legal & Democratic	1,310,700
1,761,466	1,810,300	2,009,850	Planning & Development	1,821,590
1,835,018	2,055,760	2,036,540	Financial Services	2,167,060
314,814	340,150	360,380	Communications & Technology	298,540
5,176,361	4,610,980	4,598,060	Community & Housing	4,279,500
1,249,647	3,509,990	3,699,140	Culture & the Environment	3,672,270
12,780,844	15,482,400	15,904,590	SERVICE EXPENDITURE	15,293,510
(2,094,985)	(2,138,760)	(1,968,434)	Capital Charges	
60,200	50,350	50,350	Net Interest	(2,106,200)
235,205	241,000	241,000	Concurrent Functions Grant	40,260
3,173,686	12,030	112,750	Drainage Board Levies	241,000
			Contribution to Balances	265,120
14,154,951	13,647,020	14,340,256	ABC BUDGET REQUIREMENT	13,733,690
			INCOME	
(3,798,600)	(2,942,520)	(2,942,520)	Government Grant	(2,106,830)
(1,540,636)	(2,457,510)	(2,457,510)	Retained Business Rates	(2,628,370)
(401,153)	(343,990)	(343,990)	Business Rates S31 Grants	(554,000)
(2,451,700)	(1,878,000)	(2,570,000)	New Homes Bonus	(2,324,000)
81,950	61,500	61,500	Parish CTS Payment	41,500
(5,995,737)	(6,086,500)	(6,086,500)	Council Tax	(6,161,990)
49,075	-	1,236	Budget Gap	-

361 Licensing and Health and Safety Committee – 19th January 2015

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing and Health & Safety Committee held on the 19th January 2015 be approved and adopted.

362 Selection and Constitutional Review Committee – 11th February 2015

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee held on the 11th February 2015 be approved and adopted.

363 Programme of Meetings 2015/16 and 2016/2017

Resolved:

That the Programme of Meetings for 2015/16 and 2016/17 as appended to these Minutes be adopted.

364 Questions by Members

- (a) Question from Councillor Chilton to Councillor Galpin, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Budget and Resource Management (not verbatim as microphones unavailable at this point in the meeting).**

Could the Portfolio Holder explain why the ruling Tory Administration proposed a freeze in Council Tax for this year?

Reply by Councillor Galpin (not verbatim as microphones unavailable at this point in the meeting).

Councillor Chilton will recall that a proposal to freeze the coming year's Council Tax is a commitment we gave this time last year and I am pleased we are able to maintain that commitment. There is no doubting the financial challenges facing this Council; it is the same for all Councils. However through the Council's careful and prudent planning, our strong financial resilience (as acknowledged by our External Auditor), coupled with our initiative to be financially self-sufficient, we are in a good position to deliver on the commitment we made last year. As Councillor Chilton is well aware Central Government will provide some grant support for our commitment to freeze the tax. Our position on Council Tax is not taken in isolation of the broader strategy, it is a position that also builds on the positive satisfaction levels from residents. As evidenced by recent market research, we are receiving public support for the Council's efforts in aiming to build a strong economy and quality of place. As part of this commitment we continue to offer the lowest Council Tax level in Kent.

Our budget plans build on significant cost savings and income generation in recent years with more in this in the budget. Our proportion of the Council Tax is just 10%, however the overall Council Tax will increase. This is attributable to increases in other major Precepting Authorities, part of the total bill. These include KCC, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and Kent's Fire and Rescue.

Our proposal of a freeze to our element recognises the contribution this Council can make to leave more money in people's pockets. I only hope that Councillor Chilton is not suggesting that we should also increase the Council Tax. We are assisting in making our recommendation by the recovering local economy with excellent prospects for the future. Cost inflation is low and it is likely to be lower in the coming year than our forecasts; this will help residents and our budget. We are intending to deliver alternative sources of revenue through the local retention of Business Rates from entering a pooling arrangement and through growing our investments. In conclusion our proposal is fair for residents and taxpayers and fair for the Council.

Supplementary Question by Councillor Chilton (not audible as microphones unavailable at this point in the meeting).

Supplementary Reply by Councillor Galpin (not audible as microphones unavailable at this point in the meeting).

Supplementary Question by Councillor Wedgbury (not audible as microphones unavailable at this point in the meeting).

Reply by Councillor Galpin (not audible as microphones unavailable at this point in the meeting).

(b) Question from Councillor Chilton to Councillor Hicks, Portfolio Holder for Social, Local Needs and Special Care Housing – (Verbatim from this point on in the meeting as microphones now available).

"Does the Portfolio Holder believe that our Social Housing stocks are adequately maintained and in good condition".

Reply by Councillor Hicks

"Thank you very much for this question Councillor Chilton as this gives me the opportunity to highlight how diligent my Department is in looking after the Council's housing stock. The Council has a comprehensive responsive repair, planned maintenance and improvement programme in place which ensures that the Council housing stock is maintained to a good standard. The latest Programme of Works for 2015/16 has recently been circulated. Everybody on the Council should have got one. The Council successfully achieved the Government's decent homes standard for its housing stock several years before the deadline for doing so and has continued to maintain and improve on this standard since then. The responsive repairs service deals with the day to day repairs laid down within timescales in line with the Right to Repair legislation and consequently delivers this service to a high standard. The dedicated repairs team deals with approximately 14,000 individual repair requests per year. Tenant satisfaction with the service is currently in excess

of 90%. There is an on-going Planned Maintenance Programme of Works, which includes such things as roofing, rewiring, kitchen and bathroom refurbishments etc. This type of work is carried out in accordance with the timescales laid down in the Decent Homes Standards adjusted as necessary so that the repairs are only carried out on a just in time basis. This approach not only ensures that the stock is maintained to a high standard, but also assures that there is value for money. There are some instances where planned maintenance work such as kitchen or bathroom refurbishment is not carried out as the tenant may not want it and in these circumstances the work is actually picked up later and dealt with when the tenant decides they want the work done or the property becomes void. I would point out that it happens in my own Ward. We have had some lovely new roofs put on some of the ancient bungalows, and everybody is very happy with it. That was a really good move because the properties were built in the sixties and we need to maintain these things. Any questions relating to the maintenance of the housing stock should be passed to Chris Tillin, who is our Planned Maintenance Manager and he will be happy to deal with any questions and we have got an email for him if you need it.”

Supplementary Question by Councillor Chilton

“I thank the Portfolio Holder for her response but recent articles in the Kentish Express tell a different story. They tell of damp and mould. This year rents are going up by 2.2% why should residents have to pay for the privilege of living in a Council flat or house that is full of damp and mould.”

Reply by Councillor Hicks

“Your question I think relates to a property that has a perceived dampness problem. There are properties that present with this type of problem from time to time and there are a number of possible causes for the problems. Where these problems are encountered, and cannot be dealt with easily, as the problem is not immediately obvious they are referred to a specialist, independent damp company. They visit the property and produce a detailed report of their findings and a list of recommendations. We always carry out the recommendations that relate to issues within the fabric of a property. We also pass on any recommendations that relate to the way the occupant lives in the property to them. The majority of damp problems are encountered as a result of condensation within the property rather than specific faults with the structure of the building, such as damaged DCP's or roof leaks etc. These are dealt with when they are reported. Condensation can be caused by a number of issues. Some can be eased by the installation of additional mechanical or passive ventilation, increased insulation or adequate heating. These are issues that we deal with. However lifestyle issues also play a part in causing condensation problems and a lot of these cases can be eased by relatively minor changes in the way the occupants live within the property. I mean you can actually open a window. In most cases the answer is a combination of actions by the Council and with the occupant working together to solve the problem.”

Supplementary Question by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Clarkson

“May I ask the Portfolio Holder is it correct to say that we in Ashford have a very good reputation for our housing stock of 5,000 homes that meets all the standards

and all the accolades and I would ask the Portfolio Holder, to her recollection if she has heard of any other in the last four years or so, whether Members of the Opposition Party have brought forward any such claims because this is the first one I have heard and I don't know if it has got anything to do with the time of year?"

Reply by Councillor Hicks

"I haven't heard of any problems like this but if they do come we always deal with them extremely quickly but I think it is very much related to what has been in the local press recently and as you say the time of year."

(c) Question from Councillor Chilton to Councillor Robey, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development

"Ashford has experienced a huge increase in the number of HMO's. What is the administration doing about it?"

Reply by Councillor Robey

"Thank you Councillor Chilton for your question. The growth in the number of houses in multiple occupancy is happening in many areas of the country and not just Ashford. Planning permission is not required from the Council for the use of a dwelling as a small HMO, defined as being up to six people. Planning permission will normally be required to change the use of a single dwelling to an HMO with seven or more residents. However to control the issues that can arise where there is a concentration of HMO's the Council has confirmed Article 4 Directions in four Wards in Ashford, which are Beaver, Aylesford Green, South Willesborough and Little Burton Farm. This Direction takes away the Permitted Development Rights in these Wards and means that planning permission is required for any HMO in them. As requested by the Planning Committee monitoring continues of any new concentrations of HMO's in other parts of the Borough which are having a damaging impact on the character of an area or the amenities of local residents, and if necessary further Article 4 Directions can be made. When we are aware of the HMO's that require planning permission being set up without planning permission these are investigated and applications sought or enforcement action taken as appropriate. However, HMO's do provide economically priced housing for single people on low incomes and they are an important provision within the local community. The Private Sector Housing Team is responsible for licensing larger HMO's under the Housing Act 2004. This only applies to HMO's with three storeys, where there are two or more households and six or more people in total. Licensing is not a means to control the growth of HMO's and a licence cannot reasonably be withheld if the relevant standards are in place even where planning consent is required and has not been obtained. However, the Housing Department works very closely with the Planning Department to get the planning view on any HMO at all and advises applicants accordingly. So the way I would summarise this in answer to the question is I think HMO's can be a difficult area, not just for Ashford but for any Borough but I do believe that we are on top of it in Ashford."

Supplementary Question by Councillor Chilton

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190215

“I thank the Portfolio Holder for his reply. I supported the Article 4 Direction but one of the problems is we are now seeing in adjacent Wards an increasing number of HMO’s. Mine is included, Singleton South as well. What can we do to restrict HMO’s in those areas where they are starting to blight the community?”

Reply by Councillor Robey

“Well Councillor Chilton as I said I think if you are aware of a problem please let us have it and we can have a look at it. We can impose further Article 4 Directions. I mean it needs to be controlled the imposition of the Directions. We have got the power to do it and we will do if it is justified. So if you give me the examples then I will certainly think of it.”

MINS:CXXX1508

(KRF/VS)

Queries concerning these Minutes? Please contact Keith Fearon
Telephone: 01233 330564 Email: keith.fearon@ashford.gov.uk
Agendas, Reports and Minutes are available on: www.ashford.gov.uk/committees

Appendix 1

DATES OF MEETINGS MAY 2015 - MAY 2016

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

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

M 13
Tu 14
W 15
Th 16 Council
F 17
M 20
Tu 21
W 22
Th 23
F 24
M 27
T 28 O&S
W 29 Planning
Th 30
F 31

Th 24
F 25
M 28
Tu 29 Audit
W 30

OCTOBER 2015

Th 1
F 2
M 5
Tu 6 Standards
W 7
Th 8 Cabinet
F 9
M 12
Tu 13
W 14
Th 15 Council
F 16
M 19
Tu 20
W 21 Planning
Th 22
F 23

JUNE 2015

M 1
Tu 2
W 3 Planning
Th 4
F 5
M 8
Tu 9 Joint Transportation
W 10
Th 11 Cabinet
F 12
M 15
Tu 16
W 17
Th 18
F 19
M 22
T 23 O&S
W 24
Th 25
F 26
M 29
T 30 Audit

AUGUST 2015

M 3
Tu 4
W 5
Th 6
F 7
M 10
Tu 11
W 12
Th 13 Cabinet
F 14
M 17
Tu 18
W 19
Th 20
F 21
M 24
Tu 25 O&S
W 26 Planning
Th 27
F 28

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

NOVEMBER 2015

M 2
Tu 3
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
F 20
M 23
Tu 24 O&S
W 25
Th 26
F 27
M 30

BANK HOLIDAY

SEPTEMBER 2015

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
W 16
Th 17
F 18
M 21
Tu 22 O&S
W 23 Planning

JULY 2015

W 1 Planning
Th 2 JCC 2.30pm
F 3
M 6
Tu 7
W 8
Th 9 Cabinet
F 10 THEAC 9.30am

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 OFFICES CLOSED
 F 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**

M 28 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 29
 W 30
 Th 31

JANUARY 2016

F 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

M 4
 Tu 5
 W 6 JCC 2.30pm
 Th 7
 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

Appendix 2

DATES OF MEETINGS MAY 2016 - MAY 2017

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

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 Council
 Th 19
 F 20

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

M 30 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 31

JUNE 2016

W 1
 Th 2
 F 3

M 6
 Tu 7
 W 8
 Th 9 Cabinet
 F 10

M 13
 Tu 14 Joint Transportation Planning
 W 15
 Th 16
 F 17

M 20
 T 21
 W 22
 Th 23
 F 24

M 27
 T 28 O&S
 W 29
 Th 30 Audit

JULY 2016

F 1

 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
 Tu 19
 W 20 Planning Council
 Th 21
 F 22

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

AUGUST 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
 Th 18 Planning
 F 19

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

M 29 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 30
 W 31

SEPTEMBER 2016

Th 1 JCC 2.30pm
 F 2

M 5
 Tu 6
 W 7
 Th 8 Cabinet
 F 9

M 12
 Tu 13 Joint Transportation Planning
 W 14
 Th 15
 F 16

M 19
 Tu 20
 W 21
 Th 22

F 23

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

OCTOBER 2016

M 3
 Tu 4 Standards
 W 5
 Th 6
 F 7

M 10
 Tu 11
 W 12 Cabinet
 Th 13
 F 14

M 17
 Tu 18
 W 19 Planning Council
 Th 20
 F 21

M 24
 Tu 25 O&S
 W 26
 Th 27
 F 28

M 31 THEAC

NOVEMBER 2016

Tu 1
 W 2
 Th 3 JCC 2.30pm
 F 4

M 7
 Tu 8
 W 9
 Th 10 Cabinet
 F 11

M 14
 Tu 15
 W 16 Planning
 Th 17
 F 18

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

M 28
 Tu 29
 W 30

DECEMBER 2016

Th 1
F 2

M 5
Tu 6 Audit
W 7
Th 8 Cabinet
F 9

M 12
Tu 13 Joint Transportation
W 14 Planning
Th 15 Council
F 16

M 19
Tu 20 O&S
W 21
Th 22
F 23

M 26 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 27 **BANK HOLIDAY**
W 28 **OFFICES CLOSED**
Th 29
F 30

JANUARY 2017

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

M 9
Tu 10
W 11
Th 12 Cabinet
F 13 THEAC 9.30am

M 16 Licensing & H&S 10am
Tu 17
W 18 Planning
Th 19
F 20

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

M 30
Tu 31

FEBRUARY 2017

W 1
Th 2
F 3

M 6
Tu 7
W 8
Th 9 Cabinet
F 10

M 13
Tu 14
W 15 Planning
Th 16 Council (C Tax)
F 17

M 20
Tu 21
W 22
Th 23
F 24

M 27
Tu 28 O&S

MARCH 2017

W 1
Th 2 JCC 2.30pm
F 3

M 6
Tu 7
W 8
Th 9 Cabinet
F 10

M 13
Tu 14 Joint Transportation
W 15 Planning
Th 16
F 17

M 20
Tu 21 Audit
W 22
Th 23
F 24

M 27
Tu 28 O&S
W 29
Th 30
F 31

APRIL 2017

M 3
Tu 4
W 5
Th 6 Cabinet
F 7

M 10
Tu 11
W 12
Th 13
F 14

GOOD FRIDAY

M 17 **EASTER MONDAY**
Tu 18
W 19 Planning
Th 20 Council
F 21

M 24 THEAC
T 25 O&S
W 26
Th 27
F 28

MAY 2017

M 1 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 2 Selection & CR
W 3
Th 4 JCC 2.30pm
KCC Elections


F 5

M 8
Tu 9
W 10
Th 11 Cabinet
F 12

M 15
Tu 16
W 17 Planning
Th 18 Council
F 19

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

M 29 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 30
W 31

KEY	
O&S	- Overview and Scrutiny
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SGGP	- Single Grants Gateway Panel
	= School Holidays

Cabinet

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **12th March 2015**.

Present:

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);

Cllr. Claughton (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Mrs Bell, Mrs Blanford, Galpin, Heyes, Hicks, Howard, Robey, Shorter.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bartlett, Clokie, Michael.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Bennett, Britcher, Burgess, Chilton, Davison, Miss Martin, Mrs Martin, Mortimer, Ovenden, Sims, Smith, Wedgbury.

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Planning and Development, Head of Health Parking and Community Safety, Head of Culture and the Environment, Head of Personnel and Development, Head of Finance, Head of Communities and Housing, Principal Solicitor for Properties and Projects, Strategic Housing and Property Manager, Facilities Development Manager, Communications and Marketing Manager, Member Services and Scrutiny Manager.

393 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Mrs Martin	Made a "Voluntary Announcement" in respect of agenda item 8 as she had used part of her Ward Member's grant to support the project.	398

394 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 11th February 2015 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

395 Leader's Announcements

The Leader advised that as this was the last meeting before the Elections he would wish to place on record his thanks to Councillors Claughton and Robey (who were not seeking re-election) for their contribution to the work of the Cabinet and to the wider Council generally. He believed both Councillors had the best interests of Ashford at heart when undertaking their duties and said that they would both be greatly missed.

396 O & S recommendation to Cabinet in respect of the Ashford Community Safety Partnership

The report advised that at its meeting on 24th February 2015 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had discussed the Ashford Community Safety Partnership update and arising from this, wished to make a recommendation to the Cabinet in respect of it.

The Portfolio Holder said that he had very little to add to the report but believed that at the Committee there had been a good debate. Whilst there had been a significant drop in reported anti-social behaviour, he said that there was still plenty of work to be done. He also praised the work of the Ashford Street Pastors and other members of the Partnership.

The Chairman of the Cabinet explained that at the briefing Ann Barnes, the Police Commissioner had given to Members, she had made the point that Ashford was leading in terms of its partnership work. He also congratulated the work of the Street Pastors and commented that one of them had recently received an honour from the Queen. The Head of Health Parking and Community Safety said that she was pleased with the debate at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and also said that she wished to thank the Portfolio Holder for all the work he had undertaken in terms of community safety. The Portfolio Holder also drew attention to the important work undertaken by the PCSOs which was highly valued.

Resolved:

That the update on the "Community Safety Partnership Activity in the Borough" report be promoted as an excellent example of successful partnership working.

397 Pay Policy Statement – Annual Review

The report provided an up to date pay policy statement for approval in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and also recommended changes to the Ashford Living Wage Allowance and the implementation of the Ashford Apprentice Wage Allowance.

The Portfolio Holder said he was pleased to announce that the Ashford Living Wage Allowance (ALWA) would rise from £7.80 to £8.00 an hour and that Ashford Borough Council apprentices would be paid 15 pence per hour above the National Minimum

Wage rate applicable to their age effective from the 1st April 2015 thus creating the Ashford Apprentice Wage Allowance (AAWA).

Recommended:

- That
- (i) **the ALWA be increased from £7.80 to £8.00 per hour with effect from 1st April 2015, for all employees in receipt of an hourly rate less than this.**
 - (ii) **the Pay Policy Statement as attached to the report be approved.**
 - (iii) **the statement on the payment of workers engaged by the Council through an intermediary such as the person's own company be agreed.**
 - (iv) **Ashford Borough Council apprentices be paid 15 pence per hour above the National Minimum Wage (NMW) rate applicable to their age effective from 1st April 2015 thus creating the Ashford Apprentice Wage Allowance (AAWA).**

398 Re-Provision of Spearpoint Pavilion

The report sought Cabinet approval for a project to redevelop the pavilion located at Spearpoint Recreation Ground. The scheme included demolishing the existing pavilion and replacing it with a brand new building at an estimated cost of £788,888.

The Portfolio Holder said that although it had taken time, the proposals were a great step forward and the scheme would offer an opportunity for wider community use. She explained the different funding sources which were supporting the project and said it was hoped that shortly Ashford Leisure Trust would take over the management of the facility.

The Chairman drew particular attention to the fact that the project had been supported by the Football Foundation of £469,678 and Sport England with a contribution of £150,000. One of the adjoining Ward Members thanked the Portfolio Holder for her work on the project and said that she was now pleased that the area had a venue for the community to use. She hoped that the Alcohol Licence for the pavilion would not permit all day drinking. On this latter point, the Chairman explained that this was a matter for the Licensing Committee to consider.

Recommended:

That Section 106 Contributions totalling £160,625 be used as the Council's contribution to the capital programme for the renewal of the Spearpoint Pavilion.

Resolved:

- That (i) the entering into of a contract for the demolition and construction of a new building within the project budget of £788,888 be approved.**
- (ii) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Head of Culture and the Environment, be authorised to execute and complete all necessary documentation to give effect to the recommendations.**

399 Affordable Housing Programme 2015-2020 (Phase 5)

The report sought approval to continue the Council's New Build Affordable Homes Programme and deliver the fifth phase of the programme which was the provision of 106 units of which 50 units were proposed for the redevelopment of an existing sheltered housing scheme at Danemore in Tenterden.

The Portfolio Holder said that this work was the continuation of a programme of supplying affordable housing for areas across the Borough. In terms of the proposals for Danemore, Tenterden she explained that extensive consultation had been undertaken. The Ward Member for Randolph Gardens said she wished to congratulate the work of the Housing Department in terms of the provision of new parking for residents in that area.

Resolved:

- That (i) the successful bid to the HCA for the fifth phase of the delivery of the Affordable Housing Programme be noted.**
- (ii) the use of available qualifying capital receipts currently standing at nearly £2 million be approved to complement the HCA funding for this project and the use of Housing Revenue Account reserves.**
- (iii) it be noted that the programme of conversions in the Council's housing stock from social rent to affordable rent to support the delivery of new affordable homes would commence in April 2015.**
- (iv) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Head of Community and Housing, be authorised to execute and complete all necessary documentation to give effect to the above recommendations including the execution of any Agreement necessary for the receipt of the grant from the HCA.**
- (v) re-modelling work be authorised in terms of the Danemore Sheltered Housing Scheme in Tenterden subject to the completion of a detailed business case.**

400 Response to the Draft Wye Neighbourhood Plan

The report advised that Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council had launched their Neighbourhood Plan at a public meeting in July 2012 and had subsequently applied for designation of the Neighbourhood Area which was agreed by Cabinet on 10th January 2013. The Parish Council, working with their local community, had formulated a draft Wye Neighbourhood Plan which they now wished to formally consult on. The report provided an update and set out recommendations in terms of the Council's comments on the draft plan.

The Portfolio Holder explained the process involved in establishing a Neighbourhood Plan and said that following receipt of the final plan, the Council would be responsible for consulting widely on the content and then make the plan subject to independent examination. He explained that Planning Officers had been heavily involved in the process to date as it was considered important that the plan could stand up in planning terms in its own right.

In response to a question, the Principal Solicitor for Properties and Projects advised that when the plan was in place it would be included in the local Land Charges Register and therefore it would be revealed when local searches were made.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) the Borough Council's representation to the Pre-submission Consultation draft of the Wye Neighbourhood Plan as set out in Appendices 2, 3 and 4 of the report be approved.**
 - (ii) the Policy Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development be granted delegated authority to make any further minor amendments to the Council's representation.**

401 Proposed Purchase of a long leasehold interest of Store 1 (Occupied by Wilko Retail Ltd), Park Mall

The report advised that an opportunity had arisen to acquire a major town centre retail facility which would improve the Council's revenue income. The proposed acquisition would be subject to detailed due diligence and final negotiations of contract. The exempt Appendix to the report gave further information on the proposal.

The Portfolio Holder for Town Centre Focus and Commercial Property said that the proposal was in line with steps already taken by the Council with a view to becoming self financing by 2018 and furthermore it was in line with the Council's objectives in terms of investments.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Budget and Resource Management advised that the tenant had a high credit rating and a long lease and the purchase would either be funded via the use of reserves or borrowing.

The Chairman referred to recommendations (i) and (ii) and clarified that the term Section 151 Officer should be used rather than Chief Financial Officer.

Recommended:

- That
- (i) the long leasehold interest for the commercial property as outlined within the exempt Appendix A to the report be purchased subject to detailed due diligence being carried out to the satisfaction of the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Budget and Resource Management, the Portfolio Holder for Town Centre Focus and Commercial Property and the Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer.
 - (ii) the cost of the purchase be financed from either General Fund reserves or Prudential Borrowing at the discretion of the Section 151 Officer (in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Budget and Resource Management.
 - (iii) £50,000 be allocated from Council reserves to enable the Council to meet its liabilities in relation to communal parts and other incidental costs.
 - (iv) the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Strategic Housing and Property Manager, be authorised to execute and complete all necessary documentation to give effect to the above recommendations.

402 Report of the Chairman of the Member Training Panel – 21st January 2015

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of the Member Training Panel held on the 21st January 2015 be received and noted.

403 Planning Task Group – 11th February 2015

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of the Planning Task Group held on the 11th February 2015 be received and noted.

404 Schedule of Key Decisions to be Taken

Resolved:

That the latest Schedule of Key Decisions as set out within the report be received and noted.

405 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item namely “Regeneration of Park Mall” as it is likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act where in the circumstances the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

406 Regeneration of Park Mall

The report sought Cabinet’s approval to make recommendations to the Council regarding the purchase of Park Mall subject to the terms and conditions set out within the report.

Tabled at the meeting were a series of questions submitted by the Ward Member for the Weald East Ward which were answered by the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holders for Finance, Budget and Resource Management and Town Centre Focus and Commercial Property.

The Chairman explained that a copy of the questions and the answers given that evening would be included as part of the papers for the Council meeting to be held on the 16th April 2015 which would consider the recommendations of the Cabinet.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that call-in of Cabinet decisions did not apply in relation to matters recommended to full Council for decision.

Recommended:

That recommendations (i) to (v) as set out within the exempt report be approved.

(KRF/AEH)

MINS:CAXX1511

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Audit Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Audit Committee held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **3rd March 2015**.

Present:

Cllr. Clokie (Chairman);
Cllr. Link (Vice-Chairman);
Cllrs. Buchanan, Davey, Shorter, Sims, Smith.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2(iii) Councillor Davey attended as a Substitute Member for Councillor Michael.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Britcher, Michael.

Also Present:

Cllr. Galpin

Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Audit Partnership, Head of Finance, Audit Partnership Manager, Policy & Performance Manager, Principal Accountant, Senior Member Services & Scrutiny Support Officer.

Emily Hill, Lisa Robertson - Grant Thornton.

370 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Shorter	Made a Voluntary Announcement as a Director of Kent Play Clubs	372
	and made a Voluntary Announcement as a Director of the ABC Building Consultancy Company.	372, 373

371 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 2nd December 2014 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

372 Presentation of Financial Statements

The report advised that the Council was required to follow statutory guidance for the publication of its accounts and each year that guidance was reviewed and updated. The report looked at the impact of those updates on the Council's accounts for 2014/15. In addition the report reflected on the lessons learnt from the accounts process in 2013/14. It also advised that the Council had completed a review of its accounting policies that would be used for the publication of the statement of accounts. The Principal Accountant advised that it had been a year of consolidation and they would continue to examine ways to 'de-clutter' the accounts. She also advised that the current closing deadline of 30th June would move to 31st May for the 2017/18 Statement of Accounts, but Officers were intending to move to that date straight away to ensure it was achievable.

Members asked about Group Accounts and how the requirement for Local Authorities to include their interests in subsidiaries, associated companies and joint ventures affected the Council's financial statements in terms of the ABC Building Consultancy and Property Companies. There was concern that the detail of these would not be sufficient for proper public scrutiny. A Member advised that the Companies were bound to hold an AGM and publish an Annual Report and this would ensure full transparency. The Head of Finance suggested that the accounts could have their own dedicated link or page on the ABC website to allow public access, but the nature of group accounts meant that they may not include all of the information Members may be looking for. There would be a note in the main accounts with an opportunity to explain the link between the Council and the ABC Companies so there was some scope for further explanation. The Chairman said he considered the Company accounts should come to this Committee in some shape or form and he would be interested in Grant Thornton's future view on this. He considered this should be explored further at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman asked about depreciation of assets in terms of computer equipment. The Principal Accountant advised that most computer equipment was classed as an intangible asset and written off in three to five years.

Resolved:

- That (i) the report be received and noted.**
- (ii) the accounting policies for the 2014/15 accounts in Appendix A to the report be approved.**

373 Strategic Risk Management

Further to discussions at previous meetings the Head of Audit Partnership gave an update on the progress towards creating a revised risk management strategy for the Council. Productive workshops had been held and an Officer Group would be meeting in due course.

In response to questions about whether the Council's risk management was too 'high level', the Head of Audit Partnership advised that by its very nature a Strategic Risk Register would be high level and try to consolidate risks together under particular headings. General risk management at the Council was obviously more 'low level' though and getting those arrangements right across the Authority was very much the purpose of the current discussions.

The Chairman asked whether the ABC Building Consultancy and Property Companies were going to be included in the Strategic Risk Register as he did have concerns over reputational risk. The Deputy Chief Executive said that this was subject to future discussions. In line with the discussion on Companies with regard to the Statement of Accounts, he advised that the governance arrangements stipulated by Members when the Companies had been set up were thorough and he encouraged all involved to examine the adequacy of the governance and process that was in place before suggesting any changes to controls. The Chairman considered that this point could be covered along with the report back on the Companies' accounting arrangements at the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

374 Internal Audit Operational Plan 2015/16

The report detailed the methodology and result of Internal Audit's risk assessment in drawing together an operational plan for 2015/16 and an in principle plan for the following three years to 2018/19. It included details of audit projects proposed and included an assessment of the resources held and required by the Internal Audit service to deliver the required annual opinion on the Council's internal control, corporate governance and risk management. The Head of Audit Partnership advised that it was expected that the plan would cover all of the Council's operations over the four years in the appropriate way. He explained that in response to the Institute of Internal Auditors' External Quality Assessment last year, there was now more detail in the plan about how it reflected risk and how decisions on which areas to review had been taken.

In response to questions about safeguarding, the Head of Audit Partnership advised that this referred to the Council's responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults. Although the Council did not have a Social Services function, this was something that needed to be applied corporately across all services and linking in with recent news stories, it was important for the Council to be aware of its responsibilities. The Policy & Performance Manager advised that an Officer Group with representation from across the Council had been set up to examine this issue and the Senior Member Services Officer reported that training on safeguarding would be arranged for the new Council Members after May 2015.

Resolved:

That (i) the Operational Plan for 2015/16 be approved.

- (ii) **the longer term plan up to 2018/19 be approved in principle, but it be noted that this will be subject to annual review and refresh.**

Recommended:

That the Section 151 Officer be delegated responsibility for managing operationally the content of the Audit Plan in conjunction with the Head of Audit Partnership and subject to regular review by the Audit Committee.

375 Annual Governance Statement – Progress on Remediating Exceptions

The report updated on the progress made towards the areas of review highlighted by the 2013/14 Annual Governance Statement.

Members referred to the proposals for a clearer definition of Members' responsibilities and requested that the induction training for the new Council post May 2015 did cover recent changes in legislation and Members' duties in terms of safeguarding and making the correct declarations.

With regard to the Community Governance Review that had been agreed to be undertaken, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that this would undoubtedly be covered in this year's Annual Governance Statement.

Resolved:

That the progress made towards the areas of review highlighted by the Annual Governance Statement as detailed in the report be noted.

376 Audit Charter 2015/16 – Update

The report explained that under Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, the Audit Service must compile and agree a Charter setting out the aims, scope, responsibilities and relationships within which the Service was to be run effectively. This Charter must be reviewed each year. The Head of Audit Partnership advised that the Charter had been reviewed from that originally presented in September 2014 to take into account recommendations made in the External Quality Review of the Service in early 2015, as well as to more closely align its content generally with the requirements of the standards. He also drew attention to the section of the Charter explaining how the Service would deal with requests for additional work.

A Member said he was pleased to see references to the Service having the ability to offer advice and guidance rather than purely carrying out audits.

Resolved:

That the 2015/16 Audit Charter be approved.

377 External Audit Reports – Certification Report 2013/14 and Audit Committee Update

Two reports had been received from the Council's External Auditors (Grant Thornton). These were introduced by Lisa Robertson, Senior Manager and Emily Hill, Engagement Lead from Grant Thornton. The first was the outcome of the auditor's work on certifying the 2013/14 £37m housing benefit grant claim and the 2013/14 £2.3m housing capital receipt pooling return. The second report was a further update of topical matters of interest affecting the Council, including comments about their planned audit work and a note that a more detailed plan of their audit work would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

With regard to the certification report Lisa Robertson advised that it was a pleasing report with only minor amendments required for the housing benefit grant claim, although these had no impact on the level of subsidy claimed. Within the parameters established by the DWP these had to be reported, but it was important to recognise the minor nature of these errors. No amendments were made to the housing capital receipts return.

In response to questions about potential fraud through IT systems, Emily Hill advised that they did examine IT controls and ran all financial transactions through an IT programme to look for unusual transactions or rounding patterns.

The Deputy Chief Executive referred to the future and advised that there would be more advice on the national and topical matters raised in the report to both the Cabinet and this Committee after the May Elections as the course of central government policy was set.

Resolved:

That the two External Audit reports be received and noted and in the new Municipal Year further reports on the national topics referred to in the update report be presented to the Committee.

378 Report Tracker and Future Meetings

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that in line with previous years, the intention was to hold an initial Audit Committee induction session prior to the first meeting of the new Municipal Year on the 30th June 2015.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

DS

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Standards Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Standards Committee held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **19th March 2015**.

Present:

Cllr. Mrs Dyer (Chairman);
Cllr. Davison (Vice-Chairman);
Cllrs. Burgess, Feacey, Mrs Hutchinson.

Mrs C Vant – Independent Person
Mr R Brasier, Mr D Lyward – Parish Council Representatives.

Apology:

Cllr. Chilton.

Also Present:

Cllr. Marriott

Monitoring Officer, Senior Member Services & Scrutiny Support Officer.

407 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Davison	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he knew the Ward Member for Downs North and had been asked by Chilham Parish Council to be an independent observer at one of the meetings in question.	409

408 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 30th September 2014 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

409 Chilham Parish Council – Review of Governance Arrangements - Report of the Monitoring Officer

The Monitoring Officer advised that at the previous meeting of the Committee he had submitted a brief report advising of the operational problems at Chilham Parish Council (CPC). The Committee had agreed to an independent review of governance arrangements at CPC to be undertaken by Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd. The governance review report had now been published and a copy had been included

within the Agenda papers. It contained 13 recommendations and these had been put into a table with the Parish Council response, Monitoring Officer comments and a further action column alongside each recommendation. Some of the recommendations required immediate action by the Parish Council, but the majority were for the new CPC to consider after the May elections. Ashford Borough Council's role would essentially be to keep a watching brief and perhaps provide some assistance in steering CPC. The Monitoring Officer said it was important to be clear that the scope of the review was not about investigating past complaints, grievances or specific incidents or adjudicating on things that may have happened in the past, but to work with CPC to help it to operate more effectively in the future. It was also worth pointing out that whilst the review had made 13 recommendations, it did also acknowledge that CPC had undertaken much valuable work on behalf of the community and had been able to make decisions and consider issues of importance. The recommendations were about improved practices and policies rather than fundamental weaknesses in governance.

In response to a Member query the Monitoring Officer said that the issue of members of the public speaking had not been raised as part of this review however there was a recommendation to have a more structured arrangement, i.e. a dedicated agenda item, to hear from the Ward Member at meetings. In response to the wider question of public participation, as he understood it there was no consistent picture across the Borough. This was an issue for each Council to decide as there was no legal right for the public to speak at Council meetings.

The Vice-Chairman considered that this had been a worrying case. In his view CPC had largely become dysfunctional as a result of allegations of misconduct and alleged slander. He said he supported the recommendations of the review as a whole in terms of the remit given to the consultants, but given how intense the feelings and disagreements had become internally, cause and effect would both be important in resolving the issues and it was difficult for him to accept the report without a recognition of those irreconcilable differences. He said he could personally not understand why any Parish Council would not want to include its Ward Member at their meetings.

The Ward Member for Downs North said that for clarity he had attended approximately 40 meetings of CPC and had always made an effort to participate, but this had been largely rejected. Given the obvious areas of overlap he considered this was regrettable. It was also his opinion that any other member of the public attempting to speak at CPC meetings was ignored. He considered that the core reason for the problems that had arisen was that two members of the Parish Council had been effectively suspended from some areas of work for endeavouring to create more transparency. This had been done with no written notice, no hearing and had not followed any agreed disciplinary measures. Given that the review had been funded from public money, he was also concerned that CPC may neglect the recommendations in the report and that the proposed training would be another financial burden on the Borough Council.

In response the Monitoring Officer said that the recommendations in the report were largely for the new Parish Council to consider following the May elections, so it was premature to suggest they may be neglected. Additionally, there were no proposals

to spend any further money on training for Chilham specifically. As previously mentioned, the review had not examined past incidents or conduct, therefore the "suspension" of the two Parish Councillors had not been investigated. As he understood they had not, and could not have been removed from membership of the Parish Council, but they had been removed from membership of particular Committees. He was not privy to all of the facts though so did not feel he could comment any further.

There was a general feeling amongst the Committee that being so close to the elections the majority of matters outlined in the recommendations should be addressed by the new Parish Council. CPC itself had agreed to carry on as it was until the election, whilst noting that there was only one further full Parish Council meeting and it would focus on completing previously agreed work and projects and not take on any new initiatives. The work on implementing new policies and procedures etc. would be for the new Parish Council and ABC would offer support where it could.

The Parish Council Representatives considered there may have been opportunities for mediation through KALC if CPC had approached them at an earlier stage. Perhaps this was a lesson to be learnt for the future. It was agreed to add a recommendation to this effect.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) the report of Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd be received and noted and the company be thanked for their services.**
 - (ii) the response of Chilham Parish Council be noted and their generally positive response to the recommendations be welcomed.**
 - (iii) it be noted and agreed that Ashford Borough Council should work with Chilham Parish Council on some of the governance issues identified in the report and that the Monitoring Officer should update the Committee on progress within the first year of the Parish Council after the 2015 election.**
 - (iv) if similar circumstances arise in the future, opportunities for mediation through the Kent Association of Local Councils should be investigated.**
-

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