

Ashford Borough Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **18th February 2016.**

Present:

Her Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr Mrs G A Dyer (Chairman);

Cllrs. Aaby, Apps, Mrs Bell, Bell, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Bradford, Britcher, Burgess, Chilton, Clarkson, Clokie, Dehnel, Farrell, Feacey, Galpin, Hicks, A Howard, W Howard, Knowles, Koowaree, Krause, Link, Miss Martin, Mrs Martin, Michael, Ovenden, Pickering, Powell, Shorter, Sims, Smith, Waters, Mrs Webb, Wedgbury, White.

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

Apologies:

Cllrs. Barrett, Bartlett, Buchanan, Heyes, Mrs Heyes.

Also Present:

Chief Executive, Corporate Director (Operations), Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Planning & Development, Head of Cultural and Project Services, Head of Finance, Principal Solicitor (Strategic Development), Principal Accountant, Senior Member Services and Scrutiny Support Officer.

328 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.

329 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Shorter	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Director of Kent Play Clubs and A Better Choice for Building Consultancy Ltd.	333 (b) & 334

330 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 10th December 2015 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

331 Announcements

(a) The Mayor

The Mayor said she wanted to make her usual announcement about charity events. As Members would be aware each year the Mayor tried to raise funds for charity with the support of as many Councillors as possible. Up to now the levels of support had been slightly disappointing, although one or two Councillors had supported her very well. The recent Burns Night had been a really good evening and raised quite a lot of money, but there had not been many Councillors present. She therefore advised that her 'last fling' was coming up on the 7th May with a Beatles Tribute Evening and she hoped that Councillors would be able to support that event. She reminded the meeting that her charities for the year were Pilgrims Hospice and Find A Voice.

(b) Leader of the Council

The Leader said that the turn of the year had seen positive news with several companies announcing that they were investing in Ashford. Kent Space based on Kingsnorth Industrial Estate provided modern and secure professional serviced office accommodation space. With over two dozen companies and 200 staff based in 37 high quality office suites, they were bringing plans forward to expand their facilities in Ashford due to strong demand and Ashford's buoyant local economy. Those extra facilities would bring in investment worth £5.5m to the town and work was due to start this summer. Another new face came in the form of Recursive Media, an exciting audio visual media and acoustics company with clients such as the Royal Society of Arts, Harrods, the 2012 Olympic Park and the Dubai Shopping Mall in its portfolio. They had relocated to Park Mall from Brighton for one reason – Ashford's unrivalled connectivity with Europe and London. These business investments rather emphasised and reinforced Ashford's position as a welcoming location for economic growth and Ashford remained the best business location in Kent.

With work being completed on the first phase of the new public realm around International House and Dover Place, Ashford would soon see the start of creating a new employment area on the lower part of what was known as the 'Island site' – between the approach to the International Station and Dover Place itself. This had been further enhanced by news that leading Property Regeneration Company U&I planned to bring forward proposals for a £180m investment in regeneration projects close to the town centre. The two schemes across 14 acres at Victoria Way would bring in about 800 homes and over 200 jobs to the local area. The Leader said it was important for the Council to keep the Council Tax as low as possible, and certainly the lowest in Kent, and one of the lowest in the country, in order to help build trust in what they were trying to achieve. This would also help to ensure that Ashford remained in the top 50 best places to live in the UK. He said he was sure colleagues would join him in welcoming these proposals coming forward from the private sector who clearly saw the attractiveness of investing in Ashford. Of course the Council would need to carefully examine any application that came in and ensure that the appropriate planning process was followed as these two important sites must play a huge part in bringing added vitality and life in to the heart of the town centre and must deliver attractive and high quality investment. Parking and other issues such as traffic flows and highway management would need close attention. Along with the

college, commercial quarter, town centre cinema, designer outlet expansion, these sites would play a key part in changing the face of the town in the coming years. These were exciting times for Ashford and could only be described as a full and tremendous positive improvement and this had been mirrored with positive media coverage of the Conservative Administration's plans in the last few weeks' editions of the Kentish Express and other media. In saying all that, he also wished to pay tribute to the two Opposition Group Leaders, who although quite properly had challenged as any Opposition should, had also been fully engaged in the most positive way in the case of these exciting projects to increase the prosperity of Ashford and its residents. All needed to realise that whilst they had made enormous progress as evidenced by the on-site work that as currently underway on some sites and due to start shortly on others, there was still some way to go and all needed to pull together to achieve the whole development of Ashford.

The Leader said that one such project making its mark on the town centre was the revitalisation of Park Mall Shopping Centre. Since making the purchase last year the Council had been working hard to improve the look and feel of the centre and attract people with its emerging quality led independent offer. The footfall figures constantly indicated that Park Mall was boasting a marked increase on previous years with a 6.8% increase for January which was particularly noteworthy given the traditionally quiet period after Christmas. The quality independent retailers including Emporia Fabric and Crafts, Happy and Glorious, Glam R Us, PJ Produce and the collection of start-ups who occupied Made in Ashford all added to that mix. These new retailers were all on loveashford.com, Ashford's digital high street where the latest information on town centre businesses could be found and special offers be accessed. However, the success of Park Mall was not just about new traders. Existing traders were noting an increase in sales figures since the Council's initiatives began with Wilkos noting an uplift in paying customers every single week. Several traders had approached the Council about renewing their leases such as Blossom Hair, Games Workshop and others who were due to come and see the Council shortly. Initiatives that the Council had put in place such as loveashford.com, T-CAT, free parking and investing in the appearance of Park Mall were all paying obvious dividends even at this early stage. There was of course more to do and they would continue with this task.

Two important community facilities were also set to make a difference in their local areas. These were the community centre at Kennington and the new facility proposed for Repton Park. He knew that the residents of Kennington had waited a long time for their new centre and the new facility at the Repton development should have happened earlier. With everything that was going on, largely in the centre of Ashford, it was all too easy to lose focus on the Borough's large rural area with its beautiful rural town and villages. They must re-double efforts to do a number of things in the rural area, not least of which faster speed broadband to the hard to reach areas meaning broadband across the entire Borough of Ashford. There were also other challenges such as the Boundary Commission's Review of Wards and distribution of electors and the Council was looking forward to how it may be able to work more closely with others to provide better and more cost effective services.

Finally, the Leader said he wanted to mention the Council's Chief Executive, John Bunnett who would be leaving his role to move to the private sector and the Head of Cultural and Project Services, Mark Carty who would be retiring after more than 25 years' service at Ashford. Ashford Borough Council would soon have a new Chief

Executive and would have to deal with organisational changes that would need to be in following these senior staff changes. In November last year John had announced he was standing down as Chief Executive of Ashford Borough Council after six very hectic years in the post where he had worked tirelessly to attract significant inward investment to Ashford. With John's move and the fact that Mark would also be leaving after serving the Borough in an exemplary manner for over 25 years, Cabinet Members and Senior Officers had been working to ensure as smooth a transition as possible and to assess the challenges that lay ahead for the organisation both internally and externally. These included the need to ensure stability, the need to maintain focus on key priorities, and to assess what impact devolution and future working arrangements for Local Government in Kent may have on this Council. Cabinet therefore believed that Tracey Kerly was the best candidate to take the organisation forward, ensuring a seamless transition and to help maintain the excellent progress the Council had achieved in recent years. As this was the last Full Council meeting for both John and Mark he felt it was fitting to extend an invitation to all Members and Officers present to join him in a small personal reception in Committee Rooms 1 and 2 following this meeting, where colleagues could say a personal thank you to them both.

332 Licensing and Health and Safety Committee – 25th January 2016

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing and Health and Safety Committee held on the 25th January 2016 be approved and adopted.

333 Cabinet – 14th January and 11th February 2016

The Mayor's Briefing Note, which had been tabled, clarified the procedure for consideration of the Cabinet minutes.

(a) Cabinet – 14th January 2016

Resolved:

That (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 14th January 2016 be received and noted with the exception of Minute No. 274.

(ii) Minute No. 274 be approved and adopted.

(b) Cabinet – 11th February 2016

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3 Mr Crompton, a local resident spoke on Minute No. 305. He said the item referred to the Council's performance with regard to disabled adaptations. This had been a topic he had expressed an interest in for the last ten years as some Members may remember. He had previously rebuked the Council for what he viewed as its shortcomings in terms of the finance it provided for disabled adaptations. According to the Council's website, it said that "as far as was reasonably practicable the Council would ensure that all those entitled to a

mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) would have the opportunity to apply for and receive this grant". At the Cabinet meeting on 10th July 2014 Members had agreed to adopt some policy changes with regard to disabled adaptation work for Council tenants which restricted the eligibility criteria in certain cases e.g. those tenants significantly under occupying properties. He said that Council tenants had the right to a mandatory grant and the Council had the legal obligation to fund adaptation of Council properties through its Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and if a Council tenant applied for a DFG all the Council had to do was transfer the funds from the HRA to the DFG fund, there was in effect no choice. He considered that the upshot of adopting the policy changes in July 2014 had been that 25 tenants on the waiting list in summer 2014 had been advised that they could not have adaptations work done. He considered this was unlawful and institutional discrimination. The total value of that work that had been refused was £98,000, but the report also advised that as a matter of working practice, when refurbishing bathrooms in designated older persons' accommodation such as sheltered dwellings and haven bungalows, the Council installed flush floor showers. In 2014/15 the Council had installed 53 such bathrooms at a cost of £240,000. A further 102 bathrooms had been scheduled for work in 2015/16 at an estimated cost of £560,000, with a further £95,000 estimated to be spent in 2016/17, providing another 17 wet rooms. Mr Crompton said that these had all been included within the Council's planned programme works, but none of those people had applied for a disabled adaptation and he thought the Council was providing adaptations for people who did not need them. Those people might have been happy to keep a bath and if they did not have a need then he considered they should not be given wet rooms, especially ahead of those people who had been refused work that they actually needed. Needs had to be met and it should not be about what the Council wanted to pay for but what people needed. Mr Crompton said he had complained to the Head of Housing some time ago in response to something that appeared in the Council's Housing News, which stated that "although at present the Council spends £200,000 a year on disabled adaptations for tenants, the available budget simply cannot keep pace with demand. We are doing all we can but some people will have to wait some time to get their recommended work done." He said that where adaptations had been recommended this had come from Occupational Therapists assessing need and case law suggested that a corporate failure to act on reports of Occupational Therapists would expose the Council to large fines for failing to meet those needs.

Councillor Clokie, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Home Ownership, said that he could obviously not comment on individual cases but with regard to DFG's the Council had spent a great deal of money. He said that the Council placed a great deal of importance on delivering the best service possible for disabled people in need of assistance with adaptations to their home within the Borough. Generally this would either be via the DFG, which was a means tested mandatory grant or alternatively via the adaptations budget included within the HRA for Council tenants. This year so far a total of 415 households had benefited from adaptations work from either DFG's or Council house adaptations at a total spend of £1,360,000. The Council was always striving to improve efficiency to help as many people as possible as quickly as possible. Officers were confident that the processes and procedures utilised to achieve this followed the law and took into account the guidance issued to deliver the most efficient method of providing help to disabled people. A great deal of the requests came through Occupational Therapists as opposed to the individual.

Resolved:

- That (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 11th February 2016 be received and noted with the exception of Minute Nos. 303, 304, 308, 310 and 315.**
- (ii) Minute Nos. 304, 308, 310 and 315 be approved and adopted.**
- (iii) the recommendations in Minute No. 303 be deferred for consideration as part of the agenda item dealing with the Budget and Council Tax Resolutions 2016/17.**

Following approval of Minute No. 310, the Mayor said she wished to congratulate Tracey Kerly on her appointment as Chief Executive.

334 Council Tax 2016/17 Resolutions and General Fund Budget and Minute Number 303

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3 Mr Crompton, a local resident spoke on this item. He said that the Council had been very efficient in keeping the Council Tax down but wondered at what cost this had been to disabled people. He had met with Officers of the Council and given them copies of the relevant case law. He then read from this which stated “save the extent expressly authorised or required by the Act of 1996 to have regard to resources, Local Housing Authorities are not entitled to take resources into account when deciding whether or not to approve a DFG. In the Act of 1996 Parliament chose to downgrade statutory duties with regard to the approval of four types of grants, with the exception of DFG’s. In the decision to treat those DFG’s differently it recognised the importance of obliging Local Housing Authorities to approve grants for disabled occupants whose applications fulfilled the purposes of Section 23(1). Lord Browne-Wilkinson had concluded that Parliament has chosen to impose a statutory duty with regard to DFG’s in relation to Section 23(1) purposes and the Court should be very slow to downgrade such a duty to a mere discretion over which the Court would have very little control. If Parliament wishes to re-direct public expenditure on meeting the needs of disabled occupants and their building then it is for Parliament to so provide”. He considered it was clear that everyone had to follow what Parliament said and the Council should not take a lack of resources into account. The Officer concerned had read this and said that whilst he accepted and understood that resources could not be taken into account, in the ‘real world’ they were. Mr Crompton considered that ‘the real world’ was the people of Ashford. If people did not meet their obligations to the Council they would have no hesitation in taking them to Court, and that unfortunately is what would happen to the Council regarding disabled adaptations. He believed the Council was ‘penny wise and pound foolish’ as the cost of paying compensation to people who were entitled to these grants and were refused was going to be phenomenal. The Council needed to ask itself why they were undertaking adaptations for people who had never been assessed but were refusing to adapt homes for people who were in need.

In response Councillor Clokie said he recognised Mr Crompton’s comments on the need to spend more on disabled adaptations, but he was pleased to confirm that over the years as a good landlord, Ashford Borough Council had considerably

increased its spend and budgets to meet the growing demand for the needs of disabled people.

In terms of adaptations to Council tenancies, Council Members had supported increases to the budget year on year from £376,000 in 2013/14 to £729,000 for the financial year (2016/17), which was a significant increase in resources to assist tenants with an identified need for adaptations. In addition the revised budget this year for Disabled Facilities Grant was approximately £570,000 and was on target to be fully spent this year. Apart from the 93 cases the Council was already working with in the year, there were a further 88 cases waiting for a DFG with the average grant coming in at around £7,000. Several of those waiting may decide not to proceed with a grant and they were confident that next year's budget would cater for a significant proportion of those cases still waiting.

The Leader of the Council proposed

"That the budget recommendations as set out in Minute No. 303 of the Cabinet and the formal Council Tax resolutions for 2016/17 be approved"

This was seconded.

The Leader also advised that in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.4A a recorded vote was required to be taken on the budget recommendations.

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 that the Budget Scrutiny Task Group had found the budget to be achievable and balanced. He wanted to thank all of those who served on the Task Group and advised that the Committee commended the budget to the Council.

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

For: Councillors Adby, Apps, Mrs Bell, Bell, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Bradford, Britcher, Burgess, Chilton, Clarkson, Clokie, Dehnel, Mrs Dyer, Farrell, Feacey, Galpin, Hicks, A Howard, W Howard, Knowles, Koowaree, Krause, Link, Miss Martin, Mrs Martin, Michael, Ovenden, Pickering, Powell, Shorter, Sims, Smith, Waters, Mrs Webb, Wedgbury, White.

Votes For 37

Against: None

Votes Against 0

Abstentions: None

Abstentions 0

Resolved:

That (i) the Budget for 2016/17 as recommended by the Cabinet in Minute No. 303 be approved.

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

1. It be noted that on 3rd December 2015 the Cabinet calculated the Council Tax Base 2016/17
 - a) for the whole Council area as **43,750** [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. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£6,562,500 (Tables F and G)**.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

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|-----|------------|---|
| (a) | 95,505,022 | 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) | 87,547,900 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act. |
| (c) | 7,957,122 | 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) | 181.88 | being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1a 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) | 1,394,622 | 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) | 150.00 | being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1a 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 and E) |

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	579.80		Little Chart	123.70
Appledore	321.80		Mersham and Sevington	637.10
Bethersden	701.50		Molash	103.80
Biddenden	1,086.90		Newenden	103.20
Bilsington	147.90		Orlestone	559.90
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	1,043.90		Pluckley	468.80
Brabourne	590.10		Rolvenden	679.10
Brook	152.20		Ruckinge	317.70
Challock	405.40		Shadoxhurst	497.50
Charing	1,258.30		Smarden	620.50
Chilham	740.50		Smeeth	357.00
Crundale (PM)	92.50		Stanhope	782.50
Egerton	502.70		Stone	200.60
Godmersham	176.40		Tenterden (TC)	3,438.50
Great Chart with Singleton	2,420.20		Warehorne	176.70
Hastingleigh	114.70		Westwell	319.50
High Halden	715.50		Wittersham	525.30
Hothfield	287.10		Woodchurch	829.70
Kenardington	106.10		Wye with Hinxhill	1,045.30
Kingsnorth	4,334.50			

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Table B

PARISH	Parish Precept		PARISH	Parish Precept
Aldington & Bonnington	27,265		Little Chart	6,000
Appledore	26,000		Mersham and Sevington	15,340
Bethersden	22,420		Molash	4,000
Biddenden	49,789		Newenden	5,080
Bilsington	7,460		Orlestone	20,300
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	26,280		Pluckley	44,000
Brabourne	18,000		Rolvenden	21,845
Brook	6,940		Ruckinge	8,500
Challock	15,720		Shadoxhurst	14,000
Charing	80,073		Smarden	27,140
Chilham	26,384		Smeeth	15,526
Crundale (PM)	200		Stanhope	16,210
Egerton	17,402		Stone	5,500
Godmersham	5,830		Tenterden (TC)	368,093
Great Chart with Singleton	152,726		Warehorne	3,500
Hastingleigh	2,965		Westwell	15,450
High Halden	33,054		Wittersham	22,255
Hothfield	9,500		Woodchurch	21,800
Kenardington	4,840		Wye with Hinxhill	85,795
Kingsnorth	141,950			

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Table C

BILLING AUTHORITY PART OF COUNCIL TAX 2016/17

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	131.35	153.24	175.13	197.02	240.80	284.59	328.37	394.04
Appledore	153.87	179.51	205.15	230.80	282.09	333.38	384.67	461.60
Bethersden	121.31	141.53	161.74	181.96	222.39	262.83	303.27	363.92
Biddenden	130.54	152.30	174.05	195.81	239.32	282.84	326.35	391.62
Bilsington	133.63	155.90	178.17	200.44	244.98	289.53	334.07	400.88
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	116.78	136.25	155.70	175.17	214.09	253.03	291.95	350.34
Brabourne	120.33	140.39	160.44	180.50	220.61	260.73	300.83	361.00
Brook	130.40	152.14	173.86	195.60	239.06	282.54	326.00	391.20
Challock	125.85	146.83	167.80	188.78	230.73	272.69	314.63	377.56
Charing	142.43	166.17	189.90	213.64	261.11	308.59	356.07	427.28
Chilham	123.75	144.38	165.00	185.63	226.88	268.14	309.38	371.26
Crundale (PM)	101.44	118.35	135.25	152.16	185.97	219.79	253.60	304.32
Egerton	123.08	143.60	164.10	184.62	225.64	266.68	307.70	369.24
Godmersham	122.03	142.38	162.71	183.05	223.72	264.41	305.08	366.10
Great Chart with Singleton	142.07	165.75	189.42	213.10	260.45	307.81	355.17	426.20
Hastingleigh	117.23	136.78	156.31	175.85	214.92	254.01	293.08	351.70
High Halden	130.80	152.60	174.40	196.20	239.80	283.40	327.00	392.40
Hothfield	122.06	142.41	162.74	183.09	223.77	264.47	305.15	366.18
Kenardington	130.41	152.15	173.88	195.62	239.09	282.57	326.03	391.24
Kingsnorth	121.83	142.14	162.44	182.75	223.36	263.98	304.58	365.50
Little Chart	132.33	154.39	176.44	198.50	242.61	286.73	330.83	397.00
Mersham and Sevington	116.05	135.40	154.73	174.08	212.76	251.45	290.13	348.16
Molash	125.69	146.65	167.59	188.54	230.43	272.34	314.23	377.08
Newenden	132.81	154.95	177.08	199.22	243.49	287.77	332.03	398.44
Orlestone	124.17	144.87	165.56	186.26	227.65	269.05	310.43	372.52
Pluckley	162.57	189.67	216.76	243.86	298.05	352.25	406.43	487.72
Rolvenden	121.45	141.69	161.93	182.17	222.65	263.14	303.62	364.34
Ruckinge	117.83	137.48	157.11	176.75	216.02	255.31	294.58	353.50
Shadoxhurst	118.76	138.56	158.34	178.14	217.72	257.32	296.90	356.28
Smarden	129.16	150.69	172.21	193.74	236.79	279.85	322.90	387.48
Smeeth	128.99	150.50	171.99	193.49	236.48	279.49	322.48	386.98
Stanhope	113.81	132.79	151.75	170.72	208.65	246.60	284.53	341.44
Stone	118.28	138.00	157.70	177.42	216.84	256.28	295.70	354.84
Tenterden (TC)	171.37	199.93	228.49	257.05	314.17	371.30	428.42	514.10
Warehome	113.21	132.08	150.94	169.81	207.54	245.28	283.02	339.62
Westwell	132.24	154.28	176.32	198.36	242.44	286.52	330.60	396.72
Wittersham	128.25	149.62	170.99	192.37	235.12	277.87	320.62	384.74
Woodchurch	117.51	137.10	156.68	176.27	215.44	254.62	293.78	352.54
Wye with Hinxhill	154.39	180.13	205.85	231.59	283.05	334.52	385.98	463.18
Unparished Area	100.00	116.67	133.33	150.00	183.33	216.67	250.00	300.00

Table D**Council Tax Charge per Band**

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	1,036.48	1,209.23	1,381.97	1,554.72	1,900.21	2,245.71	2,591.20	3,109.44
Appledore	1,059.00	1,235.50	1,411.99	1,588.50	1,941.50	2,294.50	2,647.50	3,177.00
Bethersden	1,026.44	1,197.52	1,368.58	1,539.66	1,881.80	2,223.95	2,566.10	3,079.32
Biddenden	1,035.67	1,208.29	1,380.89	1,553.51	1,898.73	2,243.96	2,589.18	3,107.02
Bilsington	1,038.76	1,211.89	1,385.01	1,558.14	1,904.39	2,250.65	2,596.90	3,116.28
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	1,021.91	1,192.24	1,362.54	1,532.87	1,873.50	2,214.15	2,554.78	3,065.74
Brabourne	1,025.46	1,196.38	1,367.28	1,538.20	1,880.02	2,221.85	2,563.66	3,076.40
Brook	1,035.53	1,208.13	1,380.70	1,553.30	1,898.47	2,243.66	2,588.83	3,106.60
Challock	1,030.98	1,202.82	1,374.64	1,546.48	1,890.14	2,233.81	2,577.46	3,092.96
Charing	1,047.56	1,222.16	1,396.74	1,571.34	1,920.52	2,269.71	2,618.90	3,142.68
Chilham	1,028.88	1,200.37	1,371.84	1,543.33	1,886.29	2,229.26	2,572.21	3,086.66
Crundale (PM)	1,006.57	1,174.34	1,342.09	1,509.86	1,845.38	2,180.91	2,516.43	3,019.72
Egerton	1,028.21	1,199.59	1,370.94	1,542.32	1,885.05	2,227.80	2,570.53	3,084.64
Godmersham	1,027.16	1,198.37	1,369.55	1,540.75	1,883.13	2,225.53	2,567.91	3,081.50
Great Chart with Singleton	1,047.20	1,221.74	1,396.26	1,570.80	1,919.86	2,268.93	2,618.00	3,141.60
Hastingleigh	1,022.36	1,192.77	1,363.15	1,533.55	1,874.33	2,215.13	2,555.91	3,067.10
High Halden	1,035.93	1,208.59	1,381.24	1,553.90	1,899.21	2,244.52	2,589.83	3,107.80
Hothfield	1,027.19	1,198.40	1,369.58	1,540.79	1,883.18	2,225.59	2,567.98	3,081.58
Kenardington	1,035.54	1,208.14	1,380.72	1,553.32	1,898.50	2,243.69	2,588.86	3,106.64
Kingsnorth	1,026.96	1,198.13	1,369.28	1,540.45	1,882.77	2,225.10	2,567.41	3,080.90
Little Chart	1,037.46	1,210.38	1,383.28	1,556.20	1,902.02	2,247.85	2,593.66	3,112.40
Mersham and Sevington	1,021.18	1,191.39	1,361.57	1,531.78	1,872.17	2,212.57	2,552.96	3,063.56
Molash	1,030.82	1,202.64	1,374.43	1,546.24	1,889.84	2,233.46	2,577.06	3,092.48
Newenden	1,037.94	1,210.94	1,383.92	1,556.92	1,902.90	2,248.89	2,594.86	3,113.84
Orlestone	1,029.30	1,200.86	1,372.40	1,543.96	1,887.06	2,230.17	2,573.26	3,087.92
Pluckley	1,067.70	1,245.66	1,423.60	1,601.56	1,957.46	2,313.37	2,669.26	3,203.12
Rolvenden	1,026.58	1,197.68	1,368.77	1,539.87	1,882.06	2,224.26	2,566.45	3,079.74
Ruckinge	1,022.96	1,193.47	1,363.95	1,534.45	1,875.43	2,216.43	2,557.41	3,068.90
Shadoxhurst	1,023.89	1,194.55	1,365.18	1,535.84	1,877.13	2,218.44	2,559.73	3,071.68
Smarden	1,034.29	1,206.68	1,379.05	1,551.44	1,896.20	2,240.97	2,585.73	3,102.88
Smeeth	1,034.12	1,206.49	1,378.83	1,551.19	1,895.89	2,240.61	2,585.31	3,102.38
Stanhope	1,018.94	1,188.78	1,358.59	1,528.42	1,868.06	2,207.72	2,547.36	3,056.84
Stone	1,023.41	1,193.99	1,364.54	1,535.12	1,876.25	2,217.40	2,558.53	3,070.24
Tenterden (TC)	1,076.50	1,255.92	1,435.33	1,614.75	1,973.58	2,332.42	2,691.25	3,229.50
Warehorne	1,018.34	1,188.07	1,357.78	1,527.51	1,866.95	2,206.40	2,545.85	3,055.02
Westwell	1,037.37	1,210.27	1,383.16	1,556.06	1,901.85	2,247.64	2,593.43	3,112.12
Wittersham	1,033.38	1,205.61	1,377.83	1,550.07	1,894.53	2,238.99	2,583.45	3,100.14
Woodchurch	1,022.64	1,193.09	1,363.52	1,533.97	1,874.85	2,215.74	2,556.61	3,067.94
Wye with Hinxhill	1,059.52	1,236.12	1,412.69	1,589.29	1,942.46	2,295.64	2,648.81	3,178.58
Unparished Area	1,005.13	1,172.66	1,340.17	1,507.70	1,842.74	2,177.79	2,512.83	3,015.40

Table E

Breakdown of Council Tax per authority

Precepting Authority	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Ashford Borough Council	100.00	116.67	133.33	150.00	183.33	216.67	250.00	300.00
Kent County Council	755.70	881.65	1,007.60	1,133.55	1,385.45	1,637.35	1,889.25	2,267.10
Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent	101.43	118.34	135.24	152.15	185.96	219.77	253.58	304.30
Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority	48.00	56.00	64.00	72.00	88.00	104.00	120.00	144.00

Table F

CALCULATION OF THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D	
	£
Gross Expenditure - General Fund	63,601,050
Gross Expenditure - HRA	30,509,350
Parish Precepts	<u>1,394,622</u>
	95,505,022
Less Gross Income	(78,546,750)
	<u>(78,546,750)</u>
NET EXPENDITURE	16,958,272
Add Deficit Distribution from Collection Fund	0
New Homes Bonus	(3,782,820)
Retained Business Rates	(3,410,410)
Government Grant (RSG and S31 grants)	<u>(1,807,920)</u>
	(9,001,150)
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	7,957,122
Less Parish Precepts	(1,394,622)
Council Tax Requirement	<u><u>6,562,500</u></u>
Council Tax Base	43,750
Band 'D' Council Tax	150.00
Average including Parishes	181.88

Table G

REVENUE BUDGET				
SUMMARY				
Actuals 2014/15 £	Budget 2015/16 £	Projected Outturn 2015/16 £	Detail	Estimate 2016/17 £
1,295,520	1,180,610	1,226,610	Corporate, Strategy & Personnel	1,270,720
1,233,907	1,402,300	1,395,230	Legal & Democratic	1,477,660
1,748,960	1,821,590	1,821,180	Planning & Development	1,995,050
2,101,070	2,167,130	2,167,080	Financial Services	2,554,620
160,623	359,740	395,110	Human Resources and Technology	291,010
775,617	888,690	903,250	Housing Services	915,710
451,022	891,010	838,450	Health, Parking & Community Safety	882,700
4,450,502	4,627,570	4,562,760	Environment and Customer Services	4,821,510
(936,132)	(1,060,370)	(1,049,960)	Corporate Property & Projects	(1,512,060)
2,788,256	3,015,240	3,095,840	Culture & the Environment	2,713,130
14,069,346	15,293,510	15,355,550	Service Expenditure	15,410,050
(1,694,370)	(2,106,200)	(2,106,200)	Capital Charges & Net Interest	(1,475,830)
50,180	40,260	40,260	Concurrent Functions Grant	30,260
237,227	241,000	241,000	Levies	241,000
2,357,724	265,120	248,120	Contribution to Balances	1,316,670
15,020,107	13,733,690	13,778,730	ABC Budget Requirement	15,522,150
			Income	
(2,947,755)	(2,106,830)	(2,106,830)	Government Grant	(1,269,920)
(2,183,239)	(2,628,370)	(2,628,370)	Retained Business Rates	(3,410,410)
(953,730)	(554,000)	(554,000)	Business Rates S31 Grants	(538,000)
(2,875,218)	(2,324,000)	(2,339,000)	New Homes Bonus	(3,782,820)
62,110	41,500	41,500	Parish CTS Payment	41,500
(6,105,813)	(6,161,990)	(6,161,990)	Council Tax	(6,562,500)
16,462	0	30,040	Budget Gap	0

335 Selection & Constitutional Review Committee – 11th February 2016

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Selection & Constitutional Review Committee held on the 11th February 2016 be approved and adopted.

336 Standards Committee – 25th January 2016

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee held on the 25th January 2016 be received and noted.

337 Annual Report of the Council's Monitoring Officer 2015

Resolved:

That the Annual Report of the Council's Monitoring Officer be received and noted.

338 Programme of Meetings 2016/17 and 2017/18

Councillor Wedgbury said this item concerned him as parents with children had no choice but to take holidays during school holidays, particularly half term and this would result in them potentially missing Council meetings because the alternative was receiving a fine from the school for taking their children out during term time. He considered it inappropriate to hold Committee meetings during the half term holidays and asked for those meetings to be moved.

The Leader responded that it was difficult to move meetings around too much because of particular timescales that had to be adhered to. Having had children and grandchildren he had great sympathy over the issue of school holidays, especially as opportunistic travel companies put the cost of holidays up greatly during school holiday periods. His view was that if Members wished to take their children away in the school holidays, then this was far more important than missing the odd Committee meeting because he was sure they would be able to catch up with what they had missed quite easily. Therefore he would encourage all Members to take their children away and enjoy their company and not worry about Council meetings, and people would be very forgiving of the odd meeting that may be missed.

Resolved:

That the Programme of Meetings for 2016/17 and 2017/18 as appended to these Minutes be adopted.

339 Questions by Members of which Notice Had Been Given

- (a) Question from Councillor Wedgbury to Councillor Clarkson, Leader of the Council.**

"Could the Leader join me in congratulating Ashford United for reaching the Quarter Finals of the FA Vase competition, leaving them just two ties away from a final at Wembley Stadium?"

Reply by Councillor Clarkson

"Having been an avid fan of all sports as a youngster including rugby and football when I used to go to and watch Chelsea at home one week and Fulham at home the other in the days of Jimmy Greaves at Chelsea and Johnny Haynes at Fulham, I would be delighted to applaud the efforts of Ashford United Football Club. I think it is a great achievement to have got through to the phase they are in now. As a bit of background they have played at the Homelands Stadium since it was built in 1989 and the record attendance at that ground had been 3363 for a match against, would you believe, Fulham, in the FA Cup First Round in 1994/95? Their largest ever attendance was at the old Essella Park ground when they had 6500 spectators against Crystal Palace in the FA Cup First Round in 1959/60. The year 1959

particular resonates with me as my wife is in the public gallery tonight and that is the year we got married and the only other thing I can tell you about that day is that Oxo won the Grand National on the same day and I got first, second and third in that race. So when my beloved wife was coming down the aisle with her father, he leaned across to me and said "you've had a good day, you've got first, second and third" and I thought great! If I was being mischievous I may say that it was the last lucky thing that happened to me, but after 56 years of marriage I just look back on that with fondness. So, I am sure that all in the Chamber are happy with their success and we wish them very well indeed for the next round".

Supplementary Question by Councillor Wedgbury

"Ashford has competed in this competition with 550 teams from across the country from as far away places as Cornwall and Gateshead so it is a massive achievement to reach the last eight of the competition. So would the Leader join me in requesting that the Mayor write to the club congratulating them on their achievement?"

Reply by Councillor Clarkson

"I would be delighted to recommend to the Mayor that a letter be written from the First Citizen of the Borough to the Football Club and I am sure Madam Mayor would be delighted to do so."

Her Worshipful the Mayor said she would certainly do that.

(DS)

MINS: CXXX1607

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
PCC ELECTIONS

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

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
 W 15 Planning
 Th 16 Audit
 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

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

M 25
 T 26 O&S
 W 27 Parish & Urban Frm
 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 Planning
 Th 18
 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
 W 14 Planning
 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
 W 5
 Th 6
 F 7

M 10
 Tu 11
 W 12
 Th 13 Cabinet
 F 14

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

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

M 31

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

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 Standards

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 Planning
Th 13
F 14 **GOOD FRIDAY**

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

M 24
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

JCC - Joint Consultative Committee

 = School Holidays

DATES OF MEETINGS MAY 2017 - MAY 2018

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

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

JUNE 2017

Th 1
 F 2
 M 5
 Tu 6
 W 7
 Th 8 Cabinet
 F 9
 M 12
 Tu 13 Joint Transportation
 W 14 Planning
 Th 15 Audit
 F 16
 M 19
 T 20
 W 21
 Th 22
 F 23
 M 26
 T 27 O&S
 W 28
 Th 29 Audit
 F 30

JULY 2017

M 3
 Tu 4
 W 5
 Th 6 JCC 2.30pm
 F 7
 M 10

Tu 11
 W 12
 Th 13 Cabinet
 F 14
 M 17
 Tu 18
 W 19 Planning
 Th 20 Council
 F 21

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

M 31

AUGUST 2017

Tu 1
 W 2
 Th 3
 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 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 29
 W 30
 Th 31

SEPTEMBER 2017

F 1
 M 4
 Tu 5
 W 6
 Th 7 JCC 2.30pm
 F 8

M 11
 Tu 12 Joint Transportation
 W 13
 Th 14 Cabinet
 F 15
 M 18
 Tu 19
 W 20 Planning
 Th 21

F 22
 M 25
 Tu 26 O&S
 W 27
 Th 28 Audit
 F 29

OCTOBER 2017

M 2
 Tu 3
 W 4
 Th 5
 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
 Tu 31

NOVEMBER 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
 W 15 Planning
 Th 16
 F 17

M 20
 Tu 21
 W 22
 Th 23
 F 24

M 27
 Tu 28 O&S
 W 29
 Th 30

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DECEMBER 2017

F 1
M 4
Tu 5 Audit
W 6
Th 7 Cabinet
F 8
M 11
Tu 12 Joint Transportation
W 13 Planning
Th 14 Council
F 15
M 18
Tu 19 O&S
W 20
Th 21
F 22
M 25 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 26 **BANK HOLIDAY**
W 27 **OFFICES CLOSED**
Th 28
F 29

JANUARY 2018

M 1 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 2
W 3
Th 4 JCC 2.30pm
F 5
M 8
Tu 9
W 10
Th 11 Cabinet
F 12
M 15 Licensing & H&S 10am
Tu 16
W 17 Planning
Th 18
F 19
M 22
Tu 23 O&S
W 24
Th 25
F 26
M 29
Tu 30 Standards
W 31

FEBRUARY 2018

Th 1
F 2
M 5
Tu 6
W 7
Th 8 Cabinet
F 9
M 12
Tu 13
W 14 Planning

Th 15 Council (C Tax)
F 16

M 19
Tu 20
W 21
Th 22
F 23
M 26
Tu 27 O&S
W 28

MARCH 2018

Th 1 JCC 2.30pm
F 2
M 5
Tu 6
W 7
Th 8 Cabinet
F 9
M 12
Tu 13 Joint Transportation
W 14 Planning
Th 15
F 16

M 19
Tu 20 Audit
W 21
Th 22
F 23

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

APRIL 2018

M 2 **EASTER MONDAY**
Tu 3
W 4
Th 5
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

MAY 2018

Tu 1 Selection & CR
W 2
Th 3 JCC 2.30pm
F 4

BANK HOLIDAY

M 7
Tu 8
W 9
Th 10 Cabinet
F 11

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

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

BANK HOLIDAY

M 28
Tu 29
W 30
Th 31

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