

Ashford Borough Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **3rd March 2022**.

Present:

His Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr. C K Knowles (Chairman);

Cllrs. Anckorn, Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Bell, Blanford, Buchanan, Campkin, Chilton, Clarkson, Cornish, Farrell, Feacey, Forest, Harman, Hayward, B Heyes, Howard, Howard-Smith, Iliffe, Krause, Ledger, Meaden, Michael, Mulholland, Nilsson, Pauley, Pickering, Rogers, Shorter, Smith, Spain, Sparks, C Suddards, L Suddards, Turner, Webb, Wedgbury, Wright.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Members remained standing for a period of silence in respect of the late Peter Robert Davison who was the Borough Council Member for the Hamstreet and Weald South Wards between 1999 and 2015, and in respect of Mr Ernest Mexter (former Chief Executive of the Council and Freeman of the Borough), who had both passed away recently. The Reverend Hammond then said prayers.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Barrett, Burgess, Clokie, T Heyes, Ovenden, Walder.

Also Present:

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance and IT, Economic Development Manager, Accountancy Manager, Member Services Manager.

320 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.

321 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 21st October 2021 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

322 Announcements

(a) The Mayor

The Mayor welcomed everyone present and it said it was nice to be back meeting in the Council Chamber all together again. He said it had been a busy start to the year

for the Mayoral Office with the Covid restrictions gradually being lifted. So far he had attended over 150 engagements, including events, launches, photo calls and meetings, He thanked the Deputy Mayor who had ably assisted him when he had been unavailable and together they had attended almost 200 engagements.

Some of the recent highlights included: - the Carnival of the Baubles in the Town Centre which he had attended with a number of colleague Councillors; the Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations in Woodchurch and Ashford which had been extremely poignant; the Dragon bench launch at Park Farm for which he wanted to give Councillor Cornish special thanks; a number of events with his charity – Live Well, including a transgender training event and the wellbeing taster day (another of which was planned for April at The Limes); a number of fundraising events to support other Mayors across the county, who had in turn supported him and his charities; visiting the Pop In Centre at Woodchurch who were doing some amazing work, but where he had been encouraged to eat much more cake than was good for him!; reaching out to the Nepalese community to support their plans for a community centre; and finally the Environmental Action Days which he had hosted in November and February. These had provided excellent networking and information exchange opportunities with Parishes, environmental organisations and ABC representatives all present.

The Mayor advised that he had also been continuing with his Mayor's Achievement Awards. At the start of the year he had asked colleagues to advise him of individuals who were doing great work in their communities and he was pleased to have been able to give some of those some much deserved recognition. These had included: - the Landlady at the Old Walnut Tree Pub in Aldington; the ladies at the Beaver Community Trust; the Chairman of the Ashford Choral Society – who had retired after 21 years of service; and the Parish Council Chairman at Rolvenden for her outstanding community service. There were many more, far too many to list here, but he thanked them all and said that he would be presenting more awards in the next couple of months.

He said that he had also relaunched the Mayor's Environmental Awards, which had originally been introduced by Councillor Jessamy Blanford in her Mayoral year, and had become increasingly important in the current climate. Again, there were some individuals and groups taking it upon themselves to do some amazing work in this area. The first recipient had been a gentleman (nominated by Councillor Hayward) for his outstanding civic pride in litter picking in his area. He knew there were countless others doing similar work as he had personally been out undertaking a number of litter picks in the local community.

The Mayoral Office had been receiving some excellent social media engagement. They had reached over 100,000 residents in the Borough with their content, which he thought was fantastic. With 116 shares of the content back into other different communities in Ashford, or onto personal profiles, it was nice to know that residents were finding their Mayoral updates interesting and engaging. Website engagement was also amazing with a 354% increase in visits to the Mayor page. This could coincide with more people looking to book the Mayor as the pandemic abated, but he hoped that it was also down to the fact that he had had more of a digital presence with regular blog posts.

In conclusion, the Mayor asked if colleagues would consider supporting his final two events. Firstly a Charity Beer and Pie Tasting event at the Old Dairy Brewery on Tuesday 5th April, and finally the Mayor's Charity Ball, with a great ABBA band, at the London Beach Hotel on Saturday 16th April. Further details were available from the Civic Officer.

(b) Leader of the Council

The Leader said that he had a few comments to make and a few recent developments he wished to advise Members about.

He said that everyone would be well aware of the tragic situation being faced by the people of Ukraine and their thoughts were clearly with them in their hour of need. This was now a humanitarian crisis that was almost beyond belief in the 21st Century. Colleagues would know how this Council had responded in a positive manner to both the Syrian and the Afghan refugee situations, where there were refugees fleeing from war torn areas. This particular tragedy appeared to be even worse, and he was sure that all colleagues would wish to join him in saying that they stood ready to give whatever assistance and support that our Government may ask of us. He would be making a proposal, but he knew that there were questions for him on this important subject later in the meeting, which he would answer, and therefore he would leave that topic there for the moment.

Colleagues would know from the Cabinet meeting last Thursday that Brompton Bikes had chosen Ashford to relocate its Headquarters and build an exciting new factory in the Borough, including a strategic wetland to assist with the Stodmarsh mitigation measures. This news received extensive media coverage last Friday. This was clearly a marvellous result for Ashford, especially given that they were in competition with big cities in the north of England.

The Leader said that Members would be well aware that the Council had granted planning permission for the development of Newtown Works and that they had been successful in securing Levelling Up Funding of some £14.7m. He advised that steady progress was being made with the work to be done with the Government to secure the drawdown and the principal parties involved with this major project. The Council had already signed an important Memorandum of Understanding with the Government, which would allow them to move forward without undue delay. He proposed that, in addition to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee sitting on the Due Diligence Group, the Vice-Chairman should also be part of that Group.

He was pleased to report that he had received a reply to his letter to the Minister regarding the Stodmarsh situation. It was a positive response where the Minister commended the Council for its strategic approach of working across Local Authority boundaries to find a solution. He further advised that the DLUHC would provide Ashford with £100,000 to assist in resourcing the strategic work it was currently doing. They were yet to secure the forward funding for land acquisition and he would be writing further about that aspect.

Finally, the Leader said he was pleased to advise that the Council had been awarded a grant of £174,300 from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles. This was very good news which would allow them to move at pace to install more on-street residential charging points.

323 Licensing Committee – 17th November 2021 and 20th January 2022

(a) Licensing Committee – 17th November 2021

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 17th November 2021 be approved and adopted.

(b) Licensing Committee – 20th January 2022

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 20th January 2022 be approved and adopted.

324 Regulatory Committee –20th January 2022

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Committee held on the 20th January 2022 be approved and adopted.

325 Cabinet – 28th October, 25th November, 16th December 2021 and 27th January and 24th February 2022.

(a) Cabinet – 28th October 2021

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 28th October 2021 be received and noted.

(b) Cabinet – 25th November 2021

Resolved:

That (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 25th November 2021 be received and noted with the exception of Minute Nos. 196 and 197.

(ii) Minute Nos. 196 and 197 be approved and adopted.

(c) Cabinet – 16th December 2021

Resolved:

That (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 16th December 2021 be received and noted with the exception of Minute No. 223.

(ii) Minute No. 223 be approved and adopted.

(d) Cabinet – 27th January 2022

Councillor Chilton said he wished to move an amendment to Minute No. 259, Recommendation (iii). Given the all-encompassing nature of the Newtown Works he asked that the Due Diligence Working Group report back to Full Council to sign off the final deal, rather than delegating that to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader.

This was seconded by Councillor Farrell.

The Leader of the Council said that time was of the essence and it was important that the project proceed at pace to hit the targets involved in spending the Levelling-Up Funding. This was the reason the original delegation had been proposed and such an approach, including setting up a Due Diligence Working Group, had worked extremely well in the past with the Elwick project. He had earlier in the meeting added Councillor Chilton to that Group as Vice-Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny and he considered that would afford sufficient oversight. He therefore urged colleagues to support the original recommendation.

A vote was then taken on the amendment and the amendment was lost.

A vote was then taken on the substantive motion moved by the Leader, i.e. to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting of 27th January 2022.

Resolved:

That (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 27th January 2022 be received and noted with the exception of Minute No. 259.

(ii) Minute No. 259 be approved and adopted.

(e) Cabinet – 24th February 2022

Resolved:

That subject to the expiry of the period by which decisions arising from the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 24th February may be called in, i.e. 9th March 2022:-

(i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 24th February 2022 be received and noted with the exception of Minute Nos. 294, 295, 297, 300 and 306.

(ii) Minute Nos. 295, 297, 300 and 306 be approved and adopted.

- (iii) the recommendations in Minute No. 294 be deferred for consideration as part of the agenda item dealing with the Budget and Council Tax Resolutions 2022/23.

326 Council Tax 2022/23 Resolutions and General Fund Budget and Minute Number 294/2/22.

The Member Services Manager advised that an additional response to the budget consultation had been received from Kingsnorth Parish Council. This, along with the Council's response, had been sent to Members and would be included within the on-line papers for this Meeting.

The Leader of the Council proposed:-

"That the budget recommendations as set out in Minute No. 294 of the Cabinet and the formal Council Tax resolutions for 2022/23 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 and any amendments moved and seconded during the debate.

The Mayor then invited the Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in the absence of the Chairman, to report on that Committee's scrutiny of the Cabinet's initial budget proposals. Councillor Chilton said that the Task Group had met over four meetings and studied the draft budget in some detail. He wanted to thank the Officers who had worked so hard to take Members through the papers and help them understand the detail. There had been some concerns over the ability of the Planning Service, in particular, to deliver its savings targets and he knew that the Committee would be doing some monitoring work with the Head of Planning during the year. The Task Group had made some recommendations which had been accepted by both Management Team and the Cabinet, and overall the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had found the budget to be sound and deliverable. Councillor Chilton clarified that his comments had been made as Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and not in a personal capacity.

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

For: Councillors Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Bell, Blanford, Buchanan, Clarkson, Cornish, Feacey, Forest, Harman, Hayward, B Heyes, Howard, Howard-Smith, Iliffe, Knowles, Krause, Ledger, Mulholland, Pauley, Pickering, Rogers, Shorter, Smith, Sparks, Turner, Webb, Wedgbury
Votes For 28

Against: Councillors Anckorn, Chilton, Farrell, Spain, C Suddards, L Suddards
Votes Against 6

Abstentions: Councillors Campkin, Meaden, Michael, Nilsson, Wright.
Abstentions 5

Resolved:

- That (i) **the Budget for 2022/23 as recommended by the Cabinet in Minute No. 294 be approved.**
- (ii) **the formal Council Tax resolutions set out below be approved.**

1. It be noted that on **25th November 2021** the Cabinet calculated:
 - a) The Council Tax Base 2022/23 for the whole Council area as **48,664** [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 2022/23 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£8,637,850 (Tables D and E)**.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
£
 - (a) 106,689,879 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) 95,562,490 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - (c) 11,127,389 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) 228.66 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).(**Table B**)
 - (e) 2,489,539 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached **Table A**).
 - (f) 177.50 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.(**Table C**)

Table A
Tax Base for Parish Precepts (Which are part of the Council's area) – Band D
equivalent properties *

Local tax base 2022/23	Parish	Precept 2022/23
		Charged to taxpayers
		£
643	Aldington & Bonnington	43,467.00
364	Appledore	26,000.00
765	Bethersden	42,000.00
1,208	Biddenden	57,170.50
154	Bilsington	6,727.00
1,078	Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	26,280.00
620	Brabourne	40,000.00
153	Brook	11,500.00
548	Challock	23,000.00
1,404	Charing	163,140.00
773	Chilham	52,670.00
93	Crundale (PM)	500.00
532	Egerton	31,076.97
182	Godmersham	6,700.00
2,774	Great Chart with Singleton	299,738.00
117	Hastingleigh	4,500.00
834	High Halden	33,054.00
274	Hothfield	13,500.00
111	Kenardington	6,245.00
3,761	Kennington	106,500.00
4,623	Kingsnorth	262,401.48
137	Little Chart	6,222.00
651	Mersham	28,000.00
120	Molash	4,250.00
109	Newenden	5,301.00
625	Orlestone	20,272.00
499	Pluckley	47,595.00
718	Rolvenden	32,482.00
346	Ruckinge	10,500.00
564	Sevington	15,000.00
579	Shadoxhurst	20,670.00
704	Smarden	39,235.20
374	Smeeth	23,738.00
1,238	South Willesborough & Newton	70,530.00
793	Stanhope	17,800.00
214	Stone	5,500.00
3,865	Tenterden (TC)	649,229.00
165	Warehorne	5,000.00
514	Westwell	27,190.00
557	Wittersham	34,850.00
874	Woodchurch	25,420.00
1,092	Wye with Hinxhill	144,585.00
35,749		2,489,539.15

* Note: Band D Equivalent Tax base for the unparished area is 12,915

Table B

BILLING AUTHORITY SHARE OF COUNCIL TAX INCLUDING PARISH PRECEPT

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	163.40	190.64	217.87	245.10	299.56	354.03	408.50	490.20
Appledore	165.95	193.62	221.27	248.93	304.24	359.57	414.88	497.86
Bethersden	154.93	180.76	206.58	232.40	284.04	335.69	387.33	464.80
Biddenden	149.88	174.87	199.85	224.83	274.79	324.76	374.71	449.66
Bilsington	147.45	172.03	196.61	221.18	270.33	319.48	368.63	442.36
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	134.58	157.02	179.45	201.88	246.74	291.61	336.46	403.76
Brabourne	161.34	188.24	215.13	242.02	295.80	349.59	403.36	484.04
Brook	168.44	196.52	224.59	252.66	308.80	364.95	421.10	505.32
Challock	146.31	170.70	195.09	219.47	268.24	317.01	365.78	438.94
Charing	195.80	228.44	261.07	293.70	358.96	424.23	489.50	587.40
Chilham	163.76	191.06	218.35	245.64	300.22	354.81	409.40	491.28
Crundale (PM)	121.92	142.24	162.56	182.88	223.52	264.16	304.80	365.76
Egerton	157.28	183.50	209.71	235.92	288.34	340.77	393.20	471.84
Godmersham	142.87	166.69	190.50	214.31	261.93	309.56	357.18	428.62
Great Chart with Singleton	190.36	222.10	253.82	285.55	349.00	412.46	475.91	571.10
Hastingleigh	143.97	167.97	191.97	215.96	263.95	311.94	359.93	431.92
High Halden	144.75	168.88	193.01	217.13	265.38	313.63	361.88	434.26
Hothfield	151.18	176.38	201.58	226.77	277.16	327.56	377.95	453.54
Kenardington	155.84	181.82	207.79	233.76	285.70	337.65	389.60	467.52
Kennington	137.21	160.09	182.95	205.82	251.55	297.30	343.03	411.64
Kingsnorth	156.17	182.21	208.23	234.26	286.31	338.38	390.43	468.52
Little Chart	148.61	173.39	198.15	222.92	272.45	322.00	371.53	445.84
Mersham	147.00	171.51	196.01	220.51	269.51	318.52	367.51	441.02
Molash	141.94	165.61	189.26	212.92	260.23	307.55	354.86	425.84
Newenden	150.75	175.88	201.01	226.13	276.38	326.63	376.88	452.26
Orlestone	139.96	163.29	186.62	209.94	256.59	303.25	349.90	419.88
Pluckley	181.92	212.24	242.56	272.88	333.52	394.16	454.80	545.76
Rolvenden	148.49	173.25	197.99	222.74	272.23	321.74	371.23	445.48
Ruckinge	138.56	161.67	184.76	207.85	254.03	300.23	346.41	415.70
Sevington	136.06	158.75	181.42	204.10	249.45	294.81	340.16	408.20
Shadoxhurst	142.13	165.83	189.51	213.20	260.57	307.96	355.33	426.40
Smarden	155.48	181.41	207.32	233.23	285.05	336.89	388.71	466.46
Smeeth	160.64	187.43	214.20	240.97	294.51	348.07	401.61	481.94
South Willlesborough & Newton	156.31	182.37	208.42	234.47	286.57	338.68	390.78	468.94
Stanhope	133.30	155.52	177.74	199.95	244.38	288.82	333.25	399.90
Stone	135.46	158.05	180.62	203.20	248.35	293.51	338.66	406.40
Tenterden (TC)	230.32	268.71	307.10	345.48	422.25	499.03	575.80	690.96
Warehorne	138.53	161.63	184.71	207.80	253.97	300.16	346.33	415.60
Westwell	153.60	179.20	204.80	230.40	281.60	332.80	384.00	460.80
Wittersham	160.04	186.73	213.40	240.07	293.41	346.77	400.11	480.14
Woodchurch	137.72	160.68	183.63	206.58	252.48	298.39	344.30	413.16
Wye with Hinxhill	206.60	241.04	275.47	309.90	378.76	447.63	516.50	619.80
Unparished Area	118.33	138.06	157.78	177.50	216.94	256.39	295.83	355.00

Table C

Council Tax Charge per Band

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
Aldington & Bonnington	1,344.56	1,568.66	1,792.75	2,016.84	2,465.02	2,913.21	3,361.40	4,033.68
Appledore	1,347.11	1,571.64	1,796.15	2,020.67	2,469.70	2,918.75	3,367.78	4,041.34
Bethersden	1,336.09	1,558.78	1,781.46	2,004.14	2,449.50	2,894.87	3,340.23	4,008.28
Biddenden	1,331.04	1,552.89	1,774.73	1,996.57	2,440.25	2,883.94	3,327.61	3,993.14
Bilsington	1,328.61	1,550.05	1,771.49	1,992.92	2,435.79	2,878.66	3,321.53	3,985.84
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	1,315.74	1,535.04	1,754.33	1,973.62	2,412.20	2,850.79	3,289.36	3,947.24
Brabourne	1,342.50	1,566.26	1,790.01	2,013.76	2,461.26	2,908.77	3,356.26	4,027.52
Brook	1,349.60	1,574.54	1,799.47	2,024.40	2,474.26	2,924.13	3,374.00	4,048.80
Challock	1,327.47	1,548.72	1,769.97	1,991.21	2,433.70	2,876.19	3,318.68	3,982.42
Charing	1,376.96	1,606.46	1,835.95	2,065.44	2,524.42	2,983.41	3,442.40	4,130.88
Chilham	1,344.92	1,569.08	1,793.23	2,017.38	2,465.68	2,913.99	3,362.30	4,034.76
Crundale (PM)	1,303.08	1,520.26	1,737.44	1,954.62	2,388.98	2,823.34	3,257.70	3,909.24
Egerton	1,338.44	1,561.52	1,784.59	2,007.66	2,453.80	2,899.95	3,346.10	4,015.32
Godmersham	1,324.03	1,544.71	1,765.38	1,986.05	2,427.39	2,868.74	3,310.08	3,972.10
Great Chart with Singleton	1,371.52	1,600.12	1,828.70	2,057.29	2,514.46	2,971.64	3,428.81	4,114.58
Hastingleigh	1,325.13	1,545.99	1,766.85	1,987.70	2,429.41	2,871.12	3,312.83	3,975.40
High Halden	1,325.91	1,546.90	1,767.89	1,988.87	2,430.84	2,872.81	3,314.78	3,977.74
Hothfield	1,332.34	1,554.40	1,776.46	1,998.51	2,442.62	2,886.74	3,330.85	3,997.02
Kenardington	1,337.00	1,559.84	1,782.67	2,005.50	2,451.16	2,896.83	3,342.50	4,011.00
Kennington	1,318.37	1,538.11	1,757.83	1,977.56	2,417.01	2,856.48	3,295.93	3,955.12
Kingsnorth	1,337.33	1,560.23	1,783.11	2,006.00	2,451.77	2,897.56	3,343.33	4,012.00
Little Chart	1,329.77	1,551.41	1,773.03	1,994.66	2,437.91	2,881.18	3,324.43	3,989.32
Mersham	1,328.16	1,549.53	1,770.89	1,992.25	2,434.97	2,877.70	3,320.41	3,984.50
Molash	1,323.10	1,543.63	1,764.14	1,984.66	2,425.69	2,866.73	3,307.76	3,969.32
Newenden	1,331.91	1,553.90	1,775.89	1,997.87	2,441.84	2,885.81	3,329.78	3,995.74
Orlestone	1,321.12	1,541.31	1,761.50	1,981.68	2,422.05	2,862.43	3,302.80	3,963.36
Pluckley	1,363.08	1,590.26	1,817.44	2,044.62	2,498.98	2,953.34	3,407.70	4,089.24
Rolvenden	1,329.65	1,551.27	1,772.87	1,994.48	2,437.69	2,880.92	3,324.13	3,988.96
Ruckinge	1,319.72	1,539.69	1,759.64	1,979.59	2,419.49	2,859.41	3,299.31	3,959.18
Sevington	1,317.22	1,536.77	1,756.30	1,975.84	2,414.91	2,853.99	3,293.06	3,951.68
Shadoxhurst	1,323.29	1,543.85	1,764.39	1,984.94	2,426.03	2,867.14	3,308.23	3,969.88
Smarden	1,336.64	1,559.43	1,782.20	2,004.97	2,450.51	2,896.07	3,341.61	4,009.94
Smeeth	1,341.80	1,565.45	1,789.08	2,012.71	2,459.97	2,907.25	3,354.51	4,025.42
South Willersborough	1,337.47	1,560.39	1,783.30	2,006.21	2,452.03	2,897.86	3,343.68	4,012.42
Stanhope	1,314.46	1,533.54	1,752.62	1,971.69	2,409.84	2,848.00	3,286.15	3,943.38
Stone	1,316.62	1,536.07	1,755.50	1,974.94	2,413.81	2,852.69	3,291.56	3,949.88
Tenterden (TC)	1,411.48	1,646.73	1,881.98	2,117.22	2,587.71	3,058.21	3,528.70	4,234.44
Warehorne	1,319.69	1,539.65	1,759.59	1,979.54	2,419.43	2,859.34	3,299.23	3,959.08
Westwell	1,334.76	1,557.22	1,779.68	2,002.14	2,447.06	2,891.98	3,336.90	4,004.28
Wittersham	1,341.20	1,564.75	1,788.28	2,011.81	2,458.87	2,905.95	3,353.01	4,023.62
Woodchurch	1,318.88	1,538.70	1,758.51	1,978.32	2,417.94	2,857.57	3,297.20	3,956.64
Wye with Hinxhill	1,387.76	1,619.06	1,850.35	2,081.64	2,544.22	3,006.81	3,469.40	4,163.28
Unparished Area	1,299.49	1,516.08	1,732.66	1,949.24	2,382.40	2,815.57	3,248.73	3,898.48

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Table D

CALCULATION OF THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D		
	£	£
Gross Expenditure - General Fund	73,847,370	
Gross Expenditure - HRA	30,352,970	
Parish Precepts	<u>2,489,539</u>	106,689,879
Less Gross Income	(88,106,440)	(88,106,440)
NET EXPENDITURE		18,583,439
Government Grant	(485,000)	
New Homes Bonus	(1,886,050)	
Council Tax Surplus 2020/21	(400,000)	
Retained Business Rates	<u>(4,685,000)</u>	(7,456,050)
BUDGET REQUIREMENT		11,127,389
Less Parish Precepts		(2,489,539)
Council Tax Requirement		<u>8,637,850</u>
Council Tax Base		48,664
Band 'D' Council Tax		177.50
Average including Parishes		228.66

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Table E

REVENUE BUDGET				
SERVICE SUMMARY				
Actuals 2020/21 £	Budget 2021/22 £	Projected Outturn 2021/22 £	Service	Budget 2022/23 £
1,292,207	1,173,200	1,191,700	Corporate Policy, Economic Development & Communications	1,163,420
1,180,023	1,233,590	1,316,050	Legal & Democratic Services	1,349,600
2,501,050	2,168,090	2,469,100	Planning	2,356,110
2,754,547	3,269,790	3,153,840	Finance & IT	3,239,630
74,602	155,350	147,810	HR & Customer Services	176,810
1,376,827	914,200	1,009,280	Housing General Fund Services	1,289,150
2,005,036	711,520	909,290	Community Safety and Wellbeing	761,170
5,176,317	4,738,700	4,839,306	Environmental & Land Management	5,182,840
(1,728,850)	(1,269,350)	(1,424,211)	Corporate Property & Projects	(2,034,450)
4,562,713	3,208,300	3,604,050	Culture	2,534,250
(50,256)	0	0	Ashford Port Health	0
19,144,216	16,303,390	17,216,215	Service Expenditure	16,018,530
(4,246,502)	(2,187,810)	(2,703,060)	Capital Charges & Net Interest	(2,153,740)
949,854	0	0	Revenue Funding of Capital Expenditure	0
270,466	276,000	276,000	Levies	282,000
18,109,351	348,860	(153,060)	Contribution to/from Balances	1,947,110
34,227,385	14,740,440	14,636,095	ABC Budget Requirement	16,093,900
			Income	
(18,046,940)	(4,093,390)	(4,093,390)	Retained Business Rates	(4,685,000)
(5,282,885)	(946,480)	(1,263,480)	Government grant	(485,000)
(3,053,420)	(1,908,220)	(1,908,220)	New Homes Bonus	(1,886,050)
(8,012,237)	(7,792,350)	(7,792,350)	Council Tax	(8,637,850)
0	0	0	Council tax 2020/21 Surplus	(400,000)
(168,097)	0	(421,345)		0

327 Audit Committee – 1st February 2022

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on the 1st February 2022 be approved and adopted.

328 Selection and Constitutional Review Committee – 17th February 2022

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee held on the 17th February 2022 be approved and adopted.

329 Standards Committee – 24th January 2022

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee held on the 24th January 2022 be received and noted.

330 Annual Report of the Council’s Monitoring Officer 2021

Resolved:

That the Annual Report of the Council’s Monitoring Officer 2021 be received and noted.

331 Programme of Meetings 2022/23 and 2023/24

Resolved:

That the Programme of Meetings for 2022/23 and 2023/24 as appended to these Minutes be adopted.

332 Questions by Members of which Notice Had Been Given

(a) Question from Councillor Spain to Councillor Clarkson, Leader of the Council

“I know all my fellow Councillors will share my deep concern over the situation of the Ukrainian people following Russia’s invasion of their country. Since the start of the invasion, I have received updates from a close friend of mine whose Ukrainian wife’s family live in Kyiv. A few days ago, my friend’s wife’s family had to evacuate from their home because the bombing was too close, and having found that the nearest metro/underground station was too full of people to shelter them they had to drive to a relative’s house where they are now sheltering in the basement. The U.N. refugee agency has said today that 1 million people have now fled Ukraine since Russia’s invasion less than a week ago, which they have described as “an exodus without precedent in this century for its speed.” The EU commissioner for crisis management has said that they currently expect the number of displaced Ukrainians to be over 7 million people.

It is against this background that I ask this question of the Leader of the Council. Will the Leader of the Council commit this Council to do everything it can to help refugees from this attack on Ukraine? I realise that the UK government’s visa, support, and other arrangements in relation to Ukrainian refugees are likely to develop further but I am asking the Leader to give us reassurance that he will work proactively with officers of this Council to plan for a situation where Ukrainian refugees arrive in the UK and need our assistance in the Ashford Borough. I know he and all other Members of this Council will be similarly minded to give all possible

support to those who will be fleeing from this war over the coming days, weeks, and months.

Reply by Councillor Clarkson

“I would say I am pleased to receive Councillor Spain’s question, but that would perhaps not quite be the right phrase in response to what is quite quickly becoming a humanitarian disaster. What I can say is that we all stand ready to do whatever we can to assist the Government in supporting Ukrainian refugees. As everybody already knows, this Authority has an exemplary track record with both the Syrian and Afghan refugees. Before the UK Government had even announced their programme to settle 20,000 Syrian refugees over five years, we stepped in with our own offer. Similarly, with the Afghan refugees last year. Indeed the Home Office use Ashford’s response as an example to others nationally and even made a film here to show to others. These people had been fleeing war torn areas and the situation in Ukraine now is arguably even more serious. So what I can commit to is that this Council stands ready to do whatever it can to assist and respond to the Government’s requests. I think all colleagues in this Chamber will unanimously support that position.”

Supplementary Question by Councillor Harman

“I thank the Leader for his response, which I’m sure we would all support. I do know that a lot of people, including myself, would like to assist by making a donation, be that “things” or money, but it’s currently a bit unclear whether it would be “things” or money that would be best and indeed, where that should be directed. Would the Leader be able to ask the Council to provide a clear steer to Members and residents, perhaps via our website, as to what is the best way of making such donations?”

Reply by Councillor Clarkson

“Thank you for that question, which is quite apposite, and I am glad to receive it, but it does somewhat cross over in to the next question, so out of respect I will defer my answer and answer both questions at that time if that is ok?”

(b) Question from Councillor Lyn Suddards to Councillor Clarkson, Leader of the Council

“As already discussed, I think we have all been shocked by the situation in the Ukraine. So I ask if the Leader would support Ashford Borough Council sponsoring one of the fire engines loaded with PPE and other essential equipment, being sent to the Ukraine by the local charity Fire Aid and EASST (the Eastern Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Transport? I have provided the Leader with a bit of information on this project, these Groups are well versed in donating items to Ukraine and its one I hope will be right up his street!”

Reply by Councillor Clarkson

“I do thank Councillor Suddards for her question and she is right to point to my allegiance to this as the former Chief Fire Officer for London. I think we can all support the thrust of this question and I am very familiar with the work that Fire Aid do, which is very good, but I fear that it will be bulldozers that will be more needed to

clear the rubble, rather than firefighting equipment/PPE etc. I know colleague Members and Officers at the Council who do already support the mentioned charities and they are definitely very worthy. The issue currently is that there are a multitude of charities collecting for the people of Ukraine – the British Red Cross, the UNHCR Refugee Agency Appeal, UNICEF and Save the Children to name just a few. These are all very worthy no doubt, but there is a danger that the donations could be misdirected if we go down one specific route. We already call ourselves an International Borough and we really live up to that, so I understand the desire to make some sort of donation and I share that. If we're talking about making a donation with the Council's own money, one of these fire engines costs somewhere in the region of £3000 - £5000 and I wonder if we would be better served to make a donation of £5000 to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). I have been looking in to that today and I understand that this is an umbrella group for 15 of the UK's leading aid charities and the UK Government has pledged to match donations to that appeal. It therefore seems that we will get maximum return from that donation on behalf of the people of Ashford and this would be the best route to go down. I am happy to propose then that the Council makes a donation of £5000 to the DEC appeal."

This was unanimously supported by all Members present.

Supplementary Question by Councillor Mrs Bell

"I am in full support of all that has been said and decided on this. I would also ask the Leader if there are any plans to fly the Ukrainian flag at the Civic Centre in support?"

Reply by Councillor Clarkson

"I can assure colleagues that I haven't already spoken to Councillor Mrs Bell about this, but this is very timely as I can say the answer is very much, yes. As soon as this situation began to escalate last week, I contacted Officers about purchasing a Ukrainian flag to fly at the Civic Centre. Perhaps unsurprisingly, they were very hard to get hold of, but we have one on order and it is expected to arrive next Wednesday. As soon as it arrives we will be flying it at the Civic Centre in solidarity with the people of Ukraine."

DATES OF MEETINGS MAY 2022 - MAY 2024

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

MAY 2022

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

M 9
 Tu 10 O&S
 W 11
 Th 12 JCC 2.30pm
 F 13

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

M 23
 Tu 24 TEB 10am
 W 25
 Th 26 Cabinet
 F 27

M 30
 T 31

JUNE 2022

W 1
 Th 2 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 F 3 **BANK HOLIDAY**

M 6
 Tu 7 Joint Transportation
 W 8
 Th 9
 F 10

M 13
 Tu 14 O&S
 W 15 Planning
 Th 16
 F 17

M 20
 T 21 Audit 5pm
 W 22
 Th 23
 F 24

M 27
 Tu 28
 W 29
 Th 30 Cabinet

JULY 2022

F 1
 M 4
 Tu 5
 W 6
 Th 7
 F 8
 M 11

Tu 12 O&S
 W 13 Planning
 Th 14 JCC 2.30pm
 F 15

M 18
 Tu 19
 W 20
 Th 21 Council
 F 22

M 25
 T 26
 W 27
 Th 28 Cabinet
 F 29

AUGUST 2022

M 1
 Tu 2
 W 3
 Th 4
 F 5

M 8
 Tu 9 O&S
 W 10
 Th 11
 F 12

M 15
 Tu 16
 W 17 Planning
 Th 18
 F 19

M 22
 Tu 23 TEB 10am
 W 24
 Th 25 Cabinet
 F 26

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

Th 1
 F 2

M 5
 Tu 6 Joint Transportation
 W 7
 Th 8 JCC 2.30pm
 F 9

M 12
 Tu 13 O&S
 W 14 Planning
 Th 15
 F 16

M 19
 Tu 20
 W 21
 Th 22
 F 23

M 26
 Tu 27
 W 28
 Th 29 Cabinet
 F 30

OCTOBER 2022

M 3
 Tu 4 Audit 5pm
 W 5
 Th 6
 F 7

M 10
 Tu 11 O&S
 W 12 Planning
 Th 13
 F 14

M 17
 Tu 18
 W 19
 Th 20 Council
 F 21

M 24
 Tu 25
 W 26
 Th 27 Cabinet
 F 28

M 31

NOVEMBER 2022

Tu 1
 W 2
 Th 3
 F 4

M 7
 Tu 8 O&S
 W 9 Planning
 Th 10 JCC 2.30pm
 F 11

M 14
 Tu 15
 W 16
 Th 17
 F 18

M 21
 Tu 22 TEB 10am
 W 23
 Th 24 Cabinet
 F 25

M 28
 Tu 29 Audit 5pm
 W 30

DECEMBER 2022

Th 1
F 2

M 5
Tu 6 Joint Transportation
W 7 Planning
Th 8 Council
F 9

M 12
Tu 13 O&S
W 14
Th 15 Cabinet
F 16

M 19
Tu 20
W 21
Th 22
F 23

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

JANUARY 2023

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

M 9
Tu 10
W 11
Th 12 JCC 2.30pm
F 13

M 16
Tu 17 Licensing/Regulatory
10am/10.30am
W 18 Planning
Th 19
F 20

M 23
Tu 24
W 25
Th 26 Cabinet
F 27

M 30
Tu 31 Standards

* No O&S meeting in
January due to Budget
Scrutiny

FEBRUARY 2023

W 1
Th 2
F 3

M 6
Tu 7

W 8
Th 9
F 10

M 13
Tu 14 O&S
W 15 Planning
Th 16
F 17

M 20
Tu 21 TEB 10am
W 22
Th 23 Cabinet
F 24

M 27
T 28

MARCH 2023

W 1
Th 2 Council (C Tax)
F 3

M 6
Tu 7 Joint Transportation
W 8
Th 9 JCC 2.30pm
F 10

M 13
Tu 14 O&S
W 15 Planning
Th 16
F 17

M 20
Tu 21 Audit 5pm
W 22
Th 23
F 24

M 27
Tu 28
W 29
Th 30 Cabinet
F 31

APRIL 2023

M 3
Tu 4
W 5
Th 6
F 7 **GOOD FRIDAY**

M 10 **EASTER MONDAY**
Tu 11 O&S
W 12
Th 13
F 14

M 17
Tu 18
W 19 Planning
Th 20 Council
F 22

M 24
Tu 25

W 26
Th 27 Cabinet
F 28

MAY 2023

M 1 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 2
W 3
Th 4 **ABC ELECTIONS**
F 5


M 8
Tu 9
W 10
Th 11
F 12

M 15
Tu 16
W 17
Th 18 Selection & CR
F 19

M 22
Tu 23
W 24
Th 25 Council
F 26

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

KEY	
O&S	- Overview and Scrutiny
JCC	- Joint Consultative Committee

 School Holidays

MAY 2023

M 1 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 2
 W 3
 Th 4 **ABC ELECTIONS**
 F 5

M 8
 Tu 9
 W 10
 Th 11
 F 12

M 15
 Tu 16
 W 17 Selection & CR
 Th 18
 F 19

M 22
 Tu 23
 W 24
 Th 25 Council
 F 26

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

JUNE 2023

Th 1
 F 2

M 5
 Tu 6 Joint Transportation
 W 7 Planning
 Th 8
 F 9

M 12
 Tu 13 O&S
 W 14
 Th 15
 F 16

M 19
 T 20 Audit 5pm
 W 21
 Th 22
 F 23

M 26
 Tu 27
 W 28
 Th 29 Cabinet
 F 30

JULY 2023

M 3
 Tu 4
 W 5 Planning
 Th 6
 F 7

M 10
 Tu 11 O&S
 W 12
 Th 13 JCC 2.30pm
 F 14

M 17
 Tu 18
 W 19
 Th 20 Council
 F 21

M 24
 T 25
 W 26
 Th 27 Cabinet
 F 28

M 31

AUGUST 2023

Tu 1
 W 2
 Th 3
 F 4

M 7
 Tu 8 O&S
 W 9 Planning
 Th 10
 F 11

M 14
 Tu 15
 W 16
 Th 17
 F 18

M 21
 Tu 22
 W 23
 Th 24
 F 25

M 28 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 29 TEB 10am
 W 30
 Th 31 Cabinet

SEPTEMBER 2023

F 1

M 4
 Tu 5 Joint Transportation
 W 6 Planning
 Th 7
 F 8

M 11
 Tu 12 O&S
 W 13
 Th 14 JCC 2.30pm
 F 15

M 18
 Tu 19
 W 20
 Th 21
 F 22

M 25
 Tu 26
 W 27
 Th 28 Cabinet
 F 29

OCTOBER 2023

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

M 9
 Tu 10 O&S
 W 11
 Th 12
 F 13

M 16
 Tu 17
 W 18
 Th 19 Council
 F 20

M 23
 Tu 24
 W 25
 Th 26 Cabinet
 F 27

M 30
 Tu 31

NOVEMBER 2023

W 1
 Th 2
 F 3

M 6
 Tu 7
 W 8 Planning
 Th 9 JCC 2.30pm
 F 10

M 13
 Tu 14 O&S
 W 15
 Th 16
 F 17

M 20
 Tu 21
 W 22
 Th 23
 F 24

M 27
 Tu 28 TEB 10am
 W 29
 Th 30 Cabinet

DECEMBER 2023

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

JANUARY 2024

M 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
Tu 2
W 3
Th 4
F 5
M 8
Tu 9
W 10
Th 11 JCC 2.30pm
F 12
M 15
Tu 16 Licensing/Regulatory
10am/10.30am
W 17 Planning
Th 18
F 19
M 22
Tu 23
W 24
Th 25 Cabinet
F 26
M 29
Tu 30 Standards
W 31

* No O&S meeting in January due to Budget Scrutiny

FEBRUARY 2024

Th 1
F 2
M 5
Tu 6
W 7

Th 8
F 9
M 12
Tu 13 O&S
W 14 Planning
Th 15
F 16
M 19
Tu 20
W 21
Th 22
F 23
M 26
Tu 27 TEB 10am
W 28
Th 29 Cabinet

MARCH 2024

F 1
M 4
Tu 5 Joint Transportation
W 6
Th 7 Council (C Tax)
F 8
M 11
Tu 12 O&S
W 13 Planning
Th 14 JCC 2.30pm
F 15
M 18
Tu 19 Audit 5pm
W 20
Th 21
F 22
M 25
Tu 26
W 27
Th 28 Cabinet
F 29 **GOOD FRIDAY**

APRIL 2024

M 1 **EASTER MONDAY**
Tu 2
W 3
Th 4
F 5
M 8
Tu 9 O&S
W 10
Th 11
F 12
M 15
Tu 16
W 17 Planning
Th 18 Council
F 19
M 22
Tu 23
W 24

Th 25 Cabinet
F 26
M 29
Tu 30

MAY 2024

W 1
Th 2 **GENERAL ELECTION PCC ELECTIONS**
F 3
M 6 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 7 Selection & CR
W 8
Th 9 JCC 2.30pm
F 10
M 13
Tu 14 O&S
W 15 Planning
Th 16 Council
F 17
M 20
Tu 21
W 22
Th 23
F 24
M 27 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 28 TEB 10am
W 29
Th 30 Cabinet
F 31

KEY	
O&S	- Overview and Scrutiny
JCC	- Joint Consultative Committee

 School Holidays