

Ashford Borough Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **2nd March 2023**.

Present:

Her Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr. J A Webb (Chairman);

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

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Members remained standing for a period of silence in respect of the late John Holland who was the Borough Council Member for the Washford Ward between 2003 and 2011 and Mayor of the Borough in 2009/10, and in respect of Anthony Leonard Hale who was the Borough Council Member for the Tenterden South East Ward between 1987 and 1999 and Honorary Alderman, who had both passed away recently. The Reverend Dr Sue Starkings then said prayers.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Clokie, T Heyes, Wright.

Also Present:

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Director of Customer, Technology and Finance, Member Services Manager.

325 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.

326 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Bartlett	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Member of Kennington Community Council and Sevington with Finberry Parish Council.	332
Campkin	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Member of South Willesborough and Newtown Parish Council.	332

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Chilton	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as Chair of Stanhope Parish Council.	332
Feacey	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as Chairman of the Ashford International Development Company.	332
Harman	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as Chair of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council.	332
Hayward	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Member of Stanhope Parish Council.	332
Iliffe	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Member of Kennington Community Council.	332
Knowles	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Member of Tenterden Town Council.	332
Ledger	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as Vice-Chair of Shadoxhurst Parish Council.	332
Mulholland	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Member of Tenterden Town Council.	332
Ovenden	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Member of Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council.	332
Rogers	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as Vice-Chair of South Willesborough and Newtown Parish Council.	332
Wedgbury	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Member of Kingsnorth Parish Council and a Shop Steward for the USDAW Trade Union.	332

327 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 22nd December 2022 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

328 Announcements

(a) The Mayor

The Mayor advised that because of the importance of this Council Meeting she had decided to keep her update brief.

She had continued to attend and enjoy community events and felt that the Council should be proud of its achievements particularly with regard to play areas that had become a reality through Councillors, Portfolio Holders, Officers, Parish Councils and residents all working together. There was nothing more rewarding than hearing children laughing and playing in a safe environment to be enjoyed by all. This had been especially evident at the opening of the new facilities at Spearpoint.

The Mayor said she would like to remind colleagues about her upcoming Charity events for Singleton Spaces and looked forward to Members supporting this worthwhile environmental charity. On Friday 10th March at 7pm she would be hosting a Murder Mystery Night and Buffet – ‘A Taste for Murder’ which was now sold out. However, other events included her Civic Ball with two course dinner and entertainment from ABBA Chique on Saturday 25th March at 7pm at London Beach Hotel. The last few tickets were left at £45. On Tuesday 18th April at 2.30pm there would be a Musical Afternoon Tea Party at the Jean Mealham Pop-In Centre Woodchurch. Tickets for this were only £10 for a lovely afternoon of music and cake. On Saturday 29th April at 7pm there was a Curry and Quiz Night at the London Beach Hotel. Tables of 8 or smaller numbers to join tables were welcomed. Tickets for this were £20 including a curry supper and prizes to be won. Finally, on Saturday 20th May at 6.30pm the Mayor would be hosting her finale Bat Walk and Buffet at the Singleton Environment Centre, which would be great fun. If anyone was interested in joining her at any of these events, please contact Donna Sowerby.

The Mayor advised that there was an important march programmed for this coming Sunday (5th March 2023) to mark International Women’s Day and this would once again highlight Ashford’s Safer Streets Strategy. She wanted to take this opportunity to thank two particular Councillors. Firstly, Councillor Peter Feacey for his initiation of, and continued steadfast commitment to, Ashford’s Safer Streets Strategy by promoting and working with Officers, Police and Charlton Athletic to make Ashford’s streets safer. Also to Councillor Lyn Suddards for her passion and commitment ensuring that Ashford celebrated International Women’s Day annually and ensured that the Safer Streets Strategy commitment was maintained as a high profile. She appreciated all the work that Councillor Suddards put in to arranging such marches and she implored all Councillors, both female and male, to support the march and its important message that coming Sunday.

(b) Leader of the Council

The Leader said that he had a few relevant matters that he wished to bring to the attention of Members.

Firstly, as Members and Officers would know, Michael Gove had announced the setting up of "Oflog" - The Office for Local Government in June last year. On the 10th February he and the Chief Executive had received a letter from Lord Morse, indicating that he had been appointed as the interim Chair of Oflog. Lord Morse had indicated that this new body had the objective of highlighting the work of Local Government, shining a light on excellence and providing data about the performance of Authorities. It sought to strengthen local Leaders’ knowledge of their services even further and to assist Central Government to better identify trends.

The Leader said he was sure that colleagues would have been pleased to note that just four days ago, on the 27th February, the Marriage and Civil Partnership

(Minimum Age) Act 2022 came into force. It meant that no one below the age of 18 would be allowed to marry or enter into civil partnerships, even if they had parental consent. Since 2012, many developed western democracies had raised the age of marriage to 18 in an effort to protect adolescents, particularly girls, from forced marriages. This Act came into force just a week or so before International Women's Day, on the 8th March which, as mentioned by the Mayor, the Council was recognising this coming Sunday.

Further to the subject of safety, he also wanted to record Members' thanks to Officers for arranging a very moving presentation in the Council Chamber last Thursday by the "Acting-Up" Drama Company from Homewood School. The drama was called "It's About Your Son", written by Deborah Cook, an acclaimed star from East Enders and acted out very effectively by the young students. There had not been a large number of Members present and he hoped they may be able to repeat the performance in the future as it had been very thought provoking.

The Leader said he was pleased to confirm that they had reached agreement with Unison, the Council's recognised Union for collective bargaining, for the staff pay award for the year 2023/24. Clearly negotiations had been difficult this year due to the spiralling cost of living and the wider national context, with many public sector Unions taking strike action. However they had worked collaboratively with Unison, and jointly engaged with staff more widely through the Joint Consultative Committee representatives. The final offer made by management was a 5% rise across the board, plus a £250 one-off (non-consolidated) payment for officers at grades MG8 and below. He was advised that turnout for the ballot was high, and 73% of Unison members voted to accept the offer put forward. Fortunately, financial colleagues had made provision for up-to a 5% award in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023/24. They were therefore in a reasonable position in that this would not place an unexpected pressure on the MTFP. This pay award was higher than any across the board award they had made in recent years, but had to be if they were to pay staff rates of pay that could sustain their families. The award was consistent with other Authorities in Kent and that was important if they were to retain and attract good Officers to help deliver the Administration's priorities. Nationally, they were currently seeing how protracted pay negotiations could be and this relatively swift agreement was testament to the good working relationships they had with their local Unison branch and the regional team that supported them. He wanted to thank all involved on behalf of the Members of the Authority.

He concluded by advising that the Council's current waste contractor Biffa had been in negotiation with the GMB Union, representing the staff they employed for the Council's waste collection. He was pleased to say that had, just the previous morning, had their final offer accepted by their staff and thus a strike had been averted. They all knew just how well they had been served by the waste collection service and it was good that this was now settled and their staff could continue the good work. The final settlement was higher than they had predicted and would add about £1.2m of budget pressure over the five years of the MTFP. He advised that when they came to Item 11 on the Agenda, the Budget, he would be proposing a revised Motion.

329 Licensing Committee – 17th January 2023

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 17th January 2023 be approved and adopted.

330 Regulatory Committee – 17th January 2023

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Committee held on the 17th January 2023 be approved and adopted.

331 Cabinet – 23rd February 2023.

Resolved:

That subject to the expiry of the period by which decisions arising from the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 23rd February may be called in, i.e. 8th March 2023:-

- (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 23rd February 2023 be received and noted with the exception of Minute Nos. 311 and 314.**
- (ii) Minute No. 314 be approved and adopted.**
- (iii) the recommendations in Minute No. 311 be deferred for consideration as part of the agenda item dealing with the Budget and Council Tax Resolutions 2023/24.**

332 Council Tax Resolutions and General Fund Budget 2023/24 and Minute Number 311/2/23.

The Leader of the Council advised that he would be moving a motion in a revised form from the Cabinet recommendation. By way of explanation, Members would have noted in his earlier announcements that there had been events that had affected the Council's budget provisions. This had been as a consequence of the conclusion of the pay negotiations between the Council's refuse contractor and their recognised Trade Union. The outcome of those negotiations had had an impact on the Council's budget to the extent of about £1.2m over the course of the Medium Term Financial Plan, so it meant that whilst they had hoped to limit their increase in Council Tax it was no longer possible to do so. He was therefore recommending that the Council reverted to the level of increase that was included in the draft budget and publicly consulted upon. This meant that Recommendation (i) from the Cabinet be revised from an overall budget requirement of £18,642,710 to £18,703,840 and that Recommendation (iii) be revised from a Band D council tax of £181.25 to £182.50. This would be a rise of just £5, in line with what had been done in recent years. The Council Tax resolutions that had been circulated with the agenda would

be amended accordingly and he asked colleagues to support this sensible change to the budget.

The Leader of the Council therefore proposed:-

“That the budget recommendations as set out in Minute No. 311 of the Cabinet and the formal Council Tax resolutions for 2023/24 be approved, subject to Recommendation (i) being revised to an overall budget requirement of £18,703,840, and Recommendation (iii) being revised to a Band D council tax of £182.50.”

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 Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report on that Committee’s scrutiny of the Cabinet’s initial budget proposals. Councillor Ovenden advised that this was the second time in a matter of months that he had felt ‘blindsided’ by late information coming forward about the budget. A colleague had said that this year’s budget had been like “nailing jelly to a wall” and he had to agree. Budget Scrutiny this year had proven almost impossible to do but he thanked those Officers involved for their efforts and assistance. The Task Group had originally found this year’s draft budget to be “sound and deliverable” based on the information available at that time and with a recognition that it would be supported by the reserve built up for that purpose – the Economic Resilience Reserve. The Task Group had also made a series of recommendations to be taken forward. The draft budget then came to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee changed and the Committee had made more recommendations, including asking the Cabinet to return to the £5 Council Tax increase as proposed in the draft budget. The Cabinet had initially rejected that proposal at their meeting last week, but now, for whatever reason, they were now proising that figure. He was pleased to see this as it was the sensible decision. He still considered this year’s budget was deliverable, but he was beginning to question the phrase “sound” and a significant amount of work would be needed for all involved to identify ongoing savings.

Councillor Campkin said that, as ever, he could not support any budget that proposed any tax rise with any de facto service cuts. He said that he had attended last week’s Cabinet meeting heard a very good case from the Leader for the proposed budget and a very good argument from the Leader of the Opposition for increasing the Council Tax further, all within, of course, the wider context of current national and global issues. The War in Ukraine had been mentioned, as was Covid, but Brexit had been conspicuous by its absence. What he had also seen was an attempt to speak past the elephant in the room - “austerity”. He said that for 13 years Local Authorities had been struggling to do more with less, and working class people had got less for more, and this budget proposed both a tax rise and de-facto cuts in services. He believed people were leaving the public sector, not because they didn’t feel they were paid enough or they had had a better offer, but because they just could not do their jobs any more. He considered Council Tax should subsidise general taxation, not replace it, but every year this Council was forced to do more with less and charge those least able to afford it for services they had already paid for. 13 years of austerity had meant that there were children

considering what GCSEs they would take to set themselves up for the rest of their lives who had no idea what free adult education was, or what a properly funded Local Authority was actually capable of. Ashford Borough Council had done more than just survive through those years, to the credit of the Chief Executive and the Leader, but he wondered what more could have been achieved if Government funding had not been slashed year after year. The Leader had proudly proclaimed that as soon as the EU referendum vote was announced he had ordered the creation of the Ashford Economic Resilience Reserve, and that this has also got us through Covid and helped with the current cost of living crisis. Whilst this had been clever, it just showed that the Council recognised what those in Westminster were doing and took precautions. However, they hadn't done anything about it, they hadn't spoken out and they didn't try to prevent any of it. If they had it may have been a futile gesture, but that would have been better than nothing. Instead they had kept their heads down, bid for grants, applied for funding and begged for scraps from the table and praised their overlords when those scraps fell. This had all been at a time when the Government were partying, sliding multi-billion pound contracts to their friends and telling everyone that Austerity was here to stay because they would not renationalise the utilities that residents couldn't afford, they wouldn't tax the big corporations and they would not fund Local Authorities properly. They also wouldn't tax the oil companies that were reporting record profits, and spend that money on transitioning to renewable energy to mitigate climate change and they would not tax the billionaires that own the mainstream media. Councillor Campkin said he thought this country was falling apart and beginning to eat itself alive and as futile as it may be, someone had to stand up and say something. It was not fair on their residents, it was not fair on their staff and it was not fair on the Members of this Council. The country had one Group who were forced to defend Austerity because their predecessors brought it in, another Group who were not allowed to mention it because they planned to continue it and a third group that understandably did not want to engage with the nasty, mudslinging, national politics that they are all victims of. He was in a privileged position of being able to say all the things that others either could not or would not and he could get away with voting against this budget. He could make a principled stand without having to face the consequences. It was with regret that he could not support this budget.

Councillor Chilton said he would join with the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny in thanking those Officers and Members who had contributed to the Budget Scrutiny process. He also wanted to thank the current Portfolio Holder for Finance who was stepping down as a Member in May. He had always been a good and decent man and he wished him well for the future. He said that in his 12 years on the Council this had been the first year where they had genuinely not been sure what would be on the papers at each meeting and the situation seemed to change almost minute by minute. He contended the reason put forward by the Leader for the late change having anything to do with the refuse service and thought it was actually because the Administration knew they would lose the vote on its original proposal. He quoted from the original Medium Term Financial Plan report which stated *"whilst this version of the MTFP can be funded from reserves, the current economic conditions could lead to an unsustainable long term financial position if the deficit is not properly addressed. In the event that the Council's S151 Statutory Officer had concern over the long term financial health of the Council then they would be legally required to issue as S114 notice to raise the concern with Government. It is the opinion of the S151 officer that at the moment the Council is not in this position but should affirmative action not be taken to find the necessary savings identified to address the*

MTFP deficit, then we could slowly move in that direction". A S144 notice meant bankruptcy, and this was not something he had seen in any reports before during his time on the Council and had made him feel uneasy. With reference to the ongoing savings needed, he considered current advice remained extremely 'woolly' and thought that every resident and every Member needed more information on the full range of savings proposed so they were aware of what was being proposed for the future. He considered that a detailed schedule should be made available to all Members ahead of the next Cabinet meeting in March. Councillor Chilton also mentioned the proposed 7% increase in rents which and was concerned about the impact on some of the Council's tenants. He thought this was something that the Council needed to keep a close eye on and be careful with.

He moved the following amendment to the Motion:

"That the full programme of savings, for this year and the years ahead, be published and provided to Members ahead of the next Cabinet Meeting".

This was seconded

Councillor Shorter, as Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Digital, said it was important to point out that there were two strands to the savings – those one-off savings identified for this year and others which would be year on year that were still being worked on. Appendix O of the budget report did identify the broad areas that were being looked at and it had already been agreed that Overview and Scrutiny would be provided with more detail and be able to scrutinise the delivery of those savings, but that information was not likely to be ready in the next few weeks and would be a job for the new Administration after May.

Councillor Mrs Bell said she would be supporting the revised proposal moved by the Leader, although she would have preferred a smaller increase in the Council Tax. The key message was that this Conservative Administration had been prepared to examine lower levels of Council Tax and that sound financial management over the years had retained Ashford's position as one of the lowest Council Taxes in Kent.

Councillor Bernard Heyes advised that he was uncomfortable with the proposed Council Tax rise and would be voting against the revised Motion.

Councillor Ovenden said that he had previously spoken in his role as Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny, but as a Member of this Council he continued to have concerns about the ongoing sustainability of this budget. He was also ashamed at the amount of Political games being played and statements being made. He would love to see National Politics kept out of this Chamber and the concentration be kept on what was best for residents. He would be supporting the proposals on this year's budget for precisely that reason. Ashford was still offering one of the lowest Council Taxes in Kent, and did offer good value to its residents, but he did have concerns going forward.

The Leader of the Council said it would be difficult to accommodate the amendment, purely because much more work was needed to identify and 'flesh out' the longer term savings. With just eight weeks to go until the elections, he did not feel proper justice could be done to that work in time and it would be a job for the new Administration. This Administration had achieved a lot and not reduced services to

the public. Their record showed that they had actually increased services.

Councillor Farrell, as seconder of the amended Motion said he continued to support Councillor Chilton's addition to the Motion.

Councillor Chilton said he would like to maintain his original addition to the Motion. His main concern was that he did not know how many of the Members currently in this Chamber would still be in place after May and the statement that "proposals were still being worked on" was not sufficient. He understood that the Administration may not wish to publish further details before the elections as it would amount to a 'list of cuts' but he thought both Members and residents were entitled to know further information on these savings proposals.

A vote on the amendment put forward by Councillor Chilton was taken. This was lost.

Councillor Bartlett as seconder of the original Motion said that there appeared to be some element of broad consensus over the £5 rise in Council Tax. This budget proposed no cuts to statutory services and there were policies in place to assist those suffering exceptional hardship. It was accepted that further efficiencies were needed and he knew that they would come so he urged all colleagues to support this budget so the Council could get on with the job in hand.

A recorded vote was then taken on the original motion moved by the Leader and seconded by the Deputy Leader and the Members voted as follows: -

For: Councillors Barrett, Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Bell, Blanford, Brooks, Buchanan, Burgess, Clarkson, Cornish, Feacey, Forest, Harman, Hayward, Howard, Howard-Smith, Iliffe, Krause, Ledger, Link, Michael, Mulholland, Ovenden, Pauley, Pickering, Rogers, Shorter, Smith, Sparks, Webb.

Votes For 30

Against: Councillors Anckorn, Campkin, Chilton, Farrell, B Heyes, Knowles, Meaden, Nilsson, Spain, C Suddards, L Suddards, Turner, Walder, Wedgbury.

Votes Against 14

Abstentions: None

Abstentions 0

Resolved:

That (i) **the Budget for 2023/24 as recommended by the Cabinet in Minute No. 311 be approved, subject to Recommendation (i) being revised to an overall budget requirement of £18,703,840, and Recommendation (iii) being revised to a Band D council tax of £182.50.**

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

1. It be noted that on **27 October 2022** the Cabinet calculated:
 - a. The Council Tax Base for 2023/24 for the whole Council area as 48,906 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government 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. Calculation that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts) is **£8,925,340 (Tables D and E)**.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

106,847,705 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.

95,303,220 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

11,544,485 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).

236.05 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)

2,619,145 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).

182.50 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. (Annex D & E)

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

Local tax base 2023/24	Parish	Precept 2023/24
		Charged to taxpayers
		£
641	Aldington & Bonnington	55,675.00
383	Appledore	26,000.00
762	Bethersden	40,000.00
1,310	Biddenden	62,887.55
158	Bilsington	7,535.00
1,084	Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	36,074.00
625	Braboume	34,000.00
156	Brook	12,500.00
534	Challock	24,000.00
1,374	Charing	181,085.00
784	Chilham	52,670.00
94	Crundale (PM)	500.00
536	Egerton	43,056.00
180	Godmersham	7,035.00
2,761	Great Chart with Singleton	326,412.00
116	Hastingleigh	4,500.00
751	High Halden	33,054.00
273	Hothfield	15,500.00
109	Kenardington	6,500.00
3,775	Kennington	106,870.00
4,651	Kingsnorth	263,990.76
135	Little Chart	6,222.00
523	Mersham	23,350.00
116	Molash	4,250.00
109	Newenden	10,000.00
637	Orlestone	20,272.00
504	Pluckley	49,023.00
714	Rolvenden	33,786.00
342	Ruckinge	11,000.00
863	Sevington	13,560.54
579	Shadoxhurst	21,910.20
723	Smarden	47,082.20
379	Smeeth	23,738.00
1,268	South Willesborough & Newtown	72,240.00
784	Stanhope	17,800.00
213	Stone	5,750.00
3,891	Tenterden (TC)	653,580.00
166	Warehome	5,250.00
513	Westwell	28,550.00
560	Wittersham	35,000.00
873	Woodchurch	45,207.00
1,082	Wye with Hinxhill	151,730.00
36,031		2,619,145.25

* Note: Band D Equivalent Tax base for the unparished area is 12,875

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	179.58	209.50	239.43	269.36	329.22	389.07	448.94	538.72
Appledore	166.93	194.74	222.57	250.39	306.04	361.67	417.32	500.78
Bethersden	156.66	182.77	208.88	234.99	287.21	339.43	391.65	469.98
Biddenden	153.68	179.28	204.90	230.51	281.74	332.96	384.19	461.02
Bilsington	153.46	179.03	204.61	230.19	281.35	332.50	383.65	460.38
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	143.86	167.82	191.80	215.78	263.74	311.68	359.64	431.56
Brabourne	157.94	184.25	210.58	236.90	289.55	342.19	394.84	473.80
Brook	175.09	204.26	233.45	262.63	321.00	379.35	437.72	525.26
Challock	151.63	176.89	202.17	227.44	277.99	328.52	379.07	454.88
Charing	209.53	244.44	279.37	314.29	384.14	453.97	523.82	628.58
Chilham	166.46	194.19	221.94	249.68	305.17	360.65	416.14	499.36
Crundale (PM)	125.22	146.08	166.95	187.82	229.56	271.29	313.04	375.64
Egerton	175.22	204.42	233.62	262.83	321.24	379.64	438.05	525.66
Godmersham	147.72	172.34	196.96	221.58	270.82	320.06	369.30	443.16
Great Chart with Singleton	200.48	233.89	267.30	300.72	367.55	434.37	501.20	601.44
Hastingleigh	147.53	172.11	196.70	221.29	270.47	319.64	368.82	442.58
High Halden	151.01	176.17	201.34	226.51	276.85	327.18	377.52	453.02
Hothfield	159.52	186.10	212.69	239.28	292.46	345.63	398.80	478.56
Kenardington	161.42	188.32	215.22	242.13	295.94	349.74	403.55	484.26
Kennington	140.54	163.96	187.38	210.81	257.66	304.50	351.35	421.62
Kingsnorth	159.51	186.09	212.67	239.26	292.43	345.60	398.77	478.52
Little Chart	152.40	177.79	203.19	228.59	279.39	330.18	380.99	457.18
Mersham	151.44	176.67	201.91	227.15	277.63	328.10	378.59	454.30
Molash	146.10	170.44	194.79	219.14	267.84	316.53	365.24	438.28
Newenden	182.83	213.29	243.77	274.24	335.19	396.12	457.07	548.48
Orlestone	142.88	166.69	190.50	214.32	261.95	309.57	357.20	428.64
Pluckley	186.52	217.59	248.68	279.77	341.95	404.11	466.29	559.54
Rolvenden	153.22	178.74	204.28	229.82	280.90	331.96	383.04	459.64
Ruckinge	143.11	166.95	190.81	214.66	262.37	310.06	357.77	429.32
Sevington	132.14	154.16	176.18	198.21	242.26	286.30	330.35	396.42
Shadoxhurst	146.90	171.37	195.86	220.34	269.31	318.27	367.24	440.68
Smarden	165.08	192.59	220.10	247.62	302.65	357.67	412.70	495.24
Smeeth	163.42	190.65	217.89	245.13	299.61	354.08	408.55	490.26
South Willesborough & Newtown	159.65	186.25	212.86	239.47	292.69	345.90	399.12	478.94
Stanhope	136.80	159.60	182.40	205.20	250.80	296.40	342.00	410.40
Stone	139.67	162.94	186.22	209.50	256.06	302.61	349.17	419.00
Tenterden (TC)	233.65	272.58	311.53	350.47	428.36	506.23	584.12	700.94
Warehorne	142.76	166.54	190.34	214.13	261.72	309.30	356.89	428.26
Westwell	158.77	185.22	211.69	238.15	291.08	343.99	396.92	476.30
Wittersham	163.34	190.55	217.78	245.00	299.45	353.89	408.34	490.00
Woodchurch	156.19	182.21	208.25	234.28	286.35	338.40	390.47	468.56
Wye with Hinxhill	215.16	251.01	286.87	322.73	394.45	466.16	537.89	645.46
Unparished Area	121.67	141.94	162.22	182.50	223.06	263.61	304.17	365.00

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	1,422.70	1,659.81	1,896.92	2,134.04	2,608.27	3,082.50	3,556.74	4,268.08
Appledore	1,410.05	1,645.05	1,880.06	2,115.07	2,585.09	3,055.10	3,525.12	4,230.14
Bethersden	1,399.78	1,633.08	1,866.37	2,099.67	2,566.26	3,032.86	3,499.45	4,199.34
Biddenden	1,396.80	1,629.59	1,862.39	2,095.19	2,560.79	3,026.39	3,491.99	4,190.38
Bilsington	1,396.58	1,629.34	1,862.10	2,094.87	2,560.40	3,025.93	3,491.45	4,189.74
Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	1,386.98	1,618.13	1,849.29	2,080.46	2,542.79	3,005.11	3,467.44	4,160.92
Brabourne	1,401.06	1,634.56	1,868.07	2,101.58	2,568.60	3,035.62	3,502.64	4,203.16
Brook	1,418.21	1,654.57	1,890.94	2,127.31	2,600.05	3,072.78	3,545.52	4,254.62
Challock	1,394.75	1,627.20	1,859.66	2,092.12	2,557.04	3,021.95	3,486.87	4,184.24
Charing	1,452.65	1,694.75	1,936.86	2,178.97	2,663.19	3,147.40	3,631.62	4,357.94
Chilham	1,409.58	1,644.50	1,879.43	2,114.36	2,584.22	3,054.08	3,523.94	4,228.72
Crundale (PM)	1,368.34	1,596.39	1,824.44	2,052.50	2,508.61	2,964.72	3,420.84	4,105.00
Egerton	1,418.34	1,654.73	1,891.11	2,127.51	2,600.29	3,073.07	3,545.85	4,255.02
Godmersham	1,390.84	1,622.65	1,854.45	2,086.26	2,549.87	3,013.49	3,477.10	4,172.52
Great Chart with Singleton	1,443.60	1,684.20	1,924.79	2,165.40	2,646.60	3,127.80	3,609.00	4,330.80
Hastingleigh	1,390.65	1,622.42	1,854.19	2,085.97	2,549.52	3,013.07	3,476.62	4,171.94
High Halden	1,394.13	1,626.48	1,858.83	2,091.19	2,555.90	3,020.61	3,485.32	4,182.38
Hothfield	1,402.64	1,636.41	1,870.18	2,103.96	2,571.51	3,039.06	3,506.60	4,207.92
Kenardington	1,404.54	1,638.63	1,872.71	2,106.81	2,574.99	3,043.17	3,511.35	4,213.62
Kennington	1,383.66	1,614.27	1,844.87	2,075.49	2,536.71	2,997.93	3,459.15	4,150.98
Kingsnorth	1,402.63	1,636.40	1,870.16	2,103.94	2,571.48	3,039.03	3,506.57	4,207.88
Little Chart	1,395.52	1,628.10	1,860.68	2,093.27	2,558.44	3,023.61	3,488.79	4,186.54
Mersham	1,394.56	1,626.98	1,859.40	2,091.83	2,556.68	3,021.53	3,486.39	4,183.66
Molash	1,389.22	1,620.75	1,852.28	2,083.82	2,546.89	3,009.96	3,473.04	4,167.64
Newenden	1,425.95	1,663.60	1,901.26	2,138.92	2,614.24	3,089.55	3,564.87	4,277.84
Orlestone	1,386.00	1,617.00	1,847.99	2,079.00	2,541.00	3,003.00	3,465.00	4,158.00
Pluckley	1,429.64	1,667.90	1,906.17	2,144.45	2,621.00	3,097.54	3,574.09	4,288.90
Rolvenden	1,396.34	1,629.05	1,861.77	2,094.50	2,559.95	3,025.39	3,490.84	4,189.00
Ruckinge	1,386.23	1,617.26	1,848.30	2,079.34	2,541.42	3,003.49	3,465.57	4,158.68
Sevington	1,375.26	1,604.47	1,833.67	2,062.89	2,521.31	2,979.73	3,438.15	4,125.78
Shadoxhurst	1,390.02	1,621.68	1,853.35	2,085.02	2,548.36	3,011.70	3,475.04	4,170.04
Smarden	1,408.20	1,642.90	1,877.59	2,112.30	2,581.70	3,051.10	3,520.50	4,224.60
Smeeth	1,406.54	1,640.96	1,875.38	2,109.81	2,578.66	3,047.51	3,516.35	4,219.62
South Willesborough & Newtown	1,402.77	1,636.56	1,870.35	2,104.15	2,571.74	3,039.33	3,506.92	4,208.30
Stanhope	1,379.92	1,609.91	1,839.89	2,069.88	2,529.85	2,989.83	3,449.80	4,139.76
Stone	1,382.79	1,613.25	1,843.71	2,074.18	2,535.11	2,996.04	3,456.97	4,148.36
Tenterden (TC)	1,476.77	1,722.89	1,969.02	2,215.15	2,707.41	3,199.66	3,691.92	4,430.30
Warehome	1,385.88	1,616.85	1,847.83	2,078.81	2,540.77	3,002.73	3,464.69	4,157.62
Westwell	1,401.89	1,635.53	1,869.18	2,102.83	2,570.13	3,037.42	3,504.72	4,205.66
Wittersham	1,406.46	1,640.86	1,875.27	2,109.68	2,578.50	3,047.32	3,516.14	4,219.36
Woodchurch	1,399.31	1,632.52	1,865.74	2,098.96	2,565.40	3,031.83	3,498.27	4,197.92
Wye with Hinxhill	1,458.28	1,701.32	1,944.36	2,187.41	2,673.50	3,159.59	3,645.69	4,374.82
Unparished Area	1,364.79	1,592.25	1,819.71	2,047.18	2,502.11	2,957.04	3,411.97	4,094.36

TABLE D

CALCULATION OF THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D		
	£	£
Gross Expenditure - General Fund	70,788,040	
Gross Expenditure - HRA	33,440,520	
Parish Precepts	<u>2,619,145</u>	106,847,705
Less Gross Income	(85,524,720)	(85,524,720)
NET EXPENDITURE		<u>21,322,985</u>
Government Grant	(614,500)	
New Homes Bonus	(1,662,000)	
Retained Business Rates	<u>(7,502,000)</u>	(9,778,500)
BUDGET REQUIREMENT		<u>11,544,485</u>
Less Parish Precepts		(2,619,145)
Council Tax Requirement		<u><u>8,925,340</u></u>
Council Tax Base		48,906
Band 'D' Council Tax		182.50
Average including Parishes		236.05

DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

TABLE E

REVENUE BUDGET				
SERVICE SUMMARY				
Actuals 2021/22 £	Budget 2022/23 £	Projected Outturn 2022/23 £	Service	Budget 2023/24 £
2,401,462	2,330,930	2,185,675	Finance and IT	3,097,440
459,471	630,340	611,330	HR, Customer Services, Comms and Digital	660,810
1,230,828	1,258,790	1,658,174	Housing	1,531,120
1,100,645	761,160	940,876	Safety Wellbeing and Port	1,379,940
6,519,565	5,266,170	5,792,898	Environment, Property and Recreation	6,757,090
2,782,453	2,356,110	2,682,144	Planning and Development	2,636,170
568,344	935,400	1,388,660	Corporate Management Costs	833,600
656,187	629,790	675,321	Head of Economic Development	776,190
1,387,271	1,442,240	1,421,519	Head of Performance and Policy	1,677,140
413,879	410,510	326,940	Solicitor to The Council and Monitoring Officer	413,560
17,520,104	16,021,440	17,683,537	Service Expenditure	19,763,060
(2,620,776)	(2,153,740)	(1,653,740)	Capital Charges & Net Interest	(734,500)
139,740	0	0	Revenue Funding of Capital Expenditure	0
275,964	282,000	282,000	Levies	325,000
601,292	1,944,200	1,856,320	Contribution to/(from) Balances	(649,720)
15,916,324	16,093,900	18,168,117	ABC Budget Requirement	18,703,840
			Income	
(2,592,133)	(485,000)	(485,000)	Government Grant	(614,500)
(3,699,900)	(4,685,000)	(4,685,000)	Retained Business Rates	(7,502,000)
(1,908,222)	(1,886,050)	(1,886,050)	New Homes Bonus	(1,662,000)
(7,755,310)	(9,037,850)	(9,037,850)	Council Tax	(8,925,340)
(39,242)	0	2,074,217		0

333 Standards Committee – 31st January 2023

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee held on the 31st January 2023 be received and noted.

334 Annual Report of the Council's Monitoring Officer 2022

Resolved:

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

335 Programme of Meetings 2023/24 and 2024/25

Resolved:

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

DATES OF MEETINGS MAY 2023 - MAY 2025

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

MAY 2023

M 1 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 2
 W 3
 Th 4 **ABC ELECTIONS**
 F 5
 M 8 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 9
 W 10
 Th 11
 F 12
 M 15
 Tu 16
 W 17
 Th 18 Selection & CR
 F 19

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

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

AUGUST 2023

M 22
 Tu 23
 W 24
 Th 25 Council
 F 26

Tu 1
 W 2
 Th 3
 F 4

M 16
 Tu 17
 W 18
 Th 19 Council
 F 20

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

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

M 23
 Tu 24
 W 25
 Th 26 Cabinet
 F 27

JUNE 2023

Th 1
 F 2
 M 5
 Tu 6 Joint Transportation
 W 7 Planning
 Th 8
 F 9

M 14
 Tu 15
 W 16
 Th 17
 F 18

M 30
 Tu 31

NOVEMBER 2023

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

M 21
 Tu 22
 W 23
 Th 24
 F 25

W 1
 Th 2
 F 3

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2023

M 26
 Tu 27
 W 28
 Th 29 Cabinet
 F 30

F 1
 M 4
 Tu 5 Joint Transportation
 W 6 Planning
 Th 7
 F 8

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

JULY 2023

M 3
 Tu 4
 W 5 Planning
 Th 6
 F 7

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

M 20
 Tu 21
 W 22
 Th 23
 F 24

M 10
 Tu 11 O&S

M 18
 Tu 19
 W 20
 Th 21
 F 22

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 Cabinet
F 22
M 25
Tu 26
W 27
Th 28
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
F 19
M 22
Tu 23
W 24

Th 25 Cabinet
F 26
M 29
Tu 30

MAY 2024

W 1
Th 2 **GENERAL?/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

MAY 2024

W 1
 Th 2 **GENERAL ?/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

JUNE 2024

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

JULY 2024

M 1
 Tu 2
 W 3
 Th 4
 F 5
 M 8
 Tu 9 O&S
 W 10 Planning
 Th 11 JCC 2.30pm
 F 12
 M 15

Tu 16
 W 17
 Th 18 Council
 F 19
 M 22
 T 23
 W 24
 Th 25 Cabinet
 F 26
 M 29
 Tu 30
 W 31

AUGUST 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 **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Tu 27 TEB 10am
 W 28
 Th 29 Cabinet
 F 30

SEPTEMBER 2024

M 2
 Tu 3 Joint Transportation
 W 4
 Th 5
 F 6
 M 9
 Tu 10 O&S
 W 11 Planning
 Th 12 JCC 2.30pm
 F 13
 M 16
 Tu 17
 W 18
 Th 19
 F 20
 M 23
 Tu 24
 W 25
 Th 26 Cabinet
 F 27
 M 30

OCTOBER 2024

Tu 1 Audit 5pm
 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 Council
 F 18
 M 21
 Tu 22
 W 23
 Th 24
 F 25
 M 28
 Tu 29
 W 30
 Th 31 Cabinet

NOVEMBER 2024

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
 F 22
 M 25
 Tu 26 TEB 10am
 W 27
 Th 28 Cabinet
 F 29

DECEMBER 2024

M 2
Tu 3 Joint Transportation
W 4
Th 5
F 6

M 9
Tu 10 O&S
W 11 Planning
Th 12 Council
F 15

M 16
Tu 17 Audit 5pm
W 18
Th 19 Cabinet
F 20

M 23
Tu 24
W 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
Th 26 **BOXING DAY**
F 27 OFFICES CLOSED

M 30
Tu 31

JANUARY 2025

W 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
Th 2
F 3

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

M 13
Tu 14
W 15 Planning
Th 16
F 17

M 20
Tu 21 Licensing/Regulatory
10am/10.30am
W 22
Th 23 Cabinet
F 24

M 27
Tu 28
W 29
Th 30
F 31

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

FEBRUARY 2025

M 3
Tu 4 Standards
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
F 21

M 24
Tu 25 TEB 10am
W 26
Th 27 Cabinet
F 28

MARCH 2025

M 3
Tu 4 Joint Transportation
W 5
Th 6 Council (C Tax)
F 7

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

M 17
Tu 18 Audit 5pm
W 19
Th 20
F 21

M 24
Tu 25
W 26
Th 27 Cabinet
F 28

M 31

APRIL 2025

Tu 1
W 2
Th 3
F 4

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

M 14
Tu 15
W 16 Planning
Th 17

F 18 **GOOD FRIDAY**

M 21 **EASTER MONDAY**

Tu 22
W 23
Th 24 Cabinet
F 25

M 28
Tu 29
W 30

MAY 2025

Th 1 **KCC ELECTIONS**
F 2

M 5 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 6 Selection & CR

W 7
Th 8 JCC 2.30pm
F 9


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

M 19
Tu 20
W 21
Th 22
F 23

M 26 **BANK HOLIDAY**
Tu 27 TEB 10am

W 28
Th 29 Cabinet
F 30

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

 School Holidays