

MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING of the SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL  
held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 10 JANUARY  
2019 at 7.35 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs A E D Barham - Town Mayor  
Councillor P M Harman – Deputy Town Mayor  
Councillor K G Basson  
Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill  
Councillor Ms L M Cross  
Councillor Ms L M Hall  
Councillor P C Harris  
Councillor J A Hayes  
Councillor Ms L C Howes  
Councillor R J Lees  
Councillor D J Mote

**ALSO PRESENT:** x 1 Member of the public  
Graham Blew – Town Clerk  
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/RFO

**ABSENT:** Councillor K M Kelly  
Councillor Mrs M B Kelly  
Councillor Mrs L Manchester  
Councillor A S Reach  
Councillor S J Ryan

392/18-19. **ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

The Town Mayor explained the arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting.

393/18-19. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Dr J M Harman, B R Parry, B E Read and Mrs I A Read.

394/18-19. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

***The Chairman gave the opportunity for the meeting to be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.***

**395/18-19. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION FOR NON-ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS IN RESPECT OF COUNCILLORS MRS I A READ AND B E READ.**

A request had been submitted for Members to consider granting dispensation for possible non-attendance at Town Council meetings that may give rise to disqualification without prior approval. The Town Council were asked to consider the request, made due to ill health and carer requirements, and to approve the dispensation where a member/s was unable to attend a meeting of the Town Council over a six month period.

Any extension to the dispensation would be subject to a further approval at the appropriate time.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Town Council approve a dispensation for Councillors' Mrs I A Read and B E Read from attending meetings of the Town Council due to ill health and carer requirements, for the period commencing 10 January 2019 up to the date of the forthcoming elections (2 May 2019), to avoid ceasing being a member of the authority under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**396/18-19. ANNUAL ESTIMATES 2019 – 2020.**

Further to minutes 287/18-19 (*FGP 1 November 2018*) and 347/18-19, 348/18-19 (*full Council 13 December 2018*) members considered the proposed Annual Estimates for the 2019 - 2020 financial year.

Members were pleased that the Town Council was able to have Estimates that included the continuation of the many popular projects undertaken in the previous year and that, despite further significant reductions in the funding from the borough Council and the impact of the Community Governance Review, no extra financial burden was being passed to the Towns residents and the Town Council again being able to reduce its element of the Council Tax Bill, this year by a further 1%.

MOVED BY Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill, seconded by Councillor P M Harman and unanimously agreed;

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposed Annual Estimates for 2019 – 2020, and subsequent proposed Tax Base (Band D) be approved.

**397/18-19. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2019 – 2020.**

Members were asked to set the Council Tax Base for Band D properties 2019 – 2020.

Members were pleased to note that, despite a potential further reduction in Section 136 and Central Government Grant Funding of 25%, the Town Councils' proposed Council Tax Base for Band D properties had been reduced by 1% following last year's reduction of 5.5%.

MOVED BY Councillor D J Mote, seconded by Councillor P C Harris and unanimously agreed;

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council Tax Base for Band D properties 2019 – 2020 be set at £95.49 and the precept be set at £426,806.

**398/18-19. DRAFT BUDGET STATEMENT 2019 – 2020.**

Members received the Draft Budget Statement for 2019 – 2020. After discussion Members suggested some minor amendments and it was unanimously agreed;

**RESOLVED:**

That the Budget Statement 2019 – 2020, including the minor amendments suggested by members, be finalised and distributed in the same manner and timescale as in the previous year.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Chairman)

Date:- \_\_\_\_\_