

## FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2006, AT 7PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SOUTH STREET, FARNHAM

- o Cllr M A Clark (Town Mayor)
  - \* Cllr D J Attfield (Deputy Town Mayor)
  - o Cllr P G Burden OBE
  - \* Cllr C A Cockburn
  - \* Cllr S Farrow
  - o Cllr (Mrs) P M Frost
  - o Cllr R D Frost
  - o Cllr C G Genziani
  - \* Cllr J M Harris
  - \* Cllr S A G Lang
  - \* Cllr J E Maines – left at 8pm
  - \* Cllr (Mrs) A E Mansell MBE
  - \* Cllr C H Mansell
  - \* Cllr P G Marriott
  - o Cllr (Mrs) P M Marriott
  - \* Cllr M W Norris
  - \* Cllr (Mrs) S Scrivens – left at 8.16pm
  - o Cllr V K Scrivens
- 
- \* Present
  - o Apologies for absence

Councillor D J Attfield, the Deputy Town Mayor took the Chair for the ensuing meeting due to apologies having been received from Councillor M A Clark, the Town Mayor.

#### C 247/05 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present who wished to ask a question.

#### C 248/05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P G Burden, Councillor M A Clark, Councillor (Mrs) P M Frost, Councillor R D Frost, Councillor C G Genziani, Councillor (Mrs) P M Marriott and Councillor V K Scrivens.

#### C 249/05 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor (Mrs) A E Mansell was elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing meeting.

C 250/05 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2005, were signed by the Deputy Town Mayor as a correct record.

C 251/05 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Name of Councillor	Agenda/ Minute No.	Subject	Type of Interest	Reason
Cllr C A Cockburn	6	Revenue Grants – Farnham Citizens Advice Bureau	Personal	Waverley Borough Council representative
Cllr C A Cockburn	6	Revenue Grants – Farnham Community Task Force	Prejudicial	Committee member
Cllr C A Cockburn	6	Farnham Voluntary Service Council	Personal	Farnham Town Council representative
Cllr C A Cockburn	8	Public Conveniences	Personal/ Prejudicial	Waverley Borough Councillor
Cllr C A Cockburn	9	Tourist Information Centre	Personal/ Prejudicial	Waverley Borough Councillor
Cllr S A G Lang	6	Revenue Grants – Farnham Youth Project	Personal/ Prejudicial	Farnham Town Council representative and trustee
Cllr S A G Lang	12	Guildford and Waverley Primary Care Trust	Personal	Wife works for Guildford and Waverley primary Care Trust
Cllr S A G Lang	20 & PR 245/05	Transfer of allotment land at West Street	Personal	Personal prior notice of application
Cllr J E Maines	6	Revenue Grants – Farnham Youth Project	Personal/ Prejudicial	Chairman of Trustees of the Farnham Youth Project
Cllr J E Maines	6	Revenue Grants – Farnham Community Task Force	Personal/ Prejudicial	Partner of Chairman of the Farnham Community Task Force.
Cllr C H Mansell	6	Revenue Grants – Farnham Youth Project	Personal/ Prejudicial	Trustee of Farnham Youth Project
Cllr C H Mansell	8,9,10	Public Conveniences	Personal	Waverley Borough Council member
Cllr (Mrs) A E Mansell	8	Public Conveniences	Personal/ Prejudicial	Waverley Borough Council member
Cllr (Mrs) A E Mansell	9	Tourist Information Centre	Personal/ Prejudicial	Waverley Borough Council member
Cllr (Mrs) A E Mansell	6	Revenue Grants – Farnham Citizens Advice Bureau	Personal	Waverley Borough Council member
Cllr (Mrs) A E Mansell	6	Revenue Grants – Farnham Youth Project	Personal/ Prejudicial	Husband is Treasurer of Farnham Youth Project.
Cllr C H Mansell	12	Guildford and Waverley Primary Care Trust	Personal	Waverley Borough Council representative on the Primary Care Trust
Cllr C H Mansell	9	Tourist Information Centre	Personal	Waverley Borough Council member.
Cllr P G Marriott	6	Revenue Grants – Farnham Voluntary Service Council	Personal/ Prejudicial	Cllr (Mrs) P M Marriott treasurer of the Farnham Voluntary Service Council
Cllr P G Marriott	6	Revenue Grants – Farnham Youth Project	Personal/ Prejudicial	Treasurer of the Farnham Youth Project
Cllr P G Marriott	8	Public Conveniences	Personal/ Prejudicial	Cllr (Mrs) P M Marriott member of Waverley Borough Council.
Cllr (Mrs) S Scrivens	9	Tourist Information Centre	Personal	Husband is a Waverley Borough Council member
Cllr (Mrs) S Scrivens	8	Public Conveniences	Personal	Husband is a Waverley Borough Council member.

Members noted that a dispensation had been received from the Waverley Standards Committee with respect to allowing all members to take part in the discussion on details regarding Public Conveniences and the Tourist Information Centre.

C 252/05 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr Roger Ellis – Chairman of the Wrecclesham Community Centre Management Committee, made the following statement on Item 7 – Wrecclesham Community Centre.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this subject.

The management committees' energy has been directed in preserving and building an active community centre especially when there is a dearth of such facilities in the village. There is a real need for a safe, warm place for young people to go on a regular or occasional basis, especially with qualified persons to direct their energies and enthusiasms. We are determined that the community function which this building provides, especially now it has been refurbished will expand and continue.

Farnham Town Council will shortly become the owner of Wrecclesham Community Centre and it is hoped that the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee will be agreed and we can look forward to the future with a positive frame of mind.

Mr V Duckett – Chairman of Farnham Community Task Force, made the following statement on Item 6, Revenue Grants – Farnham Community Task Force.

Having read the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee I noted the comment that members were concerned that Farnham Town Council was the only source of funding. Farnham Town Council set up the Community Task Force. It is your task force. If you feel that it is inappropriate to fund the secretary's honorarium that is up to you. Every Mayor that Farnham Town Council has had since it was set up has automatically be a member of the group. Farnham Town Council set up the Farnham Community Task Force; it is your task force.

**Part 1 – ITEMS FOR DECISION**

C253/05 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Town Mayor expressed his hope that everyone had a pleasant Christmas and wished everyone a happy and prosperous new year for 2006.

Before Christmas the Deputy Mayor attended the Vivaldi Singers concert which was greatly enjoyed and the Farnham Voluntary Service Council's Christmas Carol Concert.

A presentation was also made to the volunteers of Farnham in Bloom which also went extremely well.

C 254/05 REVENUE GRANTS

The following members withdrew from the meeting having declared prejudicial interests in the Farnham Youth Project:

Cllr S A G Lang  
Cllr J E Maines  
Cllr (Mrs) A E Mansell  
Cllr C H Mansell  
Cllr P G Marriott

The Farnham Youth Project application to fund 55% of the salary of office staff and 100% of cleaning costs, was discussed. It was noted that the Policy and Resources Committee had adopted a principle to fund 50% of the salary of office staff. The recommendation of the Policy and Resources committee of £2,700 had been based on an inaccurate figure. The figure for staffing salaries was in fact £12,000 and members therefore considered a figure of £6,000.

Councillor M W Norris proposed that the Farnham Youth project be given a Revenue Grant of £6,000 which was seconded by Councillor C A Cockburn. A vote was taken and it was unanimously Resolved that the Farnham Youth Project be awarded a grant of £6,000.

**RESOLVED: That the Farnham Youth Project be awarded a Revenue Grant of £6,000.**

Cllr S A G Lang, Cllr J E Maines, Cllr (Mrs) A E Mansell, Cllr C H Mansell, Cllr P G Marriott returned to the meeting.

The members considered Revenue Grants for Year 2006/2007 for inclusion in the Council's Revenue Budget.

Councillor P G Marriott withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the Farnham Voluntary Service Council (FVSC) grant application.

Members discussed the importance of the service that the FVSC provides and it was proposed by Councillor J E Maines that the Revenue Grant to the FVSC be increased from the recommendation of £1,400 to £2,000 and Councillor C A Cockburn seconded the proposal. A vote was taken, 8 for, 1 abstention, 1 against.

Councillor P G Marriott returned to the meeting.

**RESOLVED: That the following Revenue Grants totalling £69,470 be awarded for 2006/2007**

	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>GRANT</b>
(1)	Farnham Citizens Advice Bureau	£29,840
(2)	Farnham Community Task Force	£250
(3)	Farnham Maltings	£26,525
(4)	Farnham Voluntary Service Council	£2,000
(5)	Farnham Youth Project	£6,000
(6)	Surrey Police – Neighbourhood Watch Manager	£3,000
(7)	The Bourne Conservation Group	£355
(8)	Vivaldi Singers	£1,000
(9)	Waverley Victim Support Scheme	£500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£69,470</b>

C 255/05 WRECCLESHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Members received a report and considered the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee with regard to:

The financial position of the trustees of the Wrecclesham Community Centre (WCC).

The current and potential legal and financial position of the Town Council with regard to the proposed lease between the Town Council and the Trustees of Wrecclesham Community Centre.

The renegotiation and terms for a new lease and the future management of the Centre

The current financial position of WCC was noted as follows:

Expenditure to date	£47,283.73
Items paid to date	<u>£38,299.48</u>
<b><u>Deficit</u></b>	<b><u>£ 8,984.25</u></b>

Works outstanding to date including:

Essential electrical work	£15,000
Window guards:	£ 3,000
Repairs to exterior of building:	£ 500
Fire Alarm and Emergency lighting	£ 9,200
Intruder Alarm	£ 1,500
External lights	<u>£ 2,000</u>
Outstanding Costs totalling	<b><u>£33,200</u></b>

The members noted the following officers comments:

- The information placed before the Council regarding the financial position of the Trust requires the Council to consider carefully its liabilities and responsibilities prior to accepting the transfer of ownership of the Wrecclesham Community Centre.

- The negotiation of the lease has proved to be protracted and subject to requests for amendment by the Trusts solicitors, gradually watering down the responsibilities of the Trust.
- The implementation of the current lease is likely to be problematic regarding the lack of clarity regarding the definitions of the areas of responsibility, in particular in areas where responsibility can be denied e.g. damage to windows etc.
- Member's attention is particularly drawn to the fact that on the transfer of the building from Tindle Newspapers Ltd before the Town Council can enter a lease with the Trust the building will have to be fit for purpose.
- As Landlords the Town Council will have responsibility under Occupier Liability for any claims, which can not be settled by the Trust or its insurers.
- The implementation of Health and Safety requirements regarding fire, electrical inspections, licensing etc have not been fully considered by the Trust or the implications this would have for the Town Council.

The members considered the financial implications and noted that the total funding required was £40,184.

Members noted that Town Council has £16,600 in Earmarked reserves for community buildings but that an additional £23,584 would have to be identified from within General Reserves.

Members also noted that an ongoing cost of £3,500 would be set aside for the Council's management of the Centre.

Councillor M W Norris proposed and Councillor C H Mansell seconded that the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee be approved. Members approved unanimously the below resolutions.

**RESOLVED: That**

- **The Town Council should approach the Trust to negotiate a new 20 year lease allowing the Trust responsibility for the day to day management of the premises and financial responsibility for the day to day operation of the building including minor repairs.**
- **The Town Council should accept overall management responsibility for the maintenance of the building internal and external.**
- **The new lease should include the implementation of appropriate inspections necessary for the operation of a public building.**
- **That Tindle Newspapers Ltd be approached to negotiate a change in the terms of the peppercorn rent to an annual rent.**

- That a market rent for the premises should be obtained and considered in the negotiation of a new lease, including the implementation of a rent review clause to allow the initial rent to be subsidised in the early life of the lease.
- That the Town Council arrange an independent inspection and survey of the building to establish the works to be completed to ensure the building is operational
- That the Town Council will pay for the outstanding works completed to a value of £8984.25
- That the Town Council fund from reserves the outstanding capital works to make the building operational at a cost of £31,200.
- The Town Council should make an annual provision within its budget for the ongoing maintenance charges associated with the building of £3,500 per annum.

C 256/05 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Councillor Norris proposed and Councillor Maines seconded that under Standing Order 23 (s) Council should resolve into committee in order for Public Conveniences to be discussed as Public Conveniences had not been discussed by any of Farnham Town Council's standing committees.

**RESOLVED: That Council resolve into Committee to discuss the item on Public Conveniences.**

Members received a report regarding a proposal from Waverley Borough Council to transfer the Public Conveniences at Central Car Park, Gostrey Meadow and the Hart Car Park to Farnham Town Council.

The proposal included the title of the three toilets to be transferred to Farnham Town Council for nil consideration but would be subject to covenants.

Members expressed their hope that Farnham Town Council would be able to provide an enhanced service to improve on the service which had been provided by Waverley Borough Council.

Members noted Waverley Borough Council's estimated Capital costs:

Capital	£
Estimated cost of upgrading Gostrey Meadow	1,000.00
Cost of upgrading Central Car Park	30,000.00
Cost of replacement at the Hart	45,000.00
	<u><b>76,000.00</b></u>

Members expressed their concern that the Public Conveniences in the Hart Car Park would be moved and suggested that good signage be used to inform the public of the local of the toilets.

Members noted that Waverley Borough Council did not intend to make an allowance for the separate rating of the toilets. The proposed reducing grants were noted.

Grant proposed for 2006/2007	£18,000.00
Grant proposed for 2007/2008	£9,000.00
Grant proposed for 2008/2009	£4,500.00

Members noted that the proposed management arrangements of the Public Conveniences included that the operation of the service could be covered by 2 part-time staff each working approximately 28 hours a week. The staff would also be equipped to carry out simple repairs such as replacement holders/dispensers/door locks etc.

Members noted the estimated annual running costs would be £40,180. The tapering contribution from Waverley Borough Council was noted and that the future budget implications would include the following sums (not allowing for inflation) in the revenue budget were noted.

2006/2007	£22,180
2007/2008	£31,180
2008/2009	£35,680
2009/2010	£40,180

Members also suggested that at least one of the public toilets should be open after 6pm.

It was proposed by Councillor Norris and seconded by Councillor Farrow that the proposals outlined in the officer report be agreed. Members approved unanimously the below resolutions.

**RESOLVED: That**

- a) Farnham Town Council accepts the proposals of Waverley Borough Council subject to the conditions set out below.**

**The specification for the upgrade works to Central car park and Gostrey Meadow public conveniences being agreed with Farnham Town Council.**

- The specification for the new public convenience in Upper Hart car park being agreed with Farnham Town Council.**
- The demolition of the existing convenience in the Hart being arranged and paid for by Waverley Borough Council.**

**The arrangement letting and management of all necessary renovation works by Waverley Borough Council.**

- Farnham Town Council taking responsibility only when the renovation/replacement works are completed.**



- b) A sum of £45,000 be included in Farnham Town Council's 2006/07 capital programme in order to fund the higher standard of renovation works required by Farnham Town Council.
- c) That provision be made in 2006/07 estimates to meet the annual cost of maintaining, cleaning and managing the public conveniences.
- d) Farnham Town Council directly employ staff to carry out the cleaning/servicing etc subject to the implications of TUPE being clarified.
- e) The officers of Farnham Town Council are delegated the authority to negotiate the transfer of the services.

As per Standing Orders Council resumed business.

C 257/05 COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/2007

Members received an officer report on the Council Revenue Budget for the financial year 2006/2007. Members' attention was drawn to the following changes in policy:

**Outside Workforce:** providing grounds maintenance services with the addition of one more full time member of staff to work in the greenhouse and cemeteries at a cost of £19,000 gross with an additional provision of £4,000 for casual staff during peak periods. The members noted that the additional staffing costs would be partly covered by the ending of the cemeteries grounds maintenance contract with Arkeco.

**Healthcheck:** that the work that had been started by the Healthcheck worker would be absorbed into the current staff workload and the Healthcheck Partnership Group would be disbanded.

**Office Staffing:** Members' attention was drawn to the fact that an office junior was required due to changes in current staff working hours. The office junior would carry out tasks such as photocopying, typing and general administration duties. The members noted that this post was necessary in order to facilitate the smooth running of the general office.

**Tourist Information Centre Funding:** Members considered the continuation of a contribution to the annual operating costs of the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) Members noted that year on year there had been falling numbers of visitors to the TIC and noted that Waverley Borough Council would be closing the Farnham Tourist Information Centre at the end of March 2006. Members noted that Farnham Town Council had already adopted a Tourism Strategy in order to provide a tourism service in Farnham.

The members acknowledged the work that had been undertaken to develop the Tourism Strategy and thanked Cath Sydenham – Projects Co-ordinator and Sheila Rayner – Assistant Town Clerk (Public Services) for their hard work in putting the Tourism Strategy together.

**Budget Variances:** Members noted other budget variances including an increase of Audit fees to £3,750, Newsletter savings of £4,000 due a change in the policy for the distribution of the news letter, New Cost Code Farnham in Bloom Sponsorship from Burns and Webber estate Agents resulting in an increase £6,500. An increase of £8,500 for the future maintenance and management of the fixed CCTV system in Farnham Town Centre.

It was proposed by Councillor C H Mansell and seconded by Councillor Norris that the suggested recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee for the Council Revenue Budget for the financial year 2006/2007 be agreed. Members voted 8 in favour with 2 abstentions the below resolutions.

**RESOLVED: That**

- **The recruitment of an additional member of staff to the position of a full time junior office post be agreed.**
- **The provision of grounds maintenance for the cemeteries should be undertaken by the Council's Outside Workforce be agreed.**
- **The employment of an additional member of staff for the Outside Workforce be agreed.**
- **The outstanding projects identified under the Market Town Health Check to be included in the main stream work of current Council staff.**
- **The Health Check Partnership Group be dissolved and the progress of projects to be reported to the relevant committee.**
- **The post of Health Check Project Worker should not be renewed**
- **Contributory funding towards the operation of the Farnham Tourist Information Centre will not be provided as a result of the fall in usage of the centre and the availability to provide visitor information using information technology.**
- **The operating budget for the financial year 2006/2007 be £687,118.**

C 258/05 CONSOLIDATED CAPITAL BUDGET 2006/2007

Members received a report identifying the Capital and Project Programme for 2005/06 and 2006/07.

**Policy and Resources Committee:** The total cost of the Capital and Project Programme for 2005/06 was £93,548 and included additional expenditure which had not already been recommended by Full Council.  
The purchase of services to develop the Town Web Site £10,000.  
The Purchase of a sit on mower for the Outside Work Force £7,500.  
Improvements to Wrecclesham Community Centre £42,184.

The total cost of the proposed Capital and Project Programme for 2006/07 was £50,000 and included;  
Replacement vehicle for the Outside Workforce £15,000.  
Capital improvements to Cemetery Buildings £30,000.  
Office accommodation £5,000.

**Public Services Committee:** The total cost of the Capital and Project Programme for 2005/06 was £37,700 and included additional expenditure which had not already been recommended by Full Council  
the purchase of new hanging baskets £6,000.  
The purchase of water bowser £2,700.  
Greenhouse improvements, £4,700.  
Tourism Projects £5,000.

The total cost of the proposed Capital and Project Programme for 2006/07 was £58,000 and included;  
Tourism projects £10,000  
Bus shelters £12,000  
Library gardens £20,000  
Contributions to play equipment £7,500  
Coach parking £5,000  
Tomb restoration £3,500

**Environmental Services Committee:** The total cost of the Capital and Project Programme for 2005/06 was £52,106 and included additional expenditure which had not already been recommended by Full Council  
Litter bin improvements £1,500.  
Cycle rack provision £2,000.  
Town Centre Recycling £2,500.  
Environmental and Highway Improvements.

The total cost of the proposed Capital and Project Programme for 2006/07 was £187,00 and included;  
Urban Safety Management £100,000.  
Traffic projects £34,000.  
Hospital Hoppa £20,000.  
Community notice boards £3,000.  
Cycle racks £2,000.  
Street lights £5,000.  
Footpath and safety projects £23,000.

**RESOLVED: That**

**The implementation of capital / projects not already approved for 2005/06 for the Policy and Resources Committee of a value of £59,864, be approved.**

**The implementation of capital / projects not already approved for 2005/06 for the Public Services Committee of a value of £30,002, be approved.**

**The implementation of capital / projects not already approved for 2005/06 for the Environmental Services Committee of a value of £43,404, be approved.**

**The funding for the implementation of the capital / projects for 2005/06 should be identified from within the current revenue budgets of the relevant Committee and from Council Reserves**

**The Operational Capital budget of £50,000 for the financial year 2006/07 for the Policy and Resources Committee be approved.**

**In principal capital / project budget of £58,000 for the financial year 2006/07 for the Public Services Committee, be approved.**

**In principal capital / project budget of £187,000 for the financial year 2006/07 for the Environmental Services Committee, be approved.**

**The funding of the capital and project budgets for 2005/06 should be considered under agenda item 11.**

**C 259/05 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/2007**

Members considered a report on the Budget and Precept for the financial year 2006/2007.

Members noted the revised figures of the Operational Revenue Budget for the Committees;

Policy and Resources Committee	£461,351
Public Services Committee	£212,267
Environmental Services Committee	<u>£13,500</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET (CURRENT)</b>	<b><u>£687,118</u></b>

Members noted the following points on:  
Operational Revenue Budget for new services £25,680 including, Wrecclesham Community Centre and Maintenance of Public Conveniences and the provision to maintain Capital Reserves for new equipment, repairs to equipment and CCTV renewal at £10,000.

Operational Capital Budget for a replacement vehicle for the Outside Workforce, restoration on cemetery buildings, office accommodation provision, totalling £50,000.

Capital expenditure for new services of the Public Conveniences, £45,000.

Members considered the Project/Capital Budget 2006/2007 and allocated limited capital funds to committees and allowed each committee to prioritise its capital expenditure based on the funding available and if the project is deliverable within the financial year. Project/Capital Budgets for Public Services would be £31,904 and for Environmental Services would be £47,857, making a total of £79,761.

Members discussed a review of Standing Orders in order to allow each standing committee to prioritise its capital expenditure within its allocated Capital Budget for each financial year.

Members noted that the anticipated Total Council Reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2006 would be £596,392.

Members were reminded that it was in the Councils interest to maintain certain ear marked funds as listed below and a minimum General Fund Reserve of at least £140,000.

Election Fund	£13,740
Legal Expense Fund	£8,971
Andernach Anniversary	£970
Civic Expenses	£2,446
New equipment	£50,245
Repairs and Renewals	£62,230
CCTV	£35,000
Cemetery Enhancements	<u>£87,407</u>
	<b><u>£261,009</u></b>

Members noted that there would be a total minimum retained Reserves of £400,000.

Members considered the setting aside a one off additional reserve of £100,000 for the Urban Safety Management Scheme (USM) but noted that if the £100,000 is not needed for the USM then it would be made available for other purposes.

Members noted the 2006/2007 tax base, which is the average number of band D households, had been calculated at 16,716.3

It was proposed by Councillor C H Mansell and seconded by Councillor Norris that the Budget for the financial year 2006/2007 should be agreed and the Precept be set at 4.5% an increase of £1.85 per annum for band D households. Members voted 6 for, 2 against and 1 abstention the below resolutions.

**RESOLVED: That**

- **The budget for the financial year 2006/07 be £1,062,198, including Project/Capital Budgets for Public Services at £31,904 and Environmental Services at £47,857 making a total of £79,761 for Project/capital funding identified for 2006/2007 financial year.**
- **The maintenance of a minimum general reserve of £140K and specific earmarked funds of £260K a total of £400K be agreed.**
- **The creation of a fund of £100,000 towards the implementation of the Urban Safety Management Scheme be approved.**
- **A change to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to allow committees to prioritise, review and deliver agreed Capital / Projects within the allocated capital budget be approved.**
- **To approve the Town Precept at £801,167 for 2006/07 a 4.5% increase an increase of £1.85 per annum for band D households.**

**C 260/05 GUILDFORD AND WAVERLEY PRIMARY CARE TRUST – CONSULTATION**

Members considered a consultation document from the Guildford and Waverley Primary Care Trust (PCT) entitled 'Modernising Your Local Healthcare'.

Members welcomed the general view put forward by the PCT that people would prefer to be treated close to home, but the main thrust of the proposals were financially driven. The PCT's across the region would ultimately be reduced and new PCT's would be taking over in the very near future and members felt that the proposals were premature with regard to the changes forecast.

Councillor M W Norris proposed that Farnham Town Council's previous comments on the PCT proposals should be reiterated and proposed some comments to be forwarded the Guildford and Waverley Primary Care Trust regarding their consultation – 'Modernising Your Local Healthcare'.

It was proposed by Councillor Norris and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) A E Mansell that the following comments be forwarded to the Guildford and Waverley Primary Care trust in response to their consultation on 'Modernising Your Local Healthcare'. Members voted 8 for and 1 abstention the below resolutions.

**RESOLVED: That**

- 1. Farnham Town Council welcomes the objectives in the consultation document of moving where ever possible from treating people in the two acute hospitals serving Guildford and Waverley, the Royal County Hospital and Frimley Park Hospital, to an expanded community care service treating patients through community hospitals and improved home based care and support. Farnham Town Council in particular supports the proposals to provide patients with outpatient appointments and medical investigations as near to their homes as possible, and the new proposed 'Patient Journey' set out on page 15 of the consultation report.**
- 2. Farnham Town Council supports these objectives and the modernisation of the services commissioned by the PCT on the basis that improved and expanded community based care in close proximity to the population of the town or where possible home care is of advantage to Farnham's population and their health.**
- 3. While welcoming these objectives set out in the consultation report Farnham Town Council is deeply concerned to note that all the options put forward in the report are as much driven by the PCT's financial position as by the clinical considerations of what will improve the treatment of patients living in Farnham. Indeed Farnham Town Council notes that the financial considerations appear to be paramount given that all the options would move from providing community care beds in Cranleigh, Farnham, Haslemere and Milford to having beds in Farnham and one other location in Guildford and Waverley.**
- 4. Rather than providing improved and expanded community and home care health services all of the options proposed by the PCT would appear to increase the distances people in Waverley have to travel to receive community care. In the view of the Town Council all the proposed options would result in a substantial reduction in the level of community health provision across Waverley, based as they are financial considerations instead of improvements to the quality of public health care for local residents.**

5. **Given the consultation being undertaken since December 2005 by the Surrey & Sussex Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to merge Surrey's current PCTs into one county-wide PCT, Farnham Town Council believes no decisions about the future of services about community care should be made based purely on the financial position of the Guildford and Waverley PCT. Farnham Town Council in particular notes the SHA's own estimate that the proposed reconfiguration of the PCTs will deliver a 15% reduction in management and administrative costs, while also improving commissioning and the use of resources so that frontline services receive £13 million more a year.**
  
6. **Furthermore Farnham Town Council notes that of the proposed options the earliest they will come into effect is December 2006, while the SHA's proposals could see the introduction of a county-wide PCT by October 2006. At a time when the SHA is looking to create one PCT in Surrey which will substantially reduce the overheads incurred through multiple boards, chief executives and finance directors, with the current deficit position faced by Guildford and Waverley PCT being shared across the county, Farnham Town Council believes that any decisions about the future provision of services should be made in the broader context of the new PCT structure coming into force in the very near future. The options being presented to the people of Farnham in the current report are therefore entirely premature.**

C 261/05 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

Members discussed the Committee Timetable for the Local Government Year 2006/2007. Members suggested that the date of the Policy and Resources Committee in December, 2006, be reviewed as an important annual event took place on the same date. It was proposed by Councillor (Mrs) A E Mansell and seconded by Cllr C A Cockburn

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Committee Timetable for the Local Government Year 2006/2007 be noted and the date of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting in December 2006, be reviewed.**

C 262/05 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

**RESOLVED:**

**That in view of the confidential nature of business to be transacted at Item 20, namely transfer of land, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw at Item 20.**



## **Part 2 – ITEMS TO NOTE**

### **C 263/05 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

#### **(1) Public Services Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor (Mrs) A E Mansell and seconded by Councillor M W Norris and

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Public Services Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2005, be adopted.**

#### **(2) Environmental Services Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor S Farrow and seconded by Councillor S A G Lang and

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2005, be adopted.**

#### **(3) Policy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor M W Norris and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) A E Mansell

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 with the exception of Minute Number PR 245/05, which would be considered at Part 3, be adopted.**

### **C 264/05 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**RESOLVED:** That the observations made by the Plans Panel held on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 24<sup>th</sup> November, and 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2005, and dealt with in accordance with delegated authority, be noted.

C 265/05 EAST STREET, BRIGHTWELLS ESTATE – RESPONSE BY  
WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL TO PUBLIC QUESTION

Members noted that a letter had been received from Waverley Borough Council in response to a question asked by a member of the public at the Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2005. Members noted that the response from Waverley Borough Council would be forwarded to the member of public.

C 266/05 ITEMS TABLED

None

C 267/05 PUBLICITY

The Council agreed to issue press releases on the following items:

- a) Public Conveniences
- b) Farnham Town Council's Budget and Precept for the Financial Year 2006/2007.

**Part 3 – Confidential Items**

The Confidential minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2005, were adopted.

Transfer of Allotment Land at West Street:

The members discussed a confidential recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee on the transfer of allotment land at West Street by the Farnham Gospel Hall Trust.

The Deputy Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

Date

Chairman