

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH  
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH  
ON TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015**

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor J Bass) and Councillors Ainge, Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Carr, Dholakia, Elliott, Emerson, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hawkes, Hollyman, Henley, Higgins, G Lawman, L Lawman, Maguire, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, B Patel, M Patel, Scarborough, Simmons, Ward and Warwick.

**Officers present:** Mr J T Campbell, Chief Executive, Mrs L Elliott, Head of Finance, Mrs B Lawrence, Head of Resources, Miss J Thomas, Head of Planning and Local Development, Miss S Lyons, Solicitor/Monitoring Officer District Law, Mr G Betts and Miss S Gibson, Mayor's Sergeant and Assistant Sergeant and Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer.

The Mayor welcomed his fellow councillors, members of the public, and his guests for the evening which included mayors and chairman from around the county, Mr Casserly, Managing Director of Wellingborough Norse and Mr M Major, Chief Executive of Northamptonshire Carers group. He also informed those present that the meeting may be recorded and if anyone objected to this they could leave at any time during the meeting. In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, Councillor Allebone said prayers.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blackwell, Pursglove, Raymond, Timms, M Waters, V Waters and Watts.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council's code of conduct and the council's constitution, the under-mentioned councillor declared an interest in the following item:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Reason for declaration</b>
Scarborough	Resources 4 2 15 - min 9 Multi-storey car park	Disclosable pecuniary interest is the owner of properties in proximity to the site of MSCP.

Councillor Maguire declared that S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to him and that he would not participate in the debate or vote in relation to the budget or council tax.

**3. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 20 JANUARY 2015**

The minutes of the council meeting held on 20 January 2015 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 20 January 2015 be confirmed and signed.

**4. RETIREMENT AWARDS FOR MRS C AYRES, MRS J SHARP AND MRS C WILSON**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Resources was received in relation to the retirement awards for Mrs Ayres, Mrs Sharp and Mrs Wilson.

Mrs Wilson and her husband attended the meeting and the Mayor presented her with a retirement certificate and award of One4All gift vouchers. Her husband received a bottle of champagne. Mrs Ayres and Mrs Sharp did not attend the meeting.

The mayor also made reference to the forthcoming retirement of Mr Casserly, Managing Director of Wellingborough Norse. Mr Casserly joined the council as Head of Environmental Services in 2008 and transferred to Wellingborough Norse on 1 March 2012. Over his time with the council he was instrumental in developing the joint venture with Norse. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that the services he is responsible for measure up to public expectations. The mayor congratulated him on his service and wished him well in his retirement.

**RESOLVED** that the retirement awards be noted and that the good wishes of the council be extended to Mr Casserly on his retirement from Wellingborough Norse.

**5. QUESTIONS/PETITIONS/REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note that no questions, petitions or requests to address the meeting had been received.

**6. MINUTES TO NOTE**

The minutes of the following meetings were received:

Planning Committee	14 January 2015
Licensing Sub-Committee	6 February 2015

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the above meetings be noted.

**7. SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2 FEBRUARY 2015**

The minutes of the Services Committee of 2 February 2015 were received.

Reference was made to minute 5 – Compulsory purchase order 31-32 Church Street, Wellingborough.

Councillor Warwick thanked officers for the report and the committee for the decision made regarding the compulsory purchase of the building. Councillor G Lawman also commended the decision and thanked officers for their work. He hoped that the building would be demolished and that the site would soon be redeveloped.

Councillor G Lawman made reference to minute 9 – North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Review. He reiterated his concern at the proposal for development at junction 9 of the A14, Kettering south. He considered that strong objections needed to be made against such a development.

The recommendation contained within the minutes was put to the vote and declared carried.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (i) officers enter into negotiations with the landowner to transfer the property into the council's ownership within four weeks;
- (ii) if the above fails officers use the council's purchase powers under Section 226 (1) (a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1980 (as amended) to acquire all estates and interests in the land, subject to appropriate attempts to explore options with the property owner which would resolve the matter without the need for the council to invoke its compulsory purchase power.
- (iii) The minutes of the Services Committee of 2 February 2015 be adopted.

**8. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 4 FEBRUARY 2015**

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 4 February 2015 were received.

Members referred to minute 7 – Guidelines on reporting on council and committee meetings. A comment was made about the use of social media during meetings, with the possibility of the debate being misinterpreted or misunderstood and misinformation being in the public domain. The chairman noted the comment and understood the concern of members but considered that the government was encouraging transparency and openness in local government.

Reference was also made to minute 8 – Notification of urgent action Stanton Cross compulsory purchase order, with comments being made about the positive activity on site which would be a tremendous boost to the economy.

(Councillor Scarborough left the meeting during discussion on the following item.)

Members referred to minute 9 – Development of the multi-storey car park.

This development, which had been under discussion for over 12 months, would be a very positive addition to the town centre. This report was the first

stage in the process of the regeneration of this part of the town. Councillor Graves reported that he had recently visited a similar project in Corby and had been very impressed with what was on offer. He confirmed that this development would not affect The Castle and that the administration would ensure that free car parking remained.

(Councillor Scarborough returned to the meeting.)

Councillor Morrall made reference to minute 11 – Crematorium project progress report. He informed the meeting that work would be commencing on site with the removal of the hedgerows in the next week. Councillor Scarborough thanked officers for the report on the crematorium project which he had found most useful in the decision making process.

The chairman thanked members for their comments which were noted.

The leader of the council and chairman of the committee then made reference to minute 5 – Revenue budget 2015-16 and the medium term financial strategy projections and presented the budget to council.

He explained that this was the fourth time that he had presented a budget to members of the council and the last of this current administration. The budget was once again challenging with the financial pressures of austerity, uncertainty and volatility in the amount of funding received from central government. As members were aware this was a local and parliamentary election year with even more uncertainty over post-election budgets and funding.

He explained that the net revenue budget reflected a base budget saving of over £800,000, due to the hard work of all officers and members of the council. Growth in the borough was helping to deal with ongoing cuts in funding. Significant progress was being made on large projects such as the crematorium and the Stanton Cross development.

Following prudent financial management during the year, the chairman, proposed a freeze on the council tax for the borough element. The average band D charge in the borough as a whole would reduce this year from £151.41 to £150.99 as both the parishes and the special expense area benefit from increases to the tax base.

The changes made and planned, along with the growth that the borough has seen, puts the council in a slightly better position than in previous years, with a saving of £575,000 needed for the coming year. In the short term reserves would continue to be used to help balance the budget.

The leader of the Labour group, Councillor Scarborough, responded to the leader's speech recalling previous budget debates. He had sympathy with the leader as there was no opportunity to raise more than 1.99% without triggering a referendum. He raised concern that such a budget did not encourage growth and did little for the poor in society. There would be no

opposition to the proposed standstill budget, though his group would abstain from voting.

The leader of the Independent group, Councillor Hawkes commended the Head of Finance and the Principal Accountancy Manager for their excellent report, which he found to be thorough, professional and comprehensive and considered that the recommendation therein to increase council tax by 1.99% should have been adopted. He considered that a small increase of less than 5p per week to a band D council tax payer would have been more beneficial to the people of the borough and would have helped to avoid any potential cuts in already diminishing services. He would abstain from voting.

A lengthy debate ensued, with a number of councillors commenting on how much progress had been made in the last four years with more projects and further development moving ahead during the next few months. Other members considered that progress had been slow and that more should have been done.

Councillor Bell thanked members for their comments and responded, highlighting the following:

- Unemployment in the borough was down by 55%;
- Work was underway on developing a site in London Road with Lidl and a McDonalds drive-through;
- The Appleby Lodge development would bring more employment to the borough;
- Rushden Lakes had the full support of the council and would also provide employment for people in the borough;
- Work would start at Stanton Cross and on the crematorium in March;
- Wellingborough North was also moving forward;
- Five hundred empty properties had come back into occupation during the last four years providing much needed homes for the people of the borough;
- Five hundred new homes were being built on the former Saxby site off Midland Road, with 27 homes on the former Dun Cow site and a further 48 due to be completed at the Railway Club.

He commended the budget, as printed, to council. This was seconded by Councillor Hollyman.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the following votes were cast:

For: Councillors Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Carr, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Higgins, Hollyman, G Lawman, L Lawman, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, B Patel, M Patel, Simmons, Ward, and Warwick (no. 20);

Against: None (no. 0);

Abstention: Councillors Ainge, Dholakia, Elliott, Emerson, Hawkes, Henley and Scarborough (no.7);

Absent: Councillors Blackwell, Pursglove, Raymond, Timms, M Waters, V Waters and Watts (no.7)

Councillor Maguire did not vote (no.1).

The motion was declared carried with 20 votes in favour and seven abstentions.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to:

- (i) there be no increase in the council's average band D council tax in 2015-16 for the borough;
- (ii) the revenue budget for 2015-16 and the financial plans, following consideration of the Section 151 officer's section 25 report;
- (iii) the standstill 2015-16 budget;
- (iv) the extension to the current community grants scheme, whilst further review is undertaken in 2015-16;
- (v) the fees and charges schedule,
- (vi) the adoption of the Resources Committee minutes of 4 February 2015.

## **8. PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 9 FEBRUARY 2015**

The minutes of the Partnerships and Performance Committee of 9 February 2015 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Partnerships and Performance Committee of 9 February 2015 be adopted.

## **9. COUNCIL TAX 2015-16**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Finance was received in relation to the setting of the council tax for 2015-16.

Councillor Bell put the proposition to the meeting and this was seconded by Councillor Scarborough.

On being put to the vote the following votes were cast:

For: Councillors Ainge, Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Carr, Dholakia, Elliott, Emerson, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hawkes, Henley, Higgins, Hollyman, G Lawman, L Lawman, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, B Patel, M Patel, Scarborough, Simmons, Ward and Warwick (no.27).

Against: None (no. 0).

Abstentions: None (no. 0).

Absent: Councillors Blackwell, Pursglove, Raymond, Timms, M Waters, V Waters and Watts (no. 7).

Councillor Maguire did not vote (no.1).

The motion was declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

That the recommendations of the Resources Committee relating to the Revenue Estimates 2015-16 be approved.

- (a) That it be noted that at its meeting on the 20 January 2015, the council calculated the amount of 23,190 as its council tax base for the year 2014-15, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (b) That the following amounts are calculated by the council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as the amounts of council tax base for the year 2014-15 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate (*Tax base for parishes and Wellingborough special expenses*)

<b>Parish of</b>	<b>Tax Base</b>
Bozeat	730
Great Doddington	473
Earls Barton	1,836
Easton Maudit	39
Ecton	223
Finedon	1,388
Grendon	236
Hardwick	43
Great Harrowden	42
Little Harrowden	329
Irchester	1,453
Isham	306
Mears Ashby	216
Orlingbury	226
Strixton	15
Sywell	348
Wilby	214
Wollaston	1,172

Wellingborough	13,901
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,190</b>

That the following amounts be now calculated by the council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) £46,590,115 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) £43,088,555 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £3,501,560 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 31B of the Act).
- (d) £150.99 being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the council, in accordance with section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (including parish precepts).
- (e) £1,282,120 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).
- (f) £95.71 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) 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.

(g) **Part of the Council's area**

<b>Parish of</b>	<b>£</b>
Bozeat	40.96
Great Doddington	46.51
Earls Barton	52.83
Easton Maudit	25.00



Ecton	53.40
Finedon	36.90
Grendon	59.32
Hardwick	37.21
Great Harrowden	28.10
Little Harrowden	61.99
Irchester	53.51
Isham	63.91
Mears Ashby	41.67
Orlingbury	32.95
Strixton	66.67
Sywell	51.72
Wilby	46.26
Wollaston	56.14
Wellingborough	59.24

The amounts stated in column 5 of the schedule 1 (attached) given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the council's area specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 divided in each case by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area set out in column 1 of schedule 1 (attached) to which one or more special items relate. *(Council tax at Band D for those parishes that have issued a precept and Wellingborough special expenses added to this council's council tax.)*

(h) Valuation Bands

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 3(f) and 3(g) above by the number, which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. *(This council and each parish council's combined council tax for each council tax band and which will appear on the council tax bill).*

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Bozeat	91.12	106.30	121.49	136.67	167.04	197.41	227.79	273.34
Gt Doddington	94.82	110.61	126.42	142.22	173.83	205.43	237.04	284.44
Earls Barton	99.03	115.53	132.04	148.54	181.55	214.56	247.57	297.08
Easton Maudit	80.48	93.88	107.30	120.71	147.54	174.36	201.19	241.42
Ecton	99.41	115.97	132.55	149.11	182.25	215.38	248.52	298.22
Finedon	88.41	103.14	117.88	132.61	162.08	191.55	221.02	265.22
Grendon	103.36	120.58	137.81	155.03	189.48	223.93	258.39	310.06
Hardwick	88.62	103.38	118.16	132.92	162.46	192.00	221.54	265.84
Gt Harrowden	82.54	96.30	110.06	123.81	151.32	178.84	206.35	247.62
Lt Harrowden	105.14	122.65	140.18	157.70	192.75	227.79	262.84	315.40
Irchester	99.48	116.06	132.64	149.22	182.38	215.54	248.70	298.44
Isham	106.42	124.15	141.89	159.62	195.09	230.56	266.04	319.24
Mears Ashby	91.59	106.85	122.12	137.38	167.91	198.44	228.97	274.76
Orlingbury	85.78	100.07	114.37	128.66	157.25	185.84	214.44	257.32
Strixton	108.26	126.29	144.34	162.38	198.47	234.55	270.64	324.76
Sywell	98.29	114.67	131.05	147.43	180.19	212.96	245.72	294.86
Wilby	94.65	110.42	126.20	141.97	173.52	205.07	236.62	283.94
Wollaston	101.24	118.10	134.98	151.85	185.60	219.34	253.09	303.70
Wellingborough	103.30	120.52	137.74	154.95	189.38	223.82	258.25	309.90

That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the council, in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below :-

#### Valuation Bands

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Northants County Council	712.68	831.46	950.24	1,069.02	1,306.58	1,544.14	1,781.70	2,138.04
Northants PCC	133.97	156.30	178.63	200.96	245.62	290.28	334.93	401.92

That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(h) and 4 above, the council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:- *Total council tax in each band for each parish.*)

## Valuation Bands

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Bozeat	937.77	1,094.06	1,250.36	1,406.65	1,719.24	2,031.83	2,344.42	2,813.30
Gt Doddington	941.47	1,098.37	1,255.29	1,412.20	1,726.03	2,039.85	2,353.67	2,824.40
Earls Barton	945.68	1,103.29	1,260.91	1,418.52	1,733.75	2,048.98	2,364.20	2,837.04
Easton Maudit	927.13	1,081.64	1,236.17	1,390.69	1,699.74	2,008.78	2,317.82	2,781.38
Ecton	946.06	1,103.73	1,261.42	1,419.09	1,734.45	2,049.80	2,365.15	2,838.18
Finedon	935.06	1,090.90	1,246.75	1,402.59	1,714.28	2,025.97	2,337.65	2,805.18
Grendon	950.01	1,108.34	1,266.68	1,425.01	1,741.68	2,058.35	2,375.02	2,850.02
Hardwick	935.27	1,091.14	1,247.03	1,402.90	1,714.66	2,026.42	2,338.17	2,805.80
Gt Harrowden	929.19	1,084.06	1,238.93	1,393.79	1,703.52	2,013.26	2,322.98	2,787.58
Lt Harrowden	951.79	1,110.41	1,269.05	1,427.68	1,744.95	2,062.21	2,379.47	2,855.36
Irchester	946.13	1,103.82	1,261.51	1,419.20	1,734.58	2,049.96	2,365.33	2,838.40
Isham	953.07	1,111.91	1,270.76	1,429.60	1,747.29	2,064.98	2,382.67	2,859.20
Mears Ashby	938.24	1,094.61	1,250.99	1,407.36	1,720.11	2,032.86	2,345.60	2,814.72
Orlbury	932.43	1,087.83	1,243.24	1,398.64	1,709.45	2,020.26	2,331.07	2,797.28
Strixton	954.91	1,114.05	1,273.21	1,432.36	1,750.67	2,068.97	2,387.27	2,864.72
Sywell	944.94	1,102.43	1,259.92	1,417.41	1,732.39	2,047.38	2,362.35	2,834.82
Wilby	941.30	1,098.18	1,255.07	1,411.95	1,725.72	2,039.49	2,353.25	2,823.90
Wollaston	947.89	1,105.86	1,263.85	1,421.83	1,737.80	2,053.76	2,369.72	2,843.66
Wellingborough	949.95	1,108.28	1,266.61	1,424.93	1,741.58	2,058.24	2,374.88	2,849.86

The council has determined that its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2015/16 is **not** excessive in accordance with principles approved under section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

As the billing authority, the council has **not** been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2015/16 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Parish/Town Council	2014-15			2015-16			Council Tax Change
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D £	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D £	
Bozeat	719	29,112	40.49	730	29,900	40.96	1.16%
Great Doddington	465	22,000	47.31	473	22,000	46.51	-1.69%
Earls Barton	1,734	90,831	52.38	1,836	96,995	52.83	0.86%
Easton Maudit	37	975	26.35	39	975	25.00	-5.12%
Ecton	206	11,000	53.40	223	11,908	53.40	0.00%
Finedon	1,308	47,263	36.13	1,388	51,218	36.90	2.13%
Grendon	235	14,000	59.57	236	14,000	59.32	-0.42%
Hardwick	43	1,500	34.88	43	1,600	37.21	6.68%
Great Harrowden	41	1,180	28.78	42	1,180	28.10	-2.36%
Little Harrowden	303	20,394	67.31	329	20,394	61.99	-7.90%
Irchester	1,447	75,491	52.17	1,453	77,755	53.51	2.57%
Isham	305	19,173	62.86	306	19,557	63.91	1.67%
Mears Ashby	213	7,500	35.21	216	9,000	41.67	18.35%
Orlbury	226	7,300	32.30	226	7,446	32.95	2.01%
Strixton	15	900	60.00	15	1,000	66.67	11.12%
Sywell	345	17,500	50.72	348	18,000	51.72	1.97%
Wilby	214	11,500	53.74	214	9,900	46.26	-13.92%
Wollaston	1,148	63,190	55.04	1,172	65,797	56.14	2.00%
<b>Total Parishes</b>	<b>9,004</b>	<b>440,809</b>	<b>48.96</b>	<b>9,289</b>	<b>458,625</b>	<b>49.37</b>	<b>0.84%</b>
Wellingborough Town	12,830	775,317	60.43	13,901	823,495	59.24	-1.97%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,834</b>	<b>1,216,126</b>		<b>23,190</b>	<b>1,282,120</b>		

**10. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND/OR MOTIONS**

There were no questions or motions raised by members.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE MAYOR OR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING**

The mayor informed the meeting of the following events taking place in March:

- Illegal Eagles at The Castle on Friday 27 February 2015.
- Wellingborough's Got Talent on Thursday 19 March 2015.
- Spring Ball on Saturday 21 March 2015.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.