

FULL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 9 July 2024 at 7.30 pm

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

The following papers have been added to the agenda of the above meeting. They were not available when the agenda was originally published.

Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Pages 3
- 24)

To confirm, as being a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of Full Council, held on 20 February 2024 and Annual Council, held on 21 May 2024 and for them to be signed by the Chair.

General Enquiries: Please contact the Committee Team at
committeeteam@threerivers.gov.uk

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THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL
Annual Council
Tuesday, 21 May 2024
(7.30 - 8.45 pm)

Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth

Present: Christopher Alley, Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Oliver Cooper, Stephen Cox, Harry Davies, Andrea Fraser, Elinor Gazzard, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Rue Grewal, Philip Hearn, Lisa Hudson, Tony Humphreys, Khalid Hussain, Raj Khiroya, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Keith Martin, Abbas Merali, Chris Mitchell, Debbie Morris, Ian Morris, Sarah Nelmes, Louise Price, Kevin Raeburn, Reena Ranger, David Raw, Ciaran Reed, Andrew Scarth, Narinder Sian, Tom Smith, Jonathan Solomons, Cheryl Stungo, Jon Tankard, Chris Whately-Smith and Anne Winter

Apologies: Steve Drury

Officers in Attendance:

Stephen Rix, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive
Katharine Simpson, Committee and Electoral Services Manager

CL1/24 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was moved by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Matthew Bedford that Councillor Raj Khiroya be elected Chair for the ensuing year. There being no further nominations, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that Councillor Raj Khiroya be appointed as the Chair of Three Rivers District Council for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Councillor Raj Khiroya made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair and was invested with the Chair's Chain of Office

COUNCILLOR KHIROYA IN THE CHAIR

CL2/24 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was moved by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Matthew Bedford that Councillor Tony Humphreys be appointed Deputy Chair for the ensuing year. There being no further nominations, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that Councillor Tony Humphreys be appointed Vice-Chair of Three Rivers District Council for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Councillor Tony Humphreys made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Chair and was invested with the Deputy Chair's Chain of Office

CL3/24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A query was raised in relation to the resolution in respect of the polling place review not being fully recorded. It was agreed that approval of the minutes would be deferred to enable this to be clarified.

CL4/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CL5/24 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair thanked Council for the honour of investing him as Chair of the Council for the ensuing municipal year and welcomed newly elected councillors.

CL6/24 APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was proposed by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, and seconded by Councillor Matthew Bedford, that Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst be appointed as the Leader of the Council for the 2024/25 municipal year. There being no other nominations the proposal was agreed by general assent.

RESOLVED that Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst be appointed as Leader of the Council for the 2024/25 municipal year.

NOTE

Councillor Sara Bedford left the room at 19:43

CL7/24 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND LEAD MEMBERS

Council considered proposed appointments to the positions of Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Members.

Councillor Stephen Cox moved an amendment to the proposal, that all the tabled names for the positions of Lead Members were to be accepted with the exception of the nomination of Councillor Sara Bedford and that the Majority Group be asked to submit an alternative nomination for the position of Lead Member for Housing and Public Health. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Chris Mitchell and duly debated.

Before the start of the debate, Councillor Keith Martin informed Council that he had an ongoing conduct complaint against Councillor Sara Bedford and as a consequence it would be inappropriate for him to participate in the debate and he left the room for the duration.

In moving his amendment Councillor Stephen Cox expressed the view that the decision was not a party political one and was a considered view based on history, precedence and facts including two complaints with the Group's party head office about the behaviour of the member in question, complaints from officers about the member, the regular submission of questions to Full Council that were hostile in their nature towards the administration, inappropriate and hostile behaviour towards other councillors in public meetings and incidents of bullying behaviour towards other councillors, which the Liberal Democrat group had failed to condemn. Concern was also expressed about the way that Councillor Bedford had claimed that she had chosen to resign as Leader of the Council when in reality she had lost a vote of no confidence and been forced to step down. As a result of these concerns, it was considered unconscionable that someone of this character should be placed in a position of leadership within the council.

Speaking in support of the amendment Councillors Chris Mitchell, Narinder Sian, Ciaran Reed, Joan King and Ian Morris all expressed the view that the allegations covered a

substantial period of time and that by supporting the nomination of Councillor Sara Bedford it would signal to officers and the public that the Council condoned bullying.

The debate having concluded the amendment was put to the vote and lost. The voting was For the amendment 18, Against the amendment 19, abstaining none.

The amendment having fallen, the substantive motion was then debated.

In moving the substantive motion, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst expressed his confidence in the abilities of all the nominated Lead Members to perform the allocated duties to the best of their abilities and that they would respect both officers and members. Any Lead Member not doing so would be held to account.

Speaking against the motion Councillors Stephen Cox, Oliver Cooper, Chris Mitchell and Ciaran Reed all expressed the view that as they did not agree with the appointment of one proposed lead member then it would be inappropriate for them to vote for the proposed Lead Members as a block.

The debate having concluded the substantive motion was put to the vote and carried. The voting was For the proposed appointments 20, Against the proposed appointments 18, Abstaining none.

RESOLVED that:

- i. Councillor Matthew Bedford be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2024/25 municipal year.
- ii. The following be appointed as Lead Members for the 2024/25 municipal year:
 - Councillor Matthew Bedford, Lead Member Resources
 - Councillor Louise Price, Lead Member for Infrastructure and Economic Development
 - Councillor Sarah Nelmes, Lead Member General Public Services
 - Councillor Sara Bedford, Lead Member Housing and Public Health
 - Councillor Chris Lloyd, Lead Member Leisure
 - Councillor Andrew Scarth, Lead Member Community Safety and Partnerships
 - Councillor Jon Tankard, Lead Member Sustainability and Climate Change

NOTE

Councillor Rue Grewal arrived at 19:45

Councillor Keith Martin left the meeting at 19:51

Councillor Sara Bedford returned to the meeting at 20:09

Councillor Reena Ranger left the meeting at 20:11

Councillor Andrew Scarth left the meeting at 20:13

Councillor Keith Martin returned to the meeting at 20:15

CL8/24 REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council was required by law to allocate seats in proportion to the political composition of the Council, with the aggregate membership of all the committees also being proportionate. The Council received a report setting out a proposed scheme of proportionality.

It was moved by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Matthew Bedford and

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the committees as set out at Annex A of the agenda report be appointed with the committee sizes shown; and
- (ii) the scheme of proportionality as set out at Annex A of the agenda report be adopted for the ensuing municipal year.

NOTE

Councillors Rue Grewal, Andrea Fraser and Reena Ranger left the meeting at 20:19
Councillor Narinder Sian left the meeting and then returned at 20:20

CL9/24 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

Council considered proposed nominations to the standing committees of the Council. It was also proposed that the General Public Services and Economic Development Committee and the Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee be renamed to General Public Services, Community Safety and Infrastructure Committee and the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee respectively so that they better reflected the subjects covered by each committees' terms of reference.

It was moved by the Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Matthew Bedford, and

RESOLVED that:

- i. The General Public Services and Economic Development Committee and the Climate Change, Leisure and Community Committee be renamed as the General Public Services, Community Safety and Infrastructure Committee and the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee respectively; and
- ii. the membership of the standing committees of the Council for 2024/25 be as follows:

Policy and Resources Committee

Councillors Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Oliver Cooper, Stephen Cox, Andrea Fraser, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Philip Hearn, Chris Lloyd, Chris Mitchell, Sarah Nelmes, Louise Price, Reena Ranger, Andrew Scarth and Jon Tankard.

Planning Committee

Councillors Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Harry Davies, Elinor Gazzard, Philip Hearn, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, Chris Mitchell, Debbie Morris, David Raw, Chris Whately-Smith

Named substitutes

Councillors Christopher Alley, Stephen Cox, Andrea Fraser, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Khalid Hussain, Raj Khuroya, Abbas Merali, Sarah Nelmes, Louise Price and Narinder Sian.

Licensing Committee

Councillors Stephen Cox, Harry Davies, Andrea Fraser, Rue Grewal, Tony Humphrey, Raj Khuroya, David Major, Sarah Nelmes, Ciaran Reed, Andrew Scarth and Narinder Sian.

Regulatory Committee

Councillors Stephen Cox, Harry Davies, Andrea Fraser, Rue Grewal, Tony Humphrey, Raj Khuroya, David Major, Sarah Nelmes, Ciaran Reed, Andrew Scarth and Narinder Sian.

General Public Services, Community Safety and Infrastructure Committee

Councillors Christopher Alley, Oliver Cooper, Steve Drury, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Lisa Hudson, Joan King, Sarah Nelmes, Louise Price, Kevin Raeburn, Andrew Scarth and Narinder Sian.

Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee

Councillors Sara Bedford, Andrea Fraser, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, Jon Tankard, Reena Ranger, Ciaran Reed, Tom Smith, Jonathan Solomons, Cheryl Stungo and Anne Winter.

Audit Committee

Councillors Rue Grewal, Lisa Hudson, Tony Humphreys, Khalid Hussain, Raj Khiroya, Keith Martin, Ian Morris, Ciaran Reed, Tom Smith and Jonathan Solomons

Council Tax Setting Committee

Councillors Matthew Bedford, Oliver Cooper, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Philip Hearn and one further Liberal Democrat nominee to be advised if required.

CL10/24 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Council considered proposed nominations to the positions of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the committees and sub-committees of the Council.

It was noted that the General Public Services, Community Safety and Infrastructure Committee and the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee would each be co-chaired by their three respective Lead Members.

RESOLVED that councillors be appointed to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the committees of the Council as set out below:

Policy and Resources Committee

Chair - Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Vice-chair - Councillor Matthew Bedford

General Public Services, Community Safety & Infrastructure Committee

To be co-chaired by the three respective lead members

Climate Change, Leisure & Housing Committee

To be co-chaired by the three respective lead members

Planning Committee

Chair - Councillor Chris Whatley-Smith
Vice-chair - Councillor Sara Bedford

Licensing Committee

Chair - Councillor Harry Davies
Vice-chair - Councillor Tony Humphreys

Regulatory Services Committee

Chair - Councillor Harry Davies
Vice-chair - Councillor Tony Humphreys

Audit Committee

Chair - Councillor Tony Humphreys
Vice-chair - Councillor Tom Smith

Constitution Sub-Committee

Chair - Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Vice Chair - Councillor Matthew Bedford

Equalities Sub-Committee

Chair - Councillor Anne Winter
Vice-Chair - Councillor Kevin Raeburn

Local Plan Sub-Committee

Chair - Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Vice Chair - Councillor Louise Price

Shareholder and Commercial Ventures Scrutiny Panel

Chair - Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Vice-Chair - Councillor Matthew Bedford

CL11/24 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS AND OTHER BODIES OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024/25

Council considered proposed appointments to the Sub-Committees of the Council and other Council bodies for the ensuing municipal year.

RESOLVED

- i. that appointments be made to the Sub Committees and other Bodies of the Council as set out below:

Constitution Sub-Committee

Councillors Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Oliver Cooper, Stephen Cox, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Chris Lloyd, Debbie Morris, Louise Price and Narinder Sian

Equalities Sub-Committee

Councillors Stephen Cox, Lisa Hudson, Khalid Hussain, Raj Khiroya, Abbas Merali, Kevin Raeburn, Tom Smith A, Cheryl Stungo and Anne Winter

Local Plan Sub-Committee

Councillors Christopher Alley, Matthew Bedford, Oliver Cooper, Stephen Cox, Steve Drury, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Philip Hearn, Chris Mitchell, Sarah Nelmes, Louise Price, and Andrew Scarth.

Shareholder and Commercial Venture Scrutiny Panel

Councillors Matthew Bedford, Sara Bedford, Stephen Cox, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Philip Hearn, Abbas Merali, Chris Mitchell, Sarah Nelmes and Louise Price.

Three Rivers Community Safety Partnership Board

Councillor Andrew Scarth

Three Rivers Local Strategic Partnership

Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst and Andrew Scarth. Substitute Councillor Sarah Nelmes.

Community Safety Board (Police and Crime Commissioner Board)

Councillor Andrew Scarth

Environmental Forum

Councillors Raj Khiroya, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, Louise Price, Kevin Raeburn, Cheryl Stungo and Jon Tankard.

Chair – Councillor Jon Tankard

Vice Chair – Councillor Chris Lloyd

Seniors' Forum

Councillor Keith Martin

Youth Council

Councillors Ciaran Reed, Narinder Sian and Jonathan Solomons

- ii. Appointments to the following bodies would be made on an 'as-required' basis:
- Standards Regime
 - Appointments Committee
 - Appeals Committee
 - Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee
 - Internal Complaints Panel
 - Staff Employer Forum

NOTE

Councillors Andrea Fraser and Reena Ranger returned at 20:25

CL12/24 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS FOR EACH OF THE LOCAL AREA FORUMS

Council considered the proposed appointments to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Local Area Forums for the ensuing municipal year.

It was proposed that the Local Area Forums' Terms of Reference were revised so that forums were to meet no more than four times a year on dates agreed by the Chair and Vice-Chair and with the consent of the majority of members in that area. In addition the positions of Chairs and Vice-Chairs were to be shared across the political groups. It was noted that these changes would need to be ratified by the Full Council at their next meeting.

RESOLVED that:

- i. the following appointments be made to the Chair and Vice Chair positions on the Local Area Forums

	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Vice Chair</u>
Abbots Langley	Councillor Sara Bedford	Councillor Elinor Gazzard
Chorleywood and Sarratt	Councillor Harry Davies	Councillor Ciaran Reed
Croxley Green	Councillor Steve Drury	Councillor Chris Mitchell
Rickmansworth	Councillor Sarah Nemes	Councillor Debbie Morris
Watford Rural	Councillor Ian Morris	Councillor Andrew Scarth

- ii. The proposed changes to the Forums' terms of reference would be brought to the next meeting of Full Council for consideration.

CL13/24 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Council considered a report setting out its proposed appointments to Outside Bodies for the 2024/25 municipal year.

It was noted that representation on the Moor Park Mansion Heritage Foundation Trust to be increased from 3 to 4 with one representative from each group to be appointed and one representative from each group would be appointed to the South Oxhey Community Board.

RESOLVED that the Council appoints representatives to outside bodies as set out below:

East of England Local Government Association

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Chilterns Conservation Board

Councillor Louise Price

Denham Aerodrome Consultative Committee

Councillor Raj Khiroya

Herts Waste Partnership

Councillor Sarah Nelmes

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst (Substitute)

LGA General Assembly

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Councillor Matthew Bedford (Substitute)

Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust

Councillor Elinor Gazzard

Herts County Council Health Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Tony Humphreys

Substitute vacancy

Three Rivers Museum Trust

Councillor Keith Martin

Moor Park Mansion Heritage Foundation Trust

Councillor Stephen King

Councillor Reena Ranger

Councillor Narinder Sian

Councillor Andrew Scarth

New Agreement Traffic Management Act 2004 Adjudication Joint Committee

Councillor Sarah Nelmes

Substitute vacancy

Abbots Langley Community Centre Management Committee

Councillor David Major

Hertfordshire Police and Crime Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Andrew Scarth

Substitute vacancy

Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant

Councillor Sarah Nelmes

Herts Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership

Councillor Jon Tankard

Councillor Chris Mitchell

Herts Growth Board

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Councillor Matthew Bedford (Substitute)

South West Herts Strategic Planning Members Group

Councillor Stephen Giles Medhurst

Councillor Louise Price (Substitute)

Watford and Three Rivers Trust

Councillor Sara Bedford (Observer)

South Oxhey Community Board

Councillor Rue Grewal

Councillor Joan King

Councillor Andrew Scarth

CL14/24 APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON

Council considered a report setting out a proposal to appoint a third person to the Council's pool of Independent Persons. The recommendation to appoint Mrs Lucy Richards to the pool of Independent Persons was proposed by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Matthew Bedford, and carried by general assent.

RESOLVED that pursuant to the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 Mrs Lucy Richards is appointed to the position of Independent Person for a four year period ending 31 May 2028.

NOTE

Councillor Anne Winter left the meeting at 20:40

Councillor Anne Winter returned at 20:42

CL15/24 SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ELECTION RESULTS

Council received and noted a summary of the election results following the District Elections on 2 May 2024.

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THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Full Council held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Tuesday, 20 February 2024 from 7.30 - 10.30 pm

Present: Councillor Raj Khiroya (Chair), Councillor Tony Humphreys (Vice-Chair), Councillors Matthew Bedford, Ruth Clark, Stephen Cox, Oliver Cooper, Harry Davies, Steve Drury, Andrea Fraser, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Rue Grewal, Philip Hearn, Lisa Hudson, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Keith Martin, Debbie Morris, Ian Morris, Chris Mitchell, Sarah Nelmes, Kevin Raeburn, Paul Rainbow, Reena Ranger, David Raw, Ciaran Reed, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Narinder Sian, Jonathan Solomons, Jon Tankard and Anne Winter

Apologies:

Councillors Sara Bedford, Louise Price and Chris Whately-Smith

Officers in Attendance:

Stephen Rix, Associate Director Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer)
Alison Scott, Shared Director of Finance
Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive

64 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 12th December 2023 be approved as being a correct record and are signed by the Chair.

65 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Raj Khiroya spoke about the events that he had attended in his capacity as Chair of the Council. These had included accompanying the High Sherrif of Hertfordshire on a tour of the District's libraries, attending the Special Constables Attestation Event and participating in the flag raising service for Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Chair announced that he had chosen to support two charities, Ovacom Ovarian Cancer and Friends of Prostate Cancer, during his year as Chair.

Council paid tribute to Councillor Amrit Medirrata who had passed away in December 2023 and held a minute's silence.

Note

Councillors Reena Ranger and Ian Morris left the meeting at 7:43pm.

66 PETITIONS

It was noted that no petitions had been received by the Council under Procedure Rule 18.

67 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Council received and noted the five questions submitted by members of the public under Procedure Rule 15 and their written responses.

The following supplementary question was asked by Mr Mike Sims in response to the written answer provided to his question. We were assured that 98% of the Green Belt would be protected. Of the 2% of Green Belt land being built on in Penn and Mill End what percentage is being built on and is it fair that 30% of the new homes are to be built in Penn and Mill End.

It was clarified that until planning applications were submitted it would not be possible to provide an exact percentage for the amount of Green Belt that would be built upon should the site come forward for development. In addition, there were a number of planning restrictions associated with the sites detailed in the Local Plan Site Allocations which would further impact on any developments. Of the homes that were to be built it was proposed that 40% were to be affordable homes including a percentage that were to be classified as being Rent in Perpetuity.

In respect of question 3 it was noted that the written response contained a typographical error and the police's non emergency telephone number should have been stated as 101 not 111.

In respect of question 4 it was confirmed that it was not possible under the Council's Constitution for someone to ask a supplementary question on behalf of the original questioner. Notwithstanding this, it was agreed that if the original questioner's written supplementary question was forwarded by email then a response could be provided.

It was noted that the final sentence of the written answer to question 4 should have read 'I clearly do not want that to occur' instead of 'I clearly want that to occur'.

68 FINANCIAL PLANNING

Council considered draft budgets for the 2024/24 financial year proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group and the Green Group.

The Green Group's budget was proposed by Councillor Chris Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Narinder Sian.

The Liberal Democrat Group's budget was proposed by Councillor Keith Martin and seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst.

The Local Government Finance Act 2002 placed a statutory requirement on local authorities to set a balanced budget for each new financial year. It was acknowledged that whilst the authority was operating in a difficult economic environment in setting the budget for 2024/25 financial year it was planned that all services provided in 2023/24 would be maintained into the new financial year, something that prudent financial management over many years had made possible.

In response to concerns that increasing charges for parking and green waste collections would impact on local residents and could be considered to be a reduction in services it was reported that parking permit fees had not been increased for a number of years and had they been increased in line with inflation over this time then there would have been a much greater increase over the years. The original ambition for garden waste collections to be cost neutral still remained however rising fuel prices and increased staffing costs meant that progress towards this aim would be slower than originally anticipated.

It was clarified that the replacement of the Aquadrome bridge was being funded through Community Infrastructure Levy funding and as such could not be considered a revenue project.

Having debated both motions the Green Group's budget was put to the vote. As required in legislation a recorded vote was held and the outcome was:

FOR (2): Councillors Chris Mitchell and Narinder Sian.

AGAINST (18): Councillors Matthew Bedford, Ruth Clark, Harry Davies, Steve Drury, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khuroya, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Keith Martin, Sarah Nelmes, Kevin Raeburn, Paul Rainbow, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Jonathon Solomons, Jon Tankard and Anne Winter.

ABSTAINING (10): Councillors Oliver Cooper, Stephen Cox, Andrea Fraser, Philip Hearn, Lisa Hudson, Joan King, Stephen King, Debbie Morris, David Raw and Ciaran Reed

Consequently the Green Group's budget proposal fell.

The Liberal Democrat Group's proposed budget was then put to the vote. In accordance with legislation a recorded vote was held and the outcome was:

FOR (20): Councillors Matthew Bedford, Ruth Clark, Harry Davies, Steve Drury, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khuroya, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Keith Martin, Chris Mitchell, Sarah Nelmes, Kevin Raeburn, Paul Rainbow, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Narinder Sian, Jonathon Solomons, Jon Tankard and Anne Winter.

AGAINST (0): None

ABSTAINING (10): Councillors Oliver Cooper, Stephen Cox, Andrea Fraser, Philip Hearn, Lisa Hudson, Joan King, Stephen King, Debbie Morris, David Raw and Ciaran Reed

Consequently, the Liberal Democrat budget proposal was carried.

RESOLVED that Council agrees the following actions:

- a) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme, as presented to Policy and Resources on 29 January 2024, be approved subject to the following changes, note these are all reflected in Appendix 1 of the report
 - (i) That MTFP figures be updated for the final settlement.
 - (ii) That the final parish precept figures are reflected.
 - (iii) That the charge for Green Bins be increased by £5 per year The following annual charges for the collection of garden waste will apply for the year commencing 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025:
 - For a single brown bin: £65 (A concessionary rate of £55 will apply for those on income-based Council-administered benefits).
 - For each additional brown bin: £110 per bin (a maximum of 3 brown bins applies).This will result in additional income of £120,000.
 - (iv) That the vacant Assistant Director Economy, Infrastructure and Planning post be removed, saving £107,769
 - (v) That £75,000 be allocated for project funding for Green and Bio-diversity projects towards Net Zero with £100,000 pa in 2025/26 and £125,000 in future years.
 - (vi) That £40,000 be allocated for the next two years for project funding for parking schemes, including regulation and controls.
 - (vii) That £5,000 pa be allocated to allow the scheme for free swimming aimed at children on free school meals to continue.
 - (viii) That £100,000 be transferred from general fund reserves to a specific Planning Reserve to allow for conservation appraisals, the local plan timetable to be accelerated and other planning advice.
- b) That the revenue budget for 2024/25 totalling net expenditure of £14,159,332 and the draft revenue estimates for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 giving a balance on the general fund at 31 March 2027 of £3,740,533 be approved. (Appendix 1)

- c) That £2.0m be considered as a prudent minimum balance for the general fund.
- d) That the capital strategy, including the Minimum Revenue Provision strategy and the Treasury Management Policy, as presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 29 January 2024 be agreed and the total investment programme for 2024/25 be agreed at £4,371,882.
- e) That the arrangements for funding the 2024/27 capital strategy and investment programme resulting in an estimated balance of capital resources at 31 March 2027 of £2,719,289 be agreed.
- f) That the financial and budgetary risks presented to The Policy and Resources Committee on 29 January 2024 be approved and their management monitored by the Audit Committee.
- g) That the revised Council Tax Reduction Scheme, as presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 29 January 2024, is approved for 2024/25.
- h) That the position on the financial reserves as presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on 29 January 2024, as amended by paragraph above, is noted.
- i) The Director of Finance's advice on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the financial reserves is noted.
- j) The Director of Finance be authorised to amend individual budget lines to implement the budget as set out above.
- k) Notes the advice of the monitoring officer appended to the report.

NOTE

Councillor Rue Grewal left the meeting at 8:18pm and did not participate in the vote.

69 SPECIAL EXPENSES

Council considered a report reviewing the Council's General and Special expenses categorisations under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in respect of the parished and unparished areas of the district.

It was clarified that Batchworth Community Council was only recharged for the part of Watersmeet that was used as a community venue, they were not recharged for the whole cost of Watersmeet.

The motion to approve the Special expenses was proposed by Councillor Keith Martin and seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes. In accordance with legislation a recorded vote was held and the results were:

FOR (20): Councillors Matthew Bedford, Ruth Clark, Harry Davies, Steve Drury, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khuroya, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Keith Martin, Chris Mitchell, Sarah Nelmes, Kevin Raeburn, Paul Rainbow, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Narinder Sian, Jonathon Solomons, Jon Tankard and Anne Winter.

AGAINST (7): Councillors Oliver Cooper, Andrea Fraser, Philip Hearn, Lisa Hudson, Debbie Morris, David Raw and Ciaran Reed.

ABSTAINING (3): Councillors Stephen Cox, Joan King and Stephen King.

Consequently, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the Council confirms that it will apply the following resolution for special and general expenses for 2024/25:

- i. that the following functions being either those provided equally across the district or incurring minimal expenditure be declared general expenses:
 - allotments;
 - litter, salt and dog bins;

- highways, trees and roadside verges;
 - seats and shelters;
 - youth centres;
 - crime prevention;
 - land drainage;
 - footpath maintenance;
 - footpath lighting;
 - community arts;
 - off-street car park maintenance;
 - street naming;
 - Dial-A-Ride;
 - play-schemes
 - cemeteries
 - YMCA Woodlands building in Abbots Langley
 - The Centre, South
- ii. that the following functions are declared special expenses:
- Woodlands (apportioned on the basis of acreage) including the ranger at Leavesden Open Space and 50% of the Arboriculture and Landscape Officers' costs
 - Community halls (including apportionment of Oxhey Hall);
 - Playing fields and open spaces (excluding water-based activities and maintenance met from commuted sums); based on the Grounds Maintenance contract.
 - Aquadrome Treated as 50% general expense and 50% special expense apportioned to the Batchworth Community Council.
 - Watersmeet (all costs except the pantomime charged to the unparished area and Batchworth Community Council as a community hall. The pantomime is treated as a general expense).

70 COUNCIL TAX DISTRICT ELEMENT

Council considered a report setting out proposals for the District element of Council Tax for the 2024-24 financial year.

It was noted that the proposed amounts had been calculated in accordance with the formula set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) taking housing numbers and rateable values into account.

A motion to approve was proposed by Councillor Keith Martin and seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes. In accordance with legislation a recorded vote was held and the voting in respect of the motion was as follows:

FOR (20): Councillors Matthew Bedford, Ruth Clark, Harry Davies, Steve Drury, Stephen Giles-Medurst, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khiroya, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Keith Martin, Chris Mitchell, Sarah Nelmes, Kevin Raeburn, Paul Rainbow, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Narinder Sian, Jonathon Solomons, Jon Tankard and Anne Winter.

AGAINST (0): None

ABSTAIN (10): Councillors Oliver Cooper, Stephen Cox, Andrea Fraser, Philip Hearn, Lisa Hudson, Joan King, Stephen King, Debbie Morris, David Raw and Ciaran Reed.

Consequently, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the following amounts be calculated for the year 2024/25, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £50,971,208 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) £40,485,712 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) £10,485,496 being the amount by which the aggregate (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above.
- (d) £263.12 being the amount at (c) above divided by the council tax base, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including parish precepts).
- (e) £3,692,473 being the aggregate amount of all special items (parish precepts and special expenses)
- (f) £170.46 being the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special item relates.

(g)

Parts of the Council's areas	£
Abbots Langley	289.32
Batchworth	261.70
Chorleywood	270.02
Croxley Green	255.54
Sarratt	269.40
Watford Rural	241.50
Unparished	247.14

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to the dwellings in those parts of the Council's area listed above divided by the council tax base, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h)

Parts of the Council's Area	Valuation Band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abbots Langley	192.88	225.03	257.17	289.32	353.61	417.91	482.20	578.64
Batchworth	174.47	203.54	232.62	261.70	319.86	378.01	436.17	523.40
Chorleywood	180.01	210.02	240.02	270.02	330.02	390.03	450.03	540.04
Croxley Green	170.36	198.75	227.15	255.54	312.33	369.11	425.90	511.08
Sarratt	179.60	209.53	239.47	269.40	329.27	389.13	449.00	538.80
Watford Rural	161.00	187.83	214.67	241.50	295.17	348.83	402.50	483.00
Unparished	164.76	192.22	219.68	247.14	302.06	356.98	411.90	494.28

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (g) above by the proportion in paragraph 3.7 of the report.

71 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX

Council considered a report setting out proposed Council Tax rates for residents of the Three Rivers District area for the 2024/25 financial year.

It was noted that Council Tax was made up from precepts set by Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Police and the District Council. Both Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Police had agreed their precept levels at meetings held during the week commencing 12th February 2024.

It was confirmed that the budget had included an action for officers to review the Council Tax Support Scheme during the coming financial year to ensure it remained fit for purpose and did not disincentivise people from working.

The motion to approve the Council Tax for the 2024/25 financial year was proposed by Councillor Keith Martin and seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes. In accordance with legislation a recorded vote was taken and the results were:

FOR (23): Councillors Matthew Bedford, Ruth Clark, Stephen Cox, Harry Davies, Steve Drury, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khiroya, Joan King, Stephen King, Chris Lloyd, David Major, Keith Martin, Chris Mitchell, Sarah Nelmes, Kevin Raeburn, Paul Rainbow, Andrew Scarth, Roger Seabourne, Narinder Sian, Jonathon Solomons, Jon Tankard and Anne Winter.

AGAINST (0): None

ABSTAIN (7): Councillors Oliver Cooper, Andrea Fraser, Philip Hearn, Lisa Hudson, Debbie Morris, David Raw and Ciaran Reed.

Consequently, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that:

- 1.1 That it be noted that for the year 2024/25 the Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire 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 dwelling shown below:

Precepting Authority	Valuation Band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hertfordshire County Council	961.58	1121.84	1282.11	1442.37	1762.90	2083.42	2403.95	2884.74
Hertfordshire County Council Adult Social Care	162.25	189.30	216.34	243.38	297.46	351.55	405.63	486.76
Police & Crime Commissioner	167.33	195.22	223.11	251.00	306.78	362.56	418.33	502.00
Total	1291.16	1506.36	1721.56	1936.75	2367.14	2797.53	3227.91	3873.50

- 1.2 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case the Council in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following

amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Parts of the Council's Area	Valuation Band & Charges							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Abbots Langley	1484.04	1731.39	1978.73	2226.07	2720.75	3215.44	3710.11	4452.14
Batchworth	1465.63	1709.90	1954.18	2198.45	2687.00	3175.54	3664.08	4396.90
Chorleywood	1471.17	1716.38	1961.58	2206.77	2697.16	3187.56	3677.94	4413.54
Croxley Green	1461.52	1705.11	1948.71	2192.29	2679.47	3166.64	3653.81	4384.58
Sarratt	1470.76	1715.89	1961.03	2206.15	2696.41	3186.66	3676.91	4412.30
Watford Rural	1452.16	1694.19	1936.23	2178.25	2662.31	3146.36	3630.41	4356.50
Unparished	1455.92	1698.58	1941.24	2183.89	2669.20	3154.51	3639.81	4367.78

72 COUNCIL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024

Council considered a report setting out the Council's proposed Pay Policy Statement for the 2024/25 financial year.

A motion to approve the Council's Pay Policy Statement was proposed by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, seconded by Councillor Keith Martin, put to the vote and carried by general assent.

RESOLVED that the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2024 be approved.

NOTE

Councillor Jonothon Solomons left the meeting at 8.55pm and returned at 8.57pm

73 POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Council considered a report setting out the recommendations arising from the meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 4th December 2023 and 29th January 2024.

Procurement Strategy

It was noted that Appendix C had been omitted from the Strategy and it was agreed that this would be added before the Strategy was published.

A motion to approve the Procurement Strategy was proposed by Councillor Keith Martin, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, put to the vote and, subject to the addition of Appendix C to the Strategy, passed by common assent.

Amendment to the Constitution in respect of the Standards Procedure

A motion to approve the proposed amendments to the Council's Standards Procedure was proposed by councillor Sarah Nelmes, seconded by Councillor Keith Martin, put to the vote and carried by common assent.

Amendment to the Constitution in respect of the Recording of Private Meetings

Council was informed the recent recording of a private briefing without the consent of the attendees it was considered to be a clear breach of trust. As such it was considered necessary to incorporate additional guidance into the Council's Constitution to prevent a

recurrence at a future date. Assurance was also sought from the councillor in question as to whether all recordings of the briefing had been destroyed.

A motion to approve the proposed amendments to the Member/Officer Protocol and member Code of Conduct concerning the recording of private meetings was proposed by Councillor Keith Martin, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, put to the vote and carried by common assent.

RESOLVED that:

- i. The Procurement Strategy by adopted.
- ii. The Council's Constitution concerning a revised Standards Procedure be updated.
- iii. The proposed amendments to the Member/Officer Protocol and Member Code of Conduct for the Recording of Private Meetings be incorporated into the Council's Constitution.

NOTE

Councillor Anne Winter left the meeting at 9.15pm and returned at 9.16pm.

74 LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND

Council considered a report setting out proposals for the acquisition of residential units and the settling of ground rents through the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) to meet the Council's stated obligations in respect of providing longer term accommodation for Afghan and Ukrainian families (LAHF1) and just Afghan families (LAHF2) who have arrived in the UK via various resettlement schemes.

A motion to approve the proposed property acquisitions and ground rent settlements was proposed by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, seconded by Councillor Andrew Scarth, put to the vote and carried by common assent.

RESOLVED that:

- i. the update report and the current progress of the LAHF scheme in the District is noted
- ii. the principle of the acquisition of between 7no. & 12no. new-build units within the District and the subsequent proposed management arrangements as discussed within the report is approved.
- iii. the principle for considering an offer for the payment of a single capital sum in connection with the ground rent settlement as proposed by the Leaseholder is approved.
- iv. the final details of the proposed acquisition and ground rent settlement is delegated, as may be necessary, to the Policy & Resources Committee.
- v. the intended use of the allocated capital programme funds to be invested into the LAHF scheme, including in the including in the event that TRDC receives a further allocation of funds as discussed within the report in noted.

NOTE

Councillor Steve Drury left the room at 9.21pm

75 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES FOLLOWING THE RESTRUCTURE OF THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Council considered a report setting out proposed changes to the constitution following a restructuring of the Senior Leadership Team.

A motion to approve the proposed changes was moved by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, put to the vote and carried by common assent.

RESOLVED that:

- i. The staffing structure as set out in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.5 of the report be noted
- ii. The Statutory Officer allowance to the Monitoring Officer of £5,000 is noted
- iii. The establishment of the Deputy Monitoring Officer allowance of £1,000 is noted

And that, subject to the agreement of the budget proposals:

- i. The update to the Constitution as outlined in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report is agreed
- ii. The Monitoring Officer role is agreed as being a Chief Officer post.

Note

Councillors Rue Grewal and Ian Morris returned to the room at 9.22pm

76 SERVICE PLANS 2024-27

Council considered a report setting out the Council's draft Service Plans for 2024-27.

It was noted that the Property and Major Projects Service Plan contained an error on page 3, when the adoption of Shepherds Lane had been specifically referenced instead of general sites. This error would be corrected in the final version of the service plan.

A motion to adopt the service plans was moved by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, was seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, put to the vote and carried by common assent.

RESOLVED that, subject to the amendment set out above, the final Service Plans 2024-2027 be agreed.

NOTE

Councillors Steve Drury returned to the room at 9.23pm

Councillor Andrea Fraser left the room at 9.23pm and returned at 9.25pm

77 REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Council considered a report setting out a recommendation from the Regulatory Services Committee that authority be delegated to the Returning Officer to make changes to the location of polling stations in the event of polling station being unexpectedly unavailable in the run up to an election.

It was confirmed that the location and suitability of the District's polling places were regularly reviewed outside the statutory review cycle to ensure that all venues used were appropriate and that reviews of district wards and polling places could be conducted on an individual basis and not as part of the statutory 5-year review of polling places

A motion approving the proposed delegation was proposed by Councillor Matthew Bedford, seconded by Councillor Anne Winter put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED that Authority be delegated to the Returning Officer, in consultation with the relevant ward members and local election agents, to make any necessary amendments to polling places to enable changes to be made at short notice should a polling place not be available at the time an election was called.

78 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Council considered a report seeking approval to extend the term of office for the current Independent Person Mr Kenneth Lee and appoint Mrs Tracey Heather as a second Independent Person.

A motion to approve the proposals was moved by Councillor Sarah Nelmes, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED that pursuant to the requirements of the Localism Act 2011:

- i. Mr Kenneth Lee be reappointed to the position of Independent Person for a four year period to 31 October 2028.
- ii. Mrs Tracy Heather be appointed to the position of Independent Person for a four year period to 31 October 2028.

79 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Council considered a report setting out a review of the proportionality of the Council's committees following a change in the composition of the Council's political groupings.

Councillor Sarah Nelmes proposed that Councillor Harry Davies be appointed to the vacant Liberal Democrat Group seats on both the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and that Councillor Tony Humphreys was appointed Chair of the two Committees. The motion was seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst.

During the subsequent debate it was stressed that the Regulatory and Licensing Committees were cross party committees which had been well chaired by Councillor Roger Seabourne over the course of the municipal year to date. With Councillor Seabourne's term of office due to come to an end in May it was questioned why there was a need to change the chair at this stage of the municipal year. It was clarified that only political groups were automatically entitled to seats on committees; as Councillor Seabourne was the only independent councillor then he was not automatically entitled to a seat on any committee. In the event that a seat on a committee was to be made available to Councillor Seabourne then in order to maintain correct political proportionality across all committees the Conservative Group would have to lose a seat on the Audit Committee which could then be given to Councillor Seabourne.

Councillor Oliver Cooper subsequently moved the following proposed amendment to the motion that:

- i. the Conservative Group would give up a seat on the Licensing and Regulatory Committees reducing the number of seats held by the Conservative Group on each committee from three to two.
- ii. the independent councillor, Councillor Roger Seaborne be appointed to the now vacant seats on the Licensing and Regulatory Committees.
- iii. Councillor Roger Seaborne be appointed to the position of Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees.

Councillor Cooper's amendment was seconded by Councillor Stephen Cox, put to the vote and carried. Councillor Sarah Nelmes subsequently withdrew the Liberal Democrat Group nomination of Councillor Tony Humphreys to the position of Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees.

RESOLVED that:

- i. Councillor Harry Davies be appointed to the vacant Liberal Democrat seat on the Regulatory and Licensing Committees.

- ii. the Conservative Group give up one seat on the Licensing and Regulatory Committees reducing the number of seats held by the Conservative Group on each committee from three to two.
- iii. the independent councillor, Councillor Roger Seaborne be appointed to the vacant seats on the Licensing and Regulatory Committees.
- iv. Councillor Roger Seaborne be appointed to the position of Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees

80 LEADER AND LEAD MEMBER REPORTS

Council received the reports of the Leader and Lead Members.

It was noted that the District would be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its creation during 2024 with various events including an exhibition of the District's history.

It was clarified that the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations had reflected the themes endorsed by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

In accordance with Part 4, Rule 1, Paragraph 7 of the Council's Constitution the meeting concluded at 10.30pm. In accordance with part 4, Rule 6, paragraph 3 of the Council's Constitution all remaining items on the agenda fell and were not considered.

Meeting concluded.

CHAIRMAN