

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

25TH FEBRUARY 2009 (6:00 PM)

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**Present:**

Councillor Mumshad Ahmed	Councillor Anne Hingley
Councillor Rachel Akathiotis	Councillor John Holden
Councillor John Aston,	Councillor Michael Kelly
Councillor Jeffrey Baker	Councillor Susan Meekings
Councillor Graham Ballinger	Councillor Howard Martin
Councillor Arthur Buckley	Councillor David Millis
Councillor John-Paul Campion	Councillor Christopher Nicholls
Councillor Stephen Clee	Councillor Fran Oborski
Councillor Nathan Desmond	Councillor Tracey Onslow
Councillor Helen Dyke	Councillor Michael Partridge
Councillor Peter Dyke	Councillor Julian Phillips
Councillor Howard Eeles	Councillor Mike Price
Councillor Jill Fairbrother-Millis	Councillor Ken Prosser
Councillor Brian Glass	Councillor Mike Salter
Councillor Douglas Godwin	Councillor Michael Shellie
Councillor Jenny Greener	Councillor Dixon Sheppard
Councillor Paul Harrison	Councillor Ken Stokes
Councillor Marcus Hart	Councillor John Thomas
Councillor Pauline Hayward	Councillor Nigel Thomas
Councillor Siriol Hayward	Councillor Stephen Williams
Councillor Malcolm Hazelwood	Councillor Gordon Yarranton

**C.69**

**Prayers**

Prayers were lead by the Reverend Linda Catlow of Wesley Methodist, Stourport, Alverely, Callow Hill and Areley Kings Methodist Churches.

**C.70**

**Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**C.71**

**Declaration of Interests**

Councillors Oborski, H Dyke, Williams, Shellie, Kelly and Aston declared personal interests in item 13 (Budget proposals regarding mortgages and shared ownership) as Board Members of Wyre Forest Community Housing.

Councillor Campion declared a personal interest in item 13 as a Board Member of Wyre Forest Citizens Advice Bureau.

**C.72 Minutes:**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 be signed as a correct record.**

The Chairman explained that due to the Divisional Restructuring Report being an integral part of the Budget proposals, the next part of the agenda would be considered in exempt session, with the open agenda being resumed at Item 8.

**Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**Decision: Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraphs 1,2,3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

With the exception of the Chief Executive, Officers then left the meeting.

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting.

**C.73 Summary of the Minutes:**

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to those items has been made as ‘exempt information’ would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

**C.74 Recommendations from Cabinet:**

Council received a report (copies of which had been circulated) on recommendations from Cabinet to Council.

The Council considered a recommendation from 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 regarding the Divisional Management Restructuring – Transformational Change and the Outcome of the Employee Consultation.

Officers were invited to return to the meeting.

The Council considered a recommendation from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 regarding the Single Site.

**C.75 Public Participation:**

It was noted that no members of public had requested to speak.

The Chairman received petitions from Councillor Akathiotis regarding Paving Slabs at All Saints Avenue and Wassell Drive and Street Lighting at All Saints Avenue and Wassell Drive. Members were advised that these would be passed to the appropriate bodies for action.

**C.76 Questions**

The Council received a question from Councillor Nigel Thomas directed to the Leader of the Council.

**Question from Councillor Thomas to Councillor Campion.**

Would Councillor Campion please explain why he stood in the Council Chamber last October and assured us that all capital projects would be frozen and then proceeded to enter negotiations on the purchase of land for a single site.

**Response from Councillor Campion**

I refer Councillor Thomas to Council 08/09 minute C57.

**C.77**

**Chairman's Communications:**

The Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting.

The Chairman advised Council that it was shortly to be the Chief Executives birthday and presented him with a small gift of appreciation on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman added that he had recently attended a dinner at the Stone Manor Hotel and had raised £1600 for the Prostate Cancer Support Group. He also reminded Members that they could still contribute to the fund if they wished.

**C.78**

**Leader of the Council Announcements**

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements in relation to the Icelandic Banks:

**Landsbanki - £3m**

The Council was being represented at the meetings of the Creditor Committees in Iceland, by Kent County Council, the London Borough of Barnet and Bevan Brittain Solicitors who had been appointed through the LGA to represent all affected Councils.

Over the next few months it was expected that the position in relation to the creditor status of wholesale depositors would become clear. Currently there was encouraging news in relation to the Glitner receivership (another Icelandic Bank which was further advanced in the process, with which the Council had no investments) that the Local Authorities may well gain preferential status. If this status was confirmed this was likely to increase the speed and value of any settlement.

**Heritable - £1m**

Further meetings of the Creditor Committee had been held. The committee itself was made up of 2 local authorities, the Open University and a charity.

The administrator was satisfied with the progress that was being made in relation to the process, with a further report being made to all creditors on the position in April. However, the administrator had forecast that a material dividend would be payable in due course to unsecured creditors, such as ourselves.

**Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander - £5m**

Further meetings of the Creditor Committee were being held this week, and when available a further update would be made available. At present the administrator was stating that the administration was progressing in accordance with the strategy set out in the formal proposals to creditors.

As with the Heritable, the administrator would be making a further report to all creditors in April.

Councillor Campion summarised that the Council continued to work closely with the LGA and all other Local Authorities affected by the collapse of the Icelandic banking industry. The legal support provided through Bevan Brittain had been excellent and through jointly procuring this support through the LGA the Council's contributions had remained modest at £2,000.

Councillor Campion continued that as the aim of the Council was the full recovery of the deposits and that further updates would be presented to the Cabinet as new information became available.

**C.79 Recommendations from Cabinet**

The Council received a report (copies of which had been circulated) on the recommendations from Cabinet to Council.

The Council considered a recommendation from 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008 Cabinet regarding Worcestershire Substance Misuse Strategy.

**Decision: The Worcestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2008-11 be adopted.**

The Council considered a recommendation from 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 Cabinet regarding Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2008 – 2013.

**Decision: The revised Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire be endorsed.**

The Council considered a recommendation from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 Cabinet regarding Amendment of the Council's policy relating to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

**Decision: Agreed that the Council will not generally conduct or use a Covert Human Intelligence Source, and that the Council's policy relating to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act be amended accordingly.**

The Council considered a recommendation from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 Cabinet regarding the Air Quality Strategy.

**Decision: The Air Quality Strategy, as contained within the separate appendices to the report to Cabinet, be adopted.**

## **Agenda Item No. 12**

The Council considered a recommendation from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 Cabinet regarding Annual Report on Licences Issued under the Licensing Act 2003.

**Decision: The Statement of Licensing Policy should remain unchanged for the next 12 months.**

The Council considered a recommendation from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 Cabinet regarding Safeguarding Children Policy 2009 – 2011.

**Decision: The Safeguarding Children Policy, including new amendments following the receipt of new guidance from the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) be adopted by the Council for 2009 to 2011, with a formal review of the policy to be carried out in July 2011.**

The Council considered a recommendation from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 Cabinet regarding Wyre Forest Public Realm and Streetscene (Control of Street Furniture) Policy.

Councillor Clee advised Council that the objections from the County Council had been withdrawn.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Kelly and Councillor Philips, Council were advised that there would be opportunities to vary licences with the consent of the Licensing and Environmental Committee. Further that this would assist with Alcohol Restriction Zones.

**Decision: Approval be given for the Wyre Forest District Public Realm and Streetscene (Control of Street Furniture) Policy as set out at Appendix 2 the licence fee of £250.00 be agreed and to delegate powers to the Head of Planning, Health & Environment and Head of Property & Operational Services, as necessary, to issue licences and set conditions.**

The Council considered a recommendation from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 Cabinet regarding) 'Connecting Kidderminster' Regeneration Prospectus Adoption Document.

Councillor Oborski, on behalf on the Council, thanked the pupils of King Charles High School who came and presented to Committee their work on the Regeneration Prospectus.

**Decision: The Connecting Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus Document as contained within the separate report to Cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup> February be adopted.**

### **C.80**

#### **Budget Proposals 2009-2012**

The Council considered the proposed budget decision, recommended by the Cabinet at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February, together with the associated reports contained within the Financial Strategy 2009 – 2012 (Green Budget Book).

## **Agenda Item No. 12**

Councillor Campion introduced the Budget on behalf of the administration, and gave a detailed presentation on the budget proposals. He explained that funds in the Icelandic banking collapse, a reduction in interest rates, and income from services decreasing, combined with increased energy costs and staffing costs challenged the Council's finances. Further that the restructure would reshape the way the Council worked, although there would be a loss of up to 30 or 40 establishment posts. Councillor Campion continued that would ensure that the administration Council was viable for continuing years, whilst allowing continued investment in Council services.

Council were advised that there was a proposed increase of 2.5% in the Council tax precept, which would see a rise in the band D average of £4.70 per year to £192.80. Moreover that the budget proposals included income service options that would see charges levied for services that were more closely aligned with commercial rates.

Councillor Campion drew attention to the consultation process and the thorough scrutiny of the Budget. Further that the Opposition Groups had been involved throughout the budget process, and ideas and proposals from the alternative budgets have been taken on board where prudent to do so.

Councillor Campion left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Martin addressed Council, and outlined the alternative budget proposed by Independent Communities and Health Concern. Council were advised of the areas within the budget that would be restored, and the proposal for a larger increase of Council Tax of 3.99%.

Councillor Ballinger addressed Council to speak against the amendment.

Councillor Hart, in the absence of Councillor Campion, spoke against the amendment, drawing attention to the funding for Parish Councils, advising that funding wasn't being cut this financial year so that consideration could be given on how to raise money in subsequent years.

Councillor Shellie, addressed Council and explained areas of the budget which would have the greatest impact on the vulnerable and needy.

Councillor Martin concluded that the alternative budget proposed saved jobs and services for the community.

Councillor Campion returned to the meeting.

Upon a vote the amendment was lost.

Councillor Kelly addressed the Council and outlined the alternative Labour budget. He expressed his disappointment in how the budget debate had been conducted, with part being in private session. Councillor Kelly further detailed the services that would be kept if agreed, and suggested that Councillors' allowances should be frozen.

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Councillor Martin spoke in support of the Labour amendment,

Councillor Nicholls addressed Council, and spoke in support of the amendment suggesting that money earmarked for single site could be used to save jobs and services.

Councillor Hart spoke against the amendment adding that single site was an important issue that needed to be moved forward. Further that Councillors' allowances were agreed by an Independent Remuneration Panel, and if they chose they could refuse all or part of their allowances.

Upon a vote the amendment was lost.

Councillor Oborski spoke on the substantive motion, expressing her regret at Councillors allowances not being frozen. Councillor Oborski further explained that over 11,000 leaflets had been delivered regarding the budget and the main response had been not to increase council tax. Councillor Oborski continued and suggested that 'Dial a Ride' be put on a business footing and it be considered that this be combined with taxi tokens.

Upon a vote the substantive motion was carried by a majority.

**Decision:**

1. **COUNCIL TAX LEVY 2009/2012**
  - 1.1 **RECOMMENDS a Council Tax for Wyre Forest District Council on a Band D Property of £192.80 for 2009/2010 (£188.10 2008/2009) an increase of 2.5% (£4.70 over 2008/2009).**
  - 1.2 **RECOMMENDS a provisional Council Tax on a Band D Property in 2010/2011 of £197.62 and £202.56 in 2011/2012 an increase of 2.5% per annum over 2009/2010.**
2. **PRIORITIES FOR 2009/2012**
  - 2.1 **RECOMMENDS Following the approval of the Corporate Plan by Council during 2008/09, the Council Priorities for 2009/10 be as follows:-**

<b>Corporate Aims</b>	<b>A Better Quality of Life</b>	<b>A Sustainable Environment</b>	<b>A Vibrant Local Economy</b>	<b>A Well Run &amp; Responsive Council</b>
<b>Priorities</b>	<b>More Affordable Housing</b>	<b>Reducing Waste to Landfill and Increasing Recycling</b>	<b>District-wide Regeneration</b>	<b>Improving Efficiency and Value for Money</b>

3. **THREE YEAR BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK 2009/2012 (pages 3-84)**

- 3.1 The contents of the Reports of the Head of Financial Services on the Three Year Budget and Policy Framework 2009/2012 (pages 3-84) and Base Budget Variations (pages 113-117) be ENDORSED and in doing the Revised Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2008/2009 be approved.**
- 3.2 REAFFIRMS the Council's policy relating to Working Balances, Reserves and Provisions and notes the amount of Reserves and Provisions available for use in the Budget process (pages 65-66).**
- 3.3 REAFFIRMS the Council's updated Finance Strategy (pages 67-73).**
- 3.4 RECOMMENDS that any Final Account savings arising from 2008/2012 over and above the target allowed for in the 2008/2011 Council's Finance Strategy, together with surplus Earmarked Reserves, be allocated for the one-off costs of the Single Site project.**
- 3.5 RECOMMENDS delegated authority to the Cabinet, in consultation with the Corporate Management Team, to allocate Area Based Grants, following the issue of guidance from the Communities and Local Government (CLG) and evidence in relation to the Stronger and Safer Communities Grant. (See Agenda Item 7.2(b)).**
- 3.6 RECOMMENDS delegated authority be given to the Cabinet, in consultation with the Corporate Management Team, to allocate the additional £44k of LABGI Grant as notified on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 for General Economic Regeneration purposes.**
- 3.7 The following General Fund Revenue Budget be RECOMMENDED including CABINET PROPOSALS (Appendix 1) and INCOME SERVICE OPTIONS (see Financial Strategy pages 129-167) :**



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	<b>Revised 2008/2009 £</b>	<b>2009/2010 £</b>	<b>2010/2011 £</b>	<b>2011/2012 £</b>
Net Expenditure on Services (per Appendix 1 on Page 14 of the Financial Strategy Book)	15,871,160	16,726,600	17,123,030	17,742,090
<u>Less</u> Cabinet Proposals identified in Appendix 1	-	(1,158,690)	(1,833,550)	(1,802,670)
Net Expenditure	15,871,160	15,567,910	15,289,480	15,939,420
Contribution (from) Reserves	(1,422,540)	(822,850)	(292,020)	(769,950)
Net Budget Requirement	14,448,620	14,745,060	14,997,460	15,169,470
<u>Less</u> Business Rate Grant, Government Grant and Collection Fund Surplus (Page 14)	7,930,390	8,032,540	8,117,120	8,117,120
Council Tax Levy	<u>£6,518,230</u>	<u>£6,712,520</u>	<u>£6,880,340</u>	<u>£7,052,350</u>
Wyre Forest District Council Tax Level assuming 2.5% increase 2009/2010 onwards	<u>£188.10</u>	<u>£192.80</u>	<u>£197.62</u>	<u>£202.56</u>

**4. CONSULTATION STRATEGY (pages 74-83)**

**4.1 NOTES the comments and views from the Consultation exercise identified within the Financial Strategy (pages 74-83).**

**4.2 NOTES the comments from Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009 (see separate item on this agenda).**

**4.3 NOTES any comments from local residents and businesses from the meeting of the Cabinet.**

**5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/2010 ONWARDS (pages 85-112)**

**5.1 APPROVES the updated Base Capital Programme and Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewal Schedule as presented to the Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009.**

**5.2 APPROVES the funding of the approved Capitalisation Direction of £2m in relation to the costs of implementing the Divisional Restructure from the Council's unallocated Housing Capital Receipts or Prudential Borrowing (this will be determined by the most financially prudent method).**

**5.3 NOTES the availability of Capital Receipts and the ability to use Prudential Borrowing for new Capital Proposals.**

- 5.4 **RECOMMENDS** Capital Proposal and associated funding as identified in the schedule of proposed Cabinet Proposals - see Appendix 1.
- 5.5 **REAFFIRMS** the Council's updated Capital Strategy.
- 5.6 **DELEGATED** authority continue to be given to the Head of Financial Services to fund the Vehicle, Equipment and System Renewal Schedule by means of Prudential Borrowing (repayments based on anticipated life of Vehicle, Equipment and Systems).
- 5.7 **DELEGATED** authority to the Head of Financial Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to determine the most financially prudent funding method for Capital Projects (Capital Receipts or Direct Revenue Funding) at the end of each Financial Year.
- 6. **BASE BUDGET VARIATIONS** (pages 113-117)
  - 6.1 **NOTE** the Budget Variations identified between Original and Revised Budgets 2008/2009 and between the Revised Budget 2008/2009 and the Original Budget for 2009/2010.
  - 6.2 **HEADS OF SERVICE** continue to monitor closely their Budgets and the Head of Financial Services continue to report to the Cabinet on a quarterly basis.
- 7. **COUNCIL TAX BASE**
  - 7.1 **APPROVES** a Council Tax base for Wyre Forest District of 34,816 as detailed in the report on Calculation of Council Tax Base 2009/2010 (Cabinet 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008).
- 8. **EFFICIENCY TARGETS** (pages 118-121)
  - 8.1 **RECOMMENDS** the identified estimated Annual Efficiency Savings contained within the Head of Financial Services report and **NOTES** these savings have been incorporated into the Budget Strategy.
  - 8.2 **NOTES** that the Council are required to achieve target cash releasing Revenue and Capital savings of approximately £634,000 each year for 2009/2012 in accordance with CSR07 requirements.
  - 8.3 **RECOMMENDS** that the Chief Executive/Corporate Management Team prepare a suitable Policy/Strategy to deliver the above efficiency savings.
- 9. **RISK MANAGEMENT AND THE BUDGET PROCESS** (pages 122-128)

- 9.1 **ENDORSES** the Budget Risk Management process identified in the Risk Management and Budget Report and **NOTES AND ENDORSES** the Budgetary Response to identified risks as detailed on the Budget Risk Matrix Appendix 1 of the Report, and updated, as presented to Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009.
- 9.2 **MONITORS** ongoing Budget Risk quarterly as part of the Budget Monitoring process.
- 10. **CABINET PROPOSALS**
- 10.1 **RECOMMENDS** Proposals and associated funding as identified in Appendix 1.
- 11. **INCOME SERVICE OPTIONS** (pages 129-167)
- 11.1 **RECOMMENDS** Income Service Options and associated fees and charges as detailed in the Financial Strategy as presented to Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009, plus schedules as in Appendix 2 for Financial Services, Pest Control and Car Parks.
- 12. **PRUDENTIAL SYSTEM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE AND THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT 2009/2010** (Agenda Item 7.2(c))
- 12.1 **ADOPTS** the updated Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2009/2010 to 2011/2012.
- 12.2 **APPROVES** the updated Treasury Management and Investment Policy and Strategy 2009/2010 and associated Prudential Indicators.
- 12.3 **APPROVES** the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement that sets out the Council's policy on MRP.
- 12.4 **REVISITS**, as part of Budget Monitoring, the Prudential Indicators following the approval of the Council's Budget Strategy as the indicators included within this report are based on current recommendations.
- 13. **SECTIONS 25-28 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003** (Agenda Item 7.2(d))
- 13.1 **NOTES** the Head of Financial Services Opinion on the Budget Proposals recommended by the Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009.

C. 80

**Council Tax 2009/2010**

The Council received a report (copies of which had been circulated) to consider and approve the formal resolution for the setting of the Council

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Tax 2009/2010. It was noted that this included the precepts of Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police Authority, the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority and parish precepts.

**Decision: The base amount of Council Tax for properties in Band D, before adding Parish and other precepts, is made up as follows:-**

	<u>2008/2009</u> (for comparison) £	<u>2009/2010</u> £
Wyre Forest District Council:		
Net Expenditure	189.59	194.29
<b>Less</b> Surplus on Collection Fund	1.49-	1.49-
	188.10	192.80
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Worcestershire County Council	984.77	1,013.72
West Mercia Police Authority	165.45	173.62
Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority	<u>68.21</u>	<u>71.57</u>
	1,218.43	1,258.91
	-----	-----
Base Band D Council Tax (excluding Parish Precepts)	1,406.53 =====	1,451.71 =====

Parish precepts are added to the total of £1,451.71 as follows:-

	Parish Charge £
The Charter Trustee Town of Kidderminster	4.20
<b>The Parish/Town Council of:-</b>	
Upper Arley	31.53
Bewdley	21.52
Broome	10.59
Chaddesley Corbett	29.80
Churchill and Blakedown	29.10
Kidderminster Foreign	16.43
Ribbesford	-
Rock	18.49
Rushock	21.23
Stone	18.00
Stourport on Severn	22.56
Wolverley and Cookley	21.02

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note that at its meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008 the Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2009/2010 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 and Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £34,816 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year.
- (b) The amounts set out in column 2 of Appendix 1 for each Parish being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulations 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

**2.2 To resolve that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2009/2010 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:**

- (a) £54,716,402 being the aggregate of the amounts, which the Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act. (Gross expenditure including Parish Precepts and special expenses)
- (b) £39,526,200 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act. (Income)
- (c) £15,190,202 being the amount by which the aggregate at (2.2)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (2.2)(b) above calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year. (Net Budget)
- (d) £8,032,540 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1998. (External support and collection fund surplus)
- (e) £205.59 being the amount at (2.2)(c) above less the amount at (2.2)(d) above all divided by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year. (The amount to be funded by Council Tax)
- (f) £445,142 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act as set out in Column 1 of Appendix 1. (Total Parish precepts and special expenses)

- (g) £192.80 being the amount at (2.2)(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (2.2)(f) above by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 43(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 special item relates. (Band D council tax for those areas with no Parish precepts or special expenses)
- (i) The amounts set out in Column 4 of Appendix 1 for each Parish being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (2)(g) to above the amount of the special item relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned in Appendix A divided in each case by the amount at (1)(b) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate. (Band D council tax including Parish precepts for each Parish)
- (h) The amounts set out in Appendix 2 for each Parish being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (2)(g) and (2)(h) 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 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 amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. (Council Tax including Parish precepts for each Council Tax band and Parish)

3.3 To note that for the year 2009/2010 the County Council, Police Authority and Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as shown below:

	<u>Worcestershire</u> <u>County</u> <u>Council</u> £	<u>West Mercia</u> <u>Police</u> <u>Authority</u> £	<u>Hereford and</u> <u>Worcester Fire</u> <u>and Rescue</u> <u>Authority</u> £
Band A	675.81	115.75	47.71
Band B	788.45	135.04	55.67
Band C	901.09	154.33	63.62
Band D	1,013.72	173.62	71.57
Band E	1,238.99	212.20	87.48
Band F	1,464.26	250.78	103.38

<b>Band G</b>	<b>1,689.54</b>	<b>289.37</b>	<b>119.29</b>
<b>Band H</b>	<b>2,027.44</b>	<b>347.24</b>	<b>143.14</b>

**3.4 To resolve that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2) (i) and (3.3) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in Appendix 3 as the amounts of council tax for the year 2009/2010 for each of the categories of dwellings.**

**4. Authorisation of Officers to collect and recover Council Tax and Business Rates:**

**Mr. D. Buckland, Head of Financial Services, Mrs. T. Southall, Accountancy Services Manager; Mr. S. Edmonds, Accountancy Services Manager; Mr. P.B. McGill, Principal Revenues Officer; Mrs. F. Johnson, Senior Revenues Officer, Mrs. L. Hall, Mrs. S. Clayphan and Mrs. V. Sloane, Revenue Team Leaders; Mr. J. White, System Support Officer; Mrs C. S. Newlands, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; Mrs. M. Morgan, Licensing and Litigation Solicitor; Mrs. J. Alexander, Planning, Property and Commercial Solicitor; Mrs. B.M. Vickers, Litigation Legal Executive, Mrs. C. Taylor, Contract Solicitor, or any other person specifically authorised by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, appointed to the said offices under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, be hereby authorised:-**

- (a) to demand, collect and recover any Council Tax or National Non-Domestic Rate made by the Council under the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992;**
- (b) to demand, collect and recover any penalties under Schedules 3 and 4 to the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992;**
- (c) under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all other powers enabling them to prosecute and to appear on behalf of the Council at the hearing of legal proceedings in connection with the demand, collection and recovery of any Council Tax, National Non-Domestic Rate, Community Charge and General Rates made by the Council and/or any penalties imposed under the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992; and**
- (d) to make such amendments to the Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rate as are authorised by the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992 and other legislation in force from time to time. Further, the Head of Financial Services, Financial Services**

**Manager be authorised to impose penalties in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, with regard to the supply of information for Council Tax purposes.**

**C.82 Motions submitted under standing order no D1(1)**

A motion was received from Councillors Oborski and Martin (copies of which had been circulated) on the Government plans to introduce identity cards.

Councillor Oborski introduced the motion and explained the rationale for the proposal. Council were advised of the requirements for an identity card, the costs, and the penalties should they be lost or stolen. She concluded that it was inequitable that Wyre Forest residents should be paying for identity cards.

Councillor Martin spoke in support of the motion, concluding that the introduction of identity cards was an invasion of human rights.

Councillor Desmond also spoke in support of the motion, stating that identity cards were costly and ineffectual, and ultimately changed the relationship between the individual and the state.

Councillor's Nicholls and Kelly spoke in support of identity cards.

Councillor Stokes proposed an amendment to the motion, in that this item was deferred for six months to allow for consultation.

Upon a vote the amendment was lost.

Upon a vote the substantive motion was carried.



**Decision:**

- 1 To affiliate to the No2ID campaign that already includes MP's and several political parties.**
- 2 Make representations at every possible stage, reiterating this Council's opposition to ID cards.**
- 3 Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of national identity cards.**
- 4 Make it a policy of the Council to ensure that national identity cards would not be required to access Council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by law.**
- 5 Only co-operate with the national identity card scheme where to do so otherwise would be unlawful.**

**C.83 Urgent Motions submitted under Standing Order No D1 (7)**  
No notices of motion were received in accordance with Standing Order D1(7).

**C.84 Recommendations from Licensing and Environmental Committee**  
Council received a recommendation from the Licensing and Environmental Committee regarding Cosmetic Skin Piercing, Special Treatment, Tattooing and Body Piercing.

**Decision: The guidance for Cosmetic Skin Piercing, Special Treatment Tattooing and Body Piercing be adopted.**

Council received a recommendation from the Licensing and Environmental Committee regarding Policy and Advice to Applicants on the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals.

**Decision: Council to agree the policy guidance to the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals.**

**C.85 Ethics and Standards Committee**  
The Council received a report (copies of which had been circulated) on the recommendation of the Ethics and Standards Committee that Members be required to report on their activities when representing Wyre Forest District Council on Outside Bodies.

**Decision: That in order to promote transparency, Members be required to submit annual feedback on their activities as a Council appointed Member on an Outside Body. Feedback should include progress on matters including significant decisions, details of attendance and any allowances received.**

**C.86 Appointment of Independent Member**

The Council received a report (copies of which had been circulated) regarding the appointment of Mr T J Hipkiss as an independent Member of the Ethics and Standards Committee.

**Decision: That Mr J Hipkiss be appointed as an Independent Member of the Council's Ethics and Standards Committee.**

**C.87 Royal Garden Parties**

The council considered nominations for attendance at one of the royal garden parties in July 2009.

**Decision: That Councillors Buckley and Holden and their partners be nominated to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in July 2009.**

**C.88 Highways Partnership**

The Council received a report (copies of which had been circulated) requesting that two Members be nominated to the Wyre Forest Highways Partnership Forum.

**Decision: That Councillors Buckley and Aston be the nominated Wyre Forest representatives to join the Wyre Forest Highways Partnership Forum.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 20.58.