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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH 2012, AT 7.00 PM

<u>PRESENT:</u> Councillor S Rutland-Barsby (Chairman)

Councillors D Abbott, M Alexander,

D Andrews, W Ashley, P Ballam, S Basra, E Bedford, R Beeching, E Buckmaster,

S Bull, A Burlton, M Carver,

Mrs R Cheswright, K Crofton, J Demonti,

P Gray, L Haysey, T Herbert,

Mrs D Hollebon, A Jackson, G Jones, G Lawrence, J Mayes, G McAndrew, M McMullen, P Moore, W Mortimer,

M Newman, T Page, M Pope, N Poulton, R Radford, J Ranger, C Rowley, P Ruffles,

M Tindale, A Warman, G Williamson,

N Wilson, J Wing, M Wood, C Woodward,

B Wrangles and J Wyllie.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Drinkwater - Director of

Neighbourhood

Services

Jeff Hughes - Head of

Democratic and Legal Support

Services

Martin Ibrahim - Democratic

Services Team

Leader

Alan Madin - Director of Internal

Services

George A Robertson - Director of

Customer and Community Services

674 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed the press and public to the meeting.

She referred to the forthcoming Civic Dinner and advised that it was nearly sold out and that if any Member still wished to attend, they should contact her office.

The Chairman reminded Members that an additional Council meeting would be held on 4 April 2012 to deal with Local Development Framework matters.

675 MINUTES

<u>RESOLVED</u> – that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 February 2012, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

676 LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY OVERVIEW

Derrick Ashley, Chairman, and Shaun Dawson, Chief Executive, gave a presentation on the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority. Mr Ashley outlined the history, structure and governance arrangements of the Authority. Mr Dawson detailed the facilities, activities and funding arrangements. He also referred to the Olympics and the commercial and development opportunities for the Authority based on its agreed vision and mission. Mr Dawson outlined the White Water Centre, the Velo Park and Eton Manor and explained the legacy benefits. He also detailed the visitor numbers from East Herts and the various schools who had visited the Park.

677 <u>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</u>

Question 1

Councillor D Andrews asked the Leader of the Council if he would join him in acknowledging the service done to local government by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in having the foresight and the political courage to incorporate the abolition of the Standards Board

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for England in the Localism Act. A flawed Board that had been set up in the 1990s by new Labour and had proved to be ineffective, in fact, many thought a costly disaster and, far from the lofty aims of policing local government. It had instead, become a byword for witch hunts and ridiculous complaints to embarrass opponents, at no little cost to the Exchequer and at great cost to local democracy.

In reply, the Leader agreed and believed that this view was held throughout local government nationally. He commented that the regime had been abused by a variety of people and that its abolition was appropriate.

Councillor D Andrews referred to a recent local report in which 20% of the current Council had been referred to the Standards Committee by a lone member of the public at a cost of several thousand pounds. He asked the Leader if he agreed that hard working Councillors would be relieved that they could get on with their work in making often difficult decisions for the greater good, without fear of being reported to the Standards Board by people who disagreed with them and local democracy.

The Leader agreed but reminded Members of the requirement for a process to be put in place where Members who transgressed could be held to account in a proportionate and relevant manner. He referred to proposals that would be considered by the Standards Committee on 14 March 2012. Whilst he did not wish to pre-judge this consideration, he hoped that proposals that would come forward to Council for determination would be simple and proportionate.

678 COUNCIL TAX 2012/13

The Executive Member for Finance submitted a report proposing Council Tax levels in 2012/13. He referred to the precepts set by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), Hertfordshire Police Authority (HPA) and Parish and Town Councils.

Council noted that the precepts levied by HCC and HPA, had

been frozen at 2011/12 levels. In respect of local Town/Parish Councils, the Executive Member congratulated those where reductions had been levied. He also referred to those areas where increases had been levied and suggested that residents might want to ask questions of their local representatives.

Council approved the recommendations as now detailed.

<u>RESOLVED</u> – that (A) the Council Tax resolution, as detailed at Essential Reference Paper 'A' to these Minutes, be approved;

- (B) the local precepts as set out at Essential Reference Paper 'C' of the report submitted, be noted; and
- (C) Hertfordshire County Council's and Hertfordshire Police Authority's precepts, as now submitted, be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.49 pm

Chairman	
Date	

Minute Item 678

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDED

- 1 That it be noted that at its meeting on 14 December 2011 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2012/13
 - a) for the whole Council area as 58,627.68 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as ammended (the "Act")]; and
 - b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as shown below.

 For information only

		For informatio	•
	.2012/13		Parish Band D
Parish/Town Council of:-	Tax Base	£	£
Albury	279.41	6,900	24.69
Anstey	155.94	3,800	24.37
Ardeley	201.42	4,000	19.86
Aspenden	127.85	1,900	14.86
Aston	437.44	11,931	27.27
Bayford	224.60	4,100	18.25
Bengeo	301.38	5,250	17.42
Benington	395.93	16,500	41.67
Bishop's Stortford	15232.39	1,034,134	67.89
Bramfield	122.37	1,764	14.42
Braughing	589.32	34,440	58.44
Brent Pelham/Meesden	149.45	2,400	16.06
Brickendon	290.43	9,500	32.71
Buckland	122.86	4,132	33.63
Buntingford	2054.40	208,190	101.34
Cottered	316.47	6,000	18.96
Datchworth	749.43	23,064	30.78
Eastwick and Gilston	195.85	4,900	25.02
Furneux Pelham	258.15	5,000	19.37
Great Amwell	1021.16	12,180	11.93
Great Munden	144.75	4,500	31.09
Hertford	11583.01	1,059,555	91.47
Hertford Heath	977.06	31,000	31.73
Hertingfordbury	317.21	11,400	35.94
High Wych	336.82	8,000	23.75
Hormead	330.43	16,500	49.93
Hunsdon	485.48	14,545	29.96
Little Berkhamsted	282.48	7,400	26.20
Little Hadham	537.69	13,500	25.11
Little Munden	418.65	10,660	25.46
Much Hadham	933.05	23.600	25.29
Sacombe	89.70	25,000	0.00
Sawbridgeworth	3736.83	180,000	48.17
Standon	1801.25	63,000	34.98
Standon Stanstead Abbotts	746.11	37,000	34.96 49.59
Stanstead St Margarets	740.11	8.000	49.59 11.19
•	7 14.04 265.45	,	
Stapleford Stapleford	205.45 80.54	4,904	18.47
Stocking Pelham	80.5 4 817.27	1,600	19.87
Tewin	* · · · · - ·	26,300	32.18
Thorley	304.86	2,700	8.86
Thundridge	627.31	17,100	27.26
Walkern	661.76	25,000	37.78
Ware	7406.95	531,847	71.80
Wareside	318.72	3,850	12.08
Watton at Stone	1014.33	30,095	29.67
Westmill	159.45	4,537	28.45
Widford	236.01	4,000	16.95
Wyddial	73.62	0	0.00
	58,627.68	3,540,678.00	
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2 Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2012/13 (excluding Parish precepts) is £ 9,329,500.00

³ That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

a) £ 78,242,039.00 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 the precepts issued to it by Parish Councils

b) \pounds 65,371,861.00 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act

c) £ 12,870,178.00 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 31 A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act)

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

- d) £ 219.52 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 31 B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. (including Parish precepts)
- e) £ 3,540,678.00 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1)
- f) £ 159.13 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)	Parts of the Coun	icil's Area	Band D District plus Parish
		Parish/Town Council of:-	£
		Albury	183.82
		Anstey	183.50
		Ardeley	178.99
		Aspenden	173.99
		Aston	186.40
		Bayford	177.38
		Bengeo Rural	176.55
		Benington	200.80
		Bishop's Stortford	227.02
		Bramfield	173.55
		Braughing	217.57
		Brent Pelham/Meesden	175.19
		Brickendon Liberty	191.84
		Buckland	192.76
		Buntingford	260.47
		Cottered	178.09
		Datchworth	189.91
		Eastwick and Gilston	184.15
		Furneux Pelham	178.50
		Great Amwell	171.06
		Great Munden	190.22
		Hertford	250.60
		Hertford Heath	190.86
		Hertingfordbury	195.07
		High Wych	182.88
		Hormead	209.06
		Hunsdon	189.09
		Little Berkhamsted	185.33
		Little Hadham	184.24
		Little Munden	184.59
		Much Hadham	184.42
		Sacombe	159.13
		Sawbridgeworth	207.30
		Standon	194.11
		Stanstead Abbotts	208.72
		Stanstead St Margarets	170.32
		Stapleford	177.60
		Stocking Pelham	179.00
		Tewin	191.31
		Thorley	167.99
		Thundridge	186.39
		Walkern Ware	196.91 230.93
		Wareside	230.93 171.21
		Watton at Stone	171.21
		Westmill	187.58
		Widford	176.08
		Wyddial	159.13
		vvyuulai	109.13

being the amounts 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 mentioned above divided in each case by the amount in 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, 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

	Α	В	С	D.	E	F	G	Н
Parish/Town Councils of:-	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Albury	122.55	142.97	163.40	183.82	224.67	265.52	306.37	367.64
Anstey	122.33	142.72	163.11	183.50	224.28	265.06	305.83	367.00
Ardeley	119.33	139.21	159.10	178.99	218.77	258.54	298.32	357.98
Aspenden	115.99	135.33	154.66	173.99	212.65	251.32	289.98	347.98
Aston	124.27	144.98	165.69	186.40	227.82	269.24	310.67	372.80
Bayford	118.25	137.96	157.67	177.38	216.80	256.22	295.63	354.76
Bengeo	117.70	137.32	156.93	176.55	215.78	255.02	294.25	353.10
Benington	133.87	156.18	178.49	200.80	245.42	290.04	334.67	401.60
Bishops Stortford	151.35	176.57	201.80	227.02	277.47	327.92	378.37	454.04
Bramfield	115.70	134.98	154.27	173.55	212.12	250.68	289.25	347.10
Braughing	145.05	169.22	193.40	217.57	265.92	314.27	362.62	435.14
Brent Pelham/Meesden	116.79	136.26	155.72	175.19	214.12	253.05	291.98	350.38
Brickendon Liberty	127.89	149.21	170.52	191.84	234.47	277.10	319.73	383.68
Buckland	128.51	149.92	171.34	192.76	235.60	278.43	321.27	385.52
Buntingford	173.65	202.59	231.53	260.47	318.35	376.23	434.12	520.94
Cottered	118.73	138.51	158.30	178.09	217.67	257.24	296.82	356.18
Datchworth	126.61	147.71	168.81	189.91	232.11	274.31	316.52	379.82
Eastwick & Gilston	122.77	143.23	163.69	184.15	225.07	265.99	306.92	368.30
Furneux Pelham	119.00	138.83	158.67	178.50	218.17	257.83	297.50	357.00
Great Amwell	114.04	133.05	152.05	171.06	209.07	247.09	285.10	342.12
Great Munden	126.81	147.95	169.08	190.22	232.49	274.76	317.03	380.44
Hertford	167.07	194.91	222.76	250.60	306.29	361.98	417.67	501.20
Hertford Heath	127.24	148.45	169.65	190.86	233.27	275.69	318.10	381.72
Hertingfordbury	130.05	151.72	173.40	195.07	238.42	281.77	325.12	390.14
High Wych	121.92	142.24	162.56	182.88	223.52	264.16	304.80	365.76
Hormead	139.37	162.60	185.83	209.06	255.52	301.98	348.43	418.12
Hunsdon	126.06	147.07	168.08	189.09	231.11	273.13	315.15	378.18
Little Berkhamsted	123.55	144.15	164.74	185.33	226.51	267.70	308.88	370.66
Little Hadham	122.83	143.30	163.77	184.24	225.18	266.12	307.07	368.48
Little Munden	123.06	143.57	164.08	184.59	225.61	266.63	307.65	369.18
Much Hadham	122.95	143.44	163.93	184.42	225.40	266.38	307.37	368.84
Sacombe	106.09	123.77	141.45	159.13	194.49	229.85	265.22	318.26
Sawbridgeworth	138.20	161.23	184.27	207.30	253.37	299.43	345.50	414.60
Standon	129.41	150.97	172.54	194.11	237.25	280.38	323.52	388.22
Stanstead Abbotts	139.15	162.34	185.53	208.72	255.10	301.48	347.87	417.44
Stanstead St Margarets	113.55	132.47	151.40	170.32	208.17	246.02	283.87	340.64
Stapleford	118.40	138.13	157.87	177.60	217.07	256.53	296.00	355.20
Stocking Pelham	119.33	139.22	159.11	179.00	218.78	258.56	298.33	358.00
Tewin	127.54	148.80	170.05	191.31	233.82	276.34	318.85	382.62
Thorley	111.99	130.66	149.32	167.99	205.32	242.65	279.98	335.98
Thundridge	124.26	144.97	165.68	186.39	227.81	269.23	310.65	372.78
Walkern	131.27	153.15	175.03	196.91	240.67	284.43	328.18	393.82
Ware	153.95	179.61	205.27	230.93	282.25	333.57	384.88	461.86
Wareside	114.14	133.16	152.19	171.21	209.26	247.30	285.35	342.42
Watton at Stone	125.87	146.84	167.82	188.80	230.76	272.71	314.67	377.60
Westmill	125.05	145.90	166.74	187.58	229.26	270.95	312.63	375.16
Widford	117.39	136.95	156.52	176.08	215.21	254.34	293.47	352.16
Wyddial	106.09	123.77	141.45	159.13	194.49	229.85	265.22	318.26

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 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.

4 That it be noted that for the year 2012/13 the Hertfordshire County Council and the Hertfordshire Police Authority 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 dwellings shown below:-

Precepting Authority	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Hertfordshire County Council	745.89	870.20	994.52	1,118.83	1,367.46	1,616.09	1,864.72	2,237.66
Hertfordshire Police Authority	98.55	114.97	131.40	147.82	180.67	213.52	246.37	295.64

5 That the Council, in accordance with sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amount of Council Tax for 2012-13 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

COUNCIL TAX VALUATION BANDS
HCC plus POLICE AUTHORITY plus DISTRICT plus PARISH

		HCC plus POLICE AUTHORITY plus DISTRICT plus PARISH						
	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н
Parish/Town Council of:-	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Albury	966.99	1,128.14	1,289.32	1,450.47	1,772.80	2,095.13	2,417.46	2,900.94
Anstey	966.77	1,127.89	1,289.03	1,450.15	1,772.41	2,094.67	2,416.92	2,900.30
Ardeley	963.77	1,124.38	1,285.02	1,445.64	1,766.90	2,088.15	2,409.41	2,891.28
Aspenden	960.43	1,120.50	1,280.58	1,440.64	1,760.78	2,080.93	2,401.07	2,881.28
Aston	968.71	1,130.15	1,291.61	1,453.05	1,775.95	2,098.85	2,421.76	2,906.10
Bayford	962.69	1,123.13	1,283.59	1,444.03	1,764.93	2,085.83	2,406.72	2,888.06
Bengeo	962.14	1,122.49	1,282.85	1,443.20	1,763.91	2,084.63	2,405.34	2,886.40
Benington	978.31	1,141.35	1,304.41	1,467.45	1,793.55	2,119.65	2,445.76	2,934.90
Bishops Stortford	995.79	1,161.74	1,327.72	1,493.67	1,825.60	2,157.53	2,489.46	2,987.34
Bramfield	960.14	1,120.15	1,280.19	1,440.20	1,760.25	2,080.29	2,400.34	2,880.40
Braughing	989.49	1,154.39	1,319.32	1,484.22	1,814.05	2,143.88	2,473.71	2,968.44
Brent Pelham/Meesden	961.23	1,121.43	1,281.64	1,441.84	1,762.25	2,082.66	2,403.07	2,883.68
Brickendon Liberty	972.33	1,134.38	1,296.44	1,458.49	1,782.60	2,106.71	2,430.82	2,916.98
Buckland	972.95	1,135.09	1,297.26	1,459.41	1,783.73	2,108.04	2,432.36	2,918.82
Buntingford	1,018.09	1,187.76	1,357.45	1,527.12	1,866.48	2,205.84	2,545.21	3,054.24
Cottered	963.17	1,123.68	1,284.22	1,444.74	1,765.80	2,086.85	2,407.91	2,889.48
Datchworth	971.05	1,132.88	1,294.73	1,456.56	1,780.24	2,103.92	2,427.61	2,913.12
Eastwick & Gilston	967.21	1,128.40	1,289.61	1,450.80	1,773.20	2,095.60	2,418.01	2,901.60
Furneux Pelham	963.44	1,124.00	1,284.59	1,445.15	1.766.30	2.087.44	2.408.59	2.890.30
Great Amwell	958.48	1,118.22	1,277.97	1,437.71	1,757.20	2.076.70	2,396.19	2.875.42
Great Munden	971.25	1,133.12	1,295.00	1,456.87	1,780.62	2,104.37	2,428.12	2,913.74
Hertford	1,011.51	1,180.08	1,348.68	1,517.25	1,854.42	2,191.59	2,528.76	3.034.50
Hertford Heath	971.68	1,133.62	1,295.57	1,457.51	1,781.40	2,105.30	2,429.19	2,915.02
Hertingfordbury	974.49	1,136.89	1,299.32	1,461.72	1,786.55	2,111.38	2,436.21	2,923.44
High Wych	966.36	1,127.41	1,288.48	1,449.53	1,771.65	2,093.77	2,415.89	2,899.06
Hormead	983.81	1,147.77	1,311.75	1,475.71	1,803.65	2,131.59	2,459.52	2,951.42
Hunsdon	970.50	1,132.24	1,294.00	1,455.74	1,779.24	2,102.74	2,426.24	2,911.48
Little Berkhamsted	967.99	1,129.32	1,290.66	1,451.98	1,774.64	2,097.31	2,419.97	2,903.96
Little Hadham	967.27	1,128.47	1,289.69	1,450.89	1,773.31	2,095.73	2,418.16	2,901.78
Little Munden	967.50	1,128.74	1,290.00	1,451.24	1,773.74	2,096.24	2,418.74	2,902.48
Much Hadham	967.39	1,128.61	1,289.85	1,451.07	1,773.53	2,095.99	2,418.46	2,902.14
Sacombe	950.53	1,108.94	1,267.37	1,425.78	1,742.62	2,059.46	2,376.31	2,851.56
Sawbridgeworth	982.64	1,146.40	1,310.19	1,473.95	1,801.50	2,129.04	2,456.59	2,947.90
Standon	973.85	1,136.14	1,298.46	1,460.76	1,785.38	2,109.99	2,434.61	2,921.52
Stanstead Abbotts	983.59	1,147.51	1,311.45	1,475.37	1,803.23	2,131.09	2,458.96	2,950.74
Stanstead St Margarets	957.99	1,117.64	1,277.32	1,436.97	1,756.30	2,075.63	2,394.96	2.873.94
Stapleford	962.84	1,123.30	1,283.79	1,444.25	1.765.20	2.086.14	2.407.09	2.888.50
Stocking Pelham	963.77	1,124.39	1,285.03	1,445.65	1,766.91	2,088.17	2,409.42	2,891.30
Tewin	971.98	1,133.97	1,295.97	1,457.96	1,781.95	2,105.95	2,429.94	2,915.92
Thorley	956.43	1,115.83	1,275.24	1,434.64	1,753.45	2,072.26	2,391.07	2,869.28
Thundridge	968.70	1,130.14	1,291.60	1,453.04	1,775.94	2,098.84	2,421.74	2,906.08
Walkern	975.71	1,138.32	1,300.95	1,463.56	1,788.80	2,114.04	2,439.27	2,927.12
Ware	998.39	1,164.78	1,331.19	1,497.58	1,830.38	2,163.18	2,495.97	2,995.16
Wareside	958.58	1,118.33	1,278.11	1,437.86	1,757.39	2,076.91	2,396.44	2,875.72
Watton at Stone	970.31	1,132.01	1,293.74	1,455.45	1,778.89	2,102.32	2,425.76	2,910.90
Westmill	969.49	1,131.07	1,292.66	1,454.23	1,777.39	2,102.52	2,423.70	2,908.46
Widford	961.83	1,122.12	1,282.44	1,442.73	1,763.34	2,083.95	2,423.72	2,885.46
Wyddial	950.53	1,108.94	1,267.37	1,425.78	1,742.62	2,059.46	2,376.31	2,851.56
vvyddiai	930.53	1,100.34	1,207.37	1,723.70	1,1-12.02	2,000.40	2,570.51	2,001.00