

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING held at 8.00 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 13 FEBRUARY 2001**

Present:- Councillor D M Miller – Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, Mrs C A Cant, Mrs M A Caton,
R P Chambers, Mrs J F Cheetham, R A E Clifford, R J Copping,
Mrs D Cornell, A Dean, R C Dean, Mrs C D Down, Mrs S Flack,
M L Foley, M A Gayler, Mrs E J Godwin, R D Green,
D W Gregory, D M Jones, A J Ketteridge, P G F Lewis,
Mrs C M Little, Mrs J E Menell, R A Merrion, R J O'Neill,
A R Row, Mrs S V Schneider, G Sell, R C Smith, R W L Stone,
Mrs E Tealby-Watson and A R Thawley.

Officers in attendance:- Mrs E Forbes, Mrs M Cox, M R Dellow,
J B Dickson, A Forrow, B D Perkins and Mrs J Postings.

285 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W F Bowker,
Mrs C M Dean, Mrs J I Loughlin, D J Morson and R B Tyler.

286 **CAPITAL AND LEASING PROGRAMMES AND GENERAL FUND
REVENUE ESTIMATES AND COUNCIL TAX 2001/2002**

(i) Capital and Leasing Programmes 2001-2004

Councillor R P Chambers, the Leader of the Council, moved and it was duly seconded, that the recommendations set out in Minute 269 of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held earlier in the evening be approved in respect of the Capital and Leasing Programme.

Answering Councillor A Dean's comment about future capital schemes, Councillor Chambers said that this was a prudent programme. Proposals for any new schemes should be carefully evaluated before being included.

RESOLVED that the Housing and General Fund Capital and Leasing Programmes, as recommended by the Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 8 February 2001 be approved.

(ii) General Fund Revenue Estimates 2000/2001

Councillor Chambers moved, seconded by Councillor Mrs S Flack, that the recommendations set out in Minute 269 of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held earlier in the evening be approved in respect of the General Fund Revenue Estimates.

Councillor Chambers said that the proposed 3.9% increase in the Council Tax was both prudent and sustainable. The Council had faced a difficult situation

this year having been required to save £565,000 due to the loss of the Negative Housing Subsidy. Difficult decisions had been made and the resulting budget was commendable. He thanked Members and Officers for their efforts in achieving this. The proposed increase in Council Tax was not unreasonable but would put the Council in a good position for next year when further savings would still need to be made.

Councillor Gayler commented that the effect of the loss of the Negative Housing Subsidy had not been as bad as expected. Transitional Relief had been available and, through prudent budgeting, a large reserve had been created to cope with the changes. At the Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee he had proposed a 3% increase in the council tax as this was closer to the rate of inflation. In future years the Council should address the services needed by the public and increase expenditure if necessary.

Councillor Chambers referred to the number of schemes that would be supported this year. This included the new leisure centres in Dunmow and Stansted, the Thaxted CIC, expansion of the paper recycling collection, help for facilities in rural areas and support for the voluntary services.

Councillor Clifford drew the Council's attention to the differences in the percentage increases in Council Tax between the parish, the district and the county councils. These were 2.9%, 3.9% and 7.9% respectively.

RESOLVED that the General Fund Revenue Estimates as recommended from the Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 February 2001 be approved.

It was further

RESOLVED that

- 1 It be noted that at its meeting on 9 January 2001, the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2001/2002 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):-
 - (a) 29,254.80 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) **Table 1** (Tax Base for each part of the Council's area) being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with regulation 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 The following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2001/02 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Act:-
- (a) £25,000,609 being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimate for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
 - (b) £17,565,049 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
 - (c) £7,435,560 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year.
 - (d) £3,621,791 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 and Revenue Support Grant.
 - (e) Nil being the amount representing the authority's contribution to council tax benefit resulting from an increase in its council tax calculated in accordance with the Collection Fund (General) (England) Directions 1999, the Collection Fund (Council Tax Benefit) (England) Direction 1999 and the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 1999.
 - (f) Nil being the aggregate of £Nil which the Council estimates as Council Tax surplus will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Act 1988, and £Nil being the sum which the Council estimates as Community Charge surplus will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund

pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Act 1988 made on 15 February 2000.

- (g) £130.36 being the amount at 3(c) above, less the amount at 3(d) and 3(f) above, plus the amount at 3(e) above, all divided by 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.
- (h) £1,036,318 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (i) £94.94 being the amount at 3(g) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(h) above by the amount at 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 which dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- (j) **Table 2** (Band D charge for Parish and District combined), being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(h) 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 at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (k) It be noted that for the year 2001/02 the Essex County Council and the Essex Police Authority have stated that 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 are as shown below:-

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Essex County Council	466.32	544.04	621.76	699.48	854.92	1010.36	1165.80	1398.96
Essex Police Authority	47.34	55.23	63.12	71.01	86.79	102.57	118.35	142.02

- (l) Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (j) and (k) above the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2001/02 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Note:

A table is attached setting out the combined Parish and District Council Tax for each valuation band.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.