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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES

Tuesday, 7th June, 2022

Present: Cllr M D Boughton (Chairman), Cllr R P Betts, Cllr V M C Branson, Cllr M A Coffin, Cllr D A S Davis, Cllr D Keers, Cllr P J Montague and Cllr K B Tanner

Councillor M A J Hood was also present pursuant to Access to Information Rule No. 23

Councillors Mrs P A Bates, D Harman, Mrs A S Oakley and M R Rhodes participated via MS Teams and joined the discussion when invited to do so by the Chairman in accordance with Access to Information Rule No 23

PART 1 - PUBLIC

CB 22/54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

CB 22/55 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 March 2022 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 12 April 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CB 22/56 MATTERS REFERRED FROM ADVISORY PANELS AND OTHER GROUPS

The Minutes of the meetings of the following Advisory Panels and other Groups were received, any recommendations contained therein being incorporated within the decisions of the Cabinet reproduced at the annex to these Minutes.

- Tonbridge Community Forum of 28 February and 9 May 2022

The Notes of the Parish Partnership Panel held on 26 May 2022 would be presented to the next meeting of Cabinet.

EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS**CB 22/57 CAR PARKING FEES AND CHARGES - OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Decision Notice: D220052CAB

The Cabinet considered the objections and comments received during the statutory consultation period related to proposed off-street car parking charges. The proposals related to the existing car parks where charges were already in place in Tonbridge, West Malling, Borough Green, Blue Bell Hill and the country parks.

A summary of the responses received and the associated officer advice was set out in the report.

Whilst careful consideration was given to the responses received it was recognised that the introduction and management of parking charges was effective in maintaining accessible short-stay parking and in managing demand for long-stay parking. This assisted in generating availability of spaces for short-stay shopping visits and people working in and commuting from the Borough.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed parking charges outlined in the report, and detailed in the Traffic Regulation Order advertisement at Annex 1, be approved to come into effect in July 2022; subject to
 - (i) nearby residents to the Ryarsh Lane car park in West Malling being offered the ability to purchase an annual season ticket; and
 - (ii) the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order being made to facilitate the variation of the off-street parking charges

EXECUTIVE NON-KEY DECISIONS**CB 22/58 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2021/22**

Decision Number: D220053CAB

In accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, consideration was given to information detailing actual Revenue and Outturn for the year ended March 2022. Subsequent adjustments made in light of the Outturn position were also considered. In addition, the report set out how the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Savings and Transformation Strategy might be impacted by the current global economic situation.

Despite a positive outturn position, the Borough Council continued to face a difficult and challenging financial outlook which was exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine and its impact on global economic conditions. The high level of inflation could worsen and these levels had not been reflected in the last local government finance settlement. Whilst it was difficult to predict the financial impact on the Borough Council it was possible that the 'funding gap' could now sit between £2.5m and £3.0m, although it could be more.

Concern was expressed in respect of the significant challenges faced by the Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust as a result of rising energy prices. The Cabinet welcomed the setting aside of £500,000 to support energy efficiency measures and it was hoped that renewable energy sources could be considered at Borough Council facilities.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Revenue and Capital Outturn for the year 2021/22 be noted and endorsed;
- (2) the action taken following a review of specific earmarked reserves, set out at paragraph 1.2.3, be noted and endorsed;
- (3) the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Review 2021/22, (as set out at Annex 4) be noted and endorsed;
- (4) in order to ensure that the target of £350,000 is achieved by the start of the financial year 2023/24, a comprehensive report detailing all strands of work being undertaken in respect of the Savings and Transformation Strategy, including progress being made on achieving targets and outcomes be presented to Cabinet in November 2022; and
- (5) in respect of the significant external factors of high energy prices, the Borough Council should write to central government adding its support to calls for financial support for the public sector leisure industry and seeking grants for renewable energy sources

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

CB 22/59 COUNCIL TAX (ENERGY) REBATE SCHEME 2022

The Cabinet noted the good progress achieved in making energy rebate payments under the mandatory scheme. Payments under the discretionary scheme would be started upon completion of all the phases within the mandatory scheme.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

CB 22/60 BUDGET HEADING: 'GENERAL ADVICE TO PARISH COUNCILS'

Following a request from Members, the report provided details on staff resource allocations to the budget heading 'general advice to Parish Councils'.

It was explained that the budget heading included in the detailed Revenue Estimates was made up of management and administration costs. In addition, it was noted that these costs were recharges of permanent staff time and did not represent new costs.

However, to avoid future confusion the budget heading would be amended to 'Liaison, Support and Advice' which also better reflected the nature of the work being undertaken with parish councils.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

CB 22/61 DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET MEMBERS

Details of the Decisions taken in accordance with the rules for the making of decisions by executive members, as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution, were presented for information.

Subsequent to the publication of the agenda, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Innovation and Property had taken a decision in respect of discretionary rate relief applications ([D220051MEM](#)).

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Member Decisions as presented be received and noted.

CB 22/62 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER EMERGENCY OR URGENCY PROVISIONS

There were no decisions taken in accordance with emergency and/or urgency provisions since the last meeting of Cabinet.

CB 22/63 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman moved, it was seconded and

RESOLVED: That as public discussion would disclose exempt information, the following matters be considered in private.

CB 22/64 PROPOSED LETTING OF UNIT 29, MARTIN SQUARE, LARKFIELD

Decision Notice: D220054CAB

(Reasons: LGA 1972 – Sch 12A paragraph 3 – Financial or business affairs of any particular person)

The report set out proposals for the letting of Unit 29, Martin Square, Larkfield.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the granting of a lease of 29 Martin Square, Larkfield, as detailed in the report, be approved.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm

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THE TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2022

Notice is hereby given that Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council intends to make the above Order under Sections 32 and 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be as per the Council's existing Off-Street Parking Places Order, save for the following changes;

Definitions

Introduction of new definitions relating to electric vehicles and the deletion of references to "invalid carriages"

Parking Charges

In the town of Tonbridge,

The Council is revising the operation of its short stay car parks, to allow users the choice of longer stay parking, but at higher rates. Lower increases are proposed for long-stay car parks. This is to give more customer choice, flexibility, and encourage better use of the short and long-stay parking.

Group 1 (Short Stay), covering Angel car park, Botany car park, Bradford Street car park, Kinnings Row car park, Lamberts Yard car park and River Lawn car park

- no change to the charge for parking for up to 30 minutes, remaining at 70 pence
- no change to the charge for parking for up to 1 hour, remaining at £1.40
- an increase of 30 pence to £2.80 for parking up to 2 hours
- an increase of 80 pence to £4.20 for parking up to 3 hours
- an increase of £1.40 to £5.60 for parking up to 4 hours
- additional hours at £2.80 per hour, to a maximum of 23 consecutive hours
- an increase of £30 (to £320) for 12 month off-peak season tickets.

Group 2 (Long Stay), covering Sovereign Way Mid car park and Waterloo Road car park

- no change to the charge for parking for up to 1 hour, remaining at £1.40
- an increase of 10 pence to £2.60 for parking up to 2 hours
- an increase of 10 pence to £3.50 for parking up to 3 hours
- an increase of 10 pence to £5.40 for parking up to 6 hours
- an increase of 10 pence to £6.80 for parking up to 23 consecutive hours
- an increase of £30 (to £320) for 12 month off-peak season tickets.
- the introduction of a new 3 month Town Centre residents' season ticket, at £87.50
- no change to the 12 month Town Centre residents' season ticket, remaining at £350

Groups 3 & 6 (Long Stay), covering Sovereign Way East car park, Sovereign Way North car park and Lower Castle Field car park

- no change to the charge for parking for up to 1 hour, remaining at £1.40
- an increase of 10 pence to £2.60 for parking up to 2 hours
- an increase of 10 pence to £3.50 for parking up to 3 hours
- an increase of 10 pence to £5.40 for parking up to 6 hours
- an increase of 10 pence to £6.80 for parking up to 23 consecutive hours
- no change to the monthly season ticket, remaining at £120

- an increase of £30 (to £1050) for 12 month season tickets
- an increase of £30 (to £320) for 12 month off-peak season tickets.
- the introduction of a new 3 month Town Centre residents' season ticket, at £87.50
- no change to the 12 month Town Centre residents' season ticket, remaining at £350

Group 4 (Long Stay), covering Vale Road car park on Saturdays only

- no change to the charge for parking for up to 1 hour, remaining at £1.40
- an increase of 10 pence to £2.60 for parking up to 2 hours
- an increase of 10 pence to £3.50 for parking up to 3 hours
- an increase of 10 pence to £5.40 for parking up to 6 hours
- an increase of 10 pence to £6.80 for parking up to 23 consecutive hours
- no change to the monthly season ticket, remaining at £120
- an increase of £30 (to £1050) for 12 month season tickets
- an increase of £30 (to £320) for 12 month off-peak season tickets.
- the introduction of a new 3 month Town Centre residents' season ticket, at £87.50
- no change to the 12 month Town Centre residents' season ticket, remaining at £350

Groups 5 & 7 (Short Stay), covering Upper Castle Field car park and Castle Grounds car park

- no change to the charge for parking for up to 30 minutes, remaining at 70 pence
- no change to the charge for parking for up to 1 hour, remaining at £1.40
- an increase of 30 pence to £2.80 for parking up to 2 hours
- an increase of 80 pence to £4.20 for parking up to 3 hours
- a new charge of £5.60 for parking up to 4 hours
- additional hours at £2.80 per hour, to a maximum of 23 consecutive hours
- an increase of £30 (to £320) for 12 month off-peak season tickets.

In the town of West Malling,

Group 16, covering High Street car park

- an increase of 10 pence to 50 pence for parking up to 30 minutes
- an increase of 30 pence to £1.10 for parking up to 1 hour
- an increase of 20 pence to £1.80 for parking up to 2 hours
- an increase of 20 pence to £2.60 for parking up to 3 hours
- an increase of 20 pence to £3.40 for parking up to 4 hours

Group 10, covering Ryarsh Lane car park

- no change to the 12 month car park season ticket, at £255
- the introduction of a 1 month car park season ticket, at £26
- the introduction of parking charges (managed by phone payment) on Saturdays between 8am and 5:30pm
 - £1.10 for parking up to 1 hour
 - £1.80 for parking up to 2 hours
 - £2.60 for parking up to 3 hours
 - £3.40 for parking up to 4 hours

In the town of Borough Green

Group 13, covering Western Road car park

- no change to the charge for parking for up to 30 minutes, remaining at 20 pence
- an increase of 10 pence to £0.50 for parking up to 1 hour
- an increase of 20 pence to £0.80 for parking up to 2 hours
- an increase of 40 pence to £1.50 for parking up to 4 hours
- an increase of 60 pence to £2.20 for parking up to 6 hours

- an increase of 90 pence to £3.10 for parking up to 9 hours
- no change to the charge for parking all day (23 consecutive hours), remaining at £5.30
- an increase of £30 to £350 for the residents car park season ticket

Country Parks

Groups 14.1 & 14.2, covering Leybourne Lakes and Haysden Country Parks

- an increase of 40p (to £1.80) to the “up to 4 hour” tariff
- no change to the over 4 hour tariff, at £4.00
- an increase of £10 (to £60) for 12 month car park season tickets

A copy of the draft Order and the Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order may be inspected (on an appointment only basis due to Covid-19 restrictions – call 01732 844522 for more details) during normal working hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices, Kings Hill, West Malling or at Tonbridge Castle and also at the Kent County Offices, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.

The proposed Order may also be viewed on www.tmbc.gov.uk/offstreetcharges

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write stating reasons, and quoting the name of the Order, by no later than 13th March 2022.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, require further information or have difficulty in reading this notice, please contact, during normal office hours, the Parking Office tel: (01732) 844522, email: parking.office@tmbc.gov.uk or by post to;

The Parking Office, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council,
Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ.

Dated 18th February 2022

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

For enquires relating to these proposals please contact Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on 01732 844522.

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