



Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 22 November 2023

Councillors present:

Nikki Ind - Chair	Mark Harris – Vice Chair	
Gina Blomefield	Andrew Maclean	Tony Slater
Claire Bloomer	Dilys Neill	Paul Hodgkinson
Ray Brassington	Nigel Robbins	Jeremy Theyer
Patrick Coleman	Gary Selwyn	Clare Turner
Tony Dale	Lisa Spivey	Chris Twells
Mike Evemy	Tom Stowe	Michael Vann
Joe Harris	David Fowles	Jon Wareing
Roly Hughes	Mike McKeown	Ian Watson
Julia Judd	Angus Jenkinson	Len Wilkins
Juliet Layton	Daryl Corps	David Cunningham

Officers present:

Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer)	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer
Ana Prelici, Democratic Services Officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive

69 Apologies

There were apologies received from Councillor Helene Mansilla.

70 Declarations of Interest

The Chair announced that a number of officers present employed by the Publica Group had a discloseable pecuniary interest and would leave the room before the start of Agenda Item 9.

There were no other declarations from Members or Officers present.

71 Minutes

The minutes of Full Council on 20 September 2023 were considered as presented in the pack.

The Chair opened this item by highlighting that there were some errors with the voting records which had been subsequently corrected by Democratic Services in the online version of the minutes before the meeting.

Councillor Stowe tabled the following correction:

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Minute Item 60 (Page 11): It was highlighted that the figure of 2000 electors per Member should read 2600 electors per Member.

Councillor Fowles proposed to confirm the minutes and Councillor Neill seconded.

RESOLVED: That subject to the corrections being made, the minutes of the meeting on 20 September 2023 be approved as a true record

Voting Record – 30 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson		Jon Wareing	Helene Mansilla
Chris Twells			Andrew Maclean
Claire Bloomer			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evely			
Mike McKeown			
Nigel Robbins			
Nikki Ind			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Ray Brassington			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

*As there was a vacancy in the Lechlade, Kempsford and Fairford South Ward, the total number of Councillors was 33.

72 Announcements from the Chair, Leader of Chief Executive

The Chair began by noting the number of events represented such as the Cotswold Active Mr Motivator Live Event, and thanked officers for their work in delivering this important work for improving the health and wellbeing of residents.

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The Chair also noted the important community engagements attended in the capacity as Chair of Council which included the Cirencester Community Awards and the Service of Remembrance in Tetbury.

The Chair also noted upcoming events such as the Cotswold Network Community Christmas event in the Bingham Hall in Cirencester which brought a number of local organisations together to offer support to residents.

The Chair took the opportunity to wish all Councillors and residents a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year as this was the last Full Council of 2023.

The Chair then invited Councillor Joe Harris as Leader of the Council to make any announcements.

The Leader firstly wished to pay tribute to Councillor Clare Muir who had stood down from the Council on 7 November for personal reasons. The Leader wished to recognise the work that they had done which included being the Armed Forces Champion for the Council.

The Leader also wished to put on record thanks to Jan Britton as the Managing Director of Publica, who was leaving his role at Christmas. The Leader noted the work in delivering steady leadership of Publica and his work with Council leadership during a challenging period.

It was also announced that the Council had been offered a portrait of King Charles III which had been accepted by the Chief Executive which would be placed in the Chamber along with the three winners of the Council's recent photo competition. The Leader also took the opportunity to wish King a happy 75th birthday.

The Leader also wished to pay tribute to Corinne Lamus from the Cirencester Community Development Trust who had passed away and for the legacy of their work in the community and the surrounding areas.

There was also an announcement on the Autumn Statement from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that this would be monitored particularly in relation to planning regulations around second homes which was highlighted as a problem in the District.

The Chief Executive was then invited to make any announcements.

The Chief Executive wished to highlight the importance of Councillors engaging with residents to encourage participation in the Council's online Budget Consultation which would help to shape the Council's decisions ahead of the Budget in February 2024.

There was also an announcement regarding the submission of the Stow-on-the-Wold and the Swells Neighbourhood Development Plan being subject to consultation until 5 January 2024 before being reviewed by the Independent Examiner.

73 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

74 Member Questions

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Member Questions and supplementary responses can be found within the attached document.

75 Amendments to the Constitution

The purpose of the report was to consider proposals from the Constitution Working Group for amendments to the Constitution to:

1. Update the Council Budget Protocol
2. Remove references to the now rescinded Recovery Investment Strategy from the constitution.

The Leader, Councillor Joe Harris was then invited to introduce this report as the Accountable Member.

In proposing the recommendations, it was noted that the changes were largely administrative in order to reflect the new political composition and the effect of the decisions of Cabinet and Full Council to rescind the Recovery Investment Strategy in 2022.

Councillor David Fowles then seconded the recommendations as a member of the Constitution Working Group and noted the important work the group continues to provide in updating the Constitution of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Council AGREED to:

1. AUTHORISE the Deputy Chief Executive to update the Council Budget Protocol [Part G, Appendix D] to reflect the change in political composition following the District Council elections in May 2023.
2. AUTHORISE the Deputy Chief Executive to remove references to the now rescinded Recovery Investment Strategy from the Council's constitution.

Voting Record – 31 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson			Helene Mansilla
Chris Twells			Andrew Maclean
Claire Bloomer			
Clare Turner			
Daryl Corps			
David Cunningham			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Jon Wareing			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Len Wilkins			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			

Mike Evemy			
Mike McKeown			
Nigel Robbins			
Nikki Ind			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Ray Brassington			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

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76 Programme of Meetings 2024/25

The purpose of the report was to set a programme of Council and Committee meetings for 2024/25.

The Leader, Councillor Joe Harris introduced this item to Full Council as the proposer of the recommendations.

It was outlined that the Programme of Meetings would never be ideal for all councillor preferences, but that the programme would be a compromise for all.

The Leader noted that previously the Council like Gloucestershire County Council had held morning meetings but that this was not seen as best practice.

It was noted that many Members have employment and childcare commitments which evening meetings suit better.

The Leader in proposing this item also proposed the following amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group to the recommendations:

5. Agree that, subject to any alternative proposals Council considers and agrees, meeting start times will be rolled forwards from 2023/24. meeting start times as shown in Section 4.1 of the report except for meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees which will start at 4pm.

6. Change the start time for meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit and Governance Committee to 4pm with effect from their meetings in January 2024

Upon doing so, Councillor Twells raised a Point of Order in regards to the proposing of the original recommendations and the amended recommendations at the same time. The Director of Governance ruled that the original recommendations of the report should be proposed and then followed by amendments in the order as received. It was also confirmed that the Conservative amendment to this item had been received first, and would need to be considered first.

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The Deputy Leader in seconding the original recommendations, welcomed the efforts by officers to avoid meetings falling on Gloucestershire school holiday dates where possible for those with families who wish to be on holiday.

Councillor Stowe then proposed an amendment to the motion which struck out recommendation 1 and 5 of the report and inserted the following replacement recommendation:

- 1. Instruct Officers to revise Annex A and B with new meeting times so that no meeting time agreed by Full Council starts after 3pm and request that this revised programme of meetings be returned to January Full Council for approval.*

The following points were then raised by Councillor Stowe:

- It was outlined that some Members with employment and family commitments may not be able to make meetings starting later in the day. It was also noted that there were concerns with evening meetings in being able to attend Town and Parish Councils.
- It was outlined that the proceedings of meetings were webcasted which means that residents could tune into meetings later in the day.
- It was also noted that the work of officers to attend meetings outside of normal working hours needed to be considered.

Councillor Twells formally seconded the amendment and reserved his right to speak.

There were various comments around the organisation of meetings in the day, and the impact on participation opportunities for residents.

It was outlined by Members that compromise was important and that individuals would have different needs depending on their circumstances.

There were various points made about the attendance at Town and Parish Council meetings as well as District meetings.

It was noted that the travel required for meetings from some parts of the District needed to be taken into consideration.

There were comments made around officers using flexible working where needed in order to meet out-of-hours commitments to serve the Council.

Councillor Twells in seconding the amendment felt that a 3pm start would be reasonable compromise for Members and Officers, and hoped that the debate would avoid any debates between different groups of people.

The amendment from Councillor Stowe and seconded by Councillor Fowles was then put to a vote.

RESOLVED: That Council:

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1. Instruct Officers to revise Annex A and B with new meeting times so that no meeting time agreed by Full Council starts after 3pm and request that this revised programme of meetings be returned to January Full Council for approval.

2. Delegate authority to the Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with Group Leaders, to make changes to the programme of meetings in the event that there is any future decision of Council to change the committee structure or committee remit that impacts the programme of meetings.

3. Delegate authority to the Democratic Services Business Manager to set the meeting dates for the Performance and Appointments Committee.

4. Delegate Authority to the Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) to set dates for member training and briefing sessions, any working groups established by the Council and any meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee (Licensing Act 2003 Matters) and the Standards Hearings Sub-Committee (if required).

Voting Record: 10 For, 19 Against, 2 Abstention, 2 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Chris Twells	Angus Jenkinson	Dilys Neill	Helene Mansilla
Daryl Corps	Claire Bloomer	Nigel Robbins	Andrew Maclean
David Cunningham	Clare Turner		
David Fowles	Gary Selwyn		
Gina Blomefield	Ian Watson		
Jeremy Theyer	Joe Harris		
Julia Judd	Jon Wareing		
Len Wilkins	Juliet Layton		
Tom Stowe	Lisa Spivey		
Tony Slater	Mark Harris		
	Michael Vann		
	Mike Evey		
	Mike McKeown		
	Nikki Ind		
	Patrick Coleman		
	Paul Hodgkinson		
	Ray Brassington		
	Roly Hughes		
	Tony Dale		

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The amendment was lost.

Before the Liberal Democrat Group amendment was put to a vote, Councillor Evey as the seconder noted in addition that the proposed amendment to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit and Governance Committee timings from January onwards would be a good compromise for those Members with other commitments.

The revised amended motion from the Liberal Democrat Group proposed by Councillor Joe Harris and seconded by Councillor Mike Evey was then put to a vote.

Voting Record: 28 For, 3 Against, 0 Abstentions, 2 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson	Chris Twells		Helene Mansilla
Claire Bloomer	David Cunningham		Andrew Maclean
Clare Turner	Len Wilkins		
Daryl Corps			
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Jon Wareing			
Julia Judd			
Juliet Layton			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evely			
Mike McKeown			
Nigel Robbins			
Nikki Ind			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Ray Brassington			
Roly Hughes			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

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77 Publica Review Report

The purpose of the report was to consider the Human Engine Consultants report and to approve the recommendations therein.

The Chair then asked those Publica officers who felt that they should leave the room to do so before Members discussed the item.

The Leader introduced the report and outlined the following points:

- It was highlighted that this report has been seen by Cabinet, an private all-member briefing, a Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- It was highlighted that in 2017, Publica as a company was set up by Cotswold District Council alongside Cheltenham Borough Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and the Forest of Dean District Council to share services and staff.
- It was outlined that savings were made with staff rationalisation, and future pension liabilities regarding the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

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- It was highlighted that a Peer Review was undertaken in 2022 and provided recommendations regarding how the problems identified with the Publica service delivery model.
- It was highlighted that following the commissioning of a review conducted by Human Engine, it was recommended that the majority of services should be returned to the Council.
- It was outlined that the present structure made changes to services difficult because of the shared ownership model and the governance structures within Publica.
- The financial challenges for the Council were highlighted as a point to re-think how to deliver services efficiently and with less resources.
- It was outlined that that the concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee around the detail of the transition plan, whilst not fully detailed at this point, would be finalised in due course. It was also noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be involved in the process.
- The Leader made it clear that the welfare of staff needed to be at the forefront of the work, and also stated that the proposal was not a commentary on the performance of staff. However, it was felt that the staff were being let down by the structures of Publica.

Councillor Blomefield then proposed the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations outlined in the supplementary document pack.

Recommend to Council that recommendation I in the report is amended to read:

'Approve the recommendations set out in the Human Engine report (that the majority of services are returned to the Council as per the detail provided on page 12 of the Human Engine report), subject to the completion of due diligence and the agreement of the detailed transition plan'.

Councillor Blomefield then made it clear that the proposal did come with some risks, and would need a thorough and proper process for implementation.

Councillor Slater in seconding the amendment noted that the costs could be substantial and that a checkpoint in the transition process was required in order to ensure it was not a blank cheque.

There were comments made regarding how this review was likely as the contracts for services were due to expire in 2024.

There was a question in regards to how coordinated the process was with the other councils in respect of decisions made. The Leader explained that the Council was sovereign over its own decisions, although the shared model would mean that the decisions of other councils would need to be accounted for. It was affirmed that the majority of the partners involved comfortable with the overall direction proposed.

There were comments made around the level detail within the Human Engine report, and how any swift reaction could have significant implications.

Councillor Evemy in seconding the original motion made the following points:

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- It was explained that the period was uncertain for all staff involved and any delay as proposed may exacerbate this point.
- It was noted that the decisions being taken in the public sector were different to that of the private sector and would need to be open and transparent as a local authority.
- It was outlined that the financial implications are being examined, but that the notion of a blank cheque was incorrect.
- It was noted that no other council operates or has bought into a shared service model like Publica for the majority of services.
- It was outlined that the savings proposed of £2 million in 3 years by Publica across all of the partners would be needed.

It was noted by a number of Members that there would be a degree of uncertainty with this process, but it was felt by some Members that this change would be for the benefit of the Council.

Councillor Judd wished to ask on the record the terms which Human Engine have been employed upon and if there were any guarantees given to use them for the next stages as this would affect the decision on this item. The Chief Executive confirmed that any transition process decisions would be for the partner councils to decide, and there was no undertaking given for Human Engine to be employed. Councillor Judd also wished to note for the record that any future employment of Human Engine for work would need to be examined carefully for any conflict of interests.

It was noted by some Members against the amendment that the decision needed to be taken sooner to provide certainty against a difficult financial situation.

There were comments made that the recommendations without the amendment would commit the Council to the process without a firm commitment to oversight by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was highlighted that the process for transitioning services would be complex and would require careful management with the expertise of officers.

Councillor Joe Harris as the Cabinet Member with the right to reply made the following points;

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recognised as an important part of the process, and had a through debate during its Special Meeting on 16 November 2023. However, it was noted that there was a difference of opinion at the meeting.
- It was recognised that the process would take time but that the information would become clear when the transition work is commenced as this decision relates to individual circumstances.
- It was outlined that the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of a delay to the decision could cause uncertainty for those affected.

The amendment proposed by Councillor Blomefield and seconded by Councillor Slater was then put to a vote.

Voting Record

11 For, 17 Against, 2 Abstentions, 3 Absent/Did Not Vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Chris Twells	Claire Bloomer	Angus Jenkinson	Helene Mansilla
Daryl Corps	Dilys Neill	Clare Turner	Andrew Maclean
David Cunningham	Gary Selwyn		Ray Brassington
David Fowles	Ian Watson		
Gina Blomefield	Joe Harris		
Jeremy Theyer	Jon Wareing		
Julia Judd	Juliet Layton		
Len Wilkins	Lisa Spivey		
Nikki Ind	Mark Harris		
Tom Stowe	Michael Vann		
Tony Slater	Mike Evemy		
	Mike McKeown		
	Nigel Robbins		
	Patrick Coleman		
	Paul Hodgkinson		
	Roly Hughes		
	Tony Dale		

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The amendment to the motion had therefore fallen and the Chair then returned the debate to the original motion.

It was noted by some Members present during Publica's creation that staff levels had been reduced at that time, and there were concerns with the governance arrangements.

It was highlighted that there was an opportunity in returning staff to Council direct employment to recognise the hard work of staff and to explore improvements to the workplace environment and moral.

There was a question to the Chief Executive around the proposals and the view that there was no opportunity to change direction if new facts emerged. It was also asked if it could be confirmed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Full Council would be consulted at strategic points. The Chief Executive confirmed a commitment to work with Members of all parties, and that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be involved in this process. It was outlined that this was an important process and needed to be right.

It was noted that transition support would be needed across the partner councils with a total cost of £236,000 and the individual share to the Council would be £78,000 over an 18 month period.

It was noted that the Financial Performance Reports on a quarterly basis would be an important opportunity for monitoring the implications of the process.

There was a question around the share of the costs of the transition support arrangements across all four Publica partner councils. Councillor Evemy noted that Cheltenham Borough Council only had a few select services within the Publica partnership and was not undergoing as transformative a change as the other three partner councils. The Chief Executive noted that Cheltenham Borough Council would be supporting the transition arrangements such as Legal

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and HR support, but the other transitions are not relevant to their councils and they were not bearing these costs.

It was noted by Members that the focus should be on providing the best services to residents.

RESOLVED: That Full Council:

1. APPROVED the recommendations set out in the Human Engine report (that the majority of services are returned to the Council as per the detail provided on page 12 of the Human Engine report)
2. AGREED to instruct the Chief Executive to oversee the creation of a detailed transition plan for subsequent agreement by Cabinet and Council
3. ENDORSED the approach to the further due diligence outlined in the financial implications of the report including analysis of the detailed payroll data required, which will be essential to calculate the short and long-term costs associated with the recommendations set out in the Human Engine report.

Voting Record

24 For, 4 Against, 3 Abstentions, 2 Absent/Did Not Vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson	David Cunningham	David Fowles	Helene Mansilla
Chris Twells	Julia Judd	Jeremy Theyer	Andrew Maclean
Claire Bloomer	Len Wilkins	Tom Stowe	
Clare Turner	Tony Slater		
Daryl Corps			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Gina Blomefield			
Ian Watson			
Joe Harris			
Jon Wareing			
Juliet Layton			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evemy			
Mike McKeown			
Nigel Robbins			
Nikki Ind			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Ray Brassington			
Roly Hughes			
Tony Dale			

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Following the vote, a short break in proceedings was taken.

78 Notice of Motions

Following the return to session and the return of officers who had left the room, the Chair then moved to the motion on the agenda.

Motion A: Council Finances

The Chair invited the proposer of the motion, Councillor Every to introduce it.

Councillor Every in proposing the motion to Council, made the following points:

- It was noted that contrary to some commentary given, the Council was not close to bankruptcy but that there were financial challenges which needed to be faced as outlined in the Council's Budget Consultation.
- It was highlighted that 8 Councils had issued a Section 114 notice since 2018 which included Birmingham City Council which had lost control of its finances. It was noted that Councils nationally faced this challenge and that many Councils have indicated they may also face a S.114 notice.
- It was noted that the financial pressures had forced the Council to use of £1.3 million of the finite reserves available to balance the 2023/24 budget and that it was currently projected a further £860,000 would be required to balance the 2024/25 budget.
- It was noted that an increase of central government funding of 3% was outweighed against the backdrop of high inflation, and the upcoming Fairer Funding Review which is projected to result in a loss of £3 million of funding.
- The request of the motion for multi-year settlements was outlined as key for planning the finances of the future, alongside a request to increase funding to maintain the current services provided by Councils.
- It was noted that the request regarding the Fairer Funding Review was also important to protect District Councils and the services provided.

Councillor Dale as seconder reserved the right to speak until later in the debate.

Councillor Stowe was then invited to introduce amendment tabled to the Motion which was as follows:

(Amendment in red inserted before point 1 of the original Motion tabled)

Recognise the importance of financial prudence in delivering a balanced budget. Noting that any further funding from Government can only be paid for by the taxpayer nationally, it is important that this Council gets its "Own House In Order" before requesting further funding. Council therefore instructs officers to implement the following 7-point plan, which as a package will generate significant savings and cash-flow with no impact on service provision:-

2 year freeze in Councillor's allowances.

25% reduction in Councillor's special responsibility allowances.

Cabinet to be reduced to 6 members.

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Cross-party working group set-up to review all vacant staff posts with the CEO.

Future issues of “Cotswold News” to be scrapped.

Budget for Social Media “promotions” to be scrapped.

All purchases and procurement not directly related to the provision of mandatory services to be stopped.

Councillor Stowe in introducing the amendment to motion made the following points:

- It was highlighted that the Conservative Group had highlighted concerns regarding spending by the Council which included spend on consultants and staff pay-offs
- It was noted that the requests of the motion to deliver a surplus budget, ask for a multi-year settlement for funding, and raise the problems of the Fairer Funding Review was something that Councillor Stowe sympathised with and would discuss with the MP for The Cotswolds.
- It was noted that the request for more financial spending power was not going to fix the concerns.
- The amendment’s request to adjust the budget were then highlighted to Council as practical measures to bring financial stability.

Councillor David Cunningham reserved the right to speak.

There were various comments around the benefits of Cotswold News in providing information to residents, especially those without access to the internet and communicating to those the Councils serve.

It was highlighted that part of the amendment’s request to reduce Cabinet to 6 Members was within the responsibility of the Leader, and that there was not a specific budget for ‘Social Media Promotions’.

It was noted that the Council provides a number of non-statutory services which Members recognised as important.

Councillor David Cunningham in seconding the amendment, then made the following points:

- The amendment was solely focussed on balancing the budget, and lead by example.
- The reference to ‘vanity project’s’ was specific to changes such as the change to the livery on street signs.
- Whilst the work of Committee Chairs and Cabinet Members was recognised, a cut to the special responsibility allowances, and a two year freeze of Councillor Allowances as proposed was recognised as important to show residents of the need to balance the budget.

Councillor Evely in his right to reply made the following points:

- The amendment would be better proposed at the Budget meeting in February 2024, which would include the financial figures.
- The Communications Team provides a variety of communications which are beneficial for residents.

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- The Member Allowances for 2023/24 was set in May 2023 which was felt to be a balanced approach to reflect the work of Councillors and taking into account the financial position.

Councillor Stowe in summing up the amendment proposed mentioned the following

- The allowance increase was a deferred increased which was felt not to be appropriate at this time.
- The reiteration of the proposals leading by example was important.

The amendment proposed by Councillor Stowe and Seconded by Councillor Cunningham was then put to a vote.

The Council resolves to:

I Recognise the importance of financial prudence in delivering a balanced budget. Noting that any further funding from Government can only be paid for by the taxpayer nationally, it is important that this Council gets it's "Own House In Order" before requesting further funding. Council therefore instructs officers to implement the following 7-point plan, which as a package will generate significant savings and cash-flow with no impact on service provision:-

2 year freeze in Councillor's allowances.

25% reduction in Councillor's special responsibility allowances.

Cabinet to be reduced to 6 members.

Cross-party working group set-up to review all vacant staff posts with the CEO.

Future issues of "Cotswold News" to be scrapped.

Budget for Social Media "promotions" to be scrapped.

All purchases and procurement not directly related to the provision of mandatory services to be stopped.

Following this implementation, Council further resolves to then:

1. 2. To Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities including the contents of this motion and asking him for: (i) multiple year settlements for local councils to give them a more sound base on which to plan their finances; (ii) an overall real terms funding increase for councils in 2024/25 and beyond to prevent further councils declaring effective bankruptcy and enabling them to arrest, if not reverse, the decline in their services; and (iii) a commitment that the implementation of the Fairer Funding Review will not see councils facing reductions in their Government funding.

2. 3. Request that a copy of this letter be sent to the Member of Parliament for the Cotswolds and the Local Government Association.

Voting Record

8 For, 20 Against, 1 Abstention, 4 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Daryl Corps	Angus Jenkinson	Chris Twells	Helene Mansilla
David Cunningham	Claire Bloomer		Andrew Maclean
David Fowles	Clare Turner		Len Wilkins
Gina Blomefield	Dilys Neill		Roly Hughes
Jeremy Theyer	Gary Selwyn		
Julia Judd	Ian Watson		
Tom Stowe	Joe Harris		
Tony Slater	Jon Wareing		
	Juliet Layton		
	Lisa Spivey		
	Mark Harris		
	Michael Vann		
	Mike Every		
	Mike McKeown		
	Nigel Robbins		
	Nikki Ind		
	Patrick Coleman		
	Paul Hodgkinson		
	Ray Brassington		
	Tony Dale		

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The amendment was lost.

Councillor Every then returned to the resolution proposed and noted the following:

- It was recognised that priorities had to be made, and fitting these within the Budget. It was also important for people to participate within the Budget Consultation Survey.
- It was highlighted that the Local Government Association was clear that Councils needed additional financial support of all tiers and political control.

Councillor Dale in seconding the motion then made the following points:

- It was highlighted that the issue was a government financing issue regardless of the political party in control.
- It noted that there was lot of opportunity to deliver for the Cotswolds, particularly in the area of the economic strategy to help boost employment.

The motion presented by Councillor Every and seconded by Councillor Dale was then put to a vote:

The Council resolves to:

1. To write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities including the contents of this motion and asking him for: (i) multiple year settlements for local councils to give them a more sound base on which to plan their finances; (ii) an overall real terms funding increase for councils in 2024/25 and beyond to prevent further councils declaring effective bankruptcy and enabling them to arrest, if not reverse, the decline in their services; and (iii) a

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commitment that the implementation of the Fairer Funding Review will not see councils facing reductions in their Government funding.

2. Request that a copy of this letter be sent to the Member of Parliament for the Cotswolds and the Local Government Association

Voting Record

25 For, 2 Against, 2 Abstention, 4 Absent/Did not vote

For	Against	Abstention	Absent/Did not vote
Angus Jenkinson	Chris Twells	Daryl Corps	Andrew Maclean
Claire Bloomer	Len Wilkins	Gina Blomefield	Helene Mansilla
Clare Turner			Julia Judd
David Cunningham			Roly Hughes
David Fowles			
Dilys Neill			
Gary Selwyn			
Ian Watson			
Jeremy Theyer			
Joe Harris			
Jon Wareing			
Juliet Layton			
Lisa Spivey			
Mark Harris			
Michael Vann			
Mike Evemy			
Mike McKeown			
Nigel Robbins			
Nikki Ind			
Patrick Coleman			
Paul Hodgkinson			
Ray Brassington			
Tom Stowe			
Tony Dale			
Tony Slater			

79 Next meeting

The next meeting of Full Council was confirmed by the Chair to be on 24 January 2024.

The Meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and closed at 5.18 pm

Chair

(END)