

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SPECIAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2009 FROM 8.35PM TO 8.45PM**

*Barrie Patman (Chairman), Dianne King (Vice Chairman), Prue Bray, David Lee,  
Rob Stanton and Simon Weeks*

*Also present:- Councillor Chris Edmunds*

**PART I**

**5. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 26 March 2009 and 14 May 2009 were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

**6. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

**7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

**9. MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

There were no Member questions received.

**10. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2009/10**

The Committee considered a report setting out proposals to reduce housing rents following the Government's announcement that it would allow councils to reduce rent increases for 2009/10 without loss to their Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which was in response to the economic downturn and also pressure from local councils.

Members were informed that although the Council would now receive around £300k less in rent the Government had allowed a reduction in the subsidy payment which would mean that the decrease in rents would have a neutral effect on the Council's budget and Wokingham would not lose any funding available to carry out much needed repairs on tenants' homes.

It was noted that the lower rents would be backdated to 1 April 2009 and tenants would be advised of the reduction and the affect on their rent account in writing on Friday 3 July.

The Mayor was asked if he would consider writing to the Government outlining the problems caused by the negative subsidy as it would be useful if the Council's tenants could keep the 50% that was paid to the Government in order that much needed repair work could be done to their Council houses.

**RESOLVED:** That Council House dwelling rents be decreased from an average of 6.35% (approved by Council on 19 February 2009) to an average of 3.24% effective from April 2009.

*These are the Minutes of a meeting of the Special Council Executive Committee.*

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