

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber at the
Town Hall Chapel Road Worthing on**

19 July 2016

The Mayor, Councillor Sean McDonald
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alex Harman

Councillor Noel Atkins	Councillor Nigel Morgan
Councillor Antony Baker	Councillor Louise Murphy
Councillor Paul Baker	Councillor Mark Nolan
*Councillor Roy Barraclough	*Councillor Luke Proudfoot
Councillor Keith Bickers	Councillor Clive Roberts
* Councillor Joan Bradley	Councillor Jane Sim
Councillor Callum Buxton	Councillor Bob Smytherman
Councillor Edward Crouch	*Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
Councillor James Doyle	Councillor Hazel Thorpe
Councillor Diane Guest	Councillor Bryan Turner
Councillor Lionel Harman	Councillor Val Turner
Councillor Joshua High	Councillor Vicky Vaughan
Councillor Paul High	Councillor Steve Waight
Councillor Daniel Humphreys	Councillor Paul Westover
Councillor Susan Jelliss	Councillor Steve Wills
Councillor Kevin Jenkins	Councillor Mark Withers
*Councillor Heather Mercer	Councillor Tom Wye
	Councillor Paul Yallop

*=absent

C/014/16-17 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bradley, Sparkes, Barraclough, Proudfoot and Mercer.

C/015/16-17 Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to make any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, the following declarations were made:

Councillor B Turner - member of West Sussex County Council, item 7B vi, as Chairman of the West Sussex County Council Adult Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee. *Later in the meeting (item 9) Councillor Turner declared an interest as Governor at Northbrook College).*

Councillor Thorpe - personal interest as Governor of Worthing College, item 9

C/016/16-17 Questions and Statements from the public

On a supplementary, Mr Angel explained that he felt the council's website could do more to raise awareness of local advocacy groups, he further highlighted a role for a cohesion officer.

The Mayor informed Council that 3 members of the public had registered to speak within the time allowed for registering.

The first question was put by Ms Parsonage to Councillor Humphreys, Leader

I would like to know more about the use of public funds for PSPOs exactly how much has been spent to date – staff hours as well as resources - and what is the budget for implementing them for the rest of the current financial year?)Is the use of such funds justifiable given the lack of public demand or warranted given the lack of evidence in the form of reported incidents?

Response from the Leader

All work to date has been carried out as part of core roles in part of the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour programme and £500 for signage.

The Leader commented on the 'lack of public demand' in the question, few matters had a higher public demand than dealing with anti-social behaviour.

On a supplementary Ms Parsonage, asked if when the Overview and Scrutiny meet it would be more democratic citing parts of the process in approving the Orders she felt unsatisfactory.

In response from Councillor Humphreys stated that it was the Council who dealt with discussion and approval of the Orders, members of the public could attend meetings to see the process in action.

The second question was put by Mr Luke Angel to the Leader

Given the concerning rise in racist attacks Nationally since the Brexit vote, Please can you tell me what plans Worthing Borough Council has in place to protect those in our community that are at risk of discrimination and hate crime and what steps it is taking to prevent this racism occurring in the first place such as addressing community cohesion, better representation and support to victims by funding local minority advocacy/support groups?

The Leader responded

The rise in racist attacks had not been mirrored in Worthing, a local leader of the muslim community had confirmed that there was no local experience of any increase. The Council had for some time led a local Tensions and Monitoring Group, consisting also of Sussex Police and local faith group representatives. This group analyses local and national data to consider the the level of risk posed to our community. This group has agreed to convene a short term sub group to consider the local tensions and impact of the Referendum results.

He encouraged reporting of instances to the Police.

The Leader explained that there was no complacency by the Council and with the forthcoming review of the 'Surf's Up' document he was happy to discuss this matter as part of the review.

The next question was asked by Mr Daniel Thompson to the Leader

According to the Worthing Herald, the chief executive of council is on approximately 138 thousand pounds a year, whilst council workers are being stripped back and made redundant. Is this the most appropriate use of council money and does this appointment and restructuring present true value for all the people of Worthing?

The Leader responded

The actual salary was approximately £20k lower than the amount in the question, comparable to other Chief Executives in local government the salary was of good value giving high quality leadership to respond to the significant challenges facing the Council.

The Leader queried the assertion that council workers were being stripped back and made redundant.

A supplementary question was asked on affordable housing which the Leader questioned as being a supplementary one.

C/017/16-17 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20 May 2016, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Mayor.

C/018/16-17 Announcements by the Mayor, Leader, Executive Members, Head of Paid Service

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's cricket match - Councillors v Officers would take place on Sunday 4 September at 1.00 pm at Goring Rec Cricket Ground, all were invited to attend and support the event.

The Mayor highlighted the 21st Anniversary Srebrenica Memorial Event on Thursday 28 July at 7.30 pm in the Gordon Room. The event was being hosted by the Worthing Islamic Society, all were welcome to attend.

The Mayor announced that on Monday 22 August at 1.22 pm he would be leading the Council's 1 minute silence to mark the 1st Anniversary of the Shoreham Airshow Tragedy. Councillors were invited to attend, as well as staff at the Town Hall complex and members of the public to mark the occasion. Details of the arrangements will be forwarded by the Civic Office when they are finalised.

Finally the Mayor presented Michael Donin with his Framed vote of thanks for his year as Mayor. Mr Donin addressed Council commending the Borough and the opportunity to have been Mayor.

C/019/16-17 Items raised under the urgency provisions

There were no urgent items for Council.

C/020/16-17 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

Council had before it a recommendations from the Joint Strategic Committee of 2 June 2016, on pages 7 to 9, of the Council agenda, with a copy attached to the minutes as item 7A. The recommendations from the Joint Strategic committee of 13 July had been circulated separately as item 7B green pages, these are also attached to the minutes.

Joint Strategic Committee - 2 June 2016

(i) Joint Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on page 7 of the agenda; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor Val Turner.

A comment was made that it was important to set aside revenue against future debt.

On a vote

For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that Council approved and adopted the amended MRP Statement.

(ii) Empty Homes Policy

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on page 9 of the agenda; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor Nolan.

In receiving approval in the Chamber, Members commented upon to focus to bring empty properties back into use although some concern was expressed that the policy lagged behind other West Sussex councils. It was also noted that Worthing remained unaffordable for many people with affordable housing in demand.

On a vote

For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that authority be delegated for authorising the operation of the Worthing Borough Council Enforced Sales Procedures to the Solicitor to the Council, in consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration.

Joint Strategic Committee - 13 July 2016

The Leader of the Council presented and individually proposed the Committee's recommendations on green pages 1 to 12 as items 7B i to vi.

(i) Joint Revenue Outturn 2015-16

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Nolan.

Disappointment was expressed that the Committee had the outturn figure report before the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee had had the opportunity to scrutinise the report. There was a discussion on the continuing overspend by Theatres, it was pointed out that the offer available had increased and the historical overspending was diminishing yearly. It was highlighted that the Theatres had a business plan which seemed to be being ignored, with the proposals for the Union Place re-development the Plan needed to be renewed.

Comment was made that whilst there appeared to be a £180K underspend there had been an additional £800K income during the year. A comment was made about identifying where the £511K from the wind farm had been spent.

On a vote

For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that Council

- (a) noted the overall final outturn for 2015/16;
- (b) agreed the net carry over of revenue budget to 2015/16 where the original approval for 2015/16 was not utilised which would be funded from the Capacity Issues Reserve as set out in paragraph 6.1 (General Fund) of the report totalling:-

Worthing Borough Council £11,123

- (c) approved the net appropriation to General Fund reserves in the year as detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the report totalling:

Worthing Borough Council £768,123

(ii) Capital Projects Outturn 2015-16

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

On a question relating to the regeneration of the Grafton Site, Council was informed that a development brief was due in September.

On a vote

For 29 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that Council

- (a) noted the overall capital final outturn for 2015/16;
- (b) agreed the net carry over of General Fund Capital underspends;
- (c) approved the financing of the Capital Investment Programmes, including the use of capital receipts;

- (d) Noted the use of S106 receipts to fund the 2015/16 Capital Investment Programme, as previously approved.

(iii) Capital Strategy 2016/19

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Bickers.

On a question about the works to Durrington Cemetery, Council was informed that the finance was committed, further funds had been found to do extra work at the other end of the Cemetery too.

On a vote

For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2016/19.

(iv) Strategic Property Investment Fund for 2016/17

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Roberts

With the phasing out of the Revenue Support Grant, the Leader explained that the Council was making investments to ensure more revenue streams to the Council.

On a vote

For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that the Strategic Property Investment Fund be increased to £5 million in Worthing for 2016/17.

(v) Redevelopment of Union Place

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Turner

Introducing the item, the Leader outlined the strategic plans for a comprehensive development at Union Place for a mixed use scheme.

In welcoming the proposals, Members suggested that the new scheme should include a disabled changing facility with hoist; also that scheme should extend into the town to ensure a joined up town centre.

Members welcomed the proposals for the future of the town centre.

On a vote

For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 0

Resolved that the Council borrows up to £3,100,000 from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb), subject to adherence to the funding criteria and a full business case in the event

that Local Growth Funding cannot be secured, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Resources.

(vi) Action on Public Health: Shaping the next phase of the Wellbeing Programme

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Val Turner.

On a vote

For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that the Council

- (i) agreed to continue to work in partnership with West Sussex County Council to deliver the Wellbeing programme in Adur and Worthing from 2016/17 to March 2019, subject to funding being agreed on an annual basis;
- (ii) amended the revenue budget to create the budget for the 2016/17 programme of work funded by grant of £485,200.

Due to the hot conditions in the chamber the Mayor announced a 5 minute adjournment to take refreshments.

C/021/16-17 Leader's Report on decisions taken by the Executive

The Leader of the Council presented his report on decisions taken by the Executive since the last Ordinary meeting of the Council; which were detailed in Item 8, on pages 7-10 on the agenda. An amended version of the Report was circulated before the meeting with an update of the decisions of the Joint Strategic Committee on 13 July.

C/022/16-17 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 12

The Proper Officer had received 3 questions from Members under CPR 12, all from Councillor Thorpe.

(1) Councillor Thorpe addressed the Executive member for Regeneration

Given the current evidence of the Government's initiative of creating University Technical Colleges (UTC) albeit with some funding - What are your views on the matter and what is the likelihood of one such University being built in Worthing, and would you agree with me that any such undertaking, which would necessarily undermine our local education provision, should have been discussed with said Colleges and schools before assertion of Council support?

Response by Councillor B Turner:

The project to explore the potential for a UTC in Worthing is being led by a consortium of Coastal West Sussex businesses. My understanding is that this would focus on delivering advanced engineering training and computing skills not currently available and would draw on a catchment from across the wider sub-region.

Our officers have supported this work as part of our duty to support local business and economic growth and prosperity. The support given amounted to the sharing of data, advice and practical support. Discussion with our local schools is of course vital before any wider expression of support for this project led by business.

(2) Councillor Thorpe addressed the Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny committee, which in the absence of the Chairman was responded to by the Vice-chairman.

The work programme of the JOSC includes several scoping requests from members of the public- one of them is to improve the engagement with young people- highly commendable. In the light of current concerns on both sides of the EU argument, would it not be diplomatic to also include a scoping exercise to improve the engagement, improve local democracy and foster greater civic engagement with our local ethnic and diverse communities?

Response by Councillor Keith Bickers

JOSC has its own Work Programme which it reviews at each meeting. In accordance with the new ways of working for JOSC, and in the spirit of better engagement, any new scrutiny requests are assessed against the 'PAPER' criteria (Public interest/Ability to change/Performance/extent/replication) and are put to the next available JOSC meeting via the JOSC Chairmen. The issue suggested is certainly one which the Committee might want to consider.

Scrutiny request forms are available for completion on the Council's website or Officers can help with the completion of the form in order to firm up a scope for this review. If Councillor Thorpe can submit a proposal for this review by the end of August, then it can be discussed via JOSC/JOSC Chairmen in September and then added to the Work Programme if agreed.

(3) Councillor Hazel Thorpe addressed the Executive Member for Environment

Southern Water gave a comprehensive presentation on safe bathing, which prompted members of two political groups to recommend that in order that the Town works towards gaining blue Flag status for clean water all year round.

What is your view of increasing the time allocated to testing the water quality for those surfers and others who use the beach through the autumnal and spring time months, given that the investment in Tourism and members' of the public welfare is of prime importance- shouldn't we be ensuring that it is safe too?

Response by Councillor Bryan Turner as portfolio holder

Water sampling is currently undertaken by the Environment Agency from May to September. DEFRA consulted UK-wide on a proposal to extend the sampling season by one month into October. The survey results indicated that many Authorities (74%), including Adur and Worthing Councils, thought this a good idea considering the surge in kitesurfing. The response from DEFRA was that individual Authorities would need to make a robust case for inclusion in an extended

sampling programme by carrying out a survey of usage. Such a survey would involve a cost to the Council and thus would need to be considered further by Members before taking this forward

C/023/16-17 Motion on Notice

Council had before it a report from the Director for Communities as Appendix 10, with details of a Motion on Notice. The motion was proposed by Councillor Yallop, seconded by Councillor Val Turner.

In speaking to propose his Motion, Councillor Yallop made reference to the increase in racial abuse since the EU referendum in June. Several residents had contacted him about their concern in the nationally reported trend. He stated that the behaviour of a minority of people was not acceptable in society and could not condone the actions.

In seconding the motion Councillor Val Turner expressed her sadness that in the 20th century, a way had not been found to live together and respect differences.

Councillor Paul High, seconded by Councillor Wye proposed a minor amendment in the second paragraph to add 'continue'. Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Paul High and include 'hate crimes' in the final sentence of the same paragraph.

Council accepted the two amendments each on a vote of For 32, Against 0, Abstention 0.

A number of councillors spoke in the Chamber to support the Motion and to declare their support for everyone in the community.

Mention was made of other types of hate crime, particularly cybercrime and cyber bullying with a call to engage the Youth Council to tackle and support young people with these crimes.

The Leader called on the public to use the 101 phone number to report race incidents; he declared that Worthing respected diversity.

The Mayor wished it placed on record that the Council condemned the verbal and other racist attacks that had been made against Adur Councillor Sami Zeglam which had been reported in the local press.

Councillor Yallop used his right of reply to thank the Councillors for the support shown in the debate on his Motion echoing the Leader in expressing the diversity of Worthing, as shown recently with the Canadian roots of the immediately past Mayor and the Scottish Deputy Leader.

On a vote the Motion was carried unanimously by 32 Votes For; with none against.

Resolved

'We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Worthing Borough Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

‘Worthing Borough Council will continue to work to ensure local bodies and programmes have support and resources needed to fight and prevent racism, xenophobia and hate crimes.

‘We reassure all people living in Worthing that they are valued members of our community’.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.38 pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Mayor