

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

**20 December 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

~Councillor Bryan Turner arrived at 6.34 pm during 'Mayoral Announcements'.

**C/035/16-17 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bradley, Paul Baker, James Doyle and Bryan Turner~.

**C/036/16-17 Declarations of Interest**

Members were invited to make any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, no declarations were made at this point.

**C/037/16-17 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 October 2016, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Mayor.

## **C/038/16-17 Questions from the public**

The Mayor announced that there were 30 minutes for public questions but no registered questions had been received for the meeting. No questions were asked from those members of the public present.

## **C/039/16-17 Announcements by the Mayor, Leader, Executive Members, Head of Paid Service**

The Mayor announced that earlier he had had the privilege to welcome the winners of the 16th Worthing Borough Council's Distinction in Buildings Awards scheme, to a presentation ceremony. The award scheme had been introduced with the aim of encouraging high standards of design and workmanship in developments in Worthing, and giving public recognition to excellence in building.

The Awards Panel was made up of representatives from the Worthing Society, the Conservation Area Advisory Group as well as Members and Officers of the Council.

There were six categories in which awards could be made, the award this year had been in four of them. The fifteen awards given, highlighted the high standards of design currently being achieved within Worthing Borough, it was anticipated that the awards and publicity would encourage even greater standards on future developments.

The awards were given to the following developments:

Bohunt Academy, Broadwater Road; Learning Resource Centre, Northbrook College, Littlehampton Road; 99-101 Brighton Road; 1-9 Hammond Close, Durrington Hill; Hurst Grange & 11-14 Parkfield Road; 7-9 Pond Lane; 1-10 Spells Yard, Grafton Place; 1-5 School Yard & 93 Portland Road; 1-7 Seagrass Close & 84-92 Meadow Road; The Fairways, Hill Barn Lane; The Waterfront, Eirene Road; Vista Mare, West Parade; Mayfair House, Heene Terrace; Southern Pavilion, Worthing Pier and Pressleys, 47 Montague Street.

The Mayor detailed some future civic engagements during the Christmas festivities including visiting the Worthing Royal Mail Delivery Office in Chapel Road with Cllr Bryan Turner; and the Special Baby Care Unit and the new Kaizen Space at Worthing Hospital with Tim Loughton MP.

An event for diaries was announced Friday 27 January 2017 - 11 am - Holocaust Memorial Day with the theme will be "How Can Life Go On".

The Leader announced changes to the membership and vice-chairmanship of the Licensing Committee; Councillor Guest would leave the committee to be replaced by Councillor Luke Proudfoot; the Vice-chairmanship would be taken by Councillor Tom Wye.

**Resolved** that Council note the changes made by the Leader on the Licensing Committee membership and to the Vice-chairmanship.

No other announcements were made.

## **C/040/16-17 Items raised under the urgency provisions**

There were no urgent items for Council.

## **C/041/16-17 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council**

Council had before it recommendations from the Joint Strategic Committee of 6 December attached to the minutes as item 7A (i) and (ii).

### **(i) 'Platforms for our places' Unlocking the power of the people, communities and our local geographies**

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on pages 5 and 6 of the agenda. Drawing on the themes of Surf's up the Leader explained that the Council recognised that it was not possible to do everything for everyone. In future the Council would focus on essential services, creating 5 platforms for others in the Borough to create and sustain long term prosperity. The 5 key platforms are: Our Financial Economies; Our Social Economies; Stewarding our natural resources; Services & solutions for our places and Leadership of our places. Officers will be reporting on progress of the aims to the Joint Strategic Committee on a regular basis.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Nolan.

On a vote

For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 2

**Resolved** Council considered the the draft *Platforms for our Places* document and endorsed the approach as one of Worthing Borough Council's strategic documents for the next 3 years;

### **(ii) Capital Investment Programme 2017/18 - 2019/20**

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on pages 7 and 8 of the agenda.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

On a vote

For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 2

**Resolved** that the 3 Year Programmes be approved.

## **C/042/16-17 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 9 to 13 on the agenda.

The Leader spoke on the discussion at Joint Strategic leading to the plans for the improvement to Brooklands Lake.

The Executive Member for Regeneration highlighted Gigabit coast which was excellent news for the infrastructure for businesses in the area.

On questions to the Executive; the Executive Member for Regeneration was asked about increasing the quota from 30% properties on new builds to 40% for affordable low cost housing. The Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing was asked about the location of the integrated health hub on the civic centre car park and also whether mental health services would be proved from the location.

*(Councillor Smytherman declared his interest in Coastal West Sussex Mind during his question to the Executive)*

In response the Executive Member for Regeneration explained that the level of affordable houses provided needed to be balanced with the viability of the development; a higher percentage may prohibit the viability of a scheme. The Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing responded that the Surgery's preference was for the Hub to be in the civic centre car park rather than at Teville Gate, the services expected to be delivered from the site would be integrated to include mental health.

#### **C/043/16-17 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 12**

The Proper Officer had received 4 questions from Members under CPR 12, 3 from Councillors Thorpe, one each from Councillors Smytherman and Proudfoot.

Question 1 From Councillor Thorpe to the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

In the light of recent research from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) that "Sustainability Transformation Plans lack robust plans to deliver savings and should make use of councils' involvement."

Will the Council be supporting the latest developments in Health and Social Care provision - currently known in some circles as STPs? If so how and when will this cascade to Councillors and members of the public?

Response made by Councillor Val Turner

The Sustainability and Transformation plans (STPs) are required across the UK for the NHS (and its social care partners) to determine how they will meet medium term challenges to both services and finances. The STP footprint for our area covers the whole of West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, we are a small part of a bigger picture.

Councillor Thorpe will appreciate that these are not documents in the ownership of individual District and Borough Councils but the NHS bodies compiling them. As such Worthing Borough Council will not publish them. Worthing Borough Council is very proud to have played an active role over the last few years in promoting public health and leading a number of projects that put our residents at the heart of health and social care

improvements. We intend to continue to do so whatever ultimately becomes of the STP process.

#### Question 2 From Councillor Proudfoot to the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

"Around 12 young people and many more older people die from cardiac arrest each week.

It has been shown that chances of survival in a cardiac arrest are increased by around 80% when a defibrillator is used.

Would the Executive Member for Health be able to tell us how many publicly accessible defibrillators are in Council owned buildings and if possible elsewhere in the Borough?"

#### Response made by Councillor Val Turner

There are 41 defibrillators within the Borough of these 8 AED's (Automatic External Defibrillators) located at various Council owned buildings in Worthing: Assembly Hall, Connaught Complex, Museum, Beach Office, Portland House, Worthing Pier, Commerce Way and the Crematorium.

#### Question 3 From Councillor Smytherman to the Executive Member for the Environment

"Can I thank the Cabinet Member for his positive response to resolving the issues at Brooklands Lake following the petition at the last meeting.  
Can the Cabinet Member confirm the timescale for dredging of the lake and what will be the plan B if the finances are not forthcoming from partner organisations?

Will the CM agree to temporary solution as suggested by Cllr High at the last meeting to ensure that Brooklands Park really is an attraction the town can be proud of this coming summer?

#### Response by Councillor Roberts:

Council Officers are presently liaising with colleagues at the Environment Agency, to utilise the EA's South East framework to tender the contract works for the Brooklands Lake environmental improvements, subject to their approval .

Once this is finalised, it is intended to go out to tender at the earliest opportunity in the New Year. In order to protect the local wildlife species that inhabit the Park, the earliest that the dredging could start would be in late Autumn 2017, however the final timescale will be dependent on approval from the EA and the outcome of the procurement exercise.

With regards to Plan B, financing the planned environmental improvements, contacting the other organisations in the New Year who have an interest in the lake to seek a financial contribution towards the overall cost of the project.

The temporary solution suggested by Councillor High were already in place. There are two ultra sonic algae control devices (zappers), sited at the north and south ends of the

lake albeit they haven't being very successful to date in controlling algal growth on the lake.

#### Question 4 Question from Councillor Smytherman for the Executive Member for Customer Service

The Council will be aware within the last year, our officers have had to take emergency remedial action to address substandard fire detection and protection in HMOs and issued Emergency Prohibition Orders to address some truly appalling living conditions in the Borough. We have served over 100 enforcement notices since April and completed three prosecutions.

Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that this is a minority of private landlords taking advantage of our chronic shortage of housing and exploiting their tenants by putting their lives at risk and therefore can I request that the Cabinet Member launch a public awareness campaign in 2017 to show that this Council will do everything we can to protect all our residents from these exploitative landlords so that tenants can stay in their homes safely without risk or fear retaliatory eviction and educate landlords about their responsibilities to their tenants.

#### Response by Councillor Mercer

The opportunity to acknowledge the work being carried out by the Council's Private Sector Housing (PSH) team to secure improvements in the private rented sector was welcomed. The large majority of landlords in the Borough are professional and provide good quality and much needed accommodation. Unfortunately, the minority of unscrupulous landlords are placing a large number of tenants at risk and the increasing annual workload of the PSH team show that they are active in addressing these issues.

The actions taken by the Council in protecting tenants within this tenure should be more widely publicised. I know from my discussions with the PSH manager that he already helps organise a local private sector landlord's forum in association with the National Landlords Association and has plans to arrange a morning briefing session for local letting agents on acceptable housing conditions. There are also initial consultations taking place with Wellbeing to attend schools and provide information to students on what to expect in rented properties.

I will ask the PSH Manager to bring these initiatives forward with a view to launching a coordinated public awareness campaign on this vital area during the coming year

#### **C/044/16-17 Motion on Notice**

Council had before it details of a Motion on Notice presented by the Director for Communities as item 10 on the agenda which had been circulated to all members. The proposer of the Motion, Councillor Wye, the Armed Forces Champion addressed Council.

In explain the background to the Motion, Councillor Wye highlighted the need to know where serving and former armed forces members and their families were located to enable support to be specifically directed for their needs.

The Leader, seconding the motion, had little to add to the proposal by Councillor Wye.

There was support in the Chamber for the Motion; on a vote there were

For 34 Against 0 Abstain 0

**Resolved** that the Council calls upon the UK Parliament to include in the final census questionnaire questions concerning our Armed Forces community

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.21 pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Mayor