

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

**25 April 2017**

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/057/16-17 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Harman, Doyle and Bradley.

**C/058/16-17 Declarations of Interest**

Members were invited to make any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests:

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Wye - Dementia Care Alliance.

Councillor Smytherman - Chairman of the Steering Group for Dementia Awareness and item 10 as the Town Cryer with the Town Centre Initiative.

Councillors Crouch and Murphy declared personal interests as paid Directors of Worthing Homes.

## **C/059/16-17 Minutes**

The Mayor announced an amendment to the drafted minutes; it was proposed by Councillor Jenkins and seconded by Councillor Mercer.

The paragraph to replace the final two lines on the first page of the minutes and the first two lines on the second page.

From this drafted minute: The Leader responded that all Councillors wanted to see social housing in Worthing, the Council had put aside £10M for temporary accommodation. The Council was keen to see more social accommodation in the Town and it was committed to working towards increased provision.

To this: **The Leader responded that all Councillors wanted to see social housing in Worthing, the Council had made a loan to Worthing Homes of £10M for new social housing. The Council was keen to provide temporary accommodation and it was committed to working towards increased provision in the Town.**

**Resolved** that subject to the amendment above the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 February 2017, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Mayor.

## **C/060/16-17 Questions from the public**

The Mayor announced that there were no registered questions for the meeting. No questions were asked from the public gallery.

## **C/061/16-17 Announcements by the Mayor, Leader, Executive Members, Head of Paid Service**

The Mayor announced his congratulations to the following people who were honoured in the New Year's Honours for 2017:

Mrs Sylvia Doreen Phyllis Jarrett for being awarded the Order of the British Empire (BEM) for services to charity and the community in the Goring-by-Sea West Sussex. Mrs Jarrett would be invested with her award from the Lord Lieutenant Mrs Susan Pyper later in the year. The Mayor had the opportunity to meet Sylvia and her friend Pat Cross when they came to have afternoon tea in the Parlour on Thursday 9 March.

PC Louise Pye for being awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) for her work in supporting the relatives following the Shoreham Air Crash in August 2015.

The Mayor announced that following the attack in Westminster, and as a former Police Officer myself, he had written with the Condolences of the Council and residents of Worthing to the family of PC Keith Palmer from the Council and residents of Worthing.

On 16 May 2017 the Mayor would be attending the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

The following Charity Events were highlighted by the Mayor

A big thank you to all those who provided support at the Mayor's Charity Swim event on Saturday 18 March. The event was well attended and there was good participation from students from all the local schools. Competition for the various trophies and cups was high these would be presented on Friday 28 April 2017 at 4.30pm in the Town Hall Foyer.

Glendale Theatre Arts Gala Evening "One Night Only '17" in aid of Mayor's Charities - Connaught Theatre - Sunday 30th April at 6.30 pm.

On Wednesday 10 May 2017 at 5.30 pm in the Gordon Room - a Thank You reception and presentation of the charity cheques.

No other announcements were made.

### **C/062/16-17 Items raised under the urgency provisions**

There were no urgent items for Council.

### **C/063/16-17 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council**

Council had before it recommendations from the Joint Strategic Committees of 7 March and 4 April, the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 16 March and Joint Governance Committee of 28 March extracts from these minutes had been circulated and are attached to the minutes as item 7.

#### **Joint Strategic Committee - 7 March 2017**

The Leader presented the recommendation on the new 3 year joint Housing Strategy and targets for the Councils from 2017 to 2020 as detailed on page 5, item 7A of the agenda.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Mercer.

Members addressed Council on the proposal. It was pointed out that the Council should not lose sight of the current shortfall in affordable houses, some members questioned the current affordable housing percentage of new developments which ought to be higher.

Council noted that the Strategy could not be delivered without the Council engaging with numerous partners and placed on record its appreciation to those who had helped to deliver various housing schemes to date.

On a vote there were For 32 Against 0 Abstain 2

**Resolved** that the Housing Strategy and targets for 2017 to 2020 as presented be agreed.

#### **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 15 March 2017**

The Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the recommendation on the 2017/18 work programme to Council as detailed on page 7, item 7B of the agenda. The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Bickers.

On a vote there were For 32 Against 0 Abstain 2

**Resolved** that the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18 be approved.

### **Joint Governance Committee - 28 March 2017**

The Chairman of the Joint Governance Committee presented the recommendations from her Committee on pages 9 to 14 of the agenda, item 7C (1 - 3).

#### **(i) Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules**

The joint Chairman explained that these new rules incorporated the new ways of working which the Committee had been trialing which enabled robust scrutiny of the decisions of the Councils. The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Bickers.

On a vote For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 2

**Resolved** that Worthing Borough Council adopt of the revised Joint Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules with the rules being included in the Council's Constitution.

#### **(ii) Executive Procedure Rules**

The joint Chairman explained that the updated procedure rules emphasised the need to comply with various statutory requirements, the procedure for conflict of interest, when the Leader may withdraw delegation of an executive function and the time limit for the making of individual executive member decisions.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Paul Baker.

On a vote For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 2

**Resolved** that Worthing Borough Council adopt the revised Executive Procedure Rules, as set out at Appendix 2, as part of its Constitution.

#### **(iii) Constitution Provisions on Licensing Functions**

The joint Chairman informed Council that the committee had had a report on the Licensing Functions, having received the comments from the Licensing Committee the Governance Committee was not recommending to Council any changes to the current arrangements. This was seconded by Councillor Paul High.

The need for reports to three arenas (Licensing, Governance and now Council) was questioned by a Member, with the comment that in the past that the officers and Members would have discussed this matter in a shared arena. There seemed to be a question over the origin of the review, with a suggestion that moving forward there need to be some work between officers and members on bring matters forward to meetings.

On a vote For 31 Against 0 Abstentions 3

**Resolved** that no changes be made to the Constitutional Provisions relating to Worthing Councils' Licensing Functions.

## **Joint Strategic Committee - 4 April 2017**

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on pages 15 to 17 on the agenda.

### **(i) Becoming Dementia Friendly Councils**

The Leader was delighted to recommend that the Council signed up to the Worthing Dementia Action Alliance as Local Members. The Action Plan would be delegated to the Director for Communities to ensure that the Council worked towards becoming a 'dementia friendly council'; the Committee expected to be updated annually on the progress of the Action Plan. Details were attached to the agenda as item 7D (1)

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Wye.

The proposal found favour throughout the Chamber, with a thank you to Guildcare for its work in progressing awareness to date.

On a vote For 34 Against 0 Abstentions 0

### **Resolved that**

- i) Worthing Borough Council sign up to the Worthing Dementia Action Alliance as 'Local members';
- ii) the Director for Communities be delegated to approve the draft Action plan (Appendix II) for submission in consultation with the Executive Members for Wellbeing and Customer Services;

### **(2) Worthing Multi-Storey car park improvement works**

The Leader presented the recommendation on page 17 item 7D (2) relating to replacement lighting at Buckingham and High Street MSCPs on an invest to save basis. The Leader commented on the success of the £1 per hour car parking initiative. Councillor Yallop seconded the proposal.

It was confirmed that the Grafton Car Park would have minimum investment to ensure health and safety as its longevity was limited. Members in the Chamber commented that an investment in the car parks was necessary to attract and retain visitors to the Town Centre to ensure its vibrancy.

On a vote For 30 Against 0 Abstain 4

**Resolved** that the replacement LED lighting at Buckingham MSCP and High Street MSCP, be approved on an invest to save basis, to be funded from prudential borrowing.

### **C/064/16-17 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 19 to 21 on the agenda.

A question was asked on the Shoreham Memorial Proposals regarding the inclusion in the budget of the ongoing maintenance costs, the Leader suggested this question was best addressed to Adur Council.

### **C/065/16-17 Selecting the Mayor for 2018**

The Mayor proposed Councillor Paul Baker as Deputy Mayor for 2017, to become Mayor in 2018. The Deputy Mayor seconded the proposal.

Councillor Paul Baker confirmed his willingness to serve as Deputy to Councillor Alex Harman and to represent the Borough as its Mayor from May 2018.

There were no other nominations.

On a vote For 34 Against 0 Abstentions 0

**Resolved** that Councillor Paul Baker be the nominated Deputy Mayor for 2017 to serve as Mayor from the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2018.

### **C/065/16-17 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 12**

The Proper Officer had received 12 questions from Members under CPR 12, 7 from Councillor Smytherman, 2 from Councillor Thorpe, 2 from Councillor Jenkins and 1 from Councillor Crouch.

Prior to the first question being put there was a challenge to the declaration of Interest of the questioner,

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7.25pm to enable legal advice to be sought.

The meeting recommenced at 7.35 with the Monitoring Officer explaining to Council that the declaration of pecuniary interest in the asking of questions under this Procedure Rule was not a relevant matter as it was a question not a determination by the Council. Having a Discloseable Pecuniary Interest in a matter, would prevent a Member from being present during the debate of a matter and participating in any vote on the matter, but would not prevent them from asking a question at Council. On the matter of a member not being present in the chamber to ask their registered question, there was no provision in the Constitution that allowed their question to be passed to another Member.

### **Councillor Smytherman to Councillor B Turner, Regeneration Portfolio:**

The question relates to the Tourism Budget and has a number of points. At the Budget meeting earlier this year the Council agreed that the tourism budget would be included within the economic development budget. What is the tourism part of the joint budget going to be spent on in 2017/18? Can you give me a breakdown of how the cash, roughly £170,000, will be spent, inc wages, pensions etc?

**Councillor Turner responded:**

Over £187,000 will be spent on growing and promoting tourism this year. This is in addition to activities undertaken with partners – such as Coastal West Sussex; the contribution that the Council makes in support of the Town Centre BID priorities, and the further significant investment the Council makes each year in ensuring that public spaces are clean, attractive and welcoming.

**Councillor Jenkins to Councillor Nolan, Resources Portfolio**

When so many local authorities are redefining their services can the Executive member please confirm this councils commitment to local waste collection services, the investment that brings and the level of service that will provided to local people.

**Councillor Nolan responded:**

The council is committed to running an in house service and recently purchased a new refuse fleet costing around 4.2 million pounds. The service continues to provide a high level service to the residents of Adur & Worthing.

The continuing success of the green and commercial wastes service provides the public and businesses with high quality and flexible services, bringing income to reduce the cost of the overall service.

The in house cleansing team whilst carrying the day to day work are still able to react quickly to other issues that may arise.

The Council has remained committed to deliver a quality refuse collection service, and we are proud of the fact that unlike many local authorities we have maintained a weekly waste collection service in response to customer need. The risk of outsourcing could higher level of cost for the same level of flexibility which is provided currently.

Our waste service also support our community efforts more broadly to improve our urban and natural environment, such as beach cleaning and other volunteering events. We also work closely with counterparts at a county, district and borough level to drive ongoing improvements to our communities disposal of waste, including education, contract management, business improvement and improving recycling habits.

**From Councillor Hazel Thorpe to the Leader:**

The Council is to be congratulated for loaning £10 million of taxpayers money for affordable housing in Worthing. As a taxpayer I would hope that you would agree with me that this is a large sum of money which should be carefully monitored, - checks and balances. Some months have now passed since the loan was made and therefore can the Leader update the Council on the progress made in terms of outcomes- how many affordable units have we gained in Worthing ?

**The Leader responded:**

The formal loan agreement was only signed at the beginning of April following the due diligence work on the security offered against an advance of £10m. The terms of the loan are that Worthing Homes will draw down in two installments of £5m which is to be used for the provision of affordable housing within the Worthing Borough area. The interest rate agreed is based on a margin of 0.7% above the PWLB rate on the date of advance

The first £5m was drawn down on the 20th April 2017 and is being used to fund the purchase of affordable homes constructed in West Durrington as part of the new development.

**From Councillor Crouch to Councillor B Turner, Regeneration Portfolio**

Most people by now know that Teville Gate is not owned by the council. However, it remains a source of great local concern. Can the Executive Member for Regeneration update the council regarding the steps that are being taken to move this important site forward?

**Councillor Turner responded:**

The Council is working closely with the owner of Teville Gate to ensure that its draft plans for the site are progressed and a detailed planning application is submitted as soon as possible. The public consultation exercise originally planned for February has been delayed (by the site owner) as further negotiations are underway between the landowner and prospective occupiers of the proposed mixed use scheme. Developer has already undertaken a number of detailed site investigations and is keen to progress with the development on the basis that planning permission can be secured later in the year.

At the same time negotiations are continuing with the owner of Teville Gate House to ensure that this is developed, ideally simultaneously with the main site, to secure the wider regeneration benefits of an enhanced route from the railway station to the town centre. The award of over £5.5 million (mentioned above) to progress the redevelopment of brownfield sites in Worthing Town Centre has helped these negotiations to secure a more comprehensive redevelopment of the site.

**Councillor Smytherman to Councillor B Turner, Regeneration Portfolio**

Does our tourism department have a strategy for the Summer and beyond with regards to promoting the town this year? What exactly does it have in the pipeline in terms of initiatives to attract people to the town?

**Councillor Turner responded:**

Latest figures indicate that there are 4.4 million day and staying visitors to Worthing each year, contributing an estimated £139m to the local economy. Growth in staycations, weekend breaks and experience-based visits are just some of the opportunities available to grow these figures further.

By re-branding our offer as 'Discover Worthing' and focusing on promoting and developing more clearly defined, unique and quality experiences; our strategy is to raise the profile of Worthing and attract new, as well as repeat, visitors to the Town.



The launch of the new Discover Worthing website is due at the end of May, and you will begin to see the branding appear in a number of forms throughout, and beyond the Town over the coming weeks.

Targeted digital and print campaigns are programmed for this summer and we are working independently, and with partners, to attract visitors within a one and half hour journey time. Increasing overnight stays and extending the visitor season are particular priorities and we are working with partners to ensure we grow group and business tourism; as well as developing an extended events programme during 2017.

We are also focused on growing the in-destination offer, which this year will include the launch of a bike hire scheme and a town centre-based arts and culture trail.

The visitor economy is hugely important to Worthing and our commitment is undiminished. We have a new team of staff in place driving this strategy forward, and building new and effective relationships with like-minded businesses and partners. I am sure, like me, Members welcome this approach and look forward to welcoming an even greater number of visitors to our Town.

### **From Councillor Jenkins to the Councillor B Turner, Regeneration Portfolio**

In the last twelve months we have seen a number of reports in the national media about how Worthing is an attractive place to live and also how it has strong productivity levels and low unemployment. Can the Executive member please outline to this chamber the work undertaken by this Conservative administration and the officer group to secure central government funding to help promote the development of brownfield sites in the town and the opportunities that this brings?

### **Councillor Turner responded:**

The Council has been very successful over the last 12 months submitting a number of detailed business cases to the Coast to Capital LEP and Central Government to secure funding to bring forward a number of brownfield sites in Worthing town centre and help secure new employment floorspace at Decoy Farm. A total of over £10 million has been secured and the Council has entered into a partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to bring forward other “hard to develop” brownfield sites with additional public funding to provide valuable new housing and employment to meet current and future needs.

There is sufficient parking available to serve the town centre and therefore there would be no benefit in demolishing existing buildings (which are not ours to demolish) and providing additional surface car parks (on land we don’t own) In addition, allowing temporary car parks can often only have the effect of delaying redevelopment as can be seen in other town centres as landowners benefit from additional income and sites are land banked.

### **Councillor Thorpe to Councillor Roberts, Environment Portfolio**

The Summer festive season is almost upon us and the Town should be looking its best. Can the Leader or the Cabinet member responsible for public toilets assure us that the toilets will be fit for purpose and not as shown in the photo – cracked and filthy ? *(image shared with the officers and executive member only)*

**Councillor Roberts responded:**

There has been an increase in the monitoring toilets and an improved working with the contractor responsible for the cleaning in 2016 to ensure all toilets are safe and clean.

All repairs are reported directly to Technical Services surveyors and repairs are carried out within a very short time of them being reported. In regards to the incident referred to by the member, Technical Services have confirmed a cracked toilet seat in the ladies Lido WC was reported by the Beach Office Friday 7th April in the evening . This was replaced on Tuesday 11th April in the morning.

We are aware of the up and coming events throughout the summer and will ensure the toilets are fit for purpose.

**Councillor Smytherman to Councillor B Turner, Regeneration Portfolio**

Is Visit Worthing as a brand a thing of the the past and what will be the replacement?

**Councillor Turner responded:**

Visit Worthing is still current but will be superseded by the new 'Discover Worthing' branding from May 2017

**Councillor Smytherman to Councillor B Turner, Regeneration Portfolio**

Why is the information point at the Denton cafe/bar (now Pavilion Cafe) very rarely open? What are its current opening hours?

**Councillor Turner responded:**

Providing accessible and relevant information at all stages of the visitor journey is hugely important. Whilst many visitors use the internet and mobile technologies pre, during and after their visit, there is still a place for personal contact and advice.

I am aware that work is underway to review and improve in-destination visitor services. This includes working with accommodation providers and other partners to help ensure that visitors to the Town have ready access to information, and an early awareness of the opening times and staffing levels at both information points in the Town (Denton and Worthing Museum).

**Councillor Smytherman to Councillor B Turner, Regeneration Portfolio**

At the Small Batch cafe "brainstorming" session a few weeks ago , many tourism stakeholders, guest house owners for instance, were not invited. Why were they not invited?

**Councillor Turner responded:**

Up to 100 tourism businesses and stakeholders, including hoteliers, guest house owners and restaurateurs, were invited to attend the event at Small Batch. The main focus of the event was the presentation to winners of the photography competition. It also provided opportunity for those attending to contribute ideas and be informed about the re-branding

initiative. Similar networking events will be held in the future, providing opportunities for all stakeholders with an interest in supporting the visitor economy to attend.

### **Councillor Smytherman to Councillor B Turner, Regeneration Portfolio**

Has the Executive Member got any plans to relaunch Worthing Hospitality Association as many restaurants, hotels and guest houses believe the council has effectively abandoned them? What is the Executive Members view on this?

### **Councillor Turner responded:**

Our discussions with the sector have not found any dissatisfaction with the Council. What is happening is that one of our leading restaurateurs is encouraging others within his sector to come together in a trade association so that they can achieve more collectively than individually.

If the Worthing Hospitality Association is going to be revived and its remit expanded to include restaurants, and I am delighted. Any initiative that brings businesses together to work to promote both themselves and Worthing in a positive light is very welcome, and my advice would be for them to work closely with the Worthing and Adur Chamber of Commerce, which is already highly successful in promoting business sectors.

The Council will always play its part in involving businesses in growing the Town's economy, and having a group of hospitality businesses who are organised and share our aim can only be good news

### **Councillor Smytherman to Councillor B Turner, Regeneration Portfolio**

How much is Adur contributing to the tourism budget in 2017/18? Is it £4,000 again? Is it fair to Worthing taxpayers that Adur gets equal billing to Worthing yet pays only a fraction of the cost?

### **Councillor Turner responded:**

The Adur figure is £11,508, Adur is working with Coastal West Sussex on a joint strategy and it's identity will come from this forum. Adur contributes to the delivery and promotion of the Events strand of the visitor economy work. This is reflected in the level of coverage provided.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.05pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Mayor