

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

24 April 2018

The Mayor, Councillor Alex Harman
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Paul Baker

Councillor Noel Atkins	Councillor Louise Murphy
Councillor Antony Baker	*Councillor Mark Nolan
Councillor Roy Barraclough	Councillor Luke Proudfoot
Councillor Keith Bickers	Councillor Clive Roberts
Councillor Callum Buxton	Councillor Jane Sim
Councillor Rebecca Cooper	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 Sean McDonald	Councillor Paul Yallop
Councillor Nigel Morgan	

*=absent

Councillors Doyle and Roberts left at the adjournment around 7.05pm

C/061/17-18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Nolan.

C/062/17-18 Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to make any declarations of interest on items on the agenda, none were made at this point; during the item 'Leader's Report' Councillors Murphy and Wills declared an interest as Board Members of Worthing Homes.

C/063/17-18 Questions from the public

The Mayor announced that there were no registered questions for the meeting, he invited those in the public gallery to ask questions, responses may be given verbally or in writing within 3 working days.

Mr Morris of Park Gardens asked a question on the change of chairs in the public gallery and commended Councillor Crouch's ability to get the speedy resolve when previous attempts to have the chairs changed had failed.

Ms Fraser asked a question of the Leader relating to an article in a recent edition of the Huffington Post. This article related to how much money a Council had set aside for affordable housing, she questioned if the Council had responded to the FOI request made and what response the Council had made. The Leader asked Ms Fraser to send her question direct to him for a response.

Mr Davis of Griffin Avenue Lancing, Trustee of Dial a Ride highlighted the 20% funding cut and asked Councillor Val Turner to reconsider the decision.

Councillor Turner responded that meetings were on-going relating to Dial a Ride, it was a contract due for renewal.

C/064/17-18 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Meetings of the Council on 20 February 2018 be approved as correct records and they be signed by the Mayor.

C/065/17-18 Announcements by the Mayor, Leader, Executive Members, Head of Paid Service

The Mayor placed on record the council's congratulations to Kenny Tutt on his win of Masterchef the previous week. Kenny has said that it was an honour to represent his home town on the show, the Council endorsed this sentiment.

The Council also placed on record the Council's congratulations to Sian Honnor, a former working based lawn bowler who won bronze at the Commonwealth Games in Australia.

The Mayor informed Council that on 27th March, he had been honoured to plant an oak tree in Beach House Park as a memorial marking the centenary of the end of World War 1. The tree commemorated those who died in the war to end all wars. It was an opportunity to reflect on the atrocities of war and the sacrifices made, the Mayor hoped that the tree would stand as a symbol of those sacrifices for the next 100 years or more

The Annual Rowland Gibson Charity swim in aid of the Mayor's charities, had taken place in March, the Mayor thanked those who took part and those who had volunteered as helpers

The previous day the Mayor had hosted an investiture of a British Empire Medal by the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Susan Pyper, to Mrs Linda Lewis in the Town Hall. Mrs Lewis' award had been given in recognition of Services to Young People as a Volunteer at the West Durrington Phoenix Youth Group. The Council's congratulations to Mrs Lewis were placed on record.

Granting the Freedom of the Borough to Richebourg - representatives from Richebourg would be visiting the Borough over the weekend of 11 and 12 May. Arrangements for the weekend are being lead by Chatsmore School with a very full programme. The Mayor was delighted to announce that the presentation of the Freedom would be on the

Saturday, 12th May at 2pm in the Town Hall. All Members were invited to attend the presentation with full details being forwarded when finalised.

The Mayor detailed two upcoming engagements, on the 15th May, with the Mayoress, he would be attending the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, he thanked Chandlers BMW for their sponsorship of a car and a driver for the day. Although he would no longer be Mayor, on the 19th May, in recognition of our work within the local community, with Fran, he would be 2 of the members of the public invited to attend the Royal Wedding of HRH Prince Harry and Ms Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. He was delighted but also humbled to be able to accept the invite.

Lastly the Mayor thanked all Councillors who have chosen not to stand as a councillor for a further term for their service on this council and wish them the best in their future endeavours, namely Cllr Vaughan , Cllr Proudfoot, Cllr Jelliss and Cllr Nolan,

Councillors Vaughan, Proudfoot and Jelliss addressed Council.

Councillor Jenkins, Executive Member for Regeneration announced to Council that Worthing based Electronic Temperature Instruments Ltd Wins Highly Prestigious Queen's Award for Innovation had been granted a fourth Queen's Award for the company, the first one was in 2012.

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are the UK's most prestigious awards for business performance which recognise and reward outstanding achievement by UK companies. The Awards are made each year by the Queen, on the advice of the Prime Minister who is assisted by an Advisory Committee that includes representatives of Government, Industry & Commerce, together with the Trade Unions.

Electronic Temperature Instruments Ltd will be officially presented with its Queen's Award for Enterprise at a ceremony that will take place at the company's Worthing headquarters during the summer.

Councillor Jenkins hoped that Mayoral hospitality would be extended to Mr Webb. This was confirmed by those present.

Councillor Jenkins continued with encouraging news about the recent Giant Wheel in Steyne Gardens, over the four week period on the Steyne approximately 10,000 passengers had made a trip given the appalling weather over the Easter holidays this was positive. Future options for the Wheel in Worthing would be considered.

Finally Councillor Jenkins mentioned Olli Poole the press representative who was about to embark on a new stage in his career.

No other announcements were made.

C/066/17-18 Items raised under the urgency provisions

There were no items under the urgency provisions for Council.

C/067/17-18 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

Council had before it recommendations from the Joint Strategic Committee and the Executive on 1 and 5 February respectively. Extracts of these minutes had been circulated and are attached to the minutes as items 7A and 7B.

Item A Census Joint Committee - 8 December 2017 Dissolution of the Census Joint Committee

The Leader presented the recommendation from the Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Smytherman. The Council was recommended to formally agree to the dissolving of the the Census Joint Committee.

There were no speakers on the item.

On a vote: For 34, Against 0, Abstain 2

Resolved that Worthing Borough Council approves the dissolution of the Census Joint Committee from 1 April and it be removed from the Constitution.

Item B Joint Governance Committee - 27 March 2018 Amendments to the Constitution

The Joint Vice-Chairman presented the recommendation from the Joint Governance Committee for changes to the terms of reference of the Committee and also on a revised Council Procedure Rule 14 relating to Motions on Notice.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Wills.

On a vote: For 34, Against 0, Abstain 2

Resolved that the Council

1. Adopted the amended terms of reference for the Joint Governance Committee, with effect from 1st May 2018
2. Adopted the amended Council Procedure Rule 14 relating to Motions on Notice with effect from 1st May 2018

Item C Joint Strategic Committee 10 April Supporting our Communities - Welfare Reform and Financial Inclusion

The Leader presented the recommendation from the Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Crouch.

The proposal was welcomed in the Chamber.

On a vote: For 33, Against 0, Abstain 3

Resolved that the Council approve the amendment of the Annual Investment Policy and Strategy document to allow the investment in the Credit Union to be increased to £50,000.

There was an adjournment from 7.05pm to 7.20pm to enable those members without updated papers to be supplied with copies.

**Item D Joint Strategic Committee 10 April
'Start Well, Live Well, Age Well'**

The Leader presented the recommendation from the Joint Strategic Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Val Turner. The recommendation was for the adoption of the Strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of communities which linked to the public health and wider wellbeing agendas.

The refresh of the Strategy was welcomed in the Chamber.

On a vote: For 32, Against 0, Abstain 2

Resolved that the refreshed Public Health Strategy 2018-2021, as outlined in 3.5-3.13 and Appendix I to the report be adopted.

C/068/17-18 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 9, on pages 11-18.

Questions were asked on an update for Brooklands and the demolition of Teville Gate.

C/069/17-18 Selection of Deputy Mayor for 2018, to be Mayor in 2019.

The Leader proposed Councillor Hazel Thorpe as Deputy Mayor for 2018, to become Mayor in 2019. Councillor Smytherman seconded the proposal.

Councillor Thorpe confirmed her willingness to serve as Deputy to Councillor Paul Baker and to represent the Borough as its Mayor from May 2019.

There were no other nominations.

On a vote For 34 Against 0 Abstentions 0

Resolved that Councillor Hazel Thorpe be the nominated Deputy Mayor for 2018 to serve as Mayor from the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2019.

Councillor Thorpe thanked those in the Chamber for the opportunity to represent the Borough.

C/070/17-18 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 12

The Mayor announced that the Proper Officer had received 14 questions from Members under CPR 12, which would be asked in accordance with the Rule, one supplementary question may be asked which must arise out of the original question or the reply. Questions will be asked in rotation around the Groups represented in the Chamber, there is 30 minutes allowed for questions. There are 5 rotations of speakers possible, at the end

of 30 minutes the Mayor explained that he would extend the time to the end of the current rotation of speakers.

The Mayor announced that the following Councillors and their number of questions had been submitted:

Councillors Withers, Westover, Murphy and Buxton have submitted a question each. Councillor Cooper has 4 questions.

The order will be

First rotation: Councillor Withers, Councillor Cooper Question 1, Councillor Westover

Second rotation: Councillor Cooper Question 2, Councillor Murphy

Third rotation: Councillor Cooper Question 3, Councillor Buxton

Fourth rotation: Councillor Cooper Question 4

First Rotation:

From Councillor Withers to the Leader

'I regularly commute from Durrington station and sometimes there is a shortage of storage spaces for bikes. Are there any plans between the council and Network Rail to increase bike capacity at Worthing stations in view of efforts to encourage more people into cycling?'

Response

- the the Councils will be scoping the Cycling & Walking networks, including storage, during 2018 as part of the Audit.
- Working in partnership with WSCC, this work will enable a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan to be developed, thus providing direction for future cycling and walking developments.

From Councillor Cooper to the Leader

'Can you please provide an update on how the continuing efficiencies within the Council workforce is affecting our recruitment and voluntary redundancy positions?'

Response

- The efficiencies within the Council workforce do not seem to have effected the Councils' ability to recruit to job vacancies.
- The Councils are still advertising a number of roles each month which are attracting a number of applicants with varying skills sets from different employment backgrounds.
- The roles that are difficult to recruit to are due to the specialist skills and qualifications required for those roles.

Question From Cllr Westover to the Executive Member for Regeneration:

'With the commencement of the demolition started a few weeks ago and the actual demolition starting this week. Can the executive member give me an update on Teville Gate?'

Response

- It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted by the end of May and the architects are now meeting with Development Management Officers and the Conservation Architect on a regular basis to discuss the final details prior to the application being submitted.
- We have today entered week 7 of the 20 week contract for demolition, as members are aware the works started on the 12th March with the partial demolition of the Burger / Bed hut building at the front of the site.
- Development Progress continues, we know Mosaic have undertaken underground surveys, they are finalising the environmental impact assessment and traffic surveys. They have held two public consultations on their plans, they have a strong team of architects and have indicated that they are looking at modular build options

Second rotation:

From Councillor Cooper to the Executive Member for Regeneration:

'Could you please provide an outline timetable on the Union Place development following the decision taken to work with LCR? When should we expect public consultation to happen?'

Response

Planned regeneration of a key town centre site in Worthing has taken a big step forward after the Council agreed to join forces with an experienced government-backed development company.

In what is seen as a feat for the town, the innovative proposal will see the Council and publicly-owned firm LCR work in partnership to bring forward proposals for new homes, jobs, retail and possibly a cinema at Union Place.

Councillors agreed at JSC Tuesday 10th April 2018 to push ahead with the deal with the company, which has an impressive track record of delivering world-class regeneration projects such as High Speed 1, St Pancras International, King's Cross, the International Quarter London in Stratford and Mayfield in Manchester.

The belief is that it will ensure the regeneration of the derelict site can be brought forward at greater pace while a shared vision for the economic development of the town is created.

The Council moved in to buy the site this year because we felt this major town centre site had remained idle for too long.

We promised that we would bring forward progress quickly and are therefore delighted to be able to agree this partnership.”

LCR has a fantastic record in bringing forward award-winning landmark projects and it is a real coup to be able to tap into their top-level expertise to transform this part of Worthing. We're looking forward to working with them on this project moving forward.

Finalise land pooling agreement

To receive a report back in October 2018 to be updated as to progress and developments, to consider an options appraisal for the Site and to consider and approve a Development Strategy for the Site.

Consultations already started feedback on social media after asking public opinion on what they might like to see on site

October 2018 point that indicative timelines for formal consultations.

From Councillor Murphy to the Executive Member for Digital and Resources :

‘We will all have seen the positive economic news that real wages are increasing faster than inflation, something to be welcomed across this chamber. Can the Executive Member for Digital & Resources confirm how Worthing council tax compares to the inflation figure over this period and does he agree with me that the Conservatives locally are the best choice of steward for public money as we head to the polls next week?’

Response:

In the 8 years since 2010 the increase has been 7.08%; in this time period inflation has risen by 17.71%. The Council tax rises have been below the inflation level; this is due to our prudent management, strategies for investment and careful attention to the services we provide therefore I would agree that the Conservatives are the best choice locally for the stewardship of public money.

Third rotation:

From Councillor Cooper to the Executive Member for Regeneration

‘Could we please have an update on how negotiations are progressing with Stagecoach with regards to relocating from their current position on the seafront?’

Response

Stagecoach depot site is one of our Areas of Change under existing LP.

The long stated wish is to see Stagecoach move to a non town centre site and free up this space for other developments opportunities that will bring economic benefits to the town, jobs, visitor economy, health and wellbeing all of which will benefit residents of Worthing

WBC has no financial interest in land ownership of this site that enables it to require change, but does have ownership of the decoy farm site that as we all know was a landfill site and requires significant remediation. For which we have secured LGF money. This can help us to influence change.

Currently WBC have appointed specialist consultants to advise what works will be needed to bring this land back into use and what highway improvements maybe needed to utilise it for Industrial use / including stagecoach.

The site links more widely into the excellent work this council is doing with WSCC to bring a package of town centre improvements with a £5m pledge from WSCC.

It links to the Seafront Investment Plan especially for Marine Parade and outside The Pavillion

But as ever with this council we are not resting there we are working on exploring other options, using our innovation and ingenuity, thinking outside of the box and exploring a variety of scenarios and options that independently or collectively may prove successful.

Our investment in a new major projects heads of service, will enable us to focus this activity, to maintain dialogue with Stagecoach and other parties at a strategic level and encourage pace in our discussion to seek to create a Platform that will drive and enable change.

Question from Councillor Buxton to the Executive Member for Regeneration

"Residents in Selden ward are universally excited about the prospect of a new premises for the local doctors' surgery. Could the Cabinet Member please give an update on the Health Hub project and the consultation event that was held recently?"

Response:

Taking a lead from a number of our stated aims from Platforms for our Places and in a bid to make best use of its land and improve the quality of care received by patients, the Council is developing a proposal to create a one-stop hub on the town hall car park in Stoke Abbott Road.

This £18.5 million investment in public services could see brand new facilities providing primary care, such as GP surgeries, alongside mental health and community services.

You will recall that The plan was given initial backing by councillors in December 2016, who released funding received through the Cabinet Office's One Public Estate programme.

Since then officers have been working with partners in the NHS and the community to investigate the feasibility of a proposed development.

In March a public consultation event was held in the Richmond Rooms and the feedback indicated:

- Near universal support for the principal of the health hub and bringing services together.
- Praise for the Council stepping in and investing in infrastructure for much need core health services
- Positive comments about preparing now for increased town centre population from developments
- Numerous comments about "being on the right track" and "moving the town forward" with our regeneration programme.

For me, this is an excellent example of how the council is using its resources and excellent relationships with health sector partners to invest in our town.

We all recognise that Worthing needs new, modern health facilities that are large enough to cater for our growing population and will ensure residents receive the best possible public services.

Again we see this council showing strong stewardship, acting as an enabler and creating opportunities, which to be quite frank, would not happen had we not done so.

Final Rotation:

Councillor Cooper to the Chair of JOSC:

When is the scrutiny committee expecting to hear back from its working groups on public consultation and the findings of the select committee?

Response

- The JOSC Working Groups are currently undertaking their reviews of Public consultations and the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny. It is anticipated that the findings from the Working Groups will be reported to JOSC during the Summer.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Mayor