

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

18 July 2017

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 Edward Crouch	Councillor Bob Smytherman
Councillor James Doyle	Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
Councillor Diane Guest	Councillor Hazel Thorpe
Councillor Lionel Harman	Councillor Bryan Turner
Councillor Joshua High	Councillor Val Turner
Councillor Paul High	Councillor Vicky Vaughan
Councillor Daniel Humphreys	Councillor Steve Waight
*Councillor Susan Jelliss	Councillor Paul Westover
Councillor Kevin Jenkins	Councillor Steve Wills
Councillor Heather Mercer	Councillor Mark Withers
Councillor Sean McDonald	Councillor Tom Wye
Councillor Nigel Morgan	*Councillor Paul Yallop
	One vacancy

*=absent

C/014/17-18 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Yallop and Jelliss.

C/015/17-18 Marine Ward - Resignation by Joan Bradley

In noting the resignation on 18 May 2017 of Joan Bradley from the office of councillor for the Marine Ward of the Borough; the Council acknowledge Joan's contribution as an elected councillor, party member and keen design Champion. Councillors Crouch, Doyle and Thorpe spoke on Joan's work highlighting the thankless task as chairman of the planning committee, her skills and knowledge in the planning field and deep appreciation of the Heritage of Worthing.

Council placed on record its thanks to Joan for her 13 years of Council service.

C/017/17-18 Declarations of Interest

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

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Nolan, prejudicial interest as employee of Southern Water in the public question item.

During the response to the second Public Question in minute C/017/17-18 Councillors Crouch and Murphy each declared a personal interest as a Director of Worthing Homes.

During the response to the Question on Notice from Councillor McDonald in minute C/024/17-18, Councillors Sparkes and Wye declared personal interests in West Worthing Tennis club and Patron of St Barnabas respectively.

Councillor Nolan left the meeting before the next item.

C/017/17-18 Questions from the public

The Mayor announced that there were two registered questions for the meeting.

Question to the Executive Member for the Environment submitted by Pauline Fraser

In light of the latest discharge of sewage from Southern Water's East Worthing water processing site on 12th July 2017, prompting Worthing Council to issue advice not to bathe in the sea at or around the affected areas, would Cllr. Guest agree with me that the company has shown it is not fit for purpose and should be replaced by a regional publicly-owned water company?

Response by Councillor Guest

Worthing Borough Council participates in the Pollution Risk Forecast Scheme run by the Environment Agency. The scheme provides bathers and the local community with up to date information on water quality and any risk of pollution during the bathing season (May-Sept)

The Council receives daily email bulletins regarding known pollution risks that could affect our beaches. If a risk is identified, our role is to erect advisory signs along the affected stretch of coast, advising the general public not to swim in the water (on that day) due to the short term risk of reduced water quality.

Council Officers will also liaise with the water company and the Environment Agency to understand the situation better.

Following a severe power outage at Southern Water's East Worthing plant on the 12th July, Southern Water took the decision to release excess storm and wastewater via the site's long-sea outfall pipe. This runs more than 3Km out to sea. This decision I understand was taken in order to protect local homes and businesses from flooding.

Council Officers erected water quality advisory signs along the affected stretch of coast within an hour of being informed of the risk . Officers were in regular contact with Southern Water and Environment Agency and performed regular patrols of the foreshore for signs of the pollution debris coming onto shore.

On the afternoon of the 13th July, the Environment Agency advised that they were confident that there was no longer a pollution risk to Worthing and Lancing beaches and confirmed that the advisory signs were no longer needed. They were removed that afternoon.

Having reviewed our role in the incident, I am confident that the Council carried out its duties effectively and efficiently and in line with our ambitions to support our local communities.

Ms Fraser asked a supplementary question to which Councillor Guest responded.

Ms Fraser was complementary to the Council's speedy email response to her enquiry on the removal of the notices; Councillor Guest suggested that the supplementary questions should be addressed to Southern Water and the Environment Agency.

Question to the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing submitted by Katy Parsonage

How many refugees have been resettled under the Refugee Resettlement Scheme since it began (not just when the council was overseeing the scheme, but since Worthing4Refugees became involved)? and is Worthing Borough Council doing enough to dispense with its moral responsibility to drive this agenda forward (whether or not it is directly delivering the scheme) for these vulnerable, traumatised people?

Response for Councillor Val Turner

Worthing and Adur Councils are working with West Sussex, Health, Worthing 4 Refugees and other partners under the Resettlement Scheme. We have agreed to settled 10 families in Adur and Worthing in total by 2020 and to date have settled 3 families in our whole area.

Our focus is on ensuring these families are settling in and their needs are supported by our Councils and all partners. Worthing 4 Refugees have been providing excellent support and have demonstrated the best elements of community organising efforts through their fantastic volunteers.

We truly empathise with the trauma that families have experienced fleeing war zones and so it is imperative we provide a space in which they can rebuild their lives away from any media attention. Maintaining confidentiality about locations or other details is therefore something that we are very keen to safeguard.

Responding to Ms Parsonage's supplementary question on why so few families had been rehomed in the Borough; 3 families in 18 months why so low?, Councillor Turner responded that the determination of which families to various locations was not decided locally and suggested that the supplementary question should be addressed to the local MP for take up at a national level.

Councillor Nolan returned to the meeting during the response to the second public question.

C/018/17-18 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Annual Meeting on 19 May be approved as a correct record and they be signed by the Mayor.

C/019/17-18 Announcements by the Mayor, Leader, Executive Members, Head of Paid Service

The Mayor announced some recent Queen's Birthday Honours awarded to Mrs Sue Dare - Former Principal, Northbrook College, Worthing and currently acting as a Transition Director - MBE. BEM to Mr Neil Hulme Conservation Adviser, Sussex Branch, Butterfly Conservation - For services to Wildlife Conservation and Mrs Linda Lewis of Lancing - Volunteer, West Durrington Phoenix Youth Group - For services to Young People

In September Queen's Award for Enterprise would be presented by the Lord Lieutenant to the following local companies with the Queen's Award for Enterprise, The World of Buzz and Electronic Temperature Instruments Ltd.

The following local companies had recently received the Local Authority Building Award (LABC) for a conversion/alteration in St. Lawrence Avenue; GB Building and Development UK Ltd, BSB Party Wall and Architectural Services, Steve Gardner Projects Ltd, and Sean Clark Associates.

The War Memorial outside the Town Hall has been granted listed building status following an application by Castle ward Cllr Luke Proudfoot.

The Mayor announced forthcoming Charity Events; 12 August at the High Street multi story car park the Youth Council were hosting a charity car wash and on 20 August was the Annual Councillor's vs Officer's Cricket match from 1pm at Goring Cricket Club. The Mayor invited Councillors to support both events.

The Mayor highlighted some recent commemorative events, firstly on the 30 June, the 'day that sussex died' at the memorial in beach house park, he mentioned Worthing's Link with Richebourg was going from strength to strength with students from Chatsmore Catholic High currently visiting Richebourg and establishing links with the Marcel Lejosne School in Richebourg. On 13 July, the Mayor had attended the Srebrenica Memorial arranged by the worthing Islamic Society.

The Mayor presented the Framed Vote of Thanks to Councillor Sean McDonald commemorating his year in Office.

The Leader announced that the Council beat off stiff competition to win another digital award last week, in Computing Magazine's national Digital Leaders Awards.

Working in partnership with the NHS Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group the County Council, and our own Well-being team, our digital unit designed and built an app to support a new community service, called Going Local. The service allows doctors to refer patients to local social and community based solutions to improve their health and well-being, thus freeing up GPs to concentrate on people with medical

conditions. The Going Local team are delighted with the way the app is helping them manage and monitor their new service. This was an example of how our digital skills are now benefitting local public services more widely, and a great example of how we are making our ambitions in Platforms for Our Places a reality.

Barbara Bastable of the Digital Team came forward to accept the Award on behalf of the Digital Team from the Mayor.

The Executive Member for Regeneration made two announcements, that in May the town had been awarded a 'Keep Britain Tidy award' recognising a range of beach services including cleanliness, toilet facilities, information signage and beach safety.. He wished to put on record his thanks to the foreshore team and others in the council for their work in achieving this award. Secondly, regarding the earlier announcement by the Mayor of the LABC award for St Lawrence Avenue, Councillor Jenkins reported that the Adur & Worthing Building Control team had been responsible for overseeing the checks and quality of the build and he wished to put on record his thanks to them for their contribution and work towards this award.

C/020/17-18 Items raised under the urgency provisions

There were no urgent items for Council.

C/021/17-18 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

Council had before it recommendations from the Joint Governance Committee of 27 June and the Joint Strategic Committee of 11 July, extracts of these minutes had been circulated and are attached to the minutes as item 8 A and 8 B. Details of 8B had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and is attached to the minute books; a copy was also in the Chamber on green pages.

Joint Governance Committee - 27 June 2017

The Chairman of the Joint Governance Committee presented the recommendations from her Committee on page 7 the agenda, item 7A.

(i) Proposed review of the Contract Standing Orders

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Bickers.

There were no speakers on the item.

On a vote For 28 Against 0 Abstentions 5

Resolved that the amended Contract Standing Orders, be approved

Joint Strategic Committee - 11 July 2017

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on green pages 1 to 11 circulated by email and copies placed in the Chamber.

(1) Revenue Outturn Report

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

There were no speakers on the item.

On a vote For 28 Against 0 Abstentions 5

Resolved that the Council

(a) noted the overall final outturn for 2016/17;

(b) agreed the net carry over of revenue budget to 2017/18 where the original approval for 2016/17 was not utilised which will be funded from the Capacity Issues Reserve, totalling:-

Worthing Borough Council £38,590

(c) approved the net appropriation to General Fund reserves in the year, totalling:

Adur District Council £80,854

Worthing Borough Council £669,409 (as amended)

(d) agreed the net carry over of revenue budget to 2017/18 funded from reserves:

Adur District Council £8,000

Worthing Borough Council £89,970

(e) approved the consolidation into Adur's Capacity Issues Reserve of the Health & Safety Fund (£32,545) and the New Technology Fund (£22,300) in 2017/18; and

(f) *matter for Adur Council only*

(2) Capital and Projects Outturn for 2016/17

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Jenkins

There were no speakers on the item.

On a vote For 28 Against 0 Abstain 5

Resolved that the Council

(a) noted the overall capital final outturn for 2016/17;

(b) agreed the net carry over of General Fund Capital underspends for Worthing Borough Council as detailed in the report;

(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 2016/17 Capital Investment Programme, as previously approved.

(3) Towards a sustainable future - Budget Strategy for the 2018/19 Budget

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Nolan.

There were no speakers on the item.

On a vote For 29 Against 0 Abstain 4

Resolved that the Budget Strategy for 2018/19 outlined in Section 9 of the report be approved.

(4) Investing in Service Delivery - Capital Strategy 2018/21

The Leader explained that this was a three year Capital Strategy for the Councils.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Jenkins

There were no speakers on the item.

On a vote For 28 Against 0 Abstain 5

Resolved that the Capital Strategy 2018/21 be approved.

(5) Building the Councils' Investment Portfolios: An update and future direction for Strategic Investment Fund

The Leader emphasised this fund was for strategic investment in suitable property to give income generation.

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Nolan

There were no speakers on the item.

On a vote For 31 Against 0 Abstain 2

Resolved that an additional allocation of £15m to the Strategic Property Investment Fund from 2017/18 be approved

(6) Fulbeck Avenue Development Site

The Leader spoke of the high demand for housing in the Borough and throughout the Southeast, the investment was part of the Council's commitment to deliver..

The recommendation was seconded by Councillor Crouch

On a vote For 31 Against 0 Abstain 2

Resolved that a budget virement of £167,000 be approved

C/022/17-18 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 to 14 and revised green pages.

The Leader highlighted recent items before the Joint Strategic Committee including progress in delivering Platforms for our Places and £10M to progress regeneration of Teville Gate, Union Place and Decoy Farm.

A question was asked of the Executive Member for Regeneration.

C/023/17-18 Annual Pay Statement

Council had before and noted the Pay Policy Statement from the Director for Digital and Resources as item 10. Council was invited to approve the Statement as Appendix 1.

The acceptance of the statement was proposed by the Leader, seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

On a vote For 31 Against 0 Abstentions 2

C/024/17-18 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 12

The Proper Officer had received 9 questions from Members under CPR 12,

From Councillor Hazel Thorpe to the Leader:

Following the tragic Grenfell Tower incident - whilst we are aware that plans have been put in place and information to support some residents is on the council website - in your opinion has the Council done enough or should it be doing more given the 400 complaints about living conditions in the financial year of 2016/17 ?
If so what are your plans?

Response by the Executive Member for Customer Services:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers in our Building Control and Private Sector Housing teams for the time and effort they have put into identifying and assessing high-rise buildings throughout our areas as a result of the Grenfell incident.

The teams, in conjunction with our Communications department, quickly put together information that would be useful to both owner-occupiers and tenants and have coordinated responses to numerous Freedom of Information requests.

Although none of the 46 buildings in our areas that are 6 storeys or more in height have external cladding of the type that appears to have contributed to the fire at Grenfell, the joint visits so far carried out with West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS) have identified improvements that can be made to both detect fires and provide safe means of escape.

A county-wide joint liaison meeting with WSFRS showed that Adur & Worthing Councils were ahead of the curve in terms of our response to the incident and both Building Control and Private Sector Housing look to further develop an already good relationship with the fire service.

The Council has a legal duty to investigate complaints about living conditions and there are a significant number of such complaints received each year. The Council recognises that poor housing conditions can and do have serious adverse effects on an occupant's health and wellbeing. We do, however, take the issue of poor housing seriously and we have an excellent record in responding positively and effectively to any such complaints.

At a time when local authorities are being criticised nationally for only taking an average of 2 prosecutions a year for poor housing, the Private Sector Housing team has completed 6 over the past year, as well as serving more formal notices to resolve hazardous conditions than any other authority in Sussex.

In addition to their reactive work, the Council also has a programme of identifying and inspecting houses in multiple occupation to ensure that owners are meeting their additional responsibilities for this type of property. This proactive work seeks to pre-empt the imminent legal requirement for all HMOs with 5 or more residents to be licenced.

The PSH team will continue to deal effectively with poor housing conditions, as well as providing advice and support to responsible landlords, professionally within existing resources. These resources will, of course, be reviewed as necessary in line with any new duties or priorities that are placed on districts and boroughs in respect of housing conditions.

In addition to the above it is worth noting that via the Building Control Team the Council is providing an affordable Fire Risk Assessment service which is supporting Managing Agents and Private Landlords to understand and act upon their responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. The risk assessment is delivered alongside information and guidance and this service is proving very popular. Whilst this is delivering income for the Council it is important to note that it is definitely improving the safety of our residents.

From Councillor Mark Withers to the Executive Member for Regeneration :

How many complaints have there been to the council in the last year from people who have moved into new build/developments in Worthing about poor quality construction, redoing work, snagging issues, etc. How much additional work as this made for the building control team?

Response by the Executive Member for Regeneration:

The Building Control team have had four complaints in respect of projects for which Worthing Borough Council have provided or are providing the Building Control Service and 5 where the service is being provided by an Approved Inspector. These have involved 15 new build properties in total. The additional work for the Building Control team has been limited to telephone advice in respect of the Approved Inspector cases but more detailed involvement in respect of the other four cases. In all cases liaison with the developer has led to the completion of satisfactory

remedial work but in one case there was an ongoing complaint and claim which was not upheld.

The Head of Building Control and Land Charges informs me that whilst all purchasers of new homes have the protection of a warranty the first two years of the 10 years protection is very robust but the final eight years less so. The Government has commissioned various research papers and changes in legislation are likely to follow which may include closer links between Building Control and consumer protection legislation. There is wide recognition in the house building industry that the cause is a skills shortage and that pressure to increase the speed of housing delivery without addressing the perceived skills shortage may exacerbate this problem.

From Councillor McDonald to the Executive Member for the Environment

I am the Borough and County Councillor for Northbrook. I also live in Northbrook where I have lived for over 30 years. Most people will only know this end of the Town if they shop at Tesco, exercise at David Lloyd or work at Southern Water. However, despite some former LibDems running down the area where I live there is a thriving and wonderful community in Northbrook which has been exemplified by one of my fellow residents who has joined us this evening in the public gallery. Mr Barry Burks.

Mr Burks is a man who believes that one should not bring a problem but should provide a solution.

For many years now there has been talk of a footpath adjacent to Titnore Lane which is also in my ward of Northbrook. Titnore Lane is, without doubt, one of the worst roads for pedestrians and cyclists in West Sussex so a solution is needed to separate vehicles from pedestrian/cyclists. This has always fallen down as too expensive, or not required or simply ignored as too difficult. However, I recently met Mr Burks who has produced an excellent proposal to build a footpath linking Goring railway station to Northbrook College, St Barnabas and on to connect with existing footpaths up to Titnore Way where the new estates are being built and where Worthing Tennis Club is situated alongside the Caravan Club site.

I have with me tonight the plan that Mr Burks has produced and it is available for anyone to view. In fact I would urge the press to have sight of this plan. This comprehensive plan is the best chance we have to build a footpath alongside, but detached from, Titnore Lane for the safety of our residents who live in that area.

This plan has been presented to West Sussex County Council by Mr Burks and is fully supported by myself as the Local Councillor. Some of the land that Mr Burks proposes using is actually owned by Worthing Borough Council and this runs through Northbrook Park. We will need a strip of land parallel to Titnore lane but this will not affect the football pitches.

My question this evening is "Will this Council support this footpath proposal and ensure that any obstacles are overcome to allow the WBC land to be used to complete the path and ensure the safety of my residents.?"

Response by the Executive Member for the Environment:

The County Council has been working with Worthing's Planning team for some time to deliver this footpath/cyclepath link from the West Durrington development to the footbridge over the A259 providing a link to Goring Station. The outline planning application for the West Durrington urban extension secured £80,000 towards this link. This funding is due upon the completion of the 151st dwelling (therefore due soon).

Since that time land has been secured as developments come forward to provide a path set back from Titnore Lane and this has been provided along the frontage of Northbrook College, the residential development at Northbrook Cottages and at St Barnabas Hospice. It is anticipated that if further development is granted at West Durrington (current planning application for phase II) additional funding could be secured to complete this sustainable footpath link. The Council would have no objection to the path running through Northbrook recreation ground.

Question from Councillor Smytherman to Cabinet Member for the Environment

Can I first of all congratulate the Executive Member's predecessor for taking advantage of funding from the EU to introduce electric car charging points to various car parks owned by the Council to encourage greater usage of electric cars and will the Executive Member be considering extending the roll out of new charging points throughout the Borough to encourage greater usage of electric cars for our residents, visitors and businesses

Response by the Executive Member for the Environment

We are in the process of devising an electric charge point strategy for the Councils. Air quality improvements and CO2 reductions are required and different initiatives are underway to support these improvements - EV's and supporting infrastructure would significantly contribute to this agenda and encourage drivers to switch to electric vehicles.

As a small project team we have mapped out a 3 phase approach to enable the easier locations to be considered first, followed by the more collaborative locations. However where opportunities for installations in the other phases arise, these would be pursued without waiting for the next phase.

Phase 1 - Council owned land;

Phase 2 - Ideal locations (such as Lyons Farm, Holmbush, Taxi Ranks, Leisure Centres, etc;

Phase 3 - Other key locations, such as schools/colleges. NCP car parks, off street lighting columns, etc.

Overall EV prices are high compared to more traditionally powered vehicles. However as more EV vehicles enter the market so prices are expected to reduce. As this happens so the infrastructure and means to increase the infrastructure must be in place to enable a smooth transition for those residents who are prepared to make the change.

The costs associated with installing ev charge points can be high and there are various types available. We are currently speaking with a number of charge point

providers and investigating the various funding streams available to ensure that what we install is appropriate for the location and the end user. Where possible, charging for the electricity used can ensure a long term financial offset for the install and could provide profit opportunities (although potential government regulation of the charge networks could alter this).

From Councillor Withers to the Executive Member for the Environment:

With the regeneration of Worthing making it a great place to come to it is important that we give a good impression of our facilities. When I visit the town centre I feel it is badly let down by the sorry state of our public conveniences. Gone are the days of the ladies who used to care for them so well, keeping them clean and making them homely with fresh flowers always on display.

Plans to refurbish the Pavilion theatre toilets are very welcome, but could the member give us some idea of which other sites are to be upgraded? I feel that this is sorely needed in our town as at the moment they let us down badly

Response by the Executive Member for the Environment:

There are no current plans in the 2017/18 Capital Investment Programme to upgrade any public conveniences in Worthing. However, the bids for the 2018/19 financial year are currently being made and I will be considering these at a forthcoming meeting. I will however need to consider these bids alongside other Capital bids that have been made for improvements in Worthing.

From Councillor Luke Proudfoot to the Chairman of the Joint Staff Committee

What benefits does the Council provide for staff, or potential staff, serving in the Army Reserve, Royal Navy Reserve or the RAF Reserve?

Response by Councillor Bickers, joint Chairman of the Joint Staff Committee

We allow staff that are in non-regular forces or in the special constabulary up to 18 days paid leave in any one year starting from the date their service starts. Additionally, all staff have three paid leave to volunteer each financial year with Voluntary groups in Adur or Worthing..

Councillor Thorpe to the Leader

I have been made aware that under new regulations the Fire Service is not responsible for the safety of public buildings or properties under Council ownership so could you tell me what our budget is for commissioning the fire service to protect us and our residents?

Response by the Leader:

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 came into force in 2006 and placed the responsibility for fire safety in non-domestic premises (and for the common parts of a block of flats or house in multiple occupation) on the Responsible Person. This will be the employer, or owner, or landlord and, in the case of Council-owned buildings, this will be the Council themselves.

The Council have a duty to carry out a Fire Risk Assessment for all relevant buildings or common parts and ensuring that suitable fire prevention measures are in place..

The Fire & Rescue Service are the enforcing authority for the Order and have the power to check whether our assessments and measures are adequate.l

Corporate Fire Safety advice (excluding Adur Homes and the Leisure Centre) is provided via the Head of Building Control and Land Charges and specifically the post of Fire Safety Advisor (Building Control). A significant piece of work was undertaken last year to improve the corporate position resulting in an expenditure of £17K approximately in officer time. The outcomes and benefits of this work are reflected in the recent Fire Safety audit. In the first quarter of this year expenditure in proving FRA's and advise amounts to £3855 which will be recharged to the relevant service areas.

At this point the Mayor announced that the 30 minutes question time had been reached as there were 2 remaining questions, he would use his discretion to extend the question time on this occasion.

Councillor Smytherman to the Leader

"Following the update on the implementation of Public Space Protection Orders received in a recent report to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee does the Leader share my view that with the exception of the PSPO dog control orders which have largely been a success that the failure to issue any orders for the other PSPOs which were massively opposed by a large number of residents who attended the debate in this chamber and signed petitions , I suggest that we remove these PSPOs and use the resources to provide more enforcement for the PSPOs dog orders to target irresponsible dog owners rather than vulnerable people who unfortunately find themselves living on the streets?

Response by the Leader:

Issuing FPNs is only one measure of success and reflects a failure to comply with an order. As previously explained, the lack of FPNs does not mean the other PSPOs do not prevent nuisance and disorder.

Also, as previously stated, the orders tackle nuisance behaviours, not specific groups. The difficulties of enforcing the orders where the perpetrator is of no fixed abode also demonstrate that the orders were never intended to target rough sleepers.

Councillor Hazel Thorpe to the Executive Member for Regeneration:

On the new website Discover Worthing website we find 12 venues highlighted as being the tops - as shown Under the heading 'Twelve of the best places to Eat & Drink in Worthing' which is great. But can the Cabinet Member please tell me ;

- a) how we selected the top 12 places to eat and drink in Worthing – accessibility,
- b) by what is the criteria were they judged for inclusion,
- c) how are they going to be audited / monitored and by whom and
- d) how do other excellent venues go about being included in the top 12 in the future – why only 12 ?

Response by the Executive Member for Regeneration:

The Discover Worthing website aims to highlight Worthing's distinctive offer, including the unique, independent and quality places that are available for a wide range of visitors to discover and enjoy.

The website provides details on over 60 different places to eat and drink in the Town, in a variety of categories from Afternoon Tea through to Family Friendly, and Restaurants. It also highlights twelve of the best independent food and drink offers in a separate blog.

The blog - to which the Councillor refers - is part of a series of blogs which are constantly being updated and added to as part of a contemporary marketing strategy that seeks to Inspire and entice visitors to Worthing.

All food and drink venues listed on the website are checked to ensure they have a minimum 3-star food hygiene rating, and a minimum 4-star rating on Trip Advisor. Entries on the website are provided free and are available to all food and drink establishments in Worthing that meet the ratings criteria. Any business that achieves these standards can contact the tourism team and ask to be added to the site.

Staff have committed to reviewing all entries on a minimum six-monthly cycle to ensure standards are maintained.

All businesses listed on the site are asked to review their entry and provide details on accessibility and other facilities provided, such as wi-fi and breast-feeding friendly. Based on the information provided, individual listings are updated and icons added to indicate what is provided. A good example can be seen in the listing for St Paul's cafe.

There is always more that can be done, and whilst the website is constantly being developed and refreshed by the tourism team, the involvement of businesses is vital in ensuring that they are represented appropriately and to showcase their accessibility and the other facilities they can offer.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.52 pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Mayor