

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Adur District Council**

17 December 2020

Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Councillor Andy McGregor, Chairman
Councillor Stephen Chipp, Vice-Chairman

Councillor Carson Albury	Councillor Angus Dunn
Councillor Carol Albury	Councillor Emma Evans
Councillor Catherine Arnold	Councillor Liz Haywood
Councillor David Balfe	Councillor Joss Loader
Councillor George Barton	Councillor Paul Mansfield
Councillor Brian Boggis	Councillor Barry Mear
Councillor Kevin Boram	Councillor Peter Metcalfe
Councillor Ann Bridges	Councillor Lavinia O'Connor
Councillor Clive Burghard	Councillor Neil Parkin
Councillor Dave Collins	Councillor Debs Stainforth
Councillor Brian Coomber	Councillor Sami Zeglam
Councillor Lee Cowen	

Absent

Councillor Robin Monk and Councillor David Simmons

c/37/20-21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Robin Monk

c/38/20-21 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

c/39/20-21 Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public

c/40/20-21 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2020 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

**c/41/20-21 Announcements by the Chairman, Leader of the Council,
Executive Members and / or Head of Paid Service**

The Chairman made the following announcement:

Earlier this month I attended and spoke a few words at the funeral of Councillor Pat Beresford who passed away in November. As well as inspiring many other Councillors, Pat was an inspiration to me when I first became a Councillor two decades ago. . Pat showed a burning passion for the work of the Council and a level of expertise to which I could only aspire. I am sure I speak for everyone here, officers and Councillors alike, when I say that Councillor Pat Beresford will be greatly missed.

During the second lockdown I have along with our MP Tim Loughton plus other Adur & Worthing Councillors, been busy distributing tasty meals as a treat to local hostels for the homeless. I would like to thank the Fish Factory in Worthing, Curry Mahal in Hove and O'Curniciello in Lancing for their generosity in donating meals.

I would like to mention the three of the Council's Waste and Cleansing Operatives, Wayne Slender, Guy Olliver and Colin Wigham who whilst emptying green bins in Hammy Way, Shoreham, they turned the corner to find that an 89 year old lady had fallen in the middle of the road. They stayed with her for an hour and covered her with their jackets until the ambulance arrived.

On the same day, Adur & Worthing waste operatives Nigel Dunnbar and Steve Nash were working in Ophir Road Worthing where a lady was found on the ground of her driveway beside her bins. They looked after her and got her back in her house and warmed up until the ambulance came.

I would like to mention :

That the Councils' Digital Team have been shortlisted for App of the Year. One of their recent applications the Commercial Waste system went live last year and helped make efficiencies in the service. It was a 12 week project that saw James Coleman, Jay Redman, Scott Parson and Sarah Boniface work closely together with Matt Marchant, Shirely Ely and Environmental Services to transform the existing system.

The competition run by Netcall, the supplier of our low code Platform required an interview and detailed explanation of the system. I think I can safely speak for us all in wishing them good Luck in their efforts.

I would like to offer my congratulations to those Adur and Worthing Council volunteers who were recently recognised by the High Sheriff of West Sussex with a Special Recognition Award for volunteering and helping out in the community during the Covid-19 crisis. The Special Recognition Award was launched in the summer in appreciation of the individuals who've provided exceptional service for others.

This is the last Full Council meeting which will be attended by our Monitoring Officer, Susan Sale. After nineteen years of service to Adur & Worthing Councils Susan will be moving to an even bigger role at Oxford City Council. Susan has always impressed me by being completely reliable, by actively listening and by giving serious thought to every single matter which has crossed her desk. I have always appreciated one of Susan's great strengths which has been her depth of knowledge and advice with regard to legal matters. I am sure I speak for us all when I say that Susan will be missed and wish her all the best in her new role.

Finally, we are all looking forward to Christmas. However, this Christmas will be very different with the Covid restrictions. Adur has one of the lowest rates of Covid diagnosis of all local authorities in England. Obviously because the residents of Adur are being careful. Let's keep

it that way by staying safe during the festive season and by following the guidelines while enjoying a lovely Christmas break.

The Executive Members Made the following announcements

The Executive Member for Resources extolled the work of the climate assembly and commented on the sense of realism prevalent with the assembly.

The Executive Member for the Environment thanked officers for their prompt work to repair the Airshow Memorial following an incident of vandalism.

The Chief Executive Made the following announcements:

I am delighted to announce that Adur District Council's/Worthing Borough Council's Communications and Housing Teams have won a prestigious national award for campaign of the year.

The awareness campaign helped recruit private landlords to a pioneering new scheme to help people desperate for housing called Opening Doors

Two weeks ago the campaign the Communications Team developed with the Housing Team was given the award at the UK Housing Awards.

Opening Doors launched last year and offers landlords a comprehensive letting service including financial security, legal assistance and landlord support - and all for free.

Since then, dozens of properties have been signed up to the programme, with more than 40 families provided good-quality homes on secure tenancies. This has saved both Adur & Worthing Councils more than £300,000 in temporary accommodation costs, money which has been reinvested back into supporting those in need.

The campaign was backed up by excellent branded, targeted engagement at appropriate landlords and above all exceeded expectations in finding new and much needed homes.

The award follows great news that Adur and Worthing Councils jointly were shortlisted for Council of the Year in both of the two major awards for local authorities.

At this point I would direct you to our chief executive who is holding up both award certificates.

In both the Municipal Journal awards and the Local Government Chronicle awards Adur & Worthing were the only district and borough councils shortlisted and were up against tier one authorities with bigger staffs and budgets.

The entries, again produced by the Comms Team, impressed the judges with the depth and breadth of activity the Councils were engaged in based on our Platforms for our Places direction of travel document with programmes ranging from Going Local social prescribing to Citizens WiFi, our environmental work under SustainableAW, to major projects such (for Adur) as building and funding the £10m new homes development at our old headquarters (for Worthing) as real impetus and major partnerships our council has brought to schemes at Union Place and Teville Gate for instance

I want to congratulate everyone of our officers for this fantastic recognition in 2020 which reflects on the great work we are undertaking on behalf of citizens. It bodes well for another good year in 2021 as we build on our recovery programmes from the pandemic.

After 19 years of dedicated service, I would like to announce that our Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Mrs Susan Sale is leaving us to take up a post with Oxford City Council.

Susan started with us in 2001 as Assistant Solicitor and within 5 years was Legal Services Manager - a rapid rise. She has been Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer since 2014.

I'm sure you will join me in thanking Susan for her tireless commitment to Adur & Worthing Councils and all the excellent support and guidance she has given, working alongside many Mayors and Chairmen over the years.

Susan is moving on to a bigger role, leading legal, democratic and electoral services at Oxford City - and in a sign of the times, she will not be moving up to Oxford, but working remotely for a significant part of the time, allowing her to remain in Worthing with her family.

Susan will be leaving in early January, and will hand over to Maria Memoli as interim Monitoring Officer, as set out in the report at Item 8 on the agenda.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing her the very best of luck, and thanking Susan for her dedicated, longstanding support to your Councils.

c/42/20-21 Items raised under urgency provisions

There were no items raised under urgency provisions

c/43/20-21 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

a) Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2020/21

The Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee introduced the recommendation to the Council. The Council debated the matter and a vote it was,

Resolved: that Adur District Council note the changes made to the JOSOC Work Programme since it was agreed by the Councils in July 2020.

b) Towards a sustainable financial position - Budget update

The Leader introduced the Report to the Council and moved the recommendation which was seconded and on a vote it was

Resolved: that Adur and Worthing Councils approve the use of capital resources to fund savings proposals as set out in the capital flexibilities schedule in Appendix 4 of the accompanying report

c) Investing in our Places - Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

The Leader introduced the item to the Council and proposed the motion which was seconded

On a vote the recommendations were approved

Resolved: that the full programme detailed at Appendices 5 and 6 of the accompanying report be approved

d) Council Tax Support Schemes for 2021/22

The Leader introduced the recommendation to the Council which was seconded. The Council debated the matter and upon a vote it was,

Resolved: that the Council Tax Support scheme for Adur District Council in respect of working age customers for 2021/22 Should be based upon the scheme for 2020/21 with no restrictions; and no other changes should be made beyond necessary technical amendments required to keep the scheme consistent with the national rules in respect of Housing Benefit.

e) WorkspacesAW - Designing a new model of working following Covid 19

The Leader introduced the recommendation to the council and moved the recommendation which was seconded.

Members debated the recommendation as put and on a vote the recommendations were approved

Resolved: that Adur and Worthing Councils approve a capital budget of £2,335,720, on an invest to save basis, as set out in section 7.5 of the accompanying report;

f) Carbon Neutral 2030 - Developing opportunities for solar

The Leader introduced the recommendation to the council and moved the recommendation which was seconded.

Members debated the recommendation as put and on a vote the recommendations were approved

Resolved: that Adur District Council create an invest-to-save budget within the HRA Investment Programme of £100,000 for carbon reduction schemes funded through borrowing which could be released on the submission of a business case to the Executive Member of Resources.

g) Extending natural habitat restoration: acquisition of Pad Farm

The Leader introduced the recommendation to the council and moved the recommendation which was seconded.

Members debated the recommendation as put and on a vote the recommendations were approved

Resolved: that Adur District Council approve the purchase of Pad Farm at an overall cost of £324,000 (comprising a purchase price of £290,000 and up to £34,000 to

cover the cost of acquisition including surveys, legal fees and stamp duty) funded by prudential borrowing;

h) Recruitment and Appointment of Independent Persons

The Chairman of the Joint Governance Committee introduced the recommendation to the council and moved the recommendation which was seconded.

Members debated the recommendation as put and on a vote the recommendations were approved

Resolved:

i) that Adur District Council appoint two Independent Persons to act on behalf of both authorities, namely, John Bateman and Lindsay Viljoen;

ii) that the Independent Persons be appointed for a term of four years from the 1st January 2021, subject to the Full Councils being able to deselect an Independent Person on reasonable grounds;

c/44/20-21 Designation of the Monitoring Officer

Before the Committee was a report by the Director of Digital, Sustainability or Resources, a copy of which had been circulated to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 8

A Member proposed the recommendations within the report which were seconded and on a vote it was

Resolved: The Council designated Maria Memoli as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 11th January 2021.

c/45/20-21 Report of the Leader on decisions taken by the Executive

Before the Committee was a report by the Director of Communities, a copy of which had been circulated to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 9.

The Executive made announcements concerning their portfolios and answered questions about litter and dog fouling enforcement.

c/46/20-21 Members question time under Council Procedure Rule 12

There were no questions under Council Procedure Rule 12

c/47/20-21 Motions on Notice 1

Before the Council was a Motion received from Councillor Lavinia O'Connor and seconded by Councillor Debs Stainforth which is as follows

This council notes

- The recent LGA report showing that 11.2 per cent of the 5 to 15 population has a mental health condition – up from 9.6 per cent in 2004 – with referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS) having increased by around 26 per cent in 5 years
- The LGA report suggesting factors contributing to this rise in prevalence include increasing levels of poverty among children and young people; the growth in Special Education Needs; rising levels of family dysfunction possibly associated with pressures on housing, employment and other societal factors; and pressures on young people which contribute to anxiety including social media and an increasingly academic and examinations-oriented curriculum.
- Children's mental health remains significantly underfunded compared with either children's physical health or adults' mental health. A CQC report suggests that in recent years there has been a marked reduction in funding for children and young people's mental health services.
- That according to the recent LGA report, children are being driven into NHS services that treat mental illness because the system and funding prioritise treatment rather than the early support and preventative services that help children have mentally healthy childhoods.
- The Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition developed a policy and practice manifesto to improve children and young people's mental health and emphasised the need to develop innovative preventative policies and practices that reduce inequalities in mental health support and improve emotional literacy.
- The Mental Health Foundation has recently recognised the need to identify communities and individuals at greatest risk, develop coproduction with communities, and develop local programmes that promote improved mental health literacy within communities and to enable access to peer support and self-management.
- Evidence compiled by the Children's Commissioner, the Education Policy Institute and others on levels of unmet need that is compelling. Beyond underfunding, three key systemic challenges are the complexity and fragmentation of the system contributing to a lack of clear national direction, the capacity of those delivering mental health support, reflecting both staff shortages in key professions such as educational psychology and the reduced capacity of staff in universal services such as schools or health visiting, and finally the lack of focus on early intervention.

This council agrees

- That to turn this around needs concerted and coordinated action at a national level to shift away from treating children once they are diagnosed with a mental illness towards helping them and their families cope with challenges before they escalate.
- To join the LGA in their call for the Government to provide long-term investment in essential early support and prevention services so councils can help more children to avoid reaching crisis point in the first place
- Specifically, this council will write to the government as a matter of urgency to request that they

- o Set clear targets for the whole system which incentivise the investment in earlier support and prevention and focus on achieving better mental health outcomes for all children and young people.
- o Develop a consistent outcomes-focused dataset, to be used across local government and CCGs to measure progress against the targets.
- o Set clearer expectations around strategic cooperation between CCGs and local government for children's mental health and give greater leverage to health and wellbeing boards to ensure that this is acted upon.
- o Move away from pilot funding and ring-fenced grants to recurrent funding, giving more flexibility to local partnerships to develop solutions that build on their local context.
- o Develop clearer specifications for the effective commissioning of universal mental health provision.
- o Create stronger expectations of joined up planning, commissioning and delivery between children and adults' mental health, with a core focus on supporting families holistically and managing transition for young people between adults' and children's services.
- o Review the sufficiency of the national workforce for children's psychology (EPs, CAMHS, and others) and create opportunities for joint professional training between educational psychologists and CAMHS clinicians.
- o Consider how the national curriculum and school accountability system might be geared to encourage more secure development of good mental health and to minimise the current rise in anxiety-related issues.
- o Research and promote best practice in working with the cohort of very hard to place adolescents and those with the most complex needs being supported in their communities, including developing a best practice offer of training and support for foster carers.

The motion was proposed and seconded and it was

Resolved: that the motion be noted by Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee

c/48/20-21 Motions on Notice 2

Before the Council was a Motion received from Councillor Debs Stainforth and seconded by Councillor Catherine Arnold which is as follows

This Council declares a Poverty Emergency Covid-19 has hit us hard. We will feel the recession and after-shocks for some time. The July 2020 Council report, "And then" Bouncing back in post pandemic Adur and Worthing; stated this clearly.

We note this Council's outstanding work, often in solidarity with the community, to support local people during the pandemic.

The Council commit to treating poverty in Adur as an emergency and will lead the development of a Poverty Emergency Strategy, with partners and the Community, which will address both the local causes, and the wide ranging impacts of poverty.

As part of this strategy we commit to establishing a Poverty Reduction Advisory Group. This independent group will advise the council on policy and practice related to local poverty reduction and prevention. The key principles guiding the Advisory Group's work will be:

- Ensuring equal opportunities for involvement between community leaders and other stakeholders. This should include the "Hear My Voice" initiative - Adur and Worthing Poverty Truth Commission.
- Developing a constructive conversation on poverty prevention between residents of the Borough and the Council/partner agencies.
- Using data, analysis and evaluation to agree priorities and drive work more widely across the Council and with partner agencies.
- Draw on best practice in poverty reduction initiatives around the UK to influence poverty reduction policy and practice in the Adur District.
- Develop interventions to address the multiple causes of poverty in the Adur District and reduce their impact.
- Adopt a de-stigmatising and educational approach, acknowledging the broad demographic facing poverty since the pandemic.

The motion was proposed and seconded and it was

Resolved: that the motion be noted by Council and referred without debate to the Joint Strategic Committee

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00 pm, having commenced at 7.00 pm

Chairman