

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils**

Remote Meeting via Zoom

28 January 2021

Councillor Keith Bickers (Chairman)
Councillor Karen Harman (Vice-Chairman)

Adur District Council:

Stephen Chipp
Joss Loader
Carol Albury
Catherine Arnold
Ann Bridges
Brian Coomber
Paul Mansfield

Worthing Borough Council:

Margaret Howard
Charles James
Richard Nowak
Jane Sim
Bob Smytherman
Carl Walker

Absent

Councillor Debs Stainforth

JOSC/54/20-21 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest

JOSC/55/20-21 Substitute Members

JOSC/56/20-21 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the 26 November be approved as the correct record

JOSC/57/20-21 Public Question Time

A Member of the public asked the following question: *The Adur Tidal wall project currently stops abruptly to the North East corner of Shoreham Sailing Club, 2 metres from the Sailing Club boundary, with the gap creating public access to the beach to the South East corner of the club. The erosion on this stretch of the project has been considerable - approximately 3 metres, since its completion, and on 15 November it exposed the Sailing Clubs boundary footings, and the public access to that area was closed by the Port due to the risk to users. Had the tidal walls project been completed as planned to the North of the club the erosion would still have occurred, but it would not have been a risk to the Sailing Club boundary or the public access in that area. Whilst remedial action was taken by a bulk placement of small scale shingle on 23 November, in the space of 9 weeks, this shingle has already been eroded to the point where the next storm could wash it all away again. The Sailing Club would like to know what long term*

solution the Environment Agency has to stop this recurring? A representative from the Environment Agency told members that the shingle had been a temporary measure and that a more permanent solution was being investigated

JOSC/58/20-21 Items Raised Under Urgency Provisions

There were none

JOSC/59/20-21 Consideration of any matter referred to the Committee in relation to a call-in of a decision

There were none

JOSC/60/20-21 Shoreham Harbour flood defences and Environment Agency attendance- Scrutiny request

Before the Committee was a report by the Director of Digital, Sustainability and Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 7. The report before members provided background information to assist the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) in scrutinising issues relating to a public scrutiny request regarding flood defences at Shoreham Harbour. Representatives from the Environment Agency were present to answer questions.

A Member asked the following question: *What measures are being taken to ensure that the pedestrian ramp linking Shoreham Fort to the beach is now safe and won't need to be closed again, as it was last year?* Members were told that meetings had taken place with contractors to investigate possible solutions but were not convinced that there was a solution beyond regular maintenance.

A Member asked the following question: *Can the recycled aggregate used for infilling on sections of the beach be replaced with shingle, as it currently comprises metal hunks, thick metal cable, concrete, plastics etcetera. Residents have asked if this aggregate complies with regulations as it appears unsightly in a widely-used, environmentally-sensitive setting?* Member were told that recycled shingle was used but this had been graded before use. The occurrence of detritus was likely caused by erosion of the original surface shingle with old detritus coming through.

A Member asked the following question: *Please can you confirm the specification for the new sea wall balustrade posts that appear to be painted or PPC on galvanised mild steel. Are these Grade 316 or better?* Members were told that the grade depended on the location of the post

A Member asked the following question: *I understand the intention that Shoreham waterfront area is intended to benefit from future flood defence work, upon each dev agreement and relevant 106 infrastructure funds.. There is a current gap overlooked by Mariners Point where the Surfbus building is, this causes water ingress across the Surrey Yard Road and down into the basement of Mariners Pt..What are the intentions for this missed area?* Member were told that the issue could be more a result of a drainage issue. However there would be investigative work needed to determine if it was a problem that could be fixed.

JOSC/61/20-21 Interview with the Executive Members for Environment (Adur)

and Digital & Environmental Services (Worthing)

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 8. The report before members set out background information on the Portfolios of the Adur Executive Member for Environment and Worthing Executive Member for Digital and Environmental Services to enable the Committee to consider and question the Executive Members on issues within their portfolios and any other issues which the Executive Members were involved in connected with the work of the Councils and the Adur and Worthing communities.

The Executive Members each gave a precise of their portfolio work to date.

A Member asked the following question: *Will ADC consider introducing a beach patrol to ensure that the issues experienced last Summer are better monitored - for example bonfires, barbecues, widespread litter, incursions into the Swimming Only zone, dog fouling etc?* The Executive Member told the Committee that the matter would be examined and a proposal put forward if appropriate. Members were told further of a new litter enforcement programme

A Member asked the following question: *Are there are any plans for an audit of HMOs which have had the most trouble switching over to fortnightly collections, not due to lack of recycling but bin space?* Members were told that an audit had been carried out and £50k had been secured for where there were particular problems

A Member asked the following question: *What are the priorities to improving the Street scene for Shoreham and Lancing post Covid to rejuvenate the areas and encourage people in and to stay?* The Executive Member told the Committee that the question was better directed to the Executive Member for Regeneration, however, the Council continued to work with West Sussex County Council to identify improvements within the budgets available. There had been investment in Queensway lancing including seasonal planting and the installation of further bike racks. Regular contact was had with partner organisations to ensure localised communities were involved in the process. The Authority was ensuring that the important matters of good waste and cleansing services were being carried out correctly.

A Member asked the following question: *Can a review be undertaken to identify ways to help ensure better enforcement of parking regulations at peak times (weekends, school holidays etc) to ensure that residents and the emergency services can access and exit the Beach without the widespread delays, blocked driveways, double parking that were experienced last year?* The Executive Member told the Committee that Officer would go and patrol the area, however West Sussex determined where the controlled parking zones were as they were the Highway Authority.

A Member asked the following question: *What do you see as being the top priorities for the Council in energy management to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030?* The Committee was told that interventions were needed to tackle the biggest sources of the Authorities' emissions which included boilers, trucks and the crematoria. In the first year since its adoption the Councils had achieved over a 10% reduction.

A Member asked the following question: *Given ADC motion passed on pension divestment (re Fossil fuels) and WSCC recent decision not to divest and not to even*

survey members? What more are you attempting? Members were told that trustees had been contacted as requested, however lobbying was the only action available to the authority.

A Member asked the following question: *Since the change of hands to SDL how has membership uptake been going for Lancing, Southwick and Shoreham?* Members were told that it was early days as yet. The contract had only been signed the previous Monday.

A Member asked the following question: *Given some of the potential public health challenges of a fortnightly waste collection in the absence of food waste collection, such as residents struggling with flies in hot weather, are there any plans for a town wide consultation on how the current collection regime is being experienced by residents in summer?* Members were told that the survey was being prepared and that the first waves of the consultation being released in the next few months

A Member asked the following question: *Bearing in mind the crucial importance of the climate emergency declaration, what if any are the concerns about the way that the pandemic and economic challenges ahead may impact our climate emergency programme?* Members were told that the programme to tackle climate change is making strong progress, with significant funds recently secured from the Public Sector Decarbonisation fund enabling the authority to take forward a programme of solar installations on buildings, low carbon heating systems and insulation. Further detail was due to be reported to Joint Strategic Committee in February. The Councils had also made significant progress in natural habitat and biodiversity improvement, recently acquired land at New Salts Farm, Pad Farm and the acquisition of 100 acres at Shepherds Mead in Worthing, at the foot of Cissbury Ring, this was for the purpose of habitat restoration.

A Member asked the following question: *In terms of performance achievement over the coming twelve months: (i) what specific and measurable targets would you consider need to be met in order to rate performance as "good" in relation to the delivery of the services within your portfolio? And (ii) which specific, as yet incomplete deliverables/commitments within PFOP Going Further 2020-2022 / PFOP "And then..." would need to be successfully delivered/met in order to rate performance as "good" in relation to your areas of responsibility?* Members were told that there was an established approach to reporting the Councils' performance against the Platforms for Our Places strategy and the COVID response document "And Then .." This is done through comprehensive 6 monthly reports to Joint Strategic Committee. Each platform is reported on using a Red-Amber-Green rating against each strategic action, and summary pie charts are produced to quantify progress overall. These ratings are established using data, such as the recycling rate, as well as a broader assessment on progress with actions.

A Member asked the following question: *Can the Member give us an update on the development of Brooklands Park and any potential challenges to the project in coming months?* Members were told that the Brooklands Park development was progressing as planned. A new project manager had come on board to take charge of the cafe build and manage the progress through procurement. The Parks team were mobilising to make a start on the planting in the first glade. The winter maintenance on the reed beds had been completed, and the friends group had completed the new planting in the 'boat'. Planning permission had been granted for the Cafe and Play areas with procurement being the next priority.

A Member asked the following question: *Would you please describe what progress is currently being made to bring forward plans for the deployment of a cost-effective domestic food waste collection service in Adur and Worthing and for the remunerative and responsible treatment of that waste as a potential source of renewable energy and agricultural fertiliser? (Reference "PFOP Going Further 2020-2022 3.6.1 (a)": The potential for the collection of food waste being made mandatory. Timescale: Summer 2021 (or other timetable set).* Members were told that in 2018 the councils made a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. This pledge covered emissions from the councils' estate and vehicles and sends an important message to suppliers and contractors about the direction in which the council wishes to take its activities. Since the councils made the pledge, the UK as a whole has also increased its own level of ambition and now aims to reduce overall carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. A domestic food waste offer had been discussed many times, and whilst Council officers have been motivated to partake in food waste trials with WSCC we have found that funding for such trials was dependent on moving to a 1:2:3 strategy - something our electorate oppose. Officers made representations that data gathered from a food collection with an alternate weekly strategy would be valuable as a comparator, however WSCC would not fund a food waste trial with alternate weekly collection. The Councils have procured a food waste vehicle for commercial food waste and the data and knowledge gained from this will help inform our domestic strategy going forward. A mandatory food waste scheme is not expected until 2023, but the Councils were well geared up to make that change should it be required sooner.

JOSC/62/20-21 Joint Strategic Committee responses to Scrutiny reviews of Climate Change and the Adur Homes repairs and maintenance service

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 8. The report before Members set out the formal responses of the Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) to the Scrutiny review reports and recommendations relating to Climate Change and the Adur Homes Repairs and Maintenance Service which were considered by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) in September and October 2020 respectively as part of its Work Programme.

Resolved: that the report and responses be noted

JOSC/63/20-21 Review of Corporate Property Assets

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for the Economy, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes. The report before members updated the committee on the regular review of the Council's corporate estate.

The Head of major Projects and Investment was present to present the report and answer questions. Questions were raised about the effect of the pandemic and how that effected management of corporate assets and attention was drawn to the recent plan to reorganise office accommodation at Council Offices. A question was asked about sharing accommodation with other public bodies and attention was drawn to the planned health hub and work undertaken with West Sussex on that project.

Resolved: that the report be noted

JOSC/64/20-21 Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2020/21 - Update

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability and Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes. The report before members The report outlined progress with the work contained in the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) Work Programme for 2020/21 and recommends that the progress be noted.

The committee discussed the report before members and appointed Carol Albury to a working group in replacement of Cllr Kevin Boram.

Resolved: that the report be noted

JOSC/65/20-21 Facilities available to users of Kingston Beach

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes. The report before members outlined the current provision for public conveniences and litter bins across Adur and Worthing beaches and outlined the feasibility and financial constraints related to the provision of public conveniences at Kingston Beach.

Members discussed the report and noted the difficulties with providing a solution in the area given financial constraints and the village green status of Kingston Beach. Members agreed to note the report and keep the item under review.

Resolved: that the report be noted

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.50 pm, it having commenced at 6.00 pm

Chairman