

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

22 July 2021

QE2 Room, Shoreham Centre, Shoreham-by-Sea

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

Councillor Carol Albury	Councillor Emma Evans
Councillor Carson Albury	Councillor Jim Funnell
Councillor Catherine Arnold	Councillor Jeremy Gardner
Councillor Robina Baine	Councillor Joss Loader
Councillor Vee Barton	Councillor Paul Mansfield
Councillor Brian Boggis	Councillor Steve Neocleous
Councillor Ann Bridges	Councillor Carol O'Neal
Councillor Mandy Buxton	Councillor Joe Pannell
Councillor Dave Collins	Councillor Neil Parkin
Councillor Gabe Crisp	Councillor Sharon Sluman
Councillor Angus Dunn	Councillor Debs Stainforth
Councillor Tania Edwards	

Absent

Councillor Kevin Boram, Councillor Lee Cowen, Councillor David Simmons and Councillor Rob Wilkinson

C/12/21-22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Kevin Boram, Lee Cowen and Rob Wilinon

C/13/21-22 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made

C/14/21-22 Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public

C/15/21-22 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2021 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

**C/16/21-22 Announcements by the Chairman, Leader of the Council,
Executive Members and / or Head of Paid Service**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

I am very pleased to say that in the 2 months since becoming Chairman I have been able to represent the Council on a number of occasions both in person and in virtual meetings.

In June I attended;

- The SERFCA armed forces briefing. SERFCA represents the reserve and cadet forces in Sussex and the briefing was a real global update on current deployments and Unit strength in the British Military. For someone with a keen interest in the military it really was a fascinating insight into our priorities and military capabilities.
- I was joined, on my wife's Birthday, by my wife and Children on the North Green in Southwick to read the Sussex Charter.
- I was finally invited to Alex Baileys virtual leaving bash. The date was supposed to be the date regulations for Covid ended - sadly we know how that went! What was supposed to have been a formal event at the end of Worthing Pier was sadly changed to my lounge in full Chains, shorts and flip flops - no one could see my shorts and flip flops!

In July;

- I was joined by the indomitable Bob Smytherman who very graciously agreed to head over in his favourite attire as the Worthing Town Cryer and help me open the Shoreham Farmers market. It is very rare that I am the quieter of two people and Bob certainly helped liven up the market. We walked the market and businesses of Shoreham chatting to stall holders and businesses about how they are finding trade in these times. It was quite surprising and heartening to find a number of stall holders who have completely pivoted in their career path leaving jobs that they may not have returned to to set up their own businesses.

It is fair to say that several commented on the challenges they are facing and I will continue to do all I can to highlight and support the businesses or Adur.

- I also met with the team at Esteem - my chosen Charity to see the work they do and how I can help them raise vital funds this coming year. They caught me at a good moment as I have agreed to do a 10km run in September and there is, whisper it, a skydive next year. I will be helping them with some work shops specifically related to local politics. A big thank you to Emma who welcomed me and I will be sharing my JustGiving page and would appreciate members helping me get the message out on Social media. I would also like to thank those members who have already contributed thus far!

- Finally I welcomed the High Sheriff of West Sussex Neil Hart and his wife Ros to Shoreham last week. After a walk through St Mary De Haura Church Grounds and popping inside for a chat we walked across the footbridge and onto Shoreham Beach. We returned and, after a coffee stop, we headed to the airport and had the most amazing tour around Pooley Swords. Pooley Swords make ceremonial swords for the British, amongst other nations, military. Mr Pooley, I was warned, is a character and likes to chat. I could have spent hours listening to him and I can attest he most certainly is a character. I only hope to have as much verve and vigour at his age that he does!

In an age where we seem to make things to be discarded; to stand and watch the craftsmanship on display to make ceremonial swords was something to behold. Mr Pooley felt it was only right and proper that I was a Lord Mayor as that would mean I could have one of his beautiful swords! I am thinking of submitting my own motion to the next full council.

The Leader proposed that Councillor Rob Wilkinson be appointed as Vice Chair of the Joint Governance Committee, replacing Councillor Jim Funnell on a vote this was approved.

The Executive Member for the Environment made an announcement concerning the Meads project.

C/17/21-22 Items raised under urgency provisions

There were no urgent items

C/18/21-22 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

a) Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2020/21

The Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the recommendation from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 June 2021.

The recommendation was proposed and seconded and on a vote it was unanimously supported.

Resolved,

That Adur District Council approved the JOSC Work Programme for 2020/21

b) Benchmark salary review and proposed recruitment process for the post of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

The Chairman of the Joint Senior Staff Committee presented and proposed the recommendation from the Joint Senior Staff Committee meeting held on 7 July 2021. The matter was debated and on a vote it was

Resolved,

That Adur District Council approved that an increase be applied to the salary of the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, being a range from £134,000 rising to £155,000 and considered the timing of the proposal

c) Financial Performance 2020/21 - Revenue outturn

The Leader presented and proposed the recommendation from the Joint Strategic Committee meeting held on 13 July 2021. The matter was seconded, debated and on a vote it was

Resolved,

That Adur District Council

(a) NOTED the overall final outturn for 2020/21;

(b) APPROVED the net appropriations to General Fund Reserves in the year as detailed in section 6 of the report totalling: Adur District Council £5,326,227, Worthing Borough Council £8,700,773;

(c) AGREED the net carry over of revenue budget to 2021/22 funded from reserves as detailed in appendix 6: Adur District Council £189,000 Worthing Borough Council £242,000.

d) Developing a revenue budget for 2022/23 at the time of a pandemic

The Leader presented and proposed the recommendation from the Joint Strategic Committee meeting held on 13 July 2021. The matter was seconded and on a vote it was

Resolved: That Adur District Council approved the Budget Strategy for 2021/22 outlined in Section 9 of the report

e) Financial Performance 2020/21 - Capital and Projects Outturn

The Leader presented and proposed the recommendation from the Joint Strategic Committee meeting held on 13 July 2021. The matter was seconded debated and on a vote it was

Resolved,

That Adur District Council

(a) Noted the overall capital final outturn for 2020/21

(b) Agreed the net carry over of General Fund Capital underspends for Adur District Council as detailed in paragraphs 5.3.

(c) Approved the financing of the Adur District Council 2020/21 Capital Investment Programme, including the use of capital receipts as set out in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2.

(d) Approved the carry forward of Council resources underspends to fund budget pressures as detailed in paragraph 4.2.2. and summarised in paragraph 5.6.

f) Investing for our future - Capital Strategy 2022/25

The Leader presented and proposed the recommendation from the Joint Strategic Committee meeting held on 13 July 2021. The matter was seconded and debated. On a vote it was

Resolved,

That Adur District Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2022/25

C/19/21-22 Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21

Before the Council was a report by the Director for Digital and Resources. The report sought approval of the Pay Policy Statement 2019/20, which was a statutory requirement under Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011.

Council had before it the Pay Policy Statement on pages 7 - 17. It was a statutory statement the Council was required to make and publish each year.

The Council debated the recommendation and on a vote it was

Resolved: That Adur District Council noted the Pay Policy Statement 2020/21 set out in Appendix 1

C/20/21-22 Councillor attendance and the six month rule

Before the Council was a report by the Director for Communities on pages 19 - 22. The report sought approval for a six month absence for Councillor David Simmons. The recommendations within the report were proposed seconded and on a vote it was

Resolved: That Adur District Council approved Councillor Simmon's absence from Council meetings for a 6 month period from 18 August 2021 to 18 February 2022.

C/21/21-22 Report of the Leader on decisions taken by the Executive

The report before members set out the decisions made by the Executive since the last meeting of Council.

Executive Members made announcements concerning Albion Street and Open Space standards and were questioned regarding the development of Albion Street, the appointment of members to outside bodies

C/22/21-22 Members question time under Council Procedure Rule 12

Question from Councillor Sluman for Councillor Boggis, Executive Member for Regeneration

With the exit of IKEA and the agreed 4th arm development going ahead, what will this council be doing to encourage a sustainable and green led company take on this land, in order to off-set all the damage done to our local environment and pressure on infrastructure, whilst adding value to the local community

The Executive member replied that the approval of the 4th arm by this Council's Planning Committee was positive news and was very much part of the planning permission that included IKEA. IKEA's departure from the site was unwelcome news but the Executive Member was very pleased to confirm that the infrastructure improvements that would help unlock investment and jobs would still be delivered.

The original report to the Council's Planning Committee highlighted the importance of new jobs to accompany the new homes that were already being built. The Council was now highlighting the opportunity the site presented to inward investors and the Council recognised that the 'green-tech' sector was an area of real potential for growth.

Question from Councillor Arnold for Councillor Evans, Executive Member for the Environment

With the news that Southern Water have allowed 6,971 separate discharges across the six years equating to 7,400 Olympic-sized swimming pools, what action is this council taking with Southern Water to protect our communities public health and protect the success of the exciting Sussex Bay kelp work

The Executive Member replied that the Council had been working with Southern Water on the Bathing Water Enhancement Programme designed to raise bathing water quality to an 'excellent' standard. This had involved officers from Public Health & Regulation and Building Control alongside West Sussex County Council Highways working in partnership with Southern Water to identify misconnections (properties that were discharging foul water into the surface water drainage system) and ensure they were rectified by connecting them to the foul water sewer system. This reduced the amount of polluted water entering the sea. The programme identified and rectified a number of misconnected properties and had also provided extra sewer maintenance and cleansing. The Council would continue to work in partnership with Southern Water to reduce and where identified rectify misconnections. The Council had also increased its dog fouling patrols on the beach to reduce dog waste entering the sea.

Question from Councillor Stainforth for Councillor Albury, Executive Member for Customer Services

The JOSOC working group submitted an interim report of concerns on Housing Repairs around Oct 2020, as far as we know no response has been made. Many of our Adur Homes residents, particularly in estates in Cokeham, Southlands and Eastbrook are living in near squalid conditions. When will Adur Homes tenants have the Capital Works Programme publicly available, so they know how long they have to wait? Can we make a commitment that as a landlord, Adur Homes will ensure that everyone will have a decent home?

The Executive Member advised that the Council was committed to ensuring that all the homes in its stock were brought up to decent homes standard. On the 2nd of March 2021, the Joint Strategic Committee approved the revised Housing Capital Investment Programme for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and released the sum of £5.6 million for each year in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Fire safety and other health and safety works had already commenced.

Replacement of community alarm systems and fire safety improvement works to sheltered housing schemes were already ongoing,

The contract for fire safety improvement works to the Council's general needs blocks of flats had been awarded and the contractor was already setting up on site

Work on internal alterations to provide protected means of escape from all internal rooms had started and a project manager had been recruited to manage the works

The Council was starting the second phase of the replacement of existing flat entrance doors with new certified fire doorsets; the new doorsets had undergone primary fire testing to ensure they complied with the latest guidance issued since the tragic Grenfell fire and a contractor had been appointed to install these doors

External works to Bushby Court and Beachcroft place, which could not commence last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, were already ongoing; the works included replacing communal entrance doors, screens, intercoms and works to common parts.

The Joint Strategic Committee recently approved that the main building in Ashcroft be redeveloped and the 8 bungalows within the scheme be refurbished to ensure it met decent homes standards

Consultation with residents on regeneration of Southwick Estate had already begun and a programme of essential works that would be undertaken during the consultation was being drawn up and would be shared with residents once it was completed. Works to Rock Close and Locks Court, which were part of this area, had been put on hold pending the outcome of the Consultation. The programme of works being drawn up would include revised works to Rock Close and Locks Court.

The Council secured £1.3 million from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to improve the energy performance in Shadwell Court and Marsh House. Work had already commenced on delivering

Brand new renewable heating systems, including radiators and controls
Solar PV panels
Cavity Wall Insulation at Shadwells Court and
A Ground Source heat pump at Shadwells

The Head of Housing and his team, along with the Councillor of Cokeham Ward and the Executive Member, inspected Adur Homes stock in Millfield in May this year. The Head of Housing and his team along with Councillor Wilkson were at this moment (7pm on 22 July 2021) in a meeting with residents at the Harriet Johnson Centre updating them on the improvement works to be undertaken to their homes.

The Council accepted all the recommendations of the JOSC working group on repairs and maintenance. Officers met with the JOSC working group on 11 February this year, and provided an update on the progress being made. Officers would be meeting again with the working group on 29 July.

Question from Councillor O'Neal to Councillor Angus Dunn, Executive Member for Resources

Appendix 1 sets out policies relating to the workforce pay and highlights the relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and that of all other salaried staff. The median average salary of non-executive employees is stated as £25,481, with the pay between this median average and the basic salary of the Chief Executive in the ratio of 1:4.92. On these figures, the CEO's salary would be £125,366.52, roughly equivalent to the current level of remuneration. If the CEO's level of salary is increased, will the current ratio of 1:4.92

between the remuneration of the Chief Executive and the average annual pay of other Council employees who are not Chief Officers be maintained?

The Executive Member advised that the ratio between the Chief Executive and the Council employees changed every year. This was due to the staffing levels, both in numbers and in salary levels, changing on an almost daily basis with new roles being created, staff leaving and new staff starting, which would all affect the median average. The increase in the Chief Executive salary would affect the ratio along with other factors, including those above. All officer roles within the Councils were graded via the Greater London Provincial Council Job Evaluation Scheme and could be reviewed at any time.

Question from Councillor Arnold for Councillor Parkin, Leader

Brighton BikeShare scheme, the business community have been promised consultation on hub locations by Mr Brewer, Francesca Illife (latest JSC) – can we have your assurance this will happen, and willingness to look at new locations

The Leader responded that the Council has worked closely with Steer, an external consultancy with expertise in the design of transport and mobility schemes such as the extensions of Brighton BikeShare to Adur & Worthing. The recommended locations for the hubs had been created by Steer according to expected user demand in order to maximise the coverage and usage of the scheme. These locations would be refined as the procurement and mobilisation of the Concessionaire partner was delivered and appropriate leases on parcels of land across the District were completed. With the scheme not due to launch until Spring next year, the Council was of course willing to listen to feedback on the proposals and would welcome evidence suggesting amendments to proposed locations.

C/23/21-22 Motion on Notice

Before the Council was a Motion received from Councillor Gabe Crisp. The Motion was seconded and debated and upon a vote it was unanimously agreed that:

Resolved: Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1.2°C from pre-industrial levels and the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals currently threatened with extinction.

Unless we drastically change course, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's safe 1.5°C limit. Pledges like the Paris Agreement and updated emissions targets are not legally binding. The gap between pledges and policies leaves the world on course for catastrophic warming of near 3%. As the 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made clear, every half a degree makes a world of difference: severe climate impacts with 1.5°C of warming, such as extreme weather patterns causing flooding and heat waves, get significantly worse with 2°C. According to the IPCC, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities.

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world and more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction and more than 40% are in decline. We have lost 95% of our hedgehogs. The UK needs a legally-enforceable nature target so that by

2030 nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery, in line with the Global Goal for Nature and the Leaders' Pledge for Nature.

Council notes that:

I. Many local authorities are playing an important role in the UK taking action to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and to protect and revitalise local wildlife and natural habitats.

II. Parliament in May 2019 declared an Environment and Climate Emergency and this Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 after receiving a petition signed by more than 1000 local residents.

III. Adur Council's Climate Emergency relates only to the 1% of Carbon emissions which result from council buildings and the actions of council staff and officers.

IV. 99% of Carbon emissions in Adur are not under the direct control of ADC but ADC has a key role in leading the way by example, trialing new technologies and publicising its work to raise awareness of what is possible locally.

V. There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the "Climate and Ecology Bill"), which, if it became law, would require the government to develop a strategy to address the emergency that would ensure:

A. the ecological emergency is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis in a joined-up approach;

B. the Paris Agreement is enshrined into law to ensure that UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement -1.5°C.

C. the Leaders Pledge for Nature is enshrined into law to ensure that the UK's ecosystems are protected and restored with a focus on biodiversity, soils and natural carbon sinks;

D. the UK takes full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint (ie consumption emissions plus shipping, flights and land-based transport) by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume;

E. the UK takes full responsibility for our ecological footprint so that we protect health and resilience of ecosystems along both domestic and our global supply chains;

F. an independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly is set-up, representative of the UK's population, to engage with the UK Parliament and UK Government to help develop the emergency strategy.

C/24/21-22 Motion on Notice 2

Before the Council was a Motion received from Councillor Debs Stainforth and seconded by Councillor Sharon Sluman.

The Council debated the motion and a minor amendment was agreed unanimously

Resolved: 'This Council recognises that violence against women and girls can include, or be linked to, domestic abuse. This is often a hidden crime unreported to the police and although both men and women are affected, incidence and severity are much greater for women.

Domestic and family violence can affect well-being and developmental growth of children and teenagers both in the short and long term. The Coronavirus pandemic has further caused what one worker described as 'an epidemic beneath a pandemic'. The charity Refuge reports that in the year between February 2020 and March 2021 72% of calls to their helpline were from women who said they were experiencing violence and abuse, and nearly a fifth said their abuser had threatened to kill them.

Tragically, statistics show that more female homicide victims are killed by a partner or ex-partner than by strangers.

It is imperative we learn from and act on the weaknesses in our systems and structures the pandemic has so starkly exposed. The Council has a well-developed network of support via the Wellbeing team, which includes Early help and Wellbeing, the Housing needs team plus links with Worth, West Sussex specialist services and the Women's accommodation support officer. This Council continue and further develop its work with these partners. All parts of society should play their part in tackling domestic violence'

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30 pm, having commenced at 7.00 pm

Chairman