

Minutes of a meeting of the
Worthing Council
10 November 2021
at 6.30 pm

Councillor Lionel Harman (Chairman)
Councillor Richard Nowak (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Noel Atkins	Councillor Dr Heather Mercer
Councillor Roy Barraclough	Councillor Richard Mulholland
Councillor Mike Barrett	Councillor Louise Murphy
Councillor Ferdousi Henna	Councillor Jon Roser
Chowdhury	Councillor Helen Silman
Councillor Russ Cochran	Councillor Dawn Smith
Councillor Rebecca Cooper	Councillor Sally Smith
Councillor Dan Coxhill	Councillor Robert Smytherman
Councillor Edward Crouch	Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
Councillor Jim Deen	Councillor Emma Taylor
Councillor Cathy Glynn-Davies	Councillor Hazel Thorpe
Councillor Karen Harman	Councillor John Turley
Councillor Margaret Howard	Councillor Nicola Waight
Councillor Daniel Humphreys	Councillor Steve Waight
Councillor Charles James	Councillor Carl Walker
Councillor Kevin Jenkins	Councillor Rosey Whorlow
Councillor Martin McCabe	Councillor Steve Wills
Councillor Sean McDonald	

*Absent

C/38/21-22 Apologies for Absence

The Mayor advised that there were no apologies for the meeting.

C/39/21-22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C/40/21-22 Questions from the Public

The Mayor advised that 6 questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

They were as follows:-

Question 1 from Mr Conell Loggenberg, a Worthing resident

Which parts or provisions of the Equality Act 2010 can the public not rely on as applicable for inclusive consideration by Council or individual Members of Council to any matters of current or future functioning or processes for or by Council?

Cllr Daniel Humphreys replied that the very short answer was none.

In response to the supplementary question, Cllr Humphreys requested that the question be shared in writing (via email) and a written response would be provided.

Question 2 from Mr Conell Loggenberg, a Worthing resident

In July 2020, to the ends of Promoting Racial Equality in Worthing, I asked and suggested to Council the need for visible inclusive Commemoration of the Sacrifice made by People of Black Ethnicity in respect of the War Memorial in Steyne Gardens.

The Leader of the Council agreed that People of Black Ethnicity fought alongside British Soldiers in the same War; that they also made the ultimate sacrifice and that inclusive commemoration of their lives was justified.

The Leader of the Council stated that he would take leadership on the matter.

To date, close to almost 18 months later, absolutely nothing has materialised.

Unless the Member has abandoned the commitment, can the Member confirm whether he is ACTUALLY serious, whether he has discussed this matter cross-party and who with about Permanent Public Facing Memorial Effects Equally representing the sacrifice made by People of Black Ethnicity...

If yes,

*Given that the Member is stepping down as Leader of the Council;
Has the Leader assigned this task to ANYONE...who?... and how much longer do we still have to wait to see delivery on Permanent Public Facing Effects that Commemorates the Sacrifice of People of Black Ethnicity in respect of that War?*

Cllr Daniel Humphreys replied that his recollection of the previous correspondence differed from that of Mr Loggenberg. However, he was happy to listen to ideas and discuss these moving forwards.

A supplementary question was asked in relation to the delivery of an inclusive commemoration.

Cllr Humphreys reiterated that he was happy to hear suggestions coming forward.

Question 3 from Kelly Hannah-Rogers, a Worthing Resident

Members of the public raised complaints about how racist conservative councillor Tim Wills was able to continue to serve on this council and what actions could be taken to avoid a repeat. This was pursued by the public under the councillor code of conduct adopted by Worthing Borough Council from the Local Government Association. At the last full council meeting on 19th October, we were informed by Worthing Borough Council that the investigations in this respect were ongoing and therefore could not comment on some of the questions put by the public, even though at that point Tim Wills had resigned.

All the sanctions which are available in the councillor code of conduct apply only to an incumbent councillor, not a councillor who has left their post. Please confirm the status

of the investigation, is it being pursued under a breach of the councillor code or another process. If the latter, please explain what process and possible outcomes.

Cllr Daniel Humphreys replied that the complaints against the former Councillor Tim Wills, were under investigation and would be determined by the Joint Governance Sub-committee in due course, in accordance with the Council's procedure for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints. Cllr Humphreys was not in a position to make any further comment, whilst the investigation was in progress.

Ms Hannah-Rogers asked about the timeframe for the investigation as a supplementary question.

Cllr Humphreys advised that it was difficult to ascertain how long the investigation would take, but reassured the questioner that the investigation would be in line with the Joint Governance Committee / Council process.

Question 4 from Kelly Hannah-Rogers, a Worthing Resident

Will Worthing Borough Council take back responsibility for engaging on their equality duties from Community Works, who have no demonstrable experience in race equality when taking on the contract.

Cllr Daniel Humphreys replied the Council had no plans to change its relationship with Community Works.

Question 5 from Susie Pepper, a Worthing Resident

I am a member of B A M E Groups in Worthing, I have an obvious interest in the Community Cohesion Committee - as mentioned at the meeting on the 19th October. Please could you set out the timeframe for the setting up of the community cohesion committee?

Cllr Daniel Humphreys replied that the motion agreed by the Council on the 19th October would be considered by the Joint Governance Committee at its meeting in January 2022.

A supplementary question requested that the issue be addressed with greater urgency.

Cllr Humphreys and Cllr Jenkins advised that if it was possible, a report setting out next steps would be brought to the Joint Governance Committee on the 23rd November.

Question 6 from Susie Pepper, a Worthing Resident

As a member of most B A M E groups in Worthing, Please could you set out how the community cohesion committee will be constituted, in particular the council's B A M E leaders of this committee, and how community stakeholder groups in Worthing will be consulted?

Cllr Daniel Humphreys replied that the Joint Governance Committee would need to consider and make recommendations on the terms of reference for any new committee.

A supplementary question was asked in relation to contacting community leads.

Cllr Humphreys replied that there would be an opportunity for public questions at the start of committee meetings. Details for the submission of questions could be obtained from Officers.

C/41/21-22 Leader of Worthing Borough Council

(a) Resignation of Leader of the Council

Council received and noted the resignation of Councillor Daniel Humphreys as Leader of the Council.

The Mayor called for nominations for the position of Leader. Councillor Ed Crouch nominated Councillor Kevin Jenkins for the position and Councillor Heather Mercer seconded the nomination.

Resolved that Councillor Kevin Jenkins be appointed Leader of the Council for the period to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2022, this being the remainder of the term of office of the newly appointed leader as a Borough Councillor.

(b) Notification of New Group Leader

The Mayor invited the Secretary of the Conservative Group to confirm the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group on the Council.

Resolved that Council note that the Leader of the Conservative Group is Councillor Kevin Jenkins and the Deputy Leader of the Group is Councillor Ed Crouch.

(c) Any announcements by the new Leader of the Council

After paying tribute to the outgoing Leader of the Council, Councillor Daniel Humphreys, Councillor Jenkins announced that Councillor Ed Crouch would be Deputy leader of the Executive and also retain the Digital & Environmental Services portfolio.

Councillor Jenkins confirmed that he would retain the Regeneration portfolio as well as being Leader of the Executive and that he would update the Council on any other changes to the Executive at the December Full Council meeting.

C/42/21-22 Items raised under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items raised under urgency provisions.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.37pm

Mayor