

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

21 May 2020

Remote Meeting

Councillor George Barton, Chairman
Councillor Andy McGregor, Vice-Chairman

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

Absent

Councillor Pat Beresford, Councillor Clive Burghard and Councillor Brian Coomber

c/1/20-21 Election of the Chairman of the Council

Councillor Andy McGregor was proposed as Chairman by Councillor Neil Parkin which was seconded by Councillor Angus Dunn and approved upon a vote

Resolved: That Councillor Andy McGregor be elected Chairman for the municipal year 2020/2021

c/2/20-21 Election of the Vice Chairman of the Council

Councillor Stephen Chipp was proposed as Vice Chairman by Councillor Carson Albury which was seconded by Councillor Carol Albury and approved upon a vote

Resolved: That Councillor Stephen Chipp be elected Vice Chairman for the Municipal year 2020/21

c/3/20-21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received by Councillors Pat Beresford, Clive Burghard and Brian Coomber

c/4/20-21 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations made

c/5/20-21

Questions from the public

A Member of the public asked the following question: I note with concern the vacancy in Eastbrook ward caused by the sad death of Cllr Les Alden. Emergency legislation postponed the May 2020 election for a year. This leaves an acute democratic deficit in Eastbrook lasting some 18 months. This situation (or similar) applies across the country at present. These are unprecedented circumstances. Does the Council propose taking any action to address this reprehensible situation. The Leader told the Council that Section 89(3) Local Government Act 1972 provides that no by-election is held where a Councillor passes away within 6 months of his term of office coming to an end - rather the election to fill the casual vacancy arising is to be held at the next ordinary day of election, which would have been 7th May 2020. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Coronavirus Act 2020 came into force on 25th March 2020 and section 60 of the Act provides that all elections that were due to be held on 7th May 2020 are to be postponed until 6th May 2021. The Secretary of State made further regulations regarding Local Government elections on 7th April 2020. These regulations confirm at paragraph 5 that where a Councillor died giving rise to a casual vacancy that would have been held on 7th May 2020, no by election is to be held, and the election to fill the vacancy will be held at the next ordinary election day which is now 6th May 2021. The regulations are mandatory - they state that the election for this vacancy "is to be held" on the next ordinary election day and therefore there is no discretion for this Council to do anything else. If the Council were to hold a by election any earlier, in respect of the vacancy arising from Cllr Alden's death, it would be acting unlawfully.

A member of the public asked the following question: Given CV has delayed many plans will the council confirm that tenants will be consulted on responsive repairs policy. The Council was told that it would be working with the ACF to put a summary of the responsive Repairs Policy on their Website. The Council has previously carried out the following to consult residents. Links to the policy and form were posted regularly via social media and on the Adur Homes web pages. Posters were distributed to inform tenants where they could see the policy in hard copy form and fill in a consultation form if unable to get online (Shoreham Centre, Southwick Library, Shoreham Library and Lancing Library) Posters were also put up in flats communal areas - Sompting, Southwick and Fishergate etc. The Head of Housing shared The draft policy was shared with all members of the Adur Homes Management Board and discussed at a meeting.

A Member of the public asked the following question: Tenant engagement has yet again be put on the back burner, understandably so. The ACF, now known as Adur Tenants Forum (ATF) would like a guarantee that we will not lose momentum with engagement and there will be a push to restart talks as soon as possible. The Executive Member for Customer Services stated that the Council had been in the process of writing a new Tenant Engagement Strategy to replace the Tenant Participation Strategy 2008 and the Working Together Tenants' Compact 2009. The aim of the new strategy was to build on the achievements already made in tenant participation. This would include reviewing the Tenant Participation Strategy 2008 and the Working Together Tenants' Compact 2009. The new strategy would set out how Adur District Council will engage with all residents in its housing stock and create opportunities for tenants to be involved in working with Adur Homes to shape and develop its services. The new strategy, which tenants would be consulted on, would include an action plan on how the objectives in the strategy will be delivered. The delivery of the new strategy is being facilitated by Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS), who were successful following a tender process in September 2019, which both the Adur Consultative Forum

(ACF) and Sheltered Housing Action Review Panel (SHARP) were on the panel. A task and finish group, involving tenants (8) and staff (3) met with the facilitator from TPAS a number of times last year and early this year to review the current tenant engagement process following which a working document was produced. The task and finish group has not been able to meet due to the restrictions as some of them fall within the shield group. Arrangements were now being made to restart the group through using Video Conferencing to ensure members of the group are able to confirm with social distancing rules. The TPAS facilitator has confirmed that they can work with the group through this medium. Members of the group had been contacted to find out their IT needs (that is whether they have access to a computer, broadband and any training requirement to use these facilities). It was intended to restart this group within the next few weeks, when all IT requirements would have been resolved.

A Member asked How is Adur District Council soliciting local opinion to inform West Sussex County Council on priorities for cycle paths and other measures as per government policy, in addition to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, given that this represents an additional, one off opportunity? The Leader of the Council told the meeting that the council were working with WSCC colleagues to expedite cycling and walking infrastructure across Adur. This was welcome news as there had been an increase in uptake during the lockdown period. The Council had provided three high level suggestions to West Sussex County Council that had been drawn from the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) development process. This was an evidence based approach which included a full public consultation from December 2019 - January 2020. The consultation drew over 300 representations, with a higher number coming from Adur. Further information would be forthcoming at the next Joint Strategic Committee.

A Member of the public asked the following question: When will work start on the construction of temporary cycle lanes, in line with central government policy, given that public endorsement for specific routes has already been secured through the LCWIP process? The meeting was told that the Council was working closely with West Sussex County Council to see the project commence, however, it was stressed that West Sussex County Council were responsible for delivering the construction.

c/6/20-21 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2020 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

c/7/20-21 Announcements by the Chairman, Leader of the Council, Executive Members and / or Head of Paid Service

The Chairman informed the Council of his charities for the forthcoming year.

The Chief Executive told the Council about work undertaken during the Covid-19 lockdown

c/8/20-21 Vote of Thanks to the retiring Chairman

Resolved: that the Chairman be thanked for his work over the previous 12 months

c/9/20-21 Adur District Council Constitution

Before the Council was a report by the Monitoring Officer, a copy of which was sent to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

The Council debated the report and being proposed and seconded the recommendations within the report were approved

Resolved:

That the Council note and endorse the changes made by the Monitoring Officer to:

- i) the Council Procedure Rules on 22nd April 2020
- ii) the Protocol for Remote Council and Committee Meetings on 22nd April 2020
- iii) the Protocol on Public Speaking at Remote Council Planning Committee Meetings on 6th May 2020
- iv) The Council's Petition Scheme on 12th May 2020
- v) the Joint Committee Agreement with Worthing Borough Council on 12th May 2020

2. That the Council formally adopt these documents into the Adur District Council Constitution.

c/10/20-21 Schedule of Council Meetings and Attendance by Councillors

Before the Committee was a report by the Monitoring Officer, a copy of which had been sent to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

The proposals within the report were proposed seconded and voted upon

Resolved:

1 That Adur District Council approves Councillor Mear's absence from Council meetings for a 6 month period from 31st October 2019 to 30th April 2020 and notes the Chief Executive's use of delegated powers in relation to this absence.

2 That Adur District Council approves Councillor Monk's absence from Council meetings for a period of 6 months from 31st October 2019 to 30th April 2020 and notes the Chief Executive's use of delegated powers in relation to this absence.

3 That Adur District Council approves Councillor Metcalfe's absence from Council meetings for a period of 6 months from 31st October 2019 to 30th April 2020 and notes the Chief Executive's use of delegated powers in relation to this absence.

4 That Adur District Council approves Councillor Beresford's absence at Council meetings since 19th December 2019.

5 Should Councillor Haywood be absent from the Adur District Council meeting on 21st May 2020, that the Council approves her absence at Council meetings since 19th December 2019.

6 That the Council notes the cancellation of the Adur District Council meeting scheduled to take place on 23rd April 2020 and the Chief Executive's use of delegated powers in this regard.

c/11/20-21 Decision Making 2020/21

Before the Council was a report by the Director for Communities, a copy of which was circulated by all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

The recommendations within the report were proposed and seconded and debated. A proposal was made that an alternative opposition Chair be appointed for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The proposal was seconded but not supported when voted upon.

The recommendations and proposals within the report were voted upon and approved.

Resolved:

1. That the Council confirms the Terms of Reference of the Council, Executive, Committees and Sub-Committees as outlined in Part 3 of the Constitution including those relating to Joint Committee Agreements.
2. That the Council appoints to the Committees in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups on the Council, as detailed in Annex B.
3. That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Committees be appointed until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2021.
4. Under Council Procedure Rule 39, Council notes the appointment of the Leader of the Labour Group on the Council as the Leader of the Main Opposition.

c/12/20-21 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

A) Adur Homes Responsive Repair Policy

The Leader proposed that the matter be postponed to allow for further consultation.

Resolved: that the matter be postponed to allow for further consultation with the Adur Consultative Forum.

B) Adur and Worthing Councils Housing Strategy 2020-2023: 'Enabling communities to thrive in their own home'

The Leader introduced the issue to the Council and moved the recommendation which was seconded

On a vote the recommendations were approved

Resolved: that the new Adur and Worthing Housing Strategy for 2020-2023 be adopted by Adur District Council

C) Strategic Property Investment Fund 2020 and the Annual Commercial Property Investment Strategy 2020/21

The Leader answered questions relating to the status of the fund given the Covid-19 lockdown and introduced the recommendation to the Council

The Council debated the matter and on a vote the recommendations were approved

Resolved: That Adur District Council adopt the Commercial Property Investment Strategy for 2020-2021;

c/13/20-21 Report of the Leader on Executive Decisions taken

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 13.

There were no statements made by the Executive and there were no questions under this item.

c/14/20-21 Members question time under Council Procedure Rule 12

Cllr Cowen asked the following question: A recent council press release (<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/news/pr20-044.html>) praised residents for increasing recycling rates across both councils. This was due to a combination of fortnightly refuse collections, warm weather and COVID-19, but without going into much detail about the weighting of those factors. There's no doubt this year is an outlier because of COVID-19. The press release then goes on to say that general waste was down 150 tonnes and recycling waste up by 255 tonnes. That means we're actually throwing away 105 tonnes more. Does the executive member agree with me that an overall increase in waste of 105 tonnes is no cause for celebration? The Executive Member for the Environment told the Council that there had been a reduction in residual waste and an increase in recycling. The Council had managed to maintain a 100% service during the lockdown period and the service overall was a cause for celebration.

c/15/20-21 Items raised under urgency provisions

There were no urgent items

c/16/20-21 Motions on Notice

Before the Council was a Motion received from Councillor Lee Cowen and seconded by Councillor Ann Bridges. Members debated the motion and on a vote the motion was carried

Resolved:

This Council abhors racism in all forms and is particularly concerned at the rise in profile and frequency of antisemitism nationally.

Adur District Council wishes to join with the Government and other local authorities across the UK in signing up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance guidelines on antisemitism which define antisemitism thus:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish Community institutions and religious facilities.”

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

The guidelines highlight manifestations of antisemitism as including:

- ‘calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion
- making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions
- accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust)
- accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust
- accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour
- applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation
- using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis
- drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis
- holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel’

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 pm, having commenced at 7.00 pm

Chairman