Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at the Town Hall Chapel Road Worthing

18 February 2014

6.00pm

The Mayor, Councillor Bob Smytherman
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Vic Walker

Councillor Noel Atkins  Councillor Mark Nolan
Councillor Roy Barraclough  Councillor Roger Oakley
*Councillor Keith Bickers  *Councillor David Potter
Councillor Joan Bradley  Councillor Alan Rice
Councillor Christine Brown  Councillor Clive Roberts
Councillor David Chapman  Councillor John Rogers
*Councillor Michael Cloake  Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
Councillor Michael Donin  *Councillor Keith Sunderland
Councillor Trevor England  Councillor Victoria Taylor
Councillor Graham Fubes  Councillor Hazel Thorpe
Councillor Norah Fisher  Councillor Bryan Turner
Councillor Paul High  Councillor Val Turner
Councillor Paul Howard  Councillor Vicki Vaughan
Councillor Daniel Humphreys  Councillor Vino Vinojan
Councillor Charles James  Councillor Waight
*Councillor Diane Jones  Councillor Tom Wey
Councillor Mary Lermitte  Councillor Paul Yallop
Councillor Carol Molineaux

*=absent

Officers: Chief Executive, Strategic Directors (AG and JM), Executive Head of Financial Services, Solicitor to the Council and the Democratic Services Manager

C/048/13-14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bickers, Cloake, Jones, Potter and Sunderland.

C/049/13-14 Declarations of Interest

The Mayor invited Members and Officers to declare any interests they may have in matters on the agenda.

The Mayor declared a personal interest in the Notice of Motion (Mental Health Challenge) announcing that he would be leaving the Chamber for the item.

C/050/13-14 Petitions

The Mayor invited any petitioners to come forward, no Petitions were submitted.
The Mayor invited any members of the public present to address Council.

Joel Shepherd addressed the Council regarding investing in additional Police equipment at a cost of £300 per unit to enable video cameras to be combined within their uniforms to record public interaction. The Mayor explained that matters relating to the Police should be addressed to Katy Bourne the Police Crime Commissioner for Sussex. The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing indicated that the technology was felt to be valuable where currently in use however the purchase costs would require a reduction in another area of the police budget.

Helz Cuppleditch addressed Council regarding whether the Council was satisfied as to safety measures to support planning applications for hydrocarbon exploration and extraction in the Borough and whether independent research had been undertaken to support this. The Mayor indicated that this matter, also known as ‘fracking’ was a matter for West Sussex County Council’s planning committee which determined any applications. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration indicated that as the Deputy Chairman of the WSCC’s Planning Committee was present, he may wish to answer the question from Ms Cuppleditch. Councillor Rogers, in his capacity as the Vice-Chairman of the WSCC Planning Committee stated that at there were no planning applications before County at the present time.

Fabrice Bardsley addressed the Council on transparency in public life where public confidence in those making decisions, particularly in planning and licencing matters, could be undermined; the example of Freemasonry was cited with a request that Councillors declare any membership of these Societies. Councillors Fabes and Wye declared their membership of the Freemasons. The Mayor indicated that the Members Register of Interests was available on the Internet and on request from the Council.

The Mayor announced that a minor amendment to the minutes of 17 December 2013 was required as two councillors (Oakley and Waight) had been missed off the section on the recorded vote.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meetings of the Councils held on 17 December 2013, as amended, and 13 January 2014 be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

The Mayor announced that part of the Chief Executive’s proposals approved at the last Council meeting related to organisational changes, as Mayor he wished to take the opportunity to formally recognise and thank members of staff who have agreed to take voluntary redundancy, these key workers have given many years of hard and loyal service to our Council.

Andrew Gardiner who in 2006 left Worthing BC and joined Adur DC as Director of Resources to then become Strategic Director for both Councils in 2008, he had started working for Worthing BC in 1979. Paul Spedding, the Executive Head of Housing, Health and Community Safety, had joined Adur DC in 1978 when he started as an Accounts Assistant working his way up to many senior officer positions over the years. Bill Parsons, the Corporate Strategy Manager who joined Worthing BC in
1999, was appointed as the two Councils’ Performance, Scrutiny and Communications Manager in 2009. Beth Carder who joined Adur DC in 1990 from Gateway Supermarket becoming PA to the Strategic Director in 2009. Jeremy Cook, Executive Head of Corporate and Cultural Services joined Adur Council in 1999, holding various legal positions including Monitoring Officer, Jeremy was very much involved in the transition of assisting in the legal side of the Adur & Worthing working partnership. In 2013 Jeremy received a Strategic Leadership in Modern Local Government Award. Jeremy would be with the Councils until June to see the Councils through the elections in May and to assist with the smooth transition to the new Directors.

The Mayor advised that Worthing was hoping to become the 2nd dementia friendly town in West Sussex, after Crawley therefore encouragement was given to Members become ‘dementia friends’. The Mayor’s charity Guild Care and Alzheimers would will be running training sessions over the forthcoming months and the next one for Members would be before the next council meeting on Tuesday 15 April at around 5.00 pm, details would be confirmed.

The Mayor announced some forthcoming charity events:-

(i) The Mayor’s Charity Swim at Splashpoint on 22nd March 2014 from 5.00 to 9.00 p.m. - Support for lane counters would be mostly appreciated.

(ii) The Mayor’s Charity Cabaret Night with Fish and Chip Supper at the Pavilion Theatre on 26th April 2014 at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are available @ £15 per person from the Worthing Box office. Book soon to avoid disappointment – ticket sales were going very well

C/054/13-14 Urgent Items

The Mayor announced that there were no urgent items.

C/055/13-14 Civic Budget and Council Tax 2014/15

The Mayor invited the Leader to address Council on the recommendation from Cabinet on 3 February, a copy having been circulated as item 9A and contained in the separate blue covered budget book. At the meeting cream pages with the full resolution required by Council were placed on the table.

The Leader congratulated front line staff for their efforts over the past few weeks. The Parks and Forshaw staff had done an excellent job of cleaning up after each and every storm, refuse collections had continued with minimal interruption to their usual high standards of service, the engineers and emergency planning staff had been busy ensuring swift action was taken to protect homes from the risk of flooding.

The Leader spoke on Worthing’s position in the recently released Cities Outlook 2014 report which compared prospects of 64 major Cities and Towns, the Town featured as one of the top places to invest and live; the number of JSA claimants had fallen with 1.9% of the workforce registered in November 2013 compared with 2.8% 12 months’ earlier; the town had 9th highest number of patents registered per capita; the town with the lowest percentage of workers with no formal qualifications.
The Town was supporting the local economy and job creation with Rayner International granted planning permission for a high tech plant in Dominion Way bringing 200 manufacturing jobs; GSK - recently announcing a £120m investment in Worthing. Teledyne, 30 new high tech jobs, increasing production and exporting worldwide from Worthing and Lemo - Manufacturer of fibre optic connectors including HD TV Camera Connectors.

In an ONS study last Summer Worthing had been featured as one of the least deprived English seaside resorts, “thriveing" and "affluent" were descriptive of a Coastal Town that had turned the corner.

WSCC have recently confirmed their kickstart funding can be used to deliver aspects of the East Beach Active Beach Zone which was originally featured in the 2006 Worthing Masterplan. Somewhat critical in the past of the funding passed down to Worthing by WSCC , the Leader was pleased to confirm some significant progress on investment including: the repaving of Montague Street, school building projects to allow the Age of Transfer changes, the redevelopment of Northbrook and Worthing Colleges.

Other investments in the Town were 770 homes under construction, the refitting of the Southern Pavilion on the Pier, and of course Splashpoint Leisure Centre opened in June 2013 that won the 2013 World Architecture Festival Sport Category in Singapore. 750,000 visitors were expected in its first year of operation, Fit4 membership had increased by 25% with up over 100% in the last three years from 4400 to 8950. The building had won a Civic Trust Award to be presented in Blackpool later this year.

Openspace investments included children’s playgrounds, Community Gardening schemes and self-management of the West Tarring allotments; the grounds maintenance service was now provided in partnership with Adur DC and the Ice Rink had returned again on Steyne Gardens and the National Playing Out scheme was being supported.

The Council had supported a second Youth focussed Participatory Budget event - The Money Tree which has £20k for youth project, launched a collective Energy Switch and created a Community Hub within the Town Hall for residents and local businesses. This had been possible with the partnership working with Adur DC which saw the new shared Portland House accommodation open providing a one shop stop for council.

From April the Council would be trialling a new tariff structure within our Multi Storey Car Parks where customers can park for up to five hours for just £1 per hour. The Leader anticipated this would support local shop businesses which taken with the investment in Montague Street repaving would encourage other branded stores to invest in the Town.

Alex Bailey joined the Council on the retirement of the previous Chief Executive, his brief was to keep Adur and Worthing Councils at the leading edge of Local Government modernisation. The ‘Catching the Wave’ programme would focus on grabbing the opportunities which the economic upturn provided whilst keeping the focus on the Community.

The budget before the Council provided for a 0% council tax increase for the fourth successive year, a 12% cut over the period. Following representations the
Government’s Council Tax Freeze Grants had been protected within our base budget, this year the budget would be balanced with a small contribution from reserves. Some limited growth with funding from reserves was included to support additional resources for events co-ordination and engineering capacity to deal with flood defences, with extra support proposed to ensure our Estates office disposes of surplus assets in a timely manner.

The Leader thanked his Cabinet members for their hard work over the past year together; he further thanked Sarah Gobey and her team, who produced the budget for 2014/15.

The Leader proposed the Civic Budget and the formal Tax Resolution as set out in the papers before Council; the Leader further proposed that in line with recent guidance from Government I also propose that all votes are named and recorded. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Humphreys.

The Leader of the Opposition was invited to address Council, using literary analogies he likened the administration’s attention to car parks as needing to rename Worthing to ‘Car Park One’. On the proposed budget mention was made of an article in the Herald where the Leader stated that Theatres were losing £3,000 per day, in the proposed budget, the cost was £3,264.08 per day, Splashpoint was budgeted to cost £3,191.18 per day – slightly less than Theatres whilst the car parks evening being brought in house was expect to have a surplus of £2,590.58 per day. He questioned what had happened to the NCP’s profit.

The Lib Dems had proposed money for new housing to support the vulnerable in the Town, improving buses and reducing Council tax but these hadn’t been taken up by the Administration.

He proposed an amendment to the budget based on ‘something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue’. An increase in the frequency of the No 7 bus which ran from High Salvington, through the town to Lancing. Connecting the town centres, supporting those without cars and those with less income this was a vital service to support the elderly with their shopping trolleys and young parents whom currently only had an hourly service. He proposed £100,000 be released from reserves to support this amendment. He further proposed that Adur should be asked to contribute as the service passed into Adur.

In mentioning a presentation from the CAB to the Joint Strategic Committee on the consequences of the changes to council tax and discretionary housing payments with a plea for the Council to assist with the additional costs, the Leader of the Opposition proposed that monies be release from reserves to support this proposal.

The final proposal came from the Government which expected that Councils with reserves in excess of 5% the annual revenue spend to use the money to benefit the residents. He therefore proposed that, using the General Working Fund Balance, he calculated that there was a 3% capacity or £713,750 for the amendment.

In full the amendment was as follows to be used to support the more vulnerable and less mobile Worthing residents:

To add to clauses between (a) and (b) – re-lettering (b) to (d):
(b) to release £240,386 from reserves to bring the total amount available for discretionary housing payments to the Government limit of £400,643

(c) to release £100,000 to facilitate the restoring of the Stagecoach no. 7 bus route to a half-hourly service

In speaking to the amendment, concern was expressed that once used reserves could not be replaced. If the bus company felt that an increase service was viable, as a business it had the option of investment in the frequency of the buses, perhaps WSCC could invest more. It was pointed out that there had been adequate opportunity to present amendments to the budget, including the JOSC which had scrutinised the budget proposals.

In support of the amendment Members were encouraged to support the less well off in the community and those less fortunate.

On a recorded vote for the proposed amendment:

**Those voting for the proposal (7)**
Councillors Brown, Chapman, Donin, Fisher, Rice, Taylor and Thorpe

**Those voting against the proposal (23)**

**Those abstaining (2)**
Councillors Smytherman* and Walker* (* as Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively)

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

On the debate on the proposed Council Tax for 2014/15, the proposal was supported by a number of Members explaining that a 0% increase was supporting those on lower income by not cutting services nor increasing the Council tax.

Opposing the proposed budget felt that a small increase could increase services, protect key services and secure jobs.

On a recorded vote as follows on the proposed Council Tax the following is recorded:

**Those voting for the proposal (23)**

**Those voting against the proposal (0)**

**Those abstaining (9)**
Councillors Brown, Chapman, Donin, Fisher, Rice, Smytherman*, Taylor, Thorpe, Walker* (* as Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively)
Resolved that Council agreed the following:

i. The draft budgets for 2014/15 at Appendix 7 as submitted in Cabinet Member Portfolio order and the transfer to Reserves leading to a net budget requirement of £14,003,510

ii. The Council Tax for Worthing’s requirements in 2014/15 be £216.00 for a Band D equivalent property

Following from the above resolutions, the Council approved the following:

1. Noted that on 3rd February 2014, the Cabinet calculated the Council Tax Base 2014/15 as \(35,329.0\) [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)];

2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2014/15 is £7,631,060.00.

3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2014/15 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

   (a) \(\£83,634,440\) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.

   (b) \(\£76,003,380\) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

   (c) \(\£7,631,060\) being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R), in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).

   (d) \(\£216.00\) being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

   (e) \(\£0.00\) being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

   (f) \(\£216.00\) being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
4. Noted that for the year 2014/15 the West Sussex County Council and The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council’s area as indicated in the table below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All of the Council’s Area 2014/15</th>
<th>Band A £</th>
<th>Band B £</th>
<th>Band C £</th>
<th>Band D £</th>
<th>Band E £</th>
<th>Band F £</th>
<th>Band G £</th>
<th>Band H £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worthing Borough Council</td>
<td>144.00</td>
<td>168.00</td>
<td>192.00</td>
<td>216.00</td>
<td>264.00</td>
<td>312.00</td>
<td>360.00</td>
<td>432.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Sussex County Council</td>
<td>774.66</td>
<td>903.77</td>
<td>1,032.88</td>
<td>1,161.99</td>
<td>1,420.21</td>
<td>1,678.43</td>
<td>1,936.65</td>
<td>2,323.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex</td>
<td>94.08</td>
<td>109.76</td>
<td>125.44</td>
<td>141.12</td>
<td>172.48</td>
<td>203.84</td>
<td>235.20</td>
<td>282.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. In accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council hereby sets the amounts shown in table shown above, as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/15 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All of the Council’s Area</th>
<th>Band A £</th>
<th>Band B £</th>
<th>Band C £</th>
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<th>Band E £</th>
<th>Band F £</th>
<th>Band G £</th>
<th>Band H £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,012.74</td>
<td>1,181.53</td>
<td>1,350.32</td>
<td>1,519.11</td>
<td>1,856.69</td>
<td>2,194.27</td>
<td>2,531.85</td>
<td>3,038.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C/056/13-14 Recommendations from the Executive and Council Committees

A Cabinet – 3 February 2014

This item was dealt with under the previous minute.

B Joint Governance and Audit Committee – 6 February 2014 Greater Brighton City Deal and Greater Brighton Economic Board

Before Council was an extract from the minutes on page 9.

The Joint Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Atkins presented the item to Council, it was seconded by Councillor Val Turner.

Resolved that Council

i. Approved the establishment on 1st April 2014 of the Greater Brighton Economic Board constituted in accordance with the Heads of Terms specified in Appendix One to the report, subject to all other bodies represented on the Board agreeing that it be so established;

ii. Approved the appointment on 1st April 2014 of a joint committee to be known as the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee constituted in accordance
with the Heads of Terms specified in Appendix One, subject to all other bodies represented on the Committee agreeing that it be so established;

iii. delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Strategic Director, Mr Mitchell, to take all measures necessary for or incidental to the establishment of the Greater Brighton Economic Board and the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee and their ongoing management and administration;

iv. Confirmed the appointment of both Leaders of Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council as representatives of their respective authority on the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee and the Greater Brighton Economic Board;

v. Approved agreement that the right to request that a decision of the Board be called in pursuant to paragraph 1.3 of the call-in protocol set out at appendix one, schedule one, be exercised at the behest of any three members of the Council;

vi. delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Council’s Constitution to reflect the above resolutions.

C Joint Strategic Committee - 6 February 2014

(i) Joint Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2014/15

Before Council was an extract from the minutes on page 11.

The Leader introduced the item to Council; the proposal was seconded by Councillor Humphreys.

Resolved that the Prudential Indicators and Limits, and Minimum Revenue Provision Statements detailed in the report be approved.

(ii) Mental Health Challenge

The item was to be dealt with under the item 14 on the agenda.

C/057/13-14 Committee Resolutions

The Council had the opportunity to ask questions on minutes of the following Committee meetings: Planning of 18 December and 15 January, Joint Strategic of 7 January and 6 February, Joint Staff of 10 January, Joint Overview and Scrutiny of 30 January, Joint Governance and Audit of 16 January and Cabinet of 3 February.

Joint Strategic – 6 February 2014 –

On the Revised Housing Allocations Policy, the Cabinet Member was asked to comment on the change to the residential qualification and how this impacted on the choice base letting scheme. The response was that local residents were being safeguarded to allocate to them the local limited supply of accommodation
Regarding flood risk management, a question was asked on how local residents would be involved in the consultation process; the Cabinet Member took on board the comment.

Arising in the discussion on the flooding item, comment was made that the minutes were incorrect as published on the Council’s website, the Mayor indicated that in future the minutes published would indicate their ‘unconfirmed’ status until approved by the respective committee at its next meeting.

C/058/13-14  Leader’s Report on decisions taken by the Executive

The Leader’s report on decisions taken by the Executive since the last Council meeting was received by Council, as item 11. A copy is attached to the signed copy of these minutes.

On a question the Leader, declined to announce the financial package received for the Aquarena site.

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services was asked to comment on bringing empty houses back into use to alleviate the homelessness crisis and whether it was lack of resources that was preventing this work. The Cabinet Member explained that a new officer had been appointed, unfortunately a government grant application had been refused but she was expecting work to be undertaken in this area as a priority.

The Cabinet Member for the Environment was asked to comment on a verbal comment made to a councillor on the lack of technicians and crew meaning that two collection vehicles had been utilised where one was sufficient. The Cabinet Member undertook to look in the details and respond directly to the questioner.

The Cabinet Member for Resources was asked to comment on the availability and sufficiency of S106 monies for the refurbishment of Montague Street. He confirmed that resources were sufficient.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing was asked to comment on the take up of energy switching, to which he responded.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration was asked to comment on the potential loss of the Dolphin Public House to the local community, he responded that there was a decline in local usage.

C/059/13-14  Questions under Standing Order 2.6

The following questions were asked by Councillor Rice:

In view of the recent adverse weather including heavy rain, strong winds and high tides:

(a) Please can the Cabinet Member for Regeneration inform the Council:

   (i) What were the instances of overtopping in the last three months and could any be considered serious?
   (ii) Are there any sea defence works necessary or planned for the near future?
(iii) Has any money from the WSCC Operation Watershed been used in Worthing?
(iv) Would a lagoon on the seafront be a positive step to counter future possible inundations?

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration responded:

(i) There have been a few instances of the sea overtopping at Brooklands, Ham Road, Splash Point and between the Pier and Lido in the last three months but none are considered to be serious.
(ii) The Council is preparing a Beach Management Plan for the area between the River Arun and the River Adur in partnership with Adur and Arun Councils, which will lead to schemes for groyne repair/replacements in due course.
(iii) No grants from Operation Watershed have yet been made by the Council but this does not mean that WSCC themselves have not spent any money in the town.
(iv) Work is being planned for Worthing depending on the Beach Management Plan any lagoon may be considered during that planning.

Information can be found in the Rivers Arun to Adur Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy and Plan which can be found on the Environment Agency’s website.

(b) Please can the Cabinet Member for the Environment inform the Council:

(i) Were there any serious instances of flooding from drainage or sewers in the last three months?
(ii) Is it true the Teville Stream and/or its tributaries are not flowing properly?
(iii) When was there last an inspection of streams and ditches for which WBC is responsible?
(iv) Has any money from the WSCC Operation Watershed been used in Worthing?

The Cabinet Member for Environment responded:

(i) There were no serious instances of flooding but as the County Council are the Lead Local Flood Authority they are the responsible authority for the overall management.
(ii) It is not true the Teville stream, were it can be seen, is flowing properly, unable to comment on cannot be seen.
(iii) Last Friday (14th February 2014) all critical watercourses were inspected and cleared as preventative maintenance
(iv) No grants from Operation Watershed have yet been made by the Council but this does not mean that WSCC themselves have not spent any money in the town, works being undertaken in Littlehampton Road near the roundabout.

There were no supplementary questions.
C/060/13-14   Mayoral Selection

In accordance with the procedure agreed at Council on 9 December 2008, (Standing Order 3.1.4) the Mayor requested nominations from the Group Leaders for the person to serve as Mayor in 2015/16, on the basis that he or she will first serve as Deputy Mayor in 2014/15.

The Leader of the Opposition proposed Councillor Michael Donin as Deputy Mayor for 2014/15, the Leader, Councillor Yallop seconded the proposal.

Resolved that Councillor Mikeal Donin serve as Mayor in 2015/16, on the basis that he would first serve as Deputy Mayor in 2014/15.

The Mayor left the chamber for the next item, the Deputy Mayor took the Chair.

C/061/13-14   Notices of Motion

Mental Health Challenge

Council had before the recommendation from the Joint Strategic Committee as item 7c ii which followed a the Notice of Motion to the meeting of the Council in December. The original notice of motion was also submitted for reference.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Rice and seconded by Councillor Fisher including the nomination of Councillor Smytherman as the Mental Health Champion.

The Leader proposed the recommendation from the Joint Strategic Committee, seconded by Councillor Roberts. In support of the recommendation the Leader explained that any of the proposals in the Notice of Motion were already undertaken by the Wellbeing Team working with the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing therefore he proposed that the role of mental health champion be added to that portfolio with immediate effect.

Members spoke in favour of Councillor Smytherman being appointed due to his knowledge and understanding of the issues surrounding the challenges facing families with mental health issues in their midst, if the proposal was approved the Cabinet Member was asked to include Councillor Smytherman for his valuable input.

On a vote the amendment was accepted.

Resolved that
i. the Council sign up to the Mental Health Challenge
ii. the position of mental health champion be permanently added to the Portfolio with responsibly for mental health issues, currently the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.17pm