

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber at the
Town Hall Chapel Road Worthing on**

25 October 2016

The Mayor, Councillor Sean McDonald
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alex Harman

Councillor Noel Atkins	Councillor Nigel Morgan
Councillor Antony Baker	Councillor Louise Murphy
Councillor Paul Baker	Councillor Mark Nolan
Councillor Roy Barraclough	Councillor Luke Proudfoot
Councillor Keith Bickers	*Councillor Clive Roberts
Councillor Joan Bradley	Councillor Jane Sim
Councillor Callum Buxton	Councillor Bob Smytherman
Councillor Edward Crouch	Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
*Councillor James Doyle	Councillor Hazel Thorpe
Councillor Diane Guest	Councillor Bryan Turner
Councillor Lionel Harman	Councillor Val Turner
Councillor Joshua High	Councillor Vicky Vaughan
Councillor Paul High	Councillor Steve Waight
Councillor Daniel Humphreys	Councillor Paul Westover
Councillor Susan Jelliss	Councillor Steve Wills
Councillor Kevin Jenkins	Councillor Mark Withers
Councillor Heather Mercer	Councillor Tom Wye
	Councillor Paul Yallop

*=absent

Councillor Bradley left the meeting at 7.25 during the item 'Mayoral Announcements'.

C/024/16-17 Apologies for absence

No Apologies for absence were received from Councillors.

C/025/16-17 Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to make any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, the following declarations were made:

Councillor Mark Nolan declared a pecuniary interest in item 5 as an employee of Southern Water.

Councillor Smytherman declared a personal interest in the Town Centre Initiative and as the Town Crier.

Councillor Crouch declared a personal interest as a paid Director of Worthing Homes in item 8A(iii).

During item 8 Councillor Murphy a personal interest as a paid Director of Worthing Homes.

During item 11 (Members Questions) mention was made of West Sussex County Council; Councillors B Turner, P High, B Smytherman, S Waight all declared a personal interest as a County Councillor.

C/026/16-17 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 July 2016, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Mayor.

C/027/16-17 Questions from the public

The Mayor announced that there were 30 minutes for public questions but no registered questions had been received for the meeting.

The Mayor invited those members of the public present to address Council if they so wished.

Mr Sharman addressed Council on behalf of local residents on their continuing concerns at the state of Brooklands particularly the issues with algae he wished the Council to treat the area as a community asset and sort out the problems.

Mr Smith asked Councillors present in the chamber to indicate by a show of hands how many had recently visited Brooklands. (*A number of councillors so indicated*).

Councillor Nolan left the Council Chamber.

C/028/16-17 Petition to Council

Council had before it a joint report from the Solicitor to the Council and the Director for Communities on a Petition submitted to the Council. The report is attached to the minutes as item 5, the details of the petition stated 'we have serious concerns about the condition of Brooklands Lake and require the Council to have it dredged and cleaned'.

As Petition organiser, Mr Jim Smith addressed Council to support his Petition.

The 1500 people who had signed the Petition over a 3 week were unified in their concern for the state of Brooklands lake and the wildlife there. Mr Smith spoke on the attendance of WADARS at the lake to support the wildlife including the removal of some birds until the water cleared. Mr Smith spoke on the disappearance of various warning signs from the lake, which had not been replaced. Speaking of the general environment of the site Mr Smith stated that the banks and stream were overgrown and hazardous with much attention needed for the whole site. The Environment Agency had tested the water finding blue green algae, Mr Smith quoted from the Agency's website that it was the 'local authority's responsibility to take action'; he called on the council to take action, the Brooklands area should be a showcase for the Borough to encourage future generations to enjoy the park.

In the absence of the Executive Member for the Environment, the Leader responded to the Petition on behalf of the Council, he proposed that the officers bring a wide ranging report to the Joint Strategic Committee with details of the absolute price for works at Brooklands Lake, timeframe and a plan that together with partners a solution could be enabled.

Councillor Mercer seconded the proposal.

In debating the recommendation an amendment was put to refer the matter to Overview and Scrutiny to find out what had gone wrong. Following proposal being second, the amendment was debated. Councillors indicated that the residents wanted action with the best place for this being a decision at the Joint Strategic Committee.

On a vote there were For 3 Against 29 Abstention 2

A number of members stood to speak in support of a report and decision at the Joint Strategic Committee.

On a Vote there were For 34 Against 0 Abstention 0

Resolved that the Petition be referred to the Joint Strategic Committee for determination; with information provided as to costs, partnership working and timescales.

Councillor Nolan returned to the Council Chamber

C/029/16-17 Announcements by the Mayor, Leader, Executive Members, Head of Paid Service

The Mayor was pleased to announce that at a recent awards evening held at The Spinnaker Tower, the Planning Team, together with Worthing Homes, had won the Royal Town Planning Institute's Regional Planning Award - for Excellence in Planning to deliver Housing. The Regional Chairman said, *Meadow Road is an outstanding housing scheme which demonstrates effective community involvement, commitment to sustainable design and a clear focus on delivering high quality accommodation for new residents. This is an exceptional example of how planners worked with architects to deliver good quality housing.* In addition to the this award the Council brought home the Overall Prize planning in the South East for the Meadow Road scheme, James Appleton (Head of Growth) came forward to receive the two awards.

The Mayor introduced the TS Vanguard Mayoral Cadets for 2016-2017, Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) Christopher Emery from Lancing representing the Royal Marines Cadets and Able Cadet (A/C) Lilly Thomas from Worthing representing the Sea Cadets. Details of the Cadets had already been circulated to members.

The Mayor detailed the Lord Lieutenant's awards which had been presented the previous week; a number of the recipients were Worthing residents for which he had been proud to see the achievements rewarded. A number of the recipients had been invited to the Council meeting and were presented to the Council.

The Mayor also announced that the Councillors had won the annual Mayor v officers cricket Match. The Chief Executive accepted the Man of the Match award for David Freud and collected the wooden spoon. The Mayor expressed his thanks to the sponsors of the event (£1 for every run made by the officers); Martin Perry , Peter Cadwallader, Director UpLift Property; Jackie Bligh, CE Worthing Homes; Jonathan Candelon, MD Flying Time Aviation; Duncan Anderson, CE South Downs Leisure and Ben Cheal, MD Roffey Homes Ltd - , a number of contributors gave cheques greater than the 121 run total.

The Mayor offered congratulations to the Deputy Mayor Alex and his wife Fran on their recent marriage.

The Mayor detailed a recent humanitarian visit he had made to Kursk in Russia with Councillor Murphy; encouraging a reciprocal welcome in the future.

On events he had attended these included a number of residents celebrating their 90th and 95th Birthdays the same as HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh; he had also visited a number of centenarians and those over 100.

Forthcoming events for the Remembrance Events were 7 November, Opening of the Field of Remembrance; 11 November Armistice Day and 13 November Remembrance Sunday. Details would be forwarded to Members. Events for the Mayor's Charities were 18 November Laurel and Hardy by the Sea Convention; the Mayor's Carol Service on 4 December and 11 December Carol singing at the Ardington Hotel.

Finally the Mayor announced the recent death of former Borough Planning Officer and Director of Planning and Environmental Services, Mr Tony Clarke, on 12 October in a hospice in Torquay.

The Leader announced that since the last full council meeting there had been the opening of the development of Montague Place and he had visited BoHunt School - both were WSCC investments in Worthing.

The Executive Member for the Health and Wellbeing welcomed the new Director for Communities Mary D'Arcy to the Council. She asked that it be placed on record the excellent work by Tina Favier as the interim Director since John Mitchell had left. The Mayor agreed to write on behalf of Council to Tina Favier.

The Chief Executive had no announcements for Council.

C/030/16-17 Items raised under the urgency provisions

There were no urgent items for Council.

C/031/16-17 Recommendations from the Executive and Committees to Council

Council had before it recommendations from the Joint Strategic Committee of 13 September and the Joint Governance Committee of 27 September 2016, on pages 9 to 19, of the Council agenda, with a copy attached to the minutes as item 8. The recommendations from the Joint Strategic Committee of 11 October and the Joint Governance Sub-Committee of 17 October had been circulated separately as items 8C and 8D respectively, these are also attached to the minutes.

Joint Strategic Committee -13 September 2016

(i) 1st Capital investment Programme and Projects Monitoring

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on pages 10 of the agenda; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor Nolan.

On a vote

For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that the Council approved the creation of an ICT Budget of £10,900 for the provision of broadband, Wifi and ICT equipment for the newly refurbished Colonnade House Artists' Studios funded from overall underspends in the 2016/2017 Capital Investment Programme as detailed in paragraph 5.4.1 of the report to the Committee.

(ii) Outline Forecast 2017-18 and budget strategy

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on page 11 of the agenda; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor Nolan.

On a vote

For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that Worthing Council approved the Budget Strategy for 2017/18, outlined in Section 9 of the report to the committee.

(iii) Improving the supply of temporary accommodation

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on page 9 of the agenda; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor Wye.

Members spoke to support the proposal and were pleased to see positive, innovative solutions to progress the supply of temporary accommodation for those most in need.

On a vote

For 34 Against 0 Abstentions 0

Resolved that the Council approved an invest-to-save capital budget for the acquisition of emergency interim or temporary accommodation funded from prudential borrowing of £1.8 M

Joint Governance Committee - 27 September 2016

Appointment of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman

The Joint Chairman of the Committee presented the Committee's recommendation on page 15 of the agenda; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor Smytherman.

Council supported the recommendation of the Committee to honour Norah Fisher.

On a vote

For 34 Against 0 Abstentions 0

Resolved that a Special meeting of the Council be arranged under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act for the specific purpose of conferring the title of 'Honorary Alderman' to Michael Donin and Vic Walker; and that the title Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman be conferred to Norah Fisher at the same meeting.

(C) Joint Strategic Committee - 11 October 2016

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on page 18, item 8C.

(i) Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour relating to dogs: Updating our enforcement tools

The Leader of the Council presented the Committee's recommendation on page 18, item 8C.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Val Turner.

On a vote

For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that the PSP's relating to Worthing Borough be adopted.

(D) Joint Governance Sub-Committee - 17 October 2016

Appointment of Independent Persons for Standards Purposes

The Joint Chairman of the Committee' presented the recommendations on page 19 of the agenda; the recommendation was seconded by Councillor Smytherman.

On a vote

For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Resolved that Worthing Borough Council approve

(i) the appointment of three Independent Persons, namely, Susan Clark, John Todd and Simon Norris-Jones;

(ii) these Independent Persons be appointed for a term of four years and for a maximum of 2 terms only (8 years), subject to the Councils being able to de-select an Independent Person on reasonable grounds;

C/032/16-17 Leader's Report on decisions taken by the Executive

The Leader of the Council presented his report on decisions taken by the Executive since the last Ordinary meeting of the Council; which were detailed in Item 9, on pages 21-24

on the agenda. An amended version of the report was circulated before the meeting with an update of the decisions of the Joint Strategic Committee on 11 October.

C/033/16-17 Pay Policy Statement 2016/17

Council had before it the Pay Policy statement for 2016/17 from the Director for Digital and Resources as item 10. Council was invited to approve the Statement as Appendix 1.

The acceptance of the statement was proposed by the Leader, seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

On a vote

For 32 Against 0 Abstentions 2

C/034/16-17 Members Questions under Council Procedure Rule (CPR) 12

The Proper Officer had received 5 questions from Members under CPR 12, 3 from Councillor Thorpe, 2 from Councillor Murphy.

(1) Councillor Thorpe addressed the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

It is a fact that local surgeries across Worthing, Adur and Arun (East Preston) are having to merge or contract due to shrinking funding and lack of trained staffing including doctors.

What is your view on local Pharmacies having more opportunities to provide an enhanced service given the right operational conditions for issues such as immunisation of babies and children who fall through the safety net due to inflexible working hours?

What do you intend to do to enable Children and Family centres to meet their targets of meeting the community needs under the Council's well-being umbrella?

Response by Councillor V Turner:

As a Pharmacist myself I support initiatives that enhance the provision of local services. We should be looking for creative and innovative ways of how services can be provided locally to our residents. As with all proposals, including an enhanced role of local pharmacies, they need to be the right resourcing and training so that they can provide services safely and effectively.

It is important for our communities that organisations work collaboratively around the needs of families and children.

We are working closely with WSCC and other partners around the agenda of families and early help in our neighbourhoods with regard to a range of programmes such as Think Family, the Family Support Networks and the Integrated Prevention and Earlies Help Service (IPEH).

(2) Councillor Murphy to the Leader, in the absence of the Executive Member for the Environment

Following a public consultation earlier this year, West Sussex County Council have now implemented amended operating hours at Worthing's Amenity Tip on Willowbrook Road.

With this in mind, can the Cabinet Member for the Environment provide details on what Worthing Borough Council's strategy is to combat a possible increase in fly-tipping and could you please provide more details on the process for charging for "non-standard" waste?

The Leader responded that the issue had resulted from a decision of the WSCC following consultation, West Sussex were monitoring the potential increase of fly-tipping.

In the interim Worthing Borough Council were undertaking additional inspections, and engaging with local businesses to identify incidences of fly-tipping. Any incidents are reported to West Sussex County Council who deploy additional investigation staff as required to assist with prevention. At this early stage (3 weeks) there have been no reported increases in fly-tipping which could be attributed to the changes in opening hours to the Household Waste Sites.

(3) Councillor Thorpe to the Leader in the absence of the Executive Member for the Environment

Some years ago several environmental motions were put and agreed resulting in the Council's Green Charter. What progress has been made to date with this Charter, especially in the light of the current debate with connections between Climate Change and Mental Health AND given the need to save money and energy where are we going now? Does the Council back the Worthing Climate Action Network or does it not have an opinion on climate change?

Response by the Leader

Here at Council, we recognise the vital importance of protecting and enhancing our environment, for the benefit of the wellbeing of our own and future generations.

Programmes such as the Green Charter have been integral to enabling us to develop as our understanding increases and has been replaced by various programs in subsequent years as the environment in which we have operated in has continued to change.

As a modernising council, we increasingly see our role as enabling others, and you will see actions coming forward that give focus to supporting a network of organisations and groups, creating a platform for projects across the town, including the Climate Action Network Cllr Thorpe mentions.

As leaders in Worthing, we are in a position to encourage and support environmental protection and improvement by businesses and volunteer community organisations across our town.

Our commitment to this role is being firmly renewed. Earlier this year, we commissioned a review of our approach to sustainability, both within the organisation and as place leaders. As a result of that work, our Leader and his Adur counterpart, took the decision to establish a new role in the organisation to drive forward our work on the environment.

Our new Strategic Sustainability Officer is busy driving forward key projects, such as solar panels on our buildings which we know we must deliver, as well as developing our environmental strategy, which you will see coming forward as a key theme in our refresh of the corporate action plan, Surf's Up in December.

(4) Councillor Murphy to the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

With a record £10 billion being invested into the NHS by this Conservative Government, was it any surprise that the Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt MP visited Worthing Hospital last week following another "Outstanding" designation by the Care Quality Commission (CQC)?

The Executive Member responded that it wasn't really a surprise as the Trust had worked hard to achieve its 'Outstanding' assessment. She was proud of the local hospitals.

(5) Councillor Hazel Thorpe addressed the Executive Member for Environment

Recently movers and shakers of Worthing put together a presentation, backed by the Home Office – called Worthing 4 Refugees. What is the Council's position on this issue?

Response by the Leader

We are working closely with West Sussex, Worthing 4 Refugees and all partners to ensure Worthing Council plays an active part and role in resettling Syrian Refugees as part of the national resettlement programme.

Worthing 4 Refugees, the voluntary sector and many of our communities have demonstrated fantastic support in our communities and we will, with our partners, support this commitment, as yet, the Council had not been approached for assistance.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.32 pm, it having commenced at 6.30pm.

Mayor