

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council

Date: Thursday, 25 July 2024

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Mrs P K Hayre
(Mayor)

Mrs L E Clubley
(Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: C A Bainbridge, I J Bastable, Mrs S M Bayford, R N Bird, F W Birkett, Mrs L M Birkett, Mrs P M Bryant, F L Burgess, Miss J Burton, M R Daniells, S Dugan, Mrs T L Ellis, J M Englefield, D G Foot, M J Ford, G Furnivall, D J Hamilton, Miss T Harper, Mrs C L A Hockley, S P Ingram, Mrs K Mandry, S D Martin, A M J Murphy, Mrs J Needham, P M Nother, A West, L J Whittle, P W Whittle, D P Wiltshire and K Wiltshire



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence given for this meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 June 2024.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

As part of the Council's celebrations to commemorate the 50th year of Fareham having Borough status, The Mayor was pleased to open the giant sandpit which is installed in Fareham Shopping Centre. The 'Pop Up Beach' will be in place for the whole summer, until 16 September, for families to enjoy for free.

It was a privilege to be invited to officially open the Community First Showcase event in Fareham Town Centre last weekend. The exhibition of over 70 local community groups and volunteer organisations provided a great deal of information on the support available to the public.

The Mayor was delighted to be invited to present a civic award for pupils of Sarisbury Junior School and it was also a joy to host a visit of pupils from Locks Heath School for a visit to the parlour.

4. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Executive Leader announcements.

5. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Member for Leisure and Community

Community Showcase

The Executive Member reported that the Community Showcase took place last weekend in the Town Centre and was an excellent event. Children are enjoying the pop-up beach sand pit and that the number of children and families using it is excellent. Members were encouraged to visit the facility as it is really enjoyable.

Fareham Live

The Executive Member visited the site with the Chairman of the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel and reported that the progress is breathtaking. All Members are encouraged to book their tickets for the Gala opening event on 1 October which is a gala performance of the Rocky Horror Show.

Other updates for the Fareham Live project include that the theatre specialist wiring is nearing completion; the fly tower mechanical systems are installed with rows and rows of wires and pulleys in place; the main auditorium stage is constructed; the toilet vanity units are installed; the professional kitchen installation has commenced and it's looking brilliant.

To date, 16,276 tickets have been sold with many more shows coming up for sale in the future.

Executive Member for Planning and Development

Environment Strategy

The Executive Member announced that he was pleased to provide Members with an update on the progression of the Council's Environment Strategy.

The Fareham's Greener Future publication agreed by the Executive in March this year successfully captured the scale and breadth of the Council's actions on the environment. It explained all the initiatives undertaken in recent years to reduce the carbon footprint of delivering Council services, whether through reduced energy use or the use of HVO in our vehicle fleet. It also showcased a raft of wildlife and tree planting projects, which alongside our excellent planning work on nutrient neutrality and bird mitigation, show that the Council is playing a leading role in nature recovery across the Borough.

The next challenge is to draw up an over-arching Environment Strategy. Building on the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, this will seek to establish our 'route map' to achieving carbon neutrality in service delivery in 2030. It will also how we will meet the new responsibilities set out in the 2021 Environment Act whether in relation to biodiversity and nature recovery, or recycling changes.

As we progress through the municipal year, progress on the formulation of the Environment Strategy will be shared with the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel. However, the Strategy will affect many parts of Council service delivery and so there will be plenty of opportunities for wider Member engagement. A draft Environment Strategy will then be considered and agreed by the Executive for consultation and engagement with both our residents and businesses, as their views on these matters will also be vitally important.

The Executive Member undertook to continue to keep Members updated on progress.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

7. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions presented at this meeting.

8. DEPUTATIONS

A deputation was received from Mr Andy Rolfe on behalf of Friends of the Earth in respect of agenda item 13(1) - Climate and Nature Bill Motion – Update.

(1) Climate and Nature Bill Motion - Update

The Mayor brought this item forward on the agenda and it was heard directly after item 8.

A deputation was received in respect of this item from Mr Andy Rolfe on behalf of Friends of the Earth.

The comments of the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel were noted in considering this item.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor C A Bainbridge introduced the motion.

An amendment to the Motion was proposed by Councillor M Daniells, as detailed at Appendix A to these minutes and as tabled at the meeting.

An amendment to the proposed amended Motion was proposed by Councillor C A Bainbridge, as detailed at Appendix A to these minutes and tabled at the meeting. Having been duly seconded by Councillor A J West and on being put to the meeting, the amendments to the amended motion were declared LOST with 10 voting in favour and 21 voting against.

The substantive motion, as proposed by Councillor M Daniells was then put to the meeting. Having been duly seconded by Councillor T L Ellis, the substantive motion was declared CARRIED with 21 voting in favour and 10 voting against.

RESOLVED that the Council agrees to:

- (a) deliver our environmental strategy, which will be the Council's response to address climate change and nature concerns;
- (b) where possible, reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to meet our obligations under the Paris 2015 agreement;
- (c) our biodiversity net gain delivery as part of the Environment strategy which is designed to halt the decline in nature and promote recovery.

We advocate for the use of reliable and meaningful data about nature that is measurable and understandable to the general public to demonstrate our support;

- (d) encourage the Government to work towards the development of an internationally accepted accounting mechanism for costing emissions and ecology, by supporting the Climate and Nature Bill;
- (e) aim to reduce the use of fossil fuels and transition towards relying solely on affordable and renewable energy sources. In doing so we will continue to use a mix of energy sources, including fossil fuels, to ensure that we can continue to function effectively as an authority;
- (f) support retraining of those people wishing to move into the new eco-industries;
- (g) support these amendments to the Motion;
- (h) inform local residents and inform local press/media of this decision; and
- (i) write to all three MPs who represent the Borough to inform them that this motion has been passed.

9. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor Mrs C L A Hockley left the meeting at the start of this item.

- (1) Minutes of meeting Monday, 1 July 2024 of Executive

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on Monday 01 July 2024 be received.

- (2) Minutes of meeting Monday, 15 July 2024 of Executive

A revised page 22 of the agenda pack was tabled at the meeting to correct the resolution at item 8(4) of the agenda for the meeting of the Executive held on 15 July 2024. A copy is attached as Appendix B to these minutes.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 15 July 2024 be received.

- (3) Schedule of Individual Executive Member and Officer Delegated Decisions

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Individual Executive Member and Officer Delegated Decisions be received.

- (4) Schedule of Urgency Provisions

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Urgency Provisions be noted.

10. REPORTS OF OTHER COMMITTEES

- (1) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 12 June 2024 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 12 June 2024 be received.

11. REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY PANELS

- (1) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 27 June 2024 of Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday 27 June 2024 be received.

- (2) Minutes of meetings Thursday, 27 June 2024 and Thursday 11 July 2024 of Housing Scrutiny Panel

The minutes of the meeting of the Housing Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday 27 June 2024 were tabled at the meeting for consideration and are attached as Appendix C to these minutes.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Housing Scrutiny Panels held on Thursday 27 June 2024 and Thursday 11 July 2024 be received.

- (3) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 25 June 2024 of Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday 25 June 2024 be received.

- (4) Minutes of meeting Monday, 17 June 2024 of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel held on Monday 17 June 2024 be received.

- (5) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 9 July 2024 of Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday 09 July 2024 be received.

12. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 2.12

There no questions submitted for this meeting.

13. MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 2.6

- (2) Notice of Motion dated 15 July 2024 received from Councillor G Furnivall

A notice of Motion was presented by Councillor G Furnivall:

“That this Council notes that:

- Fareham Borough is the proud home of a large, diverse and thriving LGBTQ+ community.
- Results of the 2012 Census show that 8.14% of residents (16 and over) identify as LGB- i.e. approximately 1 in 12. Furthermore, 0.27% of residents state that their gender is different to that assigned at birth – i.e. approximately 1 in 370.
- According to Home Office statistics sexual orientation hate crime in Hampshire rose by 65% in 2022 from the year before. In fact, all hate crime rose by 64% making Hampshire the highest rise in the South East.
- The Stonewall and YouGov 2018 ‘LGBT in Britain – health report’ stated that 1 in 8 LGBT people (18-24) had tried to take their own life in the previous year and almost half of trans people surveyed said the same.

Council therefore notes:

- That harm has been done to the LGBTQ+ people in the past and that discrimination exists.
- The Home Office has stated that increased discussions of “transgender issues” could be behind the rise in anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes.
- That more could be done to support and enable equity in Fareham society.
- That all LGBTQ+ people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

Fareham Borough Council resolves:

- To show support for the LGBTQ+ people by flying the Pride Flag during Pride month from 2025.
- To explore how to ensure anyone dealing with the Council may be offered the opportunity to be addressed using pronouns of their choice if they wish. “

Having been duly proposed by Councillor G Furnivall and seconded by Councillor C A Bainbridge, the motion was referred to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

14. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that there were no changes to appointments to Committees made at this meeting.

(The meeting started at 7.25 pm
and ended at 9.06 pm).

..... Chairman

..... Date