

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council

Date: Thursday, 23 July 2020

Venue: This Meeting will be a Virtual Meeting

PRESENT:

Mrs P M Bryant
(Mayor)

M J Ford, JP
(Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: Mrs S M Bayford, K A Barton, I Bastable, Miss S M Bell, F Birkett, J E Butts, T M Cartwright, MBE, Mrs L E Clubley, S Cunningham, P J Davies, T Davies, S Dugan, Mrs T L Ellis, J M Englefield, K D Evans, G Fazackarley, J S Forrest, Miss T G Harper, Mrs C Heneghan, Mrs C L A Hockley, L Keeble, J G Kelly, Mrs K Mandry, S D Martin, Ms S Pankhurst, R H Price, JP, Mrs K K Trott, N J Walker and S D T Woodward



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies given for this meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Mayor be authorised to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 February 2020.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to this inaugural virtual Council meeting, especially as this was the first meeting of the Council since 21 February.

The Mayor announced that we have been living in unprecedented times over the past few months with the coronavirus pandemic affecting us all with our daily lives becoming very different with new and changed routines.

For some in our Borough, the effects of the pandemic have been particularly challenging, especially our most vulnerable residents such as those with health conditions and our older residents. In this case something as routinely simple as obtaining daily essentials has become extremely difficult. This is where the very best of our community's spirit has shone through. We have been inspired and overwhelmed by the fantastic response of our local residents and community volunteers. The Mayor announced that she along with the Executive Leader has sent thank you letters to the amazing volunteers who are working with our charity agencies and has hand-delivered some thank you letters to the volunteers working with Acts of Kindness Community (Solent) at Daedalus.

The Mayor stated that Members will have seen that the Council has launched the 'Thank a Volunteer' scheme to enable residents of Fareham to nominate people who have helped them, and thank you letters will be sent to all those deserving residents.

The Mayor announced that although all Mayoral events have been postponed or cancelled, she has been kept busy by calling residents in the Borough, who are self-isolating or living alone, for a friendly chat and sending hand-written letters to individuals in the community who were helping others. One event that the Mayor did undertake was of great significance to the local area as we celebrated Armed Forces Day. The Commanding Officer from HMS Collingwood, Captain Catherine Jordan and the Executive Leader attended a short ceremony at the Civic Offices in June where the Armed Forces Flag was raised.

The Mayor also managed to draw the raffle for the prizes donated for the Charity Ball in March which was unfortunately cancelled. £1,700 was raised

through the raffle and the Mayor thanked everyone who had supported the event and bought tickets.

Finally and by no means least, the Mayor announced that she was sure that all Members would want to join her in thanking the Officers of the Council who have continued to provide an excellent service throughout this difficult time. She stated it was clear that the needs of residents and business communities had been ably supported by Officers who have worked non-stop throughout lockdown.

4. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader announced that in line with government guidance on preparing Local Plans, the Council is continuing to develop our new Plan alongside responding to the Coronavirus pandemic. This is particularly important work given our lack of a five-year housing land supply and the need to defend our Borough from planning applications in areas that do not match our preferred development strategy. This is in contrast to many other planning authorities where work on their plans has halted during these times. The Executive Leader stated that this Council is working hard to ensure our Local Plan remains up to date and achieves only the development that we consider appropriate.

The Executive Leader stated that nonetheless, the Council is very aware of the impact the pandemic may have on our ability to run the next consultation in the same engaging manner that we have done with our previous three Local Plan consultations. Holding CAT meetings and public exhibitions where Councillors and officers are able to hear the views of the public and respond to their questions has been valuable to date in shaping our vision for the new plan, but we have to respond to the current times where large public meetings are to be avoided and we must remain socially distant.

For that reason, we consider it appropriate to review our Local Development Scheme, the document which sets out our proposed timetable to suggest that, instead of a spring/summer consultation on the Council's Publication Plan, we propose an autumn consultation, this year, on the plan which we intend to then submit to Government for their independent review. This short delay to the plan making process allows us to ensure that we have the methods, including virtual methods of consultation, and necessary controls in place to avoid putting anyone at risk if they wish to take part in the consultation. The Executive Leader stated that, to be clear, it is our intention to hold the consultation physically if possible.

By making the announcement now of a Special Executive in late September to consider the Publication Plan, this revised timetable will be in the public domain to give residents and communities advanced notice of the timing around this important next stage in the preparation of our new Local Plan.

In relation to neighbouring authorities and the Council's obligation to work with them on cross-boundary issues such as unmet need, Members may be interested to review the formal response from Portsmouth City Council received in relation to the consultation, the Council ran earlier this year. In

their response, they have formally asked this Council to take on 1,000 homes to help address their unmet need, and the Executive Leader has asked officers to make this response available as part of the minutes to this meeting. He further stated that our other neighbour with an unmet need issue, Gosport, has not yet formally asked us to help them out. They are behind us in their plan preparation, and this is something that we need to address whilst preparing our plan.

The Executive Leader stated that it is perhaps also pertinent to mention that there will be a significant strategic countryside gap maintained between Stubbington and Fareham plus the Meon Gap on which discussions regarding designation as Green Belt continue via the Partnership for South Hampshire Statement of Common Ground.

5. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Health and Public Protection

Councillor T M Cartwright, MBE announced that he would like to give his heart-felt thanks and gratitude to Officers in Environmental Health and Community Safety, in particular Ian Rickman and Narinder Baines and their Teams, for all the work they have carried out during this difficult Covid-19 period. They have dealt with advising businesses and individuals on the ever-changing rules from the Government; have dealt with hundreds of calls on both noise and bonfires; dealt with our problematic rough sleepers and been in partnership with the Police on many issues. They have done this in an excellent way dealing with even the smallest problems with understanding.

In addition, Councillor Cartwright also gave thanks on behalf of all Councillors, to Duncan McSwan who has worked extremely hard getting everyone up and running with Microsoft Teams. He also extended thanks to all the Directors and Officers of the Council for the work they have done throughout the pandemic

Housing

Councillor F W Birkett announced that about a year ago work started on the development of five new council homes on land at 123 Bridge Road. Although there have been some delays, mainly due to weather and getting utilities connected during the Covid 19 restrictions, he was pleased to advise Members that the properties that have been named 1 to 5 Oak Tree Close are now complete with tenants lined up ready to move in. The two larger houses are to be offered at social rent and the smaller houses at affordable rents. Along with The Executive Leader and Councillor Martin and Fareham Borough Council Officers, Councillor Birkett visited the completed site earlier this month. The houses were all completed to a high standard, including the landscaping, and are perfect for the families waiting to move in. Councillor Birkett thanked Officers, the team within Fareham Housing and the building contractor for what has been a very well managed and delivered project and announced that he looks forward to being able to bring more good news to the Council as the coming months go by.

Leisure and Community

Leisure Centres

Councillor Miss S M Bell announced that on the 9th June the Government published guidance that will allow leisure centres to open on Saturday 25 July. Regarding Fareham's two leisure centres, Holly Hill and Fareham, as has been widely reported Leisure Centres across the country have lost a huge amount of money and to date, the government has not announced any financial support packages specifically for them. The Council will continue to work closely with EveryOne Active, the operator of both centres, to agree when and how the centre can safely open and the level of financial support that will be needed from the Council to get the centres open again. On Monday 03 August a report outlining the proposed way forward will be taken to the Council's Executive for consideration. Gosport, Havant, Eastleigh, Southampton, New Forest, Waterlooville Taro, Petersfield and Totton leisure centres will not be opening on 25 July. Some are expected to open from the 3 August onwards. The only ones that will be opening locally are Pure Gym 24/7, and Any Time Fitness at Locks Heath. First Direct Gym will not be re-opening as they have closed permanently.

Y Services

The Executive Member also announced that Access All Areas, National Play Day and Play Rangers will not take place this year. Y Services will be active over the summer months and will be delivering Y Health at Portchester and Fareham North West and detached workers will be working in Titchfield one night a week. They will also be doing online detached work at Crofton and Zoom meetings via the Genesis Centre.

Streetscene

Climate Change

Councillor S D Martin announced that despite the lockdown, he was pleased to confirm that progress has continued on the carbon footprint calculation which is being calculated in accordance with her Majesty's government environmental report guidelines. The calculation is well under way and officers have been working hard during lockdown, despite the additional requirements that have been placed on them. However due to the additional issues there has been a small slippage in the timeframe so the calculation report will now be taken to the Executive on 12 October. This report will go to the Policy and Resources Panel for pre-scrutiny later on in September. To help minimise delays, work will commence on the carbon reduction action plan to try to catch up on some of the work that has been lost. Finally, at the 02 March Executive meeting the principle of commissioning the Greening campaign was agreed, however due to the Covid19 pandemic this project has been put on hold. Once it is safe for the community to come together, we will continue with this commitment.

Green Waste

The Council's garden waste collection service was introduced in 2005. At that time, one free sack was provided per household but up to 3 sacks were permitted. The additional sacks had significant impacts on the waste collected by the crew which prompted a review of health and safety related to the service and a consultation with the Health and Safety Executive which resulted in an improvement plan being developed for the service.

In 2009, the number of sacks emptied free of charge was reduced to 1 per household which produced a physical reduction in the impact on collection crews. The maximum weight allowed to be lifted by the operatives is 20 kg per sack.

During the recent Covid 19 lockdown, the green waste service was suspended by the Council from the 18th March to 20th April due to the closure of County Council composting facilities. Fareham recommenced the service as soon as the sites were opened, in advance of a number of other local authorities, and there was a noticeable increase in the collection rates of the garden waste service. There was a high demand for garden waste sacks and at the peak of Lockdown the refuse and recycling teams were delivering over 250 new sacks to householders per week. The normal take up of garden waste sacks is 40%. During Lockdown this increased to 65%. Tonnages in excess of 170 tonnes per week were collected. To put this figure into perspective, the tonnages collected at the same time 2019 was limited to 96 tonnes. Councillor Martin asked that his thanks to the Streetscene team be placed on record for their hard work and commitment in the provision of the waste and recycling service. The team has worked long hours in difficult conditions and they are one of our finest assets.

Councillor Martin announced that the garden waste collection service puts a lot of physical strain on the loaders to manually lift the bags into the back of the collection vehicle. There have been 22 injuries incurred by operatives of Fareham Borough Council in this service since 2015. This is not something which is acceptable and needs to be changed. The Government's environmental bill which is expected to be introduced in 2023 will result in a move to a consistency in collection arrangements across Local Authorities in England. Fareham Borough Council has been working with Hampshire as part of the Project-Integra Partnership to consider these issues and the implications of these arrangements. It is likely that we will need to reconsider the way in which we collect and dispose of our refuse and recycling materials of the future and we will be starting this with the collection of garden waste. Commencing in 2021, we will be stopping the green waste sack system and will be introducing a new, wheeled bin service for the collection of green waste across the Borough. This will reduce the physical strain on our loaders and provide an enhancement to the service. A full report will be submitted to the Executive in the autumn and the initiative will be reviewed by the Streetscene Scrutiny Panel prior to consideration by the Executive. This service will be welcomed by residents as well as the waste operatives carrying out the service and further reporting will be made on this initiative in the coming months.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R H Price, JP, declared a Pecuniary Interest in respect of items 8 and 13 as his house is immediately adjacent to one of the development sites relating to item 13. Councillor Price left the meeting during the discussion of these items and did not take part in the discussion.

Councillor Miss S M Bell declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Item 13 as she is a Council appointed Trustee of Portchester Parish Hall and sits on the Board of Trustees with the church wardens who are Trustees of Churchlands Trust which has an interest in the Moraunt Drive planning application.

Councillor T M Cartwright declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Item 13 as he is pre-determined on the planning applications for the Warsash sites.

Councillor M J Ford, JP, declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of item 13 as he is pre-determined in respect of the planning application relating to the site at Sovereign Crescent.

Councillor S D T Woodward declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of item 13 as the owner of the land which forms the planning application south of Funtley Road is known to him.

Councillor J G Kelly declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of item 13 as he is a Council appointed Trustee of Portchester Parish Hall.

Councillor I J Bastable declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of item 13 as he has a friend who lives adjacent to one of the planning applications.

Councillor Walker declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of item 13 as he is the Chairman of the Portchester Parish Hall Board of Trustees and sits on the Board of Trustees with the church wardens who are Trustees of Churchlands Trust which has an interest in the Moraunt Drive planning application.

7. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions presented at the meeting, however an update was given to Members in respect of the Strategic Gap petitions.

Stop building houses on the Fareham/Gosport Strategic Gap

This petition, which objected to the building of houses on the Gosport/Fareham/Stubbington Strategic Gap, was received on 20 June 2020.

Of the 1523 signatures, 462 were rejected as they could not be verified as belonging to people who live, work or study in the Borough, making the final number of signatures 1,061.

The petition was referenced in the report to the Planning Committee when the planning application came forward for consideration on the 24 June 2020.

As the application was subject to an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate due to non-determination, Members were no longer able to decide the application and instead were asked to consider what their decision would have been in order to determine the Council's case in respect of the forthcoming appeal.

The decision of the Committee was that, had Members had the opportunity to determine this application, planning permission would have been refused.

Fareham and Stubbington Residents against the development of the Strategic Gap

This Petition asks the Council to Stop the development of the Strategic gap between Fareham and Stubbington. It is a live e-petition on the Council's website with a close date of the 31 July 2020 and, to date, has 133 signatures of support.

8. DEPUTATIONS

Councillor R H Price, JP left the meeting at the start of this item.

A deputation was received in respect of item 13 from Mrs Pat Rook.

9. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE

(1) Minutes of meeting Monday, 2 March 2020 of Executive

Councillor R H Price, JP, returned to the meeting during this item.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on Monday 2 March 2020 be received.

(2) Minutes of meeting Monday, 6 July 2020 of Executive

In respect of item 3 on page 36 of the agenda pack Councillor P Davies put forward thanks to the Executive Leader for the enormous commitment he has shown throughout these very difficult times. Councillor Davies also endorsed the Executive Leader's thanks to Officers, outlined on page 38 of the agenda pack, for the hard work undertaken throughout the Covid 19 Lockdown.

Councillor R H Price, JP endorsed the Executive Leader's comments, outlined on page 38 of the agenda pack, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Councillor L Keeble endorsed the Executive Leader's comments, outlined on page 38 of the agenda pack, on behalf of the Independent Group.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on Monday 06 July 2020 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 Decisions taken under Urgency provisions

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Decisions taken under Urgency provisions be received.

10. REPORTS OF OTHER COMMITTEES

- (1) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 12 February 2020 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 12 February 2020 be received.

- (2) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 18 March 2020 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 18 March 2020 be received.

- (3) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 13 May 2020 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 13 May 2020 be received.

- (4) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 24 June 2020 of Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 24 June 2020 be received.

11. REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY PANELS

- (1) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 25 February 2020 of Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2020 be received.

- (2) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 3 March 2020 of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday 3 March 2020 be received.

- (3) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 10 March 2020 of Housing Scrutiny Panel

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Housing Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday 10 March 2020 be received.

12. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 17.2

Question by Councillor R H Price, JP:

Can the Executive Member advise me how many residents have contacted the Council to report that they have been injured as a result of lifting or carrying their green waste bag over the last five years?

Response by the Executive Member for Streetscene

There have been no reports of individuals being injured as a result of lifting or carrying green waste bags over the last five years.

13. MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 15

(1) Notice of Motion received on 22 June 2020 from Councillor J Forrest

This item was brought forward on the agenda and heard directly after item 8.

A deputation was received in respect of this item from Mrs Pat Rook.

Councillor R H Price, JP, having declared a Pecuniary Interest at item 7 on the agenda as his house is immediately adjacent to one of the development sites, was not present during this item and did not take part in the discussion.

Councillor Miss S M Bell declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Item 13 as she is a Council appointed Trustee of Portchester Parish Hall and sits on the Board of Trustees with the church wardens who are also Trustees of Churchlands Trust which has an interest in the Moraunt Drive planning application.

Councillor T M Cartwright declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Item 13 as he is pre-determined on the planning applications for the Warsash sites.

Councillor M J Ford, JP, declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of item 13 as he is pre-determined in respect of the planning application relating to the site at Sovereign Crescent.

Councillor S D T Woodward declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of item 13 as the owner of the land which forms the planning application south of Funtley Road is known to him.

Councillor J G Kelly declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of item 13 as he is a Council appointed Trustee of Portchester Parish Hall.

Councillor I J Bastable declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of items 13 as he has a friend who lives adjacent to one of the planning applications.

Councillor Walker declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of item 13 as he is the Chairman of the Portchester Parish Hall Board of Trustees and sits on the Board of Trustees with the church wardens who are also Trustees of Churchlands Trust which has an interest in the Moraunt Drive planning application.

A notice of motion was received from Councillor J Forrest.

“The Council resolves to remove paragraph 2.17 from its Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Delegation to the Head of Development Management).

Having been proposed by Councillor J Forrest, and duly seconded by Councillor Mrs K K Trott the motion was declared LOST with 8 members voting in favour, 20 voting against and 1 abstaining.

Councillor G Fazackarley left the meeting after this item.

14. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

The Council received a report by the Chief Executive Officer, providing calculations for political balance relating to the allocation of seats on committees and panels for remainder of the Municipal year.

In respect of recommendation (b) of the report, Councillor L Keeble put forward an amendment to reduce the Conservative Group's allocation of seats on the Planning Committee to 6 and to increase the allocation of the Independent Group to 2. Having been duly seconded by Councillor S Cunningham, the Motion was declared LOST with 9 members voting in favour and 20 voting against.

RESOLVED that the Council approves:

- (a) the committee functions and number of seats on each committee for the extended municipal year ending in May 2021, as listed at paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the report;
- (b) the allocation of seats to political groups for the extended municipal year ending in May 2021, as set out in Appendix A to this report;
- (c) the nominations of the political groups to seats on committees, deputies and spokesmen, for the extended municipal year ending in May 2021, as set out in Appendix B to this report; and
- (d) the appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each committee for the extended municipal year ending in May 2021, as set out in Appendix B to this report.
- (e) that Group Leaders are able to change the nominations agreed at (c) in the event that individual Members are unable to attend meetings due to isolation or other issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

15. OUTSIDE BODIES

(1) Citizens Advice Fareham

Having been proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor T M Cartwright, MBE it was AGREED that Councillor Ms S Pankhurst be appointed as the Deputy Representative to Citizens Advice Fareham for the remainder of the current municipal year.

(2) Community Safety Partnership

Having been proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor T M Cartwright, MBE it was AGREED that Councillor I J Bastable be appointed as the Deputy Representative to the Community Safety Partnership for the remainder of the current municipal year.

(3) Fareham Welfare Trust

Having been proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor T M Cartwright, MBE it was AGREED that Councillor F W Birkett be appointed as a Trustee to the Fareham Welfare Trust.

(4) Police and Crime Panel

Having been proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor T M Cartwright, MBE it was AGREED that Councillor I J Bastable be appointed as the Deputy Representative to the Police and Crime panel for the remainder of the current municipal year.

(5) Hampshire County Council South Area Road Safety Council

In considering the appointment to the Hampshire County Council South Area Road Safety Council it was proposed by Councillor R H Price, JP and seconded by Councillor J Forrest that Councillor J G Kelly be appointed as the Representative for the remainder of the current municipal year. On being put to the vote, the proposal was considered LOST with 6 members voting in favour, 19 voting against and 3 abstaining.

Having been proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor T M Cartwright, MBE it was AGREED that Councillor I J Bastable be appointed as the Representative to the Hampshire County Council South Area Road Safety Council for the remainder of the current municipal year.

(6) Portsmouth City Council Health , Overview and Scrutiny Panel

In considering the appointment of the Deputy Representative to the Portsmouth City Council Health, Overview and Scrutiny Panel it was proposed by Councillor R H Price, JP and seconded by Councillor J Forrest that Councillor J G Kelly be appointed as the Deputy Representative for the remainder of the current municipal year. On being put to the vote, the proposal was considered LOST with 6 members voting in favour, 19 voting against and 3 abstaining.

Having been proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor T M Cartwright, MBE it was AGREED that Councillor I J Bastable be appointed as the Deputy Representative to the Portsmouth City Council Health, Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the current municipal year.

(7) The Moving On Project

In considering the appointment of the Representative to the Moving On Project it was proposed by Councillor R H Price, JP and seconded by Councillor J Forrest that Councillor Mrs K K Trott be appointed as the Representative for the remainder of the current municipal year. On being put to the vote, the proposal was considered LOST with 9 members voting in favour and 19 voting against.

Having been proposed by Councillor S D T Woodward and seconded by Councillor T M Cartwright it was AGREED that Councillor Ms S Pankhurst be appointed as the Representative to the Moving On project for the remainder of the current municipal year.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 8.25 pm).