

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

At an Ordinary Meeting of the Council as held in the Guildhall, Winchester on 19 July 2017.

**Attendance:**

Councillor McLean (The Mayor in the Chair) (P)

Councillors:

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Achwal        | Huxstep (P)  |
| Ashton (P)    | Izard (P)    |
| Bell (P)      | Jeffs (P)    |
| Bentote (P)   | Laming (P)   |
| Berry (P)     | Learney      |
| Brook (P)     | Mather (P)   |
| Burns (P)     | Miller (P)   |
| Byrnes        | Pearson (P)  |
| Clear (P)     | Porter (P)   |
| Cook (P)      | Prince (P)   |
| Cutler (P)    | Read         |
| Elks (P)      | Ruffell (P)  |
| Evans (P)     | Rutter       |
| Gemmell (P)   | Scott (P)    |
| Godfrey (P)   | Stallard (P) |
| Gottlieb (P)  | Tait (P)     |
| Green (P)     | Thacker      |
| Griffiths (P) | Thompson (P) |
| Hiscock       | Tod (P)      |
| Horrill (P)   | Warwick (P)  |
| Humby (P)     | Weir (P)     |
| Hutchison (P) | Weston (P)   |

1. **MINUTES**

A correction to the minutes of 5 April 2017 was noted to include Councillor Stallard in the list of those Councillors who declared a disclosable pecuniary interest due to their role as Hampshire County Councillors.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the above correction, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5 April 2017 (less exempt minutes) and the Annual Meeting on 17 May 2017 be approved and adopted.

## 2. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND THE LEADER**

The Mayor thanked all Members and staff who had been involved in the successful Rifles Freedom Parade which had taken place on 8 July 2017 and highlighted the longstanding relationship between the military and Winchester.

The Mayor reported on some of the appointments he had undertaken since being elected, including visits to St Swithun's School, the KAYAC projects, attending the presentation of a Queen's award for innovation to RJM Industries and the Emmaus Project. He had also attended many events commemorating 200 years since the death of Jane Austen, including the launch of the new £10 banknote with the Bank of England at Winchester Cathedral.

The Mayor announced that his next Charity event was Coins on the Pavement in Winchester High Street on 12 August, followed by the same event in Whiteley on 19 August 2017.

The Mayor referred to Queen's Birthday Honours List and announced that letters of congratulation would be sent to the following people who lived or worked in the District:

Officers of the Order of the British Empire –

David DEWING, Lately Director, the Geffrye Museum of the Home. For services to the Arts.

Members of the Order of the British Empire –

Jane Annabelle BOYES, Receiver General and Canon Treasurer, Winchester Cathedral. For services to the Church.

Steven DAVIS, Captain of Southampton Football Club. For services to football and sport in Northern Ireland.

Medallist of the Order of the British Empire –

Mary Alison FREEMANTLE. For services to the community in Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire.

Dr Samantha Georgina HEALY, Campaign Director, the 5% Club, QinetiQ. For services to Apprenticeships and Graduate Programmes in the Defence Industry.

Samantha Irene SHOWELL, a teacher at Peter Symond's College. For services to Education.

Caroline Mary WARD. For services to the community in Winchester, Hampshire.

Dame Mary Fagan had been appointed a Companion of the Order of St Swithun for her unstinting work as Chairman of the Cathedral Trust.

Finally, the Mayor congratulated those City Councillors who were elected to Hampshire County Council in May 2017 and recognised the efforts of those who had stood down.

The Leader announced that following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, North Kensington, the Council had been working to reassure its tenants regarding existing fire safety measures. The fire policy for flats had been reviewed in late 2015 and all fire risk assessments were up to date and followed national guidance. Detailed advice specific to each building had been issued during 2016 and this had been reissued to all residents of Council flats in the Winchester District in the last few weeks. The Leader emphasised that there were no Council-operated high rise flats in the Winchester District. Council Officers had carried out joint inspections with the Fire Service on the four mid-rise blocks in Winnall, Winchester and the additional measures suggested regarding bin stores and refuse chutes had been acted upon. Following consultation with TACT, further communication would take place with residents of Winnall flats to ensure understanding of the works proposed as a result of these recent inspections. Any further Government advice following the Grenfell Tower fire would be acted upon.

The Leader updated Members on the works to demolish and refurbish Winchester bus station which had commenced on 10 July 2017 and were expected to be completed within an eight week period. The work had been timed to take place over the summer holiday period to coincide with a lower usage of buses. She noted that the temporary arrangements were working well and thanked the bus operators and public for their cooperation whilst the improvement works were ongoing.

### 3. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS ETC**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that a recent review of the advice given in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests had been undertaken and he provided further advice to the six Hampshire County Councillors present. In summary, he considered that members of the County Council had a personal interest, rather than a disclosable pecuniary interest, in any business which related to the County Council. Such an interest could be prejudicial if it related to the financial position of the County Council. For an employee of the County Council to have a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item of business, his or her work would have to be directly connected to that matter before the interest needed to be declared. He pointed out the availability of the dispensation granted to such Councillors.

As there were no material conflicts of interest, they remained in the room under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee, to participate and vote in all such matters.

4. **QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14**

14 Questions were asked by Members, which are set out in full on the Council's website, together with responses from the relevant portfolio holder. The Mayor allowed time for supplementary Questions to be asked and responded to.

5. **PETITIONS**

There were no petitions received.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES**

(a) **Cabinet - 5 July 2017**

**GENERAL FUND OUTTURN 2016-17**

(Report CAB2983 refers)

The Leader Councillor Horrill, moved that the Recommended Minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted. The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Ashton, introduced the Report.

Amendment (1) Prince (2) Tod

Add additional wording to the recommendations:

"3. That a more robust financial tracking system be put in place to ensure that the budget brought to the budget setting council meeting is not as grossly inaccurate as in 2016/17."

Amendment lost.

Original Motion Carried

RESOLVED:

That the Recommended Minute of Cabinet be approved and adopted.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

(Report CL134 refers)

The Leader moved that the Recommendation in Report CL134 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council establishes a new Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to act from 20 July 2017 and exercise the

functions specified in Regulation 21 of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

2. That authority be delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition, to agree membership of the IRP.

3. That the IRP be requested to produce a report recommending a scheme of allowances and an annual index that could be applied to such a scheme for the period of four years from April 2018, for the Council's consideration.

4. That the Council considers the report of the IRP at its meeting of 10 January 2018, decides whether (if at all) the existing scheme be amended, and in any event reviews the annual inflation allowance.

## 8. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

| <u>Minute Number</u> | <u>Item</u>   | <u>Description of Exempt Information</u>  |
|----------------------|---|---|
| ###                  | Exempt minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5 April 2017    |   |
|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed Land Acquisition</li> </ul> | ) Information relating to the<br>) financial or business<br>) affairs of any particular<br>) person (including the<br>) authority holding that<br>) information). (Para 3<br>) Schedule 12A refers) |
|                      | Appointment of Independent Persons and  | )<br>) Information relating to any<br>) individual (Para 1  |

Parish ) Schedule 12A refers)  
Representatives )  
(Exempt )  
Appendix B) )

9. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5 April 2017 be approved and adopted.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and concluded at 8.50pm

The Mayor