

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 26 June 2019

Attendance:

Councillors
Bell (Chairperson)

Achwal	Hutchison
Becker	Laming
Bentote	Learney
Bronk	Lumby
Brook	Mather
Clear	McLean
Clementson	Miller
Cook	Murphy
Craske	Pearson
Cutler	Porter
Evans	Power
Ferguson	Prince
Fern	Read
Gemmell	Ruffell
Godfrey	Scott
Gordon-Smith	Thompson
Gottlieb	Tod
Green	Weir
Griffiths	Weston
Hiscock	Williams
Horrill	

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Cunningham, Humby and Rutter

1. **TO CONFIRM THE FOLLOWING MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL:**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 28 February 2019 (less exempt minute) and the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 19 March 2019 and the Annual Meeting on 15 May 2019 be approved and adopted.

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Mayor's first announcement was that she had written letters to the following people who lived or worked in the District, to congratulate them on their awards in the New Year's Honours List:

Carolyn Julie Fairbairn (Director General, Confederation of British Industry) – Dame Commander of The Order of the British Empire – for services to UK Business.

Felicity Harding (Ambassador and Special Advisor to the Chief Executive, Samaritans) – Officer of the Order of the British Empire – for Charitable Services.

Susan Margaret Henderson (Student Services Manager, University of Winchester) – Medalist of the Order of the British Empire – for Services to Higher Education.

The Mayor then reported on recent events associated with the district's close relationship with the military. She had recently attended Operation Overlord D-Day commemorations at Southwick Park as well as the annual Armed Forces Week Flag Raising Ceremony. The Mayor was also to host a special lunch at Abbey House to welcome military representatives from St John Moore Barracks, Southwick Park and Worthy Down.

The Mayor announced that with her Chaplain, she would be ensuring that the diversity of local communities were represented at her events throughout her year.

The Mayor then reported that she had recently been involved in events to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Winchester's association with Laon, France. The Mayor had also been pleased to have met the Mayor of Giessen, Germany (which was also twinned with Winchester) during his recent visit to Winchester as part of a choir tour.

The Mayor then informed the meeting that tomorrow was her annual Civic Day. She was to host a special lunch at Abbey House with Mayors from across Hampshire as well as a tour of Winchester College and also at IBM, Hurlsey.

Finally, the Mayor reported that as many Members already knew, the Council's Strategic Director (Resources) Joseph Holmes was leaving to take up a role at West Berkshire Council at the end of the summer. The Mayor awarded Mr Holmes the best thanks of the Council for his time as one of the Council's Strategic Directors. Members reciprocated with applause.

The Leader then made a number of announcements. Firstly, Council had been successful in a number of national awards. These included the Land Charges team which had been shortlisted for a Best Customer Experience Award and Digital Award and also the Finance team which had been shortlisted for a Public Finance Innovation Award for financial reporting and accountability.

The Chesil Lodge Extra Care Scheme had been awarded the Best Inclusive Building category as part of the LABC South East Excellence Awards now being shortlisted to the national Awards. The scheme had also reached the finals of the best public service building, blue print for sheltered living. The Leader then announced that reviews were underway in respect of three major projects. The review of the Council's new Sport and Leisure facility at Bar End was now substantially complete. It was not proposed to extend the sports hall at this time, but consideration would be given to changes to the internal layout along with further measures to improve the carbon footprint of the building.

With regard to the Central Winchester Regeneration work, there was an opportunity to build in further consideration with regard to sustainability and the involvement of key stakeholders.

The Station Approach project was complex and the Leader reported that a review was actively considering the environmental impact of the development.

The Leader then announced that Cabinet was taking a new open and transparent approach to each of these projects. Public open forums would be established and nominations requested from members. Further information would be provided in due course.

Finally, the Leader referred to the recent declaration of a Climate Emergency and involvement in the 'Clean Air' Day and thanked the council team for their efforts to ensure climate change was at the centre of all their work.

The Chief Executive announced apologies for the meeting.

The Chief Executive then reported that Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau was now located at the Colebrook Street offices. This co-location would ensure the best possible advice to residents was provided to residents as quickly as possible.

The Chief Executive then referred to the results of the recently commissioned residents' survey. In summary, these showed that 95% of residents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live and that 79% had said that they were satisfied with the way the Council ran things. 65% had said that the Council provided value for money. These figures were all at least 14% higher than the average score for south east councils and would provide a baseline for further service improvements.

3. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Gottlieb declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item 8 – Exempt Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held 28 February 2019. Councillor Gottlieb left the room during consideration of this item.

4. **TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15.**

16 written questions had been received which were heard at the meeting along with associated supplementary questions. All questions are set out in full on the Council's website, together with responses from the relevant Cabinet Member.

5. **TO RECEIVE PETITIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 16.**

a) **Petition by Winchester Friends of The Earth – Climate Emergency**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, a petition was submitted by Winchester Friends of the Earth, containing 598 signatures. The details of the petition are set out on the agenda.

In summary, they referred to the 'Earth Day' march earlier in the year and also Cabinet's declaration of a Climate Emergency. Two local young people addressed council and reported that many children were worried about the future and although adults were now working to make positive changes, not enough adults in power were doing enough.

Councillor Murphy (Cabinet Member for the Environment) thanked those attending and for their presentation and reported that although Cabinet had announced how it intended to address climate change, a public engagement event was to be arranged as the community was needed to help support the Council in its approach.

During the debate which followed, Members made a number of key points including:

- The Council had previously worked to reduce its own carbon footprint through various initiatives including energy reduction.
- An exact definition of 'carbon neutrality' should be ascertained.
- The Council should consider further improving its existing housing stock and converting its vehicle fleet away from petrol/diesel
- An action plan, with practical measures to deliver, must be developed and the whole Council involved, together with engagement with residents and businesses.
- The Local Plan was important as would influence new development, active travel, biodiversity and carbon neutrality. The environment must be considered as a 'whole'.
- New technology was able assist further with the reduction of carbon footprint.
- The County Council needed to work with the district councils, including with regard to public transport.

In summing up, Councillor Murphy advised that the matters raised by the petition would be referred to by a future meeting of the Cabinet as part of its consideration as to how the Council was to deliver against an action plan.

RESOLVED:

That the matters raised in the petition be referred to a future a meeting of the Cabinet as part of its consideration as to how the Council was to deliver against the Climate Emergency action plan.

b) Petition by Councillor Mike Craske – Caring for the future of St Barnabas

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, a petition was submitted by Winchester Friends of the Earth, containing 305 signatures. The details of the petition are set out on the agenda.

In summary, Councillor Craske referred to the character of the St Barnabas ward which he said was changing in an uncontrolled way. There were too many executive homes and flats being built as determined by developers and not the affordable homes that were required. He set out that the existing planning system was not working as the wrong types of homes were being built in the wrong places and the Council must have a well-resourced and trained planning team. The St Barnabas ward was not parished and it was requested that a Neighbourhood Plan be compiled.

Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing) thanked Councillor Craske for his presentation and acknowledged the strength of feeling in St Barnabas in not wanting to lose their sense of community. Staffing within Development Management would always be a challenge and there had been some recent recruitment and restructuring which had brought in additional resource but that retention of planning staff was as important as recruitment. Councillor Porter also referred to the Council's enforcement policy being under review which was to be considered at Health and Environment Policy Committee in due course. Although the Winchester Town Forum was not the local planning authority, she suggested that it could be a conduit for considering local planning matters. With regards to the petition requesting a Neighbourhood Plan to improve the situation, the Local Plan revision would assist by determining the appropriate policies for the district and may be able to reflect a 'Winchester plan'.

During the debate which followed, Members made a number of key points including:

- St Barnabas would not be able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan in isolation to other town wards. Neighbourhood Plans were costly and required considerable work to deliver. The Local Plan was there for the community to engage with and should be sufficient to fulfil needs.
- The Denmead Neighbourhood Plan had been community led and work had to come from the community to ensue its delivery.
- There was a need to work on a vision for the local area and in conjunction with residents. The work of Central Winchester Regeneration had been good, collaborative work.
- The Town Forum had previously had a good discussion of the matters raised by Councillor Craske. The Stanmore Planning Framework

previously provided some cohesion and direction and so any form of Plan or Framework should be welcomed. Some particular areas of the town area may need to be prioritised. There were also issues across the city of family homes being occupied by students.

- Residents of north Winchester were aware of much adjacent development, such as Kings Barton. There was recognition that there was a need for new homes, but poorly thought-out infill development was often alien in design and there was a lack of affordable housing contribution from developers.

In summing up, Councillor Porter suggested that although the petition referred to the principle of a local Neighbourhood Plan, an Area Action Plan could be a more practical solution. It was recognised that there was a need for more voice for residents and there was already a conversation about the 'democratic deficit' in the Winchester town area with regard to planning matters. Councillor Porter acknowledged the numbers of Houses of Multiple Occupation / shared houses in the town area and recognised that it was crucial that there was good design in house building and 'quality of place' and development not driven by developer's profit. The Local Plan was crucial to assist planning decisions. Councillor Porter concluded that the matters set out in the petition would be considered further at a future meeting of the Winchester Town Forum and at Cabinet if required.

RESOLVED:

That the matters raised in the petition be referred to future a meeting of the Winchester Town Forum and Cabinet if required.

6. **REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER: CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Councillor Thompson, Leader, moved that the Recommendations in Report CL145 be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Learney).

Council proceeded to ask questions and debate the matters in the Report.

AMENDMENT (1) Councillor Lumby (2) Councillor McLean

Change Recommendation 1 of the Report to read as follows (delete words in strikethrough, and add additional wording shown as bold):

1. That Council introduce a public question and answer session at the beginning of business at ordinary meetings of Full Council with Councillor questions **following directly after public questions and answers** ~~moved to later in the agenda in order to discharge the matters in front of Full Council in a timely manner.~~ That the necessary changes to the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution are made to effect these changes.

AMENDMENT LOST

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 28 February 2019 be approved and adopted.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 9.25 pm

Chairperson