

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 13 January 2021

Attendance:

Councillors Present

Cunningham (Chairperson)

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

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Griffiths

[Full Audio and video recording](#)

1. **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2020**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 4 November 2020 be approved and adopted.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Hiscock, Humby, Tod and Porter declared personal (but not prejudicial) interests in respect of agenda items due to their roles as County Councillors.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RECORDER**

Proposed by Councillor Thompson.

Seconded by Councillor Horrill and resolved unanimously as follows:

“That this Council, in recognition of the relationship which exists between the City and the Law Courts, determines that the Resident Judge of the Winchester Combined Court Centre (Her Honour Judge Angela Morris) be appointed to the office of Honorary Recorder upon her taking the role of Senior Circuit Judge, Resident Judge at Winchester Combined Court, with effect from 18 January 2021.”

At the invitation of the Mayor, Her Honour Judge Angela Morris thanked the Council and made a speech regarding her appointment.

4. **VOTE OF THANKS TO PAST HONORARY RECORDER**

Proposed by Councillor Thompson.

Seconded by Councillor Horrill and resolved unanimously as follows:

“That the best thanks of the Council be accorded to His Honour Keith Cutler for his service to the City as Honorary Recorder for the period 2009 – 2021.”

At the invitation of the Mayor, His Honour Judge Keith Cutler thanked the Council and made a speech reflecting on his time as Honorary Recorder.

The Mayor then invited former Mayors Councillors Pearson and Evans to also thank His Honour.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Mayor made a number of announcements.

The Mayor referred to the passing of former councillor and Mayor of Winchester, Georgie Busher who had first been elected to the Council in 1976 and was Mayor 2000 to 2001 and had served on many committees, including as chair of the Planning Committee.

The Mayor then also reported that The Very Reverend James Atwell (former Dean of Winchester) had died shortly before Christmas and that he had sent his condolences, via the cathedral, to his wife.

The Mayor then referred to his recent engagements. These had included attending several virtual AGMs of Winchester charities. Members would also have been aware of his specially recorded Christmas video messages for schools and for care home staff and residents.

The Mayor's next announcement was with regard to the Queen's New Year's Honours and he reported that he had written to the following recipients:

Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (CBE):

Margaret Adela Miriam Carver from Winchester.
For services to Sport and to the Media Sector.

Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE):

Gavin John Edgerley-Harris from Winchester.
Director, Gurkha Museum. For services to Gurkha and Military Heritage.

Edgar Joseph Feuchtwanger from Winchester.
Historian. For services to Anglo-German Understanding and History.

Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE):

Christine Beresford.
Chair of Trustees, Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust and Winchester Military Museum.
For services to Cultural Heritage in Hampshire.

Richard Hugh Osgood from Winchester.
Senior Archaeologist, Defence Infrastructure Organisation. For services to Defence and to Heritage.

Vivien Loveday from Bishops Waltham.
For services to the community in Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire

Finally the Mayor then announced his forthcoming Annual Mayor's Awards event and that he would be recording a special message of support and thanks to all those who were nominated. Recipients would also be sent a certificate and pin badge, together with a letter of thanks.

The Leader then made her announcements.

Councillor Thompson referred to the continuing situation regarding the pandemic and despite roll-out of a vaccine, the country was, once again, in lock down. She reiterated that everyone should play their part in reducing the transmission of the virus and recognised the difficulties for residents and businesses across the district. The council would provide support and was committed to continued delivery of essential services. The council would also enable and support the valuable work of community groups.

The Chief Executive announced apologies for the meeting.

6. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Four written questions had been received from members of the public, who were in attendance at the meeting to present their questions, along with associated supplementary questions. The questions and the response were subsequently set out on the [council's website](#).

7. **TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED MINUTES:**

- (i) Cabinet - 16 December 2020 - The Council Tax Reduction Scheme - Consultation Results & Scheme Amendment (CAB3255)

Councillor Cutler (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk), moved that the recommended minute be approved and adopted (seconded by Councillor Learney, Cabinet Member for Asset Management and Housing).

Council proceeded to ask questions and debate the matters in the report and recommended minute.

RESOLVED:

That the new Income Banded Council Tax Reduction Scheme for working age applicants with effect from 1st April 2021 as set out in Report CAB3255, be agreed.

8. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, a Motion was submitted by Councillor Godfrey as follows. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Brook.

“That this Council, following the recent decision by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, not to proceed with any changes to the calculation for new housing targets, commits to offering for public consultation the option that no development allocations outside the existing development boundaries are to be included in the revised Local Plan, unless agreed by the local Parish or Town Council.”

Councillor Godfrey introduced the Motion and in summary raised the following points:

- The Motion was not seeking to predetermine the content of a revised Local Plan. Rather, it was wanting to make sure that there were opportunities for it to be shaped by those most affected by it and therefore to help gain acceptance for its eventual adoption.

- Restrictions brought by the pandemic made this even more important as councillors were currently unable to knock on doors, or able to attend consultation events and so may not be fully aware of what residents really thought.
- Consultation undertaken on the existing Local Plan had received praise and had won awards for the council. It also helped achieve acceptance from residents, meaning that its eventual implementation had been easier.
- Any Local Plan that required an increase in housing would require previously undeveloped land to be built upon and the environmental impact of this should be assessed.
- All greenfield land in the district falls within one of the parish or town council areas. Each parish or town council has a thorough understanding of local needs and aspirations of their areas. The council therefore must engage with them and have their agreement for any development outside existing settlement boundaries. This would help alleviate any concerns of lack of engagement with local residents.

During the debate which followed, in summary, the following points were made:

- The Motion should not be accepted as there were so many unknowns, including, for example, whether new housing requirements may be able to be achieved within existing settlement boundaries. The Motion may give an impression that the council would not consider development outside of settlement boundaries, when it may have to.
- Consultation on the previous Local Plan actively encouraged participation and many events had taken place. This helped gain the acceptance of residents that some development was necessary and had help gained their trust with the council. Consultation with parish and town councils was needed to help achieve cooperation.
- There was concern that large strategic development areas were being driven by the council's commitment to the 'Statement of Common Ground' with the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). There was no requirement for PfSH to formally consult with the public or local parish and town councils on proposals that may impact on their areas.
- Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing) confirmed that the public were to be soon consulted on the Local Plan Strategic Issues and Priorities and she explained how this process would take place and why the proposals in Motion were not suitable for public consultation as a development strategy option. The council would work hard to engage with all parish and town council and communities in the plan-making process.

- Communities in the southern parishes were particularly concerned as there were no defined development gaps here. There must be sensible allocation and amounts of new homes.
- Councillor Brook, as seconder of the Motion, exercised her right of reply. In summary, she highlighted that the Motion was proposing open dialogue with communities regarding thoughts and ideas for the new Local Plan. She raised several points, including that the Winchester Town Forum had developed its emerging 'Vision for Winchester' document, whilst other communities elsewhere had not benefited from any comparative work undertaken by the council – including participation in any collective vision for the district. She highlighted that consultation on proposals for the Welbourne development near Wickham and Fareham had previously been extensive, and that the council appeared unwilling to work closely with Havant Borough Council regarding development close to border with Winchester. Council Brook was also concerned at the lack of any obvious benefit to the council from being part of the PfSH.

Before voting on the Motion, the mover of the Motion (Councillor Godfrey) then gave his right of reply.

- The council should engage with representatives of communities and this should be standard approach.
- The Local Plan required a more open and transparent engagement with residents, especially with so many restrictions in place at the current time.
- There should be more public consultation at this time, especially as there may be demand for new housing being brought forward from the council's association with PfSH.

As it was the request of more than five Members present in the meeting, a recorded vote was taken on the motion. Councillor Humby had left the meeting before the recorded vote was taken.

Division Lists

The following Members voted in favour of the motion:

Councillors Brook, Clementon, Cook, Cunningham, Gemmell, Godfrey, Horrill, Lumby, Mather, McLean, Miller, Pearson, Read, Ruffell, Scott, Weston

The following Members voted against the motion:

Councillors Achwal, Becker, Bell, Bentote, Bronk, Clear, Craske, Cutler, Evans, Fern, Ferguson, Gordon-Smith, Green, Hiscock, Hutchison, Laming, Learney, Murphy, Porter, Power, Prince, Rutter, Thompson, Tod, Weir, Williams

There were no Members abstaining from voting on the motion

Motion lost.

RESOLVED:

That the motion as set out above be not carried.

9. **CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

RESOLVED:

For the Licensing Committee, Councillor Gemmell to replace Councillor Griffiths as a deputy member.

10. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

11 written questions had been received which were heard at the meeting along with any supplementary questions. All questions are set out in full on the [council's website](#), together with responses from the relevant Cabinet Member.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 8.30 pm

The Mayor