

Minutes

of the Virtual Extraordinary Meeting of

The Council

Tuesday, 16th June 2020

held via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Commenced: 2.45 pm Meeting Concluded: 3.18 pm

Councillors:

P David Shopland (Chairman)

P Richard Westwood (Vice Chairman)

P Marc Aplin

P Nigel Ashton

P Mike Bell

P Mike Bird

P Steve Bridger

P Peter Bryant

A Gill Bute

P Mark Canniford

P Ashley Cartman

P John Cato

A Caritas Charles

P Caroline Cherry

A James Clayton

P Sara Codling

P Andy Cole

P Peter Crew

P John Crockford-Hawley

P Ciaran Cronnelly

P Mark Crosby

P Donald Davies

P Catherine Gibbons

Hugh Gregor

P Wendy Griggs

Ann Harley

P Karin Haverson

P Sandra Hearne

A David Hitchins

P Steve Hogg

P Nicola Holland

P Ruth Jacobs

P Huw James

P Patrick Keating

P John Ley-Morgan

P Stuart McQuillan
P Ian Parker
P Robert Payne
P Marcia Pepperall
P Bridget Petty
P Lisa Pilgrim
P Terry Porter
P Geoffrey Richardson
P Tim Snaden
P Mike Solomon
P James Tonkin
P Stuart Treadaway
P Richard Tucker
P Roz Willis
Vacancy

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Officers in attendance: Jo Walker (Chief Executive), Lucy Shomali (Director of Development and Environment), Sheila Smith (Director of People and Communities), Nicholas Brain (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), Richard Penska (interim Director of Finance), Vanessa Andrews (Corporate Services), Michèle Chesterman (Corporate Services), Sue Efford (Corporate Services), Alex Fear (Development and Environment), Jonathan Kirby (Corporate Services), Mike Riggall (Corporate Services)

COU Chairman's Welcome

1

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of the Council.

He explained the procedures to be followed at the meeting and confirmed that decisions taken at this virtual meeting would have the same standing as those taken at a physical meeting of the Council in the Town Hall.

The Chairman reminded everyone that the meeting was being livestreamed on the internet and that a recorded version would be available to view within 48 hours on the North Somerset Council website. The meeting had started slightly later than the scheduled time due to technical difficulties with the livestream.

At the invitation of the Chairman the Head of Legal and Democratic Services undertook to take a roll call of councillors to confirm attendance for the benefit of those in the meeting and members of the public watching online.

COU Public Participation, Petitions, and Deputations (Standing Orders 2(vi) and 17, as amended by new Standing Order 5A) (Agenda Item 1)

2

None

COU Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37) (Agenda Item 3)

3

None

COU Chairman's Announcements (Agenda Item 4)

4

The Chairman reported that Jack Dagnall, former Chairman of the Council, had recently passed away.

COU Leader's Announcements (Agenda Item 5)

5

At the invitation of the Leader, Councillor Bridger paid tribute to former councillor Jill Iles, ward member for Yatton, who had recently passed away. He referred to her many years of public service and her contribution on the council.

COU Chief Executive's Announcements (Agenda Item 6)

6

The Chief Executive thanked staff, partners and local residents for the way in which everyone had worked together to address the challenges presented by the current pandemic. She also expressed her thanks to members for their support during this difficult period.

COU Question Time (Standing Order No. 18) (Agenda Item 7)

7

Advanced written questions were received from members and published ahead of the meeting. Questions were directed to the members concerned and details of the questions together with the written and oral responses to them are contained in Appendix 1.

**COU Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)
8 (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings)
(England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 made under the
Coronavirus Act 2020 – Changes to Standing Orders and Member
Absence (Agenda Item 8)**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented the report.

Councillor Davies thanked the Head of Legal and Democratic Services for the work undertaken in drawing up the required standing orders and procedures to enable the council to operate remotely during the pandemic.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Jacobs and

Resolved:

(1) that decision CSD166 2019/2020 adopting amendments to standing orders to meet requirements of virtual meetings be noted and ratified; and

(2) that permission to be absent from Council meetings for a period over six months be granted to any Councillor provided that such absence is as a result of reasons related to either a requirement to self-isolate or sickness due to the corona virus.

**COU 9 Acceptance of Housing Infrastructure Fund (Forward Fund) Grant
9 Heads of Terms with Conditions (Agenda Item 9)**

Councillor Tonkin presented the report and thanked the Director of Development & Environment and the Major Scheme Project Manager for the report. He drew members attention to a paper providing responses to queries raised on the Housing Infrastructure Fund Grant that had recently been circulated by the Director.

In presenting the report he proposed an amendment to the recommendation to provide for the final terms of the Grant Determination Agreement and Assurance Framework, incorporating the HIF final heads of terms and conditions, to be referred to the Executive for determination rather than being delegated to the Executive Member.

Motion: Moved by Councillor Tonkin, seconded by Councillor Davies and

Resolved:

- (1) that the draft heads of terms and conditions be noted;
- (2) that the NSC Capital Programme be increased by £97,067,550; and
- (3) that the Executive be delegated authority to agree the final terms of the Grant Determination Agreement and Assurance Framework incorporating the HIF final heads of terms and conditions.

Chairman

Appendix 1

North Somerset Council Extraordinary Council Meeting, 16 June 2020 Question Time (Agenda Item 7)

1. Question from Cllr Parker to Cllr Bell, Executive Members for Adult Social Care and Health

“It’s being reported that unlawful Do Not Resuscitate instructions are being applied to people with learning difficulties during this pandemic. What assurance can the Exec Member for adult social care give us that this isn’t the case in North Somerset and how does he know.”

Written Response from Cllr Bell provided in advance

“A Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) is a medical decision and not something that requires patient consent or involvement from social care teams. However, not consulting with the patient or their family would be a breach of human rights.

Both the Care Quality Commission and NHS England have issued warnings to doctors that blanket DNRs are wrong and decisions must be made on the individual patient.

Our learning disabilities team is integrated with community health services run by Sirona - and has close ties to the Clinical Commissioning Group – the team have not come across any instances of incorrectly applied DNRs in North Somerset nor had these reported to us from families.

The local authority would treat any such instances of incorrectly applied DNRs as safeguarding investigations were they to arise.

The Clinical Commissioning Group are clear that they continue to expect all clinical staff to follow correct legal procedure in regard to DNRs with people with Learning disabilities; and have similarly not highlighted any examples of poor practice in North Somerset.

A specific Learning Disabilities and Autism ‘cell’ has been established through the COVID-19 period covering the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire area. This is attended by community health providers, acute trusts, local authority and voluntary sector staff. Issues with DNRs have not been raised through this forum as a concern locally.”

2. Question from Cllr Cronnelly to Cllr Gibbons, Executive Member for Children’s Services and Lifelong Learning

“There’s been some talk from the Government about the re-opening of schools and children’s education. What as a council do we want to see from the Government, and what do we need from them, to ensure the best for our children’s education in North Somerset following COVID-19?”

Oral response from Cllr Gibbons at the meeting.

Councillor Gibbons responded that the message from the government was not always clear and this was a complex and fast-moving situation where everyone was learning as they went along. She explained the responses from individual schools was different depending on factors such as space and staffing numbers. She suggested early notification of proposed changes and support from governors was critical to allow councils to She also referred to the additional costs and the need for adequate resources to be provided to address these measures and expressed her thanks to school staff who were working tirelessly to support pupils. She referred to the importance of a national recovery plan for education, looking at what measures had worked elsewhere and for open and collaborative working to achieve successful outcomes. She would like to see some an education task force set up and for education to be pushed to the top of the government agenda. She would lobby the Secretary of State on behalf of our young people and call for a detailed plan to address these issues.

3. Question from Cllr Cato to Cllr Petty, Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Environment

“First, some context and background.

At the Executive meeting on 5th February, I addressed the Executive, referring to the Council’s climate emergency declaration and commitment to become a carbon neutral area by 2030.

It is currently estimated that to do this, we will need to consistently reduce GreenHouse Gas emissions by more than 13% per annum. As we can't control what we don't measure, we cannot achieve our commitment without measuring GHG emissions.

In order to demonstrate to members how decisions we make do or can reduce GHG to meet this objective, we will need clear, unambiguous metrics for each application; report and project.

I asked the Executive to consider setting and approving an objective for such a proposal, and it was agreed that we would receive a report at the next Council meeting.

I appreciate Covid-19 has overtaken us since then and has rightly taken our focus, however....

My Question.

I would like to ask what progress has been made on this?”

Oral response from Cllr Petty at the meeting.

Councillor Petty referred to the question raised by Cllr Cato at the February Executive meeting and to the need to take steps now to reduce emissions and set appropriate targets. She reported that the Climate Emergency Project Manager was now in post and that an all councillor briefing had been arranged for 9 July which, to be followed by a Facebook Live event for other interested parties. She referred to the challenges ahead but referred to the importance of

helping everyone to be resilient as we exit the current crisis and of working closely with officers to achieve this.