

**CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL**

**FULL COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2021 at 6.39pm via Zoom conferencing facilities

Present:-

Cllr Mrs L Dedman – Mayor

Cllr Mrs S Bungey – Deputy Mayor

Present: Cllr J Abbott, Cllr V Charrett, Cllr A E Coulton, Cllr Mrs F Cox, Cllr M Cox, Cllr S Fotheringham, Cllr C A Gardiner, Cllr W Grace, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr G R Jarvis, Cllr D C Jones, Cllr T Lane, Cllr S J McCormack, Cllr F F T Neale, Cllr Mrs S Spittle and Cllr M J Tarling.

Officers Daniel Lucas, Town Clerk  
Present: Susan Roxby, Administrative Support Officer

Members of the  
Public present:

Members of the  
Press present: None present.

**194. Prayers**

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Canon Charles Stewart opened the proceedings with prayers.

Cllr M Tarling joined the meeting at 6.42pm.

**195. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

**196. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2020 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Voting: nem. con

**197. Announcements**

**The Mayor**

The Mayor announced that since the last meeting of the Council, she had attended Mayoral engagements by Zoom conferencing facilities only due to

COVID-19. The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and Administration Officer for the continued work of the Town Council.

### **The Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Community Grants Scheme deadline was today, 18 November for applicants to apply for a grant in the second tranche of the Community Grants Scheme which had been well received.

#### **198. Public Participation**

There had been no Members of the Public registered to speak in accordance with the Council's Standing orders.

#### **199. Public Questions**

There were no questions submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

#### **200. Questions from Councillors**

There were no questions submitted from Members in accordance with the Council's Standing orders.

#### **201. Motions from Councillors**

The Council was advised by the Town Clerk that the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Gardiner in accordance with the Council's Standing orders: -

***That this Council RESOLVES to declare a Climate Emergency in Christchurch.***

**Following action taken by BCP in July 2019, I propose that we should declare a formal "Climate Emergency" in Christchurch. Speaking to several my residents on the matter, they are strongly in favour of the idea. There is a widespread feeling that we need to do something now for the sake of our future generations to preserve the town centre & other low-lying parts of Christchurch which are in danger of being submerged because of predicted rises in sea levels linked to climate change, and to ensure an adequate supply of homes for inhabitants in the future.**

**In 2019 a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of Christchurch was commissioned. The aim of the Level 2 SFRA is to provide a more detailed assessment of flood risk from fluvial and tidal sources to Christchurch as a whole.**

The report concludes that parts of the airport site are currently at risk of flooding and the extent of the area at risk is likely to increase significantly because of climate change effects, although depth and hazard are generally expected to remain low in most areas. Given the large area at risk, and the potential for flooding of airport infrastructure, strategic flood mitigation measures may be needed in this area.

Other areas that are potential risk from flooding are Purewell, the centre of Christchurch, Stanpit, and Riverland Court on the Lower Stour are at particular risk. If sea levels do increase at the predicted rates, then additional measures may be needed to protect Christchurch from tidal flooding and allow development of the town. Although current defences for the 1 in 200 present day tidal event appear to contain water within the harbour area, future flood risk is likely to significantly increase because of sea level rise

On the Lower Stour, the current defences are predicted to be overtopped in all climate change scenarios modelled as part of this study, suggesting the present-day standard of protection is not expected to continue in the future and that improvements here may also be needed to address the effect of climate change. This is particularly prominent in the areas around Jumpers Common and Riverland Court, both of which exhibit high hazard and depth values in the climate change scenarios.

It provides the starting point for developers to fully address the relevant climate change forecast flood levels (tidal, fluvial, surface water, sewer) for the 2093 and 2133 timeframes, which represent the predicted lifetime of commercial (60 years) and residential (100 years) development.

Recommendations to help reduce the effects of Climate change in Christchurch.

Local Plans must incorporate climate change mitigation policies including aims for significant carbon reduction measures. Ensure that through any Local Government Re-organisation local authorities in Christchurch are strongly encouraged to continue to act in their role as community leaders to mitigate climate change both across the local area and internally within their own estate and operations.

#### **Specific Renewable energy**

All new buildings should meet a significant proportion of their energy requirements from renewable and low carbon energy sources.

Strong encouragement and support should be made for community led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy across Christchurch.

Businesses, householders, and the public sector should be encouraged to install locally appropriate renewable energy technologies wherever possible, buying from reputable local installers.

#### **Energy efficiency**

All new build and building restoration should meet the highest levels of energy efficiency with real ambitions towards carbon neutral buildings.

**Insulation (walls, floors, and roofs) of existing homes and more efficient and lower carbon heating systems should be encouraged.**

**As many fuel poor homes in Christchurch as is reasonably practicable should achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C properties by 2030 in line with national targets.**

**Businesses should be encouraged and supported to significantly improve their energy performance.**

#### **Sustainable travel**

**Action to design an integrated transport system that promotes the use of alternatives to road transport across Christchurch should be coordinated and scaled up. Sustainable travel should be encouraged by creating safe cycling and walking routes both for leisure and travel to work, supporting both a low carbon and healthy community.**

**Infrastructure (charging points and solar PV) should be installed to enable greater take up of electric and hybrid cars which are improving in their design and affordability.**

#### **Food miles**

**Allotment spaces and/or community growing spaces should be included in new developments, through green infrastructure plans and existing spaces should be protected.**

**Greater support for local food should be encouraged with consumers, retailers, hospitality sector, and public sector procurement.**

#### **Sustainable settlements**

**Planning systems should be used as a positive tool to reduce emissions through encouraging mixed settlements with provision for housing, employment, and retail in proximity.**

**Planning applications should include a climate change impact assessment as part of the planning process (with reference to National Planning Policy Framework and good practice elsewhere).**

**There is virtually unanimous scientific agreement that climate change is already happening and that it is significantly driven by human action.**

Cllr Cox supported this proposal which he felt was a very important issue.

Cllr Jones stated that there were objections in the world and there was not a consensus on climate change. Cllr Jones felt that there was climate change, and questioned what could be done about it effectively as a Town Council and supported some of the principles in Cllr Gardiner's original proposal and proposed the following amendment:

**Council notes the growing public concern that our climate is possibly changing, the potential effects of this on Christchurch, and what steps should be taken by this Council to mitigate the effects of adverse climate change.**

**Council therefore establishes a Task and Finish group of the Chairman of Community Committee (who shall be Chairman) and four Members, to define**

**what is meant by “climate emergency”, what effect this will have on the Burh, and how this Council can act so that any malign effects may be mitigated.**

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Neale.

Following further debate the amendment to the proposal as set out above was put to the vote and lost. Members expressed concern with regards to word ‘possibly’ being included in the amendment as this indicated that the Council was a Climate Change denier and requested that ‘possibly’ be removed from the amended motion. Cllr Jones and Cllr Neale did not wish to remove the word ‘possibly’ from the amendment to the original proposal.

Voting: 3:14 (1 abstention by Cllr Dedman)

Following debate, a motion was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Neale that:

**Council notes the growing public concern that our climate is changing, the potential effects of this on Christchurch, and what steps should be taken by this Council to mitigate the effects of adverse climate change.**

**Council therefore establishes a Task and Finish group of the Chairman of Community Committee (who shall be Chairman) and four Members, to define what is meant by “climate emergency”, what effect this will have on the Burh, and how this Council can act so that any malign effects may be mitigated.**

Following comprehensive debate, the above motion became the substantive motion and was set to the vote and carried.

Cllr Jones thanked Cllr Gardiner for her proposal on climate change.

Voting: 12:5 (1 Abstention by Cllr Dedman)

## **202. Verbal Reports from Partner Organisations**

Cllr Mrs Spittle informed members that due to COVID-19 that there had been a delay on an update for the Christchurch bid.

## **203. Committee Minutes**

The Committee Minutes for the last cycle of meetings were received as follows:

### **Planning Committee, 1 December 2020**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020 were received.

Voting: Nem. con

**Resources Committee, 8 December 2020**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2020 were received.

Voting: Nem. con.

**Community Committee, 15 December 2020**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2020 were received.

Voting: Nem.con.

**Planning Committee, 5 January 2021**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2021 were received.

Voting: nem.con

**Planning Committee, 10 January 2021**

The Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 10 January 2021 were received.

Voting: nem.con

**Resources Committee, 12 January 2021**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2021 were received.

The recommendations arising from the meeting was considered and approved:

Minute: 188. Draft Budget

- a) Members consider the report and the attached draft budget for 2021/2022;
- (b) Recommends to Full Council the attached budget;

Voting: 17: 0 (1 Abstention by Cllr Neale)

(c) Agrees to the virement from the Office of the Mayor to the Salary Budget of £10,970, AND the virement of £25,000 of the Britain in Bloom budget to a new budget line for "Christmas Festival/Lights".

Voting: 17:1

Minute: 190. Training and Development Policy

Voting: unanimous

Minute: 191. Strategic Plan

Voting: unanimous

**204. Schedule of Meetings 2021/2022**

The Schedule of Meetings for the 2021/2022 civic year was submitted to Council, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

**RESOLVED that the Schedule of Meetings for 2021/2022 be approved.**

Cllr Fotheringham left the meeting at 7.50pm.

Voting: Nem. con.

**205. Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Members were updated by the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan that the Working Group had delegated the scoping on the consultation to a subgroup. Housing numbers were to be defined by BCP Council and the Chairman stated that a seminar open to members of the Town Council should be requested.

The Town Clerk advised that flyers have been printed to be delivered by the Royal mail and website training for the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group members would take place this week.

**RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.**

Voting: Nem. con.

**206. Christmas Lights**

Cllr Coulton raised the matter of the Christmas Lights for 2021 and proposed that that this be dealt with at officer level and be reported back to the Community Committee.

The Mayor requested that the BCP Christmas Lights contract be investigated.

Cllr Tarling requested that the budget of £25,000 was not just spent on the Christmas lights only, but on the whole of the Christmas Festival.

Cllr Neale stated that the Christmas Festival would be placed on the agenda of the next Community Committee for consideration.

**RESOLVED that the verbal update be noted.**

Voting: Nem. con.

Meeting ended at 8.09pm

CHAIRMAN