

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 July 2021 at Homelands Hall, Kings Avenue, Christchurch, BH23 1NA

Present:-

Cllr Mrs S Bungey – Mayor

Cllr A E Coulton – Deputy Mayor

Present: Cllr V Charrett, Cllr Mrs F Cox, Cllr M Cox, Cllr L Dedman, C A Gardiner, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr G R Jarvis, Cllr D C Jones, Cllr S J McCormack, Cllr Mrs S Spittle and Cllr M J Tarling.

Apologies: Cllr S Fotheringham, Cllr W Grace, Cllr T Lane and Cllr G E E Polson.

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

BCP Unitary
Ward Members Cllr P Hall and Cllr Mrs V Ricketts
present:

Members of the
Public present: 5

Members of the
Press present: 0

85. Prayers

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

Cllr Mrs Spittle joined the meeting at 6.02pm.

86. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dedman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No.92 (Motions from Councillors) as she was a follower of James Lovelock and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Dedman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 94 (Community Committee Minutes- Minute No. 62 Druitt Hall) for transparency as she was a member of a committee that considered requests for funding for Druitt Hall and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Hilliard declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No.100 (Twynham School presentation) for transparency as he was a Governor of Highcliffe School and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No.92 (Motions from Councillors) as he had worked as a consultant for the energy supply industry, Western Power Distribution, but confirmed that this would not affect his decision and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr McCormack declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No.101 (Service Level Agreement – Legal Agreement) as he was a Unitary Council Member and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No.100 (Twynham School presentation) for transparency as she was a former Governor of Twynham Priory School and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No.98 (BCP Council's Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy) for transparency as she had previously had a beach hut at Barton on Sea and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

87. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2021 and the extraordinary meetings held on 22 June 2021 and 1 July 2021 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Voting: unanimous

88. Announcements

The Mayor announced that she had been privileged to attend two Mayoral events. The opening of the Priory fete which she congratulated them on raising £5,500. She also attended a balance and meditation class at a Churchill sheltered accommodation in Highcliffe.

89. Public Participation

Cllr Gardiner read out a statement from an elector on climate change emergency, a copy of which appears as appendix 'A' to these minutes in the minute book.

90. Public Questions

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

91. Questions from Councillors

Cllr Dedman raised the following question:

"Cllr Broadhead stated on 1st July to the Town Council that plans for the Civic Offices would start in late summer. What plans are in place for removal and safekeeping of the many items of heritage civic regalia, boards in the chamber with mayoral history and other lists, historic documentation, twin town gifts, historic stained-glass windows, and the many other things of huge historical importance to Christchurch which remain there prior to our access and storage facilities in the Civic Office being removed?"

The Mayor thanked Cllr Dedman for her question and confirmed that she would receive a written response.

92. Motions from Councillors

The Council was advised by the Town Clerk that the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Tarling and seconded by Councillor Jarvis in accordance with the Council's Standing orders:

That this Council acknowledges the state of "Climate Change Emergency", and that hereby this Council declares a state of Climate Emergency and undertakes the following:

- a) To ensure that the activities of this Council become net carbon neutral by 2030; and to work towards a carbon neutral Christchurch by 2050 in conjunction with BCP Council;**
- b) At the earliest available opportunity, will switch energy supplier to a Net Zero energy supplier;**

- c) **Within this Council year to implement Carbon & Energy monitoring, including CO2e reporting and to publish these figures on an annual basis;**
- d) **To actively consider climate impact as part of all the activities of this Council, including but not limited to: Planning, Communities & Resources. This may include seeking to exceed the statutory requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008; and**
- e) **To actively promote Climate Change mitigation and Zero carbon targets within Christchurch, and will join as a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.**

Cllr Jarvis withdrew her support for the above motion proposed by Cllr Tarling. Cllr Gardiner then gave her support and seconded the proposed motion from Cllr Tarling.

Cllr McCormack asked if there would be any cost to the Town Council and staff. The Town Clerk advised that it would be quite straight forward to switch energy suppliers, although the initial setup would take staff time. Part 'D' of the motion 'To actively consider climate impact as part of all the activities of this Council' would need to be considered for all Council activities.

Cllr Jones opposed the proposed motion made by Cllr Tarling.

Cllr Cox was in favour of the proposed motion and considered that the cost to Christchurch would be minimal.

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion, as set out above was carried.

Voting: 10:2:1

Cllr Jones stated that he was opposed to this motion and will not be giving any information to the Council that he was not legally required to do so.

Cllr Dedman declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as she was a follower of James Lovelock and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as he had worked as a consultant for the energy supply industry, Western Power Distribution, but confirmed that this would not affect his decision and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

93. Verbal Reports from Partner Organisations

There were no verbal reports from Partner Organisations on this occasion.

94. Committee Minutes

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

Planning Committee 1 June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2021 were received.

Voting: Unanimous

Resources Committee 8 June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2021 were received.

The recommendations arising from the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 8 June 2021 were then considered and approved:

Minute No. 42 Job Specifications

RESOLVED that:

- a) a Personnel sub-committee be created for the purposes of recruitment and annual appraisals for the year 2021/2022; and
- b) the sub-committee to comprise of a maxim of 5 members and a quorum of 3 members.

Voting: unanimous

Minute No. 43 Carbon Calculators

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Council adopts the Climate Emergency Action Plan Matrix approach and methodology outlined at Appendix 5; and
- b) adopts the <https://impact-tool.org.uk/about> (Centre for Sustainable Energy) Carbon Calculator to establish the Council's baseline carbon footprint and for benchmarking and comparison purposes going forwards outlined at Appendix 6.
- c) the Carbon Calculator to be delegated to the Town Clerk.

Voting: 10:1:2

Extraordinary Community Committee 17 June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2021 were received.

Voting: Unanimous

Community Committee 29 June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2021 were received.

The recommendations arising from the meeting of the Community Committee held on 29 June 2021 were then considered and approved:

Minute No. 62 Druitt Hall

Cllr McCormack proposed a motion that the recommendation be approved as set out, this motion was seconded by Cllr Hilliard.

RESOLVED that the Town Council approves the replacement of Druitt Hall roof in principle and the extension of the 30-year lease.

Voting: unanimous

Cllr Dedman declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item for transparency as she was a member of a committee that considered requests for funding for Druitt Hall and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Minute No. 64 Scotts Hill Lane Playpark

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Council could consider not to step-in to the Scotts Hill Lane Playpark lease position which was currently occupied by BCP Council, but may wish to renegotiate the lease with Meyrick Estates for 80 years and BCP Council surrenders the lease.

RESOLVED that The Town Council:

- d) renegotiates the lease with Meyrick Estates for 80 years for the Scotts Hill Lane Playpark and BCP Council surrenders the lease;**
- e) writes to BCP Council conveying the strong desire and wish to take responsibility for the site; and**
- f) considers allocation from Community Infrastructure Levy a capital expenditure project to bring Scotts Hill Lane Play Park back into safe use.**

Voting: unanimous

Resources Committee 6 July 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2021 were received.

The recommendation arising from the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 6 July 2021 was then considered and approved:

Minute No. 84 Civic Possessions' Storage & Safe procurement (exempt)

Voting: unanimous

95. Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation to Committee.

A report was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each member a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were asked to review the Council's Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation to Committee.

RESOLVED that the Council's Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation to Committee be approved for 2021-22 civic year.

Voting: unanimous

96. Transfer of Funds from Public Sector Deposit Fund to Unity Trust bank account

The Town Clerk updated Members that funds were required to be transferred from the Public Sector Deposit Fund to the Unity Trust Current Account so as to allow operational costs to continue.

RESOLVED that the Council the transfer of £100,000 from the Public Sector Deposit Fund to Unity Trust Current Account be approved so as to allow operational costs to continue.

Voting: unanimous

97. Update of signatories to the Council's Public Sector Fund Deposit Mandate

The Town Clerk updated Members that following Cllr Neale's resignation, a new signatory was required to be appointed to the Public Sector Fund Deposit Mandate.

RESOLVED that Cllr Cox be added to the mandate as the Chairman of Resources Committee.

Voting: unanimous

98. BCP Council's Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy

Members received a presentation on BCP's Council's Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy.

Cllr Jones proposed a motion that the Town Clerk investigate the possibility of a Public Meeting for a briefing from BCP Council to be considered, this motion was seconded by Cllr Jarvis.

Cllr Hilliard advised that there was an online seminar on FCERM by BCP Council this week which members could attend. Cllr Mrs Cox felt that this should be considered. Cllr Dedman felt that there should be a presentation to the Town Council from BCP Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk investigate the possibility of a Public Meeting being held for a briefing on BCP Council's Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy.

Voting: 10:0:3

Cllr Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item for transparency as she had previously had a beach hut at Barton on Sea and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

99. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event**

Cllr Charrett asked whether members wished to setup a Working Group for the consideration and preparation of marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (2-5 June 2022).

RESOLVED that a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group be created comprising of no more than 6 members and that the quorum shall be a minimum of 3 Members to facilitate the consideration and preparation of marking the occasion.

Voting: unanimous

100. **Twynham School presentation**

Members received a presentation from the Headmaster of Twynham School, a copy of which had been circulated to each member a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members raised the following questions:

Cllr Spittle enquired whether the catchment area would be altered for the Grange and Twynham School. The headmaster replied that here would be no change as Mudeford was a shared area.

Cllr Cox asked why the schools do not just merge. The headmaster replied that this would require the Secretary of State to sign this off.

Cllr Dedman enquired on whether the school had projected numbers for Roeshot Hill. The headmaster replied that Roeshot Hill had 120 allocated secondary school numbers.

Cllr Dedman asked whether the school had travel time allocated from one campus to another. The headmaster replied that teaching staff travel time was factored in.

Cllr Coulton enquired whether rebuilding of schools would be required. The headmaster replied that it was a multi-Academy Trust and there would be no need.

Cllr Tarling asked if there were any plans to dispose of any of the school sites. The headmaster replied that there were no plans currently to dispose of school land and that it was not within their gift.

RESOLVED that Members noted the presentation on Twynham School.

Cllr Hilliard declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item for transparency as he was a Governor of Highcliffe School and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

Cllr Spittle declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item for transparency as she was a former Governor of Twynham Priory School and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

101. Service Level Agreement – Legal Agreement

The Town Clerk updated Members on the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with BCP Council.

Cllr Coulton queried why the Town Council was paying the SLA when the grass was not being cut.

Cllr McCormack stated that as parks were closed during covid restrictions for 6 months and therefore the grass was not cut.

Cllr Cox considered that the Town Council should consider going out to tender and look at alternatives to BCP Council to obtain a better service for the SLA.

RESOLVED that:

- a) **Members agree to the sum of £48,345 plus VAT for the SLA grounds maintenance and event management agreement with BCP Council for the period 1st April 2020 for 1 year – 31st March 2021 (retrospective); and**
- b) **delegates to the Town Clerk to sign the Agreement and to authorise the payment of the sum upon receipt of invoice from BCP Council.**

Voting: unanimous

Cllr McCormack declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as he was a Unitary Council Member and remained present for the discussion and voting thereon.

102. **Exempt Business**

RESOLVED to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the matter relating to the personal information of the matter relating to the financial and business affairs of the authority.

Voting: unanimous

Cllr Hilliard left the meeting at 8.28pm.

103. **Civic Possessions' Storage & Safe procurement (exempt)**

Members were updated on the civic possession's storage and safe procurement.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm

CHAIRMAN