

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE
HELD AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, HARROGATE
ON WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 2019
(FROM 5.30 PM – 7.25 PM)**

PRESENT: Councillor Bernard Bateman, MBE in the Chair. Councillor Margaret Atkinson, Councillor Chris Aldred, Councillor Philip Broadbank, Councillor Nick Brown, Councillor Rebecca Burnett, Councillor Mike Chambers, MBE, Councillor Trevor Chapman, Councillor Jim Clark, Councillor Richard Cooper, Councillor Ed Darling, Councillor John Ennis, Councillor Sam Gibbs, Councillor Michael Harrison, Councillor Sid Hawke, Councillor Phil Ireland, Councillor Sue Lumby, Councillor Stanley Lumley, Councillor John Mann, Councillor Pat Marsh, Councillor Stuart Martin, MBE, Councillor Pauline McHardy, Councillor Samantha Mearns, Councillor Zoe Metcalfe, Councillor Nigel Middlemass, Councillor Ann Myatt, Councillor Tim Myatt, Councillor Andrew Paraskos, Councillor Alex Raubitschek, Councillor Matt Scott, Councillor Nigel Simms, Councillor Graham Swift, Councillor Norman Waller, Councillor Tom Watson, Councillor Matthew Webber, Councillor Christine Willoughby and Councillor Robert Windass.

Late Arrivals: None

Early Departures: None

Councillor Philip Broadbank led Members in prayer prior to the commencement of the meeting.

94 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Paul Haslam, Steven Jackson and Victoria Oldham.

95 – URGENT BUSINESS:

There was no urgent business.

96 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

97 – EXEMPT INFORMATION:

There was no exempt information.

98 – MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 March 2019 were submitted. Councillor Pat Marsh referred to Minute 89/18 - Notices of Motion Received and advised that there was an error on the minutes in the agenda pack. This was subsequently found to be a technical error with the electronic papers and the printed minutes as signed by the Mayor were correct.

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper

Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6 March 2019 be approved as

a correct record and signed by the Chair.

99 – COMMUNICATIONS:

01. **Recording of Meeting:** The Mayor advised that a request had been received from the Local Democracy Reporter to record the proceedings of Council.
02. **Freedom Parade:** The Mayor reminded Members that the Army Foundation College had indicated its intention to exercise its right to march through Harrogate town on the morning of Sunday 19 May. Invitations had been sent out to Members. The Mayor was also arranging a Freedom weekend of events prior to the Freedom Parade and a St Georges Day dinner at Harrogate Town Football Club on 23 April.
03. **Tour de Yorkshire:** The Mayor referred to the Tour de Yorkshire which would be passing through the District on Friday 3 May, including a circuit of Harrogate town, and would be passing through a number of wards.
04. **Thanks to colleagues:** As this was the last scheduled meeting of the current Council year the Mayor placed on record his thanks and appreciation to colleagues for their support shown during his year in office.

100 – PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS - PETITIONS:

No petitions had been received.

101 – PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS - QUESTIONS:

No questions had been received.

102 – ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

The Mayor advised that in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) one written question had been received which would, in accordance with the Standing Order, be dealt with as the first question under this item. He would then invite verbal questions of the Executive Members and Committee Chairs from other Members of the Council.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Sport from Councillor Tom Watson

Non-Domestic Rates Sports Grounds.

Could the Cabinet Member for Tourism and Sport tell me why sports grounds have no discretionary rate relief allowed against the rate bill for the period of 2019/2020. Last year they were given 80% mandatory relief in 2018/2019 period plus an extra 15% would the cabinet member consider reintroducing the extra 15%. Especially when we are trying to promote healthy communities.

Response:

Thank you for the question Councillor Watson and for asking me about discretionary rates relief for sports pitches. I'm concerned that this has been raised directly at Council when Officers can't seem to find a record of any customer enquiries relating to this subject.

Nevertheless, we are able to apply mandatory rates relief for charities and community amateur sports clubs once they have applied for and registered their status. Information on how to undertake this and the relief available is on our website. In addition we have an effective discretionary rates relief policy which supports both our tax payers and the Council's objectives. I would hope that Charities and community amateur sports clubs would be looked on favourably as they can provide effective support in our aim of enabling our residents to live longer, more independent lives.

I encourage Cllr Watson to offer guidance and inform those sports grounds who have issues to be in touch with officers.

In response to a question from Councillor Christine Willoughby on what the Council was doing to support the Northern Forest, the White Rose Forest and the Forest of Knaresborough, the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling agreed to provide written details. The Cabinet Member also agreed to arrange a Member briefing on the Northern Forest Project.

103 – MEMORANDA OF THE REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION:

There were no such reports.

104 – REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION:

The Mayor advised that, in accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(a), there was one report to be considered at the meeting.

104(1) – COSTS ACCRUED BY THE CRESCENT GARDENS SITE:

The Mayor invited the Cabinet Member for Resources, Enterprise and Economic Development, Councillor Graham Swift, to introduce his written report on the Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors Philip Broadbank and Matthew Webber requesting that the Audit and Governance Committee take an in depth look at the costs being accrued by the Crescent Gardens site.

A meeting had taken place between the Cabinet Member and Councillors Broadbank and Webber to understand the issues in greater detail. At the meeting the Cabinet Member provided a full confidential update on the timeline and current position of the Crescent Gardens project. The update included details of the competitive tender process which led to the preferred bidder being chosen, details of the non-refundable deposit paid to the Council by the preferred bidder, details of the running costs of Crescent Gardens and recognition that the total payments received to date by the Council were in excess of building-related costs incurred. The discussion also highlighted that the savings made from moving to the Civic Centre outweighed the costs incurred in retaining Crescent Gardens and the non-returnable deposit ensured the Council had surplus provision to cover building costs incurred by the Council in any potential delays.

Attached as an appendix to the report were details of the costs associated with Crescent Gardens from 1 December 2017, when the Council vacated the offices, to the date of the report. It was noted that £909k of revenue savings had been built into

the Council's base budget following the move to the Civic Centre. It was also noted that the rental income received to date as a result of occasional arrangements for ATP (Crescent Gardens) Ltd to occupy a limited area within the building was £16,577.38.

Councillor Philip Broadbank thanked the Cabinet Member for the meeting and referred to concerns about the future of the building following the announcement two days earlier that the sale of the building to ATP (Crescent Gardens) Ltd had been cancelled and the building was to be put back on the market.

Moved by Councillor Graham Swift

Seconded by Councillor Richard Cooper

and **RESOLVED:**

That the report of the Cabinet Member for Resources, Enterprise and Economic Development be accepted.

105 – MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND CABINET:

The Council resolved upon the various non-delegated Minutes of the Committees and Cabinet as follows:

105(1) – CABINET - 27 MARCH 2019:

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 March 2019 be approved and adopted.

105(2) – GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - 21 MARCH 2019:

Moved by Councillor Samantha Mearns Seconded by Councillor Alex Raubitschek

and **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 21 March 2019 be approved and adopted.

106 – NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED:

The Mayor advised that there was one Notice of Motion before the Council in the names of Councillors Richard Cooper and Graham Swift which would, in accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(f), be debated by the Council.

- (1) "This Council supports measures to address the climate emergency as outlined by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

This council will therefore re-examine its Carbon Reduction Strategy with an aim of adapting it to meet IPCC targets and a final goal of carbon neutrality. In doing so the council will work with other partners across the Borough and Region to deliver this new goal including North Yorkshire County Council. As part of this work the council will evaluate proposals including the following

options:

- Establishing under the council's leadership initially a climate change coalition bringing together residents groups, businesses, environmental groups and politicians to promote carbon neutrality.
- Holding a climate change conference promoting micro-generation for housing developers, domestic waste reduction and zero-carbon supply chains for business.
- Lobbying government to bring in a new 'green council support grant' offering incentive to those councils who reduce their carbon emissions over and above the IPCC 2030 targets.
- Installing photovoltaic cell developments in council facilities such as car parks and leisure centres.
- Implementing domestic-scale PV opportunities on community centres and other small public buildings.
- Providing additional funding for Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure to accelerate the roll-out of the ULEV strategy and build funding for the strategy in to the Council's annual budget.
- Bringing forward plans for EV home charging points and battery storage and renewables within council housing.
- Developing battery storage capacity – connected to PV to supplement our EV charging network.
- Providing additional grant support for home energy conservation measures, particularly hard to-treat measures, supplementing limited funding available through current Energy Company Obligation schemes, using Better Homes as the delivery mechanism.
- Upgrading suitable council housing to the highest possible energy efficiency standards, for example "Enerphit" certified retro-fitted Passivhaus standards.
- Ensuring new homes built by Bracewell Homes are built to the highest possible energy efficiency standard, e.g. Passivhaus or high Code for Sustainable Homes standards.
- Influencing others to encourage renewable energy and/or other sustainable technology at landmark development such as station gateway, HCC redevelopment, depot redevelopment and new leisure Centres.
- Increasing our target BREEAM score for new commercial buildings to Outstanding.
- Accelerating conversion to electric vehicles of our pool and operational vehicle fleet
- Strengthen the energy requirements of all new developments by introducing a Development Plan Document to follow 'Merton Rule' type arrangements.
- Investigating enhanced sustainable transport incentives for staff and local

employers including subsidised public transport for staff.

- Supporting the Northern Forest and Knaresborough Forest initiatives by ensuring that every child plants a tree during their schooling.
- Implementing free parking for electric vehicles for the next 5 years
- Looking at the cost of electricity purchasing prioritising green energy
- Investigating the impact on carbon emissions on pedestrianizing Harrogate town centre and making it a pedestrian and cycle friendly zone
- Implementing salary sacrifice schemes for staff who purchase electric vehicles including electric bikes.
- Running an intensive campaign promoting home composting and waste reduction.
- Looking at incentives and penalties for households who place recyclable waste in the general waste stream.

Proposed: Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded: Councillor Graham Swift

The motion was then debated by the Council.

Upon a vote being taken, the Mayor declared the Motion carried.

107 – RIPON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Moved by Councillor Rebecca Burnett Seconded by Councillor Mike Chambers

and **RESOLVED:**

That (1) the Ripon Neighbourhood Plan be 'made' and form part of the Local Development Plan for Harrogate District for the purposes of development management decisions in the parish of Ripon City, pursuant to section 38A of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended); and

(1) the Council publish a Decision Statement which sets out its reasons for the decision and undertake publicity as set out at paragraph 5.8 of the report.

108 – ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST OBJECTIVES 2018/19:

The Mayor invited the Leader to introduce and speak to the performance of the Council over 2018/19. The Leader and Cabinet Members then responded to questions from Members.

In response to a question from Councillor Christine Willoughby on the Market Reviews, the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling reported that the number of traders at Knaresborough and Ripon markets had increased and as there were some funds left further work would be undertaken to promote the markets.

In response to a question from Councillor Philip Broadbank, the Cabinet Member for

Resources, Enterprise and Economic Development advised that he had received a response from the Government to his letter requesting powers to compel new chain retail outlets to source some of their produce locally. The Minister was not willing to support this suggestion.

In response to a question from Councillor Trevor Chapman the Cabinet Member for Resources, Enterprise and Economic Development advised that he had received a response from the Minister to his letter lobbying the Government to allow us to charge Council Tax on unimplemented planning permissions. The Minister had responded that he was not prepared to consider this suggestion and he did not believe land banking was an issue.

The Cabinet Member for the Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling responded to a question from Councillor Chris Aldred and reported that he had attended the Ackrill Green Business Awards which was a successful event and the Cone Exchange and Number 13 were the winners.

In response to a question from Councillor Christine Willoughby the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Sport advised that the feasibility of a gym facility at Knaresborough Pool was still being considered.

In response to a question from Councillor Chris Aldred on why the economic impact of the HCC was below the target, the Leader advised that the calculation was complex and the target may have been a stretch. The Leader was pleased that HCC had brought £56,000,000 benefit to the local economy.

109 – LOCATION OF ANNUAL MEETING:

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper

Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and **RESOLVED:**

That in the event that European Elections take place on the 23 May 2019 the venue for the Annual Meeting be changed from the Civic Centre to the Harrogate Convention Centre.

110 – COMMON SEAL:

Moved by Councillor Richard Cooper

Seconded by Councillor Graham Swift

and **RESOLVED:**

That (1) the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the Deeds and Documents necessary to carry out the resolutions confirmed and passed this day; and

(2) no deed shall be treated as being conditional upon Council proceeding until completion of a transaction relevant to any Deeds.