

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall  
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 10 November 2015 at 2.00 pm

**Council Members Present**

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor  
Councillor Frank Jonas (in the Chair)

**Councillors**

David Fuller	Ian Lyon
Dave Ashmore	Hugh Mason
Simon Bosher	Lee Mason
Jennie Brent	Gemma New
Ryan Brent	Robert New
Yahiya Chowdhury	Stuart Potter
Alicia Denny	Will Purvis
Ben Dowling	Darren Sanders
Ken Ellcome	Phil Smith
John Ferrett	Lynne Stagg
Ken Ferrett	Sandra Stockdale
Colin Galloway	Luke Stubbs
Paul Godier	Julie Swan
Aiden Gray	Linda Symes
Scott Harris	David Tompkins
Stephen Hastings	Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Hannah Hockaday	Steve Wemyss
Suzy Horton	Matthew Winnington
Lee Hunt	Rob Wood
Donna Jones	Neill Young

**85. Declarations of Interests under Standing Order 13(2)(b)**

Councillor Will Purvis declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12(a) Housing Bill in that he works for a developer and would withdraw from the chamber for that item.

Councillor Luke Stubbs declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 12(b) - Keeping the Fire Service in Portsmouth Strong - in that he is a member of Hampshire Fire & Rescue. He also declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 13, Question 2, South Parade Pier as this is near his house and would leave the chamber for that item. As a result, the Leader would answer the question on his behalf.

Councillor Hannah Hockaday declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 12(b) in that she is a member of Hampshire Fire & Rescue.

Councillor Phil Smith declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 12(b) and said that although he would not leave the chamber for this item he would not vote.

Councillor Scott Harris declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 13, Question 2, South Parade Pier in that his house is near the pier and he would leave the chamber for that item.

Councillor Ian Lyon declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda items 12(a) and 12(c) in that his partner is one of Portsmouth's MPs.

**86. Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 13 October 2015**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones  
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the minutes of the extraordinary and ordinary meetings of the Council held on 13 October 2015 each be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary and ordinary meetings of the Council held on 13 October 2015 each be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

**87. Communications and Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillor Margaret Foster. Apologies for lateness had been received on behalf of Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson who was meeting the Secretary of State for Housing in London.

The Lord Mayor advised that today's meeting is being filmed.

The Lord Mayor gave details of the evacuation proceedings.

The Lord Mayor advised that former Portsmouth City Council chief executive, Nick Gurney sadly passed away recently and expressed condolences on behalf of the council. In addition he reported that Councillor Wemyss' mother sadly passed away last week and passed on to him condolences on behalf of the council. Councillor Wemyss thanked everyone for their messages and expressions of sympathy.

**88. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24**

The City Solicitor advised council that two deputation requests had been received both on item 12(b) - Keeping the Fire Service in Portsmouth Strong. Mr Dave Smith, Group Commander, Portsmouth, for Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service made his deputation.

Mr Gary Jackson, Hampshire Fire Brigades Union secretary made a deputation in favour of adopting the notice of motion.

**89. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25**

There was one question from a member of the public but it could not be put as the person was not in attendance.

**90. Appointments**

The Lord Mayor advised that he had been notified of the following appointments:-

Cllr John Ferrett was appointed as Labour opposition spokesperson for the Children and Education portfolio.

Councillor Yahiya Chowdhury was appointed as Labour opposition spokesperson for Traffic and Transportation portfolio.

Councillor Aiden Gray was appointed as Labour opposition spokesperson for Resources portfolio.

**RESOLVED that the above appointments be noted.**

**91. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

**92. Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 5 November 2015**

The following minute was approved unopposed:

Minute 66 - Treasury Management Mid-Year Review for 2015/16

**93. Recommendations from Governance & Audit & Standards Committee from its Meeting held on 6 November 2015**

The following minutes were approved unopposed:

Minute 76 - Review of Members' Code of Conduct and Committee Arrangements for Assessment, Investigation and Determination of Complaints  
Minute 74 - Changes to the Designated Independent Person Dismissal Procedures

The following minute was opposed:

Minute 77 - Contract Procedure Rules

It was

Proposed by Councillor Simon Boshier  
Seconded by Councillor Ian Lyon

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

Following debate upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the revised contract procedure rules be adopted by council and brought into force from 1 January 2016.**

**94. Notices of Motion**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones  
Seconded by Councillor Ian Lyon

That the order of the notices of motion be changed to start with notice of motion (c) in order to allow time for Councillor Vernon-Jackson to get back to Portsmouth from his meeting in London.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED

**Notice of Motion (c) - Tax Credits**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Hugh Mason  
Seconded by Councillor Aiden Gray

That this notice of motion be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Hugh Mason  
Seconded by Councillor Aiden Gray

That notice of motion (c) as set out in the agenda be adopted.

As an amendment, it was

Proposed by Councillor Colin Galloway  
Seconded by Councillor Julie Swan

To delete first paragraph.

In respect of the last paragraph change the word "regret" to "note" in the first line and in the second line of the last paragraph change the "will" to "may".

Delete all text in last paragraph after " .....many low paid families in Portsmouth"

Then replace with the following

"depending on the proposition from the Government, we ask both the City's MPs to reconsider their decision at the next vote in Westminster ."

Notice of Motion to therefore read:

The independent Institute of Fiscal Studies has examined the cuts to tax credits along with changes in tax and changes to the Minimum Wage and has concluded that the cuts fall heaviest on the poorest families in the country.

The Council notes the decision of both the city's MPs not to vote against the cuts to tax credits which may hit many low paid families in Portsmouth depending on the proposition from the Government, we ask both the City's MPs to reconsider their decision at the next vote in Westminster.

Following debate upon the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Colin Galloway being put to the vote, this was CARRIED. Upon being put to the vote the substantive motion was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that council adopts the following notice of motion:**

**The independent Institute of Fiscal Studies has examined the cuts to tax credits along with changes in tax and changes to the Minimum Wage and has concluded that the cuts fall heaviest on the poorest families in the country.**

**The Council notes the decision of both the city's MPs not to vote against the cuts to tax credits which may hit many low paid families in Portsmouth depending on the proposition from the Government, we ask both the City's MPs to reconsider their decision at the next vote in Westminster.**

The Lord Mayor proposed that as Councillor Vernon-Jackson had now arrived in the chamber the meeting should revert to the order on the agenda and this was agreed.

**Notice of Motion (a) - Housing Bill**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders  
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Winnington

That notice of motion (a) as set out on the agenda be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders  
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Winnington

That notice of motion (a) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Steve Wemyss

Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

The City Council believes that good quality housing that families can afford is essential for families.

Delete paragraph 2 and the 3 bullet points and paragraph 3 and replace with the following

Government proposals expect all Councils that currently have a housing stock to pay for the Right-to-Buy discounts being offered to tenants of some Housing Associations. Given that the consequence will be to reduce the ability of Councils to provide replacement social housing for that lost under the Right-to-Buy, the Council wishes the Government to consider other options.

Amend the final paragraph to read (changes in bold)

The City Council therefore opposes **elements** of the current Housing Bill going through Parliament and asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, the **relevant Secretaries** of State ~~for Communities~~ and the two Portsmouth MPs ~~to ask them~~ to express the City Council's **concerns** ~~opposition to the Bill~~ and to ask them to make changes to the Bill to support the continued provision of sufficient good quality social rented housing to meet the needs of residents of Portsmouth.

**Full Notice of Motion to therefore read:**

The City Council believes that good quality housing that families can afford is essential for families.

Government proposals expect all Councils that currently have a housing stock to pay for the Right-to-Buy discounts being offered to tenants of some Housing Associations. Given that the consequence will be to reduce the ability of Councils to provide replacement social housing for that lost under the Right-to-Buy, the Council wishes the Government to consider other options.

The City Council therefore opposes elements of the current Housing Bill going through Parliament and asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, the relevant Secretaries of State and the two Portsmouth MPs to express the City Council's concerns and to ask them to make changes to the Bill to support the continued provision of sufficient good quality social rented housing to meet the needs of residents of Portsmouth.

Upon the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Steve Wemyss being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the substantive motion be adopted as set out below**

**"The City Council believes that good quality housing that families can afford is essential for families.**

**Government proposals expect all Councils that currently have a housing stock to pay for the Right-to-Buy discounts being offered to tenants of some Housing Associations. Given that the consequence will be to reduce the ability of Councils to provide replacement social housing for that lost under the Right-to Buy, the Council wishes the Government to consider other options.**

**The City Council therefore opposes elements of the current Housing Bill going through Parliament and asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, the relevant Secretaries of State and the two Portsmouth MPs to express the City Council's concerns and to ask them to make changes to the Bill to support the continued provision of sufficient good quality social rented housing to meet the needs of residents of Portsmouth."**

Council adjourned at 4.30 pm.

Council resumed at 4.45 pm.

**Notice of Motion (b) - Keeping the Fire Service in Portsmouth Strong**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That notice of motion (b) be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That notice of motion (b) as set out on the agenda be adopted.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Ian Lyon  
Seconded by Councillor Rob New

To delete the words in the motion after "the City Council notes" in the first line and replace with the following -

" that the Hampshire Fire Authority is undertaking a review of the provision of firefighting services to the County in general and to Portsmouth in particular, and it also notes that just under one month remains of the public consultation process.

The City Council wishes to await the publication of the results of the Hampshire Fire Authority's public consultation process rather than express its views at this stage in the process.

The City Council urges residents and other interested parties to engage in the public consultation process before its closing date of 4th December 2015. To this end the City Council notes that residents may have their say on shaping the future of the fire service by attending the public meeting arranged by the Fire Service in Portsmouth tomorrow, Wednesday 11th November, at the John Pounds Centre at 23 Queen Street, Portsmouth PO1 3HN from 6.30pm to 9pm: and, in addition, residents can submit their views to the Hampshire Fire Authority by completing the on line questionnaire at [www.hantsfire.gov.uk/a-safer-hampshire](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/a-safer-hampshire); by e-mailing [asaferhampshire@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:asaferhampshire@hantsfire.gov.uk); or by writing to Planning for a Safer Hampshire, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 9SJ."

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Lee Hunt  
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Winnington

That Para 1 add at the end of the sentence "and the numbers of fire crew on duty."

Para 4 add at the end "and a reduction of 4 fire officers on duty in Southsea per shift."

Councillor Vernon-Jackson as proposer of the original notice of motion agreed to accept into his original notice of motion as set out on the agenda, the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Lee Hunt.

Following debate a recorded vote was requested by eight members standing on the amendment standing in the name of Ian Lyon. Upon the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Ian Lyon being put to the vote the following members voted in favour:

Simon Boshier  
Jennie Brent  
Ryan Brent  
Ken Ellcome  
Colin Galloway  
Paul Godier  
Scott Harris  
Steve Hastings  
Hannah Hockaday  
Donna Jones  
Ian Lyon

Lee Mason  
Gemma New  
Rob New  
Sandra Stockdale  
Luke Stubbs  
Julie Swan  
Linda Symes  
David Tompkins  
Steve Wemyss  
Neill Young

The following members voted against:

Dave Ashmore

Hugh Mason



Yahiya Chowdhury  
Alicia Denny  
Ben Dowling  
John Ferrett  
David Fuller  
Aiden Gray  
Suzy Horton  
Lee Hunt

Will Purvis  
Darren Sanders  
Phil Smith  
Lynne Stagg  
Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Matthew Winnington  
Rob Wood

The following members abstained:

Councillor Ken Ferrett  
Councillor Stuart Potter

The amendment standing in the name of Councillor Ian Lyon was therefore CARRIED.

Upon the substantive motion incorporating the amendment being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that**

**The City Council notes that the Hampshire Fire Authority is undertaking a review of the provision of firefighting services to the County in general and to Portsmouth in particular, and it also notes that just under one month remains of the public consultation process.**

**The City Council wishes to await the publication of the results of the Hampshire Fire Authority's public consultation process rather than express its views at this stage in the process.**

**The City Council urges residents and other interested parties to engage in the public consultation process before its closing date of 4th December 2015. To this end the City Council notes that residents may have their say on shaping the future of the fire service by attending the public meeting arranged by the Fire Service in Portsmouth tomorrow, Wednesday 11th November, at the John Pounds Centre at 23 Queen Street, Portsmouth PO1 3HN from 6.30pm to 9pm: and, in addition, residents can submit their views to the Hampshire Fire Authority by completing the on line questionnaire at [www.hantsfire.gov.uk/a-safer-hampshire](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/a-safer-hampshire); by e-mailing [asaferhampshire@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:asaferhampshire@hantsfire.gov.uk); or by writing to Planning for a Safer Hampshire, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 9SJ.**

### **Notice of Motion (d) - Individual Electoral Registration**

It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett

Seconded by Councillor Aiden Gray

That this notice of motion be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett

Seconded by Councillor Aiden Gray

That notice of motion (d) as set out in the agenda be adopted.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones

Seconded by Councillor Steve Wemyss

That the last paragraph be amended with the insertion of the words highlighted in bold as follows -

For the Council Leader to write to the Government to express our concerns and to ask for **the following** -

**that given the additional financial burden placed on the Authority's budget by IER, the Government clarifies its plans for funding IER from the 2016/17 financial year onwards on the basis that** additional resources **should be allocated by the Government to the Council from then. That ongoing funding will** ensure that local residents are not disenfranchised from the democratic process and **will also enable the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register to be sustained under the new system.**

The proposer of the original notice of motion, Councillor John Ferrett accepted the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Donna Jones into the notice of motion set out on the agenda.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Lee Mason

Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

That the matter be now put to the vote and the Lord Mayor was content with this proposal.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

Upon the substantive notice of motion incorporating the amendment being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the following notice of motion be adopted:**

**Council notes:**

The Electoral Commission's findings in its report into the transition to Individual Electoral Registration (IER) and, in particular, the finding that 1.9 million of the current entries on the electoral register are only being retained under the transitional arrangements from the previous household registration system, which represents 4% of all register entries. The Electoral Commission has previously estimated that the number of people not correctly registered at their current address is around 7.5million across the UK.

The Government want to end the transitional arrangements and fully implement IER 12 months early. However, the Electoral Commission has warned that there is "a risk that a considerable number of eligible voters could be removed from the registers before the significant set of polls scheduled for May 2016 if the transition to IER is brought forward."

**Council believes:**

That the government's proposals for the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) remain poorly thought out and implemented, running the risk that voters could be disenfranchised as part of this process.

That the end of the transitional arrangements before IER is fully implemented should remain December 2016 as stated in law and should not be brought forward to December 2015.

**Council resolves:**

To take every possible step to ensure that as many local residents as possible are registered to vote.

For the Council Leader to write to the Government to express our concerns and to ask for the following -

that given the additional financial burden placed on the Authority's budget by IER, the Government clarifies its plans for funding IER from the 2016/17 financial year onwards on the basis that additional resources should be allocated by the Government to the Council from then. That ongoing funding will ensure that local residents are not disenfranchised from the democratic process and will also enable the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register to be sustained under the new system.

**Notice of Motion (e) - Tax Exempt Vehicles**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Steve Hastings  
Seconded by Councillor Rob New

That this notice of motion be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Steve Hastings  
Seconded by Councillor Rob New

That notice of motion (e) as set out in the agenda be adopted.

Councillor Hastings clarified that the notice of motion is only intended to remove historic vehicles from the DVLA tax exempt classification - not any other vehicles in the same category.

Following debate upon being put to the vote the original notice of motion as set out on the agenda paper was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the following Notice of Motion be adopted**

**There is a loop hole being exploited by some people due to the category that Historic vehicles are currently placed in and local authority officers and police are unable to remove these cars and vans when they have no tax and MOT due to DVLA guidelines, which tell them in their guideline notes not to remove any vehicle that is in this category.**

**This council accepts that they should not be charged for their road fund licence but should be taken out of the category that they are in and placed in with all other cars and vans as this causes many problems to residents where multiple vehicles are littered all over their roads in a state of disrepair and seemingly abandoned, dangerous and a blight on the area and often owned by one person.**

**Any vehicle within standard vehicle category that has no tax and MOT would be removed by Portsmouth City Council officers and notified to DVLA and then they would follow it through with the registered keeper with fines or disposal.**

**Therefore this council asks that the Chief Executive, and the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transport write a joint letter to the Secretary of State for Transport to request that Historic vehicles manufactured prior to 1st January 1975 be removed from the DVLA tax exempt classification alongside such vehicles as steam engines, mowing machines, MOD and agricultural vehicles.**

**This will mean that local authorities and the police will be empowered to remove these vehicles from the highway if they break the law and have**

**no tax and MOT in the same way as any of us with our own cars and vans thus allowing officials to do their job.**

**95. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17**

There were four questions from members.

**Question No 1** was from Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

"Why was a decision to sack nine Community Wardens taken in secret and not open to scrutiny by the public or councillors?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety, Councillor Rob New.

**Question No 2** was from Councillor Matthew Winnington

"Can the cabinet member please update Full Council on the progress of the work going on at South Parade Pier and of the bid to the coastal revival fund that the council has made with the pier owners?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Donna Jones as the Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration & Economic Development had left the chamber owing to his having declared a pecuniary interest in this item.

**Question No 3** was from Councillor Colin Galloway

"Will the Leader please give us an update on the survey that was conducted to consider local elections to be held every four years instead of the expensive present system?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by Councillor Donna Jones.

**Question No 4** was from Councillor Matthew Winnington

"Will the Council Leader please give us a progress report on the joint bid with Caen to host the Tour de France by the end of this decade?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Donna Jones.

The meeting concluded at 7.40 pm.

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Lord Mayor