

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 12 December 2017 at 2.00 pm

Council Members Present

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor
Councillor Ken Elcome (in the Chair)

Councillors

Dave Ashmore	Hugh Mason
Simon Boshier	Lee Mason
Jennie Brent	Stephen Morgan MP
Ryan Brent	Gemma New
Yahiya Chowdhury	Robert New
Alicia Denny	Steve Pitt
Ben Dowling	Stuart Potter
John Ferrett	Will Purvis
David Fuller	Darren Sanders
Colin Galloway	Lynne Stagg
Paul Godier	Luke Stubbs
Scott Payter-Harris	Julie Bird
Steve Hastings	Linda Symes
Hannah Hockaday	David Tompkins
Suzy Horton	Steve Wemyss
Lee Hunt	Matthew Winnington
Frank Jonas BEM	Neill Young
Donna Jones	Rob Wood
Ian Lyon	Tom Wood
Leo Madden	

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

Councillor Darren Sanders declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest under item 9(b) in that his mother lives in one of the tower blocks mentioned in the notice of motion.

94. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14 November 2017

It was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 14 November 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on
14 November 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

95. Communications and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson and Councillor James Fleming.

Councillor Stephen Morgan MP gave apologies for having to leave the meeting early. Councillor Rob Wood gave his apologies for having to leave the meeting at 6.30 pm if it had not concluded by then.

The Lord Mayor gave detailed information concerning filming in the chamber and reiterated the council's rules which strictly prohibit the filming, photographing or recording of members of the public unless they are addressing the meeting and only then if they do not actively object. Filming from gallery to gallery is also prohibited.

The Lord Mayor then gave details of the evacuation procedure and reminded everyone that there are building evacuation signs displayed both inside the public galleries and in the chamber itself.

The Lord Mayor referred to the seating plan which had been slightly updated.

The Lord Mayor then advised council that a former Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Pam Webb had recently passed away and that he attended her funeral on 28 November.

The Lord Mayor also advised that Alan Lihou a civic awardee, church administrator and warden who worked with the Cathedral Innovation Centre and The Rowans had also recently passed away. His funeral took place on 11 December.

The Lord Mayor said that the thoughts of council were with Pam and Alan's families at this time.

The Lord Mayor then updated council about his recent visit to Portsmouth's twin cities of Caen and Duisburg.

The Lord Mayor next referred to the extraordinary council meeting held on 11 July 2017 in which it was agreed to admit former Portsmouth city councillor, Alex Bentley to the role of honorary aldermen. The Lord Mayor said that it was with great pleasure that he was able to present Alex Bentley with the framed certificate at this meeting and after congratulating Mr Bentley, he invited him to make an acceptance speech if he wished to do so. Mr Bentley addressed Council during which he thanked the Lord Mayor and councillors for admitting him to the roll of honorary aldermen and also thanked his family for all the support they had given him.

96. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24

There were no deputations.

97. Appointments

The Lord Mayor advised that he had been notified of proposed appointments to be made in respect of the Planning Committee membership as previously circulated to members and these were agreed.

RESOLVED the in respect of the Planning Committee Councillor Luke Stubbs and Councillor Scott Payter-Harris be appointed as standing deputies.

98. Urgent Business under Standing Order No 26

There was no urgent business.

Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 11 December 2017**99. Minute 52 - Revenue Budget 2018/19 - Savings Proposals**

This was opposed.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones
Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

That the recommendations contained in the report entitled "Portsmouth City Council Revenue Budget 2018/19 - Savings Proposals" be approved.

Councillor Donna Jones spoke on the budget proposals which had been produced by the Conservative group. She placed on record her thanks to the two Independent members of council, Councillor Paul Godier and Councillor John Ferrett.

The Leader also placed on record her thanks to Chris Ward and Julian Pike saying that the council was lucky to have such able officers. She then gave her personal thanks to members of the Conservative group and especially to the Cabinet Members.

As the Leader of the Liberal Democrat group was unable to attend the meeting, it was

Proposed by Councillor Ben Dowling
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That Standing Orders be waived so that the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat group would be allowed to have unlimited speaking time when speaking to the revenue budget proposals. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the Deputy Group Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group be allowed unlimited speaking time when speaking to the revenue budget proposals.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Hugh Mason
Seconded by Councillor Ben Dowling

That the recommendation set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes (Liberal Democrat revenue amendment) be adopted. Councillor Hugh Mason spoke to his group's proposed budget amendment. He thanked all finance officers for their hard work and in particular expressed thanks to Chris Ward and Julian Pike. He also expressed thanks to the city council's Cabinet for all the hard work they had put in and recognised their efforts.

He commended the Liberal Democrat group's proposed budget amendments to the council.

The Lord Mayor invited the Leader of the UKIP group, Councillor Colin Galloway to respond to the budget proposals which he then did. No amendment was proposed by Councillor Galloway.

The Lord Mayor then invited the Leader of the Labour group, Councillor Stephen Morgan to respond to the budget proposals which he then did. No amendments were proposed by Councillor Morgan.

Council adjourned at 3.35 pm.

Council resumed at 3.45 pm.

Following debate the Lord Mayor called upon the Leader of the Council, Councillor Donna Jones to sum up the debate which she then did. Councillor Jones said that she did not propose to accept the Liberal Democrat group amendment and gave her reasons. She placed on record the help and support given by all staff over the last financial year.

The Lord Mayor advised that the revenue budget and the amendment would be voted on using the recorded vote method in accordance with the regulations. Upon the Liberal Democrat group amendment standing in the name of Councillor Hugh Mason being put to the vote, the following members voted in favour:-

Councillors	Dave Ashmore	Steve Pitt
	Ben Dowling	Will Purvis
	David Fuller	Darren Sanders
	Suzy Horton	Lynne Stagg
	Lee Hunt	Matthew Winnington
	Leo Madden	Rob Wood
	Hugh Mason	Tom Wood

The following members voted against:

Councillors	Julie Bird	Steve Hastings	Scott Payter-Harris
	Simon Boshier	Hannah Hockaday	Stuart Potter
	Jennie Brent	Frank Jonas	Luke Stubbs
	Ryan Brent	Donna Jones	Linda Symes
	Alicia Denny	Ian Lyon	David Tompkins
	John Ferrett	Lee Mason	Steve Wemyss
	Colin Galloway	Gemma New	Neill Young
	Paul Godier	Robert New	

The following member abstained:

Councillor Yahiya Chowdhury

The Liberal Democrat group amendment was therefore LOST.

Upon the recommendations from Cabinet being put to the vote, the following members voted in favour:

Councillors	Julie Bird	Steve Hastings	Scott Payter-Harris
	Simon Boshier	Hannah Hockaday	Stuart Potter
	Jennie Brent	Frank Jonas	Luke Stubbs
	Ryan Brent	Donna Jones	Linda Symes
	Alicia Denny	Ian Lyon	David Tompkins
	John Ferrett	Lee Mason	Steve Wemyss
	Colin Galloway	Gemma New	Neill Young
	Paul Godier	Robert New	

The following members voted against:

Councillors	Dave Ashmore	Hugh Mason	Tom Wood
	Yahiya Chowdhury	Steve Pitt	
	Ben Dowling	Will Purvis	
	David Fuller	Darren Sanders	
	Suzy Horton	Lynne Stagg	
	Lee Hunt	Matthew Winnington	
	Leo Madden	Rob Wood	

There were no abstentions.

This was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED

1 That the following be approved:

- (a) That the Council's Budget for 2018/19 be prepared on the basis of a 1.99% Council Tax increase for general purposes
- (b) That the Council continues to take advantage of the opportunity to increase the level of Council Tax for an

"Adult Social Care Precept" within the limits set by Central Government (i.e. a 3% increase phased over the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20), and consequently that the additional funding is passported direct to Adult Social Care to provide for otherwise unfunded cost pressures.

- (c) That the Council's authorised limit for external debt in 2017/18 is increased by £45m to £653m**
- (d) The savings proposals for each Portfolio amounting, in total, to £4m for 2018/19 and continuing into future years as set out in Appendix A to enable appropriate consultation and notice periods to be given to affected parties**
- (e) That £500,000 is transferred from the MTRS Reserve to replenish the Voluntary Sector Capacity & Transition Fund**

2 That the following be noted:

- (a) The Budget Savings Requirement for 2018/19 of £4m approved by the City Council was based on a Council Tax increase of 1.99%; each 1% change (increase or decrease) in the Council Tax results in a change to the savings requirement of £708,000¹**
- (b) The key themes arising from the budget consultation**
- (c) The indicative savings proposals set out in Appendix B which are provided for the purpose of demonstrating to the Council that the Portfolio savings as recommended in paragraph 1 (d) above are robust and deliverable**
- (d) The likely impact of savings as set out in Appendix B**
- (e) That the responsibility of the City Council is to approve the overall Budget and the associated cash limits of its Portfolios and Committees; it is not the responsibility of the City Council to approve any individual savings within those Portfolios / Committees**
- (f) That it is the responsibility of the individual Portfolio Holders (not full Council) to approve the individual savings proposals and the Portfolio Holder can therefore, in response to any consultation, alter, amend or substitute any of the indicative savings proposal(s) set out in Appendix B with alternative proposal(s) amounting to the same value within their Portfolio**
- (g) Managers will commence the implementation of the approved savings required and any necessary consultation process or notice process**
- (h) That there is no general provision for Budget Pressures and that it is the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder to manage any Budget Pressures which arise from the overall resources available to the Portfolio (which includes their Portfolio Reserve)**
- (i) In accordance with the approved financial framework, it is the responsibility of the Portfolio Holder, in consultation**

¹ Tax increases will be subject to Council Tax referendum thresholds which are at this stage unknown

- with the Director of Finance & Information Services (S151 Officer), to release funds from the Portfolio Reserve in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 10.19**
- (j) The MTRS Reserve held to fund the upfront costs associated with Spend to Save Schemes, Invest to Save Schemes and redundancies currently holds a very modest uncommitted balance of £2.0m² and will only be replenished from an approval to the transfer of any non-Portfolio underspends at year end into this reserve.**

100. Review of the political balance on committees and Panels

The Lord Mayor said that in response to the recommendations set out in the report submitted by the Chief Executive and as a result of agreement between those concerned, a written proposal had been received from the Leader which had been circulated in the chamber.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones
Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

"To adopt the overall political balance and allocation of seats as set out in the chief executive's report, and agree the following change which has the agreement of all those affected -

That the extra Conservative seat be allocated on the Education, Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Panel, but this extra seat will be gifted from the Conservative Group's allocation on that Panel to Councillor Godier as a non-aligned member, so that he remains a member of the above Scrutiny Panel.

Note Councillor Godier's two other seats within his arithmetical allocation will continue to be on the Licensing Committee and the Traffic Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel."

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that Council

Adopted the overall political balance and allocation of seats as set out in the chief executive's report, and agreed the following change which has the agreement of all those affected -

That the extra Conservative seat be allocated on the Education, Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Panel, but this extra seat will be gifted from the Conservative Group's allocation on that Panel to Councillor Godier as a non-aligned member, so that he remains a member of the above Scrutiny Panel.

² Assuming that the transfer of £500,000 to the Voluntary Sector Capacity and Transition Fund as recommended in the report is approved

Note Councillor Godier's two other seats within his arithmetical allocation will continue to be on the Licensing Committee and the Traffic Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel.

Notices of Motion

101. Notice of Motion (a) - Contamination of Oceans

It was

Proposed by Councillor Dave Ashmore
Seconded by Councillor Ben Dowling

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 Dave Ashmore
Seconded by Councillor Ben Dowling

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs
Seconded by Councillor Linda Symes

To delete the last two paragraphs and replace with:

Council thanks the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety for having already written on behalf of the Council to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP back in November on this issue, and more recently to the city's two Members of Parliament, Stephen Morgan MP and Penny Mordaunt MP, highlighting concerns around plastic, plastic microfiber contamination and waste going into the oceans, as well as highlighting additional issues around water quality in and around our harbours (the causes which fall outside of the control of the City Council) which too often affect the classification of our seabeds, and in turn our local fishermen's livelihoods.

The proposer of the original motion agreed to subsume into it the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Luke Stubbs. Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the following Notice of Motion as amended be adopted

"As Portsmouth is the UK's only island city meaning we are surrounded by water, this Council is invested in ensuring we have safe, clean and environmentally friendly waters for the people, animals and plant life of Portsmouth.

Council notes the National Federation of Women's Institutes' new campaign concerning the contamination of the oceans from microplastic fibres, which passed with an overwhelming 98.9% majority at the 2017 WI Annual Meeting.

Microplastic fibres are small plastic fragments 5 mm or smaller that are shed from synthetic clothes when laundered and end up in the sea and wider environment. The scale of the problem is large; millions of people wash their clothes every week, shedding these tiny particles that are too small to be caught by the machine's filters, flowing into the sewage system and eventually into the ocean. Due to their small size, microplastic fibres are readily ingested by aquatic life, filling up their stomachs which can eventually cause death. We also know that the plastic fibres attract toxins and harmful chemical pollutants which then end up in the food we eat, the long-term effects of which are not yet clear.

Given the scale of the problem, there is an urgent need for more research to identify and develop potential solutions. We need to better understand the long term impact of microplastic fibres on the marine environment, develop a deeper understanding about why different textiles perform differently when washed, and to identify ways to prevent fibres being released into the water supply.

Council thanks the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety for having already written on behalf of the Council to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP back in November on this issue, and more recently to the city's two Members of Parliament, Stephen Morgan MP and Penny Mordaunt MP, highlighting concerns around plastic, plastic microfiber contamination and waste going into the oceans, as well as highlighting additional issues around water quality in and around our harbours (the causes which fall outside of the control of the City Council), which too often affect the classification of our seabeds, and in turn our local fishermen's livelihoods."

102. Notice of Motion (b) - Government Funding for Cladding Council Buildings

It was

Proposed by Councillor Tom Wood
Seconded by Councillor Leo Madden

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

This was agreed.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Tom Wood
Seconded by Councillor Leo Madden

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Ryan Brent
Seconded by Councillor Jennie Brent

That "In the second paragraph, first sentence

Delete "and Hampshire Fire Service"

Also in the second paragraph delete "and put in place" and replace with ". The council also wishes to thank Hampshire Fire Service for facilitating"

Delete from bullet point numbered 2 " abandoned this commitment and" and replace with "now indicated that it now".

Delete bullet point numbered 3

Delete from paragraph seven "condemns the decision" and replace with "notes the action"

Also delete from paragraph seven "to U-turn on his commitment" and replace with "further notes the ongoing discussions between DCLG and officers of Portsmouth City Council."

Delete from paragraph eight "calls on the Leader of the Council to lead a cross party delegation to" and replace with " requests the Chief Executive to write a letter to the chairman of the LGA, the City's MPs and"

Also delete from paragraph eight "asking him to honour his commitment and provide funding to Portsmouth City Council for" and replace with "to ask Government to fund"

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Ryan Brent was CARRIED.

Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote this was CARRIED

RESOLVED that

Council is very concerned by the events at Grenfell Tower and offers it condolences to those who lost family members and loved ones in the fire.

Council thanks Housing Officers for their outstanding work to start to remove the cladding for Horatia House and Leamington House. The council also wishes to thank Hampshire Fire Service for facilitating additional measures to ensure residents safety while the cladding is being removed.

Council notes that

- 1. the Government initially promised to cover the costs of works necessary as a result of Grenfell, and particularly that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government promised on the 16th June that the government would do “whatever is required” to support works necessary as a result of the Grenfell disaster.**
- 2. That government has now indicated that it now intends only to provide Councils with “financial flexibilities” and not actual grants.**

Council reaffirms that no matter what decisions the government makes the work to ensure Horatia House and Leamington House are as safe as possible must and will continue.

The council notes the action by the Secretary of State and further notes the ongoing discussions between DCLG and officers of Portsmouth City Council.

Council requests the Chief Executive to write a letter to the chairman of the LGA, the City's MPs and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to ask Government to fund the works on Horatia and Leamington House.

103. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17

There were no questions before council.

At the end of the meeting, the Lord Mayor took the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

The meeting concluded at 6.35 pm.

.....
Lord Mayor