



# Agenda & minutes

Annual Full Council meeting of  
Tuesday, 18 May 2021



# *Portsmouth City Council*

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held at the **Main Auditorium, Portsmouth Guildhall** on Tuesday, 18 May 2021 at **10.00am** and all members of the council are hereby summoned to attend to consider and resolve upon the following business:-

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## *Agenda*

- 1 To elect the Lord Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year**
- 2 To appoint the Deputy Lord Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year**  
Note in respect of items 1 and 2 above, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, a member of the Executive may not be elected to the position of either Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor.
- 3 Declaration of Members' Interests**
- 4 To approve as correct records the Minutes of Extraordinary and the Ordinary Council meetings held on 16 March 2021 (Pages 9 - 28)**
- 5 To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor may desire to lay before the Council, including apologies for absence**
- 6 Deputations from the Public (in person)**
- 7 Leader**

To note that under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the current Leader of the City Council will remain in office until May 2023 unless

- a) they resign from the office;
- b) they are no longer a Councillor
- c) they are removed from office by resolution of the Council

Please also see note in respect of items 1 and 2 above, advising that neither the Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor can be members of the Executive

Consequently, should any of the above apply, there will be a need to elect a Leader of the City Council, for a four-year term of office (unless the Leader's current term of office expires earlier).

**8 Cabinet - In accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to receive details from the Leader of the Council regarding Cabinet members (including Deputy Leader) and portfolios for the ensuing Municipal Year**

The Council will also receive details of the appointments from the Leader (as it is within their gift) for the Health and Wellbeing Board, applying the following criteria;

- Leader of the Council (or nominated representative)
- Portfolio holder responsible for Health & Social Care
- Portfolio holder responsible for Children’s Services
- Leader of the largest opposition group (or nominated representative)

A named standing deputy may also be appointed for each position.

**9 Proportional Representation on Panels and Committees**

Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the City Council is required at each Annual Meeting to review the representation of different political groups, to determine the allocation of seats to different political groups for the forthcoming Municipal Year based on the Group Strengths on the Council and to appoint Members in accordance with the decisions of the Council as to allocation and according to the wishes of the groups as to the identities of the Members to be appointed.

The appointment of Members is dealt with separately under Item 10 below.

**Proposed allocation of Seats for 2021/22 (Table 1) below**

The representation of groups must be in accordance with the rules set out in the relevant legislation. Details of the proposed allocation of places on Panels and Committees will follow. Set out below are the totals -

<b>Groups</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>No of Cllrs</b>	<b>Total No of Cttee Seats</b>	<b>Licensing Committee (15 Members)</b>	<b>Planning Committee (10 Members)</b>	<b>7 committees and panels (see note) (6 Members each)</b>	<b>Scrutiny Management Panel (9 Members)</b>

	42	76	15	10	42	9

Note: Group 5 contains the following: Governance & Audit & Standards; Employment; & Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel; and the 4 themed scrutiny panels

Principle 2 within Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the majority of seats on Committees and Panels to be allocated to the group having the majority of seats on the City Council.

A group is defined in the regulations as comprising two or more persons.

2021/22 municipal appointments will be presented at the meeting

RECOMMENDED (1) that the total number of seats on Committees and Panels be divided amongst the political groups and individual members as applicable in accordance with Table 1 above (details to follow).

(2) that any other bodies subject to the political proportionality rules be appointed in accordance with proportions shown in Table 1 (details to follow).

**10 To appoint Members to the following Committees and Panels for the 2021/22 Municipal Year:-**

Scrutiny Management Panel	- 9 members
Planning Committee	- 10 members
Licensing Committee	- 15 members
Governance & Audit & Standards Committee	- 6 members
Employment Committee	- 6 members
Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel	- 6 members
Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel	- 6 members
Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel	- 6 members
Housing and Social Care Scrutiny Panel	- 6 members
Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel	- 6 members

**11 To appoint Standing Deputies (three named Members for each Group on each Committee or Panel, five in respect of the Planning Committee)**

**12 To appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees and the Scrutiny Management and Scrutiny Panels for the 2021/22 Municipal Year**

**13 Appointments**

To appoint representatives, **who must be elected members**, to the following outside bodies. These appointments are reserved to the City Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

- (1) To appoint **1** member to serve on the **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority** for the 2021/22 municipal year.

(In 2020/21 the appointee was Councillor Jason Fazackarley

- (2) To appoint 1 member to serve on the **Police and Crime Panel (PCP)** (Councillor Lee Hunt was the Council's representative in 2020/21).

- (3) To appoint up to 4 members to serve on the Local Government Association General Assembly for the 2021/22 municipal year, who will be supported by the appropriate officers at the Annual Conference, and to specify which of the elected members will hold the voting rights.

Portsmouth City Council has 5 votes on the LGA, which are usually exercised by the party forming the City Council's political administration. Those having the right to vote should be identified.

In 2020/21 the representatives were Councillors Lee Mason, Judith Smyth, Gerald Vernon-Jackson and Darren Sanders, who each exercised one vote.

- (4) To appoint 6 members to serve on the Langstone Harbour Board who must be an elected member and in accordance with the political balance regulations.

For 2020/21, the representatives were; Councillors Graham Heaney, Lee Mason, Darren Sanders, Robert New, Jeanette Smith, Matthew Winnington (and standing deputies Hugh Mason and Matthew Atkins).

#### **14 Other Appointments**

6 members to the Twinning Advisory Group - in 2020/21 the chair was the Communities and Central Services Portfolio holder (Councillor Attwell), with the Lord Mayor (Rob Wood) performing the deputy Chair role (the other 4 members in 2020/21 were Councillors Leo Madden, Tom Coles, Chris Attwell\* (\*now vacant seat due to filling it in his Portfolio holder capacity in 2020/21) and Linda Symes).

#### **15 To receive and consider any urgent and important business in accordance with Standing Order No 26**

#### **16 To approve the following dates for meetings of the Council during the 2021/22 municipal year to commence at 2pm unless otherwise indicated**

20 July 2021	18 January 2022 (provisional)
12 October 2021	*15 February 2022 (*was originally 8 February)
9 November 2021	15 March 2022
7 December 2021	17 May 2022 (Annual) (10:00am)

To provisionally agree the following Council meeting dates for 2022/23

19 July 2022	17 January 2023 (provisional)
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11 October 2022  
8 November 2022  
6 December 2022

14 February 2023  
14 March 2023  
16 May 2023 (Annual) (10.00am)

David Williams  
Chief Executive

This meeting is webcast (videoed), viewable via the Council's livestream account at <https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785>

**Information with regard to public access due to Covid precautions**

This meeting will be a ticketed event (tickets are free).  
Tickets can be booked by emailing the Lord Mayor's office (first come, first served) via [Lord.LordMayorsOffice@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Lord.LordMayorsOffice@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

Attendees will be required to have an LFD test within 48 hours of the meeting,  
Face coverings will need to be worn for the duration of the meeting  
Attendees will need to book in to the venue (QR code)  
Attendees will be subject to a temperature check on arrival  
Spaces will be limited.

In addition to the above, if any member of the public also wish to make a deputation (in accordance with Standing Order 24), please contact the Local Democracy Manager at [Stewart.Agland@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Stewart.Agland@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

Civic Offices  
Guildhall Square  
PORTSMOUTH  
7 May 2021

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# Agenda Item 4

16 March 2021

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MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held remotely on Tuesday, 16 March 2021 at 2.00 pm.

## **Council Members Present (virtually)**

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor  
Councillor Rob Wood (in the Chair)

### Councillors

Dave Ashmore	Lee Mason
Matthew Atkins	Terry Norton
Chris Attwell	Stephen Morgan MP
Simon Boshier	Gemma New
Tom Coles	Robert New
Cal Corkery	Steve Pitt
Ben Dowling	Will Purvis
Jason Fazackarley	Darren Sanders
George Fielding	Jeanette Smith
John Ferrett	Lynne Stagg
David Fuller	Judith Smyth
Scott Payter-Harris	Luke Stubbs
Graham Heaney	Benedict Swann
Hannah Hockaday	Linda Symes
Suzy Horton	Claire Udy
Lee Hunt	Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Frank Jonas BEM	Steve Wemyss
Donna Jones	Matthew Winnington
Leo Madden	Tom Wood
Hugh Mason	Neill Young

## **General Procedural Announcements**

[Agenda for Full Council on Tuesday, 16th March, 2021, 2.00 pm Portsmouth City Council](#)

The Lord Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting that is being held virtually in response to the limitations placed on government by the Covid 19 pandemic. He advised that the meeting would be run by reference to the model standing orders as set out in the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings Regulations 2020. The Lord Mayor then ran through the etiquette relating to virtual meetings.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Jo Hooper. Councillor Stephen Morgan advised that he would indicate to the Lord Mayor if he had to leave the meeting at any point owing to parliamentary business.

## 9. Declarations of Interest

The Lord Mayor advised that advice had recently been circulated from the Acting Monitoring Officer concerning the proposal to grant the freedom of the city of Portsmouth to all critical workers and volunteers. This advice was that although members are required to declare interests, in the circumstances, given the matters to be discussed and the wide remit of personal interests which may arise, such interests are not prejudicial in this instance and in any event a general dispensation is provided to allow all members a right to consider the matter.

Councillor Matthew Winnington declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that his wife is a key worker.

Councillor Steve Wemyss declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that he is an employee of the NHS.

Councillor Claire Udy declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that her partner and parents are key workers.

Councillor Jason Fazackarley declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that he works in a supermarket.

Councillor Will Purvis declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that both he and his wife are key workers.

Councillor Hannah Hockaday declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that she is a key worker.

Councillor Ben Dowling declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that his partner is a key worker in the NHS.

Councillor Gemma New declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that her mother works for the NHS.

Councillor Terry Norton declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that he and his partner and sister are all key workers.

Councillor Rob Wood declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that his wife, the Lady Mayoress, works for a local authority in a key area.

Councillor Lee Mason declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that his sister works as a key worker.

Councillor Tom Wood declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that his partner is a key worker in an education charity.

Councillor David Fuller declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that he works in a private residential care home.

## 10. Written Deputations

The Lord Mayor advised that one written deputation had been received for this extraordinary meeting and had been previously circulated. This was from Honorary Alderman Steven Wylie in respect of agenda item 3 - Granting of the Freedom of the City.

The Local Democracy Manager read out the deputation.

## 11. Granting of the Freedom of the City

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

To grant the freedom of the city of Portsmouth to all critical workers and volunteers.

The Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group both spoke in support of the proposal.

The Lord Mayor advised that this proposal also had the formal support of the other two group leaders and the four deputy group leaders who each spoke in support as follows:-

Group Leader for the Labour Group, Councillor Fielding  
Group Leader for the Progressive Portsmouth People Group, Councillor Udy  
Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Pitt  
Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Stubbs  
Deputy Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Corkery  
Deputy Leader of the Progressive Portsmouth People Group, Councillor Smith

The Lord Mayor advised that a two-thirds majority was necessary in order for the proposal to be carried. The proposal was carried unanimously by assent.

The Lord Mayor said that a scroll setting out the granting of the freedom of the city would be presented to representative recipients at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED that in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972:-**

**The City Council wishes to record its gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful work done by critical workers and volunteers in many different roles to support residents of Portsmouth during the COVID 19 pandemic. The support given has been phenomenal and the City Council wishes to recognise the dedication, self-sacrifice, skill and hard work shown by so many, by awarding the Freedom of the City of Portsmouth to all critical workers and volunteers who have supported residents of Portsmouth during the pandemic.**

4 16 March 2021

**This resolution be engrossed on vellum and sealed with the common seal for presentation;**

**Arrangements be made for the presentation of this resolution and the formal admission to the Freedom of the City.**

The extraordinary meeting concluded at 2.37 pm.

.....  
Lord Mayor

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held remotely on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 2.38pm (immediately after the conclusion of the extraordinary council meeting)

**Link to the agenda**

<https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=146&MId=4270&Ver=4>

**Council Members Present (virtually)**

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor  
Councillor Rob Wood (in the Chair)

Councillors

Dave Ashmore	Lee Mason
Matthew Atkins	Terry Norton
Chris Attwell	Stephen Morgan MP
Simon Boshier	Gemma New
Tom Coles	Robert New
Cal Corkery	Steve Pitt
Ben Dowling	Will Purvis
Jason Fazackarley	Darren Sanders
George Fielding	Jeanette Smith
John Ferrett	Lynne Stagg
David Fuller	Judith Smyth
Scott Payter-Harris	Luke Stubbs
Graham Heaney	Benedict Swann
Hannah Hockaday	Linda Symes
Suzy Horton	Claire Udy
Lee Hunt	Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Frank Jonas BEM	Steve Wemyss
Donna Jones	Matthew Winnington
Leo Madden	Tom Wood
Hugh Mason	Neill Young

**12. Declaration of Members' Interests**

Councillor Ben Dowling declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 10 - Social Value Policy - in that he is a director of two social enterprises. As this item is not about implementation he would remain in the meeting. He also declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 15(c) - Recognising our Unsung Heroes in Schools.

Councillor Jeanette Smith declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 15(c) as she is a paid official of Unison.

Councillor Matthew Winnington declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 15(d) - Congratulations to the Government on the National Vaccination Programme as he works for Solent Mind.

Councillor Claire Udy declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 15(c) in that she is a trade union branch president representing schools' interests.

**13. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 9 February 2021**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 9 February 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

These were agreed by assent.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 9 February 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.**

**14. To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor may desire to lay before the Council, including apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Jo Hooper as already dealt with in the extraordinary council meeting.

On behalf of the council, the Lord Mayor congratulated Councillor George Fielding and Councillor Cal Corkery on their recent appointment as Leader and Deputy Leader of the Labour Group respectively and thanked the former Labour Group Leader, Councillor Morgan and the former Deputy Group Leader, Councillor Coles for their work supporting the council in those roles.

The Lord Mayor said that this would be the last council meeting for Vicki Plytas as she is retiring at the end of April. He said Vicki had been an invaluable part of full council meetings over many years as part of the democratic process that she has supported in a highly skilled and professional manner. On behalf of the council the Lord Mayor thanked Vicki for her outstanding service and wished her all the best for the future.

**15. Written Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24**

The Lord Mayor advised that 12 written deputations were received for this meeting and had been previously circulated.

Three deputations were received in respect of agenda item 15(a) - Motion to Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. These were from Mr Peter De Sousa, Mr Tofu Wing and Ms Alison Van Haefen.

Six deputations were received in respect of agenda item 15(e) - Preserve the Former Records Store building. These were from Ms Alicia Denny,

Mr Stephen Fry, Mr Terry Henderson, Mr Ian Holder, Mr Ryan Taylor and Mr Alvin Edyvane.

One deputation was received in respect of agenda item 15(f) - Discharge of Sewage into Langstone Harbour. This was from Ms Kimberly Barrett.

Two deputations were received in respect of agenda item 15(g) - Right to Food. These were from Ms Charlotte Gerada and Mr James Taylor.

The Local Democracy Manager read out the deputations.

The Lord Mayor thanked everyone for their deputations.

## **16. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25**

There were two public questions.

The first question was from Ms Charlotte Gerada

"When Liberal Democrat councillors were recently asked about progress on the rollout of bike hangers on Twitter, suggestions were made that councillors were too busy responding to the pandemic.

This is a deeply worrying response as we need a green Covid recovery plan in response to the pandemic that puts the environment, transport and sustainability first - and bike hangers are a really effective tool in giving residents the confidence to own and use a bike.

We now understand over a year later from when they were promised, the hangers will start going out from mid-March. How do these fit into a broader green Covid recovery strategy for Portsmouth? And when can we expect results from the trial and a commitment to roll out a proper cycling strategy?"

This was answered by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson.

The second question was from Kirsty Mellor

"Will the administration commit to opposing the closure of Guildhall Walk GP surgery and if necessary, pledge to work with the CCG, the patient participation group and others, to secure alternative provision as close as possible to the current surgery?"

This was answered by Councillor Matthew Winnington Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care.

Following debate, it was

Proposed by Councillor Cal Corkery  
Seconded by Councillor Claire Udy

4 16 March 2021

That the matter contained in Question 2 be referred to HOSP for consideration.

This was CARRIED by assent.

**RESOLVED that the matter contained in Public Question 2 at the 16 March 2021 Council Meeting**

**"Will the administration commit to opposing the closure of Guildhall Walk GP surgery and if necessary, pledge to work with the CCG, the patient participation group and others, to secure alternative provision as close as possible to the current surgery?"**

**be referred to HOSP for consideration.**

**17. Appointments**

There were no appointments.

**18. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

**19. Recommendation from the Remuneration Panel - Members' Allowance Review**

The Lord Mayor advised that the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel have been forwarded to the council via the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee which met on 5 March 2021 and confirmed it was content with the process that had been followed. The recommendations had been previously circulated with the Chief Executive's overview report and supporting information. The Lord Mayor advised that although Mr Johnson, the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel had been invited to speak to this item, unfortunately he had not been able to join the meeting. The Lord Mayor thanked Mr Johnson and the other panellists for all their work undertaken as part of this review.

**Minute 20 - Members' Allowance Review**

This was approved unopposed.

**20. Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 9 March 2021**

**Minute 23 - Capital Strategy 2021/22-2030/31**

This was opposed to allow for debate.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt



That the recommendations contained in minute 23 be approved.

Following debate, the recommendations contained in minute 23 were approved by assent.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. That Part I of the Capital Strategy (Capital Expenditure and Aspirations) be approved including:**
  - a) The Short / Medium / Long-term Aspirations set out in Appendix 1.**
  
- 2. That Part II of the Capital Strategy (Borrowing and Investing) be approved including:**
  - a) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for Debt Repayment Policy (Part II, (paragraph 1.5)**
  - b) The investment indicators in Part II - Appendix 2 (Part II, paragraph 2.5)**
  - c) That the Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer) will bring a report to the next Cabinet and City Council if (Part II, paragraph 2.5):**
    - (i) The Council's gross General Fund (GF) debt exceeds 450% of GF net service expenditure or;**
    - (ii) Overall investment income from investment properties and long term treasury management investments exceeds 9.0% of GF net service expenditure**

### **Minute 24 - Treasury Management Policy 2021/22**

This was approved unopposed.

### **Minute 31 - Social Value Policy**

This was opposed to allow for questions.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt

That the recommendations contained in minute 31 be approved.

Following debate, the recommendations contained in minute 31 were approved by assent.

**RESOLVED that Council**

- (1) Formally adopts the social value policy that reinforces a strategic position relating to social value as described in Appendix 1**
- (2) Adopts the roadmap principles, direction and confirms the key actions required to get to social value maturity within the timeline set out as described in Appendix 2.**

**Minute 32 - Community Safety Plan for Portsmouth 2021/22**

This was opposed to allow for questions.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Lee Hunt  
Seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt

That the recommendations contained in minute 32 be approved.

Following debate, the recommendations contained in minute 32 were approved by assent.

**RESOLVED that Council**

- 1. endorses the strategic priorities contained in the Safer Portsmouth Partnership Plan 2021-22 (appendix 1)**
- 2. aligns the relevant budgets to support activity in line with section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended).**

**Minute 25 - Review of Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan**

This was approved unopposed.

**21. Recommendations from the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee Meeting held on 5 March 2021**

**Minute 19 - Appointment/Reappointment of Independent Persons**

This was approved unopposed.

**22. Recommendation from Employment Committee held on 2 March 2021**

**Minute 10 - Pay Policy Statement**

This was approved unopposed.

**23. Notices of Motion**

There were seven notices of motion on the agenda for this meeting.

**23.a Motion to Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Will Purvis  
Seconded by Councillor Dave Ashmore

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor George Fielding  
Seconded by Councillor Tom Coles

"Insert new points 3, 4 and 5 after "The Council notes - point 2"

"3. Since declaring a Climate Emergency, whilst we acknowledge some action has been taken on the part of the administration, we are still yet to see a Climate Citizen's Assembly or a Carbon Audit of the Council's assets.

4. Local governments should not wait for their national governments to change their policies.

5. Towns, cities and local authorities are uniquely placed to lead in tackling the climate and ecological emergency due to their close links with their residents."

Re-number 3 and 4 to 6 and 7

Insert the word "Presentation" at now point 6 (was 3) after "There is a" to read as follows:

"6. There is a Presentation Bill before Parliament"

Following debate the mover of the original motion did not wish to subsume into it the amendment.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor George Fielding was CARRIED.

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

**RESOLVED that**

**In Portsmouth, we accept the evidence human activity is driving unprecedented changes in the global climate, and that we are facing a climate emergency. We agree that action must be taken now to stop global temperatures rising to a point where the damage is irreversible and the consequences potentially catastrophic.**

**As a coastal city which is home to many areas of importance in the natural world, Portsmouth's people, built and natural environment and economy are all vulnerable to many of the worst effects of extreme weather events and damage to biodiversity caused by climate change. We already have an indication of this in the impacts of extreme weather and coastal erosion on our waterfronts, and many millions of pounds will be spent over the coming years to protect our city against this.**

**We are just a small part of the global community - but we are resolute in our commitment to tackling this issue to ensure that we safeguard the city and the planet for the future and the generations that will come after us. We will take responsibility for reducing the climate impact of our great waterfront city, and will encourage everyone who lives, works, invests and visits here to support us in these actions.**

**Council notes that:**

- 1. The Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019;**
- 2. The Council has established a 'Portsmouth Climate Change Board', to underpin our efforts to decarbonise Portsmouth;**
- 3. Since declaring a Climate Emergency, whilst we acknowledge some action has been taken on the part of the administration, we are still yet to see a Climate Citizen's Assembly or a Carbon Audit of the Council's assets.**
- 4. Local governments should not wait for their national governments to change their policies.**
- 5. Towns, cities and local authorities are uniquely placed to lead in tackling the climate and ecological emergency due to their close links with their residents.**
- 6 There is a Presentation Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”)—according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy that:**
  - a. requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial temperatures;**
  - b. ensures that all the UK's consumption emissions are accounted for;**
  - c. includes emissions from aviation and shipping;**
  - d. protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;**

- e. **restores and regenerates the UK's depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states, maximising their capacity to absorb CO2 and their resistance to climate heating;**
  - f. **sets up an independent Citizens' Assembly, representative of the UK's population, to engage with Parliament and Government and help develop the emergency strategy.**
7. **The Council Leader has written to both local Portsmouth MPs asking them to support this Bill.**

**The Council resolves to publicly support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. We ask all group-leaders to join the Council Leader in writing to our local MPs, asking them to support the Bill.**

Council adjourned at 18.05.

Council resumed at 18.20.

### **23.b Supporting Local Business**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Robert New  
Seconded by Councillor Terry Norton

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Steve Pitt  
Seconded by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

"After last line insert:

The council further notes the Go Shop, Go Eat, Go Safe, Go Local campaign that was launched to help shops and hospitality businesses to re-open last summer, the work of the officer team and Hive volunteers who put themselves out on the streets to assist with queuing and helping people to feel safe.

Council also wishes to thank the Business Support Team who have worked tirelessly to support thousands of local businesses, offering a real human response to each individual situation and being a friend to our business community at a crucial time.

Council also acknowledges that the Business Helpline, the first to be set up in the region, was key to ensuring that local businesses could easily access this support.

Council wishes to express its thanks to Shaping Portsmouth and Portsmouth Creates for all their efforts over the last year to champion our local businesses.

Shaping's mentoring and support through the council's Crowdfunder Scheme helped over 20 local businesses to survive the pandemic and in partnership with Portsmouth Creates, secured 20 micro-commissions to support local artists through the We Believe arts trail. The We Create market at the former Debenhams store helped over 200 local makers and creators to have a safe and vibrant place to trade when they had lost out on so many of their usual opportunities through the pandemic. The queues around the block were testimony to the demand for locally produced products, proving that the sentiments at the heart of this motion most definitely ring true here in our great city of Portsmouth."

Following debate, the proposer of the original motion agreed to subsume into it the amendment.

The substantive motion incorporating the amendment was CARRIED by assent.

**RESOLVED that**

**This city council recognises the need to promote local businesses. We commit to thinking of inventive ways to help these businesses as well as bringing much-needed footfall into our High Streets and City Centre.**

**And, additionally, the city council backs the campaign to encourage people to 'Buy British' and all this includes, including buying food that is 'closer to source (local produce etc)' which should be more sustainable and with a lower carbon footprint.**

**The council further notes the Go Shop, Go Eat, Go Safe, Go Local campaign that was launched to help shops and hospitality businesses to re-open last summer, the work of the officer team and Hive volunteers who put themselves out on the streets to assist with queuing and helping people to feel safe.**

**Council also wishes to thank the Business Support Team who have worked tirelessly to support thousands of local businesses, offering a real human response to each individual situation and being a friend to our business community at a crucial time.**

**Council also acknowledges that the Business Helpline, the first to be set up in the region, was key to ensuring that local businesses could easily access this support.**

**Council wishes to express its thanks to Shaping Portsmouth and Portsmouth Creates for all their efforts over the last year to champion our local businesses.**

**Shaping's mentoring and support through the council's Crowdfunder Scheme helped over 20 local businesses to survive the pandemic and in partnership with Portsmouth Creates, secured 20 micro-commissions to support local artists through the We Believe arts trail. The We Create market at the former Debenhams store helped over 200 local makers and creators to have a safe and vibrant place to trade when they had lost out on so many of their usual opportunities through the pandemic. The queues around the block were testimony to the demand for locally produced products, proving that the sentiments at the heart of this motion most definitely ring true here in our great city of Portsmouth.**

### **23.c Recognising our Unsung Heroes in Schools**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Terry Norton  
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Atkins

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

Following debate, notice of motion (c) was CARRIED by assent.

#### **RESOLVED that**

**This Council recognises the importance of providing an Educational setting for children and young people to learn, play and develop. We therefore wish to acknowledge the enormous contribution made by those who have provided on site provision during this pandemic. In particular we wish to express our thanks to support staff for the commitment and care they have provided to our city's most vulnerable children and those of keyworkers.**

### **23.d Congratulations to the Government on the National Vaccination Programme**

This was withdrawn.

### **23.e Preserve the Former Records Store building**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Atkins  
Seconded by Councillor Steve Wemyss

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

Following debate notice of motion (e) was CARRIED by assent.

#### **RESOLVED**

**In view of considerable pressure by residents and heritage supporters who wish to see the future of the former Records Office Store in Museum Road, Southsea, re-examined, as illustrated by a petition which has attracted 947 signatures, the council asks for the outline plan for demolition and re-development for housing on the site to be reconsidered.**

### **23.f Discharge of Sewage into Langstone Harbour**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Winnington  
Seconded by Councillor Darren Sanders

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

Following debate notice of motion (f) was CARRIED by assent.

### **RESOLVED**

**Council notes with regret the continued discharge of storm water by Southern Water into Langstone Harbour, despite the protests it raised with the company following the motion it passed two years ago.**

**Southern Water's reliance on regular storm water discharges to fulfil its mandate is unacceptable and a sign that it is a failing infrastructure provider. The discharges lead to pollution which is damaging these sites of international environmental significance and harbour users who regularly report sickness related to the sewage which is pumped into the harbour in periods of increased rainfall. It is clear that there needs to be large, nationally led changes to achieve real improvements in sewage infrastructure and water quality.**

**Council welcomes the recent decision of Chichester Council to complain to OFWAT about discharges into Chichester Harbour.**

**Council also welcomes the resolution of the Langstone Harbour Board - including City Council members - to work with other councils to improve matters and notes the support in principle the Board has received from Havant Borough, Chichester District and Hampshire and West Sussex County Councils, as well as the Chichester Harbour Conservancy, for taking further action.**

**It also welcomes the work Harbour staff have been doing to resolve issues around licences and giving evidence to the recent review by the Environmental Audit Committee on this subject.**

**It also recognises the work of all MPs on this matter and welcomes the establishment of a regional Forum on these issues by the MP for Havant.**

**On that basis, Council:**



1. **Reiterates what it agreed in March 2019, that the practice of discharging sewage into the Harbour ceases and an alternative method found.**
2. **Believes that the penalties for unauthorised discharges are derisory and fail to provide a deterrent.**
3. **Calls on Government to conduct an urgent review of the frequency of allowable discharges and the conditions attached to those discharges.**
4. **Endorses the Harbour Board's desire for an urgent response from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, starting with a roundtable discussion with relevant stakeholders, including local MPs and councils.**
5. **Asks the MP for Havant to invite both Portsmouth MPs and a representative of the City Council to join his regional Forum to demonstrate the cross-party desire for change.**
6. **Backs Philip Dunne MP's Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill, which places a duty on water companies to ensure that untreated sewage is not discharged into rivers and other inland waters.**
7. **Agrees that enclosed coastal waters such as harbours should be included in the scope of the Environmental Audit Committee's ongoing review.**

### **23.g Right to Food**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Tom Coles  
Seconded by Councillor Cal Corkery

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

Following debate, upon being put to a roll call vote, notice of motion (g) was CARRIED.

### **RESOLVED**

**We are seeing a crisis of food poverty borne out of the political choices and systemic failings created over the past four decades, which have now reached a tipping point for so many in our communities. The figures are devastating for one of the richest nations in the world and highlight the inequality of the UK in 2021.**

**The Trussell Trust reports a soaring 81% increase in emergency food parcels from food banks in its network during the last two weeks of March 2020 compared with the same period in 2019, including a 122%**

**rise in parcels given to children as the coronavirus pandemic continued to unfold.**

**This council notes the consistent high rates of poverty across large areas of Portsmouth. In January 2020 some 25% of children in the city were entitled to Free School Meals and that figure is thought to have increased significantly over the course of the pandemic.**

**We recognise the growing concern amongst our health and care professionals of the current situation and the likely exacerbation of poverty figures through the impact of the Covid19 pandemic and economic uncertainty continuing through 2021.**

**The National Food Strategy is the first independent review of England's entire food system for 75 years. Its purpose is to set out a vision for the kind of food system we should be building for the future, and a plan for how to achieve that vision. It is headed by Henry Dimbleby and next reports to Government in the first half of 2021.**

**The "Right To Food" campaign is arguing that the 11 million people in food poverty should be central to this strategy. Enshrining the 'Right To Food' into law would clarify Government obligations on food poverty and would introduce legal avenues to hold Government bodies accountable for violations.**

**Full Council therefore calls for the 'Right To Food' to be incorporated into the 'National Food Strategy' and asks that the Chief Executive write to Henry Dimbleby to further this request.**

#### **24. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17**

There were eight questions before council today.

##### **Question 1 was from Councillor Cal Corkery**

"Could the Leader of the Council explain through which transparent and democratically accountable process it was decided that the council owned port would bid to become a Freeport?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson.

##### **Question 2 was from Councillor Graham Heaney**

"Can the Cabinet member please say what progress has been made on the introduction of low traffic neighbourhoods in the city?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation, Councillor Lynne Stagg.

**Question 3 was from Councillor Matthew Atkins**

"Can the cabinet member confirm how many housing units are likely to be earmarked to be built in the area around Cosham Town Centre under current proposals for the new local plan and the 5 year housing land supply?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and City Development, Councillor Hugh Mason.

The Cabinet Member undertook to try to obtain a breakdown of the costs to circulate to Members.

**Question 4 was from Councillor Robert New**

"Would the leader of the city council work with ward colleagues to help the residents of both Harbourside and Southsea Leisure Parks who currently are desperate for our help (as the landowner of the respective sites) to address the alleged injustices they report are happening at both sites?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson.

**Question 5 was from Councillor Simon Boshier**

"Can the Cabinet Member give an update on Operation Transmission and the role of partner agencies?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, Councillor Lynne Stagg.

**Question 6 was from Councillor Luke Stubbs**

"Will parking meters be installed on Eastern Parade and St Helens Parade?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, Councillor Lynne Stagg.

The Cabinet Member undertook to circulate to members a timetable for the proposed parking meters if this is the option pursued. Ward Councillors will be informed.

**Question 7 was from Councillor Judith Smyth**

"Given that the Full Council unanimously approved the Climate emergency motion this time two years ago on 19 March 2019 please could the Leader of the council or cabinet spokesperson tell us why we have not made progress on the citizens assembly, the carbon audit and the development of a requirement for all contractors to the city to need to demonstrate their contribution to reducing carbon and air pollution?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Dave Ashmore but as time ran out the Cabinet Member agreed to send a written response to Members.

**The time allowed for questions expired before the remaining question could be put and so in accordance with Standing Order 17(h) written replies would be circulated to members.**

The Lord Mayor said that this would be his last meeting before the local elections and thanked everyone for their support for him during the last year. He understood that Councillors Stephen Morgan, David Fuller, Tom Wood, Will Purvis, John Ferrett, Donna Jones, Steve Wemyss and Neill Young would not be standing for re-election to the city council. The Lord Mayor on behalf of the council thanked them for their excellent service and wished them well for the future.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Vernon-Jackson wished to place on record his thanks to all those who were standing down and in particular to the leaders of the Conservative and Labour group, Councillors Donna Jones and Stephen Morgan for their time as group leaders. He also placed on record his thanks to Councillor David Fuller, former Lord Mayor who was also standing down this year.

Finally, the Leader of the Council thanked the current Lord Mayor, Councillor Rob Wood for all his work during the past year.

The meeting concluded at 9.55 pm.

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Lord Mayor