

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 20 March 2018 at 2.00 pm

Council Members Present

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

Councillors

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

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

Councillor Hugh Mason declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest under agenda item 9 - Treasury Management Policy in that reference is made in the report to Hampshire Community Bank. Councillor Hugh Mason is a member of Hampshire Credit Union.

Councillor Matthew Winnington declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 12 - Appointment of Independent Persons - in that Carole Damper is the Chief Executive Officer for the organisation for which he works. He said he would leave the chamber for that item.

Councillor Donna Jones declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 12 - Appointment of Independent Persons - in that one of Diana Turner's children used to be in the same class as Councillor Jones' younger son and so she used to know her through that.

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13. Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 13 February 2018

It was

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

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 February 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 February 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

14. Communications and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Neill Young, Councillor Jennie Brent and Councillor Dave Ashmore. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors David Fuller, Ryan Brent, Hannah Hockaday and Will Purvis.

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 said that in order to assist online viewers a webcast camera will take an overview of members in the chamber when any voting takes place.

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 then said that in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the twinning link between Portsmouth and Caen he had great pleasure in welcoming Madam Catherine Pradal-Chazarenc, Caen's First Deputy Mayor for Europe and International Relations Affairs, together with Mr Andrew Starr, Chair of the Caen Committee who will act as translator.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Donna Jones addressed the chamber on the 30 year twinning link between Portsmouth and Caen and welcomed Caen's First Deputy Mayor for Europe and the Chair of the Caen Committee. She placed on record her thanks to Councillor Lee Mason, the Deputy Lord Mayor for all his work on the twinning arrangements and also to Alderman Terry Hall for all the work she had done on twinning. She said she looked forward to welcoming them back for the mayor making in May. The First Deputy Mayor responded thanking everyone for their hospitality and expressing her hope that twinning would continue in the same friendly way going forward.

The Lord Mayor advised that the Privy Council Office has informed the council that Her Majesty The Queen has appointed Mark Edward Thistlethwayte Esq to be the High Sheriff of the County of Hampshire.

15. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24

The Lord Mayor advised that no deputations had been received for today's meeting.

16. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25

There was one question from a member of the public, Mr Jerry Brown.

"When will the Leader of the Council press for the appointment of non-executive directors to the active, fully owned companies owned by Portsmouth City Council?"

The question and a supplementary question were answered by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Donna Jones.

17. Appointments

There were no appointments.

18. Urgent Business under Standing Order No 26

Councillor Luke Stubbs made a statement on Hilsea Lodge Care Home as it had just been given an inadequate rating by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). He said that work was underway to improve the situation.

Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 16 March 2018**19. Minute 13 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2021**

This was approved unopposed.

20. Minute 14 - Treasury Management Policy 2018/19

This was opposed.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones

Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

That the recommendations from Cabinet be approved.

No amendments were proposed.

Following debate upon being put to the vote the recommendations from Cabinet were CARRIED.

RESOLVED

- 1a that the following changes to the Treasury Management Policy Statement be approved:**
- (i) that provision is not made for the repayment of borrowing to fund the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Self Financing payment or any other HRA debt from 2017/18 to 2019/20 (paragraph 8.4 of the Treasury Management Policy);**
 - (ii) that the maximum duration of specified investments be increased from 364 days to 365 days (paragraph 11.1 of the Treasury Management Policy);**
 - (iii) that the maximum duration of investment categories 11 (corporate bonds with a BBB+ credit rating) and 14 (unrated building societies that are in a strong financial condition) be increased from 364 days to 365 days (paragraph 12.2 of the Treasury Management Policy);**
 - (iv) that the maximum term of bonds purchased from Hampshire Community Bank be increased from 6 years to 10 years (paragraph 12.2 of the Treasury Management Policy);**
- 1b that the following risk appetite statement be approved:**
- To assist the achievement of the Council's service objectives by obtaining funding and managing the debt and treasury investments at a net cost which is as low as possible, consistent with a high degree of long term interest cost stability. Sums are invested with a diversified range of counter parties using the maximum range of instruments consistent with a low risk of the capital sum being diminished through movements in prices.*
- 1c that the prudential and treasury management indicators, including revisions to the 2016/17 outturn indicators contained in Appendix D be approved;**
- 1d that the attached Treasury Management Policy Statement including the Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Minimum Revenue Provision for Debt Repayment Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19, and encompassing the amendments contained in recommendation 1a be approved;**
- 1e the Director of Finance and Information Technology (Section 151 Officer) and officers nominated by him have delegated authority to (paragraph 3.2 of Treasury Management Policy Statement):**
- (i) invest surplus funds in accordance with the approved Annual Investment Strategy;**
 - (ii) borrow to finance short term cash deficits and capital payments from any reputable source within the authorised**

limit for external debt of £660m approved by the City Council on 13 February 2018;

- (iii) reschedule debt in order to even the maturity profile or to achieve revenue savings;**
 - (iv) release the over provision of MRP back into General Fund balances over a prudent period by reducing the MRP in future years;**
 - (v) to buy and sell foreign currency, and to purchase hedging instruments including forward purchases, forward options and foreign exchange rate swaps to mitigate the foreign exchange risks associated with some contracts that are either priced in foreign currencies or where the price is indexed against foreign currency exchange rates.**
- 1f that the Chief Executive, the Leader of the City Council and the Chair of the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee be informed of any variances from the Treasury Management Policy when they become apparent, and that the Leader of the City Council be consulted on remedial action (paragraph 17.1 of Treasury Management Policy Statement)**
- 2 that the Director of Finance and Information Technology (Section 151 Officer) submits the following (paragraph 19.1 of Treasury Management Policy Statement):**
- (i) an annual report on the Treasury Management outturn to the Cabinet and Council by 31 July of the succeeding financial year;**
 - (ii) a Mid-Year Review Report to the Cabinet and Council;**
 - (iii) the Annual Strategy Report to the Cabinet and Council in March 2019;**
 - (iv) quarterly treasury management monitoring report to the Governance and Audit and Standards Committee.**

Recommendations from the Governance & Audit and Standards Committee Meeting held on 9 March 2018

21. Minute 25 - Changes to Standing Orders (Council Procedure Rules)

This was opposed.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Scott Payter-Harris
Seconded by Councillor Leo Madden

That the recommendations from the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee be adopted.

No amendments were proposed.

Following debate upon being put to the vote the recommendations from Governance & Audit & Standards Committee were CARRIED.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the revised Standing Orders, (attached to the recommendation as appendix 1), and which include the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee's recommended changes, are adopted.**
- (2) that the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Chair of the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee, may make amendments to the standing orders to reflect any changes arising out of legislative changes, deal with typographical alterations or amend the layout of the document, none of which would change the material substance of the standing orders.**

Note - In respect of Standing Order 55 b), the City Solicitor will circulate an advisory note in due course regarding the respective timescales for Licensing Sub Committee deputations.

22. Minute 26 - Proposed amendments to the Council's constitution (Part 2 Decision Making)

This was approved unopposed.

23. Minute 27 - Appointment of Independent Persons

This was approved unopposed.

Recommendations from the Employment Committee Meeting held on 27 February 2018

24. Minute 5 - Pay Policy Statement

This was opposed.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Donna Jones
Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

That the Employment Committee's recommendation that the draft Pay Policy Statement attached as Appendix 1 to the report be approved by the Full Council by 31 March 2018 be adopted.

Following debate a recorded vote was requested by eight members standing.

The following members voted in favour:

Councillor Simon Boshier	Ian Lyon
Ryan Brent	Lee Mason
Alicia Denny	Gemma New
John Ferrett	Robert New
James Fleming	Scott Payter-Harris
Colin Galloway	Stuart Potter
Paul Godier	Luke Stubbs
Hannah Hockaday	Linda Symes
Frank Jonas	David Tompkins
Donna Jones	Steve Wemyss

The following members voted against:

Councillor Yahiya Choudhury	Steve Pitt
Ben Dowling	Will Purvis
David Fuller	Darren Sanders
Suzy Horton	Lynne Stagg
Lee Hunt	Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Leo Madden	Matthew Winnington
Hugh Mason	Rob Wood
Stephen Morgan	Tom Wood

There were no abstentions.

The recommendations from the Employment Committee were therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement attached as Appendix 1 of the report be approved by the Full Council.

Notices of Motion

25. Notices of Motion (a) - Proposed Change to Planning Law in light of the Grenfell Tower Fire

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs
Seconded by Councillor Linda Symes

That notice of motion (a) be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs
Seconded by Councillor Linda Symes

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

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

RESOLVED that

"In light of the Grenfell Tower Fire, this Council agrees to write to the Local Government Association and the Police and Fire Minister asking that Planning Law is changed to make it obligatory for Planning Departments and developers to consult the Fire Service on all Planning Applications which relate to purpose-built student accommodation, schools, hotels, high rise office blocks, high rise housing, large development sites and NHS buildings. In the meantime Portsmouth City Council ask the Council's Planning Committee to consider immediately operating the voluntary process offered by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service to look at the above-mentioned planning applications."

26. Notice of Motion (b) - Promised Additional Money for Public Services after UK's Departure from the European Union

It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett
Seconded by Councillor Darren Sanders

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

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett
Seconded by Councillor Darren Sanders

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

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

RESOLVED that

"The Council notes that Government Ministers have promised that an extra £350million a week will be available for public services following the UK's departure from the European Union. Therefore, the Council requests the leader to write to the Prime Minister and ask how much of these additional resources will be made available for public services in Portsmouth."

27. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17

There were three questions before council.

Question No 1 was from Councillor Ian Lyon

"Does the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation agree that officers and staff of the Council were exemplary in their execution of the administration's contingency plan that came into effect during the recent wintry weather in Portsmouth?"

This and a supplementary question were answered by the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation, Councillor Simon Boshier.

Question No 2 was from Councillor Alicia Denny

"In view of this summer's 50th anniversary of the return to Portsmouth of our round-the-world sailor Sir Alec Rose, could the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture tell us if any plans have been made to celebrate this fantastic achievement by a Southsea resident, who this council honoured by making him a Freeman of the City?"

This and a supplementary question were answered by the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport, Councillor Linda Symes.

Question No 3 was from Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

"Could the cabinet member for education tell me how many employees of Academy Trusts running publicly funded schools in Portsmouth employ people with salaries above £150,000 a year and how many people on these salaries are employed in each Academy Trust?"

This was answered by the Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Hannah Hockaday.

The Lord Mayor thanked everyone for their support during the year and wished everyone the best of luck in the local elections.

The meeting concluded at 5.20 pm.

Lord Mayor