

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall  
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 10 July 2018 at 2.00 pm

### **Council Members Present**

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor  
Councillor Lee Mason (in the Chair)

#### Councillors

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Dave Ashmore      | Stephen Morgan            |
| Simon Boshier     | Gemma New                 |
| Jennie Brent      | Robert New                |
| Ryan Brent        | Scott Payter-Harris       |
| Tom Coles         | Steve Pitt                |
| Yahiya Chowdhury  | Will Purvis               |
| Ben Dowling       | Darren Sanders            |
| Ken Ellcome       | Jeanette Smith            |
| Jason Fazackarley | Lynne Stagg               |
| George Fielding   | Judith Smyth              |
| David Fuller      | Luke Stubbs               |
| Hannah Hockaday   | David Tompkins            |
| Jo Hooper         | Claire Udy                |
| Suzy Horton       | Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE |
| Frank Jonas BEM   | Steve Wemyss              |
| Donna Jones       | Matthew Winnington        |
| Ian Lyon          | Neill Young               |
| Leo Madden        | Rob Wood                  |
| Hugh Mason        | Tom Wood                  |

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

Councillor Will Purvis declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10(c) in that he is an employee of a developer.

#### **47. Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 15 May 2018**

It was

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

That the minutes of the annual council meeting and adjourned council meeting held on 15 May 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual council meeting and adjourned council meeting held on 15 May 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

#### **48. Communications and apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Ben Swann, Councillor James Fleming and Councillor John Ferrett. The Lord Mayor welcomed Honorary Alderman Frank Worley, a former council leader to the meeting.

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 drew members' attention to the revised seating plan which had been previously circulated to members.

#### **49. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24**

The City Solicitor advised that one deputation had been received (excluding the petition item) in respect of item 7 - Appointments - from Mr Jerry Brown.

Mr Brown was invited to make his deputation which he then did.

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

There were no questions from members of the public.

#### **51. Petition - "Bring air pollution in Portsmouth within legal limits"**

The lead petitioner, Mr Tim Sheerman-Chase presented the petition as set out on the agenda. The City Solicitor thanked Mr Sheerman-Chase for his presentation. He then advised that one deputation request had been received from Ms Kimberly Barrett who then gave her deputation in support of the petition.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Dave Ashmore  
Seconded by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

That the administration's petition response as circulated in the chamber and detailed below be approved.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote the administration's petition response was CARRIED unanimously.

**RESOLVED** that the administration's response to the petition as set out below, be agreed.

**"The Council sincerely thanks Mr Tim Sheerman-Chase for submitting the petition to PCC and further raising awareness of air pollution.**

**PCC recognises the unquestionable public health benefits associated with improving air quality. Air quality is a significant public concern and Portsmouth City Council (PCC) commits to reducing air pollution in Portsmouth to ensure compliance with all legal limits and target values and to work towards achieving World Health Organisation guidelines in the shortest possible time.**

**PCC is actively working on an update to the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and the 2018 progress report contained with the 2018 Annual Status Report (ASR) which will identify actions aimed at reducing levels of air pollution in Portsmouth.**

**Whilst PCC is focusing on all pollution hotspot locations and areas of concern, particular attention is being given to targeting improvements within AQMA 6 (Fratton Road / Kingston Road / London Road corridor) as it is within this central corridor where exceedances of the EU and National Air Quality Objectives (NAQO) for nitrogen dioxide are still occurring.**

**In delivering solutions, we will continue working with Defra on a targeted feasibility study to identify interventions which will promote improvements to air quality within AQMA 11 (Mile End Road corridor) in the shortest possible time. However, in line with our own identified local needs, we have already commissioned an extension to this targeted feasibility study to focus on AQMA 6. Both of these two studies will help to inform the development of a new city-wide AQAP to continually improve pollution levels.**

**Over the last few years the City Council has significantly increased the number of sites within the city where air quality is monitored. This has allowed the City Council to be able to have real readings for the air quality at the southern end of Mile End Road and be able to show the projections by the Government of air pollution in this location is significantly lower in reality than the Government projections. Further down the road into the city there are no active data points and we will need to introduce them here, so we can find out if the Government figures are right.**

**Perversely the area of main concern to the City Council - the area north of Kingston Crescent up to Stubbington Ave, is not highlighted by Government. To help public transparency on this issue I have asked the City Council to show on its webpages the map of where all the air quality testing stations are, and the results from each of these. This has been done and I aim for the readings to be kept up to date and public so we**

**can monitor progress towards being within both UK/EU legal limits and also WHO limits by the end of 2020 or earlier.**

**A critical part in the development in the AQAP is consultation and communication with our key stakeholders as this will enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of our decision making processes. A Steering Group involving residents' groups, interest groups, key employers and transport operators has been established to guide the development of the AQAP. Invitations to the first meeting, to take place later in July, have been sent. PCC commit to completing the action planning process by the end of December 2018. Thereafter actions will be quantified and appropriately delivered.**

**In respect to WHO compliance, our monitoring shows that in 2017 levels in 4 out of the 5 AQMA's are achieving compliance with the annual average NAQO for nitrogen dioxide. We know that only 1 AQMA, AQMA 6, is currently exceeding the NAQO and the WHO guideline levels as these standards are numerically the same.**

**PCC is currently meeting the WHO annual average PM10 guideline values at all 4 of its monitoring locations and, whilst the monitored annual average levels at our 3 monitored sites for PM2.5 are close to the guideline, we acknowledge the fact we are not meeting them and so continue to commit to achieving these as quickly as possible.**

**The Council acknowledges the actions that the Administration has taken and what action the Cabinet is planning in respect to improving air quality."**

## **52. Appointments**

Councillor George Fielding was appointed as a member of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel to replace Councillor Judith Smyth.

Councillor Tom Coles was appointed as Labour representative on the Langstone Harbour Board.

Councillor Donna Jones, Leader of the Conservative Group, wished to take this opportunity to advise council that

- Councillor Gemma New will be the opposition spokesperson for the Environment & Community Safety portfolio
- Councillor Ryan Brent is the Conservative Group's nomination for the Safer Portsmouth Partnership and
- Councillor Gemma New will be the Conservative Group's second representative on the Sea Defences Working Group.

**53. Urgent Business - To receive and consider any urgent and important business from Members of the Cabinet in accordance with Standing Order No 26**

There was no urgent business.

**54. Recommendation from Cabinet from its meeting held on 19 June 2018**

**Minute 21 - Police Cuts - Response Following Notice of Motion Referral**

This was opposed to allow for debate.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Rob Wood

That the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 19 June be accepted.

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

**RESOLVED that the recommendation from the Cabinet Meeting held on 19 June as detailed below be accepted**

**"The City Council notes the decision of the Government to cut funding to Hampshire Police by £3.67million for next year. Also not provide any funding to cover inflation, this makes it a real terms cut of £7million to Hampshire Police by the Government.**

**The City Council condemns this decision and believes this will make local residents in Portsmouth less safe and will mean real cuts to the police.**

**The City Council therefore requests the Leader of the City Council, along with all other Group Leaders, to sign a strongly worded letter to the Home Secretary to object to this cut and to lobby our MPs to fight for a better settlement for Hampshire Police"**

**55. Notices of Motion**

The Lord Mayor advised that there were three notices of motion before council today.

Notice of Motion a) Campervans.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Ryan Brent

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That this matter be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Ryan Brent

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

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

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

**"As an area that attracts tourists, it is perhaps inevitable that every summer Southsea experiences problems with people staying overnight in campervans parked on the public highway.**

**While local authorities lack the power to explicitly prohibit people sleeping in campervans, they can impose traffic regulation orders that remove the right to park overnight for vehicles adapted for sleeping in certain locations.**

**Council requests the Cabinet to investigate whether a policy along these lines could be developed for Portsmouth and what the benefits and disbenefits would be."**

Notice of Motion b) Armed Forces Veterans

It was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Winnington  
Seconded by Councillor Lynne Stagg

That this matter be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Winnington  
Seconded by Councillor Lynne Stagg

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

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, notice of motion (b) was CARRIED unanimously.

**RESOLVED that**

**"This council notes with great concern the report from Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) which shows a disturbing disconnect among newer armed forces veterans who feel increasingly alienated in the wider society.**

**With shocking figures of almost a quarter of veterans being homeless after leaving the military and over three quarters of ex-military families being in financial hardship this is an indictment of the lack of care governments of all parties have shown for their ex-servicemen and women.**

**Portsmouth City Council is a proud signatory of the Arms Forces Covenant and as such recognises the importance of welfare for both serving military families and ex-service families within the city. Yet as this report from SSAFA shows and evidence gathered by Public Health the areas that those families need most support in (homelessness, money advice, alcohol support and mental health support) will be subject to Government cuts including £470,000 from the Public Health budget next year.**

**This Council therefore resolves to**

- **ask the Armed Forces Champion to continue to work with veteran and other voluntary organisations to provide a coherent plan to deal with these issues as part of the budgetary process.**
- **ask the Armed Forces Champion and his representative to write to and lobby government ministers for proper, ongoing funding to support our City's ex-service families and enable us to help them in the areas that time and again affect them, especially as this has been the source of the problems this city and other areas face.**
- **continue the positive work that has been done by the people of Portsmouth and their representatives to support service and ex-servicemen and women and their families since the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant in 2012."**

Notice of Motion c) Government Targets for House Building

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Darren Sanders

That this matter be debated today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Seconded by Councillor Darren Sanders

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Tom Coles  
Seconded by Councillor George Fielding

That "In the first paragraph delete the words "positive about the prospects of building" and replace with "committed to building and developing"

At end of first paragraph add "Our ambition should be based on objectively assessed housing need as set out in the most recent strategic housing market assessment."

Second paragraph delete the words "The City Council is also steadfast in its commitment" and replace with "The new local plan will commit the city council to"

Delete "There is also considerable concern about the loss of employment land in the city and the consequential loss of jobs."

Insert with " The plan will commit the city council to developing mixed and diverse communities, recognising that there is already an over supply of over priced student flats ( developed by private developers who did not consult with the university about demand and rent levels) reduce the number and concentration of student HMOs, whilst preserving land for employment opportunities."

The proposer of the original motion agreed to subsume the amendment into it.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the substantive notice of motion (c) incorporating the amendment was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that**

**The City Council is ambitious about building homes for local people, particularly affordable homes, and is committed to building and developing new affordable homes year on year. Our ambition should be based on objectively assessed housing need as set out in the most recent strategic housing market assessment.**

**The new local plan will commit the city council to protecting public green and open space in the city for residents to enjoy and benefit from having a green environment. The plan will commit the city council to developing mixed and diverse communities, recognising that there is already an over supply of over priced student flats ( developed by private developers who did not consult with the university about demand and rent levels) reduce the number and concentration of student HMOs, whilst preserving land for employment opportunities.**



**The City Council notes recent changes to the government's approach on how the council calculates its target for building new homes. The changes mean that the previously published target of 584 completions per year (based on an assessment of how many homes Portsmouth is deemed to need) in the Portsmouth Local Plan is now 868 completions per year, 19,964 over the lifetime of the local plan.**

**The City Council notes that this higher target is based on a Government formula which is the same for all local authorities and is not based on assessing their need for new homes.**

**Given the significant geographic constraints of being an already densely populated island city, the City Council does not believe it is possible to fulfil the new target for house building as calculated using the new formula.**

**The City Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council and other Group Leaders to jointly write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to say that the Government targets for house building should reflect what can be delivered. The City Council also asks the Leader to write to both Portsmouth MPs to ask for their support for this approach."**

Council adjourned at 4.40 pm.

Council resumed at 5.00 pm.

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

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson agreed that an urgent question could be asked under SO17(c).

Question 1 was from Councillor Claire Udy.

"As reported in the media this weekend, American President Donald Trump is due to visit an unnamed defence site this Friday in the UK. Given that Portsmouth could be one of those sites, could the Leader clarify, that in the event of the President visiting this area, that he is unwelcome to the city of Portsmouth?"

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

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport agreed that an urgent question could be asked under SO17(c).

Question 2 was from Councillor Donna Jones.

"Will the Cabinet Member agree to work with me to consider plans to allow the people of Portsmouth to watch the World Cup Final (should England reach it) in a public place on a big screen such as The Common?"

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Would the cabinet member also support me in working with venues such as Action Stations, Community Centres, and PFC who have indicated they will screen the game in the Victory Lounge?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport, Councillor Steve Pitt.

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm.

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Lord Mayor