

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 17 March 2020 at 2.00 pm
<https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=146&MId=3981&Ver=4>

Council Members Present

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor
Councillor David Fuller (in the Chair)

Councillors

Tom Coles	Darren Sanders
John Ferrett	Jeanette Smith
Scott Payter-Harris	Luke Stubbs
Hannah Hockaday	Claire Udy
Suzy Horton	Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Donna Jones	Neill Young
Lee Mason	Rob Wood
Robert New	Tom Wood
Steve Pitt	

General Procedural Announcements/Decisions

The Lord Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and referred to the email that had been sent by the Chief Executive to members regarding the way the meeting would be run today owing to the issues that have arisen as a result of the coronavirus. A briefing would take place for all members at 3pm or the conclusion of this meeting, whichever occurred first.

In consultation with the Chief Executive, the Group Leaders and myself, the following items that had been scheduled for today's meeting would be held over to the next ordinary Council Meeting.

Item 8 - the Petition - the Lord Mayor advised that the Lead Petitioner was content that this should be delayed

Item 15 - Proposed revision of Standing Order 32

Item 17 - Notices of Motion

Item 18 - Members Questions

In relation to items 17 and 18, the six month rule would not apply as they will not be put to Council today.

RESOLVED that Standing Orders be waived to allow these changes.

In order to comply with government advice on social distancing, the Lord Mayor advised that only the minimum number of councillors to ensure the meeting is quorate are in attendance today.

RESOLVED that Standing Order 48(a) be waived so that Members were not required to be in their designated seats in order to vote.

The Lord Mayor then announced that he had been advised by the Leader of the Council that Councillor Rob Wood was no longer the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families.

20. Deputy Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor invited the Leader to address Council.
The Leader thanked Councillor Ben Dowling former Deputy Lord Mayor and Ms Roxana Andrusca former Deputy Lady Mayoress for all their work during their time in office and supported their decision to step down from office a few months early.

Councillor Donna Jones also thanked the former Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Lady Mayoress for their work.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson nominated Councillor Rob Wood as Deputy Lord Mayor.
The nomination was seconded by Councillor Donna Jones.

Councillor Rob Wood said he was pleased to accept the nomination.

There being no other nominations, the Lord Mayor put the proposal which was CARRIED unanimously.

The Lord Mayor declared that Councillor Rob Wood is elected as Deputy Lord Mayor for the remainder of this Municipal Year.

The Lord Mayor invited the new Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Rob Wood to subscribe the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which he then did witnessed by the City Solicitor, Peter Baulf.

The Lord Mayor presented the Deputy Lord Mayor with his Chain of Office.

The Deputy Lady Mayoress, Deborah Wood, was then presented with a badge of office by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Leza Tremorin

The Deputy Lady Mayoress then subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the City Solicitor.

21. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of members' interests.

22. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 11 February 2020

It was
Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones
That the minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 February 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting held on 11 February 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

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

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Dave Ashmore, Lee Hunt, Linda Symes, Hugh Mason and Stephen Morgan MP (who had business in parliament).

The Leader of the Council explained that as Members had been advised that only a minimum number of Councillors should attend the meeting today, that a note be included in the minutes to say that members were available to attend but were advised not to do so in order to comply with the government's health advice and that their absence would not be viewed in a negative way and their attendance record would indicate "not required".

The Lord Mayor then read out the evacuation procedures.

24. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24

There were no deputations.

25. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25.

There were no questions from the public under Standing Order 25.

26. Appointments

The Lord Mayor asked for nominations for the Shadow Fire and Rescue Authority appointment.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Seconded by Councillor Darren Sanders

That Councillor Jason Fazackarley be appointed to the Shadow Fire and Rescue Authority.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that Councillor Jason Fazackarley be appointed to the Shadow Fire and Rescue Authority for 2020/21

27. Petition - Title "Accessible Beach 4 Pompey"

The Lord Mayor had previously advised this matter would be held over to the next ordinary Council meeting.

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

The Lord Mayor advised that the necessary notice had been given that there was urgent business to consider and invited the Leader of the Council to address Council.

The Leader advised that the urgent business concerned the coronavirus and that the City Council needed to respond to this. He advised that the Council had launched a 12 point plan to help support residents and businesses in the City and outlined each provision.

1. The City Council is setting up a helpline to direct residents to the correct professional medical advice on what to do, so residents can get this advice and not rely on rumour.
2. The City Council's website and Facebook page will prominently show this advice and sign post residents to accurate sources of information. We will also use the HIVE to co-ordinate volunteers across the city.
3. The City Council will work with Foodbanks in the city to give them access to the very generous offers local residents have made of food and volunteer time.
4. Services are looking to reduce the number of face-to-face meetings needed and will try to carry out these meetings by phone.
5. We are looking at opening up extra beds at City Council run homes to allow residents to be transferred out of QA to free up beds. This is expensive and will rely on Government financial support.
6. I have written to all the main supermarkets to ask to meet with them to understand how we can protect supply of goods to all residents and how we get food to people who are self-isolating at home.
7. In the same way we will look at removing the 9.30am start time for concessionary bus passes to allow more elderly and vulnerable residents to shop earlier when supermarkets may be quieter.
8. We are increasing the cleaning in Council run buildings to try to stop infections spreading.
9. Services providing food for the homeless are being hit with a loss of volunteers. The City Council will look to step into this area and provide meals for people who rely on this service.
10. We are looking to see if we can provide food for children currently receive free school meals if schools are closed for an extended time
11. In care homes we are looking to reduce the chances of infection by increased cleaning and discouraging nonessential visits.
12. Finally the City Council will write out directly to all elderly and disabled residents to let them know what the City Council is doing, to give them advice and offer them help.

The City Council is moving to a business critical footing which means some services are closing and staff will be encouraged to work from home. Steps are being taken to redeploy Council staff to business critical areas as appropriate.

The Leader advised that there will be a briefing at 3pm for members and that this was likely to be repeated at least weekly.

Councillor Donna Jones welcomed the 12 point plan and commended the work that had been done. She mentioned the huge number of volunteers who had come forward to help and said it was important that this was co-ordinated and the HIVE was instrumental to ensuring this happens.

In response to a request from Councillor Udy, the Leader agreed to look at suspending court action in relation to Council Tax debt but said this was a

decision that had to involve all councillors and advice from Chris Ward, Finance Director, would be required.

29. Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 10 March 2020

Minute 24 Annual Capital Strategy 2020/21 - 2029/30

This was opposed.

It was

proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt

That the recommendations contained in Minute 24 be approved.

As an amendment

It was

proposed by Councillor Donna Jones

seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

to

"Add after recommendation (c)

That a report for noting be brought to Cabinet and Full Council whenever the council submits a bid for external funding that requires a local capital contribution in excess of £500,000 if such a contribution would involve significantly reducing the resources available to already approved schemes."

The proposer agreed to subsume into it the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Jones.

Following debate, upon the substantive proposal including the amendment being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

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 in Property) 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 400% of GF net service expenditure or;**
 - (ii) **Overall investment income from investment properties and long term treasury management investments exceeds 7.9% of GF net service expenditure**
- d) **That a report for noting be brought to Cabinet and Full Council whenever the council submits a bid for external funding that requires a local capital contribution in excess of £500,000 if such a contribution would involve significantly reducing the resources available to already approved schemes.**

Minute 25 - Treasury Management Policy for 2020/21

This was approved unopposed.

30. Recommendations from Governance & Audit & Standards Committee held on 3 March 2020

Minute 9 - Appointment of Independent Persons

This was approved unopposed.

Minute 11 -Employees Code of conduct - Personal Use of Social Media

This was approved unopposed.

Minute 14 - Constitution Amendments Concerning Part 2 Section 5 - Chief Officers' Delegated Authority

This was approved unopposed.

NOTE:

Agenda Item 15 - Proposed Revision to Standing Order 32 - Referral of Motions to other bodies of the Council was deferred to the next ordinary Council meeting.

31. Recommendations from Employment Committee held on 6 March 2020.

Minute 6- Pay Policy Statement 2020/21

This was approved unopposed.

32. Notices of Motion

The following Notices of Motion are all deferred to the next ordinary Council meeting:-

- Markings on Private Hire Vehicles (note - this has already been withdrawn)
- Central Police Station
- Stop the Knock: local authority debt collection practices
- Road Safety

33. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17.

All questions from Members would be deferred to the next ordinary Council meeting (other than those that were subsequently withdrawn by the member submitting the question).

The Lord Mayor said it was his last scheduled meeting before Annual Council and he wished to thank everyone for making his time as Lord Mayor a very enjoyable experience.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Lord Mayor on behalf of the Council for everything he had done.

The meeting concluded at 2.35 pm.

Lord Mayor