

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held remotely on Tuesday, 10 November 2020 at 2.25 pm.

Council Members Present (virtually)

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

Councillors

Dave Ashmore	Hugh Mason
Matthew Atkins	Lee Mason
Chris Attwell	Terry Norton
Simon Boshier	Stephen Morgan MP
Tom Coles	Gemma New
Cal Corkery	Robert New
Ben Dowling	Steve Pitt
Jason Fazackarley	Will Purvis
John Ferrett	Darren Sanders
George Fielding	Jeanette Smith
David Fuller	Lynne Stagg
Scott Payter-Harris	Judith Smyth
Graham Heaney	Luke Stubbs
Hannah Hockaday	Benedict Swann
Jo Hooper	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

General Procedural Announcements

Link to the agenda

<https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=146&MId=4266&Ver=4>

82. Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Will Purvis declared a personal, pecuniary interest in agenda item 11(d) - Planning in that his employer is a developer. He said he would not take part in this debate.

Councillor Steve Pitt asked whether he should declare an interest in agenda item 11(b) - Aquind as his partner was an allotment holder. The City Solicitor said this was not a declarable interest and advised Councillor Judith Smyth that the same applied to her as an allotment holder.

The City Solicitor also advised Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson that being the council's Armed Forces Champion did not mean he had a declarable

2 10 November 2020

interest in agenda item 11(f) - Commonwealth Armed Forces Veterans' Support.

83. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Virtual Council meeting held on 13 October 2020

It was

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

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

These were agreed by assent.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

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

The Lord Mayor advised that apologies for absence would be recorded as mentioned in the earlier extraordinary meeting.

The Lord Mayor advised that the Leader has changed the title of the Resources portfolio held by Councillor Attwell to "Communities and Central Services".

The Leader of the Council advised that a letter of congratulation to the American President Elect and Vice President Elect will be sent on behalf of the city council with an invitation for them to visit Portsmouth on any trip they make to the UK.

85. Written Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24

The Lord Mayor advised that four written deputations had been received which had all been previously circulated.

The first was from Ms Viola Langley in respect of agenda item 11(b).
The second was from Ms Kimberley Barrett also in respect of agenda item 11(b).

The third was from Mr Alan Burgess in respect of agenda item 11(e).
The final deputation was from Mr Craig Withey in respect of agenda item 11(f).

The Local Democracy Manager read out the deputations.

The Lord Mayor thanked those who had submitted written deputations.

86. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25

The Lord Mayor advised that there were no questions from the public.

87. Appointments

The Lord Mayor advised that there were no appointments.

88. 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.

89. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority - Update

Councillor Jason Fazackarley, the Council's representative on the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority provided an oral update. He advised that following the last Council meeting, the Council had received a written response from Mr Odin, the Chief Fire Officer, to the Council's questions. He also noted that a recent response from the Fire Brigades Union had also been received - both these responses had been circulated to all Councillors.

Councillor Fazackarley thanked Mr Odin for his responses to the questions posed and suggested at this stage that the Council note the content of the letter. Councillor Fazackarley advised that he intended to take Mr Odin up on his offer to meet with him and representatives of all the Groups on the Council as originally intended, so they can discuss his response. He would then report any outstanding concerns back to Full Council.

90. Update on the Aquind Interconnector Project

The Lord Mayor advised that this is a delegated Cabinet decision and members are simply being asked to note the report as previously notified. An opportunity for debate would be given later in the meeting under notice of motion 11(b).

91. Monitoring Officer Report

The Lord Mayor advised that a report from the Monitoring Officer had been previously circulated under section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. In response to the information set out in the report, it was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Suzy Horton

That the recommendations in the Monitoring Officer's report be agreed.

Following debate, upon being put to a roll call vote, this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the council

1. **Notes that there is an existing tension as between the delivery of two statutory duties of the council: one being the duty under the 1989 Children Act ("sec 20 duty") to provide accommodation for young people, including unaccompanied asylum seeking minors, for whom no alternative care arrangement is possible and the other the duty under the 2004 Children Act to provide safe care for children for whom the council has parenting responsibility ("Corporate parenting").**
2. **Notes that the council is currently not discharging the responsibility under the 1989 Act in respect of unaccompanied asylum seeking minors arriving through the Port or identified elsewhere in the city; the Home Office is currently arranging for these young people to be accommodated by other local authorities. Since 1 October 2020 6 young people have been accommodated in this way.**
3. **The council's ability to provide safe care under the 2004 Act is being kept under close review and the council will aim to resume discharging its duty under the 1989 Act as soon as either a judgement is made that it has become able to provide safe care or the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children within the care of the council falls to the number set by the National Transfer Scheme (see report), whichever is the soonest.**
4. **The council continues to mandate the Lead Cabinet Member and DCS to continue to work with all relevant Central Government Departments' and to report upon an immediate basis when the current numbers of unaccompanied asylum seekers are such as to be within the National Transfer Scheme criteria (see report).**

92. Notices of Motion

The Lord Mayor asked members to please note that following the full council meeting of 21 July 2020, the council agreed to revise Standing Order (32)(d)). Consequently, all Notices of Motion on the agenda will automatically be dealt with at this meeting, thereby dispensing with a three minute presentation from the proposer and subsequent vote to enable its consideration.

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

92.a Universal Basic Income

It was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Winnington
Seconded by Councillor Ben Dowling

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

Following debate, upon being put to a roll call vote this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that

Many people in Portsmouth are struggling because of the COVID-19 pandemic and with the looming end of the Brexit transition period leading to real uncertainty about their jobs and paying the bills going into the future. For some who have lost their jobs they have had to go through the process, many for the first time ever, of claiming benefit.

Claiming benefit can be a stressful experience and there is no full income from Universal Credit until five weeks into the claim and, when it is received, it is usually nowhere near what people were getting from their jobs prior to being made redundant or being unable to carry out their self-employed work anymore.

This council therefore believes that a pragmatic and fair solution to this is the introduction of a Universal Basic Income (UBI), a universal payment that goes to every citizen and those who have recourse to public funds in the UK. This takes away the stress and complication of having to put in a claim for even a small amount of money from the state and gives the opportunity for each recipient to use the money that they receive as of right to pay towards housing costs, invest in setting up a business, give to charity or whatever is right for the person receiving it.

Further to this, this council will ask the government to pilot a UBI and that Portsmouth be one of the pilot areas (subject to Cabinet formally resolving to support this approach) as we are a place at the front line of Brexit as a major port city and a city with many people employed in the cultural and creative industries which are under particular threat due to COVID-19.

Council adjourned at 4.56 pm.

Council resumed at 5.10 pm.

92.b Aquind

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs
Seconded by Councillor Simon Boshier

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

Following debate a recorded vote was requested and this was agreed by assent.

The following members voted in favour of adopting notice of motion (b) as set out on the agenda.

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

No members voted against the proposal.

The following member abstained.

Councillor Claire Udy

Notice of motion (b) as set out on the agenda was therefore adopted.

RESOLVED that

The council notes with regret the application made by Aquind for an interconnector cable from France to Hampshire, England. This council strongly objects to the application, particularly the stretch that runs through the city of Portsmouth.

The council notes that both recent leaders of the City Council, Councillor Donna Jones and Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, have made their objections clear. These objections are a matter of record. The first formal objection was noted in a meeting in the spring of 2018 by Councillor Donna Jones on behalf of Portsmouth City Council. Both city MPs Penny Mordaunt and Councillor Stephen Morgan have also lodged their objections publicly.

The council therefore agrees that the most effective way to stop Aquind is for all councillors and political parties to work together to support a strong evidence based objection to the application.

The council requests:

- 1. The Leader of the Council set up a cross party working group to prepare for the public inquiry due to be held to determine this application.**
- 2. The working group's Terms of Reference be agreed to ensure unity, respect and support amongst political parties in working together to stop the Aquind interconnector application.**
- 3. That regular updates are brought back to the City Council on the on-going progress of the working group and wider application**

The Leader also undertook to invite representation on the working group from "Let's stop Aquind" Group.

92.c Free School Meals

It was

Proposed by Councillor Suzy Horton
Seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

"Amendment

Delete after Paragraph Six ('the very welcome') and replace with

That the government has decided to provide a £400m package of support for poorer children and families, including a £170m COVID Winter Grant Scheme to be distributed by local authorities.

That the 2020 public sector deficit in Britain is forecast to be 18.9% of GDP, the highest of any major economy in the world.

That the economy is forecast to shrink by 10.6% this year and that while a recovery is expected next year, it will be some years before the country is back to where it was at the start of 2020. This will necessarily mean fewer jobs, higher taxes and lower public spending over the medium term.

That in spite of the financial challenges, the government has increased Universal Credit rates.

While this council is concerned about the state of the public finances, it believes the poorest should be protected. It therefore puts on record its support for the government's actions.

This Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask that they consider the future financing and support of benefits for children and families including free school meals and to develop a balanced package of support for the poorest and to consider options for the future, including during any further periods of lockdown. This may include consideration of eligibility for migrants without access to public funds, although only if this can be done without creating further incentives for illegal migration."

Following debate, upon being put to a roll call vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Luke Stubbs was LOST.

Upon the original notice of motion being put to a roll call vote, this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that

This Council notes:

That numbers of pupils entitled to Free School Meals are rising fast in Portsmouth with over 1000 additional children since the start of the pandemic. That means over 7000 children.

That every child who is entitled to Free School Meals is a sign of a family under significant financial pressure.

That this picture of increasing child poverty is supported by the rapid rise in the number of families dependent on food banks.

The Trussell trust reporting an 81 per cent increase in food bank dependency in March 2020, and other food banks reporting similar increases. The number of children relying on food banks more than doubles during lockdown and Portsmouth figures reflect this trend with one foodbank reporting over 100% increase in demand the weeks before half term.

That children who are hungry are less able to learn and thrive at school.

That the extension of the school meals voucher scheme (campaigned for by Marcus Rashford) to cover the period of the summer holiday was incredibly important and valuable to families in food poverty.

The very welcome commitment from Liberal Democrat Education Minister in the Welsh Assembly, Kirsty Williams, to guarantee free school meal provision for children in Wales for school holidays until at least Easter 2021.

The very welcome commitment from Portsmouth City Council to guarantee a 2 week voucher for free school meal provision for the 2020 Christmas holidays as well as continuing with successful programmes such as Holiday Food and Fun.

This Council recognises that the withdrawal of the furlough scheme, along with fears of a second lockdown are likely to lead to further increases in child poverty.

This Council therefore supports the calls by the Child Food Poverty Task Force, supported by Marcus Rashford and many leading food suppliers and producers, which calls for:

The expansion of free school meals provision to every child whose family is in receipt of Universal Credit or equivalent, or with a low-income and no recourse to public funds.

That provision be made for food vouchers to cover school holidays and periods of lockdown for all families in receipt of Universal Credit or with low-income and no recourse to public funds.

That Healthy Start vouchers should be increased in value to £4.25, and expanded to be made available to all those in receipt of Universal Credit or with a low-income and no recourse to public funds.

In August, the Government spent more than £522m subsidising diners £10 per meal, under the Eat Out to Help Out scheme. It would cost just £15 to provide a week's meals for a vulnerable child in Portsmouth

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor to call for:

- 1. Extended eligibility for free school meals to every pupil whose parents or guardians are in receipt of Universal Credit**
- 2. Food vouchers for every one of those pupils in every school holiday and during any period of lockdown**
- 3. Extended eligibility for free school meals to pupils from low-income families whose parents or guardians have no recourse to public funds and destitute asylum seekers under s4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.**

Council adjourned at 7.40 pm.

Council resumed at 7.50 pm.

92.d Planning

It was

Proposed by Councillor Terry Norton
Seconded by Councillor Scott Payter-Harris

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Judith Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Graham Heaney

"Amendment

Delete first sentence of the third paragraph and replace with:

"Council notes that the reduction in spending on planning services as a result of the austerity programme of the Coalition and Conservative governments has had an impact on the ability of the planning service to carry out its vital function. This led to local decisions in Portsmouth to reduce the number of planning officers and to the loss of experienced planning officers.

Council regrets the need to bring in outside support to try to reduce the backlog at a time when the council budget is under significant pressure."

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Hugh Mason
Seconded by Councillor David Fuller

"Amendment

At the end of the first sentence in paragraph 1 add the following words

"as a result of the Nitrates Directive and ongoing staff vacancies, both being exacerbated by the effects of the Covid19 pandemic. This required applications with significant economic benefits to the city to be prioritised over routine applications. As a consequence although national speed requirements have consistently been met until 2020, the proportion of applications determined in time fell to 76% in the second quarter of 2020."

Delete the second sentence of paragraph 1

Delete the second sentence of paragraph 2

Replace the first two sentences of paragraph 3 with the following words

"Council supports the decision to support the service with additional outside resources to reduce the backlog but recognises that this alone will not be sufficient to maintain an exemplary planning service. It therefore agrees with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning."

Replace the words after Department in the first bullet point with

"introduce performance monitoring against defined targets for all parts of the development management procedures."

Replace the words after public in the second bullet point and replace with

", and reports to future full council meetings on the implementation of

measures to improve the speed and quality of the development management procedures.”

The motion to therefore read

Council notes the extensive backlog of unregistered planning applications that has built up as a result of the Nitrates Directive and ongoing staff vacancies, both being exacerbated by the effects of the Covid19 pandemic. This required applications with significant economic benefits to the city to be prioritised over routine applications. As a consequence although national speed requirements have consistently been met until 2020, the proportion of applications determined in time fell to 76% in the second quarter of 2020.

Council considers that being able to make planning decisions in a consistent and timely manner is critical if it is to achieve its ambitions for the regeneration of the city and for it to become a hub for businesses in emerging sectors.

Council supports the decision to support the service with additional outside resources to reduce the backlog but recognises that this alone will not be sufficient to maintain an exemplary planning service. It therefore agrees with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning:

- That the Planning Department introduce performance monitoring against defined targets for all parts of the development management procedures;
- That the Cabinet member work with the Planning Department to ensure greater transparency for both Councillors and the public, and reports to future full council meetings on the implementation of measures to improve the speed and quality of the development management procedures."

The proposer of the original motion agreed to subsume into it the amendment in the name of Councillor Hugh Mason.

Following debate, upon being put to a roll call vote, the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Judith Smyth was LOST.

Upon the substantive notice of motion incorporating the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Hugh Mason being put to the vote, this was CARRIED by assent.

RESOLVED

Council notes the extensive backlog of unregistered planning applications that has built up as a result of the Nitrates Directive and ongoing staff vacancies, both being exacerbated by the effects of the Covid19 pandemic. This required applications with significant economic benefits to the city to be prioritised over routine applications. As a consequence although national speed requirements have consistently been met until 2020, the proportion of applications determined in time fell to 76% in the second quarter of 2020.

Council considers that being able to make planning decisions in a consistent and timely manner is critical if it is to achieve its ambitions for the regeneration of the city and for it to become a hub for businesses in emerging sectors.

Council supports the decision to support the service with additional outside resources to reduce the backlog but recognises that this alone will not be sufficient to maintain an exemplary planning service. It therefore agrees with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for planning:

- **That the Planning Department introduce performance monitoring against defined targets for all parts of the development management procedures;**
- **That the Cabinet member work with the Planning Department to ensure greater transparency for both Councillors and the public, and reports to future full council meetings on the implementation of measures to improve the speed and quality of the development management procedures.**

92.e Stop Fining Homeless People

It was

Proposed by Councillor Cal Corkery
Seconded by Councillor Judith Smyth

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders
Seconded by Councillor Steve Pitt

"Amendment

1. In par 1, line 2, add after 'hotels' 'for at least one night'
2. In par 1, line 2, replace Around 130 of those with more than 200.
3. In par 1, line 4, insert after halls 'private rented accommodation'
4. Replace all of para 2 with : "The Council has also been awarded more than six million pounds from the Government to help provide rough sleepers with safe, secure accommodation, the sixth biggest allocation to any English Council."
5. In new par 3, add at the end of the last word "needs" with ", which is why the council is now providing self-contained accommodation."
6. In new par 4, line 2, please replace "A number of £100 fines" with "Six Fixed Penalty Notices"
7. In new Par 4 add after paid ", none of which have been pursued"
8. Replace all of Para 5 with: It is council policy not to follow the approach of Labour councils like Oxford which threatened £2,500 fines for rough sleepers leaving bags in doorways while recognising that rough

sleepers - like other human beings - commit antisocial and criminal behaviour.

9. Add to the end of point 1 the words " Council workers, people in partner agencies and volunteers who have contributed towards this."
10. Replace point 2: "Congratulates the Council on securing record levels of investment from the Government to tackle rough sleeping."
11. Add new point 3 to say: "Recognises the efforts council officers are making to ensure safe and secure accommodation for every rough sleeper, including those for whom a hostel or shared house setting is not appropriate."
12. Replace original points 3 and 4 with new points 5 and 6:
 - Requests Cabinet to continue to support the approach that no rough sleepers should be punished purely if they are a rough sleeper and condemns the approach of councils like Oxford, which threatens rough sleepers with fines for being rough sleepers
 - Asks Cabinet to note that the Homelessness Partnership Group recently discussed with police colleagues the possibility of working more closely to try to develop a support based model around tackling begging and certain antisocial behaviours. This would aim to minimise any police prosecutions of those begging or committing anti social behaviour. Council endorses the Board's decision to look at how this can be handled fairly and sensitively, including whether Fixed Penalty Notices are appropriate.

The Motion to therefore read

Since the government issued the 'everyone in' directive in March 2020 the council has housed a total of over 400 homeless individuals in hotels for at least one night. Around 200 of those people have now been moved on to new temporary accommodation units across a mix of student halls private rented accommodation and rooms in shared houses.

The Council has also been awarded more than six million pounds from the Government to help provide rough sleepers with safe, secure accommodation, the sixth biggest allocation to any English Council.

A number of rough sleepers, regularly those with the most complex needs, feel they would be unable to cope in a hostel or shared house environment. Often this is due to feeling unsafe as a result of their health and support needs, which is why the council is now providing self-contained accommodation.

A recent investigation by The Mirror found that across the country 420 fixed penalties have been issued by councils to homeless people for begging or loitering in the street. Six Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued by the council to rough sleepers in Portsmouth - none of which have been paid, none of which have been pursued.

It is council policy not to follow the approach of Labour councils like Oxford which threatened £2,500 fines for rough sleepers leaving bags in doorways

while recognising that rough sleepers - like other human beings - commit antisocial and criminal behaviour.

Full Council therefore:

1. Recognises the significant efforts that have been made to accommodate local homeless people since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, and thanks all those Council workers, people in partner agencies and volunteers who have contributed towards this.
2. Congratulates the Council on securing record levels of investment from the Government to tackle rough sleeping.
3. Recognises the efforts council officers are making to ensure safe and secure accommodation for every rough sleeper, including those for whom a hostel or shared house setting is not appropriate.
4. Requests Cabinet to continue to support the approach that no rough sleepers should be punished purely if they are a rough sleeper and condemns the approach of councils like Oxford, which threatens rough sleepers with fines for being rough sleepers
5. Asks Cabinet to note that the Homelessness Partnership Group recently discussed with police colleagues the possibility of working more closely to try to develop a support based model around tackling begging and certain antisocial behaviours. This would aim to minimise any police prosecutions of those begging or committing anti social behaviour. Council endorses the Board's decision to look at how this can be handled fairly and sensitively, including whether Fixed Penalty Notices are appropriate.

Following debate upon being put to a roll call vote, the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Darren Sanders was CARRIED.

Upon the substantive notice of motion incorporating the amendment being put to a roll call vote, this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that

Since the government issued the 'everyone in' directive in March 2020 the council has housed a total of over 400 homeless individuals in hotels for at least one night. Around 200 of those people have now been moved on to new temporary accommodation units across a mix of student halls private rented accommodation and rooms in shared houses.

The Council has also been awarded more than six million pounds from the Government to help provide rough sleepers with safe, secure accommodation, the sixth biggest allocation to any English Council.

A number of rough sleepers, regularly those with the most complex needs, feel they would be unable to cope in a hostel or shared house environment. Often this is due to feeling unsafe as a result of their health and support needs, which is why the council is now providing self-contained accommodation.

A recent investigation by The Mirror found that across the country 420 fixed penalties have been issued by councils to homeless people for begging or loitering in the street. Six Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued by the council to rough sleepers in Portsmouth - none of which have been paid, none of which have been pursued.

It is council policy not to follow the approach of Labour councils like Oxford which threatened £2,500 fines for rough sleepers leaving bags in doorways while recognising that rough sleepers - like other human beings - commit antisocial and criminal behaviour.

Full Council therefore:

- 1. Recognises the significant efforts that have been made to accommodate local homeless people since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, and thanks all those Council workers, people in partner agencies and volunteers who have contributed towards this.**
- 2. Congratulates the Council on securing record levels of investment from the Government to tackle rough sleeping.**
- 3. Recognises the efforts council officers are making to ensure safe and secure accommodation for every rough sleeper, including those for whom a hostel or shared house setting is not appropriate.**
- 4. Requests Cabinet to continue to support the approach that no rough sleepers should be punished purely if they are a rough sleeper and condemns the approach of councils like Oxford, which threatens rough sleepers with fines for being rough sleepers**
- 5. Asks Cabinet to note that the Homelessness Partnership Group recently discussed with police colleagues the possibility of working more closely to try to develop a support based model around tackling begging and certain antisocial behaviours. This would aim to minimise any police prosecutions of those begging or committing anti social behaviour. Council endorses the Board's decision to look at how this can be handled fairly and sensitively, including whether Fixed Penalty Notices are appropriate.**

92.f Commonwealth Armed Forces Veterans Support

It was

Proposed by Councillor Tom Coles
Seconded by Councillor Graham Heaney

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

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Winnington
Seconded by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

"Amendment

From the first paragraph delete all after 'We call upon the Council to' and insert:

reaffirm its commitment to the Royal British Legion's Stop the Service Charge campaign which was passed in a motion at this Council with cross party support in October 2019. Additionally the motion supported all non-Commonwealth foreign personnel, as well as Commonwealth personnel, serving in the British armed forces for at least four years to have their Indefinite Leave to Remain visa fees, nearly £2,500 per person, waived as set out in House of Commons Early Day Motion 2164 which gained cross party support in the last session of parliament.

That Portsmouth City Council additionally confirms its support for all non-Commonwealth foreign and Commonwealth personnel who have served at least 10 years in the British armed forces to be granted automatic British citizenship.

To show its continued support for the Royal British Legion's Stop the Service Charge campaign, the cross party parliamentary campaign to also waive Indefinite Leave to Remain visa fees for non-Commonwealth foreign as well as Commonwealth service personnel and this council's call to grant automatic citizenship to all British armed forces personnel from non-Commonwealth foreign and Commonwealth countries after ten years of service, letters from this Council will be prepared to send to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and the Defence Secretary, signed by all members of the Council who wish to sign them.

This Council also calls on Portsmouth's two MPs, Penny Mordaunt and Stephen Morgan, to publicly support these actions and stand up for all service personnel and former service personnel in this city, no matter where in the world they come from."

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

The substantive notice of motion incorporating the amendment was CARRIED by assent.

RESOLVED

We call upon the council to reaffirm its commitment to the Royal British Legion's Stop the Service Charge campaign which was passed in a motion at this Council with cross party support in October 2019. Additionally the motion supported all non-Commonwealth foreign personnel, as well as Commonwealth personnel, serving in the British armed forces for at least four years to have their Indefinite Leave to Remain visa fees, nearly £2,500 per person, waived as set out in House of Commons Early Day Motion 2164 which gained cross party support in the last session of parliament.

That Portsmouth City Council additionally confirms its support for all non-Commonwealth foreign and Commonwealth personnel who have served at least 10 years in the British armed forces to be granted automatic British citizenship.

To show its continued support for the Royal British Legion's Stop the Service Charge campaign, the cross party parliamentary campaign to also waive Indefinite Leave to Remain visa fees for non-Commonwealth foreign as well as Commonwealth service personnel and this council's call to grant automatic citizenship to all British armed forces personnel from non-Commonwealth foreign and Commonwealth countries after ten years of service, letters from this Council will be prepared to send to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and the Defence Secretary, signed by all members of the Council who wish to sign them.

This Council also calls on Portsmouth's two MPs, Penny Mordaunt and Stephen Morgan, to publicly support these actions and stand up for all service personnel and former service personnel in this city, no matter where in the world they come from.

92.g Parking and COVID

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs
Seconded by Councillor Linda Symes

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

As an amendment it was

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

"Amendment

Delete last paragraph and replace with:

Given the unique challenges that Covid presents for our business community, Council welcomes the announcement that the previous parking discount offered in September, where an additional hour of free parking was available on top of any period of paid parking at 4 car parks adjacent to key shopping areas, is to be renewed for December to support high streets. Council further notes that the purpose is to provide extra time for shoppers who may have to queue for longer than usual due to Covid rules and to encourage those who have already made the decision to use their cars to dwell longer. The Council encourages everyone to Shop Local this Christmas."

The Motion to therefore read:

The COVID pandemic has hit both the retail and hospitality sectors hard, with a deep and permanent reduction in the level of employment and business activity the likely result.

For many struggling retailers a successful Christmas is essential. Without it, a wave of store closures after the January sales must be probable.

Council acknowledges the impact that COVID has had on its own finances and that as things stand, tax receipts are likely to be lower and expenditure higher than originally planned. It however notes its own exposure to the business sector and that a further decline will mean a drop in business rate income.

Given the unique challenges that Covid presents for our business community, Council welcomes the announcement that the previous parking discount offered in September, where an additional hour of free parking was available on top of any period of paid parking at 4 car parks adjacent to key shopping areas, is to be renewed for December to support high streets. Council further notes that the purpose is to provide extra time for shoppers who may have to queue for longer than usual due to Covid rules and to encourage those who have already made the decision to use their cars to dwell longer. The Council encourages everyone to Shop Local this Christmas."

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

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

RESOLVED

The COVID pandemic has hit both the retail and hospitality sectors hard, with a deep and permanent reduction in the level of employment and business activity the likely result.

For many struggling retailers a successful Christmas is essential. Without it, a wave of store closures after the January sales must be probable.

Council acknowledges the impact that COVID has had on its own finances and that as things stand, tax receipts are likely to be lower and expenditure higher than originally planned. It however notes its own exposure to the business sector and that a further decline will mean a drop in business rate income.

Given the unique challenges that Covid presents for our business community, Council welcomes the announcement that the previous parking discount offered in September, where an additional hour of free parking was available on top of any period of paid parking at 4 car parks adjacent to key shopping areas, is to be renewed for December to support high streets. Council further notes that the purpose is to provide extra time for shoppers who may have to queue for longer than

usual due to Covid rules and to encourage those who have already made the decision to use their cars to dwell longer. The Council encourages everyone to Shop Local this Christmas."

93. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17

There were eight questions before council today.

Question 1 was from Councillor Steve Wemyss

"How, and in what form, will the public be consulted by the administration on this year's budget proposals?"

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

Question 2 was from Councillor Simon Boshier

"The Elm Grove/Kings Road segregated cycle lane is to be reviewed after three weeks of operation. When will the Cabinet member be making her decision as to whether it will be kept or removed and will members of the public be given the opportunity to make representations?"

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

Question 3 was from Councillor Robert New

"Could Councillor Stagg update us on the local authority bid to the DfT for funding the feasibility study for reopening the Paulsgrove railway halt and possibly the Drayton and Farlington and others?"

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

Question 4 was from Councillor Steve Pitt

"Can the Cabinet Member please update on the ongoing integration work involving the City Council and the local NHS as part of Health & Care Portsmouth"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Health Wellbeing and Social Care, Councillor Matthew Winnington.

Question 5 was from Councillor Cal Corkery

"Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the council's commercial property investment portfolio?"

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

Question 6 was from Councillor Tom Coles

"Can the Cabinet Member confirm the progress of the actions contained in the Hidden Disabilities motion of last Full Council?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Central Services, Councillor Chris Attwell

The time allowed for questions expired before the remaining 2 questions could be put and so in accordance with Standing Order 17(h) written replies would be circulated to members.

The Lord Mayor thanked members and officers for their virtual attendance at the meeting and wished everyone goodnight.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 pm.

Lord Mayor