

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 21 January 2014 at 2.00 pm

Council Members Present

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor
Councillor Lynne Stagg (in the Chair)

Councillors

Councillor Margaret Adair	Councillor Lee Mason
Councillor Michael Andrewes	Councillor Robert New
Councillor Simon Boshier	Councillor Mike Park
Councillor Peter Eddis	Councillor Darron Phillips
Councillor Jason Fazackarley	Councillor Will Purvis
Councillor John Ferrett	Councillor Darren Sanders
Councillor Ken Ferrett	Councillor Caroline Scott
Councillor Margaret Foster	Councillor Phil Smith
Councillor David Fuller	Councillor Sandra Stockdale
Councillor Aiden Gray	Councillor Luke Stubbs
Councillor Terry Hall	Councillor Alistair Thompson
Councillor Jacqui Hancock	Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Councillor Mike Hancock CBE MP	Councillor Steve Wemyss
Councillor David Horne	Councillor April Windebank
Councillor Lee Hunt	Councillor Matthew Winnington
Councillor Frank Jonas	Councillor Rob Wood
Councillor Donna Jones	Councillor Steven Wylie
Councillor Hugh Mason	Councillor Neill Young

1. Members' Interests

Councillor Michael Hancock and Councillor Jacqui Hancock declared a Code of Conduct interest in notice of motion 9(b) and said they would leave the chamber for this item.

Councillor Andrewes declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 9(b) and confirmed that he had received advice that his interest was non-prejudicial.

Councillor Alistair Thompson declared a non pecuniary interest in notice of motion 9(a) as he works through his company for one of the leading drug and alcohol charities in the country.

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2013

It was

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

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That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2013 be approved as a correct record and this was agreed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. Communications and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Eleanor Scott, Jim Patey, Leo Madden, Les Stevens and Ken Ellcome.

The Lord Mayor said that the Cabinet has given the go ahead for Portsmouth to be the first city to take the National Numeracy Challenge and said that more information would be available in due course.

4. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24(b)(vi)

There were no deputations.

5. Questions from the Public under Standing Order 25

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

6. Appointments

There were no appointments.

7. 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.

8. Special Urgency Decision

RESOLVED that council noted a special urgency decision under section 17.3 of the Constitution regarding the Leaders portfolio decision Highways PFI Material Damage Policy taken under exempt business on 23 December 2013. (Published in the Members' Information Service on 3rd January 2014).

9. Notices of Motion

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

(a) Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

It was

Proposed by Councillor Aiden Gray
Seconded by Councillor John Ferrett

That the notice of motion set out at agenda item 9(a) be debated today. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Aiden Gray
Seconded by Councillor John Ferrett

That the notice of motion set out agenda item 9(a) be adopted by council.

Following debate upon the notice of motion standing in the name of Councillor Aiden Gray being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that notice of motion (a) as set out below be adopted.

"The City Council to note the prevalent use of category B2 gaming machines, known as Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs), in large sections of betting shops across Portsmouth, that unlike gaming machines in use across public houses, with a maximum stake is £1, bingo halls where maximum stakes are limited to £2, gamblers can bet up to £100 every 20 seconds on FOBTs to win a jackpot of £500 using debit cards which is over four times faster than the rate of play in many casinos.

Further to this the City council also notes that nationally 80% of turnover in betting shops is from these FOBTs, where only 20% is from "over-the-counter betting" on horse racing & sports.

The City Council also notes a recent economic analysis that was undertaken by Landman Economics, which was commissioned by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling. This was to assess the impact of the growth in FOBT spending on local economies and across the wider consumer economy. The report highlights that an increase of FOBT spend produces a net reduction of 13,000 jobs and that the projected doubling of FOBT revenue by 2023 could destroy 22,000 jobs. The report also highlights the negative impact of the increase in new betting shops and relocation of betting shops onto primary retail sites is having on the wider retail economy.

Furthermore the City Council notes that the last government made a mistake in allowing this to be introduced & the lack of the current central Government action to address the issues that have been caused by FOBTs, also the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Maria Miller MP in the Triennial Review on Gambling (10 October 2013) to not introduce regulations reducing maximum stakes, maximum jackpots or the speed of play. The City Council also notes the contrast of position in the Republic of Ireland where their

Government introduced legislation to outlaw FOBTs in betting shops.

In the absence of Government action the City council notes the innovative work other local authorities are doing to reduce the impact of FOBTs on communities, examples include;

- 1) 14 councils led by the London Borough of Hackney putting together a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act for betting shops to have a specific and separate user class ensuring every planning application will be subject to the local authority's individual planning policy to allow local circumstances to be taken into account.**
- 2) The London Borough of Lambeth is considering introducing a local bye-law to reduce maximum stakes to £2 per spin and reduce speed of play.**
- 3) The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham consulting on a draft Supplementary Planning Document and Article 4 Direction to withdraw permitted development rights for change of use of A3 (restaurants and cafes), A4 (drinking establishments) and A5 (hot food takeaways) to betting offices (class A2 use) in order to create or maintain mixed communities and to protect local amenity and the wellbeing of the area**

The city council believes that the Government should introduce legislation to prohibit FOBTs in betting shops or to give local authorities the powers to protect the local amenity and wellbeing of communities by stopping the proliferation of betting shops, slowing down the speed of play and reducing maximum stakes of FOBTs.

The City Council to request;

- 1) The Leader of the council and the Chief Executive will write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to outline the terms of this motion and request urgent action against FOBTs by central Government.**
- 2) While recognising that interventions taken by other local authorities may or may not be applicable routes to address the situation in Portsmouth, with other measures that could be explored, the City Council requests the Licensing Committee consider the appropriate steps that could be taken within existing powers in Portsmouth to help reduce problems caused by FOBTs in the absence of any further Government action.**

The Cabinet Member for Planning Regeneration and Economic development with the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of

State for Communities and Local Government stressing the need for a separate use class for betting shops".

(b) It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett
Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

That the notice of motion set out at agenda item 9(b) be debated today.

A recorded vote was requested by eight members standing concerning whether notice of motion (b) should be debated today.

The following members were in favour of debating the matter today

Councillors Margaret Adair	Rob New
Michael Andrewes	Mike Park
Simon Boshier	Darron Phillips
Peter Eddis	Will Purvis
John Ferrett	Darren Sanders
Ken Ferrett	Phil Smith
Margaret Foster	Caroline Scott
David Fuller	Sandra Stockdale
Aiden Gray	Luke Stubbs
Terry Hall	Alistair Thompson
David Horne	Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Lee Hunt	Steve Wemyss
Frank Jonas	Matthew Winnington
Donna Jones	Rob Wood
Hugh Mason	Steven Wylie
Lee Mason	Neill Young

There were no votes against the proposition.

There were no abstentions.

RESOLVED that notice of motion (b) be debated today.

It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett
Seconded by Councillor Luke Stubbs

That the notice of motion be adopted by council.

There followed a debate during which the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson read out in full a briefing note from the City Solicitor dated 16 January 2014.

In the course of the debate, the City Solicitor was asked to consider whether Standing Order 22 had been breached by any member. The

City Solicitor undertook to listen to the audio tape and consider this matter after the meeting.

A recorded vote was requested by eight members standing.

Upon being put to the vote the following members voted in favour of adopting notice of motion (b).

Councillors John Ferrett	Robert New
Ken Ferrett	Mike Park
Aiden Gray	Luke Stubbs
David Horne	Alistair Thompson
Donna Jones	Steve Wemyss
Lee Mason	Neill Young

The following members voted against adopting notice of motion (b)

Councillors Margaret Adair	Darron Phillips
Michael Andrewes	Will Purvis
Simon Boshier	Darren Sanders
Peter Eddis	Phil Smith
Jason Fazackarley	Caroline Scott
Margaret Foster	Sandra Stockdale
David Fuller	Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Terry Hall	Matthew Winnington
Lee Hunt	Rob Wood
Hugh Mason	Steven Wylie

The following member abstained

Councillor Frank Jonas

RESOLVED that notice of motion (b) be not adopted.

10. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17

There were five questions under Standing Order 17.

Question No 1 was from Councillor Donna Jones.

"Can the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety confirm how many complaints have been made to PCC re toilet closures?"

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

Question No 2 was from Councillor Steve Wemyss asking

"Can Section 106 funds or CIL contributions be used for revenue purposes?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Hugh Mason.

Question No 3 was from Councillor Luke Stubbs asking

"What steps is the council proposing to take to minimise the problems caused by flooding both now and in future years?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Hugh Mason.

Question No 4 was from Councillor Aiden Gray asking

"At the T&T Executive decision meeting on 19th December he rejected all the proposals to raise income by introducing new on street parking charges. The accompanying report said in paragraph 7.4, "Any changes to these recommendations will reduce the services ability to meet its income target and to meet the on-going commitments to the off street parking reserve. Other measures would be needed to replace those set out in the TRO" What other measures does he propose?"

This was answered by the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, Councillor Jason Fazackarley.

Question No 5 was from Councillor Luke Stubbs asking

"Should political leaflets and similar online publications be included as news sources by the council's media monitoring operation?"

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

The meeting concluded at 5.00 pm.

Lord Mayor