

**14 OCTOBER 2019**

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 14 October 2019

- \* Cllr Allan Glass (Chairman)
- \* Cllr Derek Tipp (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:**

- \* Alan Alvey
- \* Diane Andrews
- \* Ann Bellows
- \* Sue Bennison
- \* Geoffrey Blunden
- \* Hilary Brand
- \* Alex Brunsdon
- \* Fran Carpenter
- \* Louise Cerasoli
- \* Mark Clark
- \* Rebecca Clark
- \* Steve Clarke
- \* Jill Cleary
- \* Anne Corbridge
- \* Keith Craze
- \* Kate Crisell
- \* Jack Davies
- \* Steve Davies
- \* Arthur Davis
- \* Sandra Delemare
- \* Philip Dowd
- \* Jan Duke
- \* Barry Dunning
- \* Jacqui England
- \* Andrew Gossage
- \* Michael Harris
- \* David Harrison
- \* David Hawkins
- \* Edward Heron

**Councillors:**

- \* Jeremy Heron
- \* Alison Hoare
- Maureen Holding
- \* Christine Hopkins
- \* Mahmoud Kangarani
- \* Joshua Kidd
- \* Emma Lane
- \* Martyn Levitt
- Alexis McEvoy
- \* Ian Murray
- \* Alan O'Sullivan
- \* Stephanie Osborne
- \* Neville Penman
- \* Caroline Rackham
- Alvin Reid
- \* Joe Reilly
- \* Barry Rickman
- Tony Ring
- \* Steve Rippon-Swaine
- \* David Russell
- \* Ann Sevier
- \* Mark Steele
- \* Michael Thierry
- Beverley Thorne
- \* Neil Tungate
- \* Alex Wade
- \* Malcolm Wade
- \* Christine Ward
- \* John Ward

\*Present

**Officers Attending:**

Bob Jackson, Grainne O'Rourke, Colin Read and Matt Wisdom.

**Apologies:**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs McEvoy, Reid, Ring and Thorne.

Cllr Lane left the meeting at 7.05 pm.

**39 MINUTES**

Cllr Rackham asked if in future, supplementary questions and answers in respect of Portfolio Holder Questions could be recorded in the minutes. The Chairman confirmed that this would be the case.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2019, be confirmed.

**40 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests, or any other interests by Members.

**41 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported on the following recent engagements:-

September

- 4 Attended the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service at the National Coastwatch Institution at Calshot

October

- 1 Attended the annual public meeting of New Forest Disability Information Service, one of the Chairman's chosen charities
- 3 Attended the launch of the Olivia Inspires charity

The full list of engagements would be available to view in the upcoming Council Information Bulletin.

**42 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader of the Council reported on the following:-

**Local Plan Review**

Members were reminded that the draft Local Plan was agreed and submitted to Government in 2018 and went through its independent examination in the Summer.

The Leader was pleased to report that the planning inspectorate had supported the strategy for the future of the area, having confirmed that the new Local Plan could be made 'sound' with the inclusion of some minor changes.

The inspectorate agreed with the broad spatial strategy for development, on the overall scale and locations for housing and employment land provision.

In turn, this was confirmed as an endorsement of the high priority the Council has placed on protecting the Green Belt and finding the right balance between meeting housing needs and protecting the environment.

Looking ahead, the Council and the planning inspectors would now agree a timetable to make the changes to the Local Plan and publish them before Christmas 2019. The inspectors would then consider the consultation feedback and issue a final written report before the new Local Plan could be adopted around Spring 2020.

Once adopted, the new Local Plan would become the statutory basis for making planning decisions in the New Forest District outside of the National Park. Policies in the emerging Local Plan already had significant weight for planning decision making as a result of this.

#### **43 REPORT OF CABINET**

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Cabinet meeting held on 2 October 2019, and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr E Heron seconded the motion.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

#### **44 REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Clarke presented the report of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee meeting held on 13 September 2019, and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr Tungate seconded the motion.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

#### **45 REPORT OF HR COMMITTEE**

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the HR Committee meeting held on 19 September 2019, and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr Steele seconded the motion.

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

#### **46 REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL - CLIMATE CHANGE MOTION**

Cllr Rippon-Swaine presented the report of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 19 September 2019, and moved the adoption of the recommendations. Cllr Bennison seconded the motion.

Cllr M Wade, who had moved the original motion relating to Climate Change, expressed his disappointment that the Council looked not to declare a Climate Emergency. A number of other Members spoke in support of declaring a Climate Emergency.

A number of Members highlighted the importance of tracking the future progress made against the proposed Environment Action Plan and supported this particular recommendation arising from the Task and Finish Group and Panel.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

**47 QUESTIONS**

There were none.

**48 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22A**

Questions were put and answered under Standing Order 22A as follows:-

- Cllr M Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services, Cllr Hoare, on a Climate Emergency.
- Cllr Rackham to the Portfolio Holder for Community Affairs, Cllr Andrews, on Modern Slavery.
- Cllr M Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services, Cllr Hoare, on Cold Ironing.
- Cllr Harrison to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Barry Rickman, on Post-Brexit Emergency Funding.
- Cllr Dowd to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services, Cllr J Heron, on Universal Credit.
- Cllr Osborne to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regulatory Services, Cllr Hoare, on Recycling.
- Cllr A Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services, Cllr J Heron, on Funding Cuts announced by Hampshire County Council.
- Cllr Brand to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure, Cllr E Heron, on Section 106 Funds.
- Cllr Blunden to the Portfolio for Finance, Investment and Corporate Services, Cllr J Heron, on Council Tax Exemptions for Care Leavers.
- Cllr Carpenter to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure, Cllr E Heron, on Green Credentials.

Note – a copy of the full questions and replies are appended to these minutes.

**49 NOTICE OF MOTION**

In accordance with Standing Order 21, Cllr J Davies moved the following motion:-

*“This Council notes that:*

*This Council operates on a Cabinet System with Overview and Scrutiny Committees providing scrutiny of decisions made by the Cabinet Members and Officers.*

*The Chairs of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee are appointed by the Ruling Administration.*

*This always leads to the Chairs of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee being from the Ruling Administration.*

*This Council believes that:*

*The ability of those members of the council who do not represent the ruling administration to effectively scrutinise the decisions of the ruling administration is vital to ensuring representative and effective decision-making.*

*The most effective way of ensuring proper scrutiny of decisions made by the ruling administration is for Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be chaired by councillors not from the ruling administration. There are many examples of these such arrangements, such as: Stratford-upon-Avon District Council, Swale Borough Council, and Warwickshire County Council.*

*With Opposition Members chairing scrutiny committees, the Council can ensure that any issues with this Council's decisions can be raised before a decision is made rather than after the decision has been enacted.*

*This Council calls for:*

*The Chairs of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be proposed by the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Leader/s of the Opposition Group/s with the Chairs of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee being members of the Opposition Group/s."*

Cllr A Wade seconded the motion.

The Chairman confirmed that, in his opinion, it was conducive to the despatch of business to deal with the motion at this Council meeting. He invited the Leader of the Council to respond initially.

The Leader of the Council spoke against the motion, highlighting that the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Committees and Panels was a matter for each Committee and Panel, with the election taking place at the meetings immediately following the Annual Council meeting in May.

Cllr Harrison spoke in support of the motion, highlighting that, in his opinion, the constructive challenge facilitated by Overview and Scrutiny Panels was best led by Members not of the ruling administration. A number of Members supported this view, citing the importance of good scrutiny.

Contrary views to those expressed by the motion were made by a number of Members, highlighting the duty of all Members, regardless of political group, in holding the executive to account.

Cllr E Heron moved that the question now be put. Cllr Cleary seconded the motion. This motion was carried.

Cllr J Davies, as the mover of the original motion replied to the debate and encouraged Members to support the motion.

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

**50 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

There were no changes.

CHAIRMAN