

Supplementary Information

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL
26 January 2022

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the next meeting of the Council to be held on 26 January 2022, the following supplementary information that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No	Item	
3	Minutes	1 - 2
	To confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 03 November 2021.	
5	Public Questions under Standing Order 27.5	3 - 6
	To receive questions from, and provide answers to the public, provided questions have been submitted in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 27.5, which is to deal with any public questions notified no later than 12 noon three working days before the meeting and in accordance with the Council's protocol for public questions.	

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HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on 3 November 2021

Present

Councillor Raines (Mayor)

Councillors Bowerman, P Bains, Bains, Branson, Briggs, Crellin, Francis, Howard, Hughes, Keast, Inkster, Jenner, Kennett, Linger, Patel, Robinson, Stone, Thain-Smith, Lloyd, Patrick (Deputy Mayor), Pike, Rennie, Satchwell, Sceal, Scott, Turner, Weeks and Denton

27 Appointment of Honorary Alderman

Proposed by Councillor Alex Rennie and seconded by Councillor Beryl Francis, it was

RESOLVED that former Councillor Terry Hart be conferred the title of Honorary Alderman.

The meeting commenced at 4.45 pm and concluded at 5.02 pm

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COUNCIL MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022

Item 5 – Public Questions Received under Standing Order 27.5

	Question From	Question to	Question
1	Beth Hawdon	Cllr Bowerman	<p>I have worked in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry as a cell biologist since 1987 at Rutgers University, University California, National University Singapore and Portsmouth University. I also have an MSc in Environmental Management.</p> <p>Many news stories regarding sewage being released into rivers and the sea mention people and animals falling ill recently. I contacted HBC two years ago, before the media picked this up because of my concerns and was told that it was not the Council’s problem. However, as Councillors are elected to manage and ensure the health and safety of their constituents it is a problem to be dealt with by MPs and Councillors. My concerns are not just people and dogs falling ill when bathing, but the long-term degradation of the ecosystem around Hayling, Portsmouth, Havant and Emsworth. Natural England produced a paper developed from a large survey regarding the state of these waterways and in general they are dangerously declining.</p> <p>Thousands of papers are written every year by scientists about the chemicals in sewage and their effects on plants and animals near sewage outfalls, and these are written about treated sewage. In our harbours we are releasing a toxic solution of untreated sewage on a regular basis. All pharmaceuticals end up in wastewater because a large portion of medication is not broken down by the body and is excreted, hence present in high concentrations in pre-treated sewage. Current sewage treatments get rid of some but not all of compounds generated by humans including, hormones, anti-epileptics, anti-depressants, NSAIDS, and so on. Engineers and scientists are currently looking for further methods to remove these from sewage, but if we are allowing frequent releases of untreated sewage, their research becomes pointless, and money wasted.</p>

	Question From	Question to	Question
			<p>These scientists have shown the hormones and antidepressants do impact the organisms exposed because many of these tend to bioaccumulate. Concentrations so low that it requires specific equipment to detect them will accumulate over time and will impact entire populations of plants and animals. Many of these organisms are at the foundation of the marine ecosystem. Hence you have three problems. First, they are the food for higher organisms such as fish, birds, and other wildlife so if the feed population is affected so are the feeders. Ultimately, these compounds will make it into fish people are eating. Another problem is the destruction of these populations will also destabilise the physical environment, which can lead to increased erosion, for example seagrass destruction.</p> <p>For my MSc I studied the measures taken to control polychlorinated biphenyls, a widely used compound in industry until scientists showed the problems they caused when they enter our ecosystem. They were banned and disposal was regulated, but it was not done quickly enough. Now, PCBs are found across the planet, even in the tissues of organisms in the Arctic. From a selfish perspective, they are in the seafood caught in most countries, and in some communities' human breast milk. Compounds used by humans must be dealt with correctly to protect everyone. Many of these chemicals are endocrine disruptors which will have an irreversible effect on humans and wildlife. Dilution of sewage is not the answer. We must stop releasing untreated sewage now, not in fifteen years when the compounds have already destroyed our precious marine ecosystems.</p> <p>My question is what will the council do to stop this threat? Examples of what they can do are: stopping any new sewage source being developed until Southern Water has the capability to deal with what they already have. Help Southern Water build their capacity by gaining funding from central government. Work with the EA and DEFRA to run a study to see to what extent these human toxicants are accumulating in sediments and wildlife tissues. These are just a few answers to my question.</p>

	Question From	Question to	Question
2	Pat Brooks – Havant Climate Alliance and Friends of the Earth	Cllr Rennie	With the financial strain of separating from East Hampshire District Council, can we be assured that Climate and Environment issues will remain a priority for HBC, with the implementation of an effective Action Plan?
3	Pat Brooks – Havant Climate Alliance and Friends of the Earth	Cllr Rennie	Can you re-assure us that after the separation from EHDC, HBC will continue to fund a post for a Climate and Environment Officer, preferably several days per week? This will be essential if climate and environment issues are to be recognised in relation to all developments in the Borough. An example of just one issue, is the reference to the Future Role of the Hayling Billy Trail, where it is noted that the initial draft is to be sent to the Climate and Environment Officer so that the carbon impact of the proposals can be recognised. Many hours of officer's time will be needed if the same is to be applied to all proposals.
4	Pat Brooks – Havant Climate Alliance and Friends of the Earth	Cllr Rennie	As the Local Plan may be reconsidered, will it be possible to bring the Section on Building Standards more in line with the Climate and Environment Strategy? This would mean increasing standards required, to 2025 levels ahead of that date. Local Authorities do have leeway to set higher standards than those required by current building regulations. EHDC are incorporating net zero standards into their Local Plan for 2023. More work can be done to persuade developers that it will be easier to sell their houses if they are built to 2025 standards which reduce fuel bills.
5	Anne Buckley	Cllr Satchwell	Nitrates - The Court of Appeal has granted permission to appeal against the judgement of Mr Justice Jay in Wyatt v Fareham Borough Council 2021. The challenge principally concerns the lawfulness of the advice contained in the Natural England's document 'Advice on Achieving Nutrient Neutrality for Development in the Solent Region.' Permission to appeal has been granted on four grounds, three of which raise questions about whether the advice note complies with the Habitats Directive. Havant BC has based its Nutrient Neutrality on the same advice. If Wyatt wins the appeal what implications does this have for Havant BC?

	Question From	Question to	Question
6	Anne Buckley	Cllr Rennie	Decoupling of Havant Borough Council and East Hants District Council - It was noted in Councillor Rennie's report on the decoupling of the two Councils, that Havant is focused on Regeneration and Place-making, whereas EHDC focus is different based on Sustainable Planning and Enforcement, Welfare and Well-being. Can you reassure us that the four latter aims are also ones that remain important to HBC particularly as we have wards in the Borough with high levels of deprivation and why then are Sustainable Planning and Enforcement, Well-being and Welfare not a focus for Havant?
7	Anne Buckley	Cllr Rennie	U-turn in policy on joint staffing - Residents are concerned that £100,000 was spent recently on consultant fees based on looking into the progression to join staffing across the two authorities and there were also significant other costs. This was followed at both Councils by scrutiny and then votes taken in favour of this policy at Cabinet and full Council. How is it possible after such enthusiasm for and expenditure on this project that there suddenly is a U-turn which will bring even more expenditure which can only result in increased Council Tax for Havant residents at a time when many are under severe financial pressure?