

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on 23 September 2020

Present

Councillor P Bains (Mayor)

Councillors Jenner, Inkster, Patel, Thain-Smith, Robinson, Bains, Bowerman, Briggs, Branson, Crellin, Davis, Francis, Guest, Howard, Hughes, Keast, Kennett, Lowe, Milne, Patrick, Pike, Raines (Deputy Mayor), Rennie, Satchwell, Scott, Mrs Shimbart, Smith K, Thomas, Turner, Wade, Weeks and Wilson

3 Apologies for Absence, Confirmation of Attendance and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Councillors Carpenter, Inkster, Raines, Gary Robinson, Scott, Thain-Smith and Wade.

There were no declarations of interest from the members present.

4 Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Hughes it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Council/Mayor Making held on 22 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

5 Mayor's Report

The Mayor provided an update to his report including a visit to Hayling Island Donkey Sanctuary, 'Think Pink' Week, his recent interviews on BBC Radio Solent and the reach of the Mayor's Facebook page.

There were no questions in relation to the Mayor's published report.

6 Petitions

Mr Parham introduced the petition titled 'Immediate Revision of Hayling Island Coastal Defence Policy with Interim Measures' which had been submitted to the Council by Mr Owens.

In reply, Cllr Hughes summarised the history of the sea defences on West Beach. These had been completed in 1975 to counter the effect of a large concrete terrace built behind the Inn on the Beach in the 1960's. Cllr Hughes then detailed the Beach Management Plan for the seafront before explaining the council's natural evolution policy in respect of West Beach.

He was conscious of the need for Hayling Island seafront to maintain its appeal and for West Beach to remain available all year round. In response to concerns about visitor numbers, he informed Council that Summer 2020 had been one of the busiest for over thirty years.

He confirmed that the Coastal Strategy was progressing, although he stressed the importance of it being correct prior to adoption rather than being hurried.

He proposed that Council note the petition and believed that concerned residents and visitors should take comfort in knowing that the Council understood their concerns and takes the matter seriously.

This motion was duly seconded by Cllr Wilson and following a vote was declared carried.

It was therefore RESOLVED that Council NOTED the petition received titled ‘Immediate Revision of Hayling Island Coastal Defence Policy with Interim Measures.’

7 Public Questions under Standing Order 13.4(f)

No questions had been received under Standing Order 13.4(f).

8 Committee/Board Recommendations

9 Pay Policy Statement

Cllr Crellin introduced the item in her capacity as the Chairman of the Joint Human Resources Committee and proposed the recommendation to Council.

The recommendation was duly seconded by Cllr Wilson.

Following a vote, it was RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement for Havant Borough Council be approved.

10 'Shaping Our Future' Transformation Programme

The Leader proposed the Cabinet recommendation, which was duly seconded by Cllr Hughes.

The Leader introduced the report, explaining that the recommendations solely sought an outline policy decision to enable work to put the Council in a financially stable position going forwards. The proposal of a shared workforce was envisaged many years ago and represented the natural evolution of a process that had started in 2009 with the appointment of a shared Chief Executive with East Hampshire District Council and a subsequent shared senior management team. He assured that the process would be evidence based and that members would be involved in developing the details via scrutiny as the project evolved.

The Leader answered questions that had been submitted in advance by Cllr Davis. He confirmed that transformation would play a major role in securing the financial sustainability of the Council, however all areas would continue to be reviewed and opportunities to make savings. The transformation programme was not solely about finance, it represented a change in the way the Council worked in order to become more efficient.

He confirmed that devolution was not a driver behind the programme and options for devolution were not known. If devolution options presented themselves, a full business case would be presented to Council for consideration. The Council continued to engage with Government through the appropriate channels on a wide range of topics to ensure that it best supported residents and businesses.

The majority of councillors supported the recommendations; however a concern was raised about the level of engagement with councillors to date and the lack of a risk assessment. It was also believed that some residents would not support the programme and greater engagement with scrutiny was encouraged.

Cllr Wilson confirmed that he was happy to include a recommendation that scrutiny receive quarterly progress updates from the Chief Executive and proposed an amendment to the recommendation to that effect.

The amendment was duly seconded by Cllr Hughes.

Following a vote the amendment was declared CARRIED.

Following a vote, it was RESOLVED that:

- (i) Council agree the approach taken by Cabinet to implement the Corporate Plan to create a sustainable Council; and
- (ii) Invites the Chief Executive to report to scrutiny each quarter outlining progress, expenditure and any delay.

11 Appointment of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer

Cllr Bowerman proposed the recommendation to Council.

The recommendation was duly seconded by Cllr Crellin

Following the vote, it was RESOLVED that Mr Brian Wood be appointed as the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for Havant Borough Council.

12 Noting of Delegated Decisions Taken

Cabinet RESOLVED that the following Delegated Decisions be NOTED:

- (i) Approval of Digital Strategy
- (ii) Emergency Scheme of Delegation
- (iii) Deferment of Annual Council

13 Leader's Report

The Leader had nothing to add to his published report.

14 Cabinet Lead Reports

Cllr Bains provided the following updates to her published report:

- The plans for the Warblington Footbridge project had been approved and it had been confirmed that the HCC funding remained in place for the project, along with some funding from Govia Thameslink Railway;
- The Jubilee Park Bowls Club drainage work would recommence imminently;
- The Northney drainage works were funded and the tidal outfall repairs were expected to be completed over the next two months; and
- She would open up discussions with officers in respect of how to progress the Scratchface Lane Recreation Ground works.

15 Cabinet Leads and Chairmen's Question Time

Question from Councillor Pike to Councillor Wilson

Cllr Pike requested the removal of the temporary traffic measures in Havant Town Centre that had been put in place to widen the pavements as they made it difficult for deliveries to be made to shops.

Response: Cllr Wilson agreed to review the matter.

16 Questions Under Standing Order 23

No questions had been received under Standing Order 23.

17 Urgent Questions Under Standing Order 23

No urgent questions had been received under Standing Order 23.

18 Notices of Motion

No motions had been submitted.

19 Acceptance of Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr Hughes it was RESOLVED that the minutes of Committees held since the last meeting of Council be received.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and concluded at 6.21 pm

.....
Mayor