

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on 16 October 2013

Present

Councillor Buckley (Mayor)

Councillors Bastin, Mrs Blackett, Bolton, Briggs, Branson, Brown, Cheshire, Collins, Cousins, Fairhurst, Farrow, Galloway, Gibb-Gray, Guest, Hart, Heard, Hilton, Keast, Kennedy, Lenaghan, Mackey, Pierce Jones, Ponsonby, Shimbart, Mrs Shimbart, Smith D, Smith J, Smith G, Smith K, Turner, Weeks, Wilson and Tarrant

33 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F Edwards and Mrs M Smallcorn.

34 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2013 and the extraordinary meeting held on 2 October 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

35 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meetings held on 24 July and 2 October 2013.

36 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest from any of the members present.

37 Leader's Report

The Leader of the Council gave a report on the medium term financial projection and the difficult budgetary decisions facing the Council over the next few years. As per the Leader's written report a day has been set aside on 26th November to focus on the future direction of the Council. This event will also give all members an opportunity to input into a financial strategy for the Council for 2014-2018.

The Leader was pleased to report that national funding had now been secured for the ASDA roundabout improvement scheme in Bedhampton. In addition to this the Leader reported that he and officers are working hard to lever funding that will enable the Dunsbury Hill Farm employment land to be developed.

38 Mayor's Announcements

At the recent Hampshire Federation for Small Business Friendly Awards, Havant Borough Council was awarded Highly Commended in the Best All-Round Small Business Friendly Award. The Award was presented to the Mayor on behalf of the Council by Mr Ken Moon.

The Mayor reported the sad news that the Council's Buildings and Maintenance Team Leader, Tim Lawman, had passed away. The Mayor wished to formally record the Council's condolences to Mr Lawman's family.

The Council also reported that former Councillor John Hunt had resigned from the Council due to serious ill-health. The Mayor would be writing to Mr Hunt extending the Council's good wishes and thanking him for his valued contribution to the Council as a Councillor.

The Mayor gave details of events and civic engagements he had attended since the last meeting Council meeting.

39 Petition to Reverse Increased Car Parking Charges

The Council received a petition received from the Emsworth Business Association on the following matter:

“The recently increased car parking charges in Emsworth, and other areas of Havant Borough, are damaging to business and to our local community. They exacerbate the problems of parking around local streets, motorists queuing for on-street parking spots and residents being reluctant to visit Emsworth for leisure and to shop. Ironically they also tend to reduce the revenue raised as motorists avoid using the car parks.

Hayling Island residents have raised a large petition against the recent increases and as a result of that petition, there was a Council debate in July on Hayling Island parking charges. We wish to raise a similar Emsworth petition to increase the pressure on Havant Borough Council and to ensure that they address Emsworth's excessive car parking charges”

Mr Giles Babb presented the petition on behalf of the Emsworth Business Association. As part of the in-depth review of car parking that was now underway in response to this and another similar petition from Hayling Island residents, Mr Babb urged the Council to look at the particular circumstances of individual car parks when setting charges.

As Environment and Neighbourhood Quality Portfolio Holder, Councillor Collins responded to the petition on behalf of the Council.

40 Cabinet Portfolio Reports

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder reports had been circulated and the Mayor asked the Portfolio Holders if they wished to add anything to their written reports.

Councillor Guest reported that benchmarking information about planning appeals circulated at a recent Planning Advisory Service conference had shown that the number of appeals lost by Havant was relatively higher than other Councils. This would now be subject to review.

41 Cabinet/Board/Committee Recommendations

- (A)** The Council considered Cabinet minute 21/09/2013 recommending the adoption of legislation in relation to the unauthorised presence of horses on Public Open Space.

Proposed by Councillor G Shimbart and seconded by Councillor C Hilton, it was RESOVLED that:

- (i) the Council adopts section 9 of the Hampshire Act 1983 in order to deal with horses, donkeys and mules present on Council owned open space without the permission of the Council;
- (ii) the Council approves a policy of seizing horses, donkeys and mules present on its land without its permission and
- (iii) the Council enters into an agreement with Eastleigh Borough Council to use their internal and external resources to assist with seizure, removal and disposal of horses, donkeys and mules present on Havant Borough Council owned open space without the permission of Havant Borough Council.

- (B)** The Council considered Joint Governance Committee minute 22/09/2013, recommending the dissolution of the Joint Committee and the establishment of a Governance and Audit Committee for Havant Borough Council, consisting of seven members with the following terms of reference:

1. Membership

- 1.1 The Governance and Audit Committee shall consist of 7 councillors, one of whom shall be appointed annually by the Leader of the Council to be the Chairman.

2. Quorum

- 2.1 The committee shall be quorate where 3 councillors are present.

3. Work Programme

- 3.1 The Governance and Audit Committee shall act as the Audit Committee and will approve the Annual Statement of Accounts. It will also carry out the following:

- Monitor and review the Council's Governance arrangements, including the annual Governance Statement and Local Code of Governance;
- Monitor the use (if any) of the Council's powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA); and

- To formally review the Council's RIPA policy.

3.2 The Governance and Audit Committee will promote ethical standards within the Council by:

- Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors and co-opted members;
- Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Councillor Code of Conduct;
- Advising and training councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to ethical governance;
- Receive reports from the Monitoring Officer on any matter relating to ethical standards within the Council; and
- Granting dispensations to councillors from requirements relating to disclosable pecuniary interests as set out in the Code of Conduct and as stated in Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

3.3 The Governance and Audit Committee will receive and monitor reports from the Local Government Ombudsman and will receive an annual review of the Ombudsman complaints.

3.4 The Governance and Audit Committee will carry out a monitoring and advisory role for matters concerning changes to the Council's Constitution, upon receiving advice on proposed changes from the Monitoring Officer.

4. Agenda Items

4.1 The Chairman shall receive prospective agenda items and it will be for the Chairman to determine the reasonable timescale in which those items can be considered by the Committee.

5. Sub-Committee

5.1 A Governance Sub-Committee will be required from time to time to deal with complaints against councillors and any breaches of the adopted Code of Conduct. The Sub-Committee will consist of 3 Governance and Audit Committee members.

6. Partnership

6.1 The council works in partnership with a variety of public sector providers. East Hampshire District Council shares a management structure with the Council which may require joint governance arrangements from time to time. In the event of such need both Governance and Audit Committees will meet together for the purpose of agreeing such shared governance arrangements.

Proposed by Councillor K Smith and seconded by Councillor J Branson, it was RESOLVED that

- (i) the Joint Governance Committee be disbanded;
- (ii) a Governance and Audit Committee for Havant Borough Council be established and the draft terms of reference as set out above be approved;
- (iii) Councillors P Buckley, O Kennedy, Mrs M Smallcorn, K Smith, C Tarrant, T Hart and M Wilson be appointed to the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, with Councillor G Shimbart as standing deputy;
- (iv) Meetings of the Governance and Audit Committee for the remainder of the municipal year be held at 5.00pm on 20 November 2013 and 5 March 2014 respectively.

42 Portfolio Holders and Chairmen's Question Time

The Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Board and Committee Chairmen all answered questions within their remit.

43 Questions

There were no questions under Standing Order 23.4(a).

44 Urgent Questions

There were no urgent questions under Standing Order 23.4(b).

45 Acceptance of Minutes

Proposed by Councillor Mrs G Blackett and seconded by Councillor D Keast, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held since publication of the last Council agenda, and set out in the Minute Volume, be accepted.

46 Notice of Motion - Small Business Saturday Initiative

The Council considered a motion proposed by Councillor D Collins and seconded by Councillor L Turner.

Following the debate, it was RESOLVED that the motion be approved:

To support the Small Business Saturday initiative, on 7 December 2013, a period of three hours free parking be provided in Town Centre Car Parks across the Borough. The car parks to be included in the scheme are detailed below:

Cowplain:	Mission Lane
Waterlooville:	Wellington Way & Rockville Drive
Leigh Park:	Greywell & Tidworth Road
Emsworth:	South Street & Palmers Rd

Hayling Island: Health Centre, Elm Grove & Mengham Lane
Havant: Town End House, East Pallant, Elmleigh Road, Prince Georges Street,
Civic Centre Road East & Civic Centre Road North.

In addition, to support this national initiative the council's economic development team to promote our local centres in the run up to 7th December as part of our overall 'Shop Local' campaign and write to the operators of the private shoppers car parks throughout the borough to encourage them to offer similar parking deals for shoppers on the day.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and concluded at 6.50 pm