

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday 10 November 2022 at 6.00 pm in Telford Theatre, Limes Walk, Oakengates, Telford, TF2 6EP

Present: Councillors S Bentley, K T Blundell, M Boylan, A J Burford, S P Burrell, E M Callear, L D Carter, E J Carter, G H Cook, S Davies, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, R C Evans, V A Fletcher, I T W Fletcher, J Gough, E J Greenaway, C Healy, T L B Janke, A S Jhawar, J Jones, R T Kiernan, J E Lavery, A Lawrence, A D McClements, R Mehta, K Middleton, T J Nelson, G L Offland, R A Overton, I Preece, S J Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, H Rhodes, K S Sahota, P J Scott, J M Seymour, C F Smith, B J Thompson, W L Tomlinson, C R Turley, P Watling, B Wennington and D R W White

Apologies: Councillors V J Holt, M B Hosken, J Loveridge, L A Murray, G C W Reynolds, M J Smith and D Wright

221 Minutes Silence for Mrs Christine Smith

A minutes silence was held following the recent passing of Mrs Christine Smith.

222 Prayers and Reflections

Mr Gill, representing Oakengates Sikh Gurdwara, said prayers.

223 Declarations of Interest

None.

224 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

225 Leader's Report & Announcements

The Leader stated that since the last meeting of Full Council, the nation had celebrated the Queen's jubilee, but then showed our sorrow for her passing. The nation had welcomed a new King and seen three different Prime Ministers.

The Country had continued to experience difficult times, not only due to the war in Ukraine and the continuing impacts of the pandemic but also due to the actions of Central Government. The Cost of Living Crisis was impacting on residents and businesses throughout the Borough. The Council could not solve national problems, however, they had implemented a range of support

to help, including a pledge to freeze Council Tax and grants to food banks and other community groups.

The Leader shared his congratulations to Councillor Kuldip Sahota, who had recently been inducted into the House of Lords and thanked him for his years of dedicated local service. The Leader also congratulated the Deputy Speaker, Councillor Hilda Rhodes, who had received a national lifetime achievement award at the LGIU awards.

226 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor asked Members to note the report on Mayoral Engagements since the last meeting of full Council. In particular, the Mayor noted his attendance at the Local Proclamation and Service of Prayer and Reflection following the death of Her Majesty, The Queen.

The Mayor noted that his Fundraising Launch had taken place in October, which had been a great success.

227 Public Questions

No questions were received.

228 Councillor Questions On Notice

The following questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 6.2.2:-

- (a) Councillor P J Scott asked the following question of Councillor Shaun Davies, Leader:

“I welcome the Telford and Wrekin Council Cost of Living Community Grants that were announced recently. Do the council have any plans for creating their own Warm Spaces in the Borough and specifically the Newport area where those suffering through the Cost of Living and Energy Crisis can access warmth, food, support and company?”

Councillor Paul Watling, Cabinet Member: Safer and Stronger Communities, on behalf of The Leader responded and stated that the Council had been working with community groups across the Borough. The Council had established a fund to help these groups remain open and, to date, 30 applications had been received from groups across the Borough. The Council also had its own facilities, such as libraries and leisure centres, which would remain open for residents to access.

229 Cabinet Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting of the Council

Members received the report on the Cabinet decisions made since the last meeting of the Council.

No questions of clarification were raised.

230 Independent Inquiry Update Report

The Cabinet Lead: Independent Inquiry presented the report of the Director: Policy & Governance which provided Members with an update in respect of the steps that had been taken to support, and progress, the implantation of the recommendations following the publication of the report of Mr Tom Crowther KC, the Independent Chair of the Independent Inquiry into CSE in Telford ('the Inquiry') on 12 July 2022.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The updates contained within the report in respect of the steps taken following publication of the Independent Inquiry into CSE in Telford to ensure recommendations are implemented be noted;
- b) The governance model for implementing the recommendations as set out in Appendix A of the report be noted;
- c) The steps taken to date to secure an Independent Chair and an Independent Facilitator for the Strategic Implementation Group as identified within the report be noted;
- d) Authority be delegated to the Director: Policy & Governance to take all steps necessary to engage the Independent Chair and Independent Facilitator for the Strategic Implementation Group as identified within the report;
- e) Authority be delegated to the Director: Policy & Governance to take all steps necessary to engage an Independent Chair for the CSE Partners Group as identified within the report.

231 Recommendations from Cabinet

- (a) 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report

The Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services presented the report of the Director: Finance & Human Resources. The report provided an update on the revenue budget and progress related to the capital programme.

RESOLVED that the changes to the capital programme as detailed in Appendix A of the report be approved.

232 Recommendations from Boards and Committees

- (a) Treasury Management - 2021/22 Annual Report and 2022/23 Update

The Chair of the Audit Committee presented the report of the Director: Finance & Human Resources. The report provided an update on the outcome of Treasury Management activities for 2021/22 and detailed the position for 2022/23 to 31 May 2022.

RESOLVED that:

- a) **The content of the report be noted;**
 - b) **The performance against Prudential Indicators be noted.**
- (b) Appointment of Independent Persons

The Chair of the Standards Committee presented the report of the Director: Policy and Governance. The report sought approval from Full Council to appoint two new independent persons to assist the Monitoring Officer when considering complaints under the Code of Conduct for Elected Members.

RESOLVED that the appointment of Thomas Senior and Julia Lynch as Independent Persons for Telford and Wrekin Council for an initial period of four years be approved.

RESOLVED that

233 Councillor Leave of Absences

The Leader presented the report of the Director: Policy & Governance which sought approval for leave of absences for Councillors Vanessa Holt, Miles Hosken, Leon Murray, Malcolm Smith and Karen Tomlinson.

RESOLVED that leave of absences for Councillor Vanessa Holt, Councillor Miles Hosken, Councillor Leon Murray, Councillor Malcolm Smith and Councillor Karen Tomlinson until 2 March 2023 be approved.

234 Motions on Notice

- (a) Councillor A J Burford moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:

“This Council calls on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to carry out an urgent review and reversal of the Government’s downgrade plan for our health and social care services and to provide the necessary resources to ensure Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire has the health and social care services that our residents deserve.

The Government’s shambolic plans to downgrade Telford’s 24/7 A&E to a so called ‘A&E Local’ has been discredited by a number of clinical bodies and means that Telford would be the largest and growing town in England without a fully functional A&E. The government also still plans to move our Consultant led Women and Children Unit from Telford, which flies in the face of recognised clinical need, the very reason why it was built in Telford! We note, with deep concern, that the cost of the Government’s downgrade plan is between £500m and £600m, yet they have only allocated a loan of £312m, which will inevitably mean some vital services will have to be cut as a result.

This does not make sense - Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire residents deserve better. This Council agrees to:-

- Urgently write to the Health and Social Care Secretary to ask for an urgent review and reversal of the Government's downgrade plan; and
- Take all steps necessary to make a referral to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to seek a review of this decision."

Councillor A D McClements seconded the Motion.

In accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 9.5, a recorded vote on the motion was taken, the voting being as follows:

For 42.

Councillors S Bentley, K T Blundell, M Boylan, A J Burford, S P Burrell, E Callear, E J Carter, L D Carter, G H Cook, S Davies, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, R C Evans, I T W Fletcher, V A Fletcher, J Gough, C Healy, T L B Janke, A S Jhavar, J Jones, R T Kiernan, J Lavery, A Lawrence, A D McClements, R Mehta, K Middleton, T J Nelson, R A Overton, I Preece, S A W Reynolds, H Rhodes, K S Sahota, P J Scott, J M Seymour, C F Smith, B J Thompson, W L Tomlinson, C R Turley, P R Watling, B Wennington

Abstentions 4

Councillors E J Greenaway, G Offland, S J Reynolds, D R W White

Against 0

RESOLVED - that the motion be approved

(b) Councillor P R Watling proposed the following Motion:-

"This Conservative government has crashed the British economy from Downing Street as a result of their unfunded 'mini' budget. Families and households here in Telford and Wrekin will pay more for their mortgages, rents, food, and fuel and public services will have less money to pay for services that residents here in Telford and Wrekin rely on – from social care to education, health and policing to council services. Great Britain is in a cost of living crisis because the Conservative government has crashed the economy.

We, as a council, are committed to reducing inequalities across Telford and Wrekin which has been at the heart of our work for more than a decade. This has provided a strong foundation that enabled us to quickly mobilise additional support for our community throughout the Covid pandemic, and other emergencies, such as flooding. This unprecedented cost of living crisis means that our residents and businesses now need us to be on their side more than ever.

As a council on the side of our resident this Council:-

- Declares a cost of living emergency

- Will write to the government and local MPs seeking urgent assurance that the council budget will be protected in real-terms so that the council can support residents here in Telford and Wrekin
- As already set out last year, remains committed to freezing general council tax in April 2023 for the second year in a row – and notes the council has the lowest council tax in the Midlands for the services that we provide
- Agrees to do all it can with the resources available to it to aid residents through the cost of living crisis but acknowledges that without government support for residents and the council – cuts to services are inevitable.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor K Middleton.

Following a robust debate, it was:-

RESOLVED - that the Motion be approved

(c) Councillor A J Eade proposed the following Motion:-

“This Council calls for average speed cameras to be installed on the section of the dangerous A41, which runs through the Borough of Telford & Wrekin.

Council also undertakes to support colleagues at Shropshire Council in lobbying the Police and Crime Commissioner to allocate the £400,000 available funding to deliver this essential safety measure.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor S P Burrell.

Councillor R A Overton then moved an amendment, with additional words shown in bold and underlined and removed words shown struck through.

“This Council calls for average speed cameras to be installed on the section of the dangerous A41, which **partially** runs through the Borough of Telford & Wrekin. **The** Council also undertakes to support colleagues at Shropshire Council in ~~lobbying~~ **calling on** the Police and Crime Commissioner to allocate the £400,000 **to help fund** ~~available funding to deliver~~ this essential safety measure **as well as investing in other safety schemes across Telford and Wrekin.**”

The amendment was seconded by Councillor L D Carter.

At the end of the debate regarding the amendment, a vote was taken as it was:-

RESOLVED – that the amendment be carried and become the substantive motion.

Following a robust debate, the amended motion was put to the vote and it was, by majority:-

RESOLVED - that the amended motion be approved

The meeting ended at 8.04 pm

Chairman:

Date: Thursday 10 November 2022