

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted on the 20th July 2023 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Botten (Chair), Sue Farr (Vice-Chair), Allen, Bilton, Black, Blackwell, Bloore, Booth, Chotai, Cooper, Crane, Damesick, Evans, Chris Farr, Gaffney, Gillman, Gray, Groves, Hammond, Alun Jones, Langton, Lee, Moore, North, O'Driscoll, Patel, Robinson, Sayer, Sharp, Shiner, Steeds, Colin White, Nicholas White and Windsor

PRESENT (Virtually): Councillor O'Riordan

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Anna Jones, Montgomery, Pinard, Prew, Pursehouse, Smith and Wren

86. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 25TH MAY 2023

These minutes were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

87. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Town Crier, Caterham and the Barracks

The Chair welcomed Sonia Hunt, Town Crier for Caterham and the Barracks, to the meeting. Sonia was celebrating 20 years as the Town Crier, and the Chair paid tribute to her enthusiasm for the role and her diligence in performing it. He presented Sonia with flowers as a token of the Council's gratitude for her work.

(ii) Civic Events and Fundraising

Since the last Council meeting, the Chair had opened both the Caterham Carnival and the Warlingham Fair. The Vice-Chair had also attended a number of events on his behalf. The Chair was due to attend further events over the summer, including the Play4Ukraine football match in Bletchingley which was raising money for schools in Ukraine.

88. QUESTION SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER 30

A question had been submitted by Councillor O'Driscoll. The question and response is attached at Appendix A.

89. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that, subject to the following amendment in respect of the 29th June 2023 meeting of the Strategy & Resources Committee:

Minute 78 – Rent Subsidy Applications

Reference to '*Tatsfield Sports Association*' in the second bullet point of the preamble being replaced with '*Tatsfield Playing Fields Association*'

...the reports of the following meetings be received, and the recommendations therein be adopted:

Planning Committee – 25th May and 8th June 2023

Community Services Committee – 25th May and 15th June 2023

Housing Committee – 25th May and 20th June 2023

Planning Policy Committee – 25th May and 22nd June 2023

Audit & Scrutiny Committee – 25th May and 27th June 2023

Strategy & Resources Committee – 25th May and 29th June 2023

Planning Committee – 6th July 2023

Rising 8.03 pm

COUNCIL – 20TH JULY 2023 – STANDING ORDER 30 QUESTIONQuestion from Councillor O’Driscoll to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Sayer)

I welcome the recent announcement that London-style contactless rail payments are being extended to Spelthorne by the end of this year. This step will make commuting for residents there so much easier. Tandridge residents have made representations that they would be keen to see this extended from Upper Warlingham to other parts of Tandridge including in Oxted, Lingfield and Dormansland?

Will the Leader of the Council join me in supporting the extension of London-style contactless rail payments to the rest of Tandridge?

Response from the Leader of the Council (Councillor Sayer)

I would be happy to support any representations you would like to make regarding contactless rail payments because I agree it would make it easier for many rail users in Tandridge. However, I also believe it is very necessary to keep a cash option available for those who are not able to use, or are not comfortable with, contactless.

The other thing I want to raise is the recent announcement of plans to close more than 1,000 rail ticket offices within the next three years, including those in our District.

A considerable number of residents have been in touch about this from around the District, expressing their opposition and concern that this will disadvantage large sections of the community, particularly the more vulnerable sections.

If anyone wants to express their views on the proposed closures, there is a consultation running. It’s a very short one, it’s only 21 days, so you have to be quick off the mark, but it’s running until next Wednesday 26th July. I think it would be good if as many people as possible could send in their views.

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