

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted on the 19 October 2023 at 7:30pm.

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

PRESENT (Virtually): Councillors O'Riordan and Pinard

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Bilton, Montgomery, Robinson, Sayer and Smith

141. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH JULY 2023

These minutes were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

142. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

i) Moment of silence

The Chair was sorry to announce that Anne Hare, a former Harestone Councillor, had recently passed away. Members stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect, and to remember the innocent people of Israel and Gaza who had been affected by the recent tragic events.

ii) Fundraising and events

The Chair announced he would be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Tandridge District Council, the work of Caterham's Guards Barracks and St Lawrence's Hospital, the Barracks Community Trust and the work of Honorary Alderman Robin Clements on 50 years of public service at his Civic Day on Wednesday 22 November.

The Chair referred to recent events he had attended including the opening of new accessible gates to the footpath in the Glebe, Oxted and the Tandridge Junior Citizen event.

143. TO DEAL WITH ANY QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER 30

A question had been submitted by Councillor Patel. The question and response is attached at Appendix A.

144. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the reports of the following meetings be received, and the recommendations therein be adopted:

Planning Policy Committee – 18 July 2023

Planning Committee – 7 September 2023

Housing Committee – 14 September 2023

Community Services Committee – 19 September 2023

Planning Policy Committee – 21 September 2023

Audit & Scrutiny Committee – 26 September 2023

Strategy & Resources Committee – 28 September 2023

Planning Committee – 5 October 2023

In accordance with Standing Order 13(3), Councillor Cooper wished it recorded that he abstained from voting on the adoption of the Local Plan Options recommendation of the Planning Policy Committee on the 21st September 2023.

Rising 8.21 pm

COUNCIL – 19 OCTOBER 2023 – SO 30 QUESTION

Question from Councillor PatelQuestion to the Chair of the Community Services Committee (Councillor Wren)

The provision of functioning, safe and hygienic public conveniences within the District is very important and of great value to residents and visitors alike. I deplore recent extended closures. What is the administration doing to speed up the resolution of the current problems and, following on from that, to ensure that there is a resilience plan in place so that, in future, repairs can be made speedily with the minimum impact on users?

Response from the Chair of the Community Services Committee (Councillor Wren)

Public conveniences are a non-statutory service provided by this Council. There is one public convenience that is currently closed in the District, all the others are at the moment, open. Like yourself I am not content with the extended closures. However, where there is a valid health and safety reason for the closure of the toilets such as the presence of Legionella then this needs to be eradicated before those toilets can reopen. Unfortunately, the District's public conveniences are old and when repairs are needed these can take longer than planned as it is harder to source the parts. We are progressing plans to refurbish and invest in some of our facilities over the next 18 months, which should help to reduce the numbers of repairs that are needed and the levels of closures we have seen. A new person will shortly join the Community Services team. Their responsibilities will include public conveniences, so we are looking forward to having a more efficient repair system in the future.

Supplementary question

Will this be robust enough given the age of some of the facilities and the parts needed for them, or will they be replaced? Will these savings have an impact on the maintenance of these facilities?

Response

We will do our best to repair what we have got. It may be financially prudent in some cases to replace the toilet facility.

Supplementary question

Is there any plan to involve Parish Councillors at this stage?

Response

Yes, the new officer will be liaising very closely with Parish Councils across the whole District regarding toilets, playgrounds and open spaces.

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