

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 8 February 2024 at 7:30pm.

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

PRESENT (Virtually): Councillors Anna Jones and North

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Booth, Gillman, Hammond, Langton, Montgomery and Smith

233. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2023

The Chair proposed the following amendments to Minute 194 of the Council meeting held on 14 December 2023:

- the inclusion of the Vice Chair in attendance at the Chair's Civic Day.
- the inclusion of the Chair's attendance at the Warlingham Christmas Lights switch on.

With those amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

234. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fundraising and events

The Chair thanked all those who attended his band night on Saturday 27 January. The event had raised £220 for the Chair's charities.

The Chair invited District Councillors to the quiz night he was hosting on Saturday 2 March at the Arc, Caterham. Nine teams had already signed up, including seven Parish Councils and two teams made up of Council Officers.

International Holocaust Memorial Day

The Chair made reference to International Holocaust Memorial Day on Saturday 27 January. The Day was an annual opportunity for remembrance of the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of people murdered as a result of Nazi prosecution of other groups and during recent genocides.

On the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Windsor read out the UK's Statement of Commitment to remember all victims of Nazi persecution and victims of all genocides.

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

Questions had been submitted by Councillors O'Driscoll, Cooper, Alun Jones and Wren. The questions and responses are attached at Appendix A.

236. 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 Committee – 7 December 2023

Planning Committee – 11 January 2024

Community Services Committee – 16 January 2024

Planning Policy Committee – 18 January 2024

Housing Committee – 23 January 2024

Strategy & Resources Committee – 30 January 2024

Minute 227 – 2024/25 Final Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy

Recommendations A to L had been supplemented by an additional recommendation M, published on 7 February 2024, to enable the Council to set its budget and Council Tax requirements in the statutory format. The additional recommendation M was presented in light of the Council Tax precepts recently determined by Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner.

The recommendations were subject to four recorded votes in accordance with Standing Order 13(5). The results of the votes were as follows:

Recommendations A, B, C, H, K, L and M

For

Councillors Allen, Bilton, Black, Blackwell, Bloore, Botten, Chotai, Cooper, Crane, Damesick, Evans, Chris Farr, Sue Farr, Gaffney, Gray, Groves, Alun Jones, Lee, Moore, O'Driscoll, O'Riordan, Patel, Pinard, Prew, Pursehouse, Robinson, Sayer, Sharp, Shiner, Steeds, Colin White, Nicholas White, Windsor and Wren (34)

Against

None

Abstain

None

Recommendations D and E

For

Councillors Allen, Black, Blackwell, Bloore, Botten, Crane, Damesick, Chris Farr, Sue Farr, Groves, Moore, O’Riordan, Pinard, Prew, Pursehouse, Sayer, Shiner, Steeds, Colin White, Nicholas White, Windsor and Wren (22)

Against

Councillors Bilton, Chotai, Evans, Gaffney, Gray, Alun Jones, Lee, O’Driscoll, Patel, Robinson (10)

Abstain

Councillors Cooper and Sharp (2)

Recommendation F, I and J

For

Councillors Bilton, Black, Blackwell, Botten, Chotai, Crane, Damesick, Evans, Chris Farr, Sue Farr, Gaffney, Gray, Alun Jones, Lee, Moore, O’Riordan, Patel, Pinard, Pursehouse, Robinson, Sayer, Shiner, Colin White, Nicholas White, Windsor and Wren (26)

Against

Councillor Allen (1)

Abstain

Councillors Bloore, Cooper, Groves, O’Driscoll, Prew, Sharp and Steeds (7)

Recommendation G

For

Councillors Black, Blackwell, Botten, Crane, Damesick, Chris Farr, Sue Farr, Moore, O’Riordan, Pinard, Pursehouse, Sayer, Shiner, Colin White, Nicholas White, Windsor and Wren (17)

Against

Councillor Allen (1)

Abstain

Councillors Bilton, Bloore, Chotai, Cooper, Evans, Gaffney, Gray, Groves, Alun Jones, Lee, O’Driscoll, Patel, Prew, Robinson, Sharp and Steeds (16)

237. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR GAFFNEY UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

Under Standing Order 12(10), Councillor Gaffney sought the Council's consent to alter the motion submitted under Standing Order 7 and which had been set out in the Council Book. The Council gave consent, and Councillor Gaffney introduced the motion attached at Appendix B.

Councillor Groves, seconded by Councillor Cooper, proposed an amendment to the motion, with the effect of removing the final paragraph and replacing it with the following paragraphs:

"The Council is not making a political point but, as a user of Surrey's Highway's service, wishes to point out what may be internal management issues and how the presence of a Highways officer at planning committees, coupled with more site visits to assess conditions on the ground, would greatly improve the technical planning process and outcomes for the residents of Tandridge.

It is felt that communication between Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council could easily be improved with the reinstatement of the very useful Local Committee joint meetings."

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was not agreed.

RESOLVED – that the motion, as attached at Appendix B, be adopted.

Rising 10.15 pm