

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 18 April 2024 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, Anna Jones, Langton, Lee, Moore, North, O'Driscoll, O'Riordan, Patel, Prew, Pursehouse, Robinson, Sayer, Sharp, Shiner, Smith, Steeds, Colin White, Nicholas White, Windsor and Wren

286. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2024

The minutes were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

287. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fundraising and events

The Chair thanked all those who attended his quiz night on Saturday 2 March and Councillor Pursehouse for running the quiz. The event had raised over £300 for the Chair's charities.

The Chair thanked the Vice-Chair, who had attended several events in recent months on behalf of the Chair.

The Chair congratulated Councillor Sharp on the charity walk that he would be undertaking in May to raise money for mental health charities.

May elections

The Chair thanked those Councillors who were not seeking re-election (on 2nd May) for their contribution to the work of the Council throughout their terms of office, and wished them well for the future. The Chair made reference to four areas of the work of the Council for which he was particularly proud. These were:

- i) The way the Council had responded to financial challenges.
- ii) The Council House Building Programme.
- iii) The Council's refuse and recycling scheme.
- iv) Ensuring the Council's leisure provider remained operational.

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

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

289. 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 – 1 February 2024

Audit & Scrutiny Committee – 6 February 2024

Planning Committee – 29 February 2024

Planning Committee – 7 March 2024

Community Services Committee – 14 March 2024

Housing Committee – 19 March 2024

Planning Policy Committee – 21 March 2024

Minute 271 – Planning Inspector’s Report on the Examination of the Council’s Local Plan

Councillor Bloore, seconded by Councillor Prew, proposed the following amendment to recommendation B of Minute 271:

B. all of the existing evidence base for ‘Our Local Plan 2033’ be withheld by the Council until such time that it can be reviewed and updated as part of the preparation of a new Local Plan; To avoid the potential for out-of-date evidence being put forward for material consideration in new planning applications, the evidence base should not be made publicly available on the Council’s website and afforded no weight in the decision making until such time as it is reviewed and updated; and

Councillor Sayer, supported by the requisite number of other Members as requested by Standing Order 13(4), requested that the amendment be the subject of a recorded vote. The results of the vote was as follows:

For

Councillors Black, Bloore, Groves, Prew, Pursehouse, Windsor (6)

Against

Councillors Bilton, Blackwell, Booth, Botten, Crane, Damesick, Evans, Chris Farr, Sue Farr, Gaffney, Gillman, Gray, Alun Jones, Langton, Lee, Moore, North, O’Driscoll, O’Riordan, Robinson, Sayer, Shiner, Smith, Colin White, Nicholas White, Wren (26)

Abstain

Councillors Allen, Chotai, Cooper, Hammond, Anna Jones, Patel, Sharp, Steeds (8)

Strategy & Resources Committee – 26 March 2024

Standards Committee – 9 April 2024

Rising 8.42 pm

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COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2024 – SO 30 QUESTION AND RESPONSE**Question from Councillor Cooper**Question to the Chair of the Strategy & Resources Committee (Councillor Langton)

Council committees generally attract councillors who have an interest/knowledge of particular subjects. For instance, the S&R Committee tends to have councillors with financial expertise, whereas Housing attracts councillors with general knowledge of housing issues etc. However, where councillors require out of the ordinary specific knowledge, eg Planning, then they are required to attend courses to educate them as to the intricacies of the subject.

Recently, this council established a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Working Group. Given this is a large, complex, and not well understood subject which few, if any, councillors have real knowledge of, what training is being established for councillors to attend before sitting on this group?

Response from the Chair of the Strategy & Resources Committee (Councillor Langton)

No specific training has yet been provided to date for members of the Climate Change Working Group. However, during the last six months, free training initiatives on climate change, sustainability, and carbon literacy has been offered to all Councillors. This includes opportunities to attend online workshops run by the LGA and an introductory seminar about infrastructure for electric vehicles. Officers have also shared details of green skills training which can be accessed through a portal set up through the Local Enterprise Partnership. Furthermore, free training from the Local Climate Academy will be available for newly appointed councillors in June and July, details of which will be shared after next month's elections.

Officers will continue to provide updates, including any new opportunities in the councillors' newsletters.

The Climate Change Working Group has only met once to date, but I will ask Officers to consider the scope for tailored training for its new membership once its composition for 2024/25 has been determined at Annual Council.

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