

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TANDRIDGE

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held in the Council Offices, via Zoom on the 16 July 2020 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Pursehouse (Chair), Morrow (Vice-Chair), Allen, Black, Blackwell, Bloore, Botten, Caulcott, Connolly, Cooley, D. Cooper, M.Cooper, Davies, Dennis, Duck, Elias, Farr, Fitzgerald, Gray, Jones, Langton, Lee, Lockwood, Orrick, Mills, Milton, Parker, Ridge, Rujbally, Sayer, Stamp, Steeds, Swann, Vickers, C.White, N.White and Wren

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Blake-Thomas, Bourne, Jecks and Mansfield

53. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman's Charities 2019/20 and 2020/21

The Chairman thanked those who had helped raise £4,661.23 for both the Blanchman's Farm and Lingfield Local Nature Reserves for 2019/20.

His chosen charities for 2020/21 were scouting organisations within the District and two local dog rescue sanctuaries. The Chairman's first fundraising event of 2020/21 would be a sponsored walk from the southern to the northern boundary of Tandridge.

Future Council meetings

Following the recent presentation to Members by Ed Hammond (Centre for Public Scrutiny) regarding his governance review, the Chairman confirmed that he was open to the idea of changing the nature of future Council meetings. He asked Members to consider how the format of Council meetings could change while still enabling councillors to scrutinise decisions and make their views known.

Rashid Ali

The Chairman regretted to announce that Rashid Ali, who had worked as a Council Tax officer for Tandridge for over 20 years, passed away on the 13th May 2020 having contracted Covid-19. Rashid was a popular, loyal member of staff, now greatly missed. Members remained silent for one minute as a mark of respect.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared non-pecuniary interests in respect of Item 14 of the report of the 11th May 2020 Strategy & Resources Committee ("Freedom Leisure - financial support through the Covid 19 Emergency):

- (i) Councillor Connolly
- (ii) Councillor Bloore (member and user of the de Stafford leisure centre)
- (iii) Councillor M. Cooper (his wife and daughter are members of Freedom Leisure)
- (iv) Councillor Morrow (user of the de Stafford leisure centre).

55. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING ON THE 7TH MAY 2020

These minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

56. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 29 (1.2)

Councillor Allen asked the following questions:

“Can I please be advised why, despite many promises to do so, the Council have not received the promised advice in way of explanation to the Councillors, and in turn to the general public and council tax payers, about the events of the departure of the former CEO and Director of Place and Director of People?”

What was the result of the audit undertaken by Southern Internal Audit Partnership?

And, furthermore, what procedures have been put in place to ensure that the financial mismanagement of that time have been thoroughly investigated and that lessons have been learnt and put in place?

Could it be confirmed that, after the investigations took place, there was no evidence of fraudulent behaviour?”

Can Members be advised why this matter has not been brought before Full Council before?

The Chairman invited Councillor Elias, as Chairman of the Strategy & Resources Committee, to respond. Councillor Elias duly responded as follows:

“The Council has provided Members and the public with as much information as it is able to do so within the scope of the applicable law and in accordance with transparency requirements. Members will be mindful that these matters concern the personal data of third parties, as well as matters which are subject to confidentiality. We can state that the outcomes reached were demonstrably in the best interests of the Council, and that the Council has shared information in compliance with the common law need to know.

The Council can state that there has been no formal finding of fraudulent behaviour. As Members will appreciate, these matters are subject to both confidentiality provisions and restrictions around data protection, and it is not therefore possible to discuss them more widely. The Council can state that the issues were nonetheless resolved in the best interests of the Council.

As Members will appreciate, not all matters are brought to full Council but to committees within the remit of the specific functions of those committees. The matters referred to have been brought before the Chief Officer Sub-Committee in accordance with the Council’s scheme of delegation and the constitution.”

57. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED- that, subject to amendments and comments where indicated below, the reports of the following meetings be received, and the recommendations therein adopted:

- **Strategy & Resources Committee** (19th May 2020)

Upon moving the reception of this report, Councillor Elias advised that, in respect of Minute 11 /Resolution B, the Recovery Working Group would not, after all, be convened. The intended purpose of the Working Group had, instead, been fulfilled by Group Leader meetings.

- **Planning Committee** (28th May 2020)
- **Community Services Committee** (16th June 2020)
- **Planning Policy Committee** (23rd June 2020)
- **Housing Committee** (24th June 2020)
- **Planning Committee** (2nd July 2020)
- **Strategy & Resources Committee** (9th July 2020) – subject to the names of Councillors Allen, Morrow and Pursehouse being added to the list of those Members who were ‘also present’.

Regarding Minute 49 (amendments to the Constitution) Councillor Lee moved an amendment that clause (ix) of SO29, regarding responses to questions, be renumbered (xi) to make it applicable to both original and supplementary questions. This was seconded by Councillor Wren. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

58. REVIEW OF THE ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS

The allocation of committee seats to political groups was last reviewed following the May 2019 local elections. Although the May 2020 elections were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a further review was necessary (Section 15(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) arising from the combined impact of:

- the passing of ex-Councillor Harwood on 24th March 2020; and
- Councillor Jecks’ transfer from the Conservative Group to the Independent Group with effect from 1st June 2020.

A recommended reduction and reallocation of seats was presented following consultation with Group Leaders. Adoption of the recommendations was proposed by Councillor Elias and seconded by Councillor Sayer.

RESOLVED – that

- A. the allocation of seats to the Council's ordinary Committees for the remainder of 2020/21 be amended as follows:

'Ordinary' Committees:	Political Groups:				Total membership:
	Conservative	OLRG Independents Alliance	Lib Dem	Independent Group	
Community Services	4	4	3	1 (from 0)	12 (from 11)
Housing	4 (from 5)	4	4 (from 3)	0 (from 1)	12 (from 13)
Planning Policy	4 (from 5)	4	3	1	12 (from 13)
Planning	4	4	3	0	11
Overview & Scrutiny	2 (from 3)	2	2	1	7 (from 8)
Standards	2	1	1	1	5
Strategy & Resources	4 (from 5)	4	3 (from 4)	1 (from 0)	12 (from 13)
Total seats on 'Ordinary' Committees	24 (from 28)	23	19	5 (from 4)	71 (from 74)
Resulting actual % allocations across the above committees	33.8%	32.4%	26.8%	7%	
Target % allocations across the above committees	34.2%	31.7%	26.8%	7.3%	

- B. for the remainder of 2020/21, the size of the Licensing Committee be increased from 10 to 12 members comprising:
- 4 Conservative councillors
 - 4 IND and OLRG councillors
 - 3 Liberal Democrat councillors
 - 1 Independent Group councillor; and
- C. it be noted that, following consultation with Group Leaders, the consequential membership of Committees and Sub-Committee will be as per Appendix A.

59. RESPONSE TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS FOR A SINGLE SURREY UNITARY AUTHORITY

The Chairman ruled that this matter be dealt with as urgent business, given the need for Members to agree initial action at the earliest opportunity in response to the County Council's proposals for a Surrey-wide unitary authority.

The resolution below was moved by Councillor Sayer and seconded by Councillor Botten. Upon being put to vote, and following discussion, the motion was carried.

RESOLVED – that In the light of the moves by the County Council to propose a single unitary authority for Surrey, this Council recommends that the group leaders agree a letter to be sent to Robert Jenrick MP and that contacts are made immediately with other East Surrey authorities (Reigate and Banstead/Epsom and Ewell/Mole Valley) to gain their support for a joint approach over this matter. It also recommends that an all member seminar is held urgently on this issue.

Rising 9.15 pm

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TDC COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE REVISED MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2020/21
effective from 17.07.20

Community Services Committee		
1	Conservative	Connolly (C)
2	Conservative	Milton
3	Conservative	Ridge
4	Conservative	Vickers (VC)
5	IND and OLRG	Stamp
6	IND and OLRG	Swann
7	IND and OLRG	N. White
8	IND and OLRG	Wren
9	Liberal Democrat	Lee
10	Liberal Democrat	Mansfield
11	Liberal Democrat	Orrick
12	Independent Group	Allen
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Blake-Thomas</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Mills</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Rujbally</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Pursehouse</i>

Regulatory Sub-Committee (parent Committee is Community Services)		
		Councillors:
1 st principal member	Con	Connolly
2 nd principal member	IND and OLRG	Stamp
3 rd principal member	Lib Dem	Mansfield
<p>In the event of one or more of the three principal members being unable to attend a Sub-Committee meeting, their places shall be filled by selecting substitutes from the main Committee.</p>		

Housing Committee		
1	Conservative	Fitzgerald (VC)
2	Conservative	Parker (C)
3	Conservative	Ridge
4	Conservative	Steeds
5	IND and OLRG	Langton
6	IND and OLRG	Mills
7	IND and OLRG	C. White
8	IND and OLRG	Wren
9	Liberal Democrat	A. Cooper
10	Liberal Democrat	Gray
11	Liberal Democrat	Jones
12	Liberal Democrat	Morrow
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Connolly</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Blackwell</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Orrick</i>

Licensing Committee		
1	Conservative	Cooley (VC)
2	Conservative	Parker
3	Conservative	Ridge
4	Conservative	Steeds (C)
5	IND and OLRG	Mills
6	IND and OLRG	Stamp
7	IND and OLRG	C. White
8	IND and OLRG	Wren
9	Liberal Democrat	Caulcott
10	Liberal Democrat	Orrick
11	Liberal Democrat	Rujbally
12	Independent Group	Allen
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Milton</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Farr</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Botten</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	

Licensing Sub-Committee (parent Committee is Licensing)		
1 st principal member	Con	Steeds
2 nd principal member	IND and OLRG	Stamp
3 rd principal member	Lib Dem	Botten
In the event of one or more of the three principal members being unable to attend a Sub-Committee meeting, their places shall be filled by selecting substitutes from the main Committee.		

Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
(Chair to be appointed at the Committee's next meeting on 30 th July 2020)		
1	Conservative	Connolly
2	Conservative	Milton
3	IND and OLRG	Bourne
4	IND and OLRG	Davies
5	Liberal Democrat	D. Cooper
6	Liberal Democrat	Dennis
7	Independent Group	Allen (VC)
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Parker</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Sayer</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Jones</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Pursehouse</i>

Planning Committee		
1	Conservative	Black (C)
2	Conservative	Bloore (VC)
3	Conservative	Duck
4	Conservative	Fitzgerald
5	IND and OLRG	Blackwell
6	IND and OLRG	Farr
7	IND and OLRG	Lockwood
8	IND and OLRG	C. White
9	Liberal Democrat	Gray
10	Liberal Democrat	Mansfield
11	Liberal Democrat	Morrow
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Ridge</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>N. White</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Botten</i>

Planning Policy Committee		
1	Conservative	Duck (VC)
2	Conservative	Black
3	Conservative	Bloore
4	Conservative	Vickers
5	IND and OLRG	Farr
6	IND and OLRG	Lockwood
7	IND and OLRG	Sayer
8	IND and OLRG	Swann
9	Liberal Democrat	Botten
10	Liberal Democrat	Jones
11	Liberal Democrat	Dennis
12	Independent Group	Jecks (C)
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Elias</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Langton</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Mansfield</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Pursehouse</i>

Strategy & Resources Committee		
1	Conservative	M. Cooper (VC)
2	Conservative	Duck
3	Conservative	Elias (C)
4	Conservative	Milton
5	IND and OLRG	Bourne
6	IND and OLRG	Davies
7	IND and OLRG	Langton
8	IND and OLRG	Sayer
9	Liberal Democrat	Botten
10	Liberal Democrat	Caulcott
11	Liberal Democrat	Lee
12	Independent Group	Pursehouse
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Bloore</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Lockwood</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Orrick</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Jecks</i>

Chief Officer Sub-Committee (parent Committee is Strategy & Resources)		
1	Conservative	Elias
2	Conservative	Milton
3	IND and OLRG	Sayer
4	IND and OLRG	Wren
5	Liberal Democrat	Botten
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>to be nominated by the Leader of the Group</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>to be nominated by the Leader of the Group</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>to be nominated by the Leader of the Group</i>

Investment Sub-Committee (parent Committee is Strategy & Resources)		
1	Conservative	Cooper
2	Conservative	Elias (C)
3	IND and OLRG	Bourne
4	IND and OLRG	Davies
5	Liberal Democrat	Jones
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Milton</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>IND and OLRG</i>	<i>Farr</i>
<i>Sub</i>	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	<i>Botten</i>

Standards Committee		
1	Conservative	Milton
2	Conservative	Parker
3	IND and OLRG	N. White
4	Liberal Democrat	Caulcott
5	Independent Group	Pursehouse (C)
Independent Person: Shaun Mundy (until the end of the 2020/21 Municipal Year)		

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