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COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday 29 April 2021 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

COUNCILLORS -

Kennett (Chairman)

Ambler	Davies	Oliver
Axam	Delaney	Quarterman
Bailey (7.03pm)	Dorn	Radley
Blewett (7.04pm)	Drage	Smith
Butler	Farmer	Southern
Clarke	Forster	Tomlinson
Cockarill	Kinnell	Wheale
Crampton	Lamb	Wildsmith
Crisp	Makepeace-Browne	Worlock
Crookes	Neighbour	Wright

Officers Present:

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Emma Foy	Head of Corporate Services
Jenny Humphreys	Democratic Services Officer
Helen Vincent	Committee and Member Services Officer

87 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders 9.3 (Show of Hands for Voting, 22.1 (Standing to Speak) and 22.2 (Chairman Standing).

88 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2021 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

89 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

91 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 - QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Questions had been received from Ms Louise Hodgetts, details of which are set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

92 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 - QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Questions had been received from Councillor Crookes, details of which are set out in Appendix B attached to these minutes.

93 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that during this year about £7,500, most of which has come from the Hart Lottery and he been raised for charitable purposes. He would welcome suggestions from councillors for charities who would benefit from these funds - particularly charities that are in difficulty due to the impact of the current pandemic and also charities that have been particularly helpful in helping those in need.

The Chairman also announced that Councillor Liz Tomlinson is standing down at the May elections and thanked her for services to the Council. Councillors joined the Chairman to thank her for all her hard work and commitment.

94 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, **Councillor Radley** announced:

In regard to the various grant schemes which we are administering on behalf of the government to local businesses:

Statistics today are as follows:

- We have received 172 valid discretionary restart grant applications and we have authorised 105 for payment.
- We have received 270 valid main scheme restart grant applications and we have authorised 119 for payment.
- The total value of restart main grant authorised is £953,340.
- The total value of restart discretionary grant authorised is £163K.

Therefore, we have paid in excess of £1m in just the last 12 days. After a government U-turn and there retracting the restart grant from Parish Council Halls, bridal shops, and tailors, we propose to amend our own policy on discretionary grants and use Additional Restrictions Grant funding to pay both the Parish Councils for halls and top up the bridal shops and tailors from non-essential shop level to personal care level.

In an update from the community Safety Team:

In regard to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) one Closure Notice is in place and goes to Court in June for a Closure Order hearing and another Closure Order was granted through the Court on 1st April. These have both been successful outcomes in two very persistent and ongoing ASB cases where the impacts of

the behaviours were far reaching on particularly vulnerable victims. A further Closure Notice (and then Order) is being pursued through Legal at present.

A presentation of approximately 40 minutes has also been prepared to share what Hart Community Safety covers, which can be delivered to Members that express an interest. This will be after the elections.

The Cabinet Member for Community, **Councillor Bailey**, reported:

Lateral Flow Test Centre:

The centre that has been hosted by Hart District Council, closed on Friday 30th April. Thanks to staff and volunteers for tremendous efforts in setting it up and running such an effective resource for Hart residents. We have completed circa 1400 tests and a huge thanks to the 35 volunteers who made the operation of the Centre possible. Lateral Flow tests can now be collected from most high street pharmacies or ordered online for postal delivery.

Hart into Employment:

A pilot service has commenced and will run for six months initially. It is a supportive online community to support people into employment and has three aspects of delivery:

1. There are weekly Zoom sessions by trained career advisors
2. Online community for networking and information sharing
3. Access to online learning and career assessment tools

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Councillor **Kinnell**, reported:

Following the departure of our Dog warden, we took the opportunity to review how this service is delivered. Environmental Health have been providing interim cover for the service using existing internal resources and I can advise that as of the 22nd April the Dog collection service has gone live with its outsourced contract to SDK Environmental.

SDK will be the designated contact point for all reported stray dogs. This will include matters of dog returns, dog rehoming enquiries, and 'Out of Hours' dog collection services.

The service will be contactable 24hours per day 7days per week (including all National holidays).

With regard to 'dog on dog' attacks, this is not a service Hart can currently offer, (this is not a statutory service) although any incidents involving dangerous dogs,

dogs dangerously out of control, banned breeds, or 'dog on human' attacks should be reported directly to the Police.

Complaints concerning noise from dog barking will continue to be investigated within the Environmental Health Team. Concerns regarding dog welfare should continue to be reported directly to the RSPCA.

Matters in respect of 'Animal Welfare licensing' will continue to be dealt with internally by Environmental Health. This includes Dog breeding licensing, kennels, and home boarders.

Councillor Kinnell agreed to give a written response to Members with regard to the nature of the service levels agreed with East Hampshire District Council.

95 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS

The Chief Executive updated members on the outcome of the High Court consideration of Lawyers in Local Government, the Association of Democratic Services Officers, and Hertfordshire County Council's application for court declarations that pre-existing legislation (the Local Government Act 1972) allows councils in England to hold remote meetings. The High Court had however, rule that from 7 May meetings by local authorities in England under the Local Government Act 1972 must take place in person with the participants gathering face-to-face at a designated physical location. Therefore, from 7 May all further Council meetings would return to the pre-pandemic arrangements.

96 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
Cabinet	4 March 2021

No questions asked.

Cabinet (draft)	1 April 2021
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No questions asked.

Minute 121 – The Equality Objectives 2021 – 2023

Councillor Neighbour put the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Quarterman.

RESOLVED

That the Equality Objectives for 2021 – 2023 be adopted.

Planning (draft)	10 March 2021
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No questions asked.

Overview & Scrutiny

16 March 2021

No questions asked:

Audit (draft)

23 March 2021

No questions asked:

Licensing (draft)

2 March 2021

No questions asked.

97 MOTION TO COUNCIL

The following Motion has been received from Councillor Anne Crampton, seconded by Councillor Chris Dorn.

“This Council declares a climate emergency and will:

1. Pledge to make Hart District carbon neutral by 2050 whilst maintaining the 2040 target for areas under direct control of Hart District Council.
2. Report to full Council within six months setting out the immediate actions the Council will take to address this emergency and the plan to measure annual District wide progress towards meeting the 2050 target.
3. Meaningfully engage with the local community and to work with partners across the District and County to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans drawing on local, national, and global best practice.
4. Actively work with Hampshire County Council and the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2050 target.”

At the commencement of the debate an amended motion was moved by Councillor Quarterman and seconded by Councillor Radley.

“Following the successful adoption of Hart’s Climate Change Action Plan, this Council now wishes to declare a climate emergency, which commits us to putting the reduction of CO2 in the atmosphere at the front and centre of all policies and formal decision making, particularly Planning, and will:

1. Pledge to make Hart District carbon neutral by 2040 whilst bringing forward the current 2040 target to 2035 for areas under direct control of Hart District Council.
2. Report to full Council every six months setting out the current actions the Council is taking to address this emergency and the plan to measure annual District wide progress towards meeting the 2040 target.

3. Meaningfully engage with the local community and to work with partners across the District and County to deliver these new goals through all relevant strategies and plans drawing on local, national, and global best practice.
4. Actively work with Hampshire County Council and the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2040 target.
5. Actively encourage and push for Hampshire County Council to reduce its target for net zero Carbon to 2040, acknowledging that 2050 is too far away for such an emergency.”

With the consent of the meeting the amendment was agreed and so it became the substantive Motion.

Members were unanimous in acknowledging the fact that there is a climate emergency and were prepared to set challenging new targets to encourage and promote sustainable communities.

After the debate, a recorded vote was taken on the substantive Motion (as amended) was unanimously agreed:

FOR: Ambler, Axam, Bailey, Blewett, Butler, Clarke, Cockarill, Crampton, Crisp, Crookes, Davies, Delaney, Dorn, Drage, Farmer, Forster, Kennett, Kinnell, Lamb, Makepeace-Browne, Neighbour, Oliver, Quarterman, Radley, Smith, Southern, Tomlinson, Wheale, Wildsmith, Worlock, Wright

AGAINST: None

Abstentions: None.

Decision: The Motion as amended was agreed:

Following the successful adoption of Hart’s Climate Change Action Plan, this Council now wishes to declare a climate emergency, which commits us to putting the reduction of CO2 in the atmosphere at the front and centre of all policies and formal decision making, particularly Planning, and will:

1. Pledge to make Hart District carbon neutral by 2040 whilst bringing forward the current 2040 target to 2035 for areas under direct control of Hart District Council.
2. Report to full Council every six months setting out the current actions the Council is taking to address this emergency and the plan to measure annual District wide progress towards meeting the 2040 target.
3. Meaningfully engage with the local community and to work with partners across the District and County to deliver these new goals through all relevant strategies and plans drawing on local, national, and global best practice.

4. Actively work with Hampshire County Council and the Government to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2040 target.

5. Actively encourage and push for Hampshire County Council to reduce its target for net zero Carbon to 2040, acknowledging that 2050 is too far away for such an emergency.”

98 OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

Councillor Quarterman informed Members that Hart has completed its year chairing the Blackwater Valley Advisory Committee for Public Transport and this has now passed to Waverley Borough Council. At the last meeting, issues raised were regarding climate change as a major area of concern and the Council will receive regular reports from transport companies with action plans on climate change.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Ms Louise Hodgetts asked:

1. What is the latest update on the award of a grant from MHCLG to the Council towards the funding of the Shapley Heath Garden Village project?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

Unfortunately, we have no further updates from the MHCLG on when they will announce the results of our funding bid for the Shapley Heath Garden Community. We submitted the latest funding bid back in September last year and, whilst I appreciate the difficult times, we are all living in, the radio silence from MHCLG since then is disappointing, to say the least.

Ms Hodgetts asked a supplementary question:

What is the current position from MHCLG with regard to continuing with funding the current 19 sites identified in the national Garden Village programme in light of the change in housing quotas and a shift in national distribution and what implication has this on Hart continuing with Shapley Heath Garden Village?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

As I said, we have had pretty much radio silence from MHCLG since about September/October when they acknowledged receipt of our latest funding bid. We've received no information or advice from them to suggest that they have no intention of not carrying on with the garden community programme. I am aware that some of the garden community projects around the country have for various reasons, come to points where they had to have rethinks, but this isn't unusual in significantly large developments and often plans have to change midway through. Until we hear from the MHCLG on the funding bid and until we have collected a little more data for the Opportunity Board to assess, we can't really say what the next stages are or whether or not they will actually take place, which is part of the reason for doing this evaluation process.

Ms Hodgetts asked a second question:

2. When does the Council intend to issue the consultation survey for the Shapley Heath Garden Village project to the public?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

The first consultation on the Garden Community will be launched week commencing 24th May and will run for 6 weeks. This consultation includes the entire District, and its aim is to understand what our residents feel makes a sustainable, healthy, well-

integrated community. The results will help the Opportunity Board to decide what the key priorities for any new community should be. This is an important step in providing the evidence base for the Opportunity Board when it considers whether or not to recommend continuing with the Garden Community to Cabinet; so, I encourage as many people as possible take part in the survey.

We will also be launching the full Garden Community website on or around the 24th May, which will have all of the details of the project as it progresses, including minutes of the meetings of the Stakeholder Forum and the Opportunity Board, which are currently on the Garden Community page of the Hart website.

Ms Hodgetts asked a supplementary question:

Given the next Opportunities Board is not scheduled until sometime in July (the date of which is still to be published), and the survey is due to be issued week commencing 24th May, how does Hart Council propose to engage with the Opportunities Board to consider the key concerns raised about the survey by 4 of your Parish Councils (Dogmersfield, Hartley Wintney, Odiham and Winchfield), as well as the community groups, Rural Hart Association and We Hart Heart, in a letter sent to the Joint Chief Executives and Head of Place on 26th March.

Councillor Cockarill responded

We have got that communication and the Opportunity Board has had sight of the draft survey as have the stakeholder forum and they have put forward their thoughts and their ideas. Cabinet has also seen a draft version of the garden community website and has made comments and it has been changed in light of some of the comments received. Consultation is about what residents feel makes a good community and what sort of things we should be thinking about in terms of developing communities in the future. It covers a whole range of areas, whilst primarily focused around evidence based for Shapley Heath, the results of this survey could be easily be applied to any future housing development anywhere in the district, whether it be a new settlement type development or a smaller development of the kind we generally see, so this is going to be a very important piece of evidence for us for this project and indeed for framing planning policy in the future.

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Crookes asked:

The NPPF contains the following paragraph.

151. To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:

a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);

b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and

c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable, or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.

Will the Executive Member take immediate steps to update Hart's Local Plan to incorporate these policies in order to enable appropriate renewable energy projects but at the same time protect valuable landscapes and quality agricultural land?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

The Hart Local Plan contains an up-to-date policy on Renewable and Low Carbon Energy - Policy NBE10. This was found sound at examination against the old NPPF but is also consistent with the new NPPF. The Policy ensures that when proposals come in, the relevant planning considerations are taken into account. Impacts on landscape and high-grade agricultural land are explicitly referred to within the Policy.

The Local Plan cross refers to an Energy Opportunities Plan which identifies the opportunities in Hart for renewable energy generation - solar, wind, biomass etc. (paras. 307 and 308 of the Local Plan).

The supporting text (Para 310 of the Local Plan) encourages decentralised energy networks with major new developments. In practice this is only practical on large, strategic developments such as new settlements so it's more relevant to the next Local Plan.

The NPPF does indeed suggest that councils should consider identifying sites for renewable energy installations. When Hart either revises its current Local Plan, or begins work on a new one, that would be the most appropriate time to look at this issue, but it would be for a future Council to decide whether any sites should be identified in a revised or new Local Plan.

Councillor Crookes asked a supplementary question:

Is he therefore confident, given the policies that we have for the plan, that we have appropriate policies in order to be able to protect 2 key aspects against valuable landscapes and good quality agricultural land and the key thing which I can't see out of the plan is the cumulative impact of nearly adjacent solar farm applications which is going to become a very important issue in the very near future?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

The answer is yes, I think this policy does give us the opportunity to balance planning applications properly between their environmental benefits and any potential harms they might have, in terms of the cumulative aspect although each planning application is always judged on its merits, you will be aware that in several situations, the cumulative impact of developments of any kind can be taken into account when judging that planning balance and ultimately it is up to the council to judge that planning balance as it sees fit. So yes, I do believe the current policy is fit for purpose as it currently stands.