

## **COUNCIL**

**Date and Time:** Thursday 28 April 2022 at 7.00 pm

**Place:** Council Chamber

**Present:**

### **COUNCILLORS -**

Ambler (Chairman)

Axam	Crookes	Kennett
Blewett	Davies	Neighbour
Butcher	Delaney	Oliver
Butler	Dorn	Quarterman
Clarke	Drage	Radley
Coburn	Farmer	Smith
Collins	Forster	Wildsmith
Crampton	Harward	Wright

### **Officers Present:**

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Jenny Murton	Committee Services Officer
Sharon Black	Committee Services Officer
Claire Lord	Committee Services Officer

## **76 COUNCILLOR SHARYN WHEALE: A TIME FOR REFLECTION**

Councillors paid tribute to Councillor Sharyn Wheale who recently passed away. Councillor Wheale had served for 32 years as a Councillor and been re-elected eight times.

Members of Sharyn's family were also present in the Council Chamber.

## **77 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting of 24 February 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Crampton requested a post meeting note and the findings of the grievance report (Item 12 at this meeting) to also be added to February's Minutes.

The wording suggested was:

"Following a grievance against Councillor Kinnell filed by Councillor Forster and Councillor Butcher in regard to the Portfolio holder announcement made by Councillor Kinnell, a meeting of the Appeals Panel on 5 April 2022 found that

Councillor Kinnell treated Councillor Forster and Councillor Butcher unfairly and that Councillor Kinnell should offer both a written apology and make a public apology at the first available meeting of the Full Council following the hearing decision. The Panel's view was that Councillor Forster and Councillor Butcher were not given a proper and reasonable right of reply or right of correction to defend themselves against what they perceived to be unreasonable public criticism at the Full Council meeting on 24 February 2022."

This was agreed. Council also agreed to include the resultant grievance appeal decision itself as a post February meeting note to the February minutes.

## **78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailey, Crisp, Cockarill, Kinnell, Lamb, Southern and Worlock.

Members present paused to remember Councillor Worlock's husband who recently passed away.

## **79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Forster declared an interest in Minute 11 due to his work with Osprey Charging Network and electric vehicle charging.

## **80 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 - QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

No questions had been received from the public.

## **81 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 - QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

No questions had been received from Members.

## **82 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements.

## **83 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The first batch of £150 energy payments has just been sent into the bacs system today and will likely reach residents' bank accounts on Friday this week.

We have paid a total of 15,449 households, (£2,317,350) to residents who are direct debit payers. This equates to a completion rate of all rebates payable of 73%.

For the remaining eligible households (5,579), a letter will be sent inviting them to apply by completing an online form. The online form is currently being finalised and tested. The letter will also contain a 'do nothing option' whereby the resident's council tax account is credited with the £150 instead of a payment being made. These further payments will be processed in June.

An urgent decision is being sought to provide £150 to residents receiving Council Tax support in properties with a higher banding than D. We will write to these households in May with a view to process payments in June and July.

The Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Councillor Quarterman reported:

I am pleased to announce that we are in advanced discussion with a further education provider that is seeking to consolidate its links with Hart by providing a campus facility centred on our vacant third floor here at the Council Offices.

This is an exciting opportunity to deliver locally further and higher education which can only be of great benefit to Hart residents but also, for the Council, it is a great opportunity to make full and effective use of our resources in line with our adopted commercialisation strategy.

It is hoped that subject to successful terms being agreed, the facility will be open in September.

#### **84 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The Joint Chief Executive reported that the upcoming Elections preparations are going well and on track. 15,000 postal votes have been issued and around 50% have currently been returned.

#### **85 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

The Minutes of the following Committees, which met on the dates shown, were received by Council.

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Cabinet*</b> No questions asked.	3 March 2022
<b>Cabinet (draft)</b> No questions asked.	7 April 2022
<b>Planning Major-Sites Sub Committee (draft)</b> No questions asked.	1 March 2022
<b>Planning</b> No questions asked.	9 February 2022
<b>Planning (draft)</b> No questions asked.	9 March 2022

<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b> No questions asked.	15 February 2022
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny (draft)</b> No questions asked.	15 March 2022
<b>Licensing (draft)</b> Minute 19 – Statement of Licensing Policy. Councillor Farmer put the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Wildsmith.  RESOLVED That the Statement of Licensing Policy be adopted.	5 April 2022
<b>Audit (draft)</b> No questions asked.	22 March 2022

## 86 CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY UPDATE

Alex Massie from Eunomia the Council's Climate Change consultants delivered a presentation on the summary of their findings on the Carbon Pathway report.

This included how Eunomia is supporting the Council and how Hart compares to neighbouring Hampshire Authorities.

Members questions and discussions included:

- Green Hydrogen and Biofuels and why they are not included in Hart's plans at this stage.
- Timescales of how often data will be updated. It is usually 12 months behind but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 and 2021's data will show significantly less emissions so will be skewed.
- The definitions of Scope 1, 2 and 3 data.
- Wind Farms and solar panels and how they could make a difference to the district.
- The feasibility of habitats like Bramshot Wetlands.
- The need to update the Local Plan and Planning Policies to reflect Climate Change initiatives.
- That further work is required with housing associations to decrease emissions further.

Members questioned why Eunomia's actual report has not been published with the agenda for this meeting, and it was confirmed it will go to the Climate Change Working Group first.

## **87 APPEALS PANEL**

Councillor Harward on behalf of the Chairman of the Appeals Panel announced the outcome of an Appeals Panel hearing held on 5 April 2022 concerning a grievance brought by Councillor Butcher and Councillor Forster against Councillor Kinnell.

Councillor Kinnell was not present at the meeting. Following consultation with Councillors Butcher and Forster it was agreed that Councillor Kinnell should make a public apology at the next Full Council that she attends.

## **88 INTERIM SECTION 151 OFFICER APPOINTMENT**

Members were asked to consider Isobel Brittan as Interim Section 151 Officer from 26 May 2022, due to Emma Foy's resignation. A new permanent Section 151 Officer is to be sought later in the summer.

Councillor Neighbour proposed the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Radley.

RESOLVED: Isobel Brittan's appointment as Interim Section 151 Officer from 26 May 2022 was agreed unanimously by Council.

NOTE: Members thanked Ms Foy for all her work, and it was confirmed that she, like all departing staff would be offered an exit interview.

## **89 MOTION TO COUNCIL**

Councillor Butcher proposed a reworded Motion to the one published in the agenda, and it was seconded by Councillor Radley.

The new wording for the Motion was suggested to be:

'To promote accountability and transparency of decision making, this Council resolves that voting at all council meetings on a substantive motion or other non-routine business requiring a decision shall be conducted by a recorded vote, or if it appears to the Chairman all councillors are in agreement with the motion or recommendation upon which it has been asked to vote, by affirmation of the meeting'.

RESOLVED: Council unanimously approved the Motion, and it was agreed that the Joint Chief Executive, working with Councillor Butcher and Group Leaders, should make the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution.

## **90 OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS**

Councillor Harward gave an update from the Blackbushe Airport Consultancy Committee. The group have welcomed the decision of the supreme court not to

grant leave to appeal against a decision that Blackbushe aerodrome should remain registered as common land.

Members acknowledged Councillors Ambler, Crookes and Drage who are not standing in the upcoming elections and thanked them for their service and commitment to Hart and its residents.

Members also thanked officers for their support.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm