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COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday 27 April 2023 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

COUNCILLORS -

Worlock (Chairman)

Wildsmith	Crampton	Makepeace-Browne
Axam	Davies	Neighbour
Blewett	Delaney	Oliver
Butcher	Dorn	Quarterman
Butler	Farmer	Radley
Clarke	Forster	Smith
Coburn	Kennett	Southern
Cockarill	Kinnell	Wright
Collins	Lamb	

In attendance:

Canon Peter Bruinvels CC

Officers Present:

Daryl Phillips	Chief Executive
Guy Clayton	Social Inclusion and Partnerships Manager
Claire Lord	Committee and Members Services Officer

77 THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

The Chairman welcomed Canon Peter Bruinvels who gave a presentation on the Armed Forces Covenant, thanking the Council for its ongoing work with the Military and highlighting the Forces Connect App.

The Chairman and the Chief Executive re-signed the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of Hart District Council.

The Community Partnerships and Projects Manager was commended for all his work and efforts on securing the Covenant again.

78 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Portfolio Holder for Environment highlighted that:

At Full Council on 23 February 2023, he stated that car parking charges had been frozen for five years. This was not technically correct. A review of long stay

and permit parking was undertaken four years ago, and some charges went up and a few went down.

In the subsequent press release he changed this statement to 'short term car parking charges have been frozen for seven years'

The Chairman accepted this information and there were no objections. The Minutes were proposed by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Radley.

The Minutes of the meeting of 23 February 2023 were confirmed and signed as a correct record and a post meeting note would be added to reflect the correction offered by Councillor Oliver.

79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailey, Engström and Woods.

80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations made.

81 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 - QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

No questions received.

82 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 - QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

A question had been received from Councillor Farmer as detailed in Appendix A.

Members queried if a second question from Councillor Blewett would be answered, and the Chief Executive confirmed that he would respond to this question, on voter ID, in Chief Executive's Announcements.

83 APPENDIX A CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman's engagements since the last meeting were noted:

4 March: Mayor of Yateley's Charity Dinner

16 March: Chairman of East Hampshire's Civic Day

18 March: Pelly Concert Orchestra at Church on the Heath

21 March: Chairman of Hart's Civic Day at The Elvetham and Hartland Village

13 April: Lord Mayor of Southampton's Charity Dinner

20 April: Chairman of Hart's Volunteer Award Ceremony and Charity Dinner at The Elvetham

26 April: Chairman of Hampshire County Council's Dinner

84 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, and member for Strategic Direction, Partnership and Countryside, Councillor Neighbour:

- Cabinet approved new staff resources for Hart's Climate Change work and an existing staff member will move into a new role in May.
- The next Climate Change Working Group meeting will be on 8 June. Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet will also meet to discuss the latest Climate Change targets and developments.
- Yateley and Odiham Parish Councils continue to trial a scheme loaning out thermal imaging cameras to residents and this scheme is hoped to be rolled out to other parts of the district in the future.
- Work to install solar panels on the roof of the Civic offices has completed.
- Work to install EV charging points in council car parks continues.
- Work to install LED lighting in council car parks is due to be completed over the summer.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Radley asked members if they had any questions for him and there were none.

The Cabinet Member for Digital and Communications, Councillor Clarke:

Following the release of the new Council website a few weeks ago, Hart's Communications team have been preparing to release the first Residents' Newsletter and the first issue is expected to be emailed on Tuesday 2 May.

There are 350 subscribers signed up to this new communication channel via the website so far - and we ask members to encourage residents to join them.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Neighbour read an update from the Portfolio Holder for Community Councillor Stuart Bailey. It highlighted the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's upcoming visit to the new CCTV control room at Runnymede on 14 June. He included that subject to number restrictions other Members were welcome to attend too.

The Cabinet Member for Place, Councillor Graham Cockarill gave no update.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Councillor Tina Collins gave no update.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Alan Oliver gave no update.

85 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chief Executive reported he had written to all Members regarding the new Government requirement to present ID at a polling station. The email was sent in response to Councillor Blewett's question:

Given that we should ensure appropriate transparency in respect of the elections on Thursday 4 May; I hope that we will record the number of people who become victims of the Government's ID policy and are turned away from each polling station.

Will we be advised of these numbers please?

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Government will decide what information should be disclosed regarding voter ID at polling stations and by law this will not be disclosed on a polling station basis; it will likely be on a district-wide basis.

A Member asked if on polling day, should voters be concerned on how valid ID would be?

The Chief Executive confirmed that the final decision on ID would lie with the individual polling station's Presiding Officer. However, senior officers acting as Polling Station Inspectors would be able to support Presiding Officers in making any decision on voter ID if such a need arose.

A Member asked if the Police were concerned about potential problems that may arise at polling stations on Election Day due to the introduction of presenting ID to vote. The Chief Executive confirmed the Police were aware.

86 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

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

Meeting	Date
Cabinet	2nd March 2023
Cabinet (draft)	6 th April 2023
Overview and Scrutiny	14 th February 2023
Overview and Scrutiny	14 th March 2023
Overview and Scrutiny (draft)	11 th April 2023
Audit (draft)	28 th March 2023
Planning	15 th February 2023
Planning (draft)	22 nd March 2023

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Audit item – Item 34, updating the Audit Terms of Reference, if approved would change the Constitution.

The Audit Item was proposed by Councillor Southern and seconded by Councillor Axam and is deferred until the July Council meeting.

87 OUTSIDE BODIES - FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

There were no Outside Bodies feedback from Members.

Before finally closing the meeting the Chairman and Group Leaders thanked Councillors Kinnell and Lamb for their contributions to Hart as they were retiring from the Council.

Statement from Councillor Sara Kinnell

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm

HART DISTRICT COUNCIL

APPENDIX A

COUNCIL MEETING – THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2023

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14, QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Farmer asked:

Following the damning independent TIAA audit report into the management of the Shapley Heath project, Audit Committee asked Cabinet to provide a response to the management recommendations contained within the Shapley Heath Audit Review report, and to review the application of project governance, financial controls, and reporting for the Shapley Heath project and to provide a response to Audit Committee on lessons learnt.

This independent review of the role of Cabinet and Members (an internal member review and reflection report) was prepared by Emanuel (Manny) Gatt and published on 6th February 2023.

Which of the findings of this comprehensive independent report does the Portfolio Holder for Place not agree with?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

The independent review was a constructive process which led to a set of informed recommendations. Cabinet accepted the findings and recommendations of the report at its meeting on 2nd March.

Councillor Farmer asked a supplementary question:

The Shapley Heath Project broke governance rules, broke procurement rules, failed to control finances, and spent over £820,000 without achieving one key milestone.

There was little engagement with the Opportunity Board and nothing of substance was reported to it.

The Opportunity Board did not endorse the Project and Cost Plans.

The 'Manny Gatt' report says:

“When questions were raised by members throughout the timeline about financial spend and governance of the project, the answers given failed to fundamentally address the concerns raised.”

And

“Notwithstanding the Opportunity Board’s role, the cabinet remains ultimately accountable for all the councils’ projects and the portfolio holder is responsible for holding officers to account and alerting cabinet about areas of concern.”

The Leader of the Council has accepted the findings of this report in full at Cabinet.
Audit Committee has accepted the findings of this report in full.

It is clear where the responsibility lies with the Portfolio Holder.

When therefore will the Portfolio Holder for Place resign as a consequence of the shambolic Shapley Heath project?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

I will not be resigning.

This project was looked after by an Opportunity Board drawn from all members of this group, of all parties represented and the Independent. Cabinet is ultimately responsible for project management in the council. But opportunity was given to all Members of this Council to give their views.

Cabinet has received the recommendations and agreed with them, and work is ongoing to improve project governance on this Council.

POST MEETING NOTE TO COUNCIL MINUTES OF 27 APRIL 2023

Cllr Sara Kinnell's statement:

"The decision not to stand for another term was a difficult one to make. It has been an absolute privilege to serve on this council and to be chosen to do so for 18 years by residents who have put their trust in me to protect their quality of life. And for that, I am truly humbled. I will miss, almost, all of my councillor colleagues and all the wonderful officers who have helped and supported me throughout my years on this council. I must give special thanks to the Environmental Health Team with whom it has been an absolute pleasure to have worked so closely with over the years.

But I cannot continue. I cannot continue to be part of an environment that deems that bullying, intimidation, humiliation, hypocrisy and misogyny are all considered to be acceptable when it comes to politics. I am not a politician! Politics doesn't belong in local government, and I am tired of the lies, the constant criticism, the negativity, the scaremongering and the self-promotion that has become common place by some.

I have been a member of both the Conservative and the Community Campaign Hart groups on this council and I have been struck by how markedly the Conservative's natural malice and bitterness contrasts with the Community Campaigns constructive, inclusive and supportive attitude. I cannot understand why those members of the Conservative group who I know have personal integrity can associate themselves with the destructive and deliberately malicious posts which some of their colleagues post in their collective name.

There are some in this room who are here purely to fuel their own ego and self-importance. We should be judged as councillors by how we conduct ourselves as we navigate through life, and whether our actions are genuinely for the benefit of others, and in the interests of the community one represents. I can honestly say that I will leave this council with my head held high in the knowledge that I have always acted in the best interest of the residents that I have represented, with integrity, honesty and a diligent drive to improve our collective quality of life".