

Minutes

Ordinary Council Wednesday, 8th December, 2021

Attendance

Cllr Ms Sanders (Mayor)	Cllr Hossack
Cllr Reed (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr Kendall
Cllr Aspinell	Cllr Laplain
Cllr Barber	Cllr Mynott
Cllr Barrett	Cllr Naylor
Cllr Bridge	Cllr Nolan
Cllr S Cloke	Cllr Mrs Pearson
Cllr Cuthbert	Cllr Poppy
Cllr Mrs Davies	Cllr Mrs Pound
Cllr Mrs Fulcher	Cllr Russell
Cllr Fryd	Cllr Tanner
Cllr Haigh	Cllr Wagland
Cllr Heard	Cllr White
Cllr Hirst	Cllr Wiles
Cllr Mrs Hones	

Apologies

Cllr Dr Barrett	Cllr Lewis
Cllr J Cloke	Cllr McLaren
Cllr Gelderbloem	Cllr Parker
Cllr Jakobsson	Cllr Tierney

Officers Present

Amanda Julian	- Corporate Director (Law and Governance) and Monitoring Officer
Claire Mayhew	- Corporate Manager (Democratic Services) and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Jonathan Stephenson	- Chief Executive
Steve Summers	- Strategic Director (Deputy Chief Executive)
Jacqueline Van Mellaerts	- Corporate Director (Finance & Resources)

LIVE BROADCAST

[Live broadcast to start at 7pm and available for repeat viewing.](#)

220. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dr Barrett, Mrs Gelderbloem, McLaren, Parker, J Cloke, Mrs Tierney, Lewis and Jakobsson.

221. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at this stage.

222. Mayors Announcements

The Mayor informed the Council:-

“When I was first elected as Mayor of Brentwood, one of the events I was most excited about being part of was the Remembrance Day Parade. The event was humbling and I was honoured to represent the Borough of Brentwood joined by the representatives from our local branch of the Royal British Legion, the military and the cadets and organisations. Leading the parade of almost 600 people to the War Memorial and through the High Street was an occasion I will never forget and I was proud to be the Mayor of this great Town. The service followed at St Thomas’ Church allowed us to remember and never forget those who have fought and selflessly and gave their lives to our country. Thank you for the organisers and those who supported the event to make it the success it was.

Thank you to all who attended my recent Charity Curry Night. It was a great evening, and I am delighted that it raised £800 for my chosen charities. With all your help and support I am pleased the events will be able to raise awareness and funds to these well-deserved causes.

We got into the festive spirit as I was joined on stage by the winners of the Mayors Christmas Card and Poem competition winners to turn on the Christmas lights at the Town Hall. It was an enjoyable afternoon of entertainment in a slightly different Lighting Up Brentwood event. There are many festive events going on around the Borough so be sure to join in.

I also hosted my Civic Carol Service at Brentwood Cathedral early this month which was such a great service surrounded by fellow Chain Gang Mayors and Chairman, family, friends, and Members. It was so lovely to be joined by the impressive choir on the evening. A great way to get into the festive spirit.

I am pleased to confirm that the Civic Awards nominations for 2021 are open. Please do consider nominating or spreading the word so those individuals or organisations can be rewarded for their great achievements in our Borough.

As Mayor I have been delighted to be able to attend functions at Rochford Borough Council. As you are all aware we agreed that our Chief Executive Mr Stephenson would be the interim Joint Chief Executive with a view to bringing a further report to this Council this month. This has not been possible, therefore I will ask the Leader of the Council to make a short statement on the process to date. There will be no debate or questions on this matter it is purely to update you all tonight. You will get your chance in the New Year.

As Mayor it's also been a really great experience to attend functions as well at Rochford District Council and as you're all aware we agreed that our Chief Executive Mr Stephenson will be the Interim Joint Chief Executive with a view to bringing a further report to the council this month - this has not been possible therefore I will ask the Leader of the Council to make a short statement on the process to date. There will be no debate or questions on this matter which is purely an update for everyone tonight and you will get your chance to do this in the new year"

Cllr Hossack added this update:

"This statement mirrors a statement that was given by the Leader of Rochford Council earlier this week. Members you'll recall that the council approved the commencement of formal negotiations, in Brentwood we did this on the 20th July 2021 and in Rochford on 28th July 2021. Since the update members of the executive team and a small group from my group have been working on a feasibility study that we promised to explore further shared and partnership opportunities between the two councils and the appointment of Mr Stephenson as the Joint Chief Executive for the initial six-month period has also been formalised by way of a Memorandum of Understanding. As part of that feasibility study we've been working with external experts, a company called Shared Service Architecture who have supported other councils through this process. They have helped facilitate engagement, ensure alignment and develop heads of terms to the proposed partnership. We have had several sessions with Shared Service Architecture to agree desired outcomes for the partnership and to build relationships with our peers from Rochford District Council. Through these sessions we've created a shared understanding of what we want to achieve together and how we want to achieve it. We have also engaged with the senior leadership teams of both councils to ensure they've been included in the discussions and informed. I am pleased to confirm that we've reached agreed draft heads of terms for a formal partnership arrangements which we will bring into an Extraordinary Council in January. We had committed to bring back a further report proposal by the end of 2021 but the timings of these meetings and the considerable work we've been doing has unfortunately meant this will now be shared in January. In advance of that there will be a number of sessions led by myself, Jonathan and the Leader of Rochford to brief all members and officers about these heads of terms mean. We welcome all questions and constructive challenge at that time and our thinking will continue to develop as we go through this process. To demonstrate our commitment to that before the Extraordinary Council meeting, we will be bringing a report to Rochfords Review Committee on the 11th January 2022 and our Audit & Scrutiny Committee 12th January. We will welcome the scrutiny that the committee

offers on our proposed arrangements. I am very pleased by the progress which has been made during this feasibility stage and I would like to thank colleagues from Rochford for their openness and challenge which has provided thought-provoking debate and true blue sky thinking about how we can transform our respective councils through innovation and creativity. I am very excited about the potential for our proposed partnership and the opportunities that it will create. I look forward to speaking to members individually about that over the coming weeks.”

223. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Ordinary Council meeting held on 13th October 2021 were **APPROVED** as a true record. The minutes contain a summary of the meeting, to view the full meeting please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXh-oX99IRI>.

224. Public Questions

Three public questions have been submitted.

Ms Susan Kortlandt had submitted two questions.

1. To the leader and to the leaders of the opposition parties - What is the total carbon footprint of Brentwood Council from all its current operations, including housing, offices and works?

Response from Cllr Hossack:

I think as a bit of a clue in your question, it's not an insignificant task to baseline the carbon footprint of all of our operations including 2500 houses, multiple halls, Brentwood Centre, our depot, multiple fleets of vehicles and cars and those things are changing all the time. You have rightly illustrated that is a very large task and as a Council, as an organisation, as an employer this is probably the largest task of any organisation in Brentwood. This is the development of a strategy as a piece of work and our newly appointed Climate & Sustainability Officer is undertaking this baselining exercise will bring the information together on the carbon footprint and it will form part of the baseline that our performance will be measured against moving forward.

Response from Cllr Aspinell:

I hope that whatever details we get back includes our council housing which is considerable. I look forward to that report when it comes to us.

Response from Cllr Barrett:

To add to points made, I think in terms of the council, this is a big piece of work but there are several London boroughs and other councils in the East of England that already have done these equations and this summaries which would be able to work from. There is a suitable it's a carbon workbook for local authorities that again we can work from and have these figures appear in

turn at the same time. There is also a wider piece of work, it's not necessarily just our emissions day-to-day but our capital carbon, how much carbon we put when we're building new things especially when at construction phase. In construction, laying concrete is one of the most carbon intensive things you can do. As a council that's building we have to think how we net off or produce alternatives to reduce those emissions as well as we develop. I think that's very important in terms of the future planning as well.

2. I note that the Council is preparing an Environmental Strategy aimed at taking the "Council and the Borough" towards Zero Carbon 2040". How will you ensure that progress is being made?

Will there be intermediate targets, scrutiny, and control measures? By when do you intend the Council's own operations to be carbon neutral?

Response from Cllr Hossack:

A strategy has been created which will be published next year and will identify where we as an authority we want to be and by when. The strategy will lead to clear targets and objectives identifying appropriate areas of work the council should concentrate on that will create the most reward in this sector. In doing so, measures be put into place with the mechanism to record and publish achievements against the targets. The strategy will also seek to identify when the council will aim to become carbon neutral and the measures and steps the council will need to take in order to achieve that objective. The council has set an overall aim to be carbon neutral by 2040 as your question says - once a baseline has been established in relation to your first question for the council's own operations a more specific target can be set.

Response from Cllr Aspinell:

I look forward to all the data coming forward but as well as looking at carbon neutral for the housing that this council intends to develop itself we should also be looking at our local development plan and where it is possible adding into that that no buildings should be built unless they are carbon neutral on any of the sites this council has identified for building which is considerable. I think the last count 7 000, that's a lot of housing and that's an awful lot of carbon emission. The materials that are used for the building of those housing as the Labour Leader said, has a significant amount of carbon production for producing those materials so it isn't a quick and easy solution that some politicians might think it is. It needs an awful lot of legislation before we can look at this in reality and bring forward significant carbon reduction.

Response from Cllr Barrett:

I think in terms of your point, scrutiny wise in reality this has to become a key scrutiny in a key scheme of work for the Audit & Scrutiny Committee. If progress is to be made it needs to be monitored and that needs to make sure it isn't a green washing exercise. It's actually a statistically significant observable relationship with the programme. In terms of intermediate targets

and when we look at other large scale organisations when they start their carbon program we have a net zero target that council said 2040. I still think you'll be more ambitious than a 2030 target it's more than viable but to the same extent what most large organisations find is that the first 50% is actually the low-hanging fruit that could be achieved rather rapidly to achieve rapidly so actually the year that the first five year ambition is the really important one and then it gets progressively harder unfortunately but actually if we set a big ambition to hit early on, I think that's a viable and sensible plan to have. That level of ambition also sets a mark in the sand that we could be marked against rather than the long term 2040 target which will rely on new technologies to appear actually what we can do now probably can get us halfway let's set that ambition let's make it.

Ms Alison Ingleby submitted one question.

1. Kimpton Avenue is seen as a quiet road but it experiences speeding vehicles and is a cut through between Doddinghurst Road and Ongar Road. We would like to know what influence the council has with Essex County Council?

Highways Dept to address this issue before there is a fatality, more damage to parked cars and theft of vehicles.

We support a traffic calming scheme, cameras and a speed reduction to 15 or 20 miles per hour in our road and in other residential roads.

We have learnt that there is traffic scheme in Chelmsford Road, South Woodford, where speed cameras are installed, residents register their vehicles and anyone not registered and speeding is caught on camera. This may have helped track the thieves that used our road as a cut through following a burglary in the town centre and also a resident's work van stolen (despite having a tracker fitted), both events happened within the last 2 months.

In the meantime, several residents are willing to undertaking speed gun training and put monitoring in place as this may be a deterrent in the short term.

Response from Cllr Hossack:

I too live on a cut-through road that cuts through between Ongar Road and Doddinghurst Road in the same way that yours does. It probably has five times the properties on there significantly narrower and has far more congestion in terms of parked cars so I fully appreciate the situation that you're in. I'll answer your question in two parts, it may be something Cllr Aspinell might be more appropriate for him to come into. I notice we've been doing cross-leader question responses tonight which is absolutely fine with me but the simple answer is we're not the highway authority of Brentwood Council and we don't have any sway. The way the system works is Tier One

government is Highway Authority and you have elected representatives to the Tier One – Essex County Council highway authority - one of whom is Cllr Aspinell who I actually understand has been on the case with this already and he might well respond with that. So we don't have any sway it's as simple as that and if you multiplied it out and I've made the point of beginning saying you're not alone in and I feel your pain. Essex County Council have a limited budget, some great ideas that you've brought forward there in terms of what could be done but of course they all come at a price. You mentioned speed cameras and revenue as though we could make money out of it - we don't make any money from speeding offences at all - it is a County matter and I'm sure Cllr Aspinell will assist you in there - he is your advocate to the highway authority. In terms of the secondary point, you talked about the speed watch that we can help you with. I understand that some of our officers and local Councillors have already been talking to residents about setting that up which is quite simple. I understand they are speaking to some residents at Kimpton Avenue and that we can do what is within our sphere of influence so very simply - that's great news if residents want to volunteer to be speed watchers - we'll get them trained up. Please contact daniel.canon@brentwood.gov.uk he will respond and you can put in there that you raised is a question and I gave him gave you his email address in this meeting he's the coordinator and he will gladly help you.

Response from Cllr Aspinell:

The Leader is right, although I wouldn't say Brentwood Council has no influence whatsoever because they have Members from Brentwood Council on the Local Highways Panel and it's the Local Highways Panel that will agree or disagree to any highway measures that we would like to introduce into your road. I have taken the opportunity already of requiring funding for a speed survey to be carried out in Kimpton Avenue, Warescot Road and Robin Hood Road so that we can get an idea of the total speed in that one area – this might be useful going forward if we can classify those roads as a cut through going forward. With the cameras, I totally agree we don't get a penny for that, neither Councils do - the Police receive the finding I think. The police are not welcoming speed cameras in our roads anymore but that's not to say that we can't apply. There are other types of cameras - average speed cameras - that are used elsewhere which may be the case in South Woodford and I do not know, which work on a different basis but yes, I fully support everything you would try to put in place. As for the speed watch, Pilgrim's Hatch Community Partnership have a fully trained group of people who go out and do speed watch regularly agreed by the police. They have a speed gun that they purchased and they would be more than willing to share with Brentwood North so that's all a step in the right direction.

Point of order from Cllr Hirst – the Police do welcome speed cameras.

225. Memorials or Petitions

Cllr Fulcher presented a petition to the Mayor.

Cllr Fulcher added that the petition was from the Kimpton Avenue residents requesting for the reinstatement of the trees that once lined their avenue.

This petition will be presented to a future Environment, Enforcement and Housing Committee meeting for consideration.

226. Committee Chairs Reports and Members Questions

In accordance with the Council's Constitution a brief written report by each committee Chair covering their area of responsibility was provided for Members' information at each Ordinary Council meeting.

Cllr Mrs Davies, put a question to the Chair of Environment, Enforcement and Housing Committee.

Does the Chair agree it is unacceptable for very elderly vulnerable sheltered housing tenants to receive demands stating they are in rent arrears and also threatening their tenancies? I have been contacted recently by an extremely distressed lady thinking she was under the threat of eviction - she'd stopped eating and sleeping and I was really concerned for her welfare. I want to thank Mrs Abbott for her assistance which you quickly established. Not only was the lady not in debt but in fact her account was in credit and it concerns me and I am sure it would concern the Chair and I would like to know, hopefully there are not too many cases of this kind.

Cllr Pearson, Chair of Environment, Enforcement & Housing Committee responded:

These letters are actually automatically generated and I wouldn't like to see anybody upset or off their food and not something I want for anyone. These are automatically generated and I will bring it up with Mrs Lilley to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

Cllr Kendall: First question to the Chair of Community & Health Committee.

In the past, Brentwood Centre has had a good reputation for providing help and support for residents dealing with mental health issues. What assurances can the Chair give to members that SLM, the new management operators, are going to try and provide a similar service?

Cllr Poppy, Chair of Community & Health Committee responded:

That's not quite accurate really because the it wasn't the Brentwood Centre that was doing the mental health work there, it was it was Chat First who are now part of Active Essex and are funded by Active Essex so I would say SLM

would like to help but I don't know if they can. I will try and find out for you and come back to you.

Cllr Kendall: Second question to the Chair of Policy, Resources & Economic Development.

In response to the Southend Local Plan and Southend's membership of ASELA , I understand that discussions have taken place between councils regarding Essex being split into two unitary authorities - one of which would be the councils under the ASELA umbrella. Can the Chair give us an update on these discussions and clarify what impact if any a change to a unitary will have on our own housing numbers?

Cllr Hossack, Chair of Policy, Resources & Economic Development Committee responded:

I know nothing of such discussions about unitaries and the way he described.

Cllr Mynott: First question to the Chair of Community & Health Committee.

In relation to the Discover Winter programme, I note that the list of programmed events includes 2 Brentwood Theatre Community Cinema events at Brentwood Theatre. I am fully in support of this but I was a bit curious as to whether these are actually council events and that's why they're being listed. To explain, I am a representative of the Brentwood Arts Council and there are clearly many other organisations across the borough which are putting on events at various different times of the year. It would be great on behalf of those organisations if the council was also helping to promote the existence of those events. I am wondering whether there's a reason why these have been included and others have been excluded? It would be great if we could include more in the future.

Cllr Poppy, Chair of Community & Health Committee responded:

As far as I know, we've done this in conjunction with Brentwood Theatre to advertise their event which is something they came to us about. In terms of the Arts Council, I can certainly find out and come back to you as to whether we've got a list of their events and we can certainly put them on the website as well.

Cllr Mynott: Second question to the Chair of Policy, Resources & Economic Development.

The report about the Town Centre conference in January 2022 inviting key stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds to discuss the future of the High Street - according to the motion, I am assuming that these two things are the same; according to the motion that Cllr Hossack is putting which exists later on in the agenda, the proposals aren't the council's proposals but come from unnamed residents. I would like to know whether the council is always

going to be organising a conference if residents bring forward proposals that would be absolutely excellent. I am also concerned to know whether there will be a wider resident involvement amongst the “key stakeholders” in terms of the Town Centre conference particularly because at the moment there's been absolutely no communication whatsoever on this with Town Centre ward councillors and I would very much like Town Centre residents as a whole to be involved in this. It needs not to be a purely business related thing but for anybody who's decided to live in the Town Centre is a key stakeholder in the town heads up in the Town Centre.

Cllr Hossack, Chair of Policy, Resources & Economic Development Committee responded:

The Town Centre conference will take place on 11th January 2022. We have only agreed the date earlier this week and certain stakeholders have already had their invitations or been asked to put a placeholder in the diary to mark that it will take place. This will be at Brentwood Theatre and it will go from 7pm-9pm. Town Centre councillors, one from each ward will be invited. This is my intention because you are a stakeholder as a Town Centre councillor but there is limited capacity and I want as many members of the public there as possible. I think it's important that the public are able to get to hear what's going on. You might be conflating, I think you are infactual or assuming that it's done for a particular reason – it is not. It is a fact I am talking to some residents about ideas they've got about cultural and creative offering in the town centre. We are working with them as a council and we are shaping their suggestions. You can imagine that residents have a lot of enthusiasm to do things differently in the town centre and of course we don't have an unlimited budget and there are guidelines and health and safety and things that we need to follow in order to make such suggestions deliverable. We will listen to residents and we will take forward any suggestions they have. Some we might need to reject some we could enhance we'll see where it goes. The conference is not for that purpose that would probably form about one-eighth of the conference and you will get an agenda as a town centre councillor as we get nearer the time. Laurie Edmonds is administrating that and we're working with a number of presenters who would be at that conference. We are formulating the content as we speak which is not in response to residents coming forward. I think it's in response to a number of things there are concerns about the town centre. I think one of your motions coming forward later talks about it and we will deal with it in the motion but we all know there was a tragic event in the town centre a month or two back. This was where two young boys were murdered. There is a perception that crime is on the increase - factually that's not correct. Statistically it's not correct but nonetheless that was a real watershed moment for this town. Lots of people have acknowledged that so there is a time in this conference to reassure people factually as to what the situation is but also to give optimism to people around some of the ideas are coming forward, not just from residents but actually from this council itself. In particular, in terms of our regeneration plans. You all know we've had the Baytree Centre now for best part of nine months and I always was very keen that fairly soon after that we start to share the vision about what regeneration in the town centre would look. The

conference will be multifaceted it is about our high streets, not just about the town centre. Shenfield Councillors will also be invited as well and hopefully that gives you a bit more of an indication but you will be fully informed as the agenda takes shape. I am having formative conversations with presenters that will be there that includes Essex Police as well as a number of other organisations and that's what you'll find.

Cllr Naylor, First question to the Chair of Environment, Enforcement and Housing Committee.

I noticed in the Enforcement Controls section of the Chairs report, it says that Stop and Searches have been taking place. This reads as if the Enforcement Team of the Council themselves have been carrying this out. I assume that's probably incorrect and you mean they have been carried out with Essex Police? If so, what is the role of the Enforcement Team with Essex Police in the Stop and Search? Is it just simply the case that you are providing the evidence to Essex Police with the reasonable grounds to carry out Stop and Search?

Cllr Pearson, Chair of Environment, Enforcement & Housing Committee responded:

Our Enforcement Team work with and support Essex Police. I am happy to send you information offline for operational reasons around what they do but they support the police.

Cllr Naylor: Second question to the Chair of Policy, Resources & Economic Development Committee.

A report from the recent PRED Committee on Staff values and Behavioural Framework - I noted that there is going to be going to be a similar Framework for all Members. I was just wondering what the time scale is for that and whether it will actually apply to all members including leaders of groups, the Leader of administration and even the Mayor and Deputy Mayor?

Cllr Hossack, Chair of Policy, Resources & Economic Development Committee responded:

I don't like the word "framework" - we have something called a "Member's Code of Conduct". We are looking to bring a Standards Board forward which we will expect members to subscribe to the terms of our Code of Conduct, and if it's outside of that then that's the purpose of a Standards Board which I know members across the Chamber are very keen to see implemented. We are going to be discussing that on the 14th December at a Constitution Working Group.

Cllr Aspinell added a point of order:

It went to the PRED Committee last month and it was part of your agenda that you agreed. If you don't like the wording and you don't like the process of it or

the fact that we have to have one or saying we don't need one because we've got a Code of Conduct, that's totally different from protocol that's being talked about.

Cllr Hossack continued:

I don't like the word framework, I am very conversant with the values that we brought to the PRED Committee. We had a long and detailed discussion about the words used and what they meant. What you're talking about is the application of the values and it might be we discuss that in detail and there are some values actually that apply to officers that cannot apply to politicians - we had a very good discussion about that on the night so that will come back. I just don't like the word framework in terms of what it is to me it will be a set of values that we can subscribe to. Those values when we subscribe to them will also influence the way we conform to the Code of Conduct and the way we conform to the Code of Conduct then influences whether we have an appearance at Standards Board when we get one so that all of those things are linked together.

In terms of timescale, I will allow officers to assess their workload and determine when it will come back.

Cllr Hossack added from the previous question that Brentwood Borough Council Enforcement Officers do not have powers for "Stop and Search" – this is Police powers in which our officers assist the Police.

Cllr Laplain question to the Chair of Environment, Enforcement & Housing Committee.

Following on from a previous question from Cllr Davies, regarding a letter to residents, went out from Axis to a resident in sheltered accommodation with a threat of eviction which caused a great deal of upset. Angela Abbott did assist with that but I do find this somewhat draconian and I believe we should be mindful of who we are sending these letters to. If this is something that can be addressed so that our third parties understand how to approach people.

Cllr Pearson, Chair of Environment, Enforcement & Housing Committee. responded:

I will be happy to take this away and raise this with officers.

Cllr Aspinell question to the Chair of Policy, Resources & Economic Development.

Is it still your firm belief and policy to take us down the road of joining up with ASELA in the near future bearing in mind all the reports that are coming out from Thurrock Council that they are facing administration? Is this still your Administration's belief that we would be beneficial joining up with these multi-layered authorities that owe billions?

Cllr Hossack, Chair of Policy, Resources & Economic Development Committee responded:

It is not a policy of this Council to form a unitary with Thurrock Council. I do not know how many times I have to say it. It is not on the radar. When you look at these complex models of merger or forming a unitary, growth of unitaries, none of which were actively discussing at all in South Essex - it is for the Section 151 officers and the government in actual fact to look at the implications of what happens should a Council in a reasonably healthy situation financially or those that might be facing a challenge but moderate by comparison to the scale of the unitary, how that works because I certainly wouldn't want Brentwood Council to be carrying the multi-million pound debt of another authority. If that is the case, I think a lot of it is rumour and hearsay, and we only know when we actually look at the facts in terms of what the balance sheets of other Councils but it is a real complex issue it's not on the agenda. It is not on the agenda or our policy. I would be referring to the levelling up department for them to work it out. No way, there's a personal statement, one of the policy for Brentwood residents to be carrying the debt of another unitary authority should we ever if ever find ourselves going into a unitary situation. I would protest very strongly against it as I know you would Cllr Aspinell.

Point of information from Cllr Naylor:

If this council was to be part of a unitary bid after the white paper is released in January 2022, what would be the process of this council notifying members of that?

Response from Mr Stephenson:

We can all possibly predict what the Devolution Paper might be but we will publicise to all members from the Government website when it is released. I will try to make sure that all members receive notice of any major changes in Local Government that may be publicised.

Cllr Barrett question to the Chair of Policy, Resources & Economic Development.

In terms of our Medium Term Financial Plan and the difficulties we face ahead of us financially, I know from the list of potential savings and items - does the Leader think that there is potential for us given the financial circumstances we're facing that a report is brought forward and given in turn that we also have the Boundary Commission looking at us right now for a report on the relevant costs of different democratic systems of Brentwood in terms of thirds, halves or an all-out election. Given the financial circumstances we're facing and the advantage of the boundary review it makes sense that we consider these as a whole because in turn the cost of democracy whilst in theory you cannot put a price on it the reality is we're in different financial circumstances as a Council and if we can find a more effective form of governance I think

that's worthwhile. I would like to know what the Leader thinks whether that should be something we consider?

Cllr Hossack, Chair of Policy, Resources & Economic Development Committee responded:

I don't just think it, it is something we are going to be considering it. There's no way we can go to a Boundary Commission review in our current financial circumstance and not look at the cost options around all out thirds. With the number of councils that are represented in the scheme of things it's probably very small numbers but in point of principle I have asked the Monitoring Officer to present to us scenarios and put a cost figure to each of those for us to decide. There's absolutely no way we won't look at the cost of democracy and what's been said before you know there's a financial cost but there's a cost in terms of democratic deficit as well. That would be debate we would have at the time if that's what members felt it was but I've asked Ms Julian to give us exactly what you've asked for. This is something we should do at this point in time.

227. Arrangements to Appoint external auditors from 2023/24

This item was deferred.

228. Notice of Motion

Ten motions were originally received. However, Cllr Dr Barrett & Lewis have sent their apologies this evening. Therefore Motions 1 & 9 have been deferred to a future Ordinary Council meeting.

Motion 2 – Received on 2nd November 2021 @ 14.31

Mover: Cllr Fryd

Seconder: Cllr Naylor

This Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

The existing pressures on our decaying drainage and sewerage systems in Brentwood are already critical and at times unsustainable, with regular breaches occurring across the Borough resulting in flooding to properties and roads. This has a huge impact upon affected residents.

National Government has demanded that we have to provide over 7,500 new homes despite Brentwood being 89% green belt. This necessarily forces us to build these new homes wherever possible in suburban areas. This will only increase still further the huge pressures upon the existing system resulting in more misery and costs for residents.

Water Companies must be pressurised by National Government now to upgrade our drainage and sewerage systems and bring them into the 21st Century.

A proper and detailed assessment is required to assess the impact of 7,500 new homes on our existing drainage and sewerage systems. If our existing systems cannot deal with 7,500 new homes, in the absence of a significant upgrade to those systems, the Secretary of State should urgently modify the new home requirement for Brentwood to reflect this.

Cllr Barrett declared an interest due to the nature of his employment and left the Chamber for the first two motions.

Cllr Nolan declared an interest that he works for a company mentioned by Cllr Aspinell.

Following a full discussion a recorded vote was taken in accordance with Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014).

Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Aspinell, Sarah Cloke, Cuthbert, Davies, Fryd, Fulcher, Haigh, Kendall, Laplain, Mynott and Naylor (11)

AGAINST: Cllrs Barber, Bridge, Heard, Hirst, Hones, Hossack, Nolan, Pearson, Poppy, Pound, Reed, Russell, Sanders, Tanner, Wagland, White and Wiles (17)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Cllr G Barrett – declared an interest and didn't take part in the vote

The Motion was **LOST**

Motion 3 – Received on 2nd November 2021 @ 14.31

Mover: Cllr Aspinell

Seconder: Cllr Mrs Davies

This Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request consideration of an immediate introduction of a planning requirement that prior to considering any planning application for five properties or more, there would first need to be a proper and detailed assessment of how the existing sewerage and drainage systems will be impacted and cope with further demands placed upon them.

If legitimate concerns cannot be met, the application should be refused.

Following a full discussion a recorded vote was taken in accordance with Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014).

Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Aspinell, Sarah Cloke, Cuthbert, Davies, Fryd, Fulcher, Haigh, Heard, Kendall, Laplain, Mynott, Naylor and Sanders (13)

AGAINST: Cllrs Barber, Hirst, Hones, Hossack, Nolan, Pearson, Pound, Reed, Russell, Tanner, White and Wiles (12)

ABSTAIN: Cllrs Bridge, Poppy and Wagland (3)

Cllr G Barrett – declared an interest and didn't take part in the vote.

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

Motion 4 – Received on 3rd November 2021 @ 09.42

Mover: Cllr Hossack

Seconded: Cllr Nolan

This council recognises the efforts of the parking wardens in issuing a significant number of tickets to those that inconsiderately park on the high street pavement causing an unsafe situation and welcomes the physical measures that are due to be implemented as a pilot scheme. The current levels of PCN for on-street infringements are clearly not a significant enough deterrent and whilst it is recognised these are not set locally, representation must be made to the appropriate bodies for these to be increased and that incremental revenue is directly re-invested into sustained patrolling and enforcement.

Following a full discussion a recorded vote was taken in accordance with Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014).

Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Barber, G Barrett, Bridge, Heard, Hirst, Hones, Hossack, Nolan, Pearson, Poppy, Pound, Reed, Russell, Sanders, Tanner, Wagland, White and Wiles (18)

AGAINST: (0)

ABSTAIN: Cllrs Aspinell, S Cloke, Cuthbert, Davies, Fryd, Fulcher, Haigh, Kendall, Laplain, Mynott, and Naylor (11)

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

Motion 5 – Received on 3rd November 2021 @ 09.42

Mover: Cllr Hossack

Seconded: Cllr Barber

This Council appreciates the efforts of Essex Police in the various operations that have been carried out to tackle drug use and dealing in Brentwood's High

Streets. This council requests discussion with Essex Police as to how they might work with us to achieve a more consistent approach in tackling this on-going issue in identifying problematic venues. Moreover, this council seeks a review as to what tougher actions we can take against licensed premises, that through our work with Essex Police, are identified as having a persistent problem.

After a full discussion, voting took place by a show of hands. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Motion 6 – Received on 3rd November 2021 @ 09.42

Mover: Cllr Hossack

Secunder: Cllr Wiles

This Council appreciates the efforts of local residents that have come forward with ideas to enhance the offering and ambiance of Brentwood Town centre. We will seek to work with residents and local groups, wherever possible, to enable implementable ideas to come to fruition.

A report to be presented at a future PRED meeting for consideration and agreement.

After a full discussion, voting took place by a show of hands. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Motion 7 – Received on 16th November 2021 @ 12.25

Mover: Cllr Aspinell

Secunder: Cllr Kendall

This Council resolves to write to the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner demanding the reinstatement of a fully operational Police Station including custody suite in our Borough.

The recent increase in violent crime in this borough has been well documented in the press both locally and nationally.

Brentwood is and remains in a vulnerable position particularly given its proximity to the M25 together with its direct road and rail links into London

The Council believes that the distances between the current operational Police Stations for this Borough of Grays and Harlow are simply too far away to ensure the safety and security of our residents.

Following a full discussion a recorded vote was taken in accordance with Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014).

Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Aspinell, G Barrett, S Cloke, Cuthbert, Davies, Fryd, Kendall, Laplain, Mynott and Naylor (10)

AGAINST: Cllrs Barber, Bridge, Heard, Hones, Hossack, Nolan, Pearson, Poppy, Pound, Reed, Sanders, Tanner, Wagland, White & Wiles (15)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Cllr Hirst, Haigh and Fulcher declared an interest and left the Chamber for the discussion of this motion. They did and did not vote. Cllr Russell left during the debate on this item.

The Motion was **LOST**.

Motion 8 – Received on 16th November 2021 @ 13.54

Mover: Cllr Mynott

Seconder: Cllr Cuthbert

Earlier this year the Government introduced Use Class MA, newly permitting the conversion of buildings and land within Class E into dwellings.

This is yet another change to Planning that has aroused widespread criticism, with the Royal Town Planning Institute, the Town and Country Planning Association, the National Trust and even the British Property Federation opposed to it (amongst others). It damages local control over planning, ignores the root cause of the current housing shortage, and circumvents methods of providing affordable housing.

Introducing this when businesses are under unprecedented pressure (and nationally one in seven Class E units are already empty), thanks to Covid, is likely to wreak havoc with the viability of UK high streets, and to do so irreversibly. A report from UCL already predicts losses of High Street businesses ranging between 89% and 75%, with four out of five shops vulnerable, most of which will be small and locally owned.

This council wants its High Streets to thrive and not die. As such it agrees to contact the Government officially, urging it to listen to the expert advice of numerous Planning organisations, to protect the future of the UK High Street, and to scrap this ill-advised policy.

Following a full discussion a recorded vote was taken in accordance with Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014).

Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Aspinell, G Barrett, S Cloke, Cuthbert, Davies, Fryd, Fulcher, Haigh, Kendall, Laplain, Mynott and Naylor (12)

AGAINST: Cllrs Barber, Bridge, Heard, Hirst, Hones, Hossack, Nolan, Pearson, Poppy, Pound, Reed, Sanders, Tanner, White & Wiles (15)

ABSTAIN: Cllr Wagland (1)

The Motion was **LOST**.

Motion 10 – Received on 16th November 2021 @ 16.16

Mover: Cllr Aspinell

Seconder: Cllr Mynott

This Council resolves to instruct the Monitoring Officer to bring forward to this Council a proposal for a Standards Committee to be introduced by this Council within the next three months.

After a full discussion, Cllr Hossack proposed an **AMENDMENT** to the motion agreed by the mover Cllr Aspinell and seconder Cllr Mynott of the motion to:

This Council resolves to instruct the Monitoring Officer to bring forward to this Council a proposal for a Standards Committee to be brought forward to ~~introduced by~~ this Council within the next three months.

Voting took place by a show of hands.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

229. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business to discuss.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.