

Minutes

Ordinary Council Wednesday, 22nd January, 2020

Attendance

Cllr Parker (Mayor)	Cllr Kendall
Cllr Ms Sanders (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr Kerslake
Cllr Aspinell	Cllr Laplain
Cllr Barrett	Cllr Lewis
Cllr Dr Barrett	Cllr McCheyne
Cllr Bridge	Cllr Morrissey
Cllr Chilvers	Cllr Mynott
Cllr J Cloke	Cllr Naylor
Cllr Mrs Davies	Cllr Nolan
Cllr Fryd	Cllr Mrs Pearson
Cllr Haigh	Cllr Poppy
Cllr Hirst	Cllr Mrs Pound
Cllr Mrs Hones	Cllr Reed
Cllr Hossack	Cllr Tanner
Cllr Jakobsson	Cllr Tierney
Cllr Keeble	Cllr Tumbridge

Apologies

Cllr Clarke	Cllr McLaren
Cllr S Cloke	Cllr Mrs McKinlay
Cllr Mrs Fulcher	

Officers Present

Greg Campbell	- Director of Operations
Philip Drane	- Director of Strategic Planning
Chris Leslie	- Executive Director of Commercial Services
Tracey Lilley	- Interim Director of Housing & Enforcement
Rob Manser	- Revenues and Benefits Manager
Claire Mayhew	- Corporate and Democratic Services Manager
Jean Sharp	- Governance and Member Support Officer
Jonathan Stephenson	- Chief Executive
Steve Summers	- Chief Operating Officer
Jacqueline Van Mellaerts	- Director of Corporate Resources

328. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Clarke, Sarah Cloke, Mrs McKinlay and McLaren.

The Mayor advised that Cllr Mrs Pound would be acting as Deputy Mayor for the duration of this meeting as Cllr Miss Sanders was incapacitated.

329. Variation in the Order of the Agenda

In view of the large number of reports needing to be considered the Mayor proposed and it was agreed that agenda items 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 be dealt with following Item 4 – Minutes of the previous meeting.

330. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at this stage of the meeting.

331. Mayors Announcements

The Mayor advised Members of the engagements he had undertaken since the last Full Council meeting and reminded Members of their opportunity to nominate community-minded people for a Civic Award.

332. Minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr Tumbridge proposed a change to the wording on Page 196 of the minutes under Minute 229 – Public Questions, as follows:

In response to the second question Cllr Tumbridge advised on behalf of Cllr Hossack that the High Court had recently ~~made~~ *given* judgement against the claimants case. Therefore in light of the High Court decision it would not be ~~possible~~ *appropriate* for the Council to consider such a motion as set out in the question.

Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes as a true record, subject to the proposed amendment.

333. Brentwood Local Development Plan: Addendum of Focussed Changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)

Members were reminded that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) required local planning authorities to produce a Local Plan for their area. Brentwood Borough Council was producing a new Local Development Plan and had reached Publication stage (Regulation 19). To reach this stage consultation had taken place on a Pre-Submission Local Plan (February 2019) and an Addendum of Focussed Changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan (October 2019).

Consideration of representations received in response to the Pre-Submission Local Plan, specifically concerns regarding new homes proposed in Blackmore and Shenfield, resulted in further public consultation on focussed changes. Consultation on the Addendum of Focussed Changes concluded in November 2019. Responses to this consultation were summarised in Appendix A.

The Council had approved delegated authority for the Director of Strategic Planning, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, to finalise and submit the Pre-Submission Local Plan (and supporting documents) with non-material amendments if required. For the Addendum of Focussed Changes to be submitted alongside the Pre-Submission Local Plan, approval was required from the Council.

The next stage of the plan-making process was Submission of the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State (Regulation 22), to take place in January 2020.

Members were advised of some additional wording being added to paragraph 3 of the main published report which was included when the recommendations was moved.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Tumbridge **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report with the additional wording.

Cllr Keeble **MOVED** and Cllr Kendall **SECONDED** an **AMENDMENT** that sites R25 and R26 be removed from the Local Development Plan and placed at Dunton Hills Garden Village.

Cllr Hossack **DID NOT ACCEPT** the **AMENDMENT** and following a discussion a recorded vote was requested and taken. Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Aspinell, Barrett, Dr Barrett, Chilvers, Mrs Davies, Fryd, Haigh, Keeble, Kendall, Laplain, Lewis, Morrissey, Mynott and Naylor (14)

AGAINST: Cllrs Bridge, J. Cloke, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Kerslake, McCheyne, Nolan, Parker, Mrs Pearson, Poppy, Mrs Pound, Reed, Miss Sanders, Tanner, Mrs Tierney and Tumbridge (17)

ABSTAIN: Cllr Jakobsson (1)

The **AMENDMENT** was **LOST**.

Returning to the **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION**, following a discussion during which Cllr Tumbridge **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Hones **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** that 'The question be now put', a recorded vote was requested and taken and Members voted as follows:

FOR: Cllrs Bridge, J. Cloke, Hirst, Mrs Hones, Hossack, Jakobsson, Kerslake, McCheyne, Nolan, Parker, Mrs Pearson, Poppy, Mrs Pound, Reed, Miss Sanders, Tanner, Mrs Tierney and Tumbridge (18)

AGAINST: Cllrs Aspinell, Barrett, Dr Barrett, Chilvers, Mrs Davies, Fryd, Haigh, Keeble, Kendall, Laplain, Lewis, Morrissey, Mynott and Naylor (11)

ABSTAIN: Cllrs Barrett, Dr Barrett and Morrissey (3)

The **MOTION** was **CARRIED** and it was **RESOLVED**:

1. **To approve that Appendix B - the Addendum of Focussed Changes to the Pre-Submission Local Plan be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the Brentwood Local Plan Examination-in-Public process.**
2. **For clarification, in relation to item b. of the five proposed site allocations, the additional words 'and to require multiple access points to the combined sites R18 and R19' be added.**

Reasons for Recommendations

1. Approval to submit the Pre-Submission Local Plan was resolved by Extraordinary Council on 8 November 2018 (Item No. 181). This was approved subject to non-material amendments between Publication stage (Regulation 19) through to Submission (Regulation 22) and Examination, with delegated authority for the Director of Strategic Planning in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. Since then, the Council has also resolved to publish amendments to the Pre-Submission Local Plan through the Addendum of Focussed Changes document (Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee, 11 September 2019, Item No. 168).
2. The Addendum of Focussed Changes document was subject to public consultation in order that the amendments could be treated as part of the submitted plan by the Inspector, as specified in Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph 054, Reference ID 61-054-20190315, Revision Date 15/03/19). The recommendation would enable the Addendum to be submitted alongside the Pre-Submission Local Plan.

334. Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Leader agreed to review the arrangements of the Revenue and Benefits Partnership between Brentwood and Basildon Council following a decision at Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee and some Members concerns of the service area.

Following that review, it was recommended that Full Council approve a replacement to the current Local Council Tax Support scheme (LCTS) for 2020/21. This alternative scheme would introduce a newer, less complex

Council Tax Reduction scheme (CTR) for residents who were of working age in Brentwood.

More households would be positively affected by the implementation of the new scheme.

Public consultation on a replacement scheme was undertaken from 4 November 2019 to 15 December 2019. All Members were notified on 1 November 2019 with access to the consultation.

Members noted that if approved the scheme would be implemented for the financial year 2020/21 and it was a requirement for approval by full council by 31 January 2020.

Members received a presentation on the proposed Scheme by the Shared Services Revenues & Benefits Manager.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Hones **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report and following a discussion and vote by a show of hands it was **RESOLVED**

To approve the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2020/21, as set out as Option B of the report.

335. Draft Corporate Strategic Plan

This report before Members provided an update on progress of the Draft Corporate Strategy 2020 – 2025 and sought approval for it to be agreed and published from January 2020.

The Corporate Strategy would cover a five-year period, 2020 to 2025. The plan will be referred to as Brentwood's Corporate Strategy and set out the strategic direction for the Council over the 5 year period. It would replace the previous plan which ran from 2016 to the end of 2019.

The report also summarised achievements against the previous plan and the consultation that was undertaken to assist in informing the content of the Draft Corporate Strategy.

Cllr Hossack introduced the Draft Strategy and **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Hones **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Following a discussion and vote on a show of hands it was **RESOLVED:**

1. To agree the new corporate strategy 2020-2025 and delegate any minor changes to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, prior to final publication.

2. To agree to the development of work programmes by officers to deliver the Corporate Strategy 2020-2025, details of which will be reported back to appropriate future committees for decision

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The recommendations are based on the returns from the consultations, political group consultation and political priorities.
2. The Council is required to have a corporate strategy that is published.
3. The Council needs to be ever more efficient, develop a modern thinking and delivering council.
4. It is noted that further work is required to identify the programmes of work in which the strategy can be delivered.

336. Appointment of Statutory Officer

Members were reminded that at the Extraordinary Council on 18 September 2019 it was agreed to proceed with the recruitment for the role of Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer (Director of Law & Governance) in accordance with statutory requirements.

Following this the Council engaged the services of a specialised local authority employment company to undertake the recruitment of a Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer (Director of Law & Governance).

The recruitment process included the candidates undertaking technical interviews on 5 November 2019 with a specialised local authority employment company and another local authority Monitoring Officer.

The candidates were also interviewed by the Councils Staff Appointments Committee on the 19 November 2019. The Staff Appointments Committee consisted of Cllrs Aspinell, G Barrett, Mrs Hones, Fryd, Hossack, Naylor, Poppy and Tumbridge.

Following these interviews, the Staff Appointments Committee made the recommendation as set out in 2.1 of the report.

In addition, following the September meeting, the appointed Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, Paula Harvey, left the Council on 13 December 2019.

As the Monitoring Officer role was vacant, the Chief Executive appointed Steve Summers as the Council's Monitoring Officer on an interim arrangement with effect from the 12 December 2019.

Pending the arrival of the permanent Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer, it was recommended that Steve Summers should act in the statutory position of Monitoring Officer.

The new Senior Management structure was set out as Appendix A. It was noted that Chris Leslie was Managing Director of Seven Arches Investments.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Aspinell **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report and following a discussion it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that

1. Upon the recommendation of the Staff Appointments Committee, to approve the appointment of Amanda Julian as Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer with effect from 2 March 2020.

2. To confirm the appointment of Steve Summers as Interim Monitoring Officer with effect from the 12 December 2019 until the arrival of the permanent Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer as above.

Reasons for Recommendations

The Council is required by Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to designate one of its officers as its Monitoring Officer, to discharge statutory responsibilities relating to the Council's Constitution and arrangements for effective governance. The appointment must be approved by full Council following a recommendation by the Staff Appointments Committee.

337. Urgent Business - Council Tax Technical Changes 2020/21

The Mayor had accepted this report as Urgent Business as the proposed amendments to the Council's scheme would need to be implemented on 1 April 2020.

The report had been presented to Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee on 8 January 2020 and now required Full Council's approval.

Amendments were recommended to the scheme of Council Tax Discounts and Premiums with effect from 1 April 2020, using discretionary powers granted by the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018. The report outlined the changes and the potential impact on the tax base.

Members noted that exceptions would be operated to ensure that people with valid reasons for empty homes would not be punished.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Tumbridge **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report and following a discussion a vote was taken on a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

That, in exercise of powers granted to billing authorities in the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018, Full Council approves the following amendments to this Council's scheme of council tax premiums chargeable on empty dwellings:

- **100% where empty for more than two years, commencing 1 April 2020**
- **200% where empty for more than five years, commencing 1 April 2021**
- **300% where empty for more than ten years, commencing 1 April 2022**

338. Public Questions

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, a member of the public resident within the Borough may ask a maximum of two questions relating to the business of the Council providing notice has been received by 10.00am two working days before the relevant meeting.

Mrs Jan Gearon-Simm had submitted the following question:

A group of YouTube stars have raised more than \$6m (£4.7m) to plant trees around the world.

YouTubers have created the #Team Trees project.

All donations are sent directly to the ARBOUR DAY FOUNDATION, a US non profit organisation dedicated to planting trees, which they will plant around the world starting in January 2020 with the aim of completing the project within 3 years.

Will Brentwood Borough Council contact the ARBOUR DAY FOUNDATION, having first identified areas in Brentwood where trees can be planted?

Cllr Hossack responded as follows: Thank you, Jan, as always your questions are welcome and always well intended. The nub of your question is really whether we will contact the Arbour Day Foundation. To put in context, we are moving on with this, I don't need to contact the Arbour Day Foundation. I do wonder if there is any value in contacting them as it is a US non profit organisation, they might be interested in Brentwood Tennessee, not Brentwood, Essex; but I'll tell you what I'll do for you. If you write me the letter as a concerned resident, I will put a covering letter to it, stick in an envelope with a stamp on it, as I know you don't email. It would be much more efficient and environmentally friendly if you were to email and I would encourage you

to do so; remember we have a contract with residents to go green. If you send that to me, I will forward it on to the Arbour Day Foundation, but it doesn't deter from what we have already resolved to do; we have 5 country parks and we made a decision last week to plant out in Hutton as a starter, we have a very ambitious arboricultural assistant and I am quite confident that through him we will do some excellent tree planting work in the coming years. These are the sorts of things you will see suggested and covered in our Corporate Strategy. So I think we're on it, but to keep you happy, as you know I'm very fond of you Jan, you send me a letter and I will send it on to the Arbour Day Foundation, and we'll make a joint approach.

Mrs Patricia Smith had submitted two questions:

1. *What obligation is there upon Brentwood councillors, (and what mechanisms are in place to ensure), that Brentwood Council members respectfully and fully consider and properly answer a resident's questions; that residents can physically easily hear the verbal response in the Council chamber in it's entirety, from where they are obliged to sit (at the back, with councillors sitting at a distance and speaking in a direction away from them); and that members issue a proper (timely) response clearly in writing, and properly, thoroughly, investigate and follow up afterwards the concerns raised in residents' questions?*

Cllr Hossack responded as follows:

Thank you, Mrs Smith, and again thank you for your questions as I know you always show a keen interest in local democracy and you should be commended for that. I can advise that Members and the Council take residents' questions very seriously and any response is carefully considered and if there is a need to follow up, we will always do so and I personally will always do so accordingly. I can advise that in line with the Council's Constitution, a verbal response given at the meeting, as such as I am giving now, will be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting so there is always a written record of that. The other point you raised is good, but hopefully what you are seeing in this response is better, as we are face to face, and I agree with you, that me having been given an answer with my back to you is not ideal, this is much better and I am grateful for the layout of the new chamber, and the technology. The microphone being portable, is essential that Members put the microphone in front of them, one between two, so its properly recorded. There is always an audio recording and a written recording in the Minutes. Therefore, I am comfortable we are going about it in the right way.

2. *Regarding Brentwood Council's complaints system, and the associated Council responsibility for accountability, democracy, and for ensuring the vital independence of any necessary scrutiny of itself, in how it deals with complaints.*

What mechanisms are in place to ensure the objectivity, impartiality and fairness of the Brentwood Council Complaints process? Please explain how

the Council attempts to ensure that principles and standards of response to complaints are adhered to.

Cllr Hossack responded as follows:

I will now respond to the written question you put formally and which was received by the Council. The Council's formal complaints policy sets out how the Council deals with formal complaints and is in line with best practice. This includes two stages of officer responses, the second response by a senior officer and if required an independent final stage undertaken by the local government ombudsman. In addition, the Council's Audit & Scrutiny Committee review all of the Council's complaints via a cross-party working group and through the committee itself. Thank you for your question.

339. Memorials or Petitions

No notices of Memorials or Petitions had been received.

340. 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.

Any Member might ask a Chair a written or oral question on

- (a) any matter included in a Chair's written report; or
- (b) any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Council's area and which falls within the area of responsibility of the Chair's committee.

Two written questions were submitted by Cllr Chilvers, as follows:

1. *Last summer, during major building works in Shenfield, wheelchair users were forced to use the main road carriageway to travel as the footpath was completely blocked with no adequate access provided for them.*

Will the Chair of the Planning Committee confirm that Brentwood Borough Council policy will change by the start of the municipal year 2020/21 to ensure that this inequitable and dangerous situation cannot occur again?

Cllr McCheyne responded as follows:

The local planning authority has no authority over highway land or the ability to insist on how it's managed in this way. It is a matter for the Highway Authority and the developer.

2. *During 2019, it was agreed by the then Leader of the Council that all Brentwood Borough Council buildings would display a sign saying "Assistance*

Dogs Welcome” (as is the law) and any now redundant signage would be removed. Can the current Leader of the Council confirm this is now in place?

Cllr Hossack responded as follows:

I can confirm this has been completed.

Two written questions were submitted by Cllr S Cloke which Cllr Chilvers read out in Cllr Cloke’s absence, as follows:

1. *For over a decade, council meetings were webcast allowing Brentwood residents to watch live or to catch up later and making us a transparent council in this regard.*

In 2017 when the council moved out of the Town Hall temporarily, a motion was agreed - unanimously - that audio recordings would fill the void left due to difficulties arising from being nomadic. The promise was that visual recording would return.

It has not yet returned and initially this was said to be due to staff training requirements. More recently a casework enquiry has informed us that a decision on its return has yet to be made.

Please can the leader confirm when webcasting will return and that audio recording will continue until that time?

Cllr Hossack responded as follows:

The Motion passed was as below on the 19th July 2017.

‘On 31st May 2017, after over 15 years of making Brentwood Council open and transparent to its residents, webcasting ceased.

Although it is understood that the contract has ended and the intention is to start it up in the future, there are many important decisions to be made over the coming months.

These days, we do not have to rely on a webcasting company to host our meetings. Therefore, this council will work towards having an interim/cost effective solution in place to record its meetings as soon as possible.’

There is no commitment to return to video recordings. It’s very simple, and I go back to the Corporate Plan, and value for money. If I look at the figures for when we were video recording; figures were low and none. Do I agree in principal that webcasting is good for democracy? Yes it probably is and some people avail themselves on it. But the cost is somewhere between £14,000 and £20,000 per year and the beneficiaries, according to those statistics, some months none and other months low, then I have to consider value for money for the taxpayer. If we are going to invest in it then budget pressures

need to be considered and something might have to give in order to put that on. If I think £14,000 somewhere else could top up and benefit our community fund, help some local charities, help someone like MIND I would rather put the money into that than host an expensive service that benefits very few people. So the point I'm making is we need to do the maths and look at it. I am not saying "no". It should come to committee, do the maths, make a cost effective decision, if it's a lot of benefit to a lot of people, it has a strong case, if it isn't then it won't happen as I need to look at financial due diligence or this council.

Total April 2015 – April 2016

Live Viewers: 170

Archived Viewers: 297

NOTE: These figures relate to viewers only and do not include the number of persons making 'hits' on the site i.e. Webcast visitors.

2. *Since Brentwood's street lighting was switched off by Essex County Council, our residents have constantly been concerned that night crime has increased. Liberal Democrat councillors have raised the issue but the response has always been that there is no correlation.*

However, in the consultation response from Essex Police in the agenda for the Licensing sub-Committee on 14/11/2019 the following statement was made:

"Essex County Council have imposed part night lighting in Brentwood, which operates from midnight six days a week. Although it does currently not affect the high street, it could be a hazard to patrons leaving the area to seek public transport and trains nearby during the dark winter nights."

Does the chair of licensing (and indeed the chair for that sub-committee) agree that the concerns of our police force - that seem to concur with those of our residents- should be passed to the Police & Crime Commissioner and ECC to inform any future review and that she will ensure this is done?

Cllr Hossack responded as follows:

The reality is the statement is in relation to a County matter, we are not a highways authority which accounts for lighting. Cllr Hirst is a premier authority we have the benefit of addressing this committee in terms of the opinion of the police on it. It's a policy for Essex and I know based on statistics that there is no evidence of detriment to crime. This comment was made following a license application for Sugar Hut, and it says people exiting the club, should it be granted, would be in the High Street, where it is lit and where people are using public transport, and where other areas and transport hubs may be lit. Nevertheless, our position has not changed and we will not be petitioning councillors to do anything they have not already done.

341. Urgent Business - Snakes Hill Sewerage Plant Renewal

The Mayor had agreed to accept this item as Urgent Business to enable officers to seek approval from Full Council for the award of a contract to allow for contract negotiations, relevant work notices to be served and for work to commence by the end of March 2020.

This report was discussed in private session as it contained Exempt information.

Following issues with the Snakes Hill treatment plant and the subsequent installation of a nursery tank, a dedicated specialist project manager and project team was established in July 2019 in order to resolve this matter.

The project team was now in a position to award the contract with Members approval for works to be completed by the end of July 2020.

Cllr Parker **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Pound **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report and following a discussion a vote was taken on a show of hands and it was it was **RESOLVED**:

To approve the award of contract to the identified bidder as set out in this report at paragraph 20.

Reason for Recommendation

In line with procurement governance, we are seeking approval for award of contract to allow for contract negotiations, relevant work notices to be served and for work to commence by the end of March 2020.

342. Notices of Motion

Fourteen Notices of Motion had been submitted in accordance with Rule 3 in Part 4.1 of the Constitution - Council Procedure Rules and were listed in order of the date received.

1. Cllr Hossack had submitted the following Notice of Motion:

This council has in place a ban on the release of balloons and lanterns from Council owned land. Given the implications to the environment and wildlife, we would encourage private land owners and venues to do likewise.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Hirst **SECONDED** the motion, a vote was taken on a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

2. Cllr Poppy withdrew his motion.
3. Cllr Peter Jakobsson submitted the following Notice of Motion:
That Council endorses the work already being undertaken by Officers in setting up a Brentwood Dementia Action Alliance to make Brentwood Dementia Friendly. In addition to the Health and Wellbeing Board reporting to the Community and Health Committee annually, progress is also reported to full council on an annual basis.

Cllr Jakobsson **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Davies **SECONDED** the motion having proposed the wording be **AMENDED** to which Cllr Jakobsson **AGREED**.

A vote was taken on a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**:

That Council endorses the work already being undertaken by Officers in setting up a Brentwood Dementia Action Alliance to make Brentwood Dementia Friendly. In addition to the Health and Wellbeing Board reporting to the Community and Health committee at every meeting, progress is also reported to full council.

4. Cllr James Tumbridge had submitted the following Notice of Motion
That officers be instructed to make arrangements to aid members in the simplification of the updating of members interests.
- Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Hones **SECONDED** the motion which was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** accordingly.

5. Cllr Chilvers submitted the following Notice of Motion:
Brentwood residents are excellent recyclers and make a superb effort to recycle as much as they can.

However, a number of items are not easily recyclable and, no doubt, this weighs heavily on their consciences. One item type that isn't commonly recyclable is pet food packaging.

An average cat, fed on pet pouches, dry food and treats will fill the equivalent of a standard bath full of non-recyclable waste each year.

There are solutions available with companies such as Terracycle.

After conducting due diligence via feasibility studies and reporting to the appropriate committee, Brentwood Borough Council will seek to assist its residents by introducing a pet food packaging recycling service within the next twelve months.

Cllr Chilvers **MOVED** and Cllr Laplain **SECONDED** the motion.

Following a discussion Cllr Chilvers proposed that ‘*within the next twelve months*’ be removed from the motion and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

6. Cllr Aspinell submitted the following Notice of Motion:

This Council pledges to support the residents of Warley in committing the full weight of Brentwood's available resources, officer's time, legal/financial requirements with the objective of returning Five Acre Farm to its original green belt, green field condition and furthermore, this Council will not cease in that objective until this has been achieved.

Cllr Aspinell **MOVED** and Cllr Kendall **SECONDED** the motion, a vote was taken on a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

7. Cllr Laplain submitted the following Notice of Motion:

This Council resolves, in light of the appalling situation occurring at Five Acre Farm, Warley and the horrendous emotional and psychological effect of this unlawful settlement on the law abiding, tax paying local residents, to ensure that this catastrophic effect on our local communities is not suffered again throughout the Borough without adequate measures taken by this Council to inform the residents that a situation could occur and that the Council is taking all available measures to prevent it from doing so.

Cllr Laplain **MOVED** and Cllr Haigh **SECONDED** the motion. Following a discussion a vote was taken on a show of hands and the **MOTION** was **LOST**.

8. Cllr Kendall submitted the following Notice of Motion:

This Council resolves to write to our MP to ascertain from him what measures he has taken and the proposed timescales involved, to introduce legislation that would prevent what has happened in Brentwood at Stocks Lane, Ingatestone, Roman Triangle, Mountnessing, Blackmore and now Five Acre Farm, Warley.

Mr. Burghart, in front of a packed Chamber promised assembled local residents that the first thing he would do, if re-elected, would be to put pressure on the Government to change legislation which would enable the prevention and enforcement of illegal settlements taking place in the first instance.

Cllr Kendall **MOVED** and Cllr Mynott **SECONDED** the motion. A vote was taken on a show of hands and the **MOTION** was **LOST**.

9. Cllr Fryd withdrew his motion.
10. Cllr Laplain had submitted the following Notice of Motion but at the meeting requested it be referred onto the appropriate Committee for consideration.

This Council resolves to identify land within the borough that is either owned by the Council or purchased by the Council for the provision of temporary and emergency accommodation for our residents that are having to seek this type of accommodation and are finding themselves in various towns around the County. We find it disappointing that Chelmsford City Council have block-booked the local hotels or B&Bs for an indefinite period to house their homeless tenants, yet we have to send ours out of the borough.

This we believe, we should all agree is an unsatisfactory situation and we should be doing all we can to place our homeless within the borough.

11. Cllr Mynott submitted the following Notice of Motion:

The Committee on Climate Change states that the UK needs 50 million new trees per year to hit net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This equates to 32,000 hectares net woodland increase annually for the next 30 years.

Several councils have already undertaken to double the existing tree cover within their districts. If Brentwood is prepared to do its part, taking the size of Brentwood Borough as a percentage of the UK as whole, the Committee on Climate Change figures would equate to 600 hectares of new tree cover.

Without committing to specific targets at this stage, we therefore propose that Brentwood quickly move to develop a proper strategy for new tree planting - in part drawing on the strategies adopted by other authorities which have already taken up this challenge. This must result in proposals for Brentwood on a scale appropriate to the scale of the challenges facing us as a borough, a nation and a species. This strategy should not only address climate change. It should look at increasing protection to existing trees, increasing biodiversity, better enabling residents to connect with the natural environment, reducing levels of air pollution, and decreasing the existing flood risks.

Cllr Mynott **MOVED** and Cllr Aspinell **SECONDED** the motion, a vote was taken on a show of hands and the **MOTION** was **LOST**.

12. Cllr Mrs Pearson submitted the following Notice of Motion:

That this council investigates the opportunity to provide apprenticeship opportunities in retail management whereby the costs incurred are covered by the profit generated, thereby making it cost neutral to the council but of maximum benefit to those that pass through the scheme.

A business case proposal is to be brought back to the PRED cttee for member consideration.

Cllr Mrs Pearson **MOVED** and Cllr Mrs Tierney **SECONDED** the motion and a vote was taken on a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** accordingly.

13. Cllr Ms Sanders had submitted the following Notice of Motion:

That this Council seeks to review the use of Construction Management Agreements for the protection of the local community and local infrastructure during construction phase, for all planning applications approvals that require building works.

Cllr McCheyne **MOVED** and Cllr Cloke **SECONDED** the motion, a **vote** was taken on a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** accordingly.

14. Cllr Chilvers had submitted the following Notice of Motion but requested it be deferred to the 25 March 2020 Ordinary Council meeting.

Fireworks cause considerable distress to our pets, wildlife and livestock. In addition, they cause distress to the sick, vulnerable and those with mental health issues. There are also concerns over their environmental impact.

There are alternatives such as silent fireworks and drone light shows. With Brentwood residents contacting us regularly with their concerns and major supermarket chains halting their sale, it is surely time to review the use of traditional, outdated fireworks and look for a new way to celebrate in 2020.

Unfortunately, councils' powers are limited. Stopping their sale has no impact as people can buy elsewhere and restricting them by licensing powers covers barely any fireworks events as most are private. Licensing officers advised that major reform can only be made at parliamentary level. Therefore, Brentwood Council resolves to write to Alex Burghart MP to request that he formally engages with the RSPCA (the organisation campaigning to change fireworks legislation) and report back within six months.

The meeting ended at 10.40pm

