

# Minutes

---

## Ordinary Council Wednesday, 10th March, 2021

### Attendance

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

### Apologies

Cllr Hirst	Cllr Tumbridge
Cllr Morrissey	

### Officers Present

Greg Campbell	-	Corporate Director (Environment & Communities)
Philip Drane	-	Director of Planning and Economy
Amanda Julian	-	Corporate Director (Law and Governance) and Monitoring Officer
Claire Mayhew	-	Corporate and Democratic Services Manager
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.](#)

### **715. To appoint a Member to preside at the meeting if the Mayor nor the Deputy Mayor are present and able to preside**

A minute silence was observed by the Officers and Members for Richard Day an employee of Brentwood Borough Council for over 40 years, who passed away recently.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 4, 16.2, the Deputy Mayor - Cllr Miss Sanders - **MOVED**, Cllr Hossack **SECONDED** and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Reed should act as Vice-chair for the duration of the meeting.

### **716. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Tumbridge, Morrissey and Hirst.

### **717. Variation in the Order of the Agenda**

The Deputy Mayor informed members that Item 12 has been withdrawn and a report will be brought to a future meeting of the Council, therefore item 11 will not apply.

Following the last Ordinary Council meeting on the 20th January 2021, there has not been a full range of committee meetings for all of the executive committees.

It is determined that any questions for Chairs can be considered as part of Item No.8 – Corporate Strategy 2020-2025 Annual Review. There have been no written questions submitted by Members.

Motion 5 from Cllr Hossack has been withdrawn, this matter will be addressed under Item No 8, Chair's Questions

### **718. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made at this stage.

### **719. Mayors Announcements**

Since the last Mayors Announcements, in January the Deputy Mayor raised the flag here at the Town Hall for Holocaust Memorial Day. This was an important day to take time to remember those who lost their lives during the Second World War.

The Deputy Mayor had the opportunity to volunteer at the Vaccination Hub at the Brentwood Centre which has had such well deserved praise in how successful the vaccine roll out has been in Brentwood. 21,400 for vaccination have been administered since the 28th Feb. She thanked all the volunteers within the Borough

who are making a big difference to fight the battle with Coronavirus. This included all the residents and businesses who are taking the advice to stay safe and look forward to better times ahead.

Just this week, she raised the flag to celebrate Commonwealth Day where the theme this year is: 'Delivering A Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming'. On Commonwealth Day we come together to acknowledge publicly and collectively the continuing aspiration of the Commonwealth to build on common traditions and uphold our shared values of democracy, inclusive development and respect for diversity.

Lastly, the Deputy Mayor reminded everyone that the Civic Awards nominations are open until the end of April so please do nominate those people or organisations within the Borough who you believe have had a great impact in Brentwood.

## **720. Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council meeting held on 20 Jan 2021 & Extra Ordinary Council meeting held on 16th February 2021**

The minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and the Extra Ordinary Council on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were **APPROVED** as true record.

## **721. 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.

Four Public Questions had been received and these were put to and responded to by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Hossack, as follows:

Mr Gary MacDonnell submitted two questions as follows:

1. Following the recent case of Ella Kissi Debrah which found, for the first time, that air pollution was a cause of death, what plans does the Council have to deal with air pollution in the Borough? Are there any plans to start providing real time information on air quality in Brentwood?

Cllr Hossack responded as follows:

*Brentwood Council are already making strides to tackle environmental pollution and decarbonise the borough. The Council are working to ensure the environment that people work, reside in and travel through in Brentwood is as environmentally friendly as possible.*

*In order to achieve this the Council have begun to implement projects that decarbonise or reduce the carbon in our environment, these include:-*

- *the provision of a pilot scheme to introduce Electric Vehicle Charging points completed earlier this year.*

- *further the Council are presently going out to procurement for more Electric Vehicle Charging Points which will see a roll out programme in the next two years (2021/22) creating over 20 more Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Council owned car parks*
- *the Council are also working with Essex County Council to introduce on-street EV Charges in the future*
- *the Council are also working with Essex Forestry Commission and Thames Chase with our Arboriculturist to deliver tree planting on five different schemes. This will deliver over 20,000 high carbon capture tree species*
- *the Council are reviewing its vehicle fleet and developing a long term plan to manage these over to a decarbonised provision*
  - *The Council have already committed to decarbonising its fleet and are in the process of leasing two electric vehicles for use rather than the traditional petrol vehicles usually purchased.*
  - *These two new EV's will add to the two EV's the Council are presently utilising.*
- *the Council have also amended its procurement processes so that those projects or services that are more environmentally friendly, reduce the use of carbon output and or identify environmental improvements are considered more favourably*
- *the next phase of work will be the investment in an officer who will bring together an Environmental Plan that will identify decarbonisation and sustainability schemes and projects. We will set targets and enable the Council to monitor its success not just visually but in terms of CO2 reduction*

*With regards air quality I can confirm that at present with our partners in Essex we provide data to the Essex Air website which has an active air quality forecast for three days.*

*Currently in Brentwood we monitor over 30 sites continuously for air quality by diffusion tubes which are analysed monthly, at present there are no recent recorded exceedances of the air quality objectives in the Borough.*

2. There appears to be a major discrepancy in how Brentwood has done nothing to improve the surrounds of stations and welcome the arrival of Crossrail in the Borough when contrasted with the developments happening to stations in the west - particularly Maidenhead. Does the Council have any plans to make improvements and to try and use Crossrail as a driver for growth in ways that others have done?

Cllr Hossack responded as follows:

The comparison with Windsor and Maidenhead could not be drawn so simply as their public realm comes under their exclusive control as a unitary authority. Brentwood does not control public realm outside of the train stations and it is part of a two tier local government system

*The issue of public realm improvement outside stations welcoming the Elizabeth Line has been considered. The land outside Brentwood and Shenfield stations, where not controlled by Transport for London, is under the responsibility of Essex County Council as local highways authority. However, together Essex County Council and Brentwood Borough Council have looked at the need to improve the public realm and accessibility. Feasibility studies have been prepared with a range of options depending on the level of funding possible.*

*The key issue restraining progress is funding. The Council has included within its Infrastructure Delivery Plan the costs for public realm improvement at Brentwood and Shenfield stations according to the feasibility studies. This is to identify the funding gap and require relevant future development to contribute towards the improvements. In addition, contributions may be required from key partners.*

*There has been internal station improvement works at Brentwood and Shenfield stations to accommodate the new Elizabeth Line service. This of course differs outside of the borough according to the needs of individual stations, such as major works to stations west of London as part of the need to electrify the line - not something that was required east of London. However, we are disappointed by the lack of investment outside our stations by Transport for London and we will continue to work in partnership with Essex County Council to resolve this.*

*We have arranged for an update presentation from those delivering the Elizabeth Line to the Council at an upcoming public meeting. This will allow for information to be shared and questions answered on the wider project and issues specific to Brentwood Borough.*

*The Council's Corporate Strategy identifies an objective to capitalise on the economic opportunities that come with the opening of the Elizabeth Line. Of course, this includes more than improving the public realm, and so we are working to deliver new inward investment and support existing businesses so that they can grow. Infrastructure investment of this significance will result in long-term growth and this Council is committed to capitalising on that step by step.*

Mrs Pat Smith submitted two questions as follows:

1. What are the criteria for an internal council investigation or inquiry to be triggered please? How bad do things have to get in a council department in the way it treats vulnerable or disabled Brentwood residents trying to access a service before an inquiry is triggered?

Cllr Hossack responded as follows:

*We as a Council investigate all complaints in accordance with the complaints policy, once exhausted if not satisfied the complainant may go to the appropriate Ombudsman.*

2. Is it correct that some sheltered bungalow residents are being moved to flats, so their homes and gardens can be bulldozed for a new development?

(The residents are old, ill or disabled, very stressed by this & don't feel listened to. Some residents with lung conditions fear the pollution at the new location.)

Have the following been considered: Their legal rights regarding their bungalows; the risks of moving them; their current needs – have they been assessed by an Occupational Therapist?

Are the flats designated “sheltered housing”, and will this happen to other sheltered housing residents?

Cllr Hossack responded as follows:

*When the Council undertakes any regeneration or redevelopment work it always carries out all consultation that is required, and continues to work with those affected to ensure that they are informed and included throughout the process.*

*A comprehensive Statement of Community Involvement was published as part of the Council's planning application. All residents at Brookfield Close and Courage Court have been offered conversations individually since there are older and also vulnerable residents across all tenures, not just in sheltered homes.*

*One to one conversations have taken place to establish what residents' individual needs are. Some sheltered residents have indicated that, having seen the outline plans, that they would like to take up the offer of a new home at Courage Court this being the part of the regeneration set aside for sheltered residents.*

*Others have indicated that they would prefer to move to other sheltered homes within the Council's stock and some were already on the Council's waiting list for just such a move.*

*The Council is happy to facilitate either of these as part of its 'offer to residents' which will be published later in the year subject to the planning application being approved.*

## **722. Memorials or Petitions**

No notices of Memorials or Petitions have been received.

## **723. Corporate Strategy 2020-2025 Annual Review**

The report updated members on progress of the Corporate Strategy 2020–2025 and presents an annual review document for approval. The report summarises 2020/21 achievements and seeks the approval of the Corporate Strategy 2021/22 key objectives.

No written questions had been received from Members and the questions that were put to the Chairs at the meeting were responded to accordingly.

Cllr Hossack responded to a question put by Cllr Pearson and asked for the clerk to minute his response. He informed Members that Basildon have gone to press saying they would like to progress a project to form a unitary with Thurrock. He confirmed for absolute clarity, that Brentwood will not be entering in a unitary authority with Basildon and Thurrock now or at any point in the future.

Brentwood is bordered by 5 local authorities one of which is Havering, a London Borough. Chelmsford, Epping, Basildon and Thurrock are all neighbouring Essex based authorities and we will continue to have good working relationships with them.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Parker **SECONDED** that the recommendation within the report.

A vote was taken, it was **RESOLVED**.

- 1. To note the Corporate Strategy 2020/21 Annual Review and agree the Corporate Strategy 2021/22 objectives as set out in Appendix A attached.**

#### **Reason for Recommendation**

The Council is required to have and publish a Corporate Strategy.  
The Council requires sound strategic direction to deliver its objectives.

#### **724. Committee Chairs Reports and Members Questions**

This item was not required and was covered during the previous item, Corporate Strategy 2020-2025 Annual Review.

#### **725. Notice of Motion**

Five Notices of Motion had been received, as detailed in the report. Four motions were deferred from Ordinary Council on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Motion 5 was withdrawn by Cllr Hossack as this had been dealt with by way of a question.

Motion 1: Deferred from 20<sup>th</sup> January Ordinary Council meeting.

#### **Proposer Cllr Laplain**

#### **Seconder Cllr S Cloke**

*This council resolves to immediately suspend, pending removal at the next update, item 8.3.11(c) of the constitution allowing members to call for agenda items, motions and amendments to be immediately put to a vote, requiring a vote upon that motion, and then completion of the subsequent substantive vote. This*

*practice inhibits proper democratic debate whilst being counter productive and actually slowing proceedings.*

Following a debate this motion was withdrawn by the mover and will be brought to a future Constitution Working Group for discussion via the Lib Dem CWG representative.

Motion 2: Deferred from 20<sup>th</sup> January Ordinary Council meeting.

**Proposer Cllr Naylor**

**Seconder Cllr S Cloke**

*Brentwood Borough Council recognises that the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, although better than No-Deal, puts Brentwood's People and its Businesses at a disadvantage compared to the arrangements we had under the Transition Agreement, and with European Union membership immediately prior.*

Following a debate a vote was taken and the **MOTION** was **LOST**

Motion 3: Deferred from 20<sup>th</sup> January Ordinary Council meeting.

**Proposer Cllr Naylor**

**Seconder Cllr S Cloke**

*Brentwood Borough Council received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Central Government) two payments of approximately £53,000 of EU Exit funding, which is included in an earmarked reserve of the Council's accounts that totals £153,000. This council resolves to specifically apply the grant funding to address local issues arising from the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement by March 2021, and to bring a report to PRED for agreement of where these funds will be spent.*

Following a debate, a vote was taken and the **MOTION** was **LOST**

In accordance with the Constitution Paragraph 8.3.11 the Deputy Mayor proposed to extent to meeting for a further 15mins.

Motion 4: Deferred from 20<sup>th</sup> January Ordinary Council meeting.

**Proposer Cllr Aspinell**

**Seconder Cllr Mynott**

*The LGA's recent briefing on the Government's Provisional Finance Settlement states 'It is vital that the Government guarantees the financial challenge facing councils as a result of COVID-19 will be met in full, including funding for cost pressures and full compensation for lost income and local tax losses.'*



*This council resolves to send an official letter to Government requesting that Brentwood Borough Council receives full reimbursement for all costs over and above normal expenditure incurred due to the Covid crisis.*

Following a debate a vote was taken and the **MOTION** was **LOST**.

**726. Income Proposal - Exempt**

This item was not required at this time.

**727. Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

Cllr Sanders wished all the Members well in the upcoming Borough Elections and thanked the Members that are not re-standing for all the hard work they had undertaken for the Borough during their time in office.

The meeting ended at 22:40hrs

---