

Minutes

Ordinary Council Wednesday, 2nd November, 2022

Attendance

Cllr Mrs Francois (Mayor)	Cllr Jakobsson
Cllr Barrett (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr Kendall
Cllr Aspinell	Cllr Laplain
Cllr Barber	Cllr Lewis
Cllr Dr Barrett	Cllr McLaren
Cllr Bridge	Cllr Mrs Murphy
Cllr S Cloke	Cllr Mynott
Cllr M Cuthbert	Cllr Naylor
Cllr Mrs N Cuthbert	Cllr Parker
Cllr Mrs Davies	Cllr Mrs Pearson
Cllr Mrs Fulcher	Cllr Poppy
Cllr Fryd	Cllr Reed
Cllr Gelderbloem	Cllr Russell
Cllr Haigh	Cllr Slade
Cllr Heard	Cllr Tanner
Cllr Hirst	Cllr White
Cllr Mrs Hones	Cllr Wiles
Cllr Hossack	

Apologies

Cllr Sankey	Cllr Wagland
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Officers Present

Paul Adams	- Licensing Manager
Phoebe Barnes	- Corporate Manager - Finance
Zoey Foakes	- Governance & Member Support Officer
Julian Higson	- Interim Director of Housing
Marcus Hotten	- Assistant Director, Rochford District Council
Tracey Lilley	- Corporate Director (Housing & Community Safety)
Nichola Mann	- Corporate Manager - Human Resources
Claire Mayhew	- Corporate Manager (Democratic Services) and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Jonathan Stephenson	- Chief Executive
Steve Summers	- Strategic Director
Richard Wilson	- Commercial Consultant

LIVE BROADCAST

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

212. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sankey and Wagland.

213. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hossack declared that he was on the employees pay panel and declared this in relation to the Pay Award report.

214. Mayors Announcements

The Mayor spoke on the recent passing of Council employee Darren Laver, Chairman of Royal British Legion Brentwood Branch Syd Bryer, former Councillor Karen Chilvers, Council employee Amanda Julian, Mayor of Chelmsford Cllr John Galley and Her Majesty the Queen.

Members paid tribute to those passed to convey their condolence. A minutes silence took place in their memory.

215. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Ordinary Council meeting held on 27th July 2022 were **APPROVED** subject to the inclusion of Cllr Wiles as present 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=21ldFA-fcXc>

216. Public Questions

No public questions were received.

217. Memorials or Petitions

No memorials or petitions were received.

218. Vary the order of the agenda

The Mayor **MOVED** to vary the order of the agenda and was **SECONDED** by Cllr Hossack to take Item 7 of the agenda – Chairs reports and Members questions after Item 11 – Pay Award.

219. Baytree Shopping Centre Regeneration Proposal

The Baytree Shopping Centre is a 135,470 sq ft multi-let shopping centre with 36 tenancies producing £1,157,327 gross rental income p.a. and a guaranteed initial net operating income of £675,000 p.a. until February 2023. This asset was acquired in March 2021 for £10.8m plus acquisition costs. As part of this deal there was a net operating income guarantee of £675,000 for two years after which the net operating income will drop to £402,437.

Baytree is a strategic regeneration opportunity that would enable major re-shaping of Brentwood's town centre. This will include an enhanced mix of uses including, leisure, residential, food and retail combined with potential community uses which would create a relevant and vibrant future heart for the town.

By undertaking a proactive approach to re-generation within Brentwood the council is uniquely placed to prevent the further decline of in town services and help shape the future of the town centre.

The report set out proposals for the Council to re-develop the first phase of the Baytree Shopping Centre. The proposed redevelopment is to create a Cinema with leisure and additional retail units, residential units and new open air public space.

The total costs of the proposed re-development are forecast to be £23.340m (excluding financing costs) with a development time period of 18 months once the contractor has been appointed. This cost is split £21.898m on capital forecasts and £1.442m on revenue costs. The asset is currently leased to Seven Arches Investments Limited (SAIL) and as part of this arrangement have developed the regeneration plan. It is anticipated that Seven Arches Investments Limited will select the development partner during planning permission process and manage the redevelopment.

There are currently 36 tenants, generating a gross rental income of £1,157,327 per annum. This development would increase this to 30 tenants and a gross rental income of £1,780,000 per annum. Producing an additional £447,406 net revenue to the council per annum.

Officers and SAIL have completed an intensive feasibility study due diligence on the proposal and considered appropriate risk management implications. A detailed feasibility study on the development is set out in Appendix A of the report (exempt).

Cllr Mynott declared a non pecuniary interest due to his involvement with Brentwood Community Transport who are based at the Baytree Centre.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Russell **SECONDED** that the recommendations within the report.

Cllr Aspinell **MOVED** to **DEFER** this item and Cllr Lewis **SECONDED** the deferral. Cllr Hossack who had moved the original motion did not accept the motion to defer.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** an **AMENDMENT** and Cllr Poppy **SECONDED** for Recommendation 2 to read: *That delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader to take all the steps necessary, including entering into any legal agreements required to complete the development proposed at Baytree Shopping Centre, Brentwood.*

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr White with 5 councillors in agreement by show of hands.

Members voted on the amendment:

FOR: Cllrs Francois, Barrett, Barber, Dr Barrett, Bridge, Gelderbloem, Heard, Hirst, Hones, Hossack, Jakobsson, McLaren, Murphy, Parker, Pearson, Reed, Russell, Slade, Tanner, White and Wiles (22).

AGAINST: Cllr Naylor (1).

ABSTAIN: Cllrs Aspinell, Cloke, M Cuthbert, N Cuthbert, Davies, Fryd, Fulcher, Haigh, Kendall, Laplain, Lewis and Mynott (12).

The **AMENDMENT** was **CARRIED**.

Members then discussed the substantive recommendation.

During this time, Cllr Hossack requested a closure motion - 8.3.12 of the Constitution. A vote was taken by a show of hands and was **CARRIED**.

Members then voted on the substantive motion with the agreed amendment.

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr White with 5 councillors in agreement by show of hands.

Members voted on the amendment:

FOR: Cllrs Francois, Barrett, Barber, Dr Barrett, Bridge, Gelderbloem, Heard, Hirst, Hones, Hossack, Jakobsson, McLaren, Murphy, Parker, Pearson, Reed, Russell, Slade, Tanner, White and Wiles (22).

AGAINST: Cllr Naylor (1).

ABSTAIN: Cllrs Aspinell, Cloke, M Cuthbert, N Cuthbert, Davies, Fryd, Fulcher, Haigh, Kendall, Laplain, Lewis and Mynott (12).

The new motion taken by a recorded vote was **RESOLVED**.

R1. That a total capital budget of £21.898m is approved for the intended redevelopment at The Baytree Shopping Centre as set out in the report.

That this budget is profiled within the Council's Capital and Investment Strategy as follows: 2022/23 £987,730 2023/24 £12,451,880 2024/25 £8,484,483

R2. That delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader to take all steps necessary, including entering into any legal agreements required, to complete the development proposed at Baytree Shopping Centre, Brentwood.

Reasons for Recommendation

The proposed phase 1 redevelopment of the Baytree Shopping Centre would allow the Council to invest in a significant town centre asset and enabling the redevelopment and regeneration of the site and providing much improved public realm, social space and street scape for the residents of Brentwood as well as a financial income to the council.

This phase 1 redevelopment will also produce new employment opportunities for the residents of Brentwood, it will help produce an evening economy based around Everyman Cinema and leisure uses which are incorporated into this redevelopment. This will provide significantly improved town centre amenities and the attractiveness of the town for further investment.

220. Childerditch Industrial Estate Development Proposal

The report set out proposals for the Council to develop 6.66 acres of development land for open storage employment land at Childerditch Industrial Park, Brentwood, CM13 3HD.

Childerditch Industrial Park is a 42.75 acres mixed use industrial park strategically located adjacent to the A127 dual carriageway (within the South Brentwood Growth Corridor), which links to Junction 29 of the M25, less than two miles west of the property. This makes it within close proximity to the planned Lower Thames Crossing route, providing for wider links in future and solidifying the site as a successful industrial location.

The property provides industrial and warehouse accommodation totalling 173,386 sq ft, in addition to extensive areas of secure open storage, totalling 16.6 acres. This represents a very low 'site density' of 12.5% (built area). The total net lettable area is 24.25 acres, plus a 'development site' of 4.66 acres (subject to Planning), which is being extended to 6.6 acres to facilitate the relocation of the Warley Depot. The whole site was acquired in February 2021 for £59m (apportioned £54.5m for the 'income' and £4.5m for the development land of 4.66 acres in size).

The proposed development is to clear of shrubs and weeds the 4.6 acres site known as the development site together with the additional 2 acres of land to the southwest of the site let to Essex County Council and to create 3 market standard open storage yards, two (sites A1 and A2) of which will be let on the

open market and yard B will be reserved to house the Councils depot at nil rent.

The total costs of the development are forecast to be £6.103 m split between a capital forecast of £5.460m and revenue forecast of £643k with a projected peak cash flow of £3,000,000 with a development time period of 24 weeks once the contractor has been appointed. It is anticipated that Seven Arches Investments Limited will select the development partner during planning permission process in consultation with Council Officers. There are currently 25 tenants, generating a gross rental income of £2,804,882 per annum. This development would increase this to 27 tenants and a gross rental income of £3,363,632 per annum. Producing an additional £180k net revenue to the council per annum.

This additional open market open storage space is projected to increase the in Borough employment opportunities within Class E (formally B1), B2 and B8 employment uses and storage yards and increase the number employed at the park from approximately 700-800 people by approximately 50 people.

Officers and SAIL have completed an intensive feasibility study due diligence on the proposal and considered appropriate risk management implications. A detailed feasibility study on the development is set out in Appendix A of the report.

Cllr Naylor **MOVED** that discussion be taken in private session to discuss the exempt appendix and was **SECONDED** by Cllr Laplain. This session of the meeting, the press and public was excluded.

Following the discussion, Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Bridge **SECONDED** to move back into private session in order to discuss the vote and recommendation of the report in the public domain.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Poppy **SECONDED** that the recommendations within the report with an amendment to R2 read: That delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader to take all steps necessary, including entering into any legal agreements required, to complete the development proposed at Childerditch Industrial Estate, Brentwood.

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Hossack with 5 councillors in agreement by show of hands.

Members voted on the motion:

FOR: Cllrs Francois, Barrett, Aspinell, Barber, Dr Barrett, Bridge, Cloke, M Cuthert, N Cuthbert, Davies, Fryd, Fulcher, Gelderbloem, Haigh, Heard, Hirst, Hones, Hossack, Jakobsson, Kendall, Laplain, Lewis, McLaren, Murphy, Mynott, Naylor, Parker, Pearson, Reed, Russell, Slade, Tanner, White and Wiles (35).

AGAINST: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

The vote was taken by a recorded vote was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

R1. That a total capital budget of £5.460m is approved for the intended development at Childerditch Industrial Estate as set out in the report. That this budget is profiled with the Council's Capital and Investment Strategy as follows: 2022/23 £938,967 2023/24 £4,521,326

R2. That delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Leader to take all steps necessary, including entering into any legal agreements required, to complete the development proposed at Childerditch Industrial Estate, Brentwood.

Reasons for Recommendation

The development of the site will produce an increase net revenue to the council, increase the employment opportunities within the borough and enable the relocation of Warley Depot to a sensible location facilitating the redevelopment of the Warley depot for good quality housing. Furthermore, by undertaking the redevelopment of the Warley depot site it would enable the wide redevelopment master plan to proceed at pace. The Industrial Park provides for a diverse range of national and local tenants, employing 700-800 persons. The proposed development seeks to expand this providing more employment opportunities. 76. The development at Childerditch Industrial Park will provide an increased net contribution to the Councils budget of £180k p.a. enabling the council to provide services to the Borough's residents but also assist in balancing the Councils budget.

221. Licensing and Night-time Economy

Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIAs) were introduced as a tool for licensing authorities to limit the growth of licensed premises in an area.

Cumulative impact occurs when the saturation of licensed premises (on-license alone, off-license alone or both combined) in an area is identified as causing a concern about one or more of the licensing objectives, which is then supported by an evidence base which proves that a policy is required to more effectively manage and control the supply and consumption of alcohol in that area.

The report considered the process that would need to be followed to determine if there is sufficient evidence to support the introduction of a CIA under the Licensing Act 2003.

Cllr Hirst requested that the results should be publicised for the public when it is complete.

Cllr White requested that the findings are circulated to all Members.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Poppy **SECONDED** that the recommendations within the report. A vote was taken by a show of hands and was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Members are asked to:

R1. Agree for officers to work with partners including Essex Police, and the Community Safety Partnership to undertake a review of the Nighttime Economy and to consider evidence available to support a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA).

R2. To report findings to a future Licensing Committee for further consideration.

Reasons for Recommendation

To consider the evidence available and establish whether it is sufficient enough to support the introduction of a CIA in Brentwood Town Centre.

222. Pay Award

This report explains the national position on the local government pay offer for 2022/23 and the implications and risks if the Council was to continue with the budgeted 2% pay award within the 2022/23 budget.

Cllr Barrett a member of Unite and Cllr Dr Barrett a member of Unison abstained from the vote.

Cllr Hossack **MOVED** and Cllr Poppy **SECONDED** that the recommendations within the report. A vote was taken by a show of hands and was **RESOLVED**.

Members are asked to:

R1. Approve the proposed National Joint Council (NJC) pay offer for 2022/23, as set out in paragraph 9 of this report, is adopted for Brentwood employees, subject to the final negotiations.

R2. Approve the proposed Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) pay offer for 2022/23, as set out in paragraph 12 of this report, is adopted for Brentwood employees, subject to the final negotiations.

R3. Delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service to amend Brentwood's Pay Policy statement to reflect the revised pay scales for 2022/23.

Reasons for Recommendation

To ensure Brentwood's pay scales create parity and across Local government sector, neighbouring authorities and meet statutory National Living Wage requirements.

223. Committee Chairs Reports and Members Questions

Members can ask up to two questions to two different Chairs.

Any Member may ask a Chair a written or oral question on 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.

The period allowed for written and oral questions and answers will not exceed 60 minutes without leave of the Mayor.

Cllr Davies put a question to the Chair of Housing.

Thank you Councillor White for organising a review of some of the policies cross party which is very much appreciated. On the agenda in your report on

page 20 you are talking about the kitchen and bathroom Capital replacement program and there's a high level of satisfaction from tenants. Those that I have seen when I've been in the properties, I have to say the work does look very good however I am getting concerns and I'm wondering am I alone because I'm getting quite a few reports on the poor standard of Repairs Service from Axis. Their response time is probably the biggest problem. Tenants are getting left for quite a long period of time which is unacceptable. When I have reported them back to officers they are immediately reactive and try and get things put in place but I just wondered if maybe we could have a look just from the point of view of the emergency repairs ongoing.

Cllr White, Chair of Housing responded:

Thank you Councillor Davies. First of all, if I could echo my thanks to those members that turned up for our cross party review of the policies. I think it's helpful so that that we've been able to discuss and give officers some effectively informal feedback so they can help review the housing policies before they actually arrive at committee and that was very much something that I picked up from the July meeting. It was a chance to provide input and we could all unanimously agree many of the policies that were coming forward. I hope that's the case going forward in respect of looking at the responses to emergency call outs. I'll stand corrected if I'm wrong but I believe that those are included in some of the KPIs that we have with Axis in the contract and we would expect them to be reported at the Committee - I can certainly ask that at the next committee we can have a look at those in particular but the data should be data that's being captured.

Councillor Mynott put a question to the Chair of Policy, Resources and Economic Development.

In relation to the draft parking strategy at the PRED Committee, I was able to demonstrate and I quoted a specific paragraph in the local plan the fact that the draft parking strategy was directly contradicting what was being said in the

local plan. My question is where the draft parking strategy is contradicting the local plan, which takes precedence the draft parking strategy or the local plan?

Councillor Hossack, Chair of Policy, Resources and Economic Development responded:

I don't agree that it does contradict but in the event that it did, the parking strategy would be an informative for the local planning any decisions that were made but if that was the case that's how I see the purpose of the parking strategy. As I say, as an informative to the planning decisions and the plan itself.

Councillor Mynott asked a question to Cllr Tanner, the Chair of Planning & Licensing:

On page seven of the agenda, the minutes of the previous meeting, I asked a question to the previous Chair of Planning in relation to the danger of properties overheating and I got an answer which is which is printed on page seven, and I then asked a follow-up question and I was told I'd get an answer now. This is not intended as a criticism of the previous Chair of Planning who was exemplary, I didn't see an answer come in and I searched for likely subject headings and I couldn't find one I then did a bit of research and as far as I can see the UK Government guidance page from the Department for Leveling Up Housing and Communities says that approved Document O which is what's being referred to on page seven in the answer that I got does not apply to buildings undergoing a change of use. The question the original question had to do with comments made by Mike Davis of UCL in terms of the (his words) "potentially deadly risk of office to residential conversions" and so my question to the Chair of Planning is would he agree that something needs to be done about permitted development conversions of office to residential given that somebody who is a committed for climate change member is concerned about the potentially deadly risk and apparently approved Document O does not cover those conversions.

Councillor Tanner, Chair of Planning responded:

I don't have any more detail on what is written in front of me so I will take it away and get some more detail back to Councillor Mynott. I think that sort of question is a classic question that should be written in advance so that more detail can be provided up on this on the day.

Councillor Laplain put a question to Cllr White, Chair of Housing:

I am in contact with several residents of The Gables in Warley. They have recently been through a lot of installation of doors and a lot of maintenance activity during which time some of that maintenance has been done in a very insensitive manner in terms of the environment with dust as such throughout the corridors in a very tight corridors for people who are quite vulnerable. Additionally the contractors have left doors open etc - it strikes me as a not a very sympathetic method of maintenance. I know this probably should have

been a written question I only just recently received an update. Could I have a response to that in terms of how we are supposed to know what kind of policy we have in terms of this.

Cllr White, Chair of Housing responded:

As an operational and Ward matter then I think it probably falls outside of the scope of questions to be answered here and I'd ask that you if you could drop an email to the Director of Housing and copy me in. I'd certainly be interested in following up on the details that you get in response. It is more of a case of the policy in terms of how contractors function.

Cllr Laplain put a question to Cllr Russell, Chair of Community, Environment & Enforcement:

I see that you've added a section on trees within your report, thank you. However it isn't quite extensive - it's not the question I've asked both at last

committee and at previous meetings. I think it's very important that we capture the impact of all of those elements. I know we've lost some trees during the summer but I'd like to see that documented far more inclusively.

Cllr Russell, Chair of Community, Environment & Enforcement responded:

I spoke to Cllr Laplain a couple of weeks ago, I have the data now, unfortunately with the timing of the planting, evaluations took place in September - that's the only way so you can understand that the loss is not definitive so overall planting loss in the borough has been in about the 76% figures which are in line with those of oak land field planting for the whole of the County as ascertained by the Essex Forest initiative partners but where Essex is the driest in Britain with rainfall average of 60 of the western side of the country in the last three years, Brentwood has shown itself to be at the lead in local Authority Agriculture and Forestry with an Essex exploring different establishment methods and so that's in the report is detailed in mulching etc with different ways of planting. I do intend to bring a report to the December committee which will help show and demonstrate with a table with the various failings in different areas of planting so we can analyse and get down to the detail of the loss in certain areas.

Cllr Kendall put a question to Cllr White, the Chair of Housing:

Under Fire risk assessment Capital program, it mentions about Drake House and Chichester House and the sprinkler system installations. Do you have any information tonight to the Ward Members and Members of the Housing Committee an update as to the projected installation dates will happen.

Cllr White, Chair of Housing responded:

I don't have that data in front of me and I am happy to answer that and for information to be passed to Ward Members of an update.

Councillor Fulcher put a question to Cllr Heard, Chair of Audit & Scrutiny:

This is a point of clarification and also a question to the Chair of Audit & Scrutiny. In relation to the formal complaints and performance indicator working group and the point of clarification is the report wasn't available at the time of committee to the committee members, could it be amended in the report. My further question is there's no mention of the Brentwood Leisure Trust working group and the work that they've done. I feel and I certainly hope is pertinent we've got the impending conclusion of the working group.

Councillor Heard, Chair of Audit & Scrutiny responded:

I couldn't actually capture a lot of the question but um I'm obviously new to the role but if you would like to have a discussion afterwards I'm more than happy to get all that information to you through officers.

Councillor Naylor put a question to Cllr Russell, Chair of Community, Environment & Enforcement:

At the last CEE Meeting, I asked a question under the King George's Playing Fields new development specifically about the play equipment and the zip wire and what was causing the delays from Poland and Croatia and I've not had a response from the officers or the Chair, I would have liked it to have been included in this report.

Cllr Russell, Chair of Community, Environment & Enforcement responded:

The zip wire carriages you are referring to are on order they should be with us soon. They should be with the manufacturer now so they are going back to their supplier to find out where they are.

Councillor Aspinell put a question to Cllr Hossack, Leader of the Council:

Several years ago with a previous Leader we had a presentation here from a Conservative Councillor from a Norfolk Council that was Conservative and he was of a mind that they needed an Overview and Scrutiny or a Scrutiny Committee and the Leader of the time said there was no need because they were all conservatives and they all needed to agree to what they were doing so it took him a while but they did get a Scrutiny Committee and it was difficult for the Chair of that committee being of the same party as the administration to actually hold the administration up to account but they managed to successfully do that at the time. Here we had members of the opposition as Chair of Scrutiny but for one reason or another the administration decided that they would take the Chair which is in your right to do so but it takes a certain type of person to be able to hold the administration to account - so would you agree with me the Planning Committee's loss is Overview and Scrutiny's gain?

Cllr Hossack, Leader of the Council responded:

Not wishing to comment or embarrass or cause anyone to blush, what I do is try and structure committees so we get the best possible people applying their skills and expertise and style of doing things to the right committee that suits. I am quite confident that all of the Committees that we've got on this side and members on the other side you do the same thing you'll appoint people with the best skills into the relevant committees. I think we all gain, I think we've got the right people in the right places and wouldn't wish to comment further on who that might be but I'm quite comfortable with all of my committees and the way I've appointed them and who serves them. I think we've got a good set of people.

Councillor Aspinell put a question to Cllr White, Chair of Housing:

Would it be helpful if we had a review of the Axis performance brought to the committee at some stage. Pilgrims Hatch have an overwhelming example of bad practice of bad workmanship. I don't know whether that is from Axis employees themselves or from subcontractors that they may employ but it is getting worse and some of them are very serious incidences.

Cllr White, Chair of Housing responded:

We do review the contracts, I wasn't on the committee last year I remember being present when there was a review taking place. I think it ties in with Councillor Davies' request earlier that she had an update in terms of response rates. If we're putting something on the agenda for the Housing Committee in the near future I think Housing Committee Members are always welcome to request an update on the performance of Axis or anybody else that we're using and so we can look to give the Committee an update.

224. Notice of Motion

The Mayor, in line with the Constitution 8.3.11 (g), explained that the motions had to be moved or deferred without debate.

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

Motion 1 – Received on 13th October 2022 @ 18:07

Mover: Cllr Cloke

Seconder: Cllr Laplain

Members call for the Borough Council to produce a comprehensive Cost of Living Crisis leaflet to be distributed to every home in Brentwood, signposting what support is available to Brentwood residents from the Council and various organisations offering help and advice.

Cllr Cloke and Cllr Laplain DEFERRED this motion.

Motion 2 – Received on 13th October 2022 @ 18:07

Mover: Cllr Naylor

Seconder: Cllr Kendall

The members of Brentwood Borough Council, call upon the Government to uprate Universal Credit and Social Security schemes, in line with inflation. This Council will write to the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions "Chloe Smith MP" and the Parliamentary Under- Secretary of State for Welfare Delivery "David Rutley MP , the Prime Minister Liz Truss and the Chancellor of the Exchequer "Jeremy Hunt". With a call from the elected representatives of Brentwood Borough Council to uplift Universal Credit and Social Security schemes, in line with the consumer price index (CPI) rate of inflation.

Without debate, a vote on the motion was taken by a show of hands and the motion was **LOST**.

Motion 3 – Received on 13th October 2022 @ 18:07

Mover: Cllr Kendall

Seconder: Cllr N Cuthbert

The Liberal Democrat Group calls upon the Council Officers in the Economic Development Department to organise a Brentwood Job Fair event in 2023 to support local businesses and help local residents find work within the Borough. This could be a standalone event or one held alongside the Business Showcase.

Cllr Kendall and Cllr N Cutbert **DEFERRED** this motion.

Motion 4 – Received on 13th October 2022 @ 18:07

Mover: Cllr Mynott

Seconder: Cllr Aspinell

The Borough Council will hold a public meeting at a suitable venue to present its Cost of Living Action Plan to local residents and will have officers and representatives from support agencies on hand to answer residents questions and listen to their concerns.

Cllr Mynott and Cllr Aspinell **DEFERRED** this motion.

Motion 5 – Received on 14th October 2022 @ 14:43

Mover: Cllr Aspinell

Seconder: Cllr Haigh

This Council resolves to investigate all avenues of available funding in order to supply and fix solar panels to our council properties, with a view to lowering energy costs borne by the Council and those Council tenants that would benefit from such an installation programme. Additionally, the Council will investigate the installation of batteries for the storage of solar panel energy to enable continual electrical use. The Liberal Democrat Group believe such a programme would make a positive contribution in addressing spiralling energy costs during this current cost of living crisis, but in future years as well.

Cllr Aspinell and Cllr Haugh **DEFERRED** this motion.

Motion 6 – Received on 14th October 2022 @ 14:43

Mover: Cllr Aspinell

Seconder: Cllr Cloke

This Council resolves to investigate the possibility of twinning with a town of comparable size in Ukraine. The aim would be to undertake cultural and economic exchanges, explore business opportunities and demonstrate a general desire to help the people of that district/town to rebuild structurally and economically for their future.

Cllr Aspinell and Cllr Cloke **DEFERRED** this motion.

Motion 7 – Received on 14th October 2022 @ 15:39

Mover: Cllr Hossack

Seconder: Cllr Poppy

This council recognises the growing importance of social prescribing and asks officers to see how we can as a council develop this further with our partners and 3rd sector organisations.

Without debate, a vote on the motion was taken by a show of hands and the motion was **CARRIED**.

Motion 8 – Received on 14th October 2022 @ 15:53

Mover: Cllr Lewis

Seconder: Cllr Kendall

Members call upon the officers to undertake a review on the opportunities that exist to recycle more of Brentwood resident's useful household materials that currently go to scrap. These materials would include furniture, warm clothes, cooking utensils etc and possibly heaters. All items that local people facing financial hardship might appreciate. This review would also consider what extra financial and material support might be given to community organisations like the Lighthouse Furniture project, Moses Basket and others to perhaps expand and develop the services they currently offer. Officers would also review the legal, financial and health and safety implications of any changes that would involve the Borough Council.

Cllr Lewis and Cllr Kendall **DEFERRED** this motion.

Motion 9 – Received on 16th October 2022 @ 23:10

Mover: Cllr Naylor

Seconder: Cllr Laplain

Brentwood Borough Council urges the Government to go further on the £100 off-grid fuel support, and to urgently step-up investment, and subsidy, to alternatives to off-grid fossil-fuel dependency. Brentwood Borough Council will

write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to urge the UK government to offer stronger support to Brentwood residents who are not connected to the mains gas grid. To demand urgent action for Brentwood households, and businesses, including an uplift to the payment to bring it in line with the support that has been put in place for on-grid customers. To urgently step-up investment, promotion, reducing required skills gap, and subsidy, for alternatives to off-grid fossil-fuel dependency. For example, air-source heat pumps, and insulation. And to write to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ensure new standards for housing and commercial developments built in areas that are offgrid, are built to a sustainable standard that ensures no dependency on off-grid fossilfuel energy.

Cllr Naylor and Cllr Laplain **DEFERRED** this motion.

The meeting closed at 10.23pm.

225. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.