



## **Minutes**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021 VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE. THIS MEETING WAS WEBCAST LIVE AND AVAILABLE TO VIEW VIA THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL WEBSITE, COMMENCING AT 4.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 5.50 PM**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

J Adey, S Adoh, Z Ahmed, D Anthony, M Appleyard, M Asif, A Bacon, R Bagge, D Barnes, P Bastiman, M Bateman, A Baughan, M Bezzant, P Birchley, J Bloom, A Bond, S Bowles, J Brandis, C Branston, D Bray, S Broadbent, N Brown, J Burton, T Butcher, D Carroll, B Chapple OBE, S Chapple, S Chhokar, J Chilver, A Christensen, C Clare, L Clarke OBE, M Clarke, A Cole, A Collingwood, A Cranmer, I Darby, D Dhillon, T Egleton, C Etholen, B Everitt, R Farmer, P Fealey, M Flys, B Foster, A Garth, B Gibbs, J Gladwin, N Glover, S Graham, T Green, P Griffin, G Hall, B Harding, M Harker OBE, G Harris, M Harris, M Harrold, M Hashmi, D Hayday, L Hazell, A Hill, P Hogan, G Hollis, P Hudson, T Hunter-Watts, A Hussain, M Hussain, M Hussain, M Hussain JP, A Huxley, P Irwin, C Jackson, S Jenkins, D Johncock, C Jones, P Jones, R Jones, J Jordan, P Kelly, R Khan, R King, M Knight, D Knights, S Lambert, J Langley, D Lyons, J MacBean, A Macpherson, W Mallen, N Marshall, D Martin, P Martin, V Martin, Dr W Matthews, H McCarthy, I McEnnis, T Mills, L Monger, G Moore, H Mordue, S Morgan, N Naylor, R Newcombe, C Oliver, S Patel, C Paternoster, B Pearce, G Peart, D Pepler, D Phillips, C Poll, G Powell, R Raja, S Raja, M Rand, S Raven, R Reed, S Renshell, B Roberts, C Rouse, J Rush, B Russel, S Saddique, G Sandy, R Sangster, R Scott, D Shakespeare OBE, M Shaw, N Shepherd, D Smith, L Smith BEM, M Smith, M Smith, N Southworth, B Stanier Bt, M Stannard, P Strachan, R Stuchbury, J Teesdale, N Teesdale, M Tett, M Titterington, D Town, A Turner, P Turner, N Varley, A Waite, H Wallace, L Walsh, J Ward, J Wassell, J Waters, D Watson, W Whyte, A Wight, G Williams, F Wilson, R Wilson, M Winn, K Wood and L Wood

### **1 EULOGIES**

Prior to commencement of official business the Members of Full Council remembered the lives of several prominent national and local figures.

**HRH, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh** – The Chairman spoke about his sadness over the passing of the Duke and highlighted his great achievements and his dedication and service to the Queen and country and to public life in general. Members then observed a two minute silence in memory of the life of the Duke of Edinburgh.

**The Right Honourable Dame Cheryl Gillan** – The Chairman also paid tribute to the life of the longest serving Conservative female MP. Dame Gillan had served as MP for Chesham and Amersham since 1992. Her contribution to her residents and to Buckinghamshire as a whole had

been immense.

Councillor M Tett, the Leader of the Council, then proceeded to speak on her remarkable life and great achievements at both national and local level and provided details regarding her background, education and outstanding political career.

Councillors R Jones (on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group) and R Raja (on behalf of the Labour Group) also added their tributes and echoed the Leader's sentiments.

**Pam Pearce** – Councillor C Paternoster paid tribute to Pam Pearce who had served as an AVDC Councillor between 1983-1990 and 1997-2015, representing the Newton Longville Ward. She had served on numerous Committees over the years along with representation on outside bodies and also as the Cabinet Member for Communities up until 2015. Cllr Pearce had been very active in the local community and had made an enormous contribution over a 25 year period.

**Abdul Khaliq** – Councillor B Chapple paid tribute to Abdul Khaliq who had served as an AVDC Councillor in 2003-2007 for the Aylesbury Elmhurst ward. Cllr Khaliq had been a popular and hardworking individual who made a great difference to the communities that he served. He would be sorely missed by all that knew him.

Members then observed a further 1 minute's silence in remembrance of the Right Honourable Dame Cheryl Gillan, Pam Pearce and Abdul Khaliq.

## **2 ONE MINUTE CLAP**

The Chairman of the Council reported that one of the recommendations of a recent inquiry undertaken by the Communities and Localism Select Committee had been to hold a one minute clap to recognise the work of our local heroes and volunteers during the Covid pandemic.

The one minute clap by Members of the Council then duly took place.

## **3 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: K Ahmed, E Culverhouse, R Gaffney, N Rose, C Ford, J Lowen-Cooper, C Harriss, M Collins and N Hussain. Honorary Alderman: Ross

## **4 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 February 2021 be approved as a true record.

## **5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received

## **6 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

Members were updated on the recent activity of the Chairman since the last meeting of the Council.

**Declaration Ceremony** – The Chairman had virtually attended the declaration ceremony of Mr George Anson, the newly sworn in High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire. In addition he had also

virtually attended two presentations of the High Sheriff's Awards given to Thames Valley Police and to the community sectors of Bucks.

**Church Service** – The Chairman reported that he had physically attended two moving services in recognition of the life and service of the HRH, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, which had taken place at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford and in the Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council Gateway offices, Aylesbury.

**Tolis Vouyioukas (Corporate Director for Children's Services)** – The Chairman announced the forthcoming departure of the current Corporate Director and expressed his thanks and appreciation on behalf of the whole Council for all his hard work and to his contribution to Children's Services.

**Chairman's Thanks** – Members attention was drawn to the list of current Councillors who would not be seeking re- election next month. He took the opportunity to convey his heartfelt thanks for the many years of service and for the unexpected additional year in office in order to support the new Council during its first year of inception.

## **7 PETITIONS**

No petitions were received

## **8 CONSTITUTION REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS**

A report was introduced and considered which stated that on 27 February 2020 Buckinghamshire Council Shadow Authority had adopted the Buckinghamshire Council Constitution to take effect from 1 April 2020. It had also resolved that the Constitution would be reviewed in April 2021 to ensure the Council's operation as a new Authority was properly supported and governed by the Constitution.

Following feedback from the appropriate Committees and officers a total of 33 proposals had been put forward for approval, these were detailed in (Appendix A) to the report. Members were requested to adopt the proposals in order to allow for better and more transparent decision making to take place. A further Appendix B on the Councillor Code of Conduct had not been included with the agenda papers and would be submitted separately to full Council following the May 2021 local elections.

A number of questions and comments were put forward which welcomed the stronger role to be assumed by Parish and Town Councils brought about by the proposed changes to call in rules for planning applications. Further comments of support were received with regard to adding greater clarity on the procedure to be followed in circumstances where the conclusion reached by the Planning officers and the Committee differed.

**RESOLVED:** That,

- (i) The proposals for changes to the Constitution detailed in (Appendix A) of the report be approved;
- (ii) The Monitoring Officer be given Delegated Authority to determine the final amendments in relation to any principle proposals adopted with the approval of the Constitution Members Working Group or as detailed within the proposals;

- (iii) The Monitoring Officer be given Delegated Authority to amend the Constitution with the adopted proposals and the final amendments of in-principle proposals together with any associated necessary incidental amendments;
- (iv) The Officers and Committees be thanked for all the hard work undertaken in reviewing the Constitution.

## **9 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (HOSC)**

A report was submitted which sought agreement for the establishment of a joint Health Scrutiny Committee for the Bucks, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System. It was also requested that the Terms of Reference for the Committee be agreed subject to approval of the other 4 participating authorities.

The report stated that Health Services had a legislative duty to consult a Local Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committees about proposals for the provision of health services in their area. As such the Local Authority was required to appoint a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) for the purposes of the consultation. Buckinghamshire Council was part of an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) to deliver Local health and Social Care Services with key local partner. Bucks was also part of an Integrated Care System with Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (made up of Wokingham, Reading and Berkshire West local authorities), known as BOB ICS.

These footprints were set up by the NHS in 2015 to drive forward the Sustainability Transformation Plans (STPs) BOB ICS Leads anticipate that 80% of activity would remain at ICP level and 20% of activity would be delivered at the ICS level.

Members sought reassurance and it was confirmed that the arrangements would also allow for scrutiny at a local level which would guarantee strong outcomes for local outcomes. It was also confirmed that each authority was empowered to refer a matter to the (HASK) Committee which in turn could debate, gather responses and take a local issue to the Secretary of State in the event that the Committee wished to escalate a matter.

**RESOLVED:** That,

- (i) A Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for the Bucks, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care system be established;
- (ii) Subject to the agreement of the 4 other Authorities the Terms of Reference be approved; and
- (iii) The Monitoring Officer in collaboration with the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee be given authority to sign off the final Terms of Reference.

## **10 REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS**

### **(a) Leader – (Cllr Martin Tett)**

The Leader updated Members on the position relating to Covid 19. Infection rates had fallen to

26.7 per 100000 with the highest new cases occurring amongst the 19-39 year age group. 260,000 first doses and 32,000 second doses had been administered in Buckinghamshire up to 16 April 2021. Percentage rates of vaccinations by age group were 96% for over 70 year olds, 90% for over 60s and 86% for the over 50s.

In response to a question, an explanation was provided on the former AVDC Council's pledge to become Net Zero by 2030 in contrast to the current Council's objective to reach this figure by 2050. It was anticipated that the Buckinghamshire Council would reach this target earlier than 2050, but the comparison between the two Council's was not equal due to the vast differences in scope, geography, size and complexity of the two organisations.

In response to a question on whether he would be prepared to take forward two motions at the next ordinary meeting of Council relating to fireworks and Crohn's disease in the event of the absence of the proposer within the new administration, the Leader informed Members that this would be something to be considered by the new Council following the elections.

The final question related to whether there was a need to now look to provide a solution and to explore and examine the factors which had caused a disproportionate impact on BAME groups during the Covid pandemic. The Leader confirmed that it was important to assist all those who had suffered disproportionately and emphasised the need for early intervention in education to provide the opportunities for improvement and relief of economic deprivation. Further exploration work on this will be the responsibility of the new Council.

#### **(b) CM for Adult Social Care (Cllr Angela Macpherson)**

In response to a question of which of the homes in Buckinghamshire were vulnerable due to the lack of financial resilience, Members were informed that some care home owners were indeed struggling but the Council was offering support and resources to these and assisting in helping to explore ways in which the businesses could be reshaped in relation to the changing demands of care.

#### **(c) CM for Resources (Cllr Katrina Wood)**

Members were informed that work was ongoing to ensure that the revenue budget and the expenditure on the infrastructure budget were matched and aligned for future years. This would enable the Council to realise its ambitions.

#### **(d) CM Children's Services (Cllr Mark Shaw)**

The Cabinet Member (E) the outgoing Director for Children's Services for all the hard work undertaken by himself and his team.

#### **E) CM Environment and Climate Change (Cllr Bill Chapple OBE)**

Members were informed that the reason the percentage level of recyclable waste had significantly reduced in recent months from approximately 70% to -50% had been due to the figure being calculated as a percentage for right across the Council and not just for Household Recycling Centres. It was anticipated that the figure would improve as we headed towards the summer months.

The Cabinet Member asked a Member to forward him a query about the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy, and on assistance that could be provided for tree planting via the £300,000

Government fund. He would then respond directly to the Member on it.

**(f) CM Education and Skills (Cllr Anita Cranmer)**

Members were informed that the 11+ exam had been delayed by 2 months this year due to the pandemic and, as such, information on this year's exam results were not yet available. It was confirmed that discretionary places for disadvantaged children would be made available.

**(g) CM Communities & Public Health (Cllr Gareth Williams)**

Members were informed that the Domestic Abuse Bill had resulted in £854,000 being made available for life saving support for the victims of domestic abuse. Bucks had set up a Board to improve work in this regard across the county.

The Cabinet Member informed Members that Community Boards would be able to ask the Community Safety Team to help progress the Safe Spaces Scheme which had been introduced in Aylesbury following the recent murder of Sarah Everard. This could include looking at the viability of extending the initiative across Buckinghamshire, and in close collaboration with the Police and Community Boards.

In response to a question, the Cabinet updated Members on planning that was in place to deal with mental health issues as a result of the pandemic and to ensure that there was some resilience in terms of available services for the elderly and the young who may have particularly suffered. Members were informed that mental health and the impact of the pandemic on youth and adolescent health was being closely focussed upon in a multitude of forums including within Community Boards.

Lastly, the Cabinet Member confirmed that he was satisfied that the messaging and the communications from the Public Health Service were both adequate and effective in providing widespread access to public health information. This was a result of a team effort across the Council.

**(h) CM Town Centre Regeneration (Cllr Steve Bowles)**

The Cabinet Member highlighted the reopening of the High Street and thanked the committed officer team who had worked hard to ensure the provision of much needed support to businesses and to communities.

In response to a question, Members were updated on the revitalisation of High Wycombe Town centre. The High Wycombe Regeneration Board was in operation and was working tirelessly to ensure that both the High Wycombe Town Centre and Chesham Town Centre were revitalised. Funding was also in place to support the regeneration.

**(i) CM Property & Assets (Cllr John Chilver)**

Members were informed that they could be provided with a copy of the entire asset list for the Council, on request. It was possible that this list would be published in due course. Members who had a query in relation to a particular property were encouraged to put in a request to the property team.

**(j) CM Planning and Enforcement (Cllr Warren Whyte)**

Members were informed that the Council's enforcement performance had increased by 51% and that in terms of enforcement activity and notices Bucks was in 12<sup>th</sup> place nationally and in 3<sup>rd</sup> place outside greater London.

A Member emphasised that whilst she was pleased to see an increase in the numbers and a revamping of the service, she wished to see greater involvement of the local Ward Member within the enforcement decisions on planning matters. She emphasised that joint decisions between Enforcement Officers and the Ward Member was important due to the Members in depth local knowledge. Councillors were informed that although this was not currently usual practice, quarterly reports were submitted to Cabinet and Town and Parish Councils, and updates to Planning Committees also provided information on enforcement related matters. The Quasi - Judicial nature of planning meant having to strike the right balance and to be able to engage with local Members when and where possible.

#### **(k) CM Transport (Cllr Nick Naylor)**

Members were informed that a great deal of work had been done on planning for the Transport for Bucks Contract including exploring alternatives. An options appraisal had been conducted looking at alternative operating models and a list of recommendations produced. The re-procurement of the contract would be implemented in 2023. A report had been submitted in March 2021 to the Cabinet highlighting the information in greater detail.

In response to a question, Members were informed that the start date for work on the A404 to Marlow had been pushed back and was now due to commence in September 2021 and to be completed in May 2022, with a budget of £3.796m.

Finally, Members were informed that real time traffic management information was available on-line on one.network on the A413. This information could be used to assess issues such as rerouting traffic away from the A413 at busy times and preventing rat running on unsuitable country roads.

#### **(l) CM Housing & Homelessness (Cllr Isobel Darby)**

The Cabinet Member thanked the officer teams with regards to recent enforcement work stating that they had done a splendid job. This had highlighted the Council's expectation of Landlords to maintain high levels of standards which the tenants and residents deserved. In response to a question, Members were informed that work was ongoing, albeit in its early stages, on how social housing could be provided using the Council's assets to support key workers. Furthermore teams were working hard to ensure that the existing provision could continue.

#### **(m) CM Regulatory Services (Cllr Fred Wilson)**

The Cabinet Member thanked officers for all the challenges they had met over the last year and for the support they had provided to businesses and residents. He encouraged them to keep up the good work.

### **11 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

The written responses to questions from members, published as a supplement to the agenda were noted.

**12 REPORT FOR INFORMATION - KEY DECISIONS REPORT**

A list of decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last Full Council meeting on the 24 February were received and noted.

**13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman took the opportunity to express his thanks to all Councillors for their past contribution and wished those seeking re-election the very best of luck.

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting of the Council be held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 at 4pm.