

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON**

19 September 2019

7.30 - 8.05 pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Clive Souter (Chair)
Maggie Hulcoop (Vice-Chair)

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Simon Carter | Shannon Jezzard |
| Joel Charles | Frances Mason |
| Jean Clark | Stefan Mullard |
| Mike Danvers | Russell Perrin |
| Jodi Dunne | Danny Purton |
| Bob Davis | John Strachan |
| Tony Durcan | Emma Toal |
| Tony Edwards | Chris Vince |
| Michael Garnett | Phil Waite |
| Eugenie Harvey | Nancy Watson |
| Mark Ingall | |

OFFICERS

Brian Keane, Chief Executive
Simon Freeman, Head of
Finance and Deputy to the
Chief Executive
Simon Hill, Head of
Governance
Adam Rees, Governance
Support Officer

15. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Carter, Nick Churchill, Tony Hall, Michael Hardware, Andrew Johnson, Eddie Johnson, Shona Johnson, Sue Livings, Lanie Shears and Mark Wilkinson.

16. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

17. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2019 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair highlighted the various events he had attended since the previous meeting of Full Council. He reminded Councillors of the upcoming Civic Service.

19. **PRESENTATION OF CIVIC AWARD**

The Vice Chair presented the following Civic Award in recognition of their commitment and contribution to the local community:

Jackie Sully

20. **PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

21. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The questions, together with the answers, are appended to the minutes.

22. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None.

23. **MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

a) Stop the Knock

Proposed by Councillor Emma Toal (seconded by Councillor Shannon Jezzard):

“This Council recognises that the most vulnerable people in our society are at the greatest risk when they get into debt. This Council believes it has a duty to help those who fall into debt and to do this it will commit to the six steps set out in the Money Advice Trust’s ‘Stop the Knock’ campaign with a particular focus on those individuals receiving support through the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.”

RESOLVED that the motion was carried.

b) Volunteers in the Town

Proposed by Councillor Frances Mason (seconded by Councillor Eugenie Harvey):

“In July this year, it was announced that for the eleventh consecutive year, Parndon Wood Nature Reserve has been awarded the prestigious Green Flag status. It was also announced that the Town Park has been also been accredited for the fourth consecutive year.

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

A Green Flag Award a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has good visitor facilities.

It is an internationally recognised scheme and demands the highest standards of environmental management.

This Council recognises the vital role that volunteers play in the maintenance of Parndon Wood Reserve and the Town Park, particularly in caring for bushes and flowers and other important aspects of landscape management.

This Council thanks these volunteers for their contributions and congratulates them on the part they have played in our on-going recognition through the Green Flag scheme.

Further this Council recognises the vital role that volunteers play across the Town in facilities such as the Playhouse, the Museum, Pets' Corner, Stort Valley Meadows, Harlow Conservation, Town Park, Wildspace, Parndon Wood Nature Reserve and Harlow Greenteam volunteers and expresses gratitude on behalf of all residents."

RESOLVED that the motion was carried.

24. **REFERENCES FROM CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

- a) Referral from Licensing Committee - Institute of Licensing Guidance on the Suitability of Applicants and Licence Holders in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trades

Proposed by Councillor Danny Purton (seconded by Councillor Frances Mason) it was:

RESOLVED that:

A The Institute of Licensing (IOL) guidance, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be adopted to replace the Harlow Council Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Criminal Convictions Policy, as set out in Appendix B to the report, with effect from 1 October 2019.

B Authority be delegated to the Environment and Licensing Manager in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing Committee to adopt such revisions to the guidance as may be published from time to time.

- b) Referral from Cabinet - Annual Treasury Management Report 2018/19

Proposed by Councillor Mike Danvers (seconded by Councillor Mark Ingall) it was:

RESOLVED that:

A The annual Treasury Management Report for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix A to the original report, including that the Council operated within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement during 2018/19, be noted and approved.

25. **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

None.

26. **MINUTES OF CABINET AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- a) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 12 June 2019 of Audit and Standards Committee
- b) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 3 July 2019 of Development Management Committee
- c) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 9 July 2019 of Licensing Committee
- d) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 16 July 2019 of Scrutiny Committee
- e) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 18 July 2019 of Cabinet
- f) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 3 September 2019 of Scrutiny Committee

27. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Full Council – 19 September 2019

Questions from the Public

1 Mr Hugh Hoad to Councillor Mark Ingall (Leader of the Council):

Why are the Police and Harlow Council not enforcing the Public Space Protection Order in the Town Centre effective from 5 August 2019?

Reply from Councillor Mark Ingall (Leader of the Council):

Following the introduction of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) there was a two week period to allow for education of the public regarding the Order and for the public notices to be erected. Since then the Order has been enforced by the Police and the Community Safety Team. A large amount of alcohol has been confiscated and many cyclists have been instructed to dismount from their cycles.

In addition there have been several arrests for drunk and disorderly behaviour and public order offences. Eight community protection warnings and two fixed penalty notices have been issued.

It should be noted that with a PSPO the matter only becomes an offence if the perpetrator fails to comply with the request from the Police or Community Safety Officer.

2 Mr Hugh Hoad to Councillor Mark Ingall (Leader of the Council):

Is the Council seeking more funding so further accommodation like Bromley Cottages can be built for the homeless of Harlow?

Reply from Councillor Mark Ingall (Leader of the Council):

The Council continues to seek additional funding in supporting its existing projects and new building/renovating projects to support and prevent people from sleeping on the streets.

As part of the Government's spending review announced in September 2019, additional funding will be made available to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in 2020/21. More information should be known in December 2019, including on how the funding will be distributed. This funding is intended to deliver the Government's aim to end rough sleeping by 2027 and to halve the number of rough sleepers by 2022.