

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON**

6 April 2017

7.30 - 8.45 pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Maggie Hulcoop (Chair)

Ian Beckett
David Carter
Simon Carter
Joel Charles
Nick Churchill
Jean Clark
Jon Clempner
Karen Clempner
Mike Danvers
Bob Davis
Tony Durcan
Waida Forman
Michael Garnett
Tony Hall

Andrew Johnson
Eddie Johnson
Shona Johnson
Dan Long
Stefan Mullard
Bill Pryor
Danny Purton
Lanie Shears
Clive Souter
John Strachan
Emma Toal
Rod Truan
Phil Waite
Mark Wilkinson

OFFICERS

Malcolm Morley OBE, Chief Executive
Brian Keane, Head of Governance
Lisa Thornett, Customer Services Officer
Janet Jackson, Corporate Governance Support Manager

79. **NOMINATION FOR CHAIR OF THE MEETING.**

As Councillor Edna Stevens and Councillor Sue Livings were both unwell. Councillors were asked to nominate a Councillor who would stand as Chair for the evening.

RESOLVED that Councillor Maggie Hulcoop would stand in as Chair for this meeting.

Councillor Maggie Hulcoop suggested that a card be sent to Councillors Stevens and Livings to wish them better.

80. **TRIBUTE TO FORMER COUNCILLOR, MURIEL JOLLES**

A minutes silence was held in honour of former Councillor, Muriel Jolles, who sadly passed away on Monday 3 April 2017.

Councillors David Carter and Tony Durcan paid tribute to Mrs Jolles who last served as a Harlow Councillor representing the Old Harlow Area until April 2016.

Councillor Maggie Hulcoop suggested that a condolences card be sent to Mrs Jolles family and this was agreed.

81. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stevens, Livings, Perrin and Ingall.

82. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

83. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held 2 February 2017, 23 February 2017 and 16 March 2017 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

84. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

None.

85. **PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

86. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

87. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

1. Councillor David Carter, to Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council

Like many people in Harlow I receive leaflets offering doorstep loans, one of which offers loans with an APR of 299.3 percent. What is the Council doing to make people aware of the pitfalls of doorstep loans?

The Council can, within its discretion, do a range of things for the benefit of residents, but does not have any statutory function where as far as making residents aware of lending options is concerned, and it does not regulate lending.

This aside, the Council wishes to do all it can to alert residents of the pitfalls of doorstep loans, and in the coming months will run a communications campaign to alert residents to these.

Historically, the Council has promoted the Credit Union as a better way of, if necessary, borrowing small sums of money. The Council will continue to work with Harlowsave, (the local credit union), to increase Harlow residents awareness of the benefits and of how they can provide more affordable services such as loans, savings accounts and money management services.

2. Councillor David Carter thanked the Leader for his continued support in this matter.

88. **MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None.

a) **Gender Equality in Harlow Council**

Proposed by Councillor Emma Toal (seconded by Councillor Jean Clark)

This Council recognises the importance of promoting gender equality within our town and the Council itself. We recognise the importance of both the representation of women and the language we use. We strive to increase the number of female Councillors and for the Council to ensure that all staff are treated fairly regardless of gender. If we are not aware of the scale of the issue then we cannot address it.

It was proposed that:

A That the Council undertakes a gender audit of staff, highlighting gender balance in senior roles and any gender pay gap.

B To change the Council's constitution so that the current titles of 'Chairman of the Council' 'Vice-Chairman of the Council' and 'Chairman of other committees' are gender neutral and for them to be addressed in meetings as such.

Councillor Joel Charles (seconded by Councillor Shona Johnson) proposed the following amendment:

That

Reference B, be removed entirely from the motion.

The Amendment was lost.

Councillor Emma Toal's original motion was put to the Council unamended and following a recorded vote it was

RESOLVED that the motion was approved. (Recorded vote appended)

89. **REFERENCES FROM CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

None.

90. **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

None.

91. **ANNUAL REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Council received the annual reports

RESOLVED that the annual reports from Council representatives on outside bodies are noted.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings are noted.

- a) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 24 January 2017 of Licensing Committee
- b) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 26 January 2017 of Cabinet
- c) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 31 January 2017 of Scrutiny Committee
- d) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 15 February 2017 of Development Management Committee
- e) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 23 February 2017 of Cabinet
- f) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 8 March 2017 of Audit & Standards Committee
- g) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 14 March 2017 of Scrutiny Committee
- h) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 21 March 2017 of Licensing Committee

93. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

94. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS**

The Chair moved that the following item be taken in private session on the grounds that it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as specified under Paragraph 1 of Part one of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, is and so long as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest is maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Paragraph 1 – Information relating to any individual.

The Press along with Officers Malcolm Morley OBE and Lisa Thornett left the Chamber.

95. **EFFICIENCY SAVING**

It was proposed by Councillor Jon Clempner and seconded by Councillor Emma Toal that the Council approves:

- A** The voluntary severance of the Chief Operating Officer on or before 31 July 2017 by agreement, and the voluntary severance of the Chief Executive on or before the 31 October 2017 by agreement as determined by the Head of Governance in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
- B** The creation of a new Managing Director post as set out in the report.
- C** The interim arrangements as set out in paragraph 7 of the report.
- D** The Appointments Panel's terms of reference as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.
- E** In the event of the Chief Executive's employment terminating with the Council prior to the Managing Director taking up their post, the Head of Governance be appointed Head of Paid Service until the Managing Director takes up their post.

RESOLVED that the proposals (A) to (E) are approved.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

RECORDED VOTES – COUNCIL

DATE: 06 April 2017

MOTION: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ MOTION.

NAME	ABSENT	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
IAN BECKETT		✓		
DAVID CARTER				✓
SIMON CARTER				✓
JOEL CHARLES				✓
NICK CHURCHILL				✓
JEAN CLARK		✓		
JON CLEMPNER		✓		
KAREN CLEMPNER		✓		
MIKE DANVERS		✓		
BOB DAVIS		✓		
TONY DURCAN		✓		
WAIDA FORMAN		✓		
MIKE GARNETT				✓
TONY HALL				✓
MAGGIE HULCOOP		✓		
MARK INGALL	✓			
ANDREW JOHNSON				✓
EDDIE JOHNSON				✓
SHONA JOHNSON				✓
SUE LIVING	✓			
DAN LONG		✓		
STEFAN MULLARD		✓		
RUSSELL PERRIN	✓			
BILL PRYOR		✓		
DANNY PURTON		✓		
LANIE SHEARS		✓		
CLIVE SOUTER				✓
JOHN STRACHAN		✓		
EDNA STEVENS	✓			
EMMA TOAL		✓		
ROD TRUAN		✓		
PHIL WAITE		✓		
MARK WILKINSON		✓		
RESULT	3	19		10