

# Public Document Pack

Subject to approval at the next Full Council meeting

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## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE ARUN CIVIC CENTRE**

**ON 17 JULY 2019 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Councillors J Warr (Chairman), Worne (Vice-Chair), Bower, Brooks, Chapman, Charles, Cooper, Clayden, Mrs Daniells, Dendle, Edwards, Elkins, English, Mrs Madeley, Oppler, Mrs Pendleton, Purchase, Oliver-Redgate, Miss Rhodes, Stanley, Mrs Stainton, Smith, Dr Walsh, Batley, Bennett, B Blanchard-Cooper, C Blanchard-Cooper, Caffyn, Catterson, Cooper, Coster, Dixon, Erskine, Goodheart, Gregory, Gunner, Hamilton, Haywood, Huntley, Jones, Kelly, Lury, Needs, Roberts, Seex, Thurston, Tilbrook, Baker and Yeates

Honorary Aldermen Mrs Morrish and Mrs Stinchcombe were also in attendance for the meeting.

[Note: The following Councillors were absent during consideration of the matters referred to in the Minutes indicated – Councillor Yeates – Minute 106 to 122 [All]; Councillor Elkins – Minute 110 [Part]; and Councillors Cooper, Gunner, Kelly, Oliver-Redgate, Tilbrook & Worne – Minute 116 [Part] Councillor Haywood – Minute 116 to 122]; Councillors Dendle, Erskine, Lury, Madeley & Stainton – Minute 119 [Part]. Councillor Oliver-Redgate – Minute 120 [Part].

### 94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Buckland, Hughes and Mrs Staniforth; and Honorary Aldermen Mrs Goad and Mr Squires.

### 95. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, representatives of the public, press and officers to the Council Meeting.

### 96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In view of the nature of the issues to be discussed in Minute 68 (The Eighth Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme), it is recognised that all Members of the Council will have a prejudicial interest. However, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, this does not preclude them from remaining in the meeting and voting on the recommendations.

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In view of the nature of the issues to be discussed in Minute 5 (CIL Draft Charging Schedule Consultation Responses), the Council was asked to note from the table below those Members who have made a declaration of their personal interest as a member of a Town or Parish Council, as confirmed in their Register of Interests.

<b>Declaration of interest in Minute 5 – Planning Policy Sub-Committee of 18 June 2019</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Town or Parish Council</b>
Councillor Tracey Baker	Littlehampton
Councillor Kenton Batley	Bognor Regis
Councillor Jamie Bennett	Rustington
Councillor Paul Bicknell	Angmering
Councillor Billy Blanchard-Cooper	Littlehampton
Councillor Chris Blanchard-Cooper	Littlehampton
Councillor Jim Brooks	Bognor Regis
Councillor Andy Cooper	Rustington
Councillor Alison Cooper	Rustington
Councillor Sandra Daniells	Bognor Regis
Councillor Roger Elkins	Ferring
Councillor Steve Goodheart	Bognor Regis
Councillor Pauline Gregory	Rustington
Councillor Shirley Haywood	Middleton-on-Sea
Councillor David Huntley	Pagham
Councillor Henry Jones	Bognor Regis
Councillor Martin Lury	Bersted
Councillor Claire Needs	Bognor Regis
Councillor Jacky Pendleton	Middleton-on-Sea
Councillor Vicky Rhodes	Littlehampton
Councillor Emily Seex	Littlehampton
Councillor Matt Stanley	Bognor Regis
Councillor Isabel Thurston	Barnham & Eastergate
Councillor Jeanette Warr	Bognor Regis
Councillor Gillian Yeates	Bersted

Councillor English declared a personal interest in Minute 5 [CIL Draft Charging Schedule Consultation Responses] as member of Felpham Parish Council.

Councillor Mrs Worne declared a personal interest in Minute 5 [CIL Draft Charging Schedule Consultation Responses] as a member of Yapton Parish Council.

Councillor Dr Walsh declared a personal interest in Minute 5 [CIL Draft Charging Schedule Consultation Responses] as a member of Littlehampton Town Council.

Councillor Mrs Erskine declared a personal interest as a member of Bognor Regis Town Council in Minute 5, the Planning Policy Sub-Committee of 18 June 2019 which refers to the CIL Draft Charging Schedule Consultation Response. She confirmed that whilst she had previously made this declaration to the Monitoring Officer,

it was omitted from the published Register. The Monitoring Officer had confirmed this was now being amended.

Councillor Coster declared a personal interest in this item 21 [Cabinet – 8 July 2019] as Vice-Chairman of the Bognor Regis Civic Society

Councillor Dixon declared a personal interest in item 21 [Cabinet – 8 July 2019].

97. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman announced that two public questions had been received in line with the Council's Constitution. As the questioners were not present, it was noted that they would receive a written response.

98. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS WITH PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

There were none.

99. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

100. MINUTES

The Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 22 May 2019 were approved by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to an amendment at Minute 15 (Representation on Outside Bodies) to add Councillor Bennett to the list of Members in the recorded vote, voting for the appointed representative for the South Downs National Park.

101. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman alerted Members to the list of engagements and events that had been attended since the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 22 May 2019.

She extended her congratulations to the two residents of the district on receiving honours in the Queen's birthday Honours list. Firstly, to Major Brian Hudson who had been awarded a Medallist of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for recognition of his contribution to voluntary service in Sussex over many years. Secondly, to Mr Peter Reed who had been awarded an MBE in recognition of his contribution to services to education and voluntary first aid work at the University of Sussex.

102. URGENT MATTERS

The Chairman announced that there was one urgent item to consider. This was identified as item 27 on the second bundle of papers, being the Minutes from the

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meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 25 June 2019. Due to a system error, these Minutes were omitted from the main agenda and needed to be considered at this meeting as there was a recommendation at Minute 54 [Work Programme – 2019/20].

The Chairman requested that this item be considered after Agenda Item 21 – Cabinet of 8 July 2019, which was duly agreed.

103. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman proposed a change to the order of business in the agenda to bring forward Agenda Item 17 [Planning Policy Sub-Committee – 18 June 2019] to immediately follow item 10 – Special Audit and Governance Committee meeting of 2 July 2019. This was because the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Councillor Yeates, needed to leave the meeting early. Councillor Worne then seconded this proposal.

On putting the proposal to the vote, it was declared CARRIED.

104. SPECIAL AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 2 JULY 2019

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Erskine, presented the Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee held on 2 July 2019.

Councillor Mrs Erskine referred Members to the recommendation at Minute 68 – The Independent Remuneration Panel's Eighth Review of the Members' Allowances Scheme which sought approval to changes to the Members Allowances Scheme which had taken account of the Panel's report.

Councillor Mrs Erskine introduced the Panel to the Council and thanked them for their time and hard work dedicated to completing this review which had been both complex and challenging in view of the time-constraints put forward for its completion. It was explained for the benefit of new Members that the Panel's report had initially been presented to the Audit & Governance Committee on 14 February 2019 and the Committee had deferred this being presented to Council in view of concerns expressed over the Panel's recommendations on the special responsibility allowances payable to the Licensing Committee; and proposals to change arrangements for the Carers Allowance. The Panel had presented their revised report to the Committee on 2 July 2019 and the majority of their recommendations had been accepted. The minutes highlighted where a recommendation had been rejected.

Councillor Mrs Erskine therefore proposed the recommendation to the Council and highlighted the amendments that had been made at the meeting. Councillor Mrs Haywood then seconded this recommendation.

In opening the debate, Councillor Dr Walsh proposed an amendment to reject the Panel's recommendation (8) which was to decrease to the special responsibility allowance for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Licensing and Enforcement

Committee ahead of the potential review of governance arrangements. Councillor Oppler seconded this proposal.

With no further debate on the amendment, this was put to the vote and it was declared CARRIED.

Councillor English then referred to his concerns about the Panel's recommendation (14) which proposed that the current meeting allowance paid to independent persons on the Standards Committee be replaced with a payment of £1,440 a year shared equally between the independent persons. He believed this increase was unjustified and felt there was insufficient evidence to substantiate the level of increase being recommended. He therefore proposed an amendment that this was referred back to the Audit & Governance Committee for re-consideration. Councillor Cooper seconded this amendment.

With no further debate on the amendment, it was put to the vote and was declared LOST.

The Council was then referred to the substantive recommendation as amended and

#### RESOLVED

That the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on its eighth review of the Members Allowance's Scheme be approved, subject to the amendments made at the meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee, and subject to rejecting the Panel's recommendation (8) to decrease the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee ahead of the potential review of governance arrangements.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Erskine then proposed the next recommendation from the Committee at Minute 69 (Chairman's Annual Report to Council for 2018/19) and advised the Council that she had the pleasure of having Councillor Chapman as her seconder as he was Chairman of the Committee for the period of the report.

Councillor Chapman advised the Council that based upon the work of the Committee during 2019/20, he was satisfied that it did give effective challenge and had followed CIPFA regulations. He congratulated Councillor Mrs Erskine on her appointment as Chairman of the Committee and thanked present and past Members for their hard work and contributions over the last year.

The Council then

#### RESOLVED

That the Chairman's Annual Report for 2018/19 be approved.

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Before moving onto the next item of business, the Chairman thanked the members of the Independent Panel who were in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Dixon was then invited to make a statement in relation to recommendation (16) of the Independent Panel's report, where he advised the Council that he would be donating the special responsibility allowance that he would be entitled to in his role as a Minority Leader to charity.

105. PLANNING POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE - 18 JUNE 2019

[Councillor Mrs Erskine re-declared her personal interest in this item as a member of Bognor Regis Town Council and Councillor Huntley re-declared his personal interest in this item as a member of Pagham Parish Council.]

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Yeates, presented the minutes from the meeting of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee held on 18 June 2019.

Councillor Mrs Yeates alerted Members to the first recommendation at Minute 4 [Adoption of Policy in Relation to Surface Water in New Development]. This was seeking the Council's support to adopting West Sussex County Council's policy for the management of surface water. This policy would enable the Council to apply a consistent set of standards for dealing with existing systems and new development. The Chairman stated that it would be subject to adaptation and review.

Councillor Mrs Yeates then formally proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Jones.

Clarification was sought on whether the Council was being asked to adopt the policy as presented and how it could be later adapted or reviewed. Councillor Mrs Yeates clarified that it was her intention to ask the Council to adopt the policy now, with the view that once it had been embedded, then it could be reviewed.

Following further discussion, the Council

**RESOLVED**

That the West Sussex LLFA (Local Lead Flood Authority) Policy for the Management of Surface Water (November 2018 and as updated from time to time) be adopted, particularly but not exclusively in relation to all new development within the Arun District.

Councillor Mrs Yeates then alerted Members to the next set of recommendations at Minute 5 [CIL Draft Charging Schedule Consultation Responses]

In proposing this Minute, Councillor Mrs Yeates proposed an amendment to the wording of the recommendations as the minutes had omitted the context as to why a

change was being made to the wording of Modification No 21 as set out in recommendation (2). The amendment read:

1. In the second line of the recommendation, the word 'guidance' is deleted and replaced with the words "clarification in recommendation (2)"
2. At recommendation (2) the words "the following amendment (shown in underlined) be made to the Proposed Statement – Modification No. 21" are added and then the clarification from "Neither does it include ..." onwards is underlined

Councillor Jones then seconded the original recommendation and amendment.

In introducing the amendment, Councillor Mrs Yeates explained to the Council that student accommodation had been discussed at great lengths and clarification had provided to the Sub-Committee of which they were happy with, hence the modified text.

Following discussion, Councillor Mrs Yeates confirmed that the CIL would be a major income stream for the Council in future. The Council therefore

#### RESOLVED

That, subject to further clarification in recommendation (2) relating to student accommodation and the status of residential accommodation in a holiday environment,

(1) the Draft Charging Schedule (Submission Version) (the DCS Submission Version) (provided as Background Paper 3 to this report) along with all required supporting documentation, as required, are submitted to the appointed independent Examiner in accordance with Regulation 19 of the CIL Regulations (as amended) on 31 July, or as close as to that date as possible.

(2) the following amendment (shown in underlined) be made to the Proposed Statement of Modifications – Modification No. 21 "residential does not include residential institutions, including purpose-built student accommodation. Neither does it include development which is covered by a condition that limits it to holiday use only. Where this condition is not applied to static caravans or holiday rental units, these should be considered to be in residential use, or have the potential to be used for residential use."

#### 106. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE - 12 MARCH 2019

The then Chairman of the Committee, Councillor English, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 12 March 2019.

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107. LICENSING COMMITTEE - 22 MARCH 2019

The then Chairman, Councillor Cooper, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 22 March 2019.

Councillor Cooper then formally proposed the recommendation at Minute 490 [Amendments to Arun District Council's Enforcement Policy for Environmental Health, Private Sector Housing, Licensing and Cleansing] which sought approval to adopting an amended Enforcement Policy, which was duly seconded by Councillor Clayden.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

(1) the amended Enforcement Policy for Environmental Health, Private Sector Housing, Licensing and Cleansing be adopted;

(2) the setting of a Fixed Penalty Notice fine level at £100 for breaches of a Community Protection Notice, as an alternative to prosecution be approved; and

(3) approval be given to the Group Head of Technical Services, or his nominated representative, to be given delegated authority to make any necessary consequential changes to the amended Enforcement Policy for Environmental Health, Private Sector Housing, Licensing and Cleansing as a result of new legislation or alternative practices.

108. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE - 10 APRIL 2019

The then Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Bower, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 10 April 2019.

109. SPECIAL CABINET - 11 APRIL 2019

In the absence of the then Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet, the then Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Councillor Clayden, presented the Minutes from the meeting of Cabinet held on 11 April 2019.

110. CABINET - 3 JUNE 2019

[Councillor Coster re-declared a personal interest in this item as a member of the Ship Inn.

Councillor Elkins declared a personal interest in this item as a member of West Sussex County Council.



Councillor Dr Walsh declared a personal interest in minute 22 as a member of West Sussex County Council.

Councillor Huntley declared a personal interest in minute 24 as a member of Pagham Parish Council]

Before introducing the Minutes, the Chairman invited Councillor Dendle to make a statement. His statement referred to the start time of Cabinet meetings of 5.00pm which he felt was not a convenient time for working councillors. He requested that a start time of 6.00pm be considered by the Cabinet which the Chairman, Councillor Dr Walsh agreed to consider.

The Chairman, Councillor Dr Walsh, then presented the Minutes from the meeting of Cabinet held on 3 June 2019.

Councillor Dr Walsh alerted Members to the first set of recommendations at Minute 20 [Assets of Community Value – Policy and Procedures] which aimed to make it easier for Parish Councils and community groups to understand how they could nominate an asset of community value. Councillor Dr Walsh then formally proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Stanley.

#### The Council

#### RESOLVED – That

- (1) the assets of Community Value Policy and Guidance Notes for Nominating Bodies and Owners be adopted;
- (2) the Group Head of Technical Services be delegated authority to make any future necessary changes to the Policy as a consequence of new legislation or alternative practices;
- (3) the following additions be made to the Council's Constitution as Part 4 (Officer Scheme of Delegation):
  - (a) Authority be delegated to the Director of Place and Group Head of Technical Services, or their nominated representative, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Technical Services, to validate, consider and determine nominations for property/land to be listed as an asset of community value under the Assets of Community Value Policy.
- (4) the Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any further consequential changes required to the Constitution.

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Councillor Dr Walsh then alerted Members to the next recommendation at Minute 22 [Tivoli Group Ltd – Admissions Agreement to Local Government Pensions Scheme}. The recommendation was being made to reflect a change in service provider.

Councillor Dr Walsh then formally proposed the recommendation which was duly seconded by Councillor Purchase.

Councillor Chapman made a statement that he found it difficult to support this recommendation because it was unclear if this fund was in surplus or benefit. Councillor Purchase, as Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods responded that he had been advised that two former members of Arun staff were affected, hence why the request was being made.

Councillor Edwards sought clarification from the Monitoring Officer on whether he needed to declare an interest in this item. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that there was no requirement based on his declaration in his Register of Interests.

The Council returned to the recommendation and

#### RESOLVED

That the Council acts as a guarantor in respect of any and all pension liabilities which may arise throughout the term of the contract and gives delegated authority to Legal Services to enter into the Admissions Agreement and Guarantee.

Councillor Dr Walsh then drew Members' attention to the final recommendation at Minute 24 [Planning Appeal at Land North of Hook Lane, Pagham], and the request for a supplementary estimate. Councillor Dr Walsh duly proposed the recommendation, and this was seconded by Councillor Lury.

Councillor Bower made a proposal that any debate on the recommendation should be held in exempt business as it related to a planning application and any statements made could affect the appeal. He clarified the reason for the item to be considered exempt related to the potential legal proceedings. Councillor Charles seconded this proposal.

On putting this proposal to the vote, it was declared LOST.

Returning to the recommendation, various points were made about the Council's decision to defend planning appeals and decisions taken in the previous administration. In concluding, Councillor Dr Walsh explained that the Council would always have to defend planning decisions/appeals due to the very nature of its business, and on this occasion, he was in support of the recommendation.

The Council then

RESOLVED

That a supplementary estimate of up to £25,000 be approved for the costs associated with defending the appeal in respect of planning application P/6/17/OUT. These include Counsel costs and costs of the appointment of a Planning Consultant to assist Members with defending an appeal in respect of Planning application P/6/17/OUT.

The supplementary estimate equates to a Band D Council Tax of £0.41.

Several Councillors then made statements on Minute 21 (Managing the Coast in a Changing Climate) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2, the detail of which is set out below:

- Councillor Dendle specifically regarding an officer's view stating that there may be areas of the coast that the Council would not defend. He requested a categorical assurance that residents' homes in high risk areas such as Pagham and Clymping would not be sacrificed when it came to coastal defences.
- Councillor Gunner said he welcomed an attempt from this authority to respond to Climate change. He did not feel that the report demonstrated this responsibility sufficiently. He specifically referred to how the report addressed the possible adaptation of the shoreline but asked what did this mean for the residents, businesses and the Arun District? He believed that this report would be used to selectively stop coastal defences within our community. He asked what areas of Arun was the Council going to retreat from?
- Councillor Mrs Pendleton stated that she supported Councillor Gunner's statement. She stated that the Council had a responsibility to its residents to protect them and their homes and this report did not explain how the Council was going to do this.
- Councillor Huntley agreed with statements that had been made and thanked his colleagues for highlighting what he felt was a very important and concerning issue, particularly for Pagham residents.
- Councillor Elkins shared his opinion that the Council received good advice from its officers and that Arun had already completed a considerable amount of work on its coastal defences and had a good record for coastal defences and believed the Council should continue with this record. But that full consultation with Arun's residents not just in high risk areas should take place.
- Councillor Goodheart advised that having listened to his colleagues he agreed that the Council needed to be looking at all areas of Arun that would be at risk, including those not covered by the report. He stated that there was an ever-increasing pressure with global warming.

In responding, Councillor Dr Walsh advised the Council that the Cabinet had no intention of giving up the sea defences along the Arun Coast line and it was agreed that action needed to be taken now. He reminded Members that it was the Environment Agency and the Government that used the phrase 'managed retreat' it was not Arun District Council. He reiterated that there was absolutely no intention to abandon the

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Council's sea defences and he was in agreement with Councillor Gunner that the Council needed to protect its coastline for future generations. He made a final request that a stop was put to scaremongering and frightening residents on this topic.

Councillor Dendle then made a statement regarding an inaccurate post that had been published on the Arun Conservatives website as set out below:

"I control the Arun Conservative Group website and as such I am the publisher of this site.

In a recent post we posted a story regarding Coastal Flooding, I didn't write this post but I am the publisher.

We attributed Martin Lury with the following quote:

*"It may be the case that we don't defend certain parts of the coast."*

I accept this was a mistake and in fact an officer had in fact said this. I want to sincerely apologise to Martin for the error. I didn't attend the meeting, people who attended the meeting took notes but cannot confirm what Martin said. If it's ever pointed out I had made an error I'm happy to apologise without hesitation.

Martin I would have happily sat down with you over a cup of Coffee and said sorry.

However that is not what happened, the Corporate Board met on Monday 24 June at 0900hrs, the two Councillors who attended that meeting were Councillor Walsh and Councillor Oppler. At 1017hrs immediately after Corporate Board our Leader, Councillor Terry Chapman received an email on behalf of the Chief Executive that said:

*"The quote from Councillor Lury should be removed from the website immediately as it is not true he said it, is defamatory and is likely to have a negative impact on Councillor Lury's reputation.*

*If the quote is not removed my Legal Team will consider instigating legal action for its removal and seek damages for loss of reputation.*

I do not blame the Chief Executive for this email because I believe he was acting on the direct instructions of either the Deputy Leader or the Leader, I also believe this was bullying in its nature. As stated I would have been happy to apologise without the threat to ruin me personally.

So I believe we need to avoid this situation in the future so at the next Council meeting I plan to bring a motion saying that any decision to take legal action for slander or libel against the Executive by a fellow Councillor should be decided by Full Council alone. Not by the Executive, e.g. the Deputy Leader or the Leader.

It's very regrettable that the Liberal Democrats have become intoxicated with power."

111. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE - 5 JUNE 2019

The Chairman, Councillor Bennett presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 5 June 2019.

112. LITTLEHAMPTON REGENERATION SUB-COMMITTEE - 13 JUNE 2019

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor C Blanchard-Cooper, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Littlehampton Regeneration Sub-Committee held on 5 June 2019.

113. BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUB-COMMITTEE - 24 JUNE 2019

The Chairman, Councillor Stanley, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Bognor Regis Regeneration Sub-Committee held on 24 June 2019.

114. SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE - 27 JUNE 2019

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Ms Thurston, presented the Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 27 June 2019.

Councillor Gunner made a statement in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2 relating to the rejected planning application Y/62/18/OUT. He felt that Members of this Committee were not taking into consideration the importance of future housing for future generations and also felt that this was in direct conflict with one of the Liberal Democrats own campaign promises to end the housing crisis.

Councillor Oppler responded to Councillor Gunner and stated that he was aware of this application although had not attended the meeting. He confirmed that this application was not in a strategic site, it was against the Council's development plan and he agreed with him that the Council needed to build more houses but that these houses needed to be in the right place and built for the right people.

Councillor Huntley also made a statement that the houses that were built needed to be affordable and the Council should consider modular houses to ensure that it was building the right houses in the right way.

Councillor Charles made the final statement and confirmed that the price of houses was nothing to do with the Development Control Committee, the price was determined by the market.

In responding to all the statements, Councillor Thurston advised that the thinking behind the rejected application was that this was not part of the strategic allocation or the Local Plan and it was felt strongly that the local residents were being represented

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by their ward councillors who were very clear that it was felt to be the last bit of open country/farm land and that open space would be more preferable for the local residents.

115. ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP - 4 JULY 2019

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Brooks, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Environment & Leisure Working Group held on 4 July 2019.

Councillor Brooks advised the Council that the minutes omitted to include the detail of the recommendation at Minute 54 [Work Programme 2019-2020] and in line with the Constitution, the Council needed to approve the work programme. He formally approved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Dixon.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the Environment & Leisure Working Group's Work Programme for 2019/2020 be approved

116. CABINET - 8 JULY 2019

[Councillor Coster re-declared a Personal Interest in this item as Vice-Chairman of the Bognor Regis Civic Society.]

The Chairman, Councillor Dr Walsh, presented the Minutes from the meeting of Cabinet held on 8 July 2019.

Statements and questions were then made by a number of councillors in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 in relation to Minute 76 (Pavilion Park Project, Bognor Regis).

Firstly, Councillor Chapman who wanted clarification that the present Pavilion Park design would be included with the two other future schemes being proposed. Councillor Dr Walsh clarified that this was not the case.

Councillor Gunner, following on from Councillor Chaman's question, asked how much money did this administration intend on spending on seeing this reach fruition? A second question put forward to Councillor Oppler asked whether he would be sharing the results of the Liberal Democrat survey that was completed on the Pavilion Park scheme. Councillor Oppler responded that on 2 May 2019 at the District elections, a clear choice was presented to the electors in Bognor Regis regarding Pavilion Park and the Sunken Garden site that by voting Liberal Democrat that the much-loved garden would be saved. It was an election promise that was made and one that had now been

kept. He confirmed that the Council would continue to go out to consultation to ensure that the public were able to have a meaningful say regarding future plans for the Sunken Gardens. He also stated that in response to Councillor Gunner's other question, the survey he was referring to was a hugely successful Liberal Democrat survey on which he had no plans of sharing with the opposition.

Councillor Dendle stated that in his view Councillor Oppler did not know what the public in the District thought and a survey might not have been the best way to have come to a definitive conclusion on this project anyway, as having done some research on social media he found that people were generally happy for the work to have continued on this project. He confirmed that he felt more consultation was absolutely needed to understand exactly what people thought on the matter.

Councillor Charles stated that he had always worked on evidence and he had not seen any evidence from Councillor Oppler. The work and progress on Pavilion Park Project had been stopped by the new administration within days of the election result, the money had already been spent, the consultation had already taken place. He asked how had the new administration had been allowed to stop the project given that the money had already been spent?

Councillor Coster stated that he did not feel that any meaningful consultation had taken place previously and he was in support of what people were being offered now for the site as it was a true reflection of the meaning of consultation as it gave people options to choose what people would like to see happen to this site.

In responding, Councillor Dr Walsh advised Members to refer to the minutes which set out the three options that the Cabinet would consider being subject to public consultation, which had not happened yet. Councillor Dr Walsh stated that that the regeneration of Bognor Regis must be moved forward. In his view, the Pavilion Park Project had quite clearly been rejected by the public as the proposal incorporated 100 flats being built. He confirmed the right thing to do was to put three options to the public for consultation and then the Council would be able to move forward with the plans chosen by the public.

#### 117. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE - 25 JUNE 2019

The Chairman, Councillor Coster, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 25 June 2019.

In proposing the recommendation at Minute 54 [Work Programme – 2019/20]. Councillor Coster confirmed that he needed to make an amendment to replace the wording in the minutes with the following: "That the Committee's Work Programme for 2019/20 be approved". Councillor Clayden then seconded the original recommendation and amendment.

In considering the work programme, a request was made for the Arundel Chord to be added as it was a project that was economically important for the whole District and would give substantial resilience for the London to Brighton route. He suggested

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that this would provide an opportunity to discuss this with Network Rail. Councillor Walsh gave his support to Councillor Dendle's request, as a supporter of the Arundel Chord for many years. There was general support for this proposal which Councillor Coster agreed to take forward.

Having noted that the work programme could be subject to further review, the Council

RESOLVED

That the Committee's Work Programme for 2019/2020 be approved

118. MOTIONS

The Chairman announced that a Motion had been received from Councillor Dendle in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 14.1 and 14.2.

Councillor Dendle then proposed the following Motion:

*"This Council supports the principle of developing supplementary planning guidance to improve the level of sustainability of new residential developments in comparison to the current position.*

*Officers are asked to prepare a report for the consideration of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee on how this might be achieved including reference to the following, and likely costs of doing so.*

- (1) Guidance on renewable energy (both passive & active) for individual homes*
- (2) Improved standards for insulation and water usage.*
- (3) Guidance for community renewable energy schemes.*
- (4) Guidance on designs for waste/recycling storage facilities."*

Councillor Dendle in formally proposing his Motion stated that the Council needed to provide better guidance on renewable energy sources that should be considered and used when residential developments were being built. He specifically touched on the following points:

- Giving supplementary planning advice to developers
- A focus on Senior Citizen housing, referencing a renewable energy scheme used by the Dutch which provides their Senior Citizens with free electricity throughout the day.
- Horticultural hubs
- Greenhouses linked to housing
- Waste and recycling storage facilities



He explained that it was imperative for the Council to be taking practical steps to ensure its residential developments were providing sustainable housing for the District's younger generation.

Councillor Gunner then seconded the Motion.

The Chairman then invited Members to debate the Motion. The first to speak was Councillor Lury who stated that he welcomed the motion from Councillor Dendle but confirmed that he felt it was imperative that the scope be widened on the planning supplementary guidance and therefore wanted to propose an amendment, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.7, to add the following words to the Motion [as set out below – the added words are shown in **bold** and to remove words – as shown using ~~strikethrough~~]:

“That this Council supports the principle of developing supplementary planning guidance to improve the level of sustainability of ~~all new residential~~ developments in comparison to the current position.

Officers are asked to prepare a report for the consideration of the Planning Policy Sub Committee on how this might be achieved including reference to the following, and the likely costs ~~of doing so~~ **thereof**.

- 1) Guidance on renewable energy (both passive & active) for individual homes.
- 2) Improved standards for insulation, **heat recovery** and water usage.
- 3) Guidance for community renewable energy schemes
- 4) Guidance on designs for waste/recycling storage facilities
- 5) Guidance on the planting of woodland which can be both a mitigating and resilience action in terms of carbon sequestration and reducing the rate of surface water run - off and thereby reducing the flooding impact of severe rainfall.**
- 6) Improved and more rigorous standards for the prevention of flooding**

**The Sub Committee is also asked to make recommendations as to whether Arun DC should declare a Climate Change Emergency and the implications of creating a framework for moving towards a Carbon Neutral District and whether the Council should consider engaging the services of an energy agency to provide community retrofit advice and support and explore the potential retro-fitting of solar panels on all appropriate Council assets.”**

Councillor Coster then seconded this amendment.

Before opening the debate, the Chief Executive asked Councillor Dendle and Councillor Gunner, as the original proposer and seconder, to confirm if they were in support of the amendment. On reflection, Councillor Dendle accepted the amendment. Councillor Gunner confirmed that he welcomed the amendment that had been put forward and therefore would support it

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Councillor Lury then queried the amendment and added further words as the end of the second paragraph so this read: “.... Including reference to the following and the likely costs **and benefits thereof.**”

Councillor Coster seconded this additional minor amendment

Councillors then spoke in further support of this motion and the amendments that had been agreed and the Council

#### RESOLVED

This Council supports the principle of developing supplementary planning guidance to improve the level of sustainability of all developments in comparison to the current position.

Officers are asked to prepare a report for the consideration of the Planning Policy Sub Committee on how this might be achieved including reference to the following, and the likely costs and benefits thereof.

- 1) Guidance on renewable energy (both passive & active) for individual homes.
- 2) Improved standards for insulation, heat recovery and water usage.
- 3) Guidance for community renewable energy schemes.
- 4) Guidance on designs for waste/recycling storage facilities.
- 5) Guidance on the planting of woodland which can be both a mitigating and resilience action in terms of carbon sequestration and reducing the rate of surface water run - off and thereby reducing the flooding impact of severe rainfall.
- 6) Improved and more rigorous standards for the prevention of flooding.

The Sub Committee is also asked to make recommendations as to whether Arun DC should look at declaring a Climate Change Emergency and the implications of creating a framework for moving towards a Carbon Neutral District and whether the Council should consider engaging the services of an energy agency to provide community retrofit advice and support and explore the potential retro-fitting of solar panels on all appropriate Council assets.

#### 119. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The Chairman confirmed that eleven questions had been submitted for this meeting. The details of the questions and answers and any supplementary questions is attached to these minutes.

120. PROPOSAL FOR ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL TO JOIN THE GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh, presented this report to Members which sought formal approval to the Council becoming a member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB). Councillor Dr Walsh referred to a meeting he had already attended of the Board, ahead of this report being presented and that he strongly supported the Council taking up this membership. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Oppler.

In considering the proposal, a number of points and questions were raised. Firstly, whether Bonds were going to be issued for the Council's contribution or was this a private business. The Chief Executive advised that "Bonds" were not issued and it would be about working in partnership with the other members and that the estimated annual figure of £23k was a maximum figure as the Council had not yet been officially accepted. As the Council was joining part way through the year, it was possible that this figure would be reduced. In terms of governance, the question was asked of whether this would be by a majority vote in terms of the decision-making process. He confirmed that there was a voting process and only members could vote. If the Council approved this membership, then the Council would be one of 16 members with voting rights.

Having responded to further questions posed, it was agreed that a copy of the Greater Brighton Economic Board's Annual report would be made available to Members. The Council then

RESOLVED – That

- (1) agreement be given to Arun District Council becoming a constituent member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board ("the Board") and joining the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee (GBEJC);
- (2) the Leader of the Council be appointed to represent the Council on the Board or a substitute will be appointed on the Leader's behalf;
- (3) it be noted that Arun District Council's membership, by agreeing to join the GBEB, is also subject to approval by all the local authorities represented on the Board in addition to a formal decision by the Board; and
- (4) the cost of membership which is approximately £23,000 per annum be noted.

121. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The Chairman referred Members to the report that had been circulated at the start of the meeting which replaced the proposals set out in the agenda.

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Councillor Dr Walsh asked the Council to note the following changes to Committee Memberships in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26.2:

Committee/Sub-Committee, Working Party/Panel	Former Member	New Member
Development Control	Councillor Mrs Baker	Councillor Mrs Worne New Substitutes Members of: Councillor Brooks Councillor Mrs Haywood Councillor Oppler Councillor Tilbrook
Licensing	Councillor Mrs Baker	Councillor Mrs Worne
Overview Select	Councillor Buckland	Liberal democrat Councillor
Audit & Governance	Councillor Ms Thurston	No change – the Other Independent Councillors have offered this seat back to the Green Party
Planning Policy Sub	Liberal Democrat Councillor Councillor Hughes	Councillor Northeast Councillor Mrs Daniells
Littlehampton Regeneration Sub	Liberal Democrat vacancy due to be filled by Councillor Dr Walsh	Councillor Mrs Baker
Standards	Liberal Democrat vacancy Liberal Democrat vacancy	Councillor Mrs Daniells Liberal Democrat Councillor
Electoral Review Sub	Liberal Democrat Councillor	Councillor Mrs Baker
Members IT Working Party	Liberal Democrat Councillor	Councillor Mrs Daniells
Development Control Site Inspection Panel	Liberal Democrat vacancy	Councillor Northeast
Housing Appeals Panel	Councillor Mrs Madeley	Councillor Mrs Baker
Housing & Customer Services Working Group	N/A	New Members of: Councillor Charles Councillor Mrs Cooper Councillor Mrs Hayward Councillor Hughes Councillor Mrs Pendleton
Environment & Leisure Working Group	N/A	New Members of: Councillor Chapman Councillor Clayden Councillor Gunner Councillor Kelly
Joint Western Arun Area Committee	Green Party vacancy	Councillor Mrs Catterson

Councillor Dr Walsh also proposed the following appointments to vacant chairmanships:

- a. Councillor Miss Seex be appointed as Chairman of the Littlehampton Regeneration Sub-Committee to replace Councillor Buckland
- b. Councillor Bennett fills the vacant Vice-Chairman seat on the Standards Committee
- c. Councillor Bennett will become Chairman of the Housing & Customer Services Working Group and Councillor Coster will become the Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Oppler seconded the appointments.

The Council

RESOLVED - That

- (1) the changes to Committee Memberships, as circulated at the meeting, be noted; and
- (2) the following appointments to chairmanships be agreed:
  - a. Councillor Ms Seex to replace Councillor Buckland as Chairman of the Littlehampton Regeneration Sub-Committee;
  - b. Councillor Bennett to become Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee;
  - c. Councillor Bennett to become Chairman of the Housing & Customer Services Working Group; and
  - d. Councillor Coster to become Vice-Chairman of the Housing & Customer Services Working Group.

122. REPRESENTATION TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh, stated that there were several changes to representation to Outside Bodies that needed to be reported to this meeting and approved by the Council, as set out below:

- (1) West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Committee (HASC) – Councillor Bennett has replaced Councillor Mrs Worne
- (2) Age UK West Sussex - This will no longer be an Outside Body of the Council
- (3) LGA People and Places Board – that this Council no longer has an appointed Member
- (4) LGA Councillors' Forum – that this Council no longer has an appointed Member
- (5) North Littlehampton Advisory Group – Councillor Mrs Caffyn is no longer a Member
- (6) Littlehampton Harbour Board – Councillor Buckland to be removed as this Council's representative and Councillor Mrs Haywood will fill this vacancy
- (7) Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee (PATRPLAJC – Councillor Buckland is no longer the Substitute Member and new member still to be confirmed
- (8) Safer Arun Partnership – Councillor Mrs Worne will replace Cllr Buckland
- (9) Civil Military Engagement Events Group and Military Champion – Councillor Buckland is no longer the Council's representative and Councillor Chapman will temporarily fill this vacancy
- (10) Armed Forces Champion – Councillor Buckland is no longer the Council's representative and Councillor Chapman will temporarily fill this vacancy

Councillor Oppler seconded the proposals.

The Council then

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RESOLVED

That the following changes to representation on Outside Bodies be approved:

- (1) West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Committee (HASC) - Councillor Bennett was now the nominated representative replacing Councillor Mrs Worne
- (2) Age UK West Sussex - This would no longer be an Outside Body of the Council
- (3) LGA People and Places Board – this Council no longer had an appointed Member
- (4) LGA Councillors' Forum – this Council no longer had an appointed Member
- (5) North Littlehampton Advisory Group – Councillor Mrs Caffyn was no longer a Member
- (6) Littlehampton Harbour Board – Councillor Mrs Hayward was now the Council's representative replacing Councillor Buckland
- (7) Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee (PATRPLAJC – Councillor Buckland was no longer the Substitute Member and new member was still to be confirmed
- (8) Safer Arun Partnership – Councillor Mrs Worne was now the Council's representative replacing Councillor Buckland
- (9) Civil Military Engagement Events Group and Military Champion – Councillor Chapman was now the Council's temporary representative, replacing Councillor Buckland.
- (10) Armed Forces Champion – Councillor Chapman was now the Council's temporary representative, replacing Councillor Buckland.

(The meeting concluded at 9.01 pm)

## COUNCIL MEETING – 17 JULY 2019

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13.3

**Q1 Councillor Dixon to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Lury**

**Q1** The Local Plan identifies up to 2,300 houses for the BEW strategic allocation plus a further 700 houses outside the plan period – a total of 3,000 houses. I understand that a figure of 4,180 houses is mentioned in the business case for the A29 realignment.

Are officers confident that the A29 realignment can be delivered without the need for additional housing over and above the Local Plan allocation?

**A1** To best answer your question it is important to firstly understand that the Plan as a whole is required to deliver **at least** 20,000 homes up to 2031. Each of the individual strategic allocation is then required to deliver a minimum amount. In the case of BEW this is **at least** 2,300 homes up to 2031. This allocation is slightly unique in that because its delivery will continue after 2031 the Local Plan states that a further 700 should be delivered after 2031. Unfortunately, to confuse matters the phrase **up to** 3,000 homes (representing the total of the two parts) is used rather than '**at least**'. This confusion of phrases will need to be tested against Government guidance at the appropriate time.

Turning now to the scheme itself the site promoters at the public consultation event showed an illustrative layout of just over 4,100 homes. The Council only saw this layout for the first time the day before the event began and to date pre-application discussions have not begun in earnest to test whether this figure is achievable or even desirable. This will happen during the latter part of this year or early in 2020. However, making the best use of the land that is already allocated now will mean that the Council will potentially have to find less land for development in the future when the Local Plan comes up for review and Members will need to carefully consider this approach when it is discussed.

With regard to the A29 re-alignment the £54 million-pound cost includes contributions from a range of sources, but at present the contributions being sought from developers amounts to £30 million, via s106 contributions. Of this amount just over £27 million is to come from the BEW development. This equates to just over £9,000 per dwelling based on delivering 3,000 homes. If in the future the number of homes permitted is greater than 3,000 then the expectation at this point would be that the additional sums captured would allow that proportion of the cost being borne by the public purse to be reduced.

So, the succinct answer to your question is yes.

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### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13.3

**Q2**     **Councillor Dendle to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh**

**Q2**     In a recent presentation it was mentioned by officers that you are considering reopening the local plan with up to 4 different options, it was advised that the cost of doing this would be between £1m & £2M, is this correct?

**A2**     Cllr Dendle, thank you for your question.

Officers were asked to provide at short notice a presentation to illustrate for the benefit of Members what some of the key issues and potential options might be in determining the future strategic direction for planning in Arun. I am very conscious of the fact that the current conservative government continues to require Councils such as Arun to continue to provide ever increasing amounts of housing which I don't believe is sustainable. This is a matter which we will clearly need to consider carefully. At the present time, Officers haven't been asked to prepare a formal report for the consideration of the Planning Policy Committee on the matter. If and when they are asked, then any report will provide indicative costings for the options being considered.

**Supplementary**

**Q**       How is the Council going to house our sons and daughters and further future generations within the Arun District?

**A**       The Council does need to be looking at the at types of houses being built within the District, focusing more on 1 and 2 bedroom properties and fewer 4 and 5 bedroom properties. As well as looking at social housing, the private rented sector and affordable housing, and ensuring that there is an understanding of who does make those houses affordable to.

**Q3**     **Councillor Dendle to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Councillor Oppler**

**Q3**     In the recent Overview Select Committee you remonstrated with the Chairman at the number of questions I was raising. Do you believe that it is my job to scrutinise you?

**A3**     Yes, I do.

**Supplementary**

**Q**       I thought it was my civic duty to ask questions within my role as a Councillor and a Member of the Overview Select Committee, however Councillor Oppler made it clear that he would rather have my questions in writing, could I please have clarification as my intention was to ensure I was getting an answer straight from the Cabinet Member and not an Officer?

**A**       I am more than happy to answer questions that are put to me, however the scope and questions you were asking at this meeting were politically motivated.



**COUNCIL MEETING – 17 JULY 2019**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO  
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13.3**

**Q4 Councillor Dendle to the Cabinet Member for Technical Services,  
Councillor Stanley**

**Q4** As Cabinet Member are you committed to protecting all our communities from coastal flooding?

**A4** I would like to take this opportunity to make a clear distinction between the remits of the Environment Agency and Arun District Council. The Environment Agency are, in general, responsible for Coastal Defence along the entire Arun District frontage. Coastal Defence is a branch of Coastal Management that is primarily concerned with Coastal Flooding. As such the Agency manage the coastline where the 'primary risk' is that of Coastal Flooding (i.e. where the land behind the defences is close to or lower than that of sea level).

Arun District Council is the Coast Protection Authority (CPA) and is, in general, responsible for Coast Protection. Coast Protection is a separate branch of Coastal Management and is primarily concerned with Coastal Erosion. As such Arun District Council manage the Coastline where the 'primary risk' is that of Coastal Erosion (where the land behind the defences is higher than sea level).

It should go without saying that the branches of Coastal Management are interconnected and I am committed to ensuring that Arun continues to work closely with the Environment Agency to ensure that coastal management is effectively delivered in accordance with the The Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and the three Coastal Defence Strategies that cover Arun.

All three strategies suggest how best to manage coastal flooding and erosion risk over a 100 year strategy period, none of which have changed their policy since their adoption in 2009 and 2010. However, it should go without saying that Arun District Council is a coastal district with some challenging pieces of coastline which present varying levels of risk. Homeowners should make themselves aware of these risks and make informed judgement based upon the available information.

**Supplementary**

**Q** I am looking for further reassurance from Councillor Stanley regarding the District's coastal defences

**A** As discussed earlier on in this meeting, that reassurance has been given.

**Q5 Councillor Dendle to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh**

**Q5** In the last Cabinet Meeting you reported that you wanted to declare a Climate Emergency, what practical steps have you got to do that?

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**A5** It is vital that the climate change and its impacts are recognised as a fundamental issue in our society and that we have a plan in place to help address them. Climate emergency declarations are one way of doing this. To date over 40 Councils have declared a climate emergency.

I have asked the Director of Services to prepare a report to be considered by the Environment and Leisure Working Group; one of the options will be to declare a climate emergency. The report will set out and scope some of the many activities that Councils can undertake and facilitate as community leaders to start to address the causes of climate change. These include improving the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings, fleet management, education, training, tree planting, waste management and much more.

**Q6** **Councillor Chapman to the Cabinet Member for Residential Services, Councillor Mrs Gregory**

**Q6** Can the Cabinet Member confirm that no Elected Members of this Council are in arrears with the payment of their Council Tax and are therefore not “conflicted” when making decisions or supporting recommendations that affect the finance of the Council at Committees, Cabinet or Full Council?

**A6** No. I cannot confirm that this is the case.

#### **Supplementary**

**Q** What is to be done if Members of this Council are not up to date with their Council Tax payments and are steps in place to manage this?

**A** The Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer responded to this question on the Cabinet Member’s behalf. In these instances Councillors are advised and dealt with on an individual basis. Councillors who are in arrears, are dealt with in exactly the same way as a member of the public.

**Q7** **Councillor Edwards to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh**

**Q7** Arun District Council is recognised as the leading local authority in West Sussex for its work with the Armed Forces Covenant. In view of current events, can the Leader please inform me who will be the Armed Forces Champion? As a Veteran who is heavily involved with military charities, I am greatly concerned that with no-one at the helm, we will not be fulfilling our obligations towards our Veterans. As the leading local authority, we must not allow our standards to drop because Veterans and their families will suffer!!

**A7** Arun, like all the other District and Borough Council’s in West Sussex are signed up to the Armed Forces Community Covenant. The Covenant is to provide support to serving personnel, both regular and reserve, their families and ex-

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service personnel and ensure that they are not disadvantaged. The position of Armed Forces Champion is supported by our Armed Forces Covenant Officer who ensures that the Council's obligations under the covenant are met.

#### Supplementary

**Q** Will the current representative for the Armed Forces Champion for Arun District Council be remaining as the champion moving forward?

**A** It is the intention to appoint a new champion at a later point in this meeting.

#### **Q8 Councillor Kelly to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh**

**Q8** During the campaign leading up to the Local Elections held on 2 May I made several reports to the Police about attempts to intimidate myself and my wife and to alienate electors in East Preston. This was allocated the PNN number 0645 on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018

My question is; are such incidents reported to the Returning Officer by the Police as a matter of routine or should candidates also separately report such incidents to the Returning Officer as well as the Police Service?

**A8** Thank you for your question.

I can confirm that the Returning Officer would always wish to be made aware of any such issues. Where this happens his advice would normally be to report an incident to the police if an individual felt it was sufficiently serious. This must always be a matter of judgement for the individual as the Returning Officer would not generally be in a position to carry out an investigation into such a matter. The Returning Officer is responsible for the overall running of any election and needs to be aware of anything which might have an impact on it, particularly if a pattern of incidents is developing.

The Council has contacted the police and they confirm that with regard to the reported incident there was no mention of any connection to any upcoming election and as a result there would not have been any reason to report this matter to the Returning Officer. The Police have confirmed that any offences of election malpractice (under the Representation of the People Act 1983) would be notified to the Returning Officer priority (although on most occasions the candidate would usually have already done this)

#### **Q9 Councillor Roberts to the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing – Councillor Mrs Yeates**

**Q9** Prior to the recent election, Council Leader Dr Walsh was quoted in the Littlehampton Gazette where he said residents were "sick to their back teeth"

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about anti-social behaviour and vandalism in Littlehampton and across the District. He said it was increasing and mentioned “largish gangs” causing problems.

Public perception seems to be that recently things have got a lot worse, even within the last 2 weeks, several expensive repair works undertaken by Arun District Council were re-vandalised.

However, it is reported that at a very recent meeting of the Littlehampton Regeneration Committee, that the Liberal Democrat Chairman said, and I quote “Littlehampton’s Antisocial problems are being hyped up on social media”

So, which is it? Are Liberal Democrat members able to take a collective view on this, and more importantly undertake actions to tackle this very real issue?

- A9** The official number of reported ASB incidents in Arun for 2018/19 identify a decrease of 462 incidents compared to the 3696 reported in 2017/18. However, I appreciate there are difficulties in making such comparisons as incidents may have occurred, but are not reported. Social media also plays a role in highlighting local issues, but it can skew reality and give a disproportionate perception of crime and antisocial behaviour in a given area. What I can report for certain is the recent formation of Local Action Teams in both Bognor Regis and Littlehampton to identify and respond local issues. This is a new initiative led by Arun’s Community Safety team as a direct response to an increase in local concerns. The Local Action Teams include representatives from the Town Council, local traders, the Police and other partners with the shared goal of working together to take proactive action to address the problems associated with our town centres.

In addition, the Safer Arun Partnership with funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner has commissioned Arun Community Church to provide Detached Outreach Workers (Youth Workers operating on the streets) in the east of the district to engage and work with young people. This is supported by Freedom Leisure who have initiated the Friday Night Project which operates out of the Littlehampton Wave and provides a range of diversionary activities for young people in a safe and supported environment.

#### **Supplementary**

**Q** Are the Liberal Democrat Members able to take a collective view that this is a serious matter and not just being hyped up on social media?

**A** Councillor Dr Walsh responded on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing as she was no longer in attendance at the meeting. This matter is an object of great concern not only for me but also other Members. I am a strong believer in community policing and ‘bobbies on the beat’ and will be continuing to press this matter forward. Anti-social behaviour is

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unacceptable, and we need to up the game in terms of policing within the District.

**Q10 From Councillor Dixon to the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Councillor Mrs Yeates**

**Q10** I am becoming increasingly aware and concerned that the council is fighting a continuous battle against vandalism across the district.

Can you please advise how much the council has spent making good acts of vandalism over the last two years?

Can you please provide an itemised list identifying each location and the cost of repairs?

**A10** Thank you for your question. I too share your concerns regarding how much public money is spent repairing wanton vandalism. Unfortunately, in the time available we haven't been able to prepare a detailed answer as requested so this will follow in writing.

**Q11 From Councillor Charles to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh**

**Q11** A consultation scheduled for early June 2019 regarding the proposals of the regeneration of Pavilion Park was cancelled by the Liberal Democrat administration just days after the Election.

I think the public have the right to know who and why it was decided not to allow them to have an opinion on the proposals. My questions is in three parts:

- (1) Who made the decision to stop it happening
- (2) What was the reason given for the cancellation
- (3) why was it cancelled before any Cabinet or other Committee had discussed this?

**A11** My response is:

1. Cabinet postponed the consultation in June in order to receive a briefing on the project. The matter was then considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 8 July 2019 and the formal decision was taken.
2. The reason given was due to 'unforeseen circumstances'
3. The decision was taken by Cabinet on 8 July 2019

**Supplementary**

**Q** Will this consultation be included going forward?

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- A** No it will not be included for reasons that were discussed earlier on in this meeting.