

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 18 JANUARY 2023 AT 6.00 PM

Present: Councillors Staniforth (Chair), Mrs Cooper (Vice-Chair), Batley, Bennett, Bicknell, Blanchard-Cooper, Bower, Brooks, Buckland, Chapman, Chace, Cooper, Coster, Daniells, Dendle, Dixon, Edwards, Elkins, Mrs English, English, Goodheart, Gunner, Haywood, Hughes, Jones, Kelly, Lury, McAuliffe, Needs, Northeast, Oliver-Redgate, Oppler, Pendleton, Rhodes, Roberts, Smith, Stainton, Tilbrook, Thurston, Wallsgrove, Walsh, Worne and Yeates.

The following Members were absent from the meeting during consideration of the matters referred to in the Minutes indicated:-
Councillor Jones - Minute 564 to Minute 568 (Part), Councillor Needs - Minute 564 to 570 (Part) and Councillors Batley and Dendle - Minute Clayden, Councillor Gregory, Councillor Hamilton, Councillor Huntley, Councillor Madeley, Councillor Purchase, Councillor Seex, Councillor Stanley and Councillor Warr

564. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Councillors, representatives of the public, press and officers to the meeting.

A special welcome was extended to Councillor Stephen McAuliffe who had been elected as Councillor for the Arundel and Walberton Ward following the By-Election held on 1 December 2022.

565. FORMER MEMBERS OF STAFF PAT LAWSON AND MARCIA FELLOWS

The Chair stated that sadly she had to commence the new year by announcing the deaths of two former members of staff.

The first was Pat Lawson who had worked as a Payroll Assistant and had joined the Council on 1 May 1985 and completed 13 years' service. Pat had passed away on 20 December 2022 and the Council's condolences were extended to Pat's family, friends and colleagues.

Secondly, the Council had been informed on 16 January 2023 that Marcia Fellows who had been the Resources Deputy Director had passed away on 15 January 2023 following a long period of illness. The Council's condolences were extended to Marcia's family, friends and colleagues.

The Council then undertook a minute's silence to respect both of their passings.

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566. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence had been received from Councillors Caffyn, Clayden, Gregory, Hamilton, Huntley, Madeley, Purchase, Seex, Stanley and Warr and from Honorary Aldermen, Mrs Stinchcombe and Mr Dingemans.

567. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Declaration of Interest Sheet set out below confirms those Members who had made a declaration of their personal interest as a Member of a Town or Parish Councillor or a West Sussex County Councillor, as confirmed in their Register of Interest as these declarations could apply to any of the issues to be discussed at the meeting.

Name	Town or Parish Council or West Sussex County Council [WSSC]
Councillor Tracy Baker	Littlehampton
Councillor Kenton Batley	Bognor Regis
Councillor Jamie Bennett	Rustington
Councillor Paul Bicknell	Angmering
Councillor Billy Blanchard-Cooper	Littlehampton
Councillor Jim Brooks	Bognor Regis
Councillor Ian Buckland	Littlehampton and WSSC
Councillor David Chace	Littlehampton
Councillor Mike Clayden	Rustington
Councillor Andy Cooper	Rustington
Councillor Alison Cooper	Rustington and WSSC
Councillor Sandra Daniells	Bognor Regis
Councillor Roger Elkins	Ferring and WSSC
Councillor Paul English	Felpham
Councillor Steve Goodheart	Bognor Regis
Councillor Pauline Gregory	Rustington
Councillor June Hamilton	Pagham
Councillor Shirley Haywood	Middleton-on-Sea
Councillor David Huntley	Pagham
Councillor Henry Jones	Bognor Regis
Councillor Martin Lury	Bersted
Councillor Stephen McAuliffe	Walberton
Councillor Claire Needs	Bognor Regis
Councillor Mike Northeast	Littlehampton
Councillor Francis Oppler	WSSC
Councillor Jacky Pendleton	Middleton-on-Sea and WSSC
Councillor Vicky Rhodes	Littlehampton

Councillor Emily Seex	Littlehampton
Councillor Martin Smith	Aldwick
Councillor Samantha Staniforth	Bognor Regis
Councillor Matt Stanley	Bognor Regis
Councillor Will Tilbrook	Littlehampton
Councillor Isabel Thurston	Barnham & Eastergate
Councillor James Walsh	Littlehampton and WSCC
Councillor Sue Wallsgrove	Barnham
Councillor Jeanette Warr	Bognor Regis
Councillor Amanda Worne	Yapton
Councillor Gillian Yeates	Bersted

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

568. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair confirmed that seven public questions had been submitted for the meeting. The questions have been very briefly summarised below:

- (1) From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Corporate Support Committee, Councillor Dendle regarding the Boundary Commission examining constituency boundaries. The Chair confirmed that this question was being automatically referred to the next meeting of the Corporate Support Committee on 19 January 2023.
- (2) From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Economy Committee, Councillor Cooper regarding the establishment of a Working Party to consider presentations on the regeneration of Bognor Regis. The Chair confirmed that this question was being automatically referred to the next meeting of the Economy Committee on 2 February 2023.
- (3) From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Constitution Working Party, Councillor Bower regarding the procedure in place for Public Question Time at meetings.
- (4) From Mr Cosgrove to the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Councillor Gunner regarding a private briefing that had been held for Members of this Committee on the Bognor Regis Levelling-Up scheme. The Chair confirmed that this question was being automatically referred to the Policy & Finance Committee on 9 February 2023.
- (5) From Mrs Smith to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chapman regarding the legal status of access to the site known as 'Land West of Fontwell Avenue (AL/121/16/PL). Councillor Chapman confirmed that he would provide a written response to this question and questions 6 and 7 below.
- (6) From Mrs Smith to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chapman regarding his response made to a previous question asked at Full Council in July 2022.
- (7) From Mrs Smith to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chapman regarding site AL/121/16/PL.

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The Chair then drew Public Question to a close.

(A schedule of the full questions asked, and the responses provided can be found on the Public Question Web page at: [Arun District Council](#))

569. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS WITH PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

No questions were asked.

570. PETITIONS

The Chair confirmed that as announced at the last meeting of Full Council on 9 November 2022, a petition had been received containing over 1,500 signatures asking the Council to protect services provided to the public at the Bognor Regis Town Hall.

The wording of the petition had been set out in a report provided by the Interim Group Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer [as set out in the agenda pack at pages 1 to 4] confirming that:

The Council is asked to “immediately restore frontline face to face services for the public to Bognor Regis Town Hall and maintain those services there for the foreseeable future. We are concerned that those in the town and surrounding villages who are on limited income, have limited mobility, are not on the internet and are not able to be diverted to appointments elsewhere or at another time, will lose the convenient access to Council services that the Town Hall has provided since 1930. We call on Arun District Councillors to recognise their responsibility to provide convenient and easy LOCAL access to all Council services for all members of the public in Bognor Regis and surrounding villages, particularly the elderly and those of limited income and mobility”.

In line with the Council’s Petition Scheme, set out in the Council’s Constitution at Part 8 – Codes and Protocols, Section 4 – Petitions Scheme – Paragraph 5.0 – Full Council debates, the Chair firstly invited the Petition Organiser, Mrs Mande Keeling, to present the petition.

Mrs Keeling then presented the petition. She confirmed that the Town Hall was the heart of Bognor Regis and was treasured by the public. It was explained that the petition had started after Mrs Keeling had come into contact with many people who had spoken about how hard it had become for them to talk to their Council face to face. She stated that these people were elderly, disabled and often had no means of transport and so could not easily get to the Civic Centre in Littlehampton or had little or no access to online services. Also, those that had tried to make contact with the Council, through various means, had complained that their experiences had not been positive, and their queries had not been answered swiftly. Mrs Keeling outlined that the petition had stretched from Rose Green to Middleton-on-Sea as well as including many shops and business in-between. In organising the petition, Mrs Keeling confirmed that she had

spoken to many people about the plight of services and most residents had agreed that the Council was hard to reach. They had also wished to convey that they loved their Town Hall and wanted to see it working for their community. Mrs Keeling stated that the Council had gently reduced services to the people of Bognor Regis and surrounding areas and had done this with their usual manner of disdain towards the people in the town, calling people 'moaners' if they wished to complain and calling the petition misleading and time wasting, this was not the case. Arun District Council had done this without consulting with elected Councillors. The concern of the public was that the Town Hall and its services to the public would continue to decrease and there was genuine fear that the Town Hall, at some point in the future, would be closed. Mrs Keeling pleaded with the Council to save the Town Hall and its services by asking the Council to maintain face to face Council services at the Bognor Regis Town Hall for the foreseeable future and to look after this splendid example of Bognor Regis' heritage. Mrs Keeling asked Councillors to support the strong message being delivered by the petition.

Having thanked Mrs Keeling for her presentation, the Chair then invited the Chair of the Corporate Support Committee, Councillor Dendle, to make a response to the petition. He thanked Mrs Keeling for the petition and for the obvious hard work that had been dedicated to it and also for her interaction with those that had signed it. Councillor Dendle referred Members to the report provided by the Interim Group Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer which confirmed that the petition had been built on a false premise because face to face access was still available at the Town Hall. He stated that over the years there had been a change with more people contacting the council virtually or by other means but that this did not mean that a face to face service was not available or that this service would not continue to be provided for the foreseeable future. The Council continued to look at how services could be provided in different ways to benefit the public. The Officer report confirmed when the Town Hall was open for business and when telephone or face to face contact could be made.

Councillor Dendle then reminded Members of the recommendation set out in the Officer's accompanying report. Councillor Dendle then formally proposed this recommendation which was "Members are asked to consider the report and to confirm how the Council should respond to the petition based upon the facts presented". Councillor Dendle confirmed that Councillor Roberts would be seconding this recommendation.

The Chair then invited debate from Councillors, the first to speak was Councillor Dixon. He too thanked Mrs Keeling for the petition and confirmed that he wished the response of the council to be that a statement be issued to reassure residents that the council would continue to provide face to face services at the Bognor Regis Town Hall for the foreseeable future and that a list of all services that could be accessed face to face be provided. This would go some way to correct any mis-messages about services not being provided in the future and would reassure the public that the Council's intentions were good.

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Councillors responded confirming that they would be happy to support this proposal as they felt that post Covid-19, services to the public at the Town Hall had changed in that the public could no longer just drop into the Town Hall to discuss a problem with a member of staff, an appointment now had to be made to do this. It was outlined that the petition had made it clear that the public wanted to be able to call into the Town Hall at a moment of need and see a member of staff at that point. There were some Councillors who felt that that the Town Hall was being underutilised and so there was a general sense of fear that this would result, in the longer-term, in it being sold.

Further debate saw mixed views being expressed. Although some Councillors accepted that there were staff in place at the Town Hall to assist with the booking of appointments, they also felt that current provision was inadequate, and that proper public access was required. Concerns were also expressed over the lack of privacy for those visiting the Town Hall to book appointments with staff and that confidential space should be made available. Another observation made was that with increasing housing numbers, there would be more need to expand customer services at the Town Hall and that more thought should be given to making it a more effective one stop shop.

Councillor Gunner, as Leader of the Council, confirmed and reassured that no discussions had taken place with Officers to consider either reducing services at the Town Hall or selling the Town Hall. In responding to the comments made about the Town Hall operating reduced customer services, Members were reminded of the varied and excellent support services provided to residents and that 'in person' appointments were available along with opportunities to gain the assistance of staff using the telephone, or face to face appointments by virtual means. Examples of the types of service provided to the public were highlighted proving that there was no attempt to reduce the care and support provided to residents.

Other Councillors confirmed that they supported Councillor Dixon's proposal as this provided a solid response to the petition. Councillors thanked Mrs Keeling for her work and thanked everyone who had signed the petition for engaging with the Council and for confirming how they felt.

Following further debate, Councillor Dendle referred to the recommendation that had been set out within the Officer's report which he had proposed and he confirmed that he would happily accept Councillor Dixon's proposal as an amendment. This was also accepted by Councillor Roberts who then seconded the recommendation in that report.

Councillor Dixon then formally proposed his amendment which read "That a statement is issued to reassure residents that the Council will continue to provide face to face services at the Bognor Regis Town Hall for the foreseeable future along with a list of all of the services that can be accessed face to face".

This amendment was then seconded by Councillor Coster.

On this amendment being put to the vote it was declared CARRIED.

The Council

RESOLVED

That a statement is issued to reassure residents that the Council will continue to provide face to face services at the Bognor Regis Town Hall for the foreseeable future along with a list of all of the services that can be accessed face to face.

571. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 November 2022 were approved by the Council as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.

572. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Firstly, the Chair outlined that following the King's New Year's Honours List, on behalf of the Council she wished to offer congratulations to the Reverend David Twinley, from St Nicholas' Church in Arundel, who had been awarded a BEM (Medallists of the Order of the British Empire) for his services to the community in Arundel and particularly during Covid-19.

The Chair emphasised she was that the district had such an outstanding citizen within the Arun community, and she congratulated Reverend Twinley for receiving this very well-deserved honour. The Chair confirmed that she and the Chief Executive and each written to Reverend Twinley to personally congratulate on him on this achievement.

The Chair also provided an update about her charity confirming that teenage mental health was very important to her and so she wished to support organisations in this field. As she was very aware of the current cost of living crisis, she felt that it was important to stage a different type of event focusing more on supporting local young people rather than direct fund raising. The Chair highlighted that she had been liaising with the Arun Youth Project and local businesses so that some charity activity days could be organised for families who had teenagers that were struggling with mental health issues. One outcome from these discussions was that the Beach Café in Littlehampton had confirmed that it would be happy to help support an activity day for young people up to the age of 18 providing activities such as water sports and the use of the skatepark as well as other wellbeing activities such as yoga. The Chair confirmed that dates would be released soon and she asked Members to support these activities by way of a donation if this was possible. A just giving account would soon be set up on the Chair's Councillor page providing these details.

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573. URGENT MATTERS

The Chair confirmed that there were two urgent items for this meeting to consider.

The first item was a report from the Group Head of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer reviewing changes in proportionality and to agree revised Committee allocations following the result of the Arundel and Walberton by-election on 1 December 2022 and a change to the number of Councillors within the Liberal Democrat group.

The Chair confirmed that this report had been circulated to all Councillors on 17 January 2023 and had been uploaded to the Full Council web page as a supplement.

The Group Head of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer explained that there was an urgent need for the Council to agree revised Committee allocations reflecting the updated political proportionality following a change to the number of Councillors within the Liberal Democrat group. He confirmed that the proposals had been approved by Group Leaders in advance of this meeting. The result of this review was that Councillor Buckland would remain as a Member of the Corporate Support and Standards Committees.

Having had the recommendations in the report proposed by Councillor Bicknell and seconded by Councillor Bennett,

The Council

RESOLVED – That

- (1) The outcome of the review of committees of entitlement of political groups and non-aligned councillors to seats on committees, based upon proportionality rules, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted;
- (2) The allocation of seats to political groups be approved; and
- (3) Subject to 2.2 above, to approve appointments to Committees for the remainder of the municipal year in Paragraph 4.11 of this report.

The Chair then turned to the second urgent item which was a report from the Director of Growth regarding the Bognor Regis Business Improvement District Proposal – Second Term. As this report was seeking the Council's authority to confirm how it would vote in the term 2 ballot, the Chair confirmed that it was proposed that this item be considered in Exempt Business at the end of the meeting.

574. REPORT FROM THE RETURNING OFFICER OF THE PERSON ELECTED AS DISTRICT COUNCILLOR FOR ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL ON 1 DECEMBER 2022

The Council received and noted a report from the Chief Executive, declaring that Councillor Stephen McAuliffe had been elected as a Member of Arun District Council's Arundel and Walberton Ward following the By-Election held on 1 December 2022.

575. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Chair proposed a change to the order of the agenda suggesting that Agenda Item 13 [Policy & Finance Committee – 13 December 2022] and time critical recommendations from that Committee relating to the Budget be considered now in view of this meeting's long agenda.

Having been formally proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cooper, on this proposal being put to the vote it was declared CARRIED.

576. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE - 13 DECEMBER 2022

The Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Councillor Gunner, presented recommendations from the meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on 13 December 2022.

Councillor Gunner alerted Members to the first set of recommendations at Minute 531 [Financial Prospects (Medium-Term Financial Prospects) 2022-23 to 2026-27 which he formally proposed. The recommendations were then seconded by Councillor Pendleton.

The Council

RESOLVED

- (1) To approve the medium-term budget plan for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27;
- (2) To agree the core assumptions set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy contained in Section 4 of the report;

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(3) Note that there were uncertainties around Government Funding prior to the local government settlement in December 2022 and the delay in the Local Government Funding reforms such as business rates retention and the future of the New Homes Bonus; and

(4) Agree the maximising of income including fees and charges, where possible, as part of the 2023/24 budget process.

Councillor Gunner then turned to the final set of recommendations at Minute 534 [Items Brought Forward from Service Committees – Housing & Wellbeing Committee – 6 December 2022 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revised Budget – 2022-23 which he formally proposed. The recommendations were then seconded by Councillor Pendleton.

The Council

RESOLVED - That

(1) Having reviewed the changes to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget, the revised HRA Budget set out in Appendix 1 to the report is approved; and

(2) Any required changes to the financing of HRA capital expenditure including potential borrowing are agreed.

577. AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 29 NOVEMBER 2022

In the absence of the Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee, Councillor Clayden, the Vice-Chair, Councillor Chapman, presented recommendations from the meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee held on 29 November 2022.

Councillor Chapman alerted Members to a series of recommendations at Minute 467 [Treasury Management – Mid Year Report 2022/23 which he formally proposed. Councillor Chace then seconded the recommendations.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

- (1) The actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2022/23 contained in the report be approved;
- (2) The treasury management mid-year review (this report) for 2022/23 be noted; and
- (3) The treasury mid-year activity for the period ended 30 September 2022, which has generated interest receipts of £500,000 (1.58%) year to date, against a budget of £370,000 (0.84%) for the full year, be noted.

578. CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY - 5 DECEMBER 2022

The Chair, Councillor Bower presented recommendations from the meeting of the Constitution Working Party held on 5 December 2022.

Councillor Bower alerted Councillors to a recommendation at Minute 6 [Updates to the Constitution] and to an email that had been sent to all Councillors by the Monitoring Officer earlier on in the day. This explained that the Appendix referred to in the recommendation was the appendix to the Working Party report and could be found on pages 57 to 204 of the agenda. The proposed amendments to the constitution had been shown in tracked changes with the only exception being where changes had been required to officer job titles, as a result of last year's senior management restructure. Those job titles had been updated and not shown as tracked. This was because to show all of those changes would have resulted in an overwhelming set of papers being provided to Members making it harder for Members to then find the more substantial amendments. Councillor Bower then formally proposed the recommendations which were then seconded by Councillor Cooper.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the proposed amendments set out within the body of Appendix 1 be approved, to include the amendments made earlier in the meeting as set out within the minutes.

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579. SPECIAL PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE - 7 DECEMBER 2022

The Chair of the Planning Policy Committee, Councillor Bower, presented recommendations from the Special Meeting of the Planning Policy Committee held on 7 December 2022.

Councillor Bower alerted Councillors to a series of recommendations at Minute 507 [A Response to the National Highways A27 Arundel, Further Consultation] explaining that National Highways had undertaken supplementary consultation regarding its proposals to improve the A27 by building a bypass around Arundel. The Special Meeting of the Planning Policy Committee had been informed of the content of the consultation, which had strictly related to matters relating to Walberton, and had been invited to respond to this consultation by the deadline date of 16 December 2022. In debating the consultation, the Committee felt that it was important for all Members of the Council to be able to respond to the consultation as this was a matter that affected the entire district. The Committee's response had therefore been recommended onto Full Council. The decision of the Committee had been submitted to National Highways so as to meet its consultation's deadline, but it had been submitted as an interim conclusion subject to debate and any decision made by this Full Council meeting. Councillor Bower then proposed the recommendations which were then seconded by Councillor Hughes.

In proposing the recommendations, Councillor Bower confirmed that he was concerned that the recommendations from the Committee had an air of conditionality about them and well as slight negativity. As Councillor Bower did not wish this Council to fall into the same position as Chichester District Council, who had been slightly negative at what was being proposed for the A27 around Chichester, it had been interpreted that they did not wish to pursue the improvements around that area. Councillor Bower's view was this it was vital for this Council to confirm its determination to pursue the proposals for the A27 and to ensure that the future economy of Arun would gain the benefit of the by-pass as this was what this Council had been fighting for, for decades. Incidents just this week where the A27 had been closed in two locations at the same time had highlighted the major issues with the surrounding road network south of the A27 and this had confirmed how the improvements were desperately needed.

Councillor Bower then confirmed that he wished to make amendments to some of the recommendations which he explained.

The amendments proposed are set out below – with additions shown using **bold** any deletions shown using ~~strikethrough~~:

1. The Council's **strongly** supports for the grey route **but** is conditional **remains concerned** by the perceived ~~on-satisfactory mitigation to reduce~~ rat running through Walberton and other local roads. The Council does not **consider** ~~have confidence~~ that the rat-running issue has been satisfactorily resolved and also asks that National Highways review the veracity of their conclusions in light of the traffic survey data commissioned by Walberton Parish Council;
2. The Council supports the provision of a bat crossing at Tye Lane;
3. ~~The Council views the exercise value of a round of golf as an important part of its health and wellbeing package for the district and would like to see golf (option 1 or option 2) retained at this location (not par 3 pitch and putt which had minimal exercise value);~~
4. The Council supports the proposed changes to the Crossbush Junction;
5. For the avoidance of doubt the Council supports the offline solution to bridging the proposed road at Yapton Lane;
6. **The magenta route remains this Council's preferred solution with support for the grey route is conditional on the inclusion of a junction with Ford Road and the new A27 and** ~~That we draw the attention of National Highways to the potential to reduce rat running by taking forward the Ford Road A27 junction as previously proposed.~~

Councillor Gunner then seconded these amendments.

The Chair then invited debate on these amendments. Some Councillors confirmed that they could not endorse these amendments as they saw them as a step back for the Council. The support for the grey route needed to be conditional in terms of the inclusion of a junction with Ford Road. This was seen as vital to this project working and being a success. Instead, National Highways had proposed a route that was not supported and cost the most, the difference between the grey route and magenta route would have paid for the Ford Road junction based on the costings provided and from the independent review undertaken. The Council needed the A27 extended but how could the Council support a route which was completely against what the Council had confirmed earlier.

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It was felt that the amendment to Recommendation (6) was completely unnecessary. There were other Councillors, especially Members of the Planning Policy Committee, who could not understand why further amendments were being proposed when the Committee had unanimously agreed its recommendations following thorough debate. It was felt that Councillor Bower's amendments changed the spirit of the Committee's recommendations.

Further reservations were expressed about the Chair of the Committee changing the recommendations presented. It was pointed out that this consultation was not just about Walberton but was also about amendments to the Crossbush Junction and specifically about the Avisford Park Golf Course. To start reintroducing references to the Magenta route at this stage, when it had been off the table for a long time, was unhelpful, there was only one option which was the grey route with no other route alternatives. There were many Councillors who strongly objected to the removal of Recommendation (3), which had been a well thought out part of the consultation, and they asked to see the evidence to back up why it should be removed.

Further debate in support of the amendments took place and focused upon the economic repercussions for the district if an offline bypass was not delivered. The Government was willing to invest hundreds of millions into the area. In response the Council needed to support the amendments and emphasise the need for the bypass which would provide significant improvements for businesses and private travel locally as well as all other parts of the Southeast. This was one of the most significant investment opportunities for the district and so the Council could not lose the opportunity of obtaining that investment. Many concerns raised by West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) and had been highlighted by this Council but many of these would be addressed in the DCO application process undertaken by an independent inspector. It was important for all of these issues to be fully considered and for WSSCC and Arun to be united in getting the best opportunity to highlight the rat running issues which needed to be addressed but would be by the inspector. This infrastructure was needed to secure the district's economic future and the Council could not run the risk of losing this investment by using the word conditional.

Councillors expressing a different view explained that the Council needed to express conditional support for the grey route and upon satisfactory mitigation to reduce rat running. The Council needed to be robust in defending its residents and pushing forward with a robust response to include development proposals for golf courses as part of the district's leisure package. The Council needed to be sure and not bullied into accepting that the rat running issues had been resolved.

Councillor Gunner, as seconder to the amendments, reconfirmed the points made by those supporting the amendments and that this involved needing to think carefully about the use of conditional support.

A recorded vote had been requested for each of the amendments.

For the amendment to Recommendation 1, those voting for it were Councillors Bicknell, Bower, Chace, Chapman, Mrs Cooper, Cooper, Daniells, Dendle, Edwards, Elkins, Mrs English, English, Goodheart, Gunner, Hughes, Kelly, Oliver-Redgate, Pendleton, Rhodes and Staniforth (20). Those voting against were Councillors Batley, Bennett, Blanchard-Cooper, Brooks, Buckland, Coster, Dixon, Haywood, Jones, Lury, McAuliffe, Needs, Northeast, Oppler, Roberts, Smith, Thurston, Tilbrook, Wallsgrove, Walsh, Worne and Yeates (22). Councillor Staniforth abstained from voting (1).

The amendment to Recommendation (1) was therefore declared as being NOT CARRIED.

For the amendment to Recommendation (3), those voting for it were Councillors Bicknell, Bower, Chace, Chapman, Mrs Cooper, Cooper, Daniells, Dendle, Edwards, Elkins, Mrs English, Goodheart, Gunner, Kelly, Northeast, Oliver-Redgate, Pendleton, Rhodes and Staniforth (19). Those voting against were Councillors Batley, Bennett, Blanchard-Cooper, Brooks, Buckland, Coster, Dixon, Haywood, Jones, Lury, McAuliffe, Needs, Oppler, Smith, Thurston, Tilbrook, Wallsgrove, Walsh, Worne and Yeates (20). Councillors English, Hughes, Roberts and Stainton abstained from voting (4).

The amendment to Recommendation (3) was therefore declared as being NOT CARRIED.

For the amendment to Recommendation (6), those voting for it were Councillors Bicknell, Bower, Chapman, Mrs Cooper, Cooper, Dendle, Edwards, Elkins, Gunner, Kelly, Northeast, Oliver-Redgate, Pendleton, Rhodes and Staniforth (15). Those voting against were Councillors Batley, Bennett, Blanchard-Cooper, Buckland, Coster, Dixon, English, Jones, Lury, Needs, Oppler, Roberts, Smith, Thurston, Tilbrook, Wallsgrove, Walsh, Worne and Years (19). Councillors Brooks, Chace, Daniells, Mrs English, Goodheart, Haywood, Hughes, McAuliffe and Stainton abstained from voting (9).

The amendment to Recommendation (6) was therefore declared as being NOT CARRIED.

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The Chair then returned to the substantive recommendations. Councillor McAuliffe confirmed that he wished to make amendments to the substantive recommendations by adding more detail.

The Chair then called a short adjournment so that the detail of the amendments could be confirmed. The meeting then resumed.

Councillor McAuliffe then proposed his amendments.

The amendments proposed are set out below – with additions shown using **bold** any deletions shown using ~~strikethrough~~:

1. The Council's support for the grey route is conditional on satisfactory mitigation to reduce rat running. The Council does not have confidence that the rat-running issue has been satisfactorily resolved, ~~and also asks that National Highways review the veracity of their conclusions in light of the traffic survey data commissioned by Walberton Parish Council;~~ **The Council asks National Highways to review the veracity of existing traffic models in light of traffic survey data commissioned by Walberton Parish Council and National Highways' own data that highlight the disparities between models and real-time data. Solutions that avoid adverse traffic impacts for the entirety of Walberton and adjacent villages including currently un-modelled link roads around Fontwell, Barnham and Eastergate should be presented.**
2. The Council supports the provision of a bat **bridge design which is supported by scientific evidence and Natural England Green Bridge Guidance and is likely to achieve positive conservation outcomes for those species known to be present. National Highways are requested to provide design updates that conform to these criteria** ~~crossing at Tye Lane;~~
3. The Council views the exercise value of a round of golf as an important part of its health and wellbeing package for the district and would like to see golf (option 1 or option 2) retained at this location (not par 3 pitch and putt which had minimal exercise value) **along with the important community facilities provided by the existing golf course that serve the wider population in addition to golf club members.**
4. **National Highways are requested to amend designs in order to avoid foreseeable congestion on the northbound A284 and to include measures that avoid southbound delays at the proposed**

Causeway/A27 junction. It is also requested that plans for compulsory purchase of land to facilitate the new design, but expected to adversely affect local business interests, be reviewed. The Council supports the proposed changes to the Crossbush Junction;

5. For the avoidance of doubt the Council supports the offline solution to bridging the proposed road at Yapton Lane;
6. The Council's support for the grey route is conditional on the inclusion of a junction with Ford Road and the new A27. That we draw the attention of National Highways to the potential to reduce rat running by taking forward the Ford Road A27 junction as previously proposed.

Councillor McAuliffe having proposed his amendments then provided a summary explaining their need. Regarding the bat bridge, the amendment to (Recommendation (2), there was no scientific evidence that supported the efficacy of the bridge proposed. National Highways had put forward a bat bridge that was 5 metres wide. The Natural England recommendation concluded that no bridge less than 20 metres in width could be recommended. Furthermore, this bridge had only be used once in the country on a completely different scale of road, which was an unlit single carriage way road serving 10,000 vehicles. This would not be suitable for the A27 and would not achieve effective mitigation. In addressing Recommendation (3), the golf course was a community hub and was not just for members it provided facilities for others to use in the local community. There were people who lived in Walberton with limited mobility and limited access to transport and relied on the facilities provided by the golf club, even if this was not the golf course itself. The facilities provided an important public function and needed to be maintained. Regarding Crossbush, it was necessary to raise the issue of compulsory purchase to facilitate the new design on that end of the route. This was not supported by the landowners and there were concerns that it would adversely impact business interests in the Crossbush/Lyminster area. Given that one of the main proposals was for the economic improvement in the Arun valley it would be a shame if at the first hurdle this was not supported by Council.

Councillor Thurston then seconded these amendments.

The Chair then invited debate on these amendments which saw a range of Councillors speaking for and against them. Those speaking in support confirmed that the amendments added considerable clarity. It was highlighted that for the amendment to Recommendation (3) it was vital to continue to provide the community facilities at the current golf club. Regarding the bat bridge [Recommendation 2], Members would be guided by the scientific evidence provided accepting what was best practice and the need to have a bridge that accorded with best practice and guidance.

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Those speaking against Recommendation (1) held great concern over the word conditional, hoping that a further amendment could be made later to remove this.

A recorded vote had been requested for each of the amendments.

Those voting for the amendment to Recommendation (1) were Councillors Batley, Bennett, Bicknell, Blanchard-Cooper, Brooks, Buckland, Chace, Mrs Cooper, Cooper, Coster, Dixon, Edwards, Mrs English, Goodheart, Gunner, Haywood, Hughes, Jones, Kelly, Lury, McAuliffe, Needs, Northeast, Oliver-Redgate, Oppler, Roberts, Smith, Stainton, Thurston, Tilbrook, Wallsgrove, Walsh, Worne and Yeates (34). Those voting against were Councillors Bower, Chapman, Dendle, Elkins (4). Councillors Daniells, English, Pendleton, Rhodes and Staniforth abstained from voting (5).

The amendment to Recommendation (1) was therefore declared as CARRIED.

Those voting for the amendment to Recommendation (2) were Councillors Batley, Bennett, Bicknell, Blanchard-Cooper, Bower, Brooks, Buckland, Chace, Chapman, Mrs Cooper, Coster, Dixon, Edwards, Mrs English, Goodheart, Haywood, Jones, Lury, McAuliffe, Needs, Oliver-Redgate, Oppler, Pendleton, Smith, Stainton, Thurston, Tilbrook, Wallsgrove, Walsh, Worne and Yeates (31). Those voting against were Councillors Daniells and Dendle (2). Councillors Cooper, Elkins, English, Gunner, Hughes, Kelly, Northeast, Rhodes, Roberts, and Staniforth abstained from voting (10).

The amendment to Recommendation (2) was therefore declared as CARRIED.

Those voting for the amendment to Recommendation (3) were Councillors Batley, Bennett, Blanchard-Cooper, Brooks, Buckland, Coster, Dixon, Haywood, Hughes, Jones, Lury, McAuliffe, Needs, Oppler, Smith, Stainton, Thurston, Tilbrook, Wallsgrove, Walsh, Worne and Yeates (22). Those voting against were Councillors Bicknell, Chace, Chapman, Mrs Cooper, Cooper, Daniells, Dendle, Edwards, Elkins, Mrs English, English, Goodheart, Gunner, Kelly, Northeast, Oliver-Redgate, Roberts and Staniforth (18). Councillors Bower, Pendleton and Rhodes abstained from voting (3).

The amendment to Recommendation (3) was therefore declared as CARRIED.

Those voting for the amendment to Recommendation (4) were Councillors Batley, Bennett, Blanchard-Cooper, Brooks, Buckland, Chace, Coster, Dixon, Haywood, Hughes, Jones, Lury, McAuliffe, Needs, Oppler, Roberts, Smith, Stainton, Thurston, Tilbrook, Wallsgrove, Walsh, Worne and Yeates (24). Those voting against were Councillors Bicknell, Bower, Chapman, Mrs Cooper, Cooper, Daniells, Dendle, Elkins, Mrs English, English, Goodheart, Kelly, Oliver-Redgate, Pendleton and Staniforth (15). Councillors Edwards, Gunner, Northeast and Rhodes abstained from voting (4).

The amendment to Recommendation (4) was therefore declared as CARRIED.

The Chair then returned to the substantive recommendations and invited debate.

Councillor Pendleton confirmed that she wished to make amendments to Recommendations (1) and (6) which she formally proposed.

The amendments proposed are set out below – with additions shown using **bold** any deletions shown using ~~strikethrough~~:

1. The Council's supports for the grey route **but calls for** ~~is conditional on~~ satisfactory mitigation to reduce rat running. The Council does not have confidence that the rat-running issue has been satisfactorily resolved. The Council asks National Highways to review the veracity of existing traffic models in light of traffic survey data commissioned by Walberton Parish Council and National Highways' own data that highlight the disparities between models and real-time data. Solutions that avoid adverse traffic impacts for the entirety of Walberton and adjacent villages including currently un-modelled link roads around Fontwell, Barnham and Eastergate should be presented;
2. The Council supports the provision of a bat bridge design which is supported by scientific evidence and Natural England Green Bridge Guidance and is likely to achieve positive conservation outcomes for those species known to be present. National Highways are requested to provide design updates that conform to these criteria at Tye Lane;
3. The Council views the exercise value of a round of golf as an important part of its health and wellbeing package for the district and would like to see golf (option 1 or option 2) retained at this location (not par 3 pitch and putt which had minimal exercise value) along with the important community facilities provided by the existing golf course that serve the wider population in addition to golf club members.

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4. National Highways are requested to amend designs in order to avoid foreseeable congestion on the northbound A284 and to include measures that avoid southbound delays at the proposed Causeway/A27 junction. It is also requested that plans for compulsory purchase of land to facilitate the new design, but expected to adversely affect local business interests, be reviewed;
5. For the avoidance of doubt the Council supports the offline solution to bridging the proposed road at Yapton Lane;
6. The Council's support for the grey route **calls for** ~~is conditional on~~ the inclusion of a junction with Ford Road and the new A27. That we draw the attention of National Highways to the potential to reduce rat running by taking forward the Ford Road A27 junction as previously proposed.

Councillor Gunner seconded these amendments.

The Chair then invited debate on these amendments to the substantive recommendations as amended. Those speaking against confirmed that they could not agree to the removal of the word conditional.

Before moving further forward with the meeting, the Chair, in line with the Constitution at Part 5 (Rules of Procedure (Meetings), Section 1 – Council Procedure Rule 11.1, confirmed that the Committee would need to adjourn at 9.00 pm unless a vote was undertaken to extend the length of the meeting by a further 30 minutes. The Chair then proposed to extend the meeting by this time to 9.30 pm, if needed, to ensure that all business on the agenda would be concluded. This was seconded by Councillor Cooper and on being put to the vote this was unanimously agreed.

Continuing with the debate, concerns were again raised that this opportunity for the bypass could be jeopardised by leaving demands and words such as conditional within the recommendations. Members were advised to leave such detail to the independent inspector who would look at the development proposals. What was needed now was a clear indication from the Council that it wished to move forward with the scheme.

On putting the amendments to Recommendations (1) and (6) to the vote, these were declared as CARRIED.

The Chair then returned to the substantive recommendations as amended.

Councillor Walsh proposed a Motion without Notice which was “That the question be now put”. This was not seconded but agreed by Councillors present.

The voting on the substantive recommendations was then undertaken.

The Council

RESOLVED

The following responses to the supplementary consultation and matters of clarification:

1. The Council supports the grey route but calls for satisfactory mitigation to reduce rat running. The Council does not have confidence that the rat-running issue has been satisfactorily resolved. The Council asks National Highways to review the veracity of existing traffic models in light of traffic survey data commissioned by Walberton Parish Council and National Highways’ own data that highlight the disparities between models and real-time data. Solutions that avoid adverse traffic impacts for the entirety of Walberton and adjacent villages including currently un-modelled link roads around Fontwell, Barnham and Eastergate should be presented;
2. The Council supports the provision of a bat bridge design which is supported by scientific evidence and Natural England Green Bridge Guidance and is likely to achieve positive conservation outcomes for those species known to be present. National Highways are requested to provide design updates that conform to these criteria at Tye Lane;
3. The Council views the exercise value of a round of golf as an important part of its health and wellbeing package for the district and would like to see golf (option 1 or option 2) retained at this location (not par 3 pitch and putt which had minimal exercise value) along with the important community facilities provided by the existing golf course that serve the wider population in addition to golf club members;
4. National Highways are requested to amend designs in order to avoid foreseeable congestion on the northbound A284 and to include measures that avoid southbound delays at the proposed Causeway/A27 junction. It is also requested that plans for compulsory

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purchase of land to facilitate the new design, but expected to adversely affect local business interests, be reviewed;

5. For the avoidance of doubt the Council supports the offline solution to bridging the proposed road at Yapton Lane;
6. The Council calls for the inclusion of a junction with Ford Road and the new A27. That we draw the attention of National Highways to the potential to reduce rat running by taking forward the Ford Road A27 junction as previously proposed.

(A request was made by Councillor Jones that his vote against the substantive recommendations be recorded within these minutes).

(During the course of the debate on this item, Councillor Elkins declared a Personal Interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council).

580. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 15 DECEMBER 2022

The Chair of the Standards Committee, Councillor English, presented the recommendations from the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 15 December 2022.

Councillor English alerted Councillors to the fact that there were two separate sets of recommendations for them to consider at Minute 544 [Monitoring Officer Protocol] and Minute 545 [Review of Operation and Efficacy of the Protocol for Member and Officer Relations] which he proposed to take together. Councillor English then proposed both sets of recommendations which were then seconded by Councillor Kelly.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the Monitoring Officer Protocol be included within Part 8 of the Constitution.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the revised version of the Protocol for Member and Officer Relations be adopted.

581. PLANNING COMMITTEE - 11 JANUARY 2023

The Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Chaman presented recommendations from the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11 January 2023.

The Minutes from the meeting of the Planning Committee had been circulated separately to the agenda forming the supplement pack that had been circulated to all Councillors on 17 January 2023 and upload to the Full Council web page that day.

Councillor Chapman alerted Members to a recommendation at Minute 563 [HMO Article Direction Report] which he formally proposed. The recommendation was then seconded by Councillor Edwards.

The Council

RESOLVED

That Article 4 Directions (under Article 4 (10) Schedule 3 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015) for the three Wards of Marine, Hotham and Rover, to come into effect on 19 January 2023.

582. MOTIONS

The Chair confirmed that no motions had been received for this meeting.

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583. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The Chair referred Councillors to the Questions from Members that had been submitted in line with Council Procedure Rule 14.3 and the schedule of questions that had been circulated to the meeting. This confirmed that ten questions had been received.

The questions submitted had all been from Councillor Dixon as set out below. However, in view of the need to conclude the meeting before the 9.30 pm cut off, Councillor Dixon confirmed that he would be happy to receive written responses to his questions.

The Chair confirmed that the schedule of questions would therefore be updated to include the responses provided and would be uploaded to the Council's web page within ten working days of the meeting, in line with the Council's Constitution.

Ten questions had been submitted as bullet pointed below:

- (1) To the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Cllr Gunner Re: the last meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on 13 December and the Residents' Satisfaction Survey results which were discussed
- (2) To the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Cllr Gunner regarding the Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis
- (3) To the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Cllr Gunner Re: The Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis
- (4) To the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Cllr Gunner Re: The Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis
- (5) To the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Cllr Gunner Re: the Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis
- (6) To the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Cllr Gunner Re: the relocation of the temporary ice rink
- (7) To the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Cllr Gunner Re; the relocation of the temporary ice rink
- (8) To the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, Cllr Gunner Re: the relocation of the temporary ice rink
- (9) To the Chair of the Economy Committee, Cllr Andy Cooper – Re: the London Road coach and lorry park and its use for the temporary ice rink
- (10) To the Chair of the Economy Committee, Cllr Andy Cooper Re: Bognor Regis Town Centre footfall figures

584. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The Chair confirmed that in light of the urgent item considered earlier in the meeting, there were no changes to Committee Memberships to report to the meeting.

585. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chair confirmed that there were no changes to representation on Outside Bodies for the meeting to consider.

586. EXEMPT BUSINESS

Having been proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cooper, the Council

RESOLVED

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

587. BOGNOR REGIS BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PROPOSAL - SECOND TERM [EXEMPT - PARAGRAPH 3 - THE SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES]

The Director of Growth presented his report explaining that it was asking the Council to provide authority for him to vote on behalf of the Council in the Term 2 ballot, as outlined in Paragraph 1 of the report.

A meeting of the Economy Committee on 22 September 2022 had considered a report regarding the process of the ballot but it had not explicitly addressed the issue of how the Council should vote. This report provided a correction to this, and it was also explained that a decision was needed now as the ballot was proceeding and the date of its conclusion was 14 February 2023. The next meeting of Full Council was not until 1 March 2023.

Following some debate,

The Council

RESOLVED

That approval be given to provide authorisation to the Director of Growth to vote on behalf of the Council in the Term 2 ballot as specified in the report.

(The meeting concluded at 9.19 pm)

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