

**MINUTES
OF A
MEETING OF THE ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
HELD IN THE ARUN CIVIC CENTRE
ON 13 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 6.30 PM**

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

Honorary Alderman Mrs Stinchcombe was also in attendance at the meeting.

284. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, representatives of the public, press and officers to the Council Meeting. A special welcome was extended to Honorary Mrs Stinchcombe.

285. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Daniells and Miss Needs and from Honorary Aldermen Dingemans, Mrs Goad, MBE, Mrs Morrish and Squires.

286. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Coster declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 12 [Development Control Committee – 9 October 2019] in relation to Planning Application AW/134/19/HH. He stated that he needed to make this meeting aware that he may have made public statements as part of his election campaign and or in other circumstances that he had concerns about this particular application. He emphasised that these were his views held at this time, however, he had held an open mind regarding this application.

A Declaration of Interest Sheet had been circulated to the meeting setting out 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. This table is set out below:

Full Council - 13.11.19

Name	Town or Parish Council or West Sussex County Council [WSCC]
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 Ian Buckland	Littlehampton and WSCC
Councillor Mike Clayden	Rustington
Councillor Andy Cooper	Rustington
Councillor Alison Cooper	Rustington
Councillor David Edwards	WSCC
Councillor Roger Elkins	Ferring and WSCC
Councillor Paul English	Felpham
Councillor Inna Erskine	Bognor Regis
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 Francis Oppler	WSCC
Councillor Jacky Pendleton	Middleton-on-Sea and WSCC
Councillor Vicky Rhodes	Littlehampton
Councillor Dan Purchase	WSCC
Councillor Emily Seex	Littlehampton
Councillor Martin Smith	Aldwick
Councillor Samantha Staniforth	Bognor Regis
Councillor Matt Stanley	Bognor Regis
Councillor Isabel Thurston	Barnham & Eastergate
Councillor James Walsh	Littlehampton and WSCC
Councillor Jeanette Warr	Bognor Regis
Councillor Amanda Worne	Yapton
Councillor Gillian Yeates	Bersted

287. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions from members of the public who had submitted their questions in advance of the meeting in accordance with the rules of the Council's Constitution.

The Chairman announced that one question had been received. This asked the Cabinet Member for Technical Services, Councillor Stanley, if the Council could consider organising a national contest for a best designed shelter as there was a serious lack of proper shelters for rest and cover from inclement weather when walking along the river and seafront promenades at Littlehampton.

The Cabinet Member for Technical Services, Councillor Stanley, responded stating that there were currently a number of opportunities to obtain shelter from the elements in this area. In addition to the Coastguard Tower there was another shelter to the rear of the kiosks to the east and a shelter to the north. There were also two structures known as the "Stage by the Sea" and the two shelters within the Longest Bench all providing opportunities to shelter if the weather unexpectedly turned inclement.

Councillor Stanley also pointed out that there were a number of cafes in this area where shelter could be taken. He confirmed that there were no plans to review or expand on the number of sheltering spaces in Littlehampton in the near future due to the fact that there were a number of opportunities where shelter could currently be taken. However, as plans progressed for Littlehampton regeneration, the questioner's suggestions would be something that he would keep in mind.

The Chairman then invited the questioner to ask a supplementary question.

The questioner recommended the Cabinet Member to visit the seafront at Littlehampton next time a south westerly gale was blowing and whilst it was raining as the result was that in these instances anyone walking along the promenade area would become soaked due to being open to the elements. It was the questioner's view that none of the suggestions made were any good as not everyone wanted to enter a café and have to purchase food or drink just to take shelter. He referred to Worthing seafront that had many excellent shelters situated all along its promenade and asked again if the Council would look at this very strongly and bring this forward.

Councillor Stanley responded stating that he took the comments and observations on board.

The Chairman then drew Public Question Time to a close.

288. PETITIONS

The Chairman confirmed that no petitions had been received.

Full Council - 13.11.19

289. MINUTES

The Chairman announced that since the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 September 2019 had been agreed as a correct record at the Special Meeting of the Council held on 10 October 2019, a clerical error had been identified in Minute 221 [Motions] and the resolution on Motion 3 [Membership of the Development Control Committee]. The amended Motion carried by the Council was for the number of Members that could also be Cabinet Members be increased from 2 to 4. This decision had not been reflected in Resolution (1).

The Council was therefore being asked to agree that the final sentence of Resolution (1) at Minute 221 should read as follows:-

“I make a request to change the following section of the Council’s Constitution – Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions – Paragraph 4.2 – Development Control Committee in terms of the stipulation that no more than 2 Members can also be Cabinet Members and increase this figure from 2 to 4”.

On putting this amendment to the vote, it was declared CARRIED.

The Chairman then asked Council to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 10 October 2019.

Councillor Coster confirmed that he felt that there was an inaccuracy at Minute 264 [A27 Trunk Road – Improvements at Arundel] on page 200 of the Minutes [Page 10 of the agenda] in terms of the comment summary provided in respect of the Crimson route. The final paragraph at this section stated that this route would destroy 21 hectares of ancient woodland.

Councillor Coster referred to the consultation document provided by Highways England [Page 17] confirming that the correct figure was in fact 9.2 hectares not 21. Councillor Coster stated that this was also the figure outlined on Page 14 of the document.

Following some debate, it was agreed that the statement highlighting 21 hectares of ancient woodland would be amended to read 9.20 hectares of ancient woodland, in line with the public consultation document.

The Minutes were then approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

290. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman alerted Members to the list of engagements and events that had been attended since the Special Meeting of the Council held on 10 October 2019 – these had been emailed to Councillors recently.

291. URGENT MATTERS

There were no items for this meeting.

292. HOUSING & CUSTOMER SERVICES WORKING GROUP - 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Chairman, Councillor Bennett, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Housing & Customer Services Working Group held on 19 September 2019.

Councillor Bennett alerted Members to a recommendation at Minute 8 [Work Programme 2019/2020] in which the Council was being asked to approve the Working Group's Work Programme for this Municipal Year 2019/2020. Councillor Bennett then duly proposed the recommendation which was then seconded by Councillor Coster.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the Housing & Customer Services Working Group's Work Programme for 2019/20 be approved.

293. LICENSING COMMITTEE - 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

The Chairman, Councillor B Blanchard-Cooper, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 20 September 2019.

Councillor B Blanchard-Cooper then alerted Members to two recommendations at Minute 230 [Statement of Licensing Policy – Revision] and in formally proposing the recommendations stated that he wished to thank Officers for providing such a succinct and easy to read report. Councillor Clayden then duly seconded the recommendations.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

(1) The Statement of Licensing Policy be approved for adoption to take effect from 1 January 2020; and

(2) Authority be delegated to the Group Head of Technical Services to make minor changes to the Policy, in consultation with the Chairman.

294. CABINET - 7 OCTOBER 2019

The Chairman, Councillor Dr Walsh, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 October 2019.

Full Council - 13.11.19

295. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE - 9 OCTOBER 2019

(Councillor Coster redeclared his Personal Interest in this item in line with his Declaration made at the start of the meeting).

The Chairman, Councillor Bennett, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 9 October 2019.

296. PLANNING POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE - 15 OCTOBER 2019

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Yeates, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee held on 15 October 2019.

Councillor Mrs Yeates firstly alerted Members to the first of a series of recommendations at Minute 12 [Planning Policy and Climate Change Emergency] which she duly proposed. The three recommendations were then duly seconded by Councillor Jones.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

- (1) a climate change emergency be agreed by the Environment & Leisure Working Group and declared by the Council;
- (2) should a climate change emergency be declared, Officers investigate the scope of evidence necessary to test the feasibility and viability of achieving higher standards of sustainable design and adopting a zero-carbon target by 2030 where achievable; and
- (3) following consideration of this evidence and testing, Officers to prepare a review of the development management policies in the Local Plan or a Supplementary Planning Document.

The Chairman then drew Members' attention to the next set of recommendations at Minute 13 [Provision of Accommodation Suitable for Older People and People with Disabilities] which she duly proposed. The recommendations were then seconded by Councillor Jones.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

(1) the proposed guidance for the provision of Accommodation Suitable for Older Persons and People with Disabilities be treated as a guide (i.e. not as a Supplementary Planning Document) to provide a material consideration in respect of the determination of all relevant planning applications; and

(2) the proposed guidance is clearly set out as a starting point to inform development management negotiations, does not impose rigid requirement and is subject to viability.

The Chairman then referred Members to the final recommendation at Minute 16 [Housing Delivery Test] which she duly proposed. This recommendation was then seconded by Councillor Jones.

The Council

RESOLVED

That, subject to any further minor changes made by the Group Head of Planning, in consultation with the Chairman and the Portfolio Holder for Planning, the Action Plan be approved as a technical document for publication on the Council's web site.

Councillor Bower raised a Point of Order in relation to Minute 14 [Open Space Playing Pitches and Built Sports Facilities] and Minute 15 [Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document] which had recommendations for Full Council to consider but for the meeting to be held on 15 January 2020. He felt that this approach was confusing and asked how the recommendations could be considered later when the Minutes would be considered tonight.

The Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer confirmed that the matters at Minutes 14 and 15 would need to be represented to the next meeting of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee on 17 December 2019 so that the recommendations could be debated on 15 January 2020.

297. ELECTORAL REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE - 16 OCTOBER 2019

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Jones, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Electoral Review Sub-Committee held on 16 October 2019.

Councillor Jones alerted Members to three recommendations at Minute 8 [Review of Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations] which he formally proposed. The recommendations were seconded by Councillor Oppler.

The Council

Full Council - 13.11.19

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the location of polling stations/places as set out in Appendix 1 from 2020 onwards be accepted;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Returning Officer to complete any outstanding work identified in Appendix 1; and
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Returning Officer to make changes to polling stations where these are required urgently.

298. GOVERNANCE WORKING PARTY - 21 OCTOBER 2019

The Chairman, Councillor Oppler, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Governance Working Party held on 21 October 2019.

Councillor Oppler outlined that he wished to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Working Party for their constructive contribution made to this meeting and to the meeting held on 12 November 2019. It was the Working Party's plan to develop options for Full Council to consider at its next meeting to be held on 15 January 2019. Finally, he thanked the Chief Executive, the Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer and the Group Head of Policy for all their hard work and assistance with this review to date.

299. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE - 22 OCTOBER 2019

The Chairman, Councillor Coster, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 22 October 2019.

Councillor Coster made reference to Minute 259 [Leisure Operating Contract – Year Three Report] and the presentation made by Freedom Leisure outlining their performance and activities over the last three years. Some very interesting key points had been highlighted. One had been the plans in place for addressing the issue of obesity in the District. It was Councillor Coster's view that more work needed to take place to address this vital issue.

Councillor Lury stated that he had submitted his apologies yet they had not been recorded and so he asked if the minutes could be amended accordingly.

300. BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUB-COMMITTEE - 28 OCTOBER 2019

The Chairman, Councillor Stanley, in presenting the Minutes from the meeting of the Bognor Regis Sub-Committee held on 28 October 2019 confirmed that a revised set of Minutes had been circulated to the meeting.

Although the agenda confirmed that there were no recommendations for the Council to consider, Councillor Stanley stated that this was not correct. Since the Minutes had been circulated in Bundle 2 on 7 November 2019, a question had been raised about their accuracy as they had not included two proposals put forward at the meeting and voted upon. Councillor Stanley outlined that he had raised this with the Council's Monitoring Officer, and this had identified that the outcome of these proposals had not been clearly minuted as recommendations to come before the Council at this meeting. Having reviewed the notes taken at the meeting, a clerical error had been identified and the minutes subsequently revised and reissued setting out the two recommendations that need to be considered tonight.

Councillor Stanley confirmed that the first recommendation was at Minute 10 [The Arun Public Spaces Protection Order] where the Sub-Committee had been informed of the public consultation exercise underway. At that meeting Members had raised serious concerns about the impact of reducing the Public Spaces Protection Order areas and wished to formally respond to the consultation exercise. The revised minutes confirmed that it was proposed, second and voted upon "That the formal response of the Bognor Regis Sub-Committee was that the areas that had been removed from the existing Public Space Protection Order should be reinstated into the new Order".

Councillor Stanley stated that he was aware that Cabinet would be considering the outcome of this consultation exercise at its meeting to be held on 13 January 2020 and he gave Members of the Sub-Committee his assurance that he would present their formal response and the reasons for this at that meeting. Councillor Stanley therefore proposed this recommendation and it was seconded by Councillor Brooks.

In discussing the recommendation, concern was expressed as to why this recommendation had not been minuted accurately and especially since there had been a lengthy debate on the consultation and the PSPO.

The Monitoring Officer reconfirmed the statement made by Councillor Stanley stating in that there had been no deliberate omission, it had been a misunderstanding from the notes taken at that meeting. As soon as this had been brought to her attention, she had alerted Councillor Stanley of the issue.

Further debate then focused on the PSPO. It was highlighted by the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Councillor Mrs Yeates, that the PSPO had been presented to the Sub-Committee to outline the public consultation process undertaken. The existing PSPO, introduced by the Council in 2017, remained in place until March 2020 and so there was still time for further debate. She was not sure that the wording in the recommendation from the Sub-Committee was completely correct, as nothing had yet, been removed from the PSPO. There had been several responses from the public, but nothing submitted by Members of the Council or Parish Councils. Councillor Mrs Yeates stated that she had asked if Officers could provide a further briefing to Members on this matter and that the Council would be looking at addressing the issues that had been raised by the Traders of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton.

Full Council - 13.11.19

Many Members then provided their viewpoints. They widely supported the need for the areas covered in the PSPO introduced in 2017 to remain. This was because anti-social behaviour was a District wide problem and so it was felt to be dangerous to accept the changes proposed to introduce new areas that would specifically relate to just the Town Centres of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. There was concern that this would have a detrimental impact upon neighbouring villages as people caught causing anti-social and nuisance behaviour would relocate to nearby rural areas instead. A request was made to have the PSPO fully examined again and to provide Members with the opportunity for this to be fully debated by all Councillors via the decision-making route used back in 2017.

The Chief Executive stated that it had been unfortunate that neither the author of the report or the Committee Manager had not been present at the meeting and so the guidance that should have been given to Members had not taken place. When an issue of accuracy with the minutes published had been identified, Councillor Stanley had re-presented them accurately corrected. The Chief Executive reminded Members that the report had been presented to inform the Sub-Committee of the consultation process undertaken and that any observations made by the Sub-Committee would be fed into the consultation exercise which would ultimately be considered by Cabinet in January 2020. Councillor Stanley had also given his assurance that all comments made by the Sub-Committee would be reported to Cabinet. No decision to determine the PSPO could be made at this meeting.

A lengthy debate then took place about the method of decision making for this item. Councillor Dr Walsh then proposed an amendment to the recommendation which read as follows (additions are shown in **bold**):

“That the formal response of the Bognor Regis Sub-Committee **is forwarded to the Cabinet meeting on 13 January 2020 for consideration** this being that the areas that have been removed from the existing Public Space Protection Order should be reinstated into the new Order”.

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Brooks.

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

The Chairman then referred Members to the substantive recommendation, as amended and on putting this to the vote it was declared LOST.

The Chief Executive confirmed to Members that this decision meant that no formal response would be put to the Cabinet when it considered the outcome of the consultation exercise.

Councillor Stanley then referred Members to the second recommendation at Minute 11 [Bognor Regis Business Improvement District (BID) in which the Sub-Committee had received a verbal update on the work and progress of the BID. Councillor Stanley outlined that he wished to reinforce the Sub-Committee's

congratulations to Mr Paul Wells who had recently stepped down as Chairman in terms of the achievements that he and the BID had made. Congratulations had also been passed to Mr Jason Passingham on his recent appointment as Board Chairman.

Councillor Stanley outlined that debate on this item had seen the Sub-Committee wishing for further investigation to take place into the potential for a longer-term agreement for two-hour free parking in Bognor Regis. The revised minutes set out what was being recommended to Full Council.

Councillor Stanley confirmed that he now wished to withdraw this recommendation as he was now aware that an urgent item on the two-hour disc parking scheme had been presented to the meeting of the Environment & Leisure Working Group on 7 November 2019. The Working Group had made a recommendation to Full Council that the two-hour free parking scheme be extended to 31 December 2022. This recommendation would be submitted to the next meeting of Full Council to be held on 15 January 2020 allowing all Members the opportunity to discuss and debate the item.

Although Members were happy to withdraw the recommendation based on the recommendation coming forward from the Working Group to a future Full Council meeting, it was queried why, as this had been an urgent item to the Working Group, why the minutes from that meeting and the recommendation, had not been placed onto the agenda for tonight's meeting.

The Chief Executive and the Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer explained that as the meeting of the Working Group had been held only last week [7 November 2019], this did not allow enough time to compile the minutes and present them in line with Access to Information Rules set out in the Council's Constitution. If the need to consider the matter tonight had been raised earlier, the Minutes and the recommendation could have been presented at the start of the meeting as an urgent item. A solution was presented which was that authority could be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Technical Services to action the decision of this investigation as a matter of urgency.

This proposal was accepted by Councillor Stanley who then proposed this amendment, and this was then seconded by Councillor Brooks. The amendment is set out below with deletions shown using ~~strikethrough~~ and additions shown in **bold**.

"That Officers investigate a longer term (more than 1 year) agreement for the 2-hour free parking scheme between the Council and the Bognor Regis Improvement District (BID) **and authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Technical Services to action the outcome decision of this investigation as a matter of urgency.**"

The Chairman then invited debate on this amendment. It was highlighted by Councillor Brooks that in view of the urgency of the Bognor Regis Bid to print the new discs for the 2-hour free parking scheme ahead of the beginning of December [to include confirmation of an extension of the scheme to 31 December 2022] the amendment should be accepted. The recommendation as amended would allow the

Full Council - 13.11.19

Cabinet Member to implement this decision by way of an Individual Cabinet Member Decision.

Following some discussion and on the amendment being put to the vote it was declared CARRIED.

The Chairman then returned to the substantive recommendation and the Council

RESOLVED

That Officers investigate a longer term (more than 1 year) agreement for the 2-hour free parking scheme between the Council and the Bognor Regis Improvement District (BID) and authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Technical Services to action the decision of this investigation as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Charles confirmed that he wished to make a Statement in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.3 in relation Minute 12 [Bognor Regis Regeneration Position Statement in relation to the Old Town and Pier]. Councillor Charles outlined that the full detail of his statement and a question that he had asked had not been detailed in full as part of the minutes, despite him making this request. He had asked Councillor Oppler a question, which he felt needed to be answered, regarding a statement that Councillor Oppler had made at the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee regarding Waterloo Place. It was Councillor Charles' view that the statement made by Councillor Oppler had been incorrect and he wished for this to be withdrawn.

The Chief Executive advised Councillor Charles to put his concerns to Councillor Oppler in writing.

301. MOTIONS

The Chairman announced that one Motion had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 14.1 and 14.2, this had been circulated in Bundle 2 on 7 November 2019. The Motion is set out below:

“That this Council supports the aspiration of increasing the proportion of homes which are designed to accommodate a person through all phases of their life, otherwise known as “Lifetime Homes”. In doing so the Council would be acknowledging the diverse and ageing population in our area.

In pursuit of this aspiration and pending a review of relevant Local Plan Policies, the Council requests the developers of all sites to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of all homes.

Simple changes should be considered for incorporation into designs to enable, not just the occupiers of the property, but their family and friends, to gain access within

their capabilities. As a result, this would create houses that could be visited by all irrespective of their ability.

The Council agrees that after the adoption of its Design Guide. Future design guidance be prepared to implement these aspirations as part of the Council's plan making".

The Chairman invited Councillor Mrs Worne, to propose and present her Motion.

In proposing her Motion, Councillor Mrs Warne highlighted that everyone present in the Council Chamber this evening could, in the future, find themselves in a situation where their personal circumstances changed. Everyone took independence for granted until this was suddenly lost or changed in some way. Councillor Mrs Worne stated that she had reflected upon how she had felt following her attendance at her local Remembrance Sunday service in remembering the soldiers and those who had fought and those who had died fighting for our today's independence. It was her view that we all had an obligation to continue in a passive way to fight for independence out of a sense of duty for all those who had served in this way. Councillor Mrs Worne stated that it was unacceptable that there were people who had suffered an accident or illness and were still in hospital unable to leave as there was no-where suitable for them to live allowing them to cater for their new disability. Sadly, as a result of this, some ultimately ended up having to live in care homes which was costing the Country millions of pounds.

Councillor Mrs Worne stated had everyone had the right to independence and that it was impossible to know when this could be lost, or partly lost, she knew this from personal experience, this could be because of illness, an accident or old age. She felt that everyone should be able to visit a friend for a cup of tea and it was vital to future proof homes to provide security and peace of mind. This could be achieved with some simple adaptations that could save money and help in cases of flooding.

The Motion was then seconded by Councillor Chapman.

The Chairman then invited Members to debate the Motion. All Councillors who spoke supported this cross-party Motion confirming that it was a thoughtful and well-worded proposal that sent an important and clear message out to the wider community, this being that all new homes needed to be future proofed against the ageing process and that if simple adaptations could be made at the design and build stage, the costs of which would be minimal, it was hoped that Arun as a Council could be seen to be leading the way on this important issue.

More debate followed with those speaking praising Councillor Mrs Worne for proposing the Motion as it was such an important subject for all as it was about inclusivity and the mental wellbeing of Arun's community. It was hoped that simple steps such as making doors wider; raising electricity plugs and improving access to buildings would make a real difference. It was felt that these steps needed to become mandatory and it was hoped that Arun could achieve this. A request was made that

Full Council - 13.11.19

assessments be made of the Council's own housing stock in line with this Motion and that a report be presented to Members on progress sometime soon. Mention was made of the need to build bungalows as part of new developments and that pressure should be put onto developers to do this. Too much focus was placed onto "first time Buyers" and not "last time buyers".

On the Motion being put to the vote, it was declared CARRIED.

The Council

RESOLVED

That this Council supports the aspiration of increasing the proportion of homes which are designed to accommodate a person through all phases of their life, otherwise known as "Lifetime Homes". In doing so the Council would be acknowledging the diverse and ageing population in our area.

In pursuit of this aspiration and pending a review of relevant Local Plan Policies, the Council requests the developers of all sites to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of all homes.

Simple changes should be considered for incorporation into designs to enable, not just the occupiers of the property, but their family and friends, to gain access within their capabilities. As a result, this would create houses that could be visited by all irrespective of their ability.

The Council agrees that after the adoption of its Design Guide. Future design guidance be prepared to implement these aspirations as part of the Council's plan making".

302. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The Chairman confirmed that the Questions from Members along with their responses had been circulated to the meeting and so this would be put without discussion, in line with the Constitution.

The Chairman then invited each questioner to ask a supplementary question.

Some of the questioners asked supplementary questions. These questions and the supplementary responses can be found on the schedule attached to these Minutes.

303. STRATEGIC COUNCIL TARGETS FOR THE PERIOD 2019/2023

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh, presented this report and stated that the Council currently had three main aims; to deliver the best services; to support those that needed help; and to plan in the future. These aims would remain. However, as a result of the new administration the Council needed to be clear what it wanted to

achieve. The strategic targets set out in the report had been worked up with the Council's Senior Management Team.

The report set out the new proposed strategic targets which would take the Council through to 2023. The targets had been set out in the Appendix to the report and had been divided into priority order.

Councillor Dr Walsh stated that by agreeing these additional targets, the Council's Chief Executive would be able to allocate resources to try to achieve them, in an agreed way and within an agreed timetable.

In debating the report varying comments were made.

It was outlined that the six items listed as being of high priority should be considered with caution. This was because when tasks were listed as a high priority and urgent, they were often not achieved – there was the potential for an element of overload in terms of available Officer time and the timescales confirmed, was this achievable?

There were Councillors who were disappointed with the targets and they felt that they showed a lack of ambition. There were no targets looking at the health and well-being of the District; or about the need for residents to be able to own their own home; and nothing about the seafront areas of either side of the District. These Councillors asked how public engagement would be achieved. Some questioned why there was such urgent pressure to change the governance arrangements of the Council as a high priority rather than focusing upon the care of the District's residents. Concern was also expressed over the financial impact of completing some of the targets, especially as some of these were unknown or to be confirmed. Councillors asked for the financial gaps to be filled and wished to know how these areas would be funded. There was concern that this would result in residents having to pay yet another increase in Council Tax next year.

Another point of concern was that the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Chapman, had not been fully involved in the work undertaken in progressing the targets to reach this final stage as suggested by the report. The Chief Executive confirmed that Councillor Chapman had only been initially involved at the start of the process and not at later stages.

Debate then focused on those supporting the targets put forward. The point was made that the Appendix was not a business plan but a confirmed route as to how, if accepted, the targets would be achieved. The aim behind all targets was to improve the lives and quality of lives for Arun's residents - tackling climate change was highlighted as a significant part of this.

As a new administration it had been essential to set out the future direction for the Council. The new targets proposed were in addition to what the Council was already working hard to achieve for its residents. It was accepted that some targets would cost money, however a lot of work was underway to ensure that as far as

Full Council - 13.11.19

possible targets would make the Council financially buoyant, this had been why a Commercial & Acquisition's Manager post be created to allow the Council to make money and to the relieve pressure on council tax payers. It was highlighted that the Council needed to run like a business; tackling the varying wage levels across the District which contributed to the affordable housing problem in Arun.

Councillor Oppler, as proposer of the recommendations, stated that urgent regeneration was needed and that this had to happen now. The Towns of Littlehampton and Bognor Regis were crying out for regeneration and it was essential to look at developing a new planning framework to deliver priorities whilst continuing to deliver the Local Plan whilst improving the quality of life for residents.

As proposer to the recommendations, Councillor Dr Walsh, reminded Councillors that as the strategic targets were developed all Councillors would have the opportunity to debate them as they would all report through the decision-making process of the Council, via a Committee or Sub-Committee in the future. The proposals presented were a list in order of deliverability, not priority, for the Council and set an indication as to what this might cost. He reassured Councillors that they were not being asked to make any financial decisions now as this would come later. These were the priorities of the new administration. These were tough targets, but he believed were deliverable in the life of this Council.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

(1) that the strategic targets, timetable, route to achieve them and 'Lead Member;' as shown in the Appendix to the report be agreed; and

(2) The financial impact of these new targets be noted with the Council seeking to establish financial viability through future Medium-Term Financial Strategies (MTFS).

304. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Dr Walsh, presented this report explaining that the Code of Conduct originated from the premise that the public were entitled to expect the highest standard of conduct from all Local Government employees. The Code provided guidance for employees which would help to maintain standards and protect employees from criticism or misunderstanding.

The Code of Conduct attached to the report had been developed based on best practice and existing legislation and was in keeping with the seven principles of public life as stated by the Nolan Committee. Unison had been consulted on the contents which had been agreed at a meeting of the Staff Consultation Panel held on 25 September 2019. That meeting had recommended that the Code be brought to this meeting of Full Council for formal adoption.

Councillor Dr Walsh then formally proposed the recommendations set out within the report and these were seconded by Councillor Oppler.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

- (1) The Code of Conduct for employees be approved and formally adopted; and
- (2) The Group Head of Corporate Support be authorised to make any further consequential changes to the Code of Conduct.

305. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The Council received and noted the following changes in Committee Memberships:

- (1) Councillor Bennett had replaced Councillor Dr Walsh as a Member of the Governance Working Party;
- (2) Councillor Mrs Erskine had replaced Councillor Stanley as a Member of the Governance Working Party;
- (3) Councillor Mrs Gregory had replaced Councillor Purchase as Chairman of the Chief Executive's (CEO) Remuneration Committee;
- (4) Councillor Miss Needs had filled the Liberal Democrat vacancy on the Overview Select Committee;
- (5) Councillor Mrs Worne had filled the Liberal Democrat vacancy on the Standards Committee;
- (6) Councillor Oppler had filled the Liberal Democrat vacancy on the Development Control Site Inspection Panel; and
- (7) Councillors B Blanchard-Cooper, Lury and Tilbrook had filled the three Liberal Democrat vacancies on the Housing Appeals Panel.

306. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

No changes to representation to Outside Bodies were reported to this meeting.

(The meeting concluded at 9.55 pm)