

HERTSMERE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Livestreamed online and publicly viewable at [HTTPS://HERTSMERE.PUBLIC-I.TV](https://HERTSMERE.PUBLIC-I.TV).

16 September 2020

Present:

Councillors Bright, Briski, Brown, R Challice, R Butler, Carter, Choudhury, Clapper, Dr Cohen, Eni, Evans, Graham, Gray, Heywood, P Hodgson-Jones, S Hodgson-Jones, Lambert, Lyon, Melville (after minute 135), Morris, Mortimer (until minute 135), Myers, Newmark, Plancey, Quilty, Reeve, Richards, Rosehill, Rutledge, A Sachdev, M Sachdev, Selby, Silver, Spencer, Susman, Swerling (Deputy Mayor), Turner and Vince.

Officers:

S Bijle	Managing Director
H Patterson	Head of Legal & Democratic Services
P Geraghty	Executive Director
W Rehill	Democratic Services Manager

The Deputy Mayor opened the meeting with the very sad news of the passing of Mayor Cynthia Barker on Monday 14 September 2020. The Deputy Mayor offered her condolences to Cynthia's family, friends and loved ones at this most distressing time. The Deputy Mayor said that all those who had worked alongside Cynthia these many years, and in more recent times, had been saddened by the news and she wanted to take the opportunity provided by this Full Council meeting to acknowledge and celebrate Cynthia's dedicated, dignified and warm contribution to the civic life of the Borough and, in fact, the country.

Father Antonio, the Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in a prayer and minute's silence.

The Group Leaders, Managing Director and fellow Councillors shared their memories of Mayor Cynthia Barker.

The Deputy Mayor advised the meeting that many messages of condolence from across the County had been received and would be forwarded to Cynthia's family. An Online Book of Condolence had also been set up, details of which would be circulated shortly.

The Deputy Mayor had received the Chamber's view regarding the suitability of adjourning tonight's meeting to a date after the funeral of

Mayor Barker. The Deputy Mayor invited the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Labour Group to move and second the adjournment.

Councillor Bright moved and Councillor Newmark seconded that, under Procedure Rule 13j, the meeting be adjourned to 7.30pm on 14 October 2020 to transact all remaining business as published on tonight's agenda.

The motion was put to the vote and AGREED.

The meeting was reconvened on 14 October 2020 at 7.30pm

135. **COMMUNICATIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mortimer.

Under Procedure Rule 7, the Deputy Mayor confirmed the withdrawal of the Motion on Supporting our Veterans as it would be resubmitted to the next Full Council meeting. This left the cross-Party Motion on the Film & Television Heritage Centre extant and as it had been outstanding for some months, the Deputy Mayor proposed and Councillor Bright seconded that, under Procedure Rule 13c, agenda item 16 be taken immediately after agenda item 5.

The motion was put to the vote and AGREED.

136. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)**

Councillor Bright declared an Other Pecuniary Interest as a Council-appointed non-executive director and chair of the Elstree Film Studios Board.

Councillor Carter declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as a Hertsmere Developments Limited Board Member.

Councillor Cohen declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as a director of Hertsmere Developments Limited.

Councillor P Hodgson-Jones declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as chair of Hertsmere Developments Limited.

Councillor A Sachdev declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as a director of Hertsmere Developments Limited.

137. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that

- i) the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 July 2020, with the insertion of the attendance of Councillor Swerling, be approved and signed as a correct record.
- ii) the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 August 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record

138. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR**

The Deputy Mayor informed the Chamber that Hertsmere Pride celebrated the LGBTQ+ community for the first time in the week of 17th August, for which the Mayor recorded a video for social media given the pandemic restrictions in place. Likewise a video would be circulated on social media to commemorate Armistice Day on 11th November.

Remembrance Sunday would be observed at eight locations throughout the Borough at which a Mayoral representative would be present.

139. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

[PQ2020-07] Dr Ozarow of Borehamwood had submitted a question regarding the Local Plan's release. The Leader responded that the programme for Local Plan production was set out in the Local Development Scheme, which the Council has a statutory obligation to publish and review and keep up-to-date. Such updating was a matter for the Head of Planning and Economic Development in consultation with Planning Portfolio Holder, who brought it to the Member Planning Panel of 22nd July 2020. The minutes and papers for this which were on the Council's website and a press release was issued to ensure residents and interested parties were aware of the updated programme. A full draft of the new Local Plan was due to be considered by Executive and Full Council in early 2021. The papers would be published on the Council's website in advance of these meetings and if agreed the Local Plan would then be issued for public consultation. Due to restrictions imposed by the purdah period surrounding elections, it was expected that the statutory 6 week consultation period would commence after the elections in May 2021. In a supplementary question, Dr Ozarow asked whether empty homes would be brought into use before designating any Green Belt usage in the Plan. The Leader responded that 528 empty homes out of 4200 was not a lot but should nevertheless be addressed, which is why council tax was applied to them and homeowners were invited to make them available. The Local Plan consultation would also seek residents' views on what land would be okay for residential development.

140. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 1

With the permission of the Chair, the Motion had been withdrawn by the Proposer and Seconder as it would be resubmitted the next meeting.

Motion 2

Councillor Newmark, seconded by Councillor Clapper, moved his Motion on Notice concerning a Film and Television Heritage Centre:
"To pro-actively encourage the setting up of a local group involving key partners including: Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council, Elstree Screen Heritage, First Impressions, Elstree & Borehamwood Town Museum, relevant local experts, historians and others as identified,

including at the appropriate time invitations to join said group to existing and proposed local studios, to generate plans, support both financial and in kind, and ultimately the delivery of a film and television heritage centre in Borehamwood”

Following debate, the Motion was put to the vote and it was CARRIED.

141. **DECISION REPORT: CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

The meeting considered report C/20/41 on the actions and measures the Council could take to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, build climate resilience and incorporate the principles of sustainability and circular economy into its operations.

It was moved by Councillor Quilty and seconded by Councillor Challice that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed.

Following a debate and vote, the report recommendations were AGREED.

RESOLVED that

- i) the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy attached as Appendix A (Appendix 1) to the report be approved; and
- ii) the Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan for implementation of Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy attached as Appendix A (Appendix 2) to the report be approved.

142. **DECISION REPORT: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) FINAL ADOPTION**

The meeting considered report C/20/37 on an up-to-date of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement so that it reflected current legislation and national and local policy.

It was moved by Councillor Cohen and seconded by Councillor Silver that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed.

Following a debate and vote, the report recommendations were AGREED.

RESOLVED that the updated Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2020 be approved for adoption, subject to any minor amendments to be agreed by the Head of Planning and Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Leader of the Council.

143. **DECISION REPORT: SHENLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: EXAMINER'S REPORT AND PLAN PROPOSAL DECISION**

The meeting considered report C/20/36 which sought authority to progress the emerging Shenley Neighbourhood Plan to a neighbourhood referendum with the intention of 'making' (adopting) the Plan should it receive a majority vote in favour.

It was moved by Councillor Cohen and seconded by Councillor Silver that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed.

Following a debate and vote, the report recommendations were AGREED.

RESOLVED that

(i) subject to the modifications recommended in the examiner's report being agreed, the Shenley Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum;

(ii) any outstanding consequential changes to be made to the supporting text in the Shenley Neighbourhood Plan be agreed by the Head of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, for inclusion in the Plan for referendum; and

(iii) should the Shenley Neighbourhood Plan receive a majority vote in favour at referendum, Hertsmere Borough Council formally 'makes' the Shenley Neighbourhood Plan, to enable it to form part of the Development Plan for the borough.

144. **DECISION REPORT: REVIEW OF CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2020-2023**

The meeting considered report C/20/42 on the review of the Corporate Procurement Strategy in light of national strategies, current legislation and best practice and to align with Hertsmere's 2020 Vision when procuring goods, works and services.

It was moved by Councillor Graham and seconded by Councillor A Sachdev that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed.

Following a debate and vote, the report recommendations were AGREED.

RESOLVED that the draft Corporate Procurement Strategy 2020-2023 as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

145. **DECISION REPORT: SOUTH MIMMS PARISH COUNCIL - APPOINTMENT TO VACANCIES**

The meeting considered report C/20/39 on the need to appoint temporary members to South Mimms Parish Council following the

resignation of four Parish Councillors as the Parish Council was inquorate and unable to lawfully operate.

It was moved by Councillor Bright and seconded by Councillor P Hodgson-Jones that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed with the alteration that four temporary appointments be made to ensure greater certainty of a quorate Parish Council meeting and that the Order be drawn up with effect from 16 October 2020. .

Following a debate and vote, the report recommendations as altered were AGREED.

RESOLVED that

- i) Councillors Bright, Myers, Spencer and Susman be appointed as temporary members of South Mimms Parish Council until new Parish Councillors are elected and take up office.
- ii) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary Order with effect from 16 October 2020.

146. **DECISION REPORT: OUTSIDE BODIES: APPOINTMENT OF NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE BOARD OF HERTSMERE DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED**

The meeting considered report C/20/40 on appointing to a vacancy on the Board of Hertsmere Developments Limited

It was moved by Councillor Bright and seconded by Councillor Graham that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed.

Following a debate and vote, the report recommendations were AGREED.

RESOLVED that Peter Geraghty (Executive Director) be appointed to the office of Non-Executive Director of Hertsmere Developments Limited until the Annual Council in 2023.

During the course of the following item the meeting agreed to continue to 10.30pm.

147. **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader spoke and responded to Members' questions on the following topics, as listed on the agenda.

1. EXECUTIVE held on 26 August 2020

Elstree Film Studios - Development of New Stages and Workshops

The Executive recommend to the Full Council the approval of match funding of £6M to build new sound stages and ancillary facilities at the rear of the Elstree Studios site.

Street Scene Vehicle Replacement Programme

Approval for the procurement of five new 26 tonne refuse collection vehicles and four precinct sweepers was given.

2. EXECUTIVE held on 9 September 2020

Scrutiny Review into the Mapping of Partnerships Final

The Executive considered the recommendations of the Operations Review Committee Scrutiny Review into the mapping of all the partnerships within which Hertsmere Borough Council operates and undertook to provide a response in two months.

Shenley Neighbourhood Plan: Examiner's Report and Plan Proposal Decision

The Executive recommended to full Council that authority be given to progress the emerging Shenley Neighbourhood Plan to a neighbourhood referendum with the intention of 'making' (adopting) the plan should it receive a majority vote in favour.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Final Adoption

The Executive recommended to Full Council the updated Council's Statement of Community Involvement for adoption which included advances in technology, consultation with the community and Members, with particular reference to the proposed changes to legislation.

Dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules for a 12 Month Extension of the Market Operator Contract

The Executive agreed to a dispensation to the Contract Procedure Rules to allow a one year extension of the Borehamwood Market Operation Contract. A Borough-wide Market Strategy for economic wellbeing and environment development was discussed and agreed in principle. A report would be brought back to the Executive in spring 2021.

2020 Vision Performance Report for Quarter 1 2020/21

The Executive noted the performance of the Council over Quarter 1 2020/21 against the 15 key performance targets which reflect the key services delivered by the Council and commended the Council's staff on their efforts during the Covid-19 lockdown rules applied.

Review of Corporate Procurement Strategy 2020-2023

The Executive recommended the draft Corporate Procurement Strategy 2020-2023, which included comments of the Policy Review Committee, to Full Council for approval. The Council would sign up to the charter against Modern Slavery and expects transparency from all suppliers doing business for them.

Banking and Merchant's Contract

The renewal of the General Banking and the direct award of the Merchant Services contract for a period of three years with the option to extend for one year had been approved together with the agreement to an exemption to the contract procedure rules with regard to the General Banking contract. Independent banking experts had concluded that there were little savings to be made from retendering the banking contract. Potential savings had been identified over three years.

Financial Systems Enhancements and Compliance Upgrades

The Executive approved the proposed five-year contract for the Council's Income Receipting System. Potential savings had been identified when compared to the current contract, taking into account the mandatory upgrades and services.

3. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - 28 July 2020

The Partnership continued to have a focus on Covid-19 given the changes to lockdown which had been announced since the June meeting.

Hertfordshire Local Outbreak Plan – Hertfordshire County Council published a Local Outbreak Plan setting out the works strands for a potential local outbreak and how these would be managed within a local and national framework.

Organisational Updates – Updates were received from partner organisations on the work they had undertaken since the last meeting.

Update on Covid-19 Cases and Deaths in Hertsmere – The Health and Wellbeing Policy Manager tabled a paper to update of the numbers of Covid-19 cases and deaths in Hertsmere and details of recent reports and data sets, covering the impact on religious/BAME communities.

4. OTHER MATTERS

Air Quality Poster Competition

Young people from schools across Hertsmere were invited to take part in a poster competition to help improve air quality. The competition was part of the council's "Clean Air 4 Schools" initiative, which looked at air quality and sustainable travel. The winning design was created by 10 year old Zainab Alani from Wroxham School in Potters Bar. The winning poster will be used by the council to encourage positive behaviour changes.

Environmental Health Officers along with Global Action Plan representatives went in to primary schools to conduct scientific tests and educate young people on what they can do to help improve our environment. Fourteen schools in Hertsmere took part in the project.

Community Spirit Repairs Vandalised Garden

The community has come together to support a local mental health charity after their garden was damaged by vandals. "Number 10" run by Herts Mind Network, aims to empower people with mental health or substance misuse issues, giving them the opportunity to develop their skills, build self-confidence and move forward into training, further their education or get into paid employment.

The local branch of both Morrisons and Tesco in Borehamwood donated plants and equipment. Local builder Eric Nash fixed the broken gate and replaced the lock free of charge and Gav & Son's Scaffolding Ltd spent an entire morning removing the damaged items, clearing the space to make it safe, as well as potting plants and flower arranging.

Hertsmere Borough Council has worked to support Herts Mind Network's presence at Number 10 for a number of years, most recently with the allocation of a £7,500 grant from the Community Infrastructure Fund to provide an additional space for one to one sessions.

Local Government Reform Survey

An opinion poll carried out by Survation showed that 80% of respondents thought a unitary structure was the wrong approach. The district councils have also said a pandemic is the wrong time for reform and that it would counter act the work of the Herts Growth Board.

As it was 10.30pm, in accordance with Constitution Procedural Rules, the meeting agreed to not continue after 10.30pm and the guillotine procedure was applied.

148. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

The meeting noted the Report of the Audit Committee Chair as listed on the agenda.

149. **UPDATES FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

The meeting noted the Outside Body Updates as listed on the agenda.

150. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

The questions were not reached within the time limit provided in the Council Procedure Rules and therefore fell.

151. **OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

The Opposition Business was not reached within the time limit provided in the Council Procedure Rules and therefore fell.

152. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Noted that the next meeting of the Council would take place at 7.30pm on 18 November 2020.

CLOSURE: 10.30pm

CHAIR