

Minutes

OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE Council



Listening Learning Leading

HELD ON TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER 2020 AT 6.00 PM

AS A VIRTUAL MEETING

Present:

David Bretherton (Chairman)

Ken Arlett, Pieter-Paul Barker, David Bartholomew, Robin Bennett, Sam Casey-Rerhaye, Sue Cooper, Peter Dragonetti, Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Stefan Gawrysiak, Elizabeth Gillespie, Sarah Gray, Victoria Haval, Kellie Hinton, Alexandrine Kantor, Mocky Khan, George Levy, Lynn Lloyd, Axel Macdonald, Jane Murphy, Andrea Powell, Leigh Rawlins, Jo Robb, David Rouane, Anne-Marie Simpson, Ian Snowdon, Alan Thompson, David Turner, Ian White and Celia Wilson

Apologies:

Anna Badcock, Kate Gregory, Lorraine Hillier, Caroline Newton and Sue Roberts tendered apologies.

Officers: Steven Corrigan, Steve Culliford, Margaret Reed and Mark Stone

120 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest

None.

121 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

The chairman provided general housekeeping information and advised there were no items of urgent business.

122 Public participation

The chairman advised that two speakers had registered to address Council who would make their statements at the relevant items.

123 Civil parking enforcement

Mr Neville Harris had registered to address Council on this item but due to technical difficulties was unable to join the meeting. A statement from Mr Harris was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting setting out his views.

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 December 2020, considered the report of the head of housing and environment on the formal application to the Department for Transport to implement enforcement in the district. Cabinet resolved to support an application by Oxfordshire County Council for the introduction of a Special Enforcement Area and bus lane enforcement powers across the districts of Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse to provide civil parking enforcement and to support the proposal for Oxfordshire County Council to manage civil parking enforcement. Cabinet authorised the head of housing and environment, in consultation with the head of legal and democratic, to negotiate and enter into any formal legal agreements required between South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

Council considered the recommendation of Cabinet to include the scheme in the approved capital programme.

RESOLVED: to approve the addition of a new civil parking enforcement scheme in the approved capital programme of £60,000 as the council's contribution to Oxfordshire County Council's implementation costs, and to approve a revenue supplementary estimate of £30,000 in the 2020/21 budget for costs to be incurred by the council.

124 Treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2020/21

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 3 December 2020, on the treasury management mid-year monitoring report for the financial year 2020/21.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee and Cabinet had considered the head of finance's report and were satisfied that the treasury activities had been carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy.

RESOLVED: to

1. note that the Joint Audit and Governance Committee is satisfied that the treasury activities have been carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy; and
2. approve the treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2020/21.

125 Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Council considered the appointment of a representative and a named substitute to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor Jo Robb as the representative and Councillor David Bretherton as the named substitute to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

126 Report of the leader of the council

Councillor Sue Cooper, Leader of the council, provided an update on a number of matters. The text of her address is available on the council's [website](#).

Council noted the details of an urgent decision taken by Councillor Leigh Rawlins, Cabinet member for finance, to approve South Oxfordshire District Council's Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme.

127 Questions on notice

Question from Councillor David Bartholomew to Councillor Sue Cooper, Leader of the council

Residents quite rightly expect us to spend their Council Tax and use our time during Council meetings on matters relating to South Oxfordshire; would you therefore agree that:

1. Motions and debates should be confined to matters over which the Council has control or influence, or which directly impact upon the Council and its responsibilities.
2. Matters of national or international interest that Members may have strong views about but fail the test in 1 above are not part of Council's business and should not form part of motions.
3. Motions should not be essays or reports and should not exceed 250 words.
4. Motions should contain a call to action which can be measured or monitored, and the results should be reported back to Council.

If you do not agree with any of these points, I would be grateful if you could explain why?

Answer

1. I agree in principle although I would take a broad view. It would be helpful if the proposer could set out why it is relevant to this council if it isn't obvious.
2. I provide the same answer as provided to your first question.
3. The Joint Constitution Review Group considered this issue as part of the recent review and concluded that Council procedure rule 40 must not limit the length of motions to Council. I agree that some of the background information could be given as such and doesn't necessarily need to be part of the motion, as happened with two of the motions on this evening's agenda
4. Yes, if possible. Depends what the motion is about. The Council currently receives a monitoring report on the progress of approved motions. The July Council meeting received an update on motions adopted since May 2019.

Supplementary question

Councillor Bartholomew asked why the Liberal Democrat Group had submitted motions many of which focused on national or international issues which, whilst sincere and important, were matters for parliament and not the district council.

Answer

Councillor Cooper responded that these issues also had an impact on people living in the district. As long as the wording of the motion made clear the impact on local people, she remained content that they were submitted for consideration by Council.

128 Motions on notice

- A. Councillor George Levy withdrew his motion set out on the Council agenda.
- B. With the agreement of Council Councillor Alexandrine Kantor moved, and Councillor David Rouane seconded an altered motion as set out below with the deleted word shown by a strikethrough and the additional word shown in bold.

Council notes that Trans people face significant disadvantage in society.

Council ~~believes~~ **respects** that:

- a. Trans men are men, Trans women are women, and that non-binary genders are just as valid.
- b. Trans people deserve respect and autonomy.
- c. Transphobia has a hugely detrimental impact on the mental health and well-being of trans individuals.
- d. It is our duty as community leaders who seek to create an open and tolerant society to speak out against transphobia and make clear it will not be tolerated.

Council therefore resolves to:

- a. Ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.
- b. Work to provide at least one gender neutral toilet where possible in every public building owned or operated by the Council, and encourage partners to do likewise.
- c. Ensure that the Council's constitution, policies, forms, and all internal and external communications are gender neutral.
- d. Encourage and support a network of informal LGBTQ+ allies across officers and councillors to support all members of the LGBTQ+ communities.

A councillor expressed the view that, whilst well intentioned motion, Council should not spend time discussing matters beyond its remit.

RESOLVED: That Council notes that Trans people face significant disadvantage in society.

Council respects that:

- a. Trans men are men, Trans women are women, and that non-binary genders are just as valid.
- b. Trans people deserve respect and autonomy.
- c. Transphobia has a hugely detrimental impact on the mental health and well-being of trans individuals.
- d. It is our duty as community leaders who seek to create an open and tolerant society to speak out against transphobia and make clear it will not be tolerated.

Council therefore resolves to:

- a. Ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.
 - b. Work to provide at least one gender neutral toilet where possible in every public building owned or operated by the Council, and encourage partners to do likewise.
 - c. Ensure that the Council’s constitution, policies, forms, and all internal and external communications are gender neutral.
 - d. Encourage and support a network of informal LGBTQ+ allies across officers and councillors to support all members of the LGBTQ+ communities.
- C. Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak moved, and Councillor David Turner seconded the motion as set out in the agenda at agenda item 10.

Mr David Dickie, a local resident and member of Clean Air for Henley, addressed Council in support of the motion. He stated that action needed to be taken on heavy polluted vehicles travelling through Henley to tackle air pollution in the town.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 67, which provides for a recorded vote if three members request one, the Chairman called for a recorded vote on the motion which was declared carried with the voting as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Ken Arlett		David Bartholomew
Pieter-Paul Barker		
Robin Bennett		
David Bretherton		
Sam Casey-Rerhaye		
Sue Cooper		
Peter Dragonetti		
Maggie Filipova-Rivers		
Stefan Gawrysiak		
Elizabeth Gillespie		
Sarah Gray		
Victoria Haval		
Kellie Hinton		

For	Against	Abstain
Alexandrine Kantor		
Mocky Khan		
George Levy		
Lynn Lloyd		
Axel Macdonald		
Andrea Powell		
Leigh Rawlins		
Jo Robb		
David Rouane		
Anne-Marie Simpson		
Ian Snowdon		
Alan Thompson		
David Turner		
Ian White		
Celia Wilson		
28	0	1

RESOLVED: That Council supports the application for a 7.5T Environmental weight limit for Henley-on-Thames and a five-mile radius to include villages along the B481. This Environmental Traffic Regulation Order aims to protect historic buildings, enhance safety for people on narrow pavements, improve air quality in Henley and reduce pollution. It will also protect the surrounding villages by ensuring HGVs stay on the strategic road network.

The meeting closed at 7:15PM

Chairman

Date