

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2021/2022

24TH NOVEMBER 2021

Present - Councillors Mrs. Thomas (Mayor), Mrs. Fairclough (Deputy Mayor), Adia, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

42. HONORARY ALDERMAN PETER FINCH

Members observed a minutes silence for Honorary Alderman and former Mayor Peter Finch who had recently passed away.

43. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on 6th October, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

44. CONSTITUTION – SCHEME OF DELEGATION

It was moved by Councillor Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and agreed –

That the amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation for 2021/2022, as circulated, be approved.

45. RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – CHANGES TO POLLING PLACES AND DISTRICTS

It was moved by Councillor Cox, seconded by Councillor Silvester –

That the changes to polling places and districts for May, 2022 elections, as detailed in the report now circulated, be approved.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 47 viz:

Councillors Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0 viz:

Abstained, 0 viz:

46. RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL - APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

It was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Haworth -

That the proposal to opt into the sector-led option through Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1st April, 2023, as detailed in the report now circulated, be

approved.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 46 viz:

Councillors Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0 viz:

Abstained, 0 viz:

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

47. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Khurram and agreed -

That the following appointments and changes in membership be approved:-

1. That Councillor McKeon replace Councillor Haworth on the Planning Committee
2. That Councillor Cowen replace Councillor Hartigan on the Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee

48. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(a) –

- (i) by Councillor Peel relating to the redevelopment of Crompton Place

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor Peel relating to the Levelling Up Fund

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor Heslop relating to the payment of Area Forum Grants (this was withdrawn at the meeting)

- (iv) by Councillor Flitcroft relating to communal boiler systems

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Hartigan relating to the integrated rail plan for the North and Midlands

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Walsh relating to the Albert Halls

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor Walsh relating to Bolton College of Medical Science

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor Veevers relating to Barrow Bridge Road

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (ix) by Councillor Sanders relating to policing and security across Farnworth Town Centre

The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities replied to this question.

- (x) by Councillor Hill relating to Remembrance Day parades

The Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care replied to this question.

- (xi) by Councillor McKeon relating to the disposal of land at Haslam Park

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Haworth relating to public information

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (xiii) by Councillor Weatherby relating to Farnworth Market Precinct site

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (xiv) by Councillor Donaghy relating to Harvey Nursery

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

49. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Dean and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7th and 27th October and 11th November 2021 be approved.

50. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Flitcroft, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and agreed -

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 13th October and 3rd November 2021 be approved.

51. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Silvester, seconded by Councillor Veevers and agreed -

That the minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be approved:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee – 25th October 2021

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees – 27th October 2021

Place Scrutiny Committee – 29th September and 20th October 2021

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 18th October 2021

52. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – CHANGES TO THE WAY PLANNING DECISIONS ARE MADE AT LOCAL LEVEL

A7

It was moved by Councillor Silvester and seconded by Councillor Peel -

This Council believes that planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes.

This Council strongly disagrees with and criticises the Conservative Government's proposals to take away planning decisions from this Council and hand them to development boards appointed by Ministers in Whitehall. These new quangos are proposed to help zone areas for development. Residents living in areas zoned for growth would find that they no longer have an automatic right to object to individual planning applications on their own doorsteps; no right to object to oversized blocks at the end of the street; no right to object to concreting over precious green space, and no right to object to new developments that overburden local infrastructure such as roads, doctors' surgeries, schools or public transport.

This Council opposes such changes proposed by the Conservative Government and therefore calls upon the Secretary of State for Housing to protect the right of residents throughout the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton to object to individual planning applications.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 28 viz:

Councillors Adia, Allen, Ayub, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Pattison, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0 viz:

Abstained, 18 viz:

Councillors Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Morgan, Muslim, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Walsh and Warren.

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**53. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –
QUALIFYING AGE FOR FREE PRESCRIPTIONS IN
ENGLAND FOR 60 TO 66 YEARS OF AGE**

It was moved by Councillor Haworth and seconded by Councillor Sherrington -

The Council is extremely concerned that there is a government consultation in England on a plan to move the qualifying age for free prescriptions in England from 60 to 66 years of age. Subsequently, thousands of 60 to 66 year olds in the Bolton Borough, in receipt of prescriptions for medicines and health care products, would be affected by this change.

The pandemic has impacted health inequalities and wellbeing and it is imperative to avoid changes that will impact people's lives negatively going forward. If implemented, this charge of people from 60 to 66 years for prescriptions for physical and mental health needs in Bolton could easily roll back progress made in the start to tackling health inequalities and increasing wellbeing here. We ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Public Health and the Minister for Mental Health, outlining the Council's concern that the raising of prescription charges on people of 60 to 66 years of age in England will have a marked effect on already problematic health inequalities in the Bolton Borough.

We also call on our local Members of Parliament to support the Council motion and reject the plan to have 60 to 66 year olds pay prescription charges.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 27 viz:

Councillors Adia, Allen, Ayub, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Pattison, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 19 viz:

Councillors Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Morgan, Muslim, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Walsh and Warren.

Abstained, 0 viz:

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

54. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – MISOGYNY

It was moved by Councillor McMulkin and seconded by Councillor Pattison -

Many people will have read in horror the events surrounding Sarah Everard's brutal murder; many will have been shocked by the events however for many women and those who work in women's aid organisations there was no sense of shock. The brutal attack and murder of women is a day-to-day occurrence that they deal with. Sarah's murder made front page news predominantly because the perpetrator was a serving police officer. Since the murder of Sarah Everard, more than 80 women have been killed - these women did not make the front page news.

Misogyny runs to the core of our society. We live in a society where women and girls are constantly subjected to

inappropriate behaviour that is seen as the entitled right of men. Sexism is outlawed by the statute books and yet it is experienced by women on a daily basis.

The time for action is now. Each year, I attend a memorial walk in memory of the oldest known victim of domestic abuse, a young woman named Ellen Strange, who was brutally murdered by her husband in 1761 on Holcombe Moor. Some 260 years later we wring our hands and prevaricate about change as each week more women are murdered and subjected to abuse.

I therefore call upon the Council to take urgent action to:

1. Convene a Women's Forum by March 2022, which will include groups such as YES Matters, Endeavour, REIGN, GMP, TFGM, Bolton University to name but a few; and
2. Formulate and implement a strategy from the measures agreed by the Forum that would make our Borough a safer place for women and girls

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 45 viz:

Councillors Adia, Allen, Ayub, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Iqbal, Jiva, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

At this point, in accordance with Standing Order 7, the movers of the following motions withdrew their motions and agreed to resubmit them to a later meeting of the Council, viz:-

- Vaping Products – motion in the name of Councillor Baines;
- Traffic Management at Remembrance Sunday Events – motion in the name of Councillor Heslop; and
- Debt Advice Provision – motion in the name of Councillor Challenger.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.48 p.m.)