

**BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**2022/2023**

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**12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

Present - Councillors Zaman (Mayor), Mrs. Thomas (Deputy Mayor), Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

**40. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**41. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES**

It was moved by Councillor Dean and seconded by Councillor Khurram –

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

1. That Councillors Baines, Morgan and Mrs. Thomas be appointed to the Bolton Health and Care Partnership – Locality Board
2. That the changes in Committees/Panels/Outside Bodies, as circulated, be approved

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

For the Motion, 49 viz:

Councillors Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**42. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)**

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

- (i) by Councillor Veevers relating to Section 115 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1999

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor Priest relating to the late night time economy

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

- (iii) by Councillor Haworth relating to the provision of more skip days

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

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- (iv) by Councillor Haworth relating to fly tipping

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Grant relating to the Community Asset transfer of land at Telford Street

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Grant relating to £1 million additional funding for highways

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

- (vii) by Councillor Sherrington relating to wind turbines

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor Donaghy relating to lighting on Victoria Square

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ix) by Councillor Veevers relating to Woodstock Drive Garage Colony

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (x) by Councillor Hayes relating to gritting of roads outside schools

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

- (xi) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to the cost of ANPR cameras and associated equipment

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Atcha relating to the Citizens Advice Bureau

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

- (xiii) by Councillor D. Wilkinson, on behalf of Councillor McGeown, relating to additional funds to the Town Centre schemes

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (xiv) by Councillor Ayub relating to street cleaning in the Autumn Season

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

- (xv) by Councillor S. Patel relating to Asylum Seekers and Refugees

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xvi) by Councillor McMulkin relating to GM's commitment to be Carbon Neutral by 2038

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xvii) by Councillor McMulkin relating to misogyny and violence against women and girls

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

**43. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(c)**

A question was asked by Councillor D. Wilkinson, on behalf of Councillor McGeown, relating to Bolton Interchange and the Spokesperson for Greater Manchester Police replied to the question.

**44. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor M. Ayub –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 be approved.

**45. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

It was moved by Councillor Haworth, seconded by Councillor T. Wilkinson –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2022 be approved.

**46. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – VOTER ID**

It was moved by Councillor McKeon and seconded by Councillor N. Ayub -

In April 2022 the Elections Act 2022 was passed by Parliament. The Act will require voters in Great Britain to show photo ID before being issued with a ballot paper at UK elections and local elections in England. This council believes that this legislation is unnecessary; it addresses a problem that doesn't exist. The need to present photo ID will be a deterrent to the many voters who don't possess valid photo ID at a time when our focus ought to be on encouraging greater participation in elections. If

implemented, this policy will have a detrimental effect on the democratic process in Bolton. It will also present a further burden on already overstretched Council officers as they will need to train polling clerks and presumably create a system for voters who don't have accepted forms of photo ID. The Council instructs its Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge him not to implement this policy for the local elections in May 2023. In the event that the Minister refuses to respond positively to the request of this Council, the Chief Executive is urged to initiate a public information campaign to alert voters to the proposed changed arrangements at polling stations and to suggest that postal voting may be an option from which voters may benefit.

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

For the Motion, 28 viz:

Councillors Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Donaghy, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Newall, Peel, Priest, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 20 viz:

Councillors Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Meehan, Muslim, S. Patel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Taylor-Burke and Walsh.

Abstained, 0 viz:

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**47. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – HERITAGE ACTION ZONE**

It was moved by Councillor Bullock and seconded by Councillor Hewitt -

In 2025 Stockton & Darlington are to celebrate their George Stephenson designed railway bi-centenaries-by progressing a HAZ-Heritage Action Zone-with the support of both the UK Government and Historic England, along with the support from local landowners, interested local companies and importantly residents-with much happening including a full archaeological survey of the route.

With the recent listing of this area by Historic England as a 'Scheduled Monument', the historic and probably unique 'CHEQUERBENT EMBANKMENT', now is the perfect time to bring a similar initiative to our area for the benefit of local people?

Starting at the original 'Daubhill ' station site on Adelaide St., crossing over St. Helens Rd., running alongside Hulton Playing Field, through Winterfield Dr./Beaumont Chase green path system and linking up with and extending the Bolton Public Right of Way WES121 on the Bolton & Leigh Railway route and on to 'Chequerbent Embankment' Scheduled Monument section, across the A6 down the Chequerbent Incline (one of the world's steepest adhesion worked routes) down to the Atherton rail line on the border of Bolton with Wigan.

Not only would this provide an opportunity to preserve and enhance an important piece of our history, it would provide a new Active Travel Route through mainly open spaces and countryside, protecting some of Bolton's most historic railway heritage-whilst connecting some of its highest levels of deprivation and most built-up areas in Rumworth, Daubhill and Deane with our countryside and green spaces, creating health and wellbeing benefits and opportunities for those who most need it.

'I ask....

That this Council sets up a PDG to:-

- Target applying for a HAZ-Heritage Action Zone along the remaining sections of the historic 'Bolton & Leigh Railway' route within Bolton between Daubhill and the Atherton boundary.
- Looks at ways that Bolton might participate in and permanently benefit from a programme to celebrate in 2025, the bi-centenary and beyond of our early railway history of the 'B&L', including but not limited to Bolton Museum (with a new upgraded display), Westhoughton Library and Horwich Loco. Works. With enhanced station platform signs at both Bolton and Horwich Parkway.
- Enhanced route markings and Public Rights of Way access, establishing this route as a new Active Travel & Walking Route, so that people who live in some of the most built-up areas of our town can easily access our countryside and leisure areas.

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

For the Motion, 48 viz:

Councillors Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**48. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –  
REGULATION OF THE SALE OF FIREWORKS AND  
PYROTECHNICS IN THE BOROUGH**



It was moved by Councillor Newall and seconded by Councillor Heslop -

This Council recognises that many residents look forward to the wonder of fireworks during traditional events that are enjoyed by many of the cultures and faiths of the Bolton family. Whether it is Bonfire night, Diwali, Chinese New Year or the traditional western New Year, many people – especially younger people – love the spectacle of pyrotechnic displays lighting up the sky in all parts of the borough.

This Council commends the supermarket ‘Sainsbury’s’ for the outright ban on the sale of fireworks and also welcomes the introduction of a low noise range of fireworks by ‘Asda’, along with the previous removal of BANGERS from ‘Tesco’s’ range, but this action is not uniform and does not address the problem empirically.

This Council acknowledges the progress made in Scotland on 29th June 2022 when the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Bill was passed by MSP’s without a single vote against. The legislation not only brings in new restrictions on the sale and use of fireworks, it will also allow Councils to ban their use in certain areas other than in a firework display or for “essential purposes”. Councils in Scotland will be able to establish Firework Control Zones, where it will be an offence for pyrotechnics to be used.

The Bill will also mean that fireworks can only be bought and used by members of the public at certain times of the year, including Bonfire Night, Hogmanay, Chinese New Year, Diwali etc.

It also creates a new licensing system which will mean that people will need a license to buy and use fireworks and that businesses and shops will have to check if those buying pyrotechnics have a license.

This provides a balance between a legitimate right to use fireworks with the need to protect public safety and animal

welfare. Without this type of protection, many people and animals will continue to be deeply affected by the use and deliberate misuse of fireworks.

There was a petition to Parliament with over 300K signatures, that called for the limit of sale and use of fireworks to organisations for Licensed Displays only – the narrative of the petition stated that there is a lot of strong feeling among the public, from many diverse areas, that legislation must restrict the use of fireworks and pyrotechnics to that of a safe and acceptable level. The petition, which ran in 2019 argued that current legislations allows for public use of fireworks for 16 hours a day, every day, make it virtually impossible for vulnerable groups to take the necessary precautions against the harm and distress they can cause and that the enforcement of existing laws, even to a higher standard, is not enough ,and that limiting the sale of fireworks and the licensing of displays only, was necessary.

At present, it is the Fire Service that issues licenses to retailers to store and sell fireworks following a premises inspection.

This Council agrees that:

1. elected members and officers shall meet with Fire Officers and representatives of all the big retailers in Bolton to see if there is a way forward to creating a voluntary “Bolton Code” for the regulation of the sale of fireworks and pyrotechnics in the Borough. This will be supported by a proactive local advertising campaign to schools, clubs and other organisations to ensure that the message is heard in all quarters of our borough.
2. Council writes to the Government, urging them to consider entering the equivalent The Firework and Pyrotechnic Articles Bill (Scotland) into English statute at their earliest opportunity, thereby ensuring a safer environment for our most vulnerable members of

society and to those animals who look to us to protect them from harm.

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

For the Motion, 29 viz:

Councillors Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Newall, Peel, Priest, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 9 viz:

Councillors Connor, Cox, Galloway, Hartigan, Hewitt, Hill, Meehan, Muslim and Rimmer.

Abstained, 10 viz:

Councillors Baines, Bullock, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Haslam, S. Patel, Radcliffe, Taylor-Burke and Walsh.

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

At this point in the meeting, the Chief Executive advised that due to the time, no further motions would be debated this evening and, therefore, The Mayor asked the movers of the motions if they wished for their motion to be voted on without debate or withdraw and resubmit to a future meeting. Consequently, the following motions were then voted as follows:-

**49. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – FRACKING**

It was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Veevers -

Council notes and reaffirms the decisions related to the possibility of extraction of shale gas by hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in the area.

In particular Council recognises that

- i) there are considerable public concerns about the possible effects of earth tremors, contamination of ground water, air pollution and the possible impact on human health as a result of fracking;
- ii) a draft DEFRA report in 2014 forecast that house prices are likely to fall by up to 7% within a mile of fracking wells, and that the price of house insurance will rise within 5 miles of fracking wells.

Council reaffirms its decision taken in 2015 that:

- a) the Council in its role as landowner will not allow any exploratory drilling or fracking on land it owns or controls;
- b) the Council will strongly oppose any attempt to weaken or override its powers as a planning authority when considering any applications for fracking

Council recognises the need to ensure secure supplies of power, and regrets the decision of government to reduce incentives to switch to renewable sources such as solar and wind power. Council urges Government to reverse this decision and also to commence a programme to ensure that all homes are properly insulated.

Council resolves to acquaint the Borough's MPs with this view and ask for their support.

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

For the Motion, 48 viz:

Councillors Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs.

Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**50. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – FRACKING**

Councillor Silvester withdrew this motion and advised that he would resubmit it to a future meeting of the Council.

**51. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PRIME MINISTER**

Councillor Peel withdrew this motion and advised that he would resubmit it to a future meeting of the Council.

**52. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – FAIR GAME MANIFESTO**

Councillor Mort withdrew this motion and advised that she would resubmit it to a future meeting of the Council.

**53. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – THE GOVERNMENT’S MINI BUDGET**

It was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor D. Wilkinson -

Council condemns the ineptitude and lack of compassion shown by the Government in drafting and announcing its recent ‘mini budget’. To even consider proposing a massive tax cut for the better off and removing the cap on bankers’ bonus when a large number of Bolton residents are

struggling to cope with increasing costs of heating their homes and buying essential items is mind-blowingly insensitive.

Council resolves to make these views clear to the Borough's Members of Parliament and ask them to vote and campaign against any such proposals.

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

For the Motion, 28 viz:

Councillors Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Donaghy, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Newall, Peel, Priest, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 20 viz:

Councillors Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Meehan, Muslim, S. Patel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Taylor-Burke and Walsh.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**54. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – SYSTEM OF FAIR VOTES FOR UK GENERAL ELECTIONS**

Councillor Veevers withdrew this motion and advised that he would resubmit it to a future meeting of the Council.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.40 p.m.)