

**BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**2021/2022**

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**6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

Present - Councillors Mrs. Thomas (Mayor), Mrs. Fairclough (Deputy Mayor), Abdullah, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challender, Connor, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Finney, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Ibrahim, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Zaman.

**32. PETITION**

A petition was received requesting that Bolton Council assess, and where necessary fix, potholes in roads in the area bounded by Mornington Road, Lonsdale Road, Back Hastings Road and Harrow Road and was referred to the Director of Place Services.

**33. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**34. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 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:-

- (a) Councillor Flitcroft to replace Councillor Dean as Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee – Traffic Offences
- (b) Councillor Muslim to replace Councillor Cox on the Audit Committee
- (c) Councillor Mrs. Fairclough to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Chief Officers Appointments Panel
- (d) Councillor Mrs. Fairclough to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Chief Officers JCC
- (e) Councillor Mrs. Fairclough to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Constitutional Panel
- (f) Councillor Cox to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Single Local Joint Consultative Committee
- (g) Councillor Cox to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Mayoral Advisory Group
- (h) Councillor Warren to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on PSP
- (i) Councillor Warren to replace Councillor Greenhalgh on the Bolton Strategic Economic Partnership
- (j) Councillor Dean to replace Councillor Warren on the Be Safe Bolton Strategic Partnership
- (k) Councillor McMulkin to replace Councillor Ismail on the Planning Committee
- (l) Councillor Ismail no longer a member of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

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

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

- (i) by Councillor Hayes relating to an amendment to the Budget

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor Heslop relating to Council Tax Support

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

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- (iii) by Councillor Heslop relating to the creation of Principal Officer posts

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor Heslop relating to the funding of events/festivals

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Hartigan relating to the Food and Drink Festival and future events

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Finney relating to the Westhoughton Town Hall refurbishment

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor Veevers relating to fireworks

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor Heslop relating to Remembrance Sunday in Kearsley

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

- (ix) by Councillor Hayes relating to the performance of the Planning Department

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

- (x) by Councillor Veevers relating to the lack of HGV

drivers

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

- (xi) by Councillor Haworth relating to pest control contracts

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor McGeown relating to accessing health services in primary and secondary care

The Executive Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (xiii) by Councillor Hornby relating to access to GPs

The Executive Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (xiv) by Councillor Taylor-Burke relating to access to GPs

The Executive Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (xv) by Councillor McMulkin relating to fly tipping and contaminated bins

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

- (xvi) by Councillor Hill relating to the Armed Forces Covenant

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

## **36. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed -

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved.

### **37. 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 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved.

### **38. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

It was moved by Councillor Bagnall, seconded by Councillor Weatherby and agreed -

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Place Scrutiny Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### **39. ITEM REFERRED TO COUNCIL FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – FREE WEEKEND PARKING**

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

Motion in the name of Councillor Peel regarding item 6 of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 –

With reference to the decision made by the Executive Cabinet Member on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, this Council believes that the Executive Member made the decision to withdraw free weekend parking, at Bolton town centre's multi storey car parks without full knowledge of all of the facts. Namely that the report contained no analysis nor narrative whatsoever on the effect of this facility, in place since 2012, would have on the retail and cultural sector in Bolton town centre. This Council requests that the Executive Cabinet Member now commission a new report that covers all of the relevant issues, that will allow him to make a more informed decision on this important facility.

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

For the Motion, 23 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Challender, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Hayes, Haworth, Hornby, Ibrahim, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, Mistry, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 28 viz:

Councillors Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, McMulkin, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby and T. Wilkinson.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared lost.

**40. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 - HARVEY**

## **NURSERY**

It was moved by Councillor Donaghy and seconded by Councillor Murray -

Following a 'call in' by the Labour Group on the decision to close Harvey Nursery, the issue finally came to a meeting of the Council on the 13th January 2021, when a resolution to refer the decision back to Executive Cabinet Member with a reference to exploring financial options, was passed by a majority of members.

Despite the fact that over 6 months later, no report has been taken to the Executive Cabinet Member, Council takes hope from the fact that the Conservative Group has not ignored the wishes of Council and gone ahead with closure, to date. (Council cites other called-in items that that were subsequently implemented against the wishes of the majority of the Council).

In view of this, and in view of the fact that the nursery is still operating (we understand with an increased attendance), Council resolves to ask the Executive Cabinet Member to consider a report as soon as possible that will inform her of:

- a. Additional work that has been carried out since January that aims to address the finances of the nursery.
- b. What new advertising strategies the council have explored and put in place in order to directly promote the nursery to town centre employers, the University and other local organisations in the catchment area.

Council commits itself yet again to Harvey Nursery being continued to be supported by the Council in every way possible to maintain its future sustainability and to the fact that unless these crucial pieces of work are carried out, the nursery could again go into decline, with a subsequent future report to the Executive Cabinet Member for again recommending closure.

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

For the Motion, 30 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Ayub, Bagnall, Challender, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Grant, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hornby, Ibrahim, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Pattison, Peel, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson, and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 20 viz:

Councillors Allen, Baines, Connor, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Muslim, Parkinson, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Taylor-Burke, Walsh and Warren.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**41. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – FUNDING CRISIS AFFECTING ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

It was moved by Councillor Zaman and seconded by Councillor McKeon -

Bolton Council has a statutory duty to assess the local population need for adult social care and to ensure that there is delivery of a full range of adult social care services.

In that endeavour

This Council believes there is a serious funding crisis affecting adult social care in the in Bolton and throughout the UK, made much worse by a decade of Conservative inaction.

This Council further believes that the planned rise in



National Insurance contributions, affecting around 26 million working people, is an unfair way of dealing with the funding crisis in the crumbling social care system, and agrees with the Prime Ministers previous comments that NI increases are a regressive form of taxation, and agrees that the increase represents a clear betrayal of the Conservative Party 2019 manifesto promise to “not raise the level of NI”.

The NI rise will mean that young, poorly paid workers will in effect subsidise elderly rich people and the wealthiest in our society. On top of the cut to Universal Credit, it is again the lowest paid workers who will be hit the hardest.

Council believes that regressive NI rises will not bring about a social care funding solution, and instead longer term solutions that raises finance from those with the broadest shoulders, through stocks, shares, dividends and properties should instead be explored.

Council resolves to send this motion to the Prime Minister.

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

For the Motion, 33 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Brady, Challender, Donaghy, Evans, Finney, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Grant, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hornby, Ibrahim, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Pattison, Peel, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 18 viz:

Councillors Baines, Connor, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Muslim, Parkinson, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Taylor-Burke, Walsh and Warren.

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:-

- Changes to the way planning decisions are made at a local level – motion in the name of Councillor Silvester;
- Qualifying age for free prescriptions in England for 60 to 66 years of age – motion in the name of Councillor Haworth; and
- Vaping Products – motion in the name of Councillor Baines.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.30 p.m.)