

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2022/2023

22nd June 2022

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

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 18th May 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

7. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Khurram

That the following appointments and changes in membership be approved and that Councillor Cox replace Councillor Haslam as a member on Procurement Holdings Limited (YPO) -

Central Safety, Health and Welfare Joint Consultative Committee (3) (1 Con:1 Lab:1 One Kearsley)

Conservative

Councillor Morgan

Labour

Councillor Donaghy

One Kearsley

Councillor Newall

Education Assistance Panel (3) (2 Con:1 Lab)

Conservative

Councillor Galloway

Councillor Radcliffe

Labour

Councillor McKeon

School Governor Appointments Panel (3) (1 Con:1 Lab:1 Independent)

Conservative

Councillor Galloway

Labour

Councillor McKeon

Independent

Councillor Abdullah

Single Local Joint Consultative Committee (16) (6 Con:5 Lab:1 Lib Dem:1 F+K:1 H+B:1 BIG:1 OK)

Conservative

Councillor Morgan (Ch)

Councillor Cox

Councillor Mrs. Fairclough

Councillor Cowen

Councillor Muslim

Councillor Finney

Labour

Councillor Donaghy

Councillor McKeon

Councillor Khurram

Councillor Atcha

Councillor Murray

Liberal Democrats

Councillor Hayes

Farnworth and Kearsley First

Councillor Sanders

Horwich and Blackrod First

Councillor Wright

Bolton Independent Group

Councillor Allen

One Kearsley

Councillor Newall

**Personnel Appeals Panel Membership Pool (16) (6 Con:
5 Lab: 1 Lib Dem: 1 F+K: 1 H+B: 1 BIG: 1 OK)**

Conservative

Councillor Dean

Councillor Mrs. Fairclough

Councillor Connor

Councillor Haslam

Councillor Galloway

Councillor Rimmer

Labour

Councillor Atcha

Councillor Donaghy

Councillor Iqbal

Councillor McKeon

Councillor Mort

Liberal Democrats

Councillor McGeown

Farnworth and Kearsley First

Councillor Sanders

Horwich and Blackrod First

Councillor Wright

Bolton Independent Group

Councillor Allen

One Kearsley

Councillor Newall

**8. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDERSTANDING ORDER
9(a)**

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

- (i) by Councillor Heslop relating to £150 payment towards energy bills

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor N. Ayub relating to investment in Farnworth

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

- (iii) by Councillor Mrs. Thomas relating to Foundation Living Wage for Adult Social Care Workers

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

A5

- (iv) by Councillor Donaghy relating to Globe Works Apartment Conversion

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Donaghy relating to student flats at Great Moor Street

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Donaghy relating to the former McCauleys building on Bradshawgate

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor Peel relating to the regeneration of Bolton Town Centre

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor Sherrington relating to free school meals

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

- (vix) by Councillor Haworth relating to events and attractions in Bolton

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (x) by Councillor Peel relating to academy schools on Council land

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (xi) by Councillor Hayes relating to Voter ID

The Chief Executive replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Finney relating to the redevelopment of Westhoughton Town Hall

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (xiii) by Councillor Finney relating to Winifred Kettle

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

- (xiv) by Councillor Priest relating to planning and enforcement functions

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

- (xv) by Councillor Hayes relating to the performance of the planning and enforcement function

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

- (xvi) by Councillor Veevers relating to the Café at Smithills Hall

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xvii) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to Manchester Airport

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xviii) by Councillor T. Wilkinson relating to train services in Kearsley

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

A7

- (xix) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to donations of Russian money

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xx) by Councillor McKeon relating to train links in the De Haviland Corridor and Chorley New Road in Horwich

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

- (xxi) by Councillor Patel relating to illegal trade in tobacco and Nitrous Gas containers

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xxii) by Councillor McGeown relating to schools moving towards academies

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

- (xxiii) by Councillor Hornby relating to Little Lever Health Centre and Library

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

9. PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 24th March and 14th April 2022 be approved.

10. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Khurram, seconded by Councillor Taylor-Burke and approved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Licensing and Environmental Regulations Committee held on 22nd March and 20th April 2022 be approved.

11. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Silvester, seconded by Councillor Veevers and approved –

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee – 11th April 2022

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees – 30th March 2022

Place Scrutiny Committee – 13th April 2022

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 28th March 2022

12. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – PUBLIC PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

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

The value and importance of parks and green spaces to local residents has been brought strikingly home since the onset of the Covid pandemic, especially for residents living in homes without access to outdoor living space. Public Parks and green spaces are not only a cornerstone in our efforts relating to the climate crisis, but significantly contribute to health and wellbeing and should not simply be judged by what they cost to maintain.

We know from numerous research studies that access to local quality green spaces improves the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all sections of the community. Indeed, the Marmot Review of 2010, recommends that improving the availability of good quality green spaces across the social gradient will help reduce health inequalities.

In terms of health, parks and green spaces save the NHS at least £111 million per year through prevented GP visits, which is enough to pay for more than 3,500 nurses.

Fields in trust research confirms that any decision by a public body to remove a park or green space is often short-sighted and will, in most cases, cost more money than is saved.

The evidence is clear: green spaces are good; they do good and they need to be protected for good.

I therefore call on this Council to as a matter of urgency hold a PDG to consider how it can establish protection of all the eligible public parks and green spaces in the Borough from being sold off or built upon in perpetuity and agree to appoint the mover of the motion as a member of this PDG.

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

For the Motion, 52 viz:

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

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

13. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 - MARKED DISABLED BAYS OUTSIDE RESIDENTS HOMES

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

Many of the streets in this borough consist of traditional terraced houses and the only parking available to residents is on the street. Even in non-urban areas of the borough, we still have many properties that again only afford parking on the main road. Common courtesy usually prevails when it comes to motorists parking outside a disabled resident's home. However, there are an increasing number of disabled residents who are coming forward and vocalising how they struggle when motorists park outside their home resulting in the inconvenience in either parking their own car or being picked up/dropped off as a passenger. Of course, many other councils in the UK now allow disabled residents to have markings outside their home to remind motorists of the fact that a particular space is there for a disabled person at that address.

This Council acknowledges that presently – due to lack of available Council resources – that any cost associated with marked disabled parking bays should be borne by residents, as is the practise of many other Councils in the UK. However, in recognition of the problem this Council agrees to convene a Policy Development Group to explore the extent to which a scheme can be introduced that could result in disabled residents having marked parking bays on the road outside their home.

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

For the Motion, 51 viz:

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

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

14. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – ASYLUM SEEKERS BEING SENT TO RWANDA

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

In his recent letter to Boris Johnson, Conservative MP, Jesse Norman described the Home Office's proposal to send asylum seekers to Rwanda as 'ugly.' The Archbishop of Canterbury in his Easter sermon said of the proposed scheme that it 'cannot stand God's judgement.' This Council expresses its agreement with Jesse Norman and Justin Welby and declares its view that the scheme is cruel and inhuman. It bases this contention on its understanding of the Refugee Convention and the well established culture of welcome that Bolton has offered to refugees and asylum seekers over many years. The plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda represents a denial of British values of justice and compassion and is a betrayal of our obligation to support the vulnerable. This Council instructs its Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel and to

the Borough's three MPs to object in the strongest terms to a policy that brings shame on our country.

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

For the Motion, 30 viz:

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

Against the Motion, 20 viz:

Councillors Connor, Cox, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, Patel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Taylor-Burke, Walsh and Warren.

Abstained, 0

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 on as follows:-

15. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – CHANGES OR EXTENSIONS TO RIGHT TO BUY POLICY

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

Council welcomes any sensible initiative to increase home ownership and allow residents to get on to the housing ladder.

However, Council has severe reservations about recently announced plans to extend the 'Right to Buy' to tenants of Housing Associations. Based on the experiences of the similar initiative launches by the Thatcher Government any such policy would be likely to lead to:

- a further reduction in the supply of social housing for rent as promises to replace those properties sold were not kept;
- a steep increase in rents in both the social and private rented sectors; and
- a deterioration in standards of remaining social housing.

Council resolves to:

1. reflect these concerns in any consultation about changes or extensions to Right to Buy policy; and
2. Make its views known to the Borough's Members of Parliament and ask for their support in opposing any proposals to extend the policy.

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

For the Motion, 30 viz:

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

Against the Motion, 19 viz:

Councillors Connor, Cox, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, Patel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Taylor-Burke, Walsh and Warren.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

16. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – CLEAN AIR ZONE CHARGING

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

17. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – REVIEW OF PRIMARY CARE

Councillor Priest declared an interest in the undermentioned item and left the meeting during consideration and determination thereof.

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

Council believes that the most valuable resource the health service has is its staff. Yet the NHS is in the midst of a chronic workforce crisis, driven by years of insufficient investment in training new staff, inadequate workforce planning and lack of government accountability.

Council believes that compared to other nations, England has a very low number of doctors relative to the population. The average number of doctors per 1,000 people in OECD EU nations is 3.7, but England has just 2.9. Germany, by comparison, has 4.3. The NHS was once the envy of the world but not today.

Furthermore, in February 2020, in a bid to reverse the stasis in GP workforce numbers, the Government announced a drive to recruit an additional 6,000 GPs by 2024 and yet in the year between March 2021 and April 2022, the NHS lost 379 GP partners and 364 salaried and locum GPs. This means that the number of fully qualified

GPs by headcount decreased by 743 net in just under a year.

Council and the Primary Care Networks/ Neighbourhoods have taken huge strides to try and fill the shortfall with specialist nurses and paramedics but even with the 2022 Health & Care Act the figures don't lie and we know the NHS is in serious trouble. This is not uniform across the country, and we know that the North is one of the worst areas for patient to GP ratio.

Accordingly, Council resolves to:

1. Request the Government to acknowledge that due to failures in their policies access to health has fallen sharply in places like Bolton.
2. Request the Government to urgently review primary care in areas such as Bolton as part of the workforce plan due in the autumn, outlined by Amanda Pritchard Chief Exec NHSE to Health Select Committee on 7th June and create extra funding to improve our health outcomes.
3. Request the Government to aid our new local integrated care system to prioritise primary care in their overall strategy and funding.
4. Make these views known to the Borough's MPs and ask for their support

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

For the Motion, 28 viz:

Councillors Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Donaghy, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Newall, Peel, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester,

Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 20 viz:

Councillors Bullock, Connor, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, Patel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren and Weatherby.

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.37 p.m.)