

# **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, 18th November, 2021

Present:- **Councillors** Paul Crossley, Andrew Furse, Kevin Guy, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Hal MacFie, Robin Moss, Lisa O'Brien, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Richard Samuel, Alastair Singleton, Karen Walker and Karen Warrington

### **65 WELCOME & EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure, as set out on the agenda.

### **66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

### **67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made.

### **68 MINUTES - 16TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

On a motion from Councillor Karen Walker, seconded by Councillor Karen Warrington, it was

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **69 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

There were none.

### **70 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **71 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no statements from the public made at this meeting, although Members noted the statements made at the virtual meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021;

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/g6059/Public%20minutes%2017th-Nov-2021%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=11>

### **72 CONSTITUTION REFRESH**

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Karen Walker, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED**

- 1 To approve the formation of the Constitution Working group with the Terms of Reference, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- 2 To note the timeline for providing an updated Constitution, in accordance with Appendix 2 to the report; and
- 3 To approve the interim recommended Constitutional changes detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.

**73 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION - PROPORTIONALITY REVIEW**

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED to**

1. Agree a revised political proportionality table, noting that the Liberal Democrat group have relinquished one place on the Children Adults, Health & Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel, and the Conservative group have relinquished a place on the Corporate Audit Committee; and
2. Instruct Democratic Services to make the necessary arrangements for those places to be filled.

**74 AVON PENSION FUND ANNUAL REPORT**

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Richard Samuel, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED to**

1. Approve the Committee's revised Terms of Reference;
2. Note the Committee's Annual Report to Council; and
3. Note the Pension Board's Annual Report.

**75 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**

On a motion from Councillor Duncan Hounsell, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley, it was

**RESOLVED** unanimously to note the Annual report of the Standards Committee for 2020/21.

**76 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Andy Furse, it was

**RESOLVED** unanimously to note

1. The Treasury Management Report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice; and
2. The Treasury Management Indicators to 30th September 2021.

**77 CORPORATE PARENTING - REFERRAL FROM CHILDREN, ADULTS, HEALTH & WELLBEING PDS PANEL**

On a motion from Councillor Vic Pritchard, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero, it was

**RESOLVED** unanimously to

1. Note the progress made to date in these duties; and
2. Note that this work will continue to be a priority within the Local Authority.

**78 SAFETY FOR WOMEN - UPDATE REPORT**

On a motion from Councillor Dine Romero, seconded by Councillor Karen Walker, it was

**RESOLVED** unanimously

1. To note the progress being made on the implementation of the Council motion regarding safety for women and girls in public places; and
2. Request that the Chief Executive be asked to bring forward a report to the Cabinet on the most effective corporate response to this report.

**79 RACE PANEL UPDATE**

On a motion from Councillor Dine Romero, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard, it was

**RESOLVED** to

1. Note the update report;
2. Agree that the panel should continue to run for a further period to 30 April 2023; and

3. Note the panel's purpose and terms of reference.

## 80 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WRIGHT - CARBON TAX

On a motion from Councillor Alastair Singleton, seconded by Councillor Richard Samuel, it was

**RESOLVED** that

**This Council believes:**

Man-made climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying, affecting every part of the globe. Since the second half of the 19th century, the release of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from human activities has warmed the planet by 1.1C. Rapid reductions in GHGs are needed immediately otherwise limiting global warming to 1.5C or even 2C will be impossible. These are the stark conclusions from the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, released in August 2021[1]. The report presents the findings from years of in-depth work from over 200 scientists in 66 countries. It provided key evidence for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which was hosted by the UK Government in Glasgow from October 31st to November 13th 2021.

This year has already seen record extreme heat in both North America and Europe, the hottest July globally since records began, catastrophic floods in Europe and China, and raging wildfires in Siberia, Europe, and California. And this is with only 1.1C warming. It will get worse, but how much worse depends on how quickly GHG emissions are reduced.

It is estimated that the UK will be responsible for ~800 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2021[2]. We need mechanisms to reduce GHG use quickly. One potentially 'game changing' mechanism is carbon pricing, which could cover either carbon tax or an enhanced emissions trading scheme (ETS), covering all GHGs emitted in the provision of goods and services. The current UK ETS arrangement covers only around a third of industrial emissions and so falls some way short of an effective carbon pricing mechanism.

The moral and economic case for comprehensive carbon pricing lies in the 'polluter pays' principle:

- Currently the costs of climate breakdown are not borne by the industries and activities that are causing the damage, but by people and communities coming under increasing pressure and danger.
- Outdoor air pollution from fossil fuels causes 3 million deaths globally each year and up to 36,000 in the UK. [4]
- Carbon pricing, set at the right level, will drive fossil fuel consumption out of the economy and promote investment in clean alternatives.

This year's COP26 meeting in Glasgow failed to address an international carbon pricing framework, so the UK should introduce its own mechanism, including a carbon 'border adjustment mechanism' applied to goods imported into the UK to

ensure that the GHGs emitted in their production are also subject to the pricing mechanism. A border adjustment mechanism would protect more cleanly produced UK made goods and incentivise other economies to lower emissions.

Carbon pricing would have a regressive effect in the UK, impacting the cost of transport fuel, electricity, heating, and food. Low-income households in the UK spend a greater proportion of their income on these carbon intensive goods. So, to ensure the fairness and equitability of a carbon pricing framework any inequality needs to be offset by a progressive mechanism of returning revenues to low-income households. In particular, carbon pricing must:

- Help deliver a just transition, which shares the burdens of decarbonisation equitably.
- Target the biggest polluters and those activities where emissions can most swiftly be reduced in a way that is fair to individuals and to businesses.
- Support and incentivise smaller emitters, such as households, to reduce emissions before applying carbon pricing to their energy bills.

### **Therefore, we propose**

1. that this Council resolves to support calls for comprehensive and effective carbon pricing by writing to our leaders:
  - a. The UK Prime Minister, Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
  - b. Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, President of COP26 (the Glasgow 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference)
  - c. Rt Hon George Eustace MP, Secretary of State for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs, and to
  - d. Our Bath MP and our North East Somerset MP

In our letter, calling for the UK government to:

2. Introduce a UK-wide carbon pricing framework by the end of 2025, to be applied to all sectors of industry and to imports as well as to domestic production.
3. Include a mechanism to use the proceeds fairly to ensure social justice and support a fair and equitable transition to a cleaner economy.

*[\*Notes:*

1. *The successful resolution above was an amendment to Councillor Wright's motion (moved at this meeting by Councillor Robin Moss & seconded by Councillor Hal McFie) - agreed with 13 Councillors voting in favour and 2 Councillors abstaining.*
2. *The amendment as substantive was subsequently agreed with 12 Councillors voting in favour and 3 Councillors abstaining.]*

## **81 MOTION FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - ENSURING PRIVATE CARS ARE PROTECTED FROM CLEAN AIR ZONE CHARGES**

This motion was not moved.

**82 MOTION FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

On a motion from Councillor Karen Warrington, seconded by Councillor Karen Walker, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

1. This Council notes that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will take place in 2022.
2. This Council notes that the 2022 May Bank Holiday Weekend will be moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June will see a four-day weekend to celebrate the Jubilee - the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone.
3. This Council recognises the esteem in which the Queen is held by the British public and considers it highly likely that residents in B&NES would wish to see the authority mark the Jubilee in a significant way.

Council therefore:

4. Requests that the Leader of the Council takes steps to explore the feasibility of renaming a road, property asset or landmark in B&NES after Queen Elizabeth II to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

**83 MOTION FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - THE IMPACT OF FIREWORKS**

On a motion from Councillor Karen Warrington, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard, it was

**RESOLVED** that

Council recognises:

1. The unpredictable, loud and high intensity noises that many fireworks make can cause fear and distress to animals.
2. That debris produced by fireworks, if found on the ground, can pose a hazard to animals such as horses and farm livestock.
3. That noise from fireworks can make it difficult for the police or local authority officers to pinpoint locations and take actions.
4. That the RSPCA believes there is a real need to raise awareness among owners of animals about phobia of fireworks.

Council therefore resolves:

5. To recommend that all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.

6. Actively to promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people in the lead up to relevant celebrations and cultural events through existing council communication channels.
7. To write to the Local Government Association to lobby for a limit to the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
8. To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock quieter fireworks for public display.

**84 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

There were no statements made at this meeting, but it was noted that a statement had been made by Councillor Eleanor Jackson at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021;

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/g6059/Public%20minutes%2017th-Nov-2021%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=11>

The meeting ended at 4.12 pm

Chair .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**