



MINUTES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 10am

VENUE: Shire Hall, Gloucester

Present

Cllr Phil Awford	Cllr Colin Hay	Cllr Nigel Robbins OBE
Cllr Matt Babbage	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Cllr Brian Robinson
Cllr Robert Bird	Cllr Stephen Hirst	Cllr Steve Robinson
Cllr Richard Boyles	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Cllr Rachel Smith
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Carole Allaway Martin	Cllr Vernon Smith
Cllr Chris Coleman	Cllr Dr Andrew Miller	Cllr Lynden Stowe
Cllr Dr John Cordwell	Cllr Patrick Molyneux	Cllr Klara Sudbury
Cllr Kevin Cromwell	Cllr Nigel Moor	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Stephen Davies	Cllr Graham Morgan	Cllr Brian Tipper
Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr David Norman MBE	Cllr Pam Tracey MBE
Cllr Ben Evans	Cllr Brian Oosthuysen	Cllr Eva Ward
Cllr Bernie Fisher	Cllr Shaun Parsons	Cllr Simon Wheeler
Cllr Andrew Gravells	Cllr Sajid Patel	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Kate Haigh	Cllr Loraine Patrick	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE
Cllr Terry Hale	Cllr John Payne	Cllr Suzanne Williams
Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr Alan Preest	Cllr Roger Wilson
Cllr Joe Harris	Cllr Keith Rippington	Cllr Will Windsor-Clive
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE		

Honorary Aldermen

Ron Allen	Rob Garnham	John Sewell
Bill Crowther	Bill Hobman	Gordon Shurmer
Paul Drake	Terry Parker	

Apologies: Cllr Robert Vines and Honorary Alderman Jackie Hall

25. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr Andrew Gravells thanked members and officers for their support over the last year. He stated that it had been a great privilege to represent the county and meet so many wonderful people, all of whom made Gloucestershire a fantastic, vibrant

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and successful place. He was pleased that he had been able to raise some funds for the Oncology Department at Cheltenham General Hospital as part of the Chairman's charity appeal. He noted that the Oncology Department had helped thousands of patients who had been treated there, including himself.

Cllr Gravells invited nominations for the position of Chair of Council for 2019-20. Cllr Ray Theodoulou was proposed and seconded.

There being no other nominations, it was:

RESOLVED that *Cllr Ray Theodoulou be elected as Chairman of Council for the 2019-20 civic year.*

Cllr Theodoulou made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the Roll of Members as Chairman.

Cllr Theodoulou stated that he was very proud to have been appointed Chairman and it would be a great honour to represent the Council.

26. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chairman invited nominations for Vice-chair of Council for the 2019-20 civic year. Cllr Iain Dobie and Cllr Alan Preest were both proposed and seconded.

On being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED that *Cllr Alan Preest be appointed as Vice-chairman of Council for the 2019-20 civic year.*

Cllr Preest made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the Roll of Members as Vice-chairman.

Cllr Preest thanked members for their support and said that he was honoured to take up the position of Vice-chairman.

27. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2019 were signed and confirmed as a correct record.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A copy of the declarations of interest is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

29. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) New County Councillor for Churchdown

The Chairman welcomed Ben Evans who had been elected to the County Council at the Churchdown by-election on 2 May 2019.

b) Stonewall

The Chairman advised that there would be a display on the Council Chamber landing at lunchtime relating to the work being undertaken by the County Council to achieve a ranking on the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index.

c) Polly Higgins

The Chairman paid tribute to Polly Higgins from Stroud, well known lawyer and environmental campaigner, who had sadly passed away aged just 50.

Cllr Rachel Smith stated that Polly had dedicated the last 10 years of her life to developing the international crime of ecocide to impose a legal duty on governments and companies to protect ecosystems. As a resident of Stroud, she hoped that Polly would achieve recognition as a Great Gloucestershire Achiever.

d) Cabinet changes

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader of the Council, announced that Cllr Patrick Molyneux would be taking on the portfolio of Economy, Skills and Education from Cllr Lynden Stowe who had taken on the portfolio for Finance and Change. Cllr Richard Boyles would become Deputy Leader following the departure of Cllr Ray Theodoulou from the Cabinet.

e) Gloucestershire flag

The Chairman reported that the Gloucestershire flag with its distinctive blue, green and yellow colours would in future be flown over Shire Hall on full Council days.

f) Honorary Aldermen

The Chairman welcomed the Honorary Aldermen who had been invited to join members for lunch.

30. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Sixteen questions had been received. A copy of the answers was circulated and is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 2 – Steve Gower said that he was quoted figures in a previous answer regarding the number of deaths of individuals in supported living as well as anecdotal information regarding individuals who had been defined as too ill for the homeless hub following assessment. He asked whether the Cabinet Member had any concerns about these instances and asked how referrals were made and what the criteria was to get into the homeless hub.

Cllr Kathy Williams replied that she could not comment on individual cases. She outlined that the Council had recently received a grant from Government that would be put into contracts to improve facilities in this area. There were many reasons why individuals might die who were in supported housing and the Coroner would make a decision on the causes of those deaths. The member would provide what information was available.

Question 3 – Henry Jones stated that it was clear that the Council did hold the reduction of carbon footprint as a high priority to a degree and asked whether the Council in theory supported destigmatising economic inactivity by rolling out means adjusted universal based income. He suggested that those who were nominally unemployed would be praiseworthy, instead of being vilified and would give a boost to the self esteem of the 'unemployable'.

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that reducing the carbon footprint was a high priority for the council and welcomed the endorsement of that. He gave the example of the work being carried out around streetlighting. On the specific supplementary he suggested that it was not something for him to comment on but that a view should be sought from national government and that the individual should lobby his MP.

Question 5 – Senan Clifford identified inaccuracies in the percentages provided in the answer. He asked that given that fossil fuels were a major contributor to climate change emissions how wise was it to invest in this for Council workers pensions?

Cllr Ray Theodoulou explained that the Brunel organisation had been set up by Government to manage the pension fund of a group of county councils (there were 10 in the group). The Council had no responsibility for the investments that were

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made as those decisions had been devolved to Brunel. He replied that he would pass on the comments made to Brunel.

Question 6 – Jennie Ireland commented on the manmade decline in biodiversity and asked what measures the Council would put in place to protect, generate and restore biodiversity?

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that a report of a task group chaired by Cllr Rachel Smith on biodiversity had been presented to Cabinet and he had undertaken to respond to the recommendations. Once he had done that it would be shared more widely.

Question 7 – Jennie Ireland asked what plans and budget were in place for tree planting with 3 billion needing to be planted.

Cllr Nigel Moor stated that an increase of that scale would require government intervention to incentivise land owners

Question 8 – Louise Proud asked what positive action had been taken at senior positions in the Council to reduce the gender pay gap.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne explained that the Council had seen huge success for women across the whole organisation in terms of recruitment (social workers and fire service for example) which had created an adverse effect on the figures. He understood the point that there was a need to increase the number of women in senior roles. Currently 77% of those on the apprenticeship levy at levels 2 and 3 were women and of those on the Aspiring Leaders' Programme, 65% were women.

Question 10 – Louise Proud asked whether the Leader of Council would commit to the production of a transparent action plan with smart targets within the year to tackle the gender pay gap.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that if it was felt an action plan would help demonstrate the work in this area then this was something the Council could look into producing.

Question 11 – Yvonne Dignon asked whether the Council had a plan to make changes to support planting of trees on tenanted Gloucestershire land, including changing the legal framework.

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Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that there was no plan at this time as those legal contracts existed for many long term tenants. Any restrictions would impact the structure of the County estate. He hoped that tenant farmers would take up the challenges to plant more trees and stated that he had every confidence in farmers to do the right thing.

Question 12 – Yvonne Dignon asked whether the Council was going to make representations to Government on the legal framework to allow the planting of more trees.

Cllr Lyndon Stowe replied that it was not appropriate to ask Government to make those changes and he recognised the good work of tenant farmers, as well as other farmers across the county, in supplying food to the nation. He felt that it was up to market to dictate what was grown and over the course of time there might be a shift to plant produce.

Question 15 – Lyndon Edwardson asked whether the Council had plans for a food security strategy in relation to climate change.

Cllr Nigel Moor stated that he was confident that this would be discussed at the summit on climate change the following week and that a strategy in relation to an approach to climate change would be put out to consultation over the Summer.

Question 16 – Lyndon Edwardson suggested that setting up a citizens assembly to be consulted on the subject of climate change and help inform the Council's approach.

Cllr Nigel Moor reiterated that a strategy would be out for consultation in the Summer and that setting up a citizens assembly would be something he would reflect on.

31. POLITICAL BALANCE AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Members considered appointments to the committees, Pension Board, Fostering Panel and Police and Crime Panel.

Two nominations had been received for the position of Chair of the Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee: Cllr Jeremy Hilton and Cllr Stephen Hirst.

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RESOLVED

- a) *To appoint members to the committees, Pensions Board, Fostering Panel and Police and Crime Panel as indicated in Appendix 1 to the minutes.*
- b) *To appoint the following members as chairs and vice-chairs of the scrutiny committees:*

	Chair	Vice-chair
Corporate Overview & Scrutiny	Shaun Parsons	Joe Harris
Health	Carole Allaway Martin	Paul Hodgkinson
Adult Social Care & Communities	Stephen Hirst	Iain Dobie
Children & Families	Brian Robinson	Lesley Williams
Environment	Rob Bird	John Cordwell
Economic Growth	Kevin Cromwell	Kate Haigh

- c) *To appoint Cllr Nigel Robbins as the Chair and Cllr Brian Oosthuysen as the Vice-chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.*

32. CORPORATE PARENTING

Cllr Richard Boyles, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented an oral report. He thanked members of the Corporate Parenting Group and children in care for their help in developing the new Corporate Parenting Pledge which had been circulated to all members that morning. He said that the role that councillors played in looking after children in care was one of their most important roles.

Members of the Corporate Parenting Group encouraged other members to attend events organised by the Council which were not only fun but also provided an important insight into the challenges faced by children in care. They said that everyone wanted the best for their own children and members as Corporate Parents should treat children in care as if they were their own. They strongly encouraged all members to sign the new Corporate Parenting Pledge.

33. PETITIONS

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson presented a petition to Cllr David Norman, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries, relating to road safety improvements at Whiteshoots Hill, Bourton-on-the-Water.

Cllr Colin Hay presented a petition to Cllr Norman calling for a review of residents' parking in Cheltenham. He said that this had been promised six months after the introduction of the scheme six years ago.

34. MOTIONS

Motion 836 – Carbon action plan motion

In proposing and seconding the motion, Cllr Iain Dobie and Cllr Jeremy Hilton accepted a friendly amendment from Cllr Rachel Smith (see highlighted text).

This Council notes that:

- *Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world.*
- *Global temperatures have already increased by 1°C Celsius from pre-industrial levels and atmospheric CO2 far exceeds levels deemed to be safe for humanity.*
- *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on global warming of 1.5°C, published in January 2019, which tells us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.*
- *The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050.*
- *The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.*

This Council further notes that:

- *Gloucestershire County Council recently appointed a Cabinet Member with specific responsibilities tied to Climate change.*
- *Gloucestershire County Council is on target to reduce corporate carbon emissions by 60% by 2020/21 against its 2006/07 baseline.*
- *Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits.*
- *Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.*
- *The UK Parliament has recognised the climate emergency*
- *The County Council has a leadership role, along with other public sector bodies, in reducing Carbon emissions across the whole county.*

This Council resolves to:

- *Declare a climate emergency*

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- *Commit towards an 80 per cent reduction in the Council's corporate emissions no later than 2030, striving towards 100 per cent with carbon offsetting by the same date.*
- *Call on Central Government to provide additional powers and resources to support local and national action towards this 2030 target.*
- *Lobby the national government to commit to 100 per cent carbon neutrality by 2045.*
- *Consider its contracts going forward to oblige all contractors to report their carbon emissions and to place a 'carbon / environmental cost' on competing bids.*
- *Do all in its power to adopt, implement and strengthen the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy.*
- *Ensure that our major plans, such as the local transport plan, have clearly identified strategies to reduce carbon emissions.*
- *Work with district and borough councils to reduce the districts' carbon footprint within their corporate strategies.*
- *Provide an annual report to the environment committee, with a performance update on a quarterly basis.*

Cllr Dobie spoke passionately in support of the motion. He stated that action needed to be taken now and urged that challenging and achievable targets be set to reduce carbon emissions. He noted that average global temperatures had increased significantly and sea levels were rising. The impact of doing nothing was obvious to everyone and an ambitious strategic approach was needed. All of the Council's existing aims and goals needed to be aligned with climate change ambitions. Action could be taken in a range of areas including development planning, encouraging the supply of local produce and getting people out of their cars by improving cycling and public transport. He said that it was a climate change emergency and radical action was needed now. The mantra should be 'think global, act local'.

Cllr Hilton stated that the motion proposed a range of measures that were both practicable and achievable. He believed that the Council could do more, particularly relating to the development of a solar farm, planting more trees and ensuring that contractors met the same standards as the Council. He supported the idea of establishing a people's assembly to take a range of initiatives forward.

Cllr Nigel Moor proposed and Cllr Mark Hawthorne seconded the following amendment (changes are shown in highlighted text).

This Council notes:

- *That humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world.*

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- That global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels and atmospheric CO2 far exceeds levels deemed to be safe for humanity.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on global warming of 1.5°C, published in January 2019, which tells us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.
- That the world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050.
- That the consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.

This Council further notes that:

- The UK is responsible for 1% of the world's CO2 emissions, and whilst we have reduced those emissions more than any other developed country, this council notes that without global action we will not succeed.
- New Zealand, France, Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden have all committed to zero carbon by 2050.
- This is the recommended position of the independent Committee on Climate Change.
- This is the position of Parliament, as first laid out by Alex Chalk MP, and later supported by Jeremy Corbyn MP in an opposition day debate last month.
- Gloucestershire County Council recently appointed a Cabinet Member with specific responsibilities tied to climate change.
- Gloucestershire County Council is on target to reduce corporate carbon emissions by 60% by 2020/21 against its 2006/07 baseline.
- Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits
- Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.
- The UK Parliament has recognised the climate emergency
- The County Council has a leadership role, along with other public sector bodies, in reducing Carbon emissions across the whole County.

This Council resolves to:

- This Council welcomes and endorses on behalf of Gloucestershire the declaration of a climate change emergency by parliament on behalf of the UK and urges other countries to do the same.

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- *Commit towards an 80 per cent reduction in the Council's corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving towards 100 percent with carbon offsetting by the same date.*
- *Commits the Council to following the scientific advice of the Committee on Climate Change, as advocated in parliament by Alex Chalk MP, and subsequently by Jeremy Corbyn MP, and deliver a carbon neutral county by 2050.*
- *Call on Central Government to provide additional powers and resources to support local and national action towards this 2030 target.*
- *Lobby national government to commit to 100 per cent carbon neutrality by 2050.*
- *Consider its contracts going forward to oblige all contractors to report their carbon emissions and to place a 'carbon/environmental cost' on competing bids.*
- *Do all in its power to adopt, implement and strengthen the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy.*
- *Ensure that our major plans, such as the local transport plan, have clearly identified strategies to reduce carbon emissions.*
- *Work with district and borough councils to reduce the districts' carbon footprint within their corporate strategies.*
- *Provide an annual report to the Environment Scrutiny Committee, with a performance update on a quarterly basis.*

Cllr Moor noted that the United States and China accounted for 40% of worldwide carbon emissions but he recognised that Gloucestershire needed to set an example. He was pleased that the Council was holding a climate change summit on 21 May 2019 which would mark the start of consultation on a climate change strategy with robust and challenging targets.

Some members were not supportive of the amendment because they felt that it was watering down the intent of the original motion. They paid tribute to the people who had brought climate change issues to public attention in recent weeks. They were anxious that the Council sent out a clear message that it was serious about tackling climate change. A 2°C warming, instead of 1.5°C, would result in the level of drought doubling and a further 10cm increase in sea level. A number of the district councils in Gloucestershire had already declared a climate change emergency.

Other members spoke in support of the motion as they believed the targets were realistic and achievable. They welcomed the climate change summit being organised by the Council on 21 May 2019. They commended the steps that the Council had already taken but recognised that more action was required.

Environmentalists and Eco-scientists in the UK were helping to develop new technologies to reduce carbon emissions that could be used across the world.

A member expressed concern that 400 year old oak trees in the Forest of Dean were dying back as a result of climate change. He called on Forestry England to take a more sympathetic approach to preserving ancient forests by cutting down fewer trees and concentrating their efforts on preserving existing trees.

Another member referred to ash dieback and he commended local landowners on the action they were taking to replant trees.

Members noted the importance of individuals and local communities taking action themselves. Councillors had an important role as community leaders by engaging with local people and informing them of the seriousness of the situation.

A member referred to a recent actuarial report on the Gloucestershire Local Government Pension Fund which made reference to risks associated with climate change including crop failures and the spread of infectious diseases. He said that targets for action were essential and it was important that the Council acted without delay.

Another member stated that climate change issues were not new and he referred to the Ecology Party publishing 'Blueprint to Survive' nearly 50 years ago. He was supportive of the Council setting ambitious targets.

Cllr Hawthorne explained that the motion reflected a number of issues that needed to be addressed locally and nationally. He recognised the need to declare a climate change emergency but noted that it was a global issue and every country in the world needed to be encouraged to play its part.

Following a short adjournment, Cllr Moor and Cllr Hawthorne agreed to accept the following amendment from Cllr Rachel Smith (changes are shown in highlighted text).

This Council notes:

- *That humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world.*
- *That global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels and atmospheric CO2 far exceeds levels deemed to be safe for humanity.*
- *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on global warming of 1.5°C, published in January 2019, which tells us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action*

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from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.

- *That the world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050.*
- *That the consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.*

This Council further notes that:

- *The UK is responsible for 1% of the world's CO2 emissions, and whilst we have reduced those emissions more than any other developed country, this council notes that without global action we will not succeed.*
- *New Zealand, France, Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden have all committed to zero carbon by 2050.*
- *This is the recommended position of the independent Committee on Climate Change.*
- *This is the position of parliament, as first laid out by Alex Chalk MP, and later supported by Jeremy Corbyn MP in an opposition day debate last month.*
- *The IPCC has acknowledged that we must immediately reduce the amount of carbon emissions by 2030.*
- *Gloucestershire County Council recently appointed a Cabinet Member with specific responsibilities tied to climate change.*
- *Gloucestershire County Council is on target to reduce corporate carbon emissions by 60% by 2020/21 against its 2006/07 baseline.*
- *Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits*
- *Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.*

- *The UK Parliament has recognised the climate emergency*
- *The County Council has a leadership role, along with other public sector bodies, in reducing Carbon emissions across the whole county.*

This Council resolves to:

- *This Council welcomes and endorses on behalf of Gloucestershire the declaration of a climate change emergency by parliament on behalf of the UK and urges other countries to do the same.*
- *Commit towards an 80 per cent reduction in the Council's corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving towards 100 percent with carbon offsetting by the same date.*
- *Commits the Council to following the scientific advice of the Committee on Climate Change, as advocated in parliament by Alex Chalk MP, and*

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subsequently by Jeremy Corbyn MP, and deliver a carbon neutral county by 2050, and work with partners to identify what measures would be needed to deliver a stepped target of 80% carbon reduction by 2030 to reflect the IPCC report on climate change.

- *Call on Central Government to provide additional powers and resources to support local and national action towards this 2030 target.*
- *Lobby national government to commit to 100 per cent carbon neutrality by 2050.*
- *Consider its contracts going forward to oblige all contractors to report their carbon emissions and to place a 'carbon/environmental cost' on competing bids.*
- *Do all in its power to adopt, implement and strengthen the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy.*
- *Ensure that our major plans, such as the local transport plan, have clearly identified strategies to reduce carbon emissions.*
- *Work with district and borough councils to reduce the districts' carbon footprint within their corporate strategies.*
- *Provide an annual report to the Environment Committee, with a performance update on a quarterly basis to the relevant committees including details of the resources required to meet the Council's 2030 carbon neutral target.*

Cllr Rachel Smith welcomed support for the amended motion which recognised the need for urgent action to be taken not only at the County Council but across Gloucestershire. She noted that reviews of the Local Transport Plan and the Strategic Economic Plan offered opportunities to shape the future. She said that it was about protecting the county's future and preparing residents and businesses.

A member believed that the Council should be using its influence to persuade companies to report on environmental and social issues. He noted that the Church of England as a major investor had managed to influence Shell as a global company.

Cllr Moor stated that the Council was already engaged in a number of activities to address climate change, and the consensus reached during the debate, would mean that the Council would be even more ambitious. He said that following the climate change summit members would have the opportunity to be involved in developing a new climate change strategy.

Cllr Dobie advised that it was important to take action locally while looking for opportunities to influence the national and global position. He said that he supported the amended motion but he regretted that it was not even more ambitious. Nevertheless he was confident that it would have profound impact.

The amended motion received unanimous support.

RESOLVED that this Council notes:

- *That humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world.*
- *That global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels and atmospheric CO2 far exceeds levels deemed to be safe for humanity.*
- *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on global warming of 1.5°C, published in January 2019, which tells us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.*
- *That the world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050.*
- *That the consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.*

This Council further notes that:

- *The UK is responsible for 1% of the world's CO2 emissions, and whilst we have reduced those emissions more than any other developed country, this council notes that without global action we will not succeed.*
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- *Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.*
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This Council resolves to:

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- *Commit towards an 80 per cent reduction in the Council's corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving towards 100 percent with carbon offsetting by the same date.*
- *Commits the Council to following the scientific advice of the Committee on Climate Change, as advocated in parliament by Alex Chalk MP, and subsequently by Jeremy Corbyn MP, and deliver a carbon neutral county by 2050, and work with partners to identify what measures would be needed to deliver a stepped target of 80% carbon reduction by 2030 to reflect the IPCC report on climate change.*
- *Call on Central Government to provide additional powers and resources to support local and national action towards this 2030 target.*
- *Lobby national government to commit to 100 per cent carbon neutrality by 2050.*
- *Consider its contracts going forward to oblige all contractors to report their carbon emissions and to place a 'carbon/environmental cost' on competing bids.*
- *Do all in its power to adopt, implement and strengthen the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy.*
- *Ensure that our major plans, such as the local transport plan, have clearly identified strategies to reduce carbon emissions.*
- *Work with district and borough councils to reduce the districts' carbon footprint within their corporate strategies.*

Provide an annual report to the Environment Committee, with a performance update on a quarterly basis to the relevant committees including details of the resources required to meet the Council's 2030 carbon neutral target.

Motion 837 – Parental leave for councillors

Cllr Mark Hawthorne proposed and Cllr Carole Allaway Martin seconded the motion included on the agenda.

Cllr Hawthorne stated that the motion was about shaping how the Council supported people getting into public life. As a democracy, elected bodies such as the Council needed to reflect the make-up of local communities. He recognised that there were often barriers which prevented people standing for public office. He believed that small changes over time would result in the Council Chamber being more representative of the communities it represented.

Cllr Allaway Martin noted that there was no legal right for parental leave for people serving in public office but there were examples of introducing schemes on a voluntary basis.

A member advised that the Labour Group on the Local Government Association had made recommendations around parental leave for councillors in 2016. She was pleased that these had been adopted by the Local Government Association.

Another member noted that the Council was establishing a Member Development Group following the scrutiny review and she hoped that part of the group's remit would include finding ways to encourage people to stand for election. The lack of representation of women was of particular concern.

A number of other issues were raised by members including support for women who were pregnant and grandparents, timing of meetings and the practical measures that could be put in place to cover case work. It was noted that more detail would be presented to the Constitution Committee.

On being put to the vote, the motion received unanimous support.

RESOLVED that

This Council notes:

- *The under-representation of women at all levels of politics*
- *Nationally only 4% of councils have a policy on parental leave for councillors.*
- *Whilst proper parental leave is important to all parents, it has been particularly highlighted as an issue affecting women's participation in local government.*

Consequently this Council resolves to task the Constitution Committee to develop policies and, if necessary, constitutional amendments, to give councillors similar rights to parental and adoptive leave as members of staff.

Motion 838 – Gloucester Crown Court

In proposing and seconding the motion, Cllr Jeremy Hilton and Cllr Colin Hay accepted a friendly amendment (see highlighted text).

This Council notes that Gloucester Crown Court is a Grade II listed building, linked to Shire Hall, but that it is no longer fit for modern day criminal justice.

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This Council agrees to write to the Justice Secretary at the Ministry of Justice requesting that a new Crown Court, to handle criminal cases, is built to serve the county of Gloucestershire, or the refurbishment of existing facilities is explored.

This Council also agrees that a new Crown Court could be part of a new 21st Century Justice Centre, which may also contain Magistrate and County Courts.

Cllr Hilton stated that he had served as juror at Gloucester Crown Court in the last year and he had been shocked at the poor state of the building, its failure to meet the requirements of people with disabilities and the lack of modern facilities such as a secure dock.

He said that the Police and Crime Commissioner had indicated that he would like to bring the Magistrates Court and Crown Court into one location. He noted that the motion did not identify a preferred location for the new facility but he recognised the importance of good public transport access. He believed that the Justice Secretary should be invited to visit Gloucestershire.

Cllr Hay stated that a new court complex was required that incorporated video coverage for witnesses and people in custody, provided a more appropriate venue for the Family Court and kept families of victims and the accused apart. He was concerned that the current facilities were so poor that if a strong case was not made for a new 21st Century court complex then there was a risk that it would be moved outside the county and people would have to travel much further to access court facilities.

Cllr Dave Norman, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries, said that Gloucester Crown Court was a striking Grade II listed building and was recognised across the county as the main centre for justice. He recognised that the building needed to be upgraded with appropriate facilities for the modern legal system. He commended the work that had been undertaken by Richard Graham, the MP for Gloucester, to highlight concerns and it seemed more likely that the Ministry of Justice would support refurbishing the current building rather than moving elsewhere.

Other members recognised the historical importance of Gloucester Crown Court and hoped that it could be retained as part of a heritage centre. They believed that a purpose-built facility might be more appropriate than refurbishing the existing building. A member expressed serious concern at the lack of investment in the wider legal system.

In summing up, Cllr Hilton stated that refurbishment of the existing Crown Court would be a significant improvement but he felt that a new bespoke facility might be

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a better option. He noted that the Council owned the freehold of the Crown Court building and could refurbish it sympathetically and use it for its own purposes.

On being put to the vote, the amended motion received unanimous support.

RESOLVED that

This Council notes that Gloucester Crown Court is a Grade II listed building, linked to Shire Hall, but that it is no longer fit for modern day criminal justice.

This Council agrees to write to the Justice Secretary at the Ministry of Justice requesting that a new Crown Court, to handle criminal cases, is built to serve the county of Gloucestershire, or the refurbishment of existing facilities is explored.

This Council also agrees that a new Crown Court could be part of a new 21st Century Justice Centre, which may also contain Magistrate and County Courts.

Motion 839 – Council Education Trust

The following motion proposed by Cllr Lesley Williams and seconded by Cllr Brian Oosthuysen was not considered as there was insufficient time within the two hour limit for motions.

This Council recognises that every child in Gloucestershire deserves the best education possible.

This Council recognises that the County has some schools that do give children an education that equips them for the best possible start in life. However this Council should also recognise that some schools do not meet the required standard to deliver a high quality education.

Gloucestershire County Council continues to play an important part in the education of all young people in the county.

This Council also recognises that it is Central Government's intention that all schools should become academies or part of a multi-academy trust.

In preparation for any changes in status to schools in the County, to request that there is a thorough study which would provide an analysis, district by district, of the attainment and achievement of students attending schools in the county. Ideally this study would be done as a peer review.

35. MEMBER QUESTIONS

Nine questions had been received. A copy of the answers was circulated and is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 1 – Cllr Andrew Miller asked whether the Cabinet Member would be writing to schools to inform them of the opportunities for cycling.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that all schools would be made aware of the opportunities and he provided some detail of the strategy for cycling moving forward over a five year period. He thanked the Highways Advisory Board for their input and urged members to use their Highways Local money to improve cycling areas across the county.

Question 2 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked why it had taken a year to get to the point of discussing the removal of tables and seats from outside of restaurant.

Cllr Vernon Smith suggested that dialogue was the answer and that the member could meet with the Council's Legal Team and restaurant owner to discuss the matter further.

Question 4 - Cllr Colin Hay asked how the Council could stop Thomas Keble School from reducing SEN numbers as this was against the law.

Cllr Richard Boules firstly commented that fairer funding was really important. Parents of children with an Education Health and Care Plan could choose their school and the school had a legal duty to meet their needs. A meeting had been held with the Regional Schools Commissioner to ensure that Thomas Keble were complying with their legal requirements. There were further issues regarding a breach of the academies funding handbook.

Q5 – Cllr Colin Hay asked for confirmation that all new and refurbished schools would have sprinklers.

Cllr Dave Norman commented that the member had received a factual answer and that there had been an ongoing debate on the issue for a number of years. It was worth noting that a sprinkler activated incorrectly could cause a lot of damage so

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they had to be installed appropriately. The professional advice had been given and he suggested members should be comfortable with that.

Q6 – Cllr Eva Ward asked how the Council could avoid a situation such as the 68 minute discussion on highways at the previous meeting which she suggested was not a good use of time.

Cllr Ray Theodoulou replied that he did not want to curtail discussion and it was important members felt they could have their say.

Question 7 – Cllr Rachel Smith referred to a school safety zone had had been promised for March 2019 but it had become apparent in April that design process was not complete. She asked for clarification around the situation.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that the previous contractor Amey had only been paid for work completed. Agreement on the scheme had been reached in 2017 but design work had not been completed by Amey. The scheme had fallen between the two contractors. The work was due now in the Summer once Atkins as the new contractor had completed the design work.

Question 8 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked whether there were any other ways of communicating the opening hours of the household recycling centres.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that this was something he was looking at.

Question 9 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked whether the Council could start looking for a date for the Peer Review team to visit to the Council.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that a date could be scoped out.

36. CABINET DECISION STATEMENT

Consideration was given to the Cabinet Decision Statement for the meeting held on 24 April 2019.

Answering a question relating to Gloucestershire Sufficiency Strategy, Cllr Richard Boyles, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, advised that a specialist provider would be appointed to run Trevone House in Gloucester. He said that a

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risk assessment would be undertaken for each young person and staffing levels would fluctuate depending on service demands.

RESOLVED to note the Cabinet Decision Statement for the meeting held on 24 April 2019.

The meeting ended at 3.05pm

CHAIRMAN

Dated