



## MINUTES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE: Wednesday, 11 September 2019 TIME: 10am**

**VENUE: Council Chamber - 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	(Chairman)
Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr David Norman MBE	Cllr Brian Tipper
Cllr Ben Evans	Cllr Brian Oosthuysen	Cllr Pam Tracey MBE
Cllr Bernard Fisher	Cllr Shaun Parsons	Cllr Robert Vines
Cllr Andrew Gravells	Cllr Sajid Patel	Cllr Eva Ward
Cllr Kate Haigh	Cllr Loraine Patrick	Cllr Simon Wheeler
Cllr Terry Hale	Cllr John Payne	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr Alan Preest (Vice- Chairman)	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE
Cllr Joe Harris	Cllr Keith Rippington	Cllr Suzanne Williams
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE		

Apologies: Councillors Roger Wilson and Will Windsor Clive

Honorary Aldermen Bill Crowther, Bill Hobman, Terry Parker, John Sewell and Gordon Shurmer

### 50. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment to minute 44 on page 17:

*Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting*

Question 7 – Cllr Klara Sudbury asked if the Cabinet Member would **come along with her** to meet with **herself and** highways officers during rush hour to examine the displacement of traffic as a result of the work at Boots Corner.

## **51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

## **52. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **a) Jane Burns**

The Chairman advised that it was the last Council meeting for Jane Burns, Director of Strategy and Challenge and Monitoring Officer, who was leaving the Council to join Cheshire East Council as Executive Director, Corporate Services.

Jane stated that she had worked for the Council for 16 years and she thanked members and officers for the support that they had provided over that time.

Members thanked Jane for all that she had done for the Council including her work on the challenge process, the constitution and member standards.

The Chairman informed members that Rob Ayliffe, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Change had been appointed as Monitoring Officer for an interim period of six months with Gillian Parkinson, Head of Legal Services, and Simon Harper, Head of Democratic Services, as Deputy Monitoring Officers.

### **b) Steve Mawson**

The Chairman welcomed Steve Mawson as the Council's new Director of Corporate Resources.

### **c) Gloucester Heritage Hub**

The Chairman thanked those members who had attended the opening of the Gloucester Heritage Hub, incorporating Gloucestershire Archives, on 3 September 2019. The Hub included the Dunrossil Centre which was opened by Lady Dunrossil herself. Cllr Lesley Williams informed members about the Local History Festival and said that she had put a booklet in members' pigeon holes.

d) PRISM

Staff from the PRISM Group, the Council's LGBTQIA+ community, would be on the Council Chamber landing over the lunch break to provide information on their activities. Cllr Kate Haigh noted that it was Pride Day on Saturday, 14 September 2019 starting at 10.30am at the Cathedral.

e) Colin Chick

The Chairman congratulated Colin Chick on his permanent appointment as Director of Economy, Community and Infrastructure.

### **53. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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

Question 1 – Andrew Harley asked who the contractor was in relation to resurfacing roads. The question related to the use of recycled plastic mixed into asphalt for road resurfacing.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that the contractor was Gloucestershire Highways. He expressed disappointment around the performance of the plastic adhesive. Gloucestershire County Council were keen to reduce the carbon footprint and were exploring other options.

Question 2 – Henry Jones made a statement related to poverty within Gloucestershire in comparison to the official government definition of poverty as well as linking it to low self esteem. He reiterated that we were in a climate emergency and ask how the Council could support continued economic growth in Gloucestershire rather than reducing it.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux replied that everyone had a duty to look at their own consumption and to be careful with resources. The Council had a responsibility to look after and support communities and he suggested that there was a need to create growth and wealth in order to then help those less fortunate.

Question 4 – Referring to the climate change emergency, Rob Brookes provided statistics relating to the need to reduce CO2 emissions by 15% a year. He also provided details of the CO2 emissions emitted from the UK to other countries. He asked whether the Cabinet Member agreed with those facts and asked what the Council was doing to address the issue.

Cllr Lynden Stowe stated that the County Council would do all it could to move towards being carbon zero as quickly as possible. He provided assurances that the Council was committed to reach the targets it had set in accordance with government policy.

Question 5 – David Willingham stated that the County Council view was that the Cheltenham west parking review was complete. He emphasised that residents did not feel it was complete until the post implementation review. He asked what message the Cabinet Member had for residents whose lives were being disrupted by commuter parking.

Cllr Dave Norman stated that he did not believe that this was the case. A review of parking had been carried out in Cheltenham West. There was always the scope for a County Councillor for the area to allocate highways local funding.

Question 7 – David Willingham provided an example of St George's Road and Honeybourne Way where road closures had not had appropriate signage. He asked that this be looked at for other schemes to ensure signage was in place.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that he understood the public's frustration when there were road works, but that these were road schemes delivering real improvements for the public. He had asked officers about signage and noted there had been two complaints. He would always listen to residents' feedback.

Question 11 – David Willingham stated that he had met with the local highways manager and County Councillor regarding Alstone Lane and issues regarding the lack of yellow lines. He asked how it represented good value that when works were undertaken, tasks such as painting on yellow lines were not carried out at the same time.

Cllr Vernon Smith stated that if time permitted highways managers would always try to facilitate other works within the area.

Question 13 – David Willingham asked for assurances that where road works overrun, the Council would work in partnership with bus companies to ensure they were aware and that the public was informed of service changes.

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In response Cllr Vernon Smith stated that communication was a very important issue and that he was not aware of the specific issues he had raised. He advised him to relay the details to the local County Councillor and highways manager.

Question 14 – Elizabeth Ashley explained that she had not found detailed information regarding planning for emergencies caused by climate change on the Local Resilience Forum website. In particular she suggested the latest scientific information and predictions should be taken into account.

Cllr Dave Norman replied that he would speak to officers regarding this and asked the member of public to sent him information in an email of what she believed should be included on the website.

Question 15 – Matthew Sidford asked the Cabinet Member to confirm that he was the climate champion for the Council.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that yes he was the climate champion.

Question 16 – Matthew Sidford asked whether the Council was working on a fast or slow projection.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that this had been discussed by the Council a number of months previously.

## **54. CORPORATE PARENTING**

Cllr Richard Boyles, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report. He said that he was disappointed that some members had still not signed the Corporate Parenting Pledge. He said that it was important that members understood the lives of children in care and what had brought them to the Council's door so that they could help shape their young lives.

A member noted that a list of events for children in care had now been published and they hoped that members would take the time to attend.

Another member thanked Cllr Boyles for organising the event for local residents relating to Trevone House in Gloucester. They recognised the value of the facilities but questioned whether it was necessary to have a secure bed for Police use. They

asked if there were secure facilities elsewhere in the county? They were concerned at the potential impact on young people if they were aware that Trevone House included a secure facility.

Cllr Boyles stated that during the recent Ofsted visit, inspectors had welcomed Trevone House which they believed was an outstanding model to meet the needs of young people. He said that Police cells were not the right place for young people who were suffering and it was important to have a secure facility in another location. He assured members that the Council would work closely with partners and ensure that the required number of staff were on duty.

A member suggested that a mentoring scheme be introduced for young people leaving care. They believed that people living in local communities would welcome an opportunity to get involved. Cllr Boyles stated that he was looking at this with members of the Corporate Parenting Group. He noted that Ofsted had put forward some suggestions for care leavers and these would be raised at the next meeting of the group. The Children and Families Scrutiny Committee would be considering the value of a peer to peer mentoring scheme at its meeting the following day.

***RESOLVED*** to note the report

## **55. PETITIONS**

Cllr Andrew Miller presented a petition to Cllr Nigel Moor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, regarding bus services in Firwood/Campden Road, Tuffley.

## **56. MOTIONS**

### **Motion 843 – Enabling road safety measures**

Cllr Klara Sudbury proposed and Cllr Eva Ward seconded the motion included on the agenda.

Cllr Sudbury noted how important it was for county councillors to be able to secure effective road safety measures for their local communities. She expressed concern that the traffic regulation order process often blocked the implementation of schemes. This was frustrating for local communities who were best placed to judge on what was needed in their areas. The amount of money spent on road safety in Gloucestershire was just £1.53 per person each year. She noted that even when

she had made funds available through her Highways Local allocation, highway officers had not been cooperative.

Cllr Ward advised that road safety was one of the main concerns in local communities. She said that the public had no idea about the complexity of the traffic regulation order process in implementing the simplest road safety measures. She noted that it had taken two years in her Stroud Division to go through the approval and implementation process for four vehicle-activated signs. Communities were often left to set up local campaigns in an effort to manage speeds. She believed that a county-wide road safety partnership should be established to ensure that there was a consistent approach.

A number of members referred to the success of speed awareness campaigns in their own areas. They acknowledged frustrations with the time that it could take to implement schemes, but believed that there should be more focus on working with local communities to reduce speeds. They noted that enforcement was an important aspect of traffic regulation orders and there was little point in putting schemes in place if they could not be enforced.

A member asked that highways officers be thanked for their efforts in introducing a complex scheme in Moreton-in-Marsh to protect pedestrians, cyclists and children going to school.

Other members expressed frustration at the complexity of the traffic regulation order process and the lack of officer resources available to implement schemes. Often it was taking years to implement simple schemes such as pedestrian crossings and yellow lines where the dangers were obvious to everyone. In other local authority areas, it was apparent that road safety schemes were being introduced, including 20mph schemes, without the problems that were being faced in Gloucestershire.

They believed that a change of attitude was required and officers should not just rely on official figures for accidents. It was shocking that schemes were not being progressed because they were not supported by official statistics for people that were killed or seriously injured. There were near misses every day, accidents were often not reported to the Police and insurance companies were prevented from releasing information due to GDPR regulations.

A member expressed disappointment that the Council had stopped providing support for road safety partnerships in each district. They noted their value in bringing together community groups, road safety organisations, magistrates, the police and GCC staff. They said that the Stroud Road Safety Partnership continued

to operate without Council support. The position had become confusing with other road safety groups with different purposes being established.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader of the Council, recognised the frustrations around the implementation process for traffic regulation orders, and said that it was important that lobbying activity focused on specific areas where change was needed. Scrutiny members were well placed to carry out research and gather evidence including seeking the views of other local authorities.

Cllr Dave Norman, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries, noted that the Department for Transport was looking at traffic regulation orders and it was important that the Council engaged in this process. He assured members that the Council would always be supportive of evidence-based road safety schemes. He said that the demise of the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership at the request of the Police and Crime Commissioner had resulted in a significant reduction in funding for road safety initiatives. The Council was committed to improving road safety with its partners and he noted that the Chief Fire Officer was the lead for the Police and Crime Commissioner's priority for Safe and Social Driving. He believed that district-based community safety partnerships might be best placed to lead local campaigns.

In summing up, Cllr Sudbury called for more investment with 26 people being killed on the county's roads each year. She said that it was important that this was addressed quickly to allow the necessary funds to be included in the Council budget for 2020-21.

***RESOLVED*** to refer the following motion to the Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee:

*This Council notes that:*

- *road safety and traffic speeds are of significant concern to many residents in Gloucestershire, in both urban and rural areas.*
- *elected county councillors have a key role to play, working with local communities, to resolve these concerns, finding effective road safety solutions to help pedestrians, cyclists and all road users.*

*However, this Council further notes that:*

- *when County Councillors request measures to reduce traffic speeds, even when offering to put their highways local funds towards it, policy and financial constraints mean they rarely come to fruition.*
- *a key obstacle in securing some traffic calming measures is the cost of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) and the lengthy processes needed to secure changes such as yellow lines.*

Therefore this Council resolves to:

- a) *Ask Cabinet to review County Council policies relating to traffic calming, including the use of physical design and vehicle activated signage, to aid councillors in securing evidence-based road changes.*
- b) *Write to the relevant Secretary of State to:*
  - i) *Express our serious concern that national road safety guidelines are too restrictive and ask for the guidance to be reviewed to create a more enabling policy framework.*
  - ii) *Clarify what progress has been made to simplify the TRO process.*
- c) *Consider increasing the road safety budget for 2020-21 through the budget setting process, which could include a ring fenced budget for each council division.*
- d) *Build on existing local road safety initiatives to establish 'road safety partnerships' for each of the six districts where there are none, and to formalise the relationship between road safety partnerships and the highways authority and county councillors.*

#### **Motion 844 – Future proofing public buildings and developments in Gloucestershire**

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson proposed and Cllr Ben Evans seconded the motion included on the agenda.

Cllr Hodgkinson said that it was time for the Council to put money where its mouth was by calling for the decarbonisation of public buildings and carbon-neutral new developments. He noted that the Council was making a significant investment of £700,000 in a new school in Leckhampton but there had been limited discussion around carbon reduction and none at all about making the school carbon-neutral. Housing in the UK was one of the most inefficient in the World with the housing industry contributing 30% of UK carbon emissions. He believed that the Council should ensure that new developments on Council-owned land were carbon-neutral. He noted that other local authorities were making strides in ensuring that new developments were carbon-neutral.

Cllr Evans stated that it was about achieving best value rather than the best price for development on Council-owned land. If decisions were not made now to build homes to the highest environmental standards then the people living in them would have to take remedial steps in 20-30 years time. It was estimated that carbon emissions from the housing industry would rise from 30% to 55% in future years. A carbon-neutral approach by the Council would encourage entrepreneurs to come forward with innovative ideas for new developments.

Cllr Lynden Stowe moved and Cllr Nigel Moor seconded the following amendment:

*This Council notes:*

- *That a 'climate emergency' was declared by Gloucestershire County Council (GC) in May 2019, along with five of the six District Councils.*
- *That the County Council is striving to become carbon-neutral by 2030 and is identifying measures to deliver an 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across the whole county by the same date.*
- *That District Councils have the responsibility to lead on issues of planning and housing.*

*This Council further notes:*

- *GCC holds significant sway over the design of County Council backed public buildings, such as the proposed new secondary school in Leckhampton.*
- *GCC has significant influence over developers when disposing of land for development.*
- *~~In 2006 the Government made a pledge to make all new-build homes zero carbon by 2016, a commitment dropped by the Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer in 2015.~~*
- *In 2019, the government legally committed the UK to a target of zero emissions by 2050, one of the first major countries in the world to do so.*
- *Without ambitious incentives, most developers are likely to prioritise cost over greener methods of construction.*
- *Carbon dioxide emissions from energy use resulting from housing currently makes up a third of all the UK's greenhouse gas emissions, a figure which is predicted to rise to over 50 per cent by 2050 if no action is taken.*

*This Council requests that the Cabinet:*

- *Work with the NHS, Gloucestershire Police, District Councils and others, via Leadership Gloucestershire, to ensure that all new public buildings commissioned are carbon neutral throughout their entire life-span (with GCC funding Gloucestershire-based carbon offsetting to capture any technically unavoidable performance gap) support the move to zero carbon.*
- *Legally bind developers, or work with procured developers, Work with district councils to ensure that all residential and commercial developments on GCC*

*Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting*

~~*disposed land are carbon neutral throughout their entire life-span (with GCC or developers funding Gloucestershire-based carbon offsetting to capture any technically unavoidable performance gap) in Gloucestershire support the move to zero carbon.*~~

Cllr Stowe stated that the Council was having regard to the BREEAM environmental standards in undertaking development, including the Quayside development alongside Shire Hall. He said that the County Council was a small player in terms of the redevelopment of its own land as the District Councils were responsible for housing development across the county. He was also mindful of imposing a financial burden on capital receipts and reducing the money available to tackle Council priorities including climate change initiatives. He feared that such an approach might make some schemes unviable.

Cllr Moor advised that the County Council complied with the standards requested by the District Councils. If the County Council's approach was too demanding then it would be at a competitive disadvantage compared with private developers. He believed that it was much better for the County Council to work with the District Councils to improve standards of development across the county. This would help provide a level playing field for all forms of development.

A number of members spoke against the amendment. They believed that it watered-down the sentiment of the original motion and lacked ambition. It appeared that the Council was only interested in the capital receipts it could generate from disposals. They suggested that if the private sector did not want to develop Council land then the Council should look at opportunities to develop the land itself for a commercial return. With imagination, homes of the highest environmental standards could be built for local people with associated financial, social and environmental benefits.

A member regretted that the design for the new school in Leckhampton was using an old-fashioned gas boiler rather than modern heat pumps and solar panels.

Other members believed that the original motion was too narrow and unambitious and would do little to help in getting to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Council could not act in isolation and needed to work with the District Councils and other public agencies if it was to make a real difference across the county.

*On being put to a vote, the amendment was supported and became the substantive motion.*

A number of members expressed disappointment that the original motion had not been supported but indicated that they would support the amended motion as they

believed that the Council should come together to address climate change. Concern was expressed that the Council's climate change strategy had been delayed until later in the year.

Cllr Hodgkinson, as the mover of the original motion, called for a timescale to be given for the work with the District Councils and other public agencies and for feedback to be provided to members.

***RESOLVED that***

*This Council notes:*

- *That a 'climate emergency' was declared by Gloucestershire County Council (GC) in May 2019, along with five of the six District Councils.*
- *That the County Council is striving to become carbon-neutral by 2030 and is identifying measures to deliver an 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across the whole county by the same date.*
- *That District Councils have the responsibility to lead on issues of planning and housing.*

*This Council further notes:*

- *GCC holds significant sway over the design of County Council backed public buildings, such as the proposed new secondary school in Leckhampton.*
- *GCC has significant influence over developers when disposing of land for development.*
- *In 2019, the Government legally committed the UK to a target of zero emissions by 2050, one of the first major countries in the world to do so.*
- *Without ambitious incentives, most developers are likely to prioritise cost over greener methods of construction.*
- *Carbon dioxide emissions from energy use resulting from housing currently makes up a third of all the UK's greenhouse gas emissions, a figure which is predicted to rise to over 50 per cent by 2050 if no action is taken.*

*This Council requests that the Cabinet:*

- *Work with the NHS, Gloucestershire Police, District Councils and others, via Leadership Gloucestershire, to ensure that all new public buildings commissioned support the move to zero carbon.*

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- *Work with District Councils to ensure that all residential and commercial developments in Gloucestershire support the move to zero carbon.*

### **Motion 845 – Equality and diversity**

Cllr Kate Haigh proposed and Cllr Steve Robinson seconded the motion included on the agenda.

Cllr Haigh stated that she was proud to bring the motion before Council in the week between Gloucester Day, which celebrated the lifting of the siege of Gloucester, and Pride in Gloucestershire, which celebrated diversity in the local community. She noted the importance of diversity and she hoped that the Council could be united. As leaders in their communities members should oppose the use of inappropriate language and never be bystanders. She called for a working group to be established that put the Cabinet Member responsible for equalities and diversity at the heart of the process. One of the key ambitions of Vision 2050 was for Gloucestershire to be a county that welcomed everyone and promoted diversity. She believed that it was essential that it was not just left to officers and something that members themselves needed to be fully involved in.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne proposed and Cllr Phil Awford seconded the following amendment (see highlighted text):

*This Council notes that:*

*Gloucestershire County Council is committed to equality and diversity.*

*Across parties, we stand together to promote and celebrate diversity in our county standing against intolerance and hate crime.*

*The Council continues to create positive opportunities to employ a workforce that's representative of the county's communities, and provide a safe and accessible work environment that values and respects each individual.*

*The Council plays a crucial roll in promoting and fostering good relations within our communities and the relationship they have with the Council.*

*This Council resolves to:*

- a) *Continue to commit to creating a Gloucestershire community that is strong, safe and inclusive for everyone.*
- b) ~~*Set up a cross party equalities working group chaired by the Leader of the Council (or nominated Cabinet Member) which will draw up an equalities*~~

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~~action plan bringing together the work on all equalities strands into a common document.~~

~~Note that equality and fairness is a key part of the Council's role – and that it flows through everything we do.~~

- c) ~~Ask Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to continue its work providing independent, cross-party, scrutiny of this vital issue.~~
- d) ~~Make a~~ **Restate the long-standing cross-party commitment to fostering diversity and promoting equality for all residents, Members and members of staff.**
- e) **Take action throughout the year to celebrate the County's diversity by:**
  - i) ~~Having a~~ **Continue the programme of flag-flying and support for key awareness days throughout the County.**
  - ii) ~~Supporting~~ **Continue to support our communities to celebrate what's important to them.**

Cllr Haigh and Cllr Robinson accepted the amendment as friendly and it became the substantive motion.

Cllr Robinson highlighted the importance of standing against intolerance. People in Gloucestershire were from diverse backgrounds and members had an important role alongside officers in ensuring equality considerations were taken account of in every decision that the Council took.

A member said that they were impressed by the work that the Council did in promoting equality and diversity and they made special mention of the activities of PRISM, the group for LGBTQIA+ staff. They wondered whether the Council could appoint a member champion to demonstrate its commitment to equality and diversity.

On being put to the vote, there was unanimous support for the amended motion.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) *To continue to commit to creating a Gloucestershire community that is strong, safe and inclusive for everyone.*
- b) *To note that equality and fairness is a key part of the Council's role –and that it flows through everything we do.*

*Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting*

- c) Ask Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to continue its work providing independent, cross-party, scrutiny of this vital issue.*
- d) To restate the long-standing cross-party commitment to fostering diversity and promoting equality for all residents, Members and members of staff.*
- e) To take action throughout the year to celebrate the County's diversity by:
  - i) Continuing the programme of flag-flying and support for key awareness days throughout the County.*
  - ii) Continuing to support our communities to celebrate what's important to them.**

### **Motion 846 - Tree planting**

There was insufficient time to consider the following motion proposed by Cllr Lesley Williams and seconded by Cllr Graham Morgan:

*This Council passed a motion on 15th May 2019 recognising that there is a climate emergency.*

*This Council committed to an 80% reduction in the corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving to 100% with carbon offset by the same date. Research now shows that planting billions of trees is the best and cheapest way to tackle climate change.*

*This Council resolves to request Cabinet to develop a policy of tree planting; with a target of planting 2 trees for each Gloucestershire resident by 2030, if not sooner, and to work with tenant farmers and encourage at least 2 trees per field for most pasture land.*

*I ask that a progress report is included in the annual Environmental report.*

### **Motion 847 - Against Prorogation of Parliament**

There was insufficient time to consider the following motion proposed by Cllr Lesley Williams and seconded by Cllr Paul Hodgkinson:

*This Council regards the decision by Prime Minister Boris Johnson to prorogue Parliament for five weeks, until 14 October, as an extraordinary abuse of the British constitution.*

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*This Council believes that the decision to prorogue Parliament has little to do with recalibrating the new Government's policies with a Queen's speech and everything to do with minimising the opportunity for elected representatives to debate Brexit. This Council also notes the number of people protesting in Gloucestershire and nationwide and recognises that residents are appalled by the undemocratic move made by a Prime Minister who was recently appointed by a small number of Conservative members.*

*This Council requests the that Leader of the Council write to the Prime Minister calling for Parliament to be recalled at the first possible opportunity.*

## **57. MEMBER QUESTIONS**

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

Question 1 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked, while preparing council for a no deal Brexit what activities would the 'Brexit' officer not be carrying out from their day to day duties?

Cllr David Norman replied that the officer was one member of a forum made up of partners. In addition, an individual had been seconded from the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service to provide support. There would be greater understanding over time as to the role but the Cabinet Member had received a briefing from the officer who was confident capacity was in place going forward.

Question 2 Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked how many businesses in Gloucestershire would be affected by a non deal Brexit?

Cllr Dave Norman stated as the process moved on this would be fed back in and he would brief Council as appropriate.

Question 3 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked why the Civil Protection Team were taking the lead regarding Brexit and enquired whether that was because the Leader of the Council anticipated civil unrest.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that staff with experience and expertise were utilised who were linked to the Local Resilience Forum.

Question 4- Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked what the specific challenges were that Gloucestershire would face in the event of a no deal Brexit.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that these matters were reported to Central Government through the Local Resilience Forum and that the Council was not legally able to share that information to the general public. The risks identified were in line with risks identified elsewhere in the Country.

Question 5 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked what the potential risks were for a no deal Brexit.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne suggested that the tone of the questions aimed to sew a level of fear relating to Brexit. In overall terms, Gloucestershire was not a port authority and so did not share the same risks as other parts of the country. He was satisfied that the Council was providing the information it could to the public, advising businesses and working with Government whatever the outcome.

Question 6 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked what contingencies were in place regarding a no deal Brexit.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne stated he was satisfied with the arrangements being made and the structures in place. He felt that, whatever the future direction, there would be opportunities for Gloucestershire.

Question 7 – Cllr Ben Evans asked if there was the possibility of working with the County Council's legal team to put in an exclusion zone regarding the informal traveller site in the Churchdown area.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied he would look into this.

Question 8 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked if the Cabinet Member had been looking at creative options in the community to house library facilities.

In response, Cllr Dave Norman replied that the Council was looking at a number of opportunities in the community. The example of community fire stations was given. If there was a need to bring in a smaller vehicle to help facilitate this then that would be done.

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Question 9 – Referring to parking issues in Bourton-on-the-Water, Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked when a meeting be held with the town council?

Cllr Dave Norman responded that it was positive that the offer had gone out and it would be moved forward. He had visited the area and gave the example of tourists arriving by coach as a positive step.

Question 10 – Cllr Andrew Miller explained that residents had raised concerns over incidents at St Barnabas roundabout. He asked that should the development at Whaddon proceed would there be a timely opportunity for residents to express their views?

Cllr Nigel Moor asked if the member would coordinate that response to help the Council engage with local residents.

Question 11 – Cllr Colin Hay asked if the Cabinet Member could let the Council know the response from the Civil Protection Team to District Councils declaring a climate emergency and how the team would be able to cope with an increased frequency of emergencies caused by climate change.

Cllr Dave Norman replied that he would provide that response from the Civil Protection Team. He acknowledged the threat of increases in extreme weather and provided the example of the 2007 floods. Over time through experience and expertise the Council would become stronger. This was something that would need to be monitored including ensuring appropriate resources were in place.

Question 12 – Cllr Joe Harris explained that if District Councils did not have access to markets to sell recyclable material into Europe in the event of a no deal Brexit then the Council would be duty bound to dispose of it. He asked if the Cabinet Member would give assurances that no recyclable material would go to the Javelin Park incinerator.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that he had provided his answer and referred to delays in Cotswold's kerb-side recycling programme.

Question 14 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked would bus lanes and bus services be prioritised, particularly in Cheltenham West?

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Cllr Nigel Moor replied that he would be bringing the Transport Plan review to Environment Scrutiny Committee and suggested that the member attend.

Question 16 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked what fuel and in what quantity had been burnt at Javelin Park when not burning waste.

In response Cllr Nigel Moor replied that diesel oil had been burnt for 37 days.

Question 17 – Cllr Rachel Smith suggested waste had been piling up and asked if the Cabinet Member could confirm that this was part of the contingency plan?

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that other sites had been secured to hold the waste.

Question 18 – Cllr Rachel Smith stated that the Energy from Waste system had been burning waste for 26 days. She asked despite the climate emergency, how was it compatible with the Council's aspirations for the plant to be just burning diesel for 37 days?

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that commissioning was a challenging process and that good progress was being made. When fully operational he would inform the Council. He stated that Council had the answer with a fully functioning energy from waste plant.

Question 21- Cllr Rachel Smith asked whether there were any risks regarding the commissioning of the incinerator that Council should be made aware of?

Cllr Nigel Moor stated that there were no concerns.

Question 25 – Cllr Rachel Smith stated that payment for the plant was based on tonnages so surely these were being tracked. She asked for this information to be provided.

Cllr Nigel Moor explained that he would speak to officers about responding to the member's request.

Question 27 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked whether the taxpayer was left out of pocket due to the pipe failures at the facility?

Cllr Nigel Moor referred the member to the answer to the original question.

Question 32 – Cllr Eva Ward referred to the recent closures of two care homes in Stroud which she said had been a serious loss and had shocked the community. She stated there was still unhappiness regarding this and asked what could be done to prevent this happening again in the future.

In response Cllr Kathy Williams replied that all homes in Gloucestershire were undergoing a period of change. All the residents affected had been consulted regarding their needs going forward.

Question 33 – Cllr Eva Ward referred to two recent deaths and explained that the answer from the Cabinet Member implied that the deaths were not a result of moving. She asked whether the Council was aware that they were dying before they were moved and, if so, why had they been moved as this was distressing to the residents and families involved.

Cllr Kathy Williams replied that she did not know about the private details of those residents and that this was not information that should be shared. The Council was looking after people that were on the end of life pathway.

Question 37 – Cllr Eva Ward asked how the Council was planning to collate information regarding the trees that were being lost, particularly in light of Ash die back.

Cllr Lynden Stowe advised that his would be taken forward by Cllr Nigel Moor as part of the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

Question 38 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked for assurances regarding there being enough vaccines for the flu jabs being provided to staff and residents.

Cllr Tim Harman provided assurances that sufficient supplies were available. He encouraged all members to have the flu jab.

Question 39 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked whether the system of air control used in the strong room in archives was an option more widely for staff in Shire Hall who were uncomfortable working in higher temperatures during the summer months.

*Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting*

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that the cost of installing such equipment in a big building such as Shire Hall would be difficult. It was also important to consider the carbon footprint. Managers had flexibility during the hot weather to arrange different working hours.

Question 40 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked how food rationing and food prices going up following an exit from the European Union would impact those children with free school meals.

In response, Cllr Patrick Molyneux stated that he had no concerns and that he was confident in the supply chains in place.

Question 44 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton asked when the Cabinet Member would be sharing the proposed management criteria for Trevone House?

Cllr Richard Boyles replied that he would provide the member with a copy of the timeline but it would be in the new year.

Question 45 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton, in response to the Cabinet Members answer suggesting he could use his highways local, asked whether himself and Cllr Kathy Williams would have their highways local increased in order to fund work at Oxstalls Lane to Elmbridge road.

Cllr Vernon Smith suggested the member speak to his local Highways Manager so he could be more specific around what the costs would be.

## **58. SCRUTINY REPORT**

Cllr Shaun Parsons , Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, presented the report on recent scrutiny activities. He said that he was delighted to report that the new scrutiny arrangements were embedding well. Joint meetings had been held between committees to look at issues such as integrated work planning for health and care services and the Local Transport Plan. Task groups were looking at particular topics including single-use plastics, youth strategy and taxi licensing. A Member Development Group had been established led by Cllr Kate Haigh to coordinate future events for members.

*Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting*

A member referred to a recent personal experience of the arrangements for blood tests at hospital which had raised some concerns. They asked that the Health Scrutiny Committee consider looking at the way the service operated. Cllr Carole Allaway Martin, the chair of the committee, undertook to include it on the next work planning session. She noted that some work had already been undertaken around helping people with learning disabilities to give blood.

***RESOLVED*** to note the report

## **59. SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (SHE) REPORT**

Cllr David Norman, Chair of the SHE Panel, presented the SHE Annual Report. He thanked officers who had specific responsibilities around health, safety and welfare. He recognised that the Council's greatest resource was its staff and he stated that he was confident that it had good practices. He acknowledged, however, that it was easy to become complacent and he said that it was incumbent on all members and officers to be aware of their health and safety responsibilities. He hoped that members had been briefed on health and safety matters from their group member on the SHE Panel.

***RESOLVED*** to note the SHE Annual Report for 2017-18

## **60. CABINET DECISION STATEMENT**

A member asked if the decision relating to the dynamic purchasing system reflected the Council motion on using low emission and electric vehicles.

Councillor Nigel Moor, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, advised that it was part of the procurement process for contracts. He undertook to speak to officers to ask them to provide more information on the process.

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

## **61. CABINET MEMBER DECISION STATEMENTS**

***RESOLVED*** to note that the Cabinet Member Decision Statements for the period 1 June to 31 August 2019.

*Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting*

**62. GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

Cllr Andrew Gravells had stepped down from the Gloucestershire Hospitals' NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors following his appointment as a Cabinet Member at Gloucester City Council.

***RESOLVED*** that Cllr Matt Babbage be nominated as the Council's representative on the Gloucestershire Hospitals' NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors.

**63. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

The Chairman drew members' attention to a minor amendment to the calendar: in September 2020 the County Council meeting should be the 9<sup>th</sup> not the 16<sup>th</sup> September.

***RESOLVED*** to approve the calendar of meetings for 2020 (as amended).

**CHAIRMAN**