

Minutes of: AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 13 September 2017

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor D L Gunther), in the Chair; Councillors P Adams, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, R A Caserta, R Cathcart, Councillor M Connolly, A J Cummings, M D'Albert, J Daly, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, M Hankey, S Haroon, J Harris, R Hodgkinson, T Holt, K Hussain, M A James, D Jones, G Keeley, J Kelly, S Kerrison, O Kersh, K Leach, J Lewis, J Mallon, E O'Brien, T D Pickstone, C Preston, A Quinn, I Schofield, R Shori, D Silbiger, A Simpson, R Skillen, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, R E Walker, S Walmsley, M Whitby and S Wright

Apologies from: Councillors K S Briggs, E Fitzgerald, A McKay, J Walker and Y Wright.

Public attendance: 15 members of the public attended the meeting

C.156 ORDER OF BUSINESS

Under Standing Order 13.7, it was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Jones and it was:-

Resolved:

That the order of business be changed to consider the Transitional State Pension Arrangements Notice of Motion as the first agenda item.

C.157 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee of Bury Council.
2. Councillor Bevan declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury School. Councillor Bevan further declared a prejudicial interest in respect of the Conservative Notice of Motion as a Director of a Company specialising in highway injury claims (Note – Councillor Bevan left the Chamber during consideration of this item).
3. Councillor Mallon declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury High School. Councillor Mallon further declared a personal interest in respect of the Labour Notice of Motion as his wife was born after 6 April 1951
4. Councillor S Wright declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury School.
5. Councillors Black, D'Albert, Preston and Whitby declared a personal interest in respect of the Labour Notice of Motion as they were born after 6 April 1951.

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6. Councillor Shori declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his partner is an employee of Bury Council.
7. Councillor Hodgkinson declared a prejudicial interest in respect of the Labour Notice of Motion as his wife was born after 6 April 1951.
(Note – Councillor Hodgkinson left the Chamber during consideration of this item).
8. Councillor Gartside declared a personal interest in questions and matters relating to Tottington Library as a member of the “Friends of Tottington Library”.
9. Councillor Kelly declared a personal interest in matters relating to health as an employee of the Care Quality Commission.
10. Councillor Connolly declared a personal interest in matters relating to Tottington Library as a volunteer for Bury Pipeline.

C.158 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meetings of Council held on 5 July 2017 and 20 July 2017 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C.159 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reminded everyone of the Mayoral Charity Fashion Show on Thursday 21st September in the Drill Hall.

The Mayor encouraged all Members to visit the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's Training and Safety Centre on Hinds Lane.

The Mayor announced announce that it is the intention of this Council to confer Freedom of the Borough status to Mrs Lilly Reid, Mr Alan Matthews and the 207 (Manchester) Field Hospital. A Special Ceremony will be held on 17 October at 6pm in this Chamber

C.160 NOTICE OF MOTION

Make Fair Transitional State Pension Arrangements for Women Born in the 1950's

A motion had been received and set out in the summons in the names of:

In the names of Councillors P Adams, N Bayley, J Black, S Briggs, R Cathcart, A Cummings, E FitzGerald, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, T Holt, M James, D Jones, J Kelly, S Kerrison, K Leach, A Mckay, J Mallon, E O'Brien, C Preston, A Quinn, R Shori, A Simpson, R Skillen, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, J Walker, S Walmsley and M Whitby.

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It was moved by Councillor Preston and seconded by Councillor Black:

Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pension Act 1995 and 2011 with little/no/personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six year increase to their state pension age.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered and discarded. Many of these women are out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren. These women also suffer from age discrimination in the workplace as they struggle to find employment.

It is not the pension age that is in dispute, it is widely agreed that men and women should retire at the same age. The issue is that the rise in women's state pension age has been too rapid and without sufficient notice, leaving women with little notice to make alternative arrangements.

These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance.

This council calls upon the government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1951, so that women affected by these changes do not live in hardship and poverty brought about by an unfair transition.

On being put to the vote, with no one voting against and no abstentions, the Mayor declared the motion carried unanimously.

C.161 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

On inviting questions from members of the public present, the following issues were raised:-

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1.	Resignation of Chief Executive	Mrs A Boroda	Councillor Shori

C.162 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 19 July 2017 – Annual report 2016/17

It was moved by Councillor Simpson and seconded by Councillor Shori and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2016/17 be approved.

C.163 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written question (Notice given)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Shori, made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting.

The Leader and the relevant Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Care at Home Services	Councillor Black	Councillor Simpson
2.	NHS Health Checks	Councillor Preston	Councillor Simpson
3.	Street Cleaning	Councillor Silbiger	Councillor Quinn
4.	Burrs Sculpture	Councillor Kerrison	Councillor Kelly
5.	Poverty	Councillor Leach	Councillor Kelly
6.	Roadworks	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Quinn
7.	Uplands Health Centre	Councillor Mallon	Councillor Simpson
8.	Parklife Community Fund	Councillor James	Councillor Tariq
9.	A56 Works	Councillor D'Albert	Councillor Quinn
10.	Utilities in Tottington Library	Councillor Keeley	Councillor Shori
11.	Strategic School Improvement Bid	Councillor Haroon	Councillor Cathcart
12.	Flooding Elton Ward	Councillor Hankey	Councillor Quinn
13.	Millwood Special School	Councillor Holt	Councillor Cathcart
14.	Deposit Return Scheme	Councillor James	Councillor Quinn

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 15 to 31 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

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(b) Oral questions on Leader's Speech and the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting (without Notice)

1.	Special Educational Needs report	Councillor Daly	Councillor Shori
2.	Early Years Provision	Councillor Jones	Councillor Shori
3.	Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF)	Councillor Hussain	Councillor Shori
4.	GMSF	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Shori
5.	Corporate Financial Report – HRA investigation costs	Councillor Caserta	Councillor Shori
6.	Child Safeguarding	Councillor Harris	Councillor Shori
7.	Flooding	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Shori
8.	GMSF	Councillor Hankey	Councillor O'Brien
9.	GMSF – Conservation Areas	Councillor Kersh	Councillor Quinn

C.164 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS

- (a) Councillor Grimshaw, the Council's representative on the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority gave a verbal report on the work of the Authority to all Members of the Council.
- (b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	X35 Bus Service	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Bayley (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
2.	MO bike Initiative	Councillor D'Albert	Councillor Bayley (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
3.	Virridor Contract	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Quinn (Representative on Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority)

4.	Virridor Contract	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Quinn (Representative on Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority)
5.	NHS PFI Contract Payments	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Shori (Representative Greater Manchester Combined Authority)

C.165 NOTICES OF MOTION

Tackling Dangerous Potholes in our Towns and Villages

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:

Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, M Hankey, J Harris, R Hodgkinson, K Hussain, G Keeley, O Kersh, S Nuttall, I Schofield, D Silbiger, R Walker, and Y Wright

It was moved by Councillor Hodgkinson and seconded by Councillor Gartside that:

This Council notes:

1. The tragic death of Ramsbottom resident, Mr Roger Hamer who lost his life last year when his bicycle hit a pothole on Bury New Road in Ramsbottom.
2. The recent inquest verdict into the death of Mr Hamer. The jury concluded that Mr Hamer probably hit a large pothole which caused him to come off his bike in March 2016 and caused a fatal brain injury.
3. The recent report in the Bury Times that Bury has more vehicles damaged by potholes than any other Borough in Greater Manchester. A total of 292 claims for damage to vehicles being made during the period 2015/16.
4. The continued concern of Bury residents over the unsatisfactory state of highways within the Borough and the prevalence of dangerous potholes in our towns and villages.

This Council is committed to:

- Doing everything possible to improve the Council's highway inspection and maintenance programme to ensure that it is fit for purpose and has the confidence of local residents.
- Ensure that reports of potholes from residents are actioned at the earliest opportunity to mitigate the danger they pose to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

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This Council therefore resolves to:

- Instruct the Cabinet Member for Environment to carry out a full review of the Council's highway inspection and maintenance programme to ensure it is delivering an efficient service in tackling the blight of potholes and minimising the risks posed to road users and pedestrians.

- Request the Cabinet Member for Environment complete the aforementioned review prior to the next Full Meeting of Council on the 29th November and report it's findings to Members at the said meeting.

- Request the Cabinet Member for Environment consider the following ways of improving residents' satisfaction with road maintenance within the Borough as part of the review:

- a. Better communication of achievements in reducing accidents, pothole filling and maintaining roads, e.g through social media, posters and local newspaper stories.

- b. Greater clarity on decision-making by Highway Officers in terms of residents having a better understanding of the timescale for repairs.

- c. Increased use of technology so that Inspectors can spend more time assessing and commissioning repairs together with checking the quality of work, and less time dealing with correspondence or complaints.

- d. Involving and encouraging both residents and Councillors to report potholes and provide feedback on the quality of work and length of time it has taken for repairs to be completed. To ensure local satisfaction through feedback surveys, local forums and volunteer "street champions".

It was moved by Councillor Quinn and seconded by Councillor Shori as an amendment to:-

Retain:

This Council notes:

1. The tragic death of Ramsbottom resident, Mr Roger Hamer who lost his life last year when his bicycle hit a pothole on Bury New Road in Ramsbottom.
2. The recent inquest verdict into the death of Mr Hamer. The jury concluded that Mr Hamer probably hit a large pothole which caused him to come off his bike in March 2016 and caused a fatal brain injury.
3. The recent report in the Bury Times that Bury has more vehicles damaged by potholes than any other Borough in Greater Manchester. A total of 292 claims for damage to vehicles being made during the period 2015/16.
4. The continued concern of Bury residents over the unsatisfactory state of highways within the Borough and the prevalence of dangerous potholes in our towns and villages.

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Add:

5. The £10m investment in the borough's road network announced by Bury's Labour Council earlier this year.

Retain:

This Council is committed to:

- Doing everything possible to improve the Council's highway inspection and maintenance programme to ensure that it is fit for purpose and has the confidence of local residents.
- Ensure that reports of potholes from residents are actioned at the earliest opportunity to mitigate the danger they pose to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Add:

- **Bring in a new code of practice using a Greater Manchester framework to review inspection and repair procedures prior to 18th October 2018.**

Remove:

- *"Instruct the Cabinet Member for Environment to carry out a full review of the Council's highway inspection and maintenance programme to ensure it is delivering an efficient service in tackling the blight of potholes and minimising the risks posed to road users and pedestrians"*
- *"Request the Cabinet Member for Environment complete the aforementioned review prior to the next full meeting of Council on the 29th November and report its findings to Members at said meeting."*

Retain:

- Request the Cabinet Member for Environment consider the following ways of improving residents' satisfaction with road maintenance within the Borough. (omit "as part of the review"):

Amend a.) to read: " Better communicate achievements in maintenance, repairs and investment in our network e.g. through the council's website, social media and the press."

Retain b.) Greater clarity on decision-making by Highway Officers in terms of residents having a better understanding of the timescale for repairs.

Replace c.) with " Continue to invest where affordable in modern technology such as GPS & IT to enable our street inspectors to quickly and efficiently report repairs. Ask officers to investigate and report back to council the feasibility and cost of on line reporting systems such as CONFIRM so residents can report repairs online and monitor progress of repairs."

Retain d.) Involving and encouraging both residents and Councillors to report potholes and provide feedback on the quality of work and length of time it has

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taken for repairs to be completed. To ensure local satisfaction through feedback surveys, local forums and volunteer "street champions.

Add:

e. Continue to prudently invest in the borough's road network with a focus on proactively renewing the public highway

f. Lobby Central Government to give Bury Council a fairer settlement regarding highway maintenance and investment budgets.

On being put, with 45 voting for and 0 voting against and the Mayor abstaining the Mayor declared the amendment carried.

On being put, with 45 voting for, 0 voting against, and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the substantive motion carried.

Count Them In Campaign.

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:

Councillors M D'Albert; T Pickstone and S Wright

It was moved by Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor Pickstone that:

This Council once more wishes to place on record its admiration for the courage, service and sacrifice of members of Her Majesty's armed forces, past and present, during military conflicts, in countering terrorism and in carrying out peacekeeping and humanitarian duties.

This Council notes:

1. The obligations it owes to the Armed Forces community within the Bury MBC as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.
2. The absence of definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community within Bury MBC. This includes serving Regular and Reserve personnel, veterans, and their families.
3. That the availability of such data would greatly assist the council, local partner agencies, the voluntary sector, and national Government in the planning and provision of services to address the unique needs of the Armed Forces community within Bury MBC.

This Council therefore resolves to:

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1. Support and promote The Royal British Legion's campaign 'Count Them In' to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community.

2. Urge elected members for this Authority to sign up as individual supporters to the 'Count Them In' campaign.
3. Ask the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Community Covenant to write to the Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt. Hon Michael Fallon MP, setting out the Council's position that we wish to see the UK Parliament approve a final census questionnaire in 2019, which includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community, for use in the 2021 Census.
4. Ask the Interim Chief Executive to write to the Borough's two Members of Parliament asking them to also make representations on this matter to the Secretary of State for Defence.

On being put to the vote, with 44 voting for, 0 voting against and 2 abstentions including the Mayor, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

C.166 SCRUTINY REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no Scrutiny Review Reports or specific items "called in" by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered at this Council meeting.

C.167 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

C.168 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no written questions asked on the delegated decisions of the Committees or Scrutiny Committee contained in the Digest of Decision 2 (2017/18).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.05 pm