

Minutes of: **AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 17 January 2018

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor D L Gunther), in the Chair; Councillors P Adams, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, K S Briggs, R A Caserta, R Cathcart, M D'Albert, J Daly, 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, A McKay, J Mallon, S Nuttall, E O'Brien, T D Pickstone, C Preston, A Quinn, I Schofield, R Shori, D Silbiger, A Simpson, R Skillen, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, T Tariq, R E Walker, J Walker, S Walmsley, M Whitby, S Wright and Y Wright.

Apologies from: Councillors M Connolly, A J Cummings, E Fitzgerald, J Grimshaw, I Gartside and Susan Southworth.

Public attendance: 25 members of the public attended the meeting

C.001 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. Councillor Jones further declared a personal interest in respect of the Labour Notice of Motion as he is a member of a credit union.
2. Councillor Bevan declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury School.
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 he and his wife are members of a credit union, his wife being a committee member.
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 O'Brien, Smith and Whitby, declared a personal interest in respect of the Labour Notice of Motion as they are members of a credit union.
6. Councillor Shori declared a personal interest in Item 6, Leader's Question Time as his partner works for the NHS. Councillor Shori further declared a personal interest in respect of the Labour Notice of Motion as he is a member of a credit union.
7. Councillor Quinn declared a personal interest in Item 6, Leader's Question Time, as his son and daughter are employed by the NHS.

8. Councillor Simpson declared a personal interest in Item 6, Leader's Question Time, as an NHS employee.
9. Councillor Kelly declared a personal interest in matters relating to health as an employee of the Care Quality Commission.
10. Councillor Leach declared a personal interest in Item 6, Leader's Question Time, as an NHS employee.
11. Councillor R E Walker declared a personal interest in Item 6, Leader's Question Time as a member of the "Restore Bury Central Library Group"
12. Councillor Cathcart declared a personal interest in Item 6, Leader's Question Time, as an employee of Early Break.

C.002 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meetings of Council held on 29 November 2017 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C.003 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor congratulated Bury residents Roselyn Hirst, Dr Jacqueline Bene, Simon Ryder and James Hurst whose contributions have been recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours list.

The Mayor encouraged all Members to attend the Kaleidoscope Music Event to be held on 3 February.

The Mayor announced that over £5,000 had been raised for Charity through December's Mayor's Ball

C.004 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1.	Pilkington Park Leaflet	Mr C Malkin	Councillor Shori
2.	Summerseat House	Mr T Pilkington	Councillor Shori
3.	Flooding in Unsworth	Mr T Rafiq	Councillor Shori
4.	Library Buildings	Mr A Scott-Norman	Councillor Shori
5.	Dumers Lane Community Centre	Ms N Haydock	Councillor Shori

Council, 17 January 2018

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

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1.	Un-attributable Fly tipping pictures in Redvales	Mr R Frost	Councillor Shori
2.	Personl Independence Payments	Ms D Aspinall	Councillor Shori
3.	Six Town Housing Repairs	Ms L Cameron	Councillor Shori
4.	Six Town Housing	Ms A Ross	Councillor Shori
5.	Six Town Housing	Mr V Hagan	Councillor Shori
6.	Walk in Centre Campaign	Mr M Hayes	Councillor Simpson

C.005 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 December 2017 – Mid Year Review of the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy

It was moved by Councillor O’Brien and seconded by Councillor Shori and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the report be noted.

Meeting of the Human Resources and Appeals Panel held on 8 January 2018 – Mid Year Review of the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy

It was moved by Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor Pickstone and, with 30 voting for, 14 against and the Mayor abstaining it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Council approve increasing the salary for the Chief Executive so that the top of the grade is paid at £175,000 as set out in the report.

(Note – The Interim Chief Executive left the Chamber during consideration of this item).

C.006 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written question (Notice given)

Council, 17 January 2018

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.	A56 Roadworks	Councillor S Wright	Councillor Quinn
2.	Neighbourhood Engagement	Councillor Leach	Councillor Tariq
3.	GM Hate Crime Awareness Week	Councillor Black	Councillor Tariq
4.	Bury Central Library	Councillor R E Walker	Councillor Briggs
5.	Winter NHS Pressures	Councillor Black	Councillor Simpson
6.	Excluded Children	Councillor Skillen	Councillor Briggs
7.	Bolton Rd Bus Lane	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Quinn
8.	Business Advisory Service	Councillor Kerrison	Councillor Kelly
9.	Virtual Residents Parking Scheme	Councillor Smith	Councillor Kelly
10.	Volunteers in Libraries	Councillor D'Albert	Councillor Briggs
11.	Grit Bin Refilling	Councillor Schofield	Councillor Quinn
12.	Mental Health Support for School Children	Councillor J Walker	Councillor Briggs

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 13 to 32 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.

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

1.	Discrepancy in Capital Spending between Whitefield and Prestwich/Radcliffe	Councillor Kersh	Councillor Shori
2.	Carrillion and outsourcing	Councillor Bayley	Councillor Shori
3.	Newsam Investigation Costs	Councillor Caserta	Councillor Shori

4.	Retention of Walk in Centres	Councillor James	Councillor Shori
5.	Conservative Vice Chair Comments relating to Welfare	Councillor J Walker	Councillor Shori
6.	NHS Staffing	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Simpson
7.	Investigation Costs	Councillor Daly	Councillor Shori

C.007 LOCAL SCHEME OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Shori and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Scheme introduced with effect from 1st April 2017 be extended for the year 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 without amendment.

C.008 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS

- (a) Councillor Bayley, the Council’s representative on the Greater Manchester Transport Authority reported 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.	Use of Tasers	Councillor S Wright	Councillor Tariq (Representative on Police and Crime Panel)
2.	Ring and Ride	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Bayley (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
3.	Heaton Park Metrolink Station	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Bayley (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
4.	Performance of First Bus	Councillor Walmsley	Councillor Bayley (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)

C.009 NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Reducing Plastic Waste

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

Councillors D'Albert, Pickstone and S Wright

It was moved by Councillor Pickstone and seconded by Councillor D'Albert that:

This Council notes with concern:

- 1 That 300 million tons of new plastic is made each year, half of which is for single use plastic such as packaging and convenience foods. In many cases, such as plastic straws, takeaway food containers and coffee cups, there are practical alternatives available that are either reusable or sustainable.
- 2 That in 2016, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimated that by weight, there could be more plastic in our oceans than fish, as soon as 2050. As plastics are durable and strong they will stay in our environment for up to an estimated 600 years. (Columbia University)
- 3 That marine plastic leads to coastal / offshore dead zones, entanglement, death through ingestion, toxic transfer and, once degraded into micro plastics, contamination of the food chain – including our own. We are quite literally eating the plastic that has ended up in our seas.

Council welcomes:

- 1 The significant increase in recycling achieved in the Borough in the last decade, through improvements to doorstep recycling.
- 2 Policy adopted in 2017 in support of Deposit Return Schemes, and the significant reduction in plastic waste that such schemes could achieve.
- 3 The success of the 'Plastic Bag Levy', introduced by the 2010-15 Coalition Government, which has led to an 85% reduction in disposable plastic bag usage.

This Council therefore commits that Bury will play its full role in helping to reduce plastic waste, specifically:

- 1 That the Council will undertake an audit, within existing resources, of single use plastics used by the Authority seek to replace with sustainable or reusable alternatives where practicable.
- 2 That the Council will play its role in helping to educate members of the public about plastic waste, specifically by including information for members on the public on reducing plastic waste in both online and written materials.
- 3 That the Council will use its membership of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal and Combined Authorities to work towards increasing the amount of plastic product that can be recycled through doorstep and other recycling.
- 4 To write to both our members of Parliament and the European Parliament, and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, urging them to consider legislation and regulations which will reduce the amount of single use plastic used by society.
- 5 To use the links we have with businesses in Bury to encourage them to reduce the amount of plastic waste produced and specifically to write to each of our major supermarkets asking them to consider introducing a 'plastic free aisle' in their Bury store(s) on a trial basis.

On being put, with 44 voting for, 0 voting against, and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(ii) Loneliness

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 Harris and seconded by Councillor Hussain that:

This Council notes that chronic loneliness is unhealthy and leads to many physical and mental health problems. It can affect anyone at any stage of their life. A disconnected society could be costing the UK economy £32 billion a year and also has a massively negative impact on communities across Bury.

Nine million people, across all ages and social groups, in the UK report themselves lonely all or most of the time – including 43% of 17-25 year olds, 24% of parents and 8 out of 10 carers. Up to 50% of disabled people will be lonely on any given day and 3.6 million people aged over 75 say that television is their main form of company.

This Council notes the work of the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness in tackling this scourge on society. The Commission has, over the course of this year, put a spotlight on a number of sections of society, including older people, refugees, carers and children; not only highlighting the problem, but acting as a call to action. With the message 'Start a Conversation', the Commission is trying to get people talking to one another, whether chatting to a neighbour, visiting an old friend or just making time for the people they meet. It is also targeting businesses and employer organisations to get them to be part of the solution.

The Council also notes the Commission has produced a manifesto of recommendations on how to reduce loneliness, calling for a UK wide strategy for loneliness across all ages led by Government "but built on the insight, expertise and capacity of many others including statutory bodies, the voluntary and community sector and business." However, the Commission believes that this joint national strategy should "be underpinned by equivalent strategies at the local level."

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Instruct the Interim Chief Executive to write to the Co-Chairs of the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness (Seema Kennedy MP and Rachel Reeves MP) to offer the Council's support for their recommendations.
- (2) Instruct the Leader and Interim Chief Executive to develop a strategy document identifying Bury residents who may be particularly affected by loneliness and to set out plans for local action to address these challenges.
- (3) Request that Councillors and officers of the Council work with local voluntary groups, business and Government to reduce loneliness in communities across the Borough of Bury

- (4) Ask Councillors and officers of the Council to 'Start a Conversation' and take the time to do something to make someone feel less lonely

**On being put, with 44 voting for, 0 voting against, and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.
Count Them In Campaign.**

(iii) Young Savers Credit Union Scheme

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons 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.

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Kelly that:

This Council Notes:

- 1) That the Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority has warned that a growing number of young people are having to borrow to cover basic living costs.
- 2) That a recent report by the Money Advice Trust found that:
 - a. More than a third of young people have debts of almost £3000.
 - b. That just over half of young people said they regularly worried about money, with 32% feeling their debts were a "heavy burden".
 - c. That the average debt of £2,989 excludes student loans and mortgages. The average student loan balance is £25,505.
 - d. National Debtline, run by Money Advice Trust, state that too few young people are seeking free advice from debt charities when they fall into financial difficulty.
- 3) That National Debtline have recommended:
 - a. earlier and more co-ordinated financial education
 - b. timely support for first-time borrowers or credit card holders
 - c. a wider role for employers to support money management for young workers
 - d. practical reforms to student finance payments

This Council Resolves to:

- 1) Explore the possibility of setting up a Young Savers Credit Union Scheme, through Bury Credit Union, local Secondary Schools and Colleges, which would aim to sign up young people to a Credit Union account and offer advice and guidance around borrowing.
- 2) Launch a trial scheme in the new school year (September 2018), with full roll out in 2019.
- 3) Work with interested parties to support the creation and work of the Young Savers Credit Union Scheme.
- 4) Encourage all Governing Bodies to support schools and colleges to deliver additional advice and guidance on money management and borrowing.

On being put to the vote, with 29 voting for, 3 voting against and 2 abstentions including the Mayor, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

C.010 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.011 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

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

C.012 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 4 (2017/18).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.30 pm