

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 9 September 2020

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)
Councillors S Briggs, R Caserta, P Cropper, T Cummings,
C Cummins, J Daly, I Gartside, R Gold, J Grimshaw,
D Gunther, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, T Holt, S Hurst,
K Hussain, D Jones, N Jones, O Kersh, K Leach, J Mason,
G McGill, A McKay, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien,
T Pickstone, M Powell, A Quinn, T Rafiq, I Schofield,
D Silbiger, A Simpson, L Smith, M Smith, S Smith,
Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, C Tegolo,
K Thomas, D.Vernon, R Walker, S Walmsley, C Walsh,
M Whitby, S Wright and Y Wright

Apologies for Absence J Black, R.Cathcart and G Keeley

Public Attendance: There were no Member of the public present at the meeting.

C. 192 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting in relation to items on the agenda:

1. Councillor Quinn declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as his son and daughter work for the NHS, CAB and he is a member of the Trade Union, Unite.
2. Councillors Vernon, Hussain and Cropper declared personal interest in the CXXX Liberal Democratic motion as they work for the local MP.
3. Councillor J Daly declared a personal interest in CXXX Liberal Democratic motion as the Member of Parliament for Bury North
4. Councillors Harris and McGill declared personal interests in CXXX Conservative motion as Members of the Bury Market Regeneration task group
5. Councillor Simpson declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as an NHS employee.
6. Councillor S. Wright declared a personal interest all matters under consideration as his wife works for a school in the Borough.
7. Councillor Leach declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as an NHS employee.

C. 193 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 8 July 2020 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C. 194 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worshipful Mayor informed Members that tomorrow, 10 September 2020 is World Suicide Prevention Day.

The Mayor reported that Bury Samaritans is this year's Mayor's charity and that they do a tremendous job in supporting people through very difficult times. It is more important than ever to mark World Suicide Prevention Day and the Mayor asked if members will join him in sharing information about the day through their social media channels tomorrow.

C. 195 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were received in advance of the meeting.

C. 196 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Meeting of Cabinet 2nd September 2020 – Treasury Management Report

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

RESOLVED:

Council approves the Treasury Management Review 2019/20 report and the prudential and treasury indicators presented in the report.

Meeting of Cabinet 2nd September 2020 – Appointments Update

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

RESOLVED:

That the changes to the Cabinet Portfolio be noted.

C. 197 APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERIM SECTION 151 OFFICER

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

RESOLVED:

That Lisa Kitto be appointed as interim Section 151 Officer and Director of Financial Transformation with immediate effect and until the successful appointment of a permanent Director of Financial Transformation and Section 151 officer is made.

C. 198 REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY

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

RESOLVED:

That Council notes the Executive Key Decisions that have been taken as urgent items and that these decisions are exempt from call-in in.

LEADER'S STATEMENT AND MEMBER QUESTION TIME**(a) Written question (Notice given)**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E O'Brien, 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	Guidelines for wearing masks in schools	Cllr Powell	Cllr Tariq
2	Thanking Bury Businesses	Cllr Whitby	Cllr O'Brien
3	Improving Community Safety in the Chesham Area	Cllr Walmsley	Cllr D Jones
4	Post of Executive Policy Support	Cllr Y Wright	Cllr O'Brien
5	Veterans Covenant	Cllr Gold	Cllr D Jones
6	Safe and secure opening of schools	Cllr Susan Southworth	Cllr Tariq
7	Standards Complaints	Cllr Caserta	Cllr O'Brien
8	Prestwich Walk in Centre	Cllr S Wright	Cllr Simpson
9	Vulnerable Children	Cllr Whitby	Cllr Tariq
10	Affordable housing	Cllr Gold	Cllr O'Brien
11	Member's Allowance	Cllr Schofield	Cllr O'Brien

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 12 to 21 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) Verbal Questions

1	Covid restrictions and townships	Cllr N Jones	Cllr O'Brien
2	Prestwich redevelopment	Cllr Powell	Cllr O'Brien
3	10 point Covid recovery plan and the fit and fed initiative	Cllr Susan Southworth	Cllr Tariq
3	Leader's role	Cllr Gunther	Cllr O'Brien
4	Testing centres	Cllr Morris	Cllr Simpson
5	Mcr Airport and impact on finances	Cllr S Wright	Cllr O'Brien
6	Car parking charges	Cllr Gartside	Cllr L Smith

COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

(a) The Council received a report on the work of the Combined Authorities.

(b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	GMSF	Councillor Tegolo	Councillor O'Brien
2.	Metrolink	Councillor Powell	Councillor Gold (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
2.	Enforcement of COVID Rules	Councillor Gunther	Councillor Gold (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)Written Response

C. 201 NOTICES OF MOTION

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

Councillors M Powell, C Tegolo and S Wright

(i) Protecting the public's say in the planning process

This Council notes:

1. The publication by Government of the White Paper, 'Planning for the Future' on 6 August 2020, which set out proposals on reforms to the planning process for the future.
2. That the vast majority of planning applications are given the go ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications.
3. That research by the Local Government Association has said that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.

This Council is concerned that the proposals seek to:

1. Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them.
2. Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as 'for growth'.
3. Remove section 106 payments for infrastructure and their replacement with a national levy.

This Council Further Notes:

1. The Royal Institute for British Architects called the proposals 'shameful and which will do almost nothing to guarantee delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes'. RIBA also said that proposals could lead to the next generation of slum housing.
2. The reforms are opposed by the all-party Local Government Association, currently led by Conservative Councillors.

This Council Believes:

1. That existing planning procedures, as currently administered by our own team in Bury, allow for local democratic control over future development, and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them.
2. That proposals for automatic rights to build in 'growth' areas, and increased permitted development rights, risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.
3. That local communities must be in the driving seat on shaping the future of their communities, and local determination of the planning framework and planning applications play an important part in this process.

This Council resolves to:

1. Take part in the consultation in the planning proposals, and to make representations against the proposals as outlined in this motion.
2. Write to and lobby both of our Members of Parliament, urging them to oppose these proposals and to circulate their replies to members.
3. Highlight its concerns over these proposals with the public and local residents.

On being put, with 46 for voting for, 0 voting against, and with the Mayor and Councillor James Daly abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(ii) Thank Our Key Workers Properly and Deliver Fair Funding for Bury Public Services

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:
Councillors J Black, S Briggs, R Cathcart, A Cummings, C Cummins, R Gold, J Grimshaw, M Hayes, S Haroon, T Holt, D Jones, K Leach, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, A Quinn, T Rafiq, A Simpson, L Smith, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, K Thomas, S Walmsley, C Walsh and M Whitby

We the undersigned (detailed above) wholeheartedly thank our key workers, NHS staff and council employees for keeping essential services running throughout this pandemic. We thank many of our officers who have moved into different roles to support our communities and thank the trade unions for working with us to enable this.

We commend our care workers, who cared for our most vulnerable residents in the most difficult of circumstances. However, whilst we clapped our carers every week during lockdown, many are still not fairly paid for the vital work they do. The Resolution Foundation estimates that half of all frontline care workers are not paid the Foundation Living Wage.

Bury Council currently has a projected budget deficit of £7m and this is likely to rise over the next five years to £77m as a direct result of Covid, loss of income to council services and additional cost pressures over the period of the pandemic. After 10 years of austerity and with £100m already cut from our budget, our financial position is extremely challenging.

This means that in Bury, we cannot afford to pay our own employees and our social care providers the real Living Wage. In order to do this, we would need an additional £11.4m over the next five years, with £5.6m needed in the first year.

As the government undertakes its Comprehensive Spending Review, we are calling on all parties to join our campaign to thank our key workers properly, protect their jobs and fight for fair funding so that we can afford to pay the real Living Wage. This would not only enable us to deliver high quality public services and value our staff, but deliver on our priorities for our borough. From creating jobs to improving our environment, investing in our roads and transforming health and social care, we will continue to be hamstrung by significant underfunding by national government if we are not funded fairly.

The Secretary of State promised to fund councils to 'do what it takes' in response to coronavirus, but we need more than just to cover our costs in this crisis. If we really want to build back better and level up, we need a fair settlement for Bury that empowers and enables our council and our communities to reach their potential.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Put on record our thanks to our key workers, NHS and Council staff
- 2) Thank our trade unions for their support and cooperation during the Coronavirus response
- 3) Write to the Secretary of State calling for all costs from Covid to be covered, as he promised, and fair funding for public services to be guaranteed
- 4) Demand that the costs of paying the real Living Wage be covered in future finance settlements for local authorities

On being put, with 32 for voting for, 0 voting against, and with the Mayor and the Conservative Group abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(iii) Shop Safe, Shop Local

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:
Councillors R Caserta, P Cropper, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, J Harris, S Hurst, K Hussain, N Jones, G Keeley, O Kersh, I Schofield, D Silbiger, D Vernon, R Walker, and Y Wright

The Council Notes:

Businesses on our high streets, business parks and markets operating throughout the Borough have suffered greatly as a result of COVID-19. Many of whom shut their doors and found ways to help out in the community during this difficult time. As things slowly return to normal, it's now time for Bury Council to give back to our local businesses to help get them back on their feet.

The Council has received £169,235 in funding from the Government's Reopening High Street Safety Fund. However, there are still too many barriers for people in visiting our high streets, such as parking charges and concerns surrounding the safety of paying a visit to our six townships of Prestwich, Whitefield, Radcliffe, Tottington, Ramsbottom and Bury.

As the restrictions lift slowly and we move back to a sense of normality we need to encourage residents to shop local. We need play our part in protecting Bury's prosperity and safeguarding local jobs. In doing this, we need to kick start our local economy.

The Council Resolves:

Bury Council to introduce the following measures to encourage residents to Shop Safe, Shop Local and support our high streets.

- 2 Hours Free Parking on weekdays and Saturdays, to encourage shoppers to visit our local high streets and help revive our local economy until January 31st, 2021
- The installation of contactless hand sanitization stations, to reassure people that our high streets are safe to visit.
- Support Bury Market day traders with a six month rent cash grant
- All market traders to receive an additional 3 month rent free period
- Multi-channel marketing campaign in promoting our six townships and Bury Market to encourage residents to Shop Safe, Shop Local

On being put, with 20 for voting for, 26 voting against, and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion lost.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Notes: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.04 pm

- NOTE:**
- The Council tracker was duly noted
 - There were no scrutiny review reports or specific items called in by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
 - There were no questions on the work of Outside Bodies or Questions on the Delegated Decisions of the Council.