

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

Date of Meeting: 17th March 2021

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor T Pickstone, in the Chair) Councillors J Black, S Briggs, R Caserta, P Cropper, T Cummings, C Cummins, J Daly, I Gartside, R Gold, D Gunther, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, T Holt, S Hurst, K Hussain, G Keeley, D Jones, N Jones, O Kersh, G McGill, A McKay, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, 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: Councillors, R Cathcart, J Grimshaw, K Leach and J Mason

Public attendance: Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and government guidance in respect of social distancing, the meeting was held virtually and streamed live on the Council's website.

C.XXX 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 both his son and daughter-in law, work for the NHS, his wife works for the CAB and he is a member of the Trade Union, Unite and the Downs Syndrome Association.
2. Councillors David Jones and D Vernon declared personal interest in the CXXX Combined Authority update as retired Police Officers.
3. Councillor Simpson declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as both herself and her son are employed by the NHS.
4. Councillor S. Wright declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as his wife works for a school in the Borough.
5. Councillors Susan Southworth and J Harris declared personal interest in any matters under consideration as members of the 6 Town Housing Board.

C.XXX MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 24th February 2021 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C.XXX MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

As this will be the last Full Council meeting of this municipal year the Mayor wanted to place on record his thanks to all Elected members that would be standing down at the forthcoming local elections, these comments were supported by group leaders.

C. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of the following 2 questions:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1.	Parking in Unsworth	Mr N Borada	Councillor L Smith
2.	Waste disposal	Mr A Hay	Councillor A Quinn

C.XXX RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Meeting of HWB 18th November 2020 – Amended HWB Terms of reference

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

RESOLVED:

That Council approves the updated Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference.

Meeting of Cabinet 23rd February 2021 – Bury 2030 Strategy

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

RESOLVED:

That the Council endorses the strategy for adoption and encourages other public services and community leaders to do the same.

Meeting of HRA 25th February 2021 – Pay Policy

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

RESOLVED:

The Pay Policy Statement [2021-2022] is approved.

Meeting of DAF 2nd March 2021 – Member Allowance Scheme

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

RESOLVED:

Council;

- (a) Agrees the Members' Scheme of Allowances for 2021/22 set out at Appendix 1;
- (b) Note that a new Independent Remuneration Panel will be appointed later this year by the Director of Law and Democratic Services in consultation with the Mayor to advise on a Scheme of Allowances for 2022/23 ahead of the all-out May 2022 Local Elections.

Meeting of DAF 2nd March 2021 – Meetings Timetable

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

RESOLVED:

That the timetable of meetings for the 2021/22 Municipal Year, as set out, be approved.

C.XXX CORPORATE PLAN

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

RESOLVED:

That Council approves the Corporate Plan 2020-22 (2021 refresh).

C.XXX TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2021/22

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

RESOLVED:

That Council approves the:

- Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22
- Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2021/22
- Prudential Indicators forecast for 3 years
- Schemes of Delegation and Responsibility attached at Appendices 2 and 6

C.XXX SCRUTINY REVIEW

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

On being put, with 29 voting for, 17 voting against, and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor resolved that:

Council;

- a) Notes the views of scrutiny members set out in the Report.
- b) Approves the establishment of a new Children and Young Persons Overview and Scrutiny committee and revised terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Health Scrutiny effective from 1 June 2021.
- c) Authorises the Monitoring Officer to make consequential changes to the Constitution.
- d) Notes the LGA will support a review of the scrutiny function after the May elections.

C.XXX BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

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

On being put, with Councillors J Black, S Briggs, C Cummins, A Cummings, R Gold, S Haroon, M Hayes, T Holt, D Jones, 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 for; Councillors R Caserta, P Cropper, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, J Harris, S Hurst, K Hussain, N Jones, G Keeley, O Kersh, A McKay, I Schofield, D Silbiger, M Smith, D Vernon, R Walker, and Y Wright voting against, and with the Mayor and Councillors M Powell, C Tegolo and S Wright abstaining, the Mayor resolved that:

That Council approves submission of the proposed new warding patterns to the LGBCE.

C.XXX LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET 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	Elections Security	Cllr J Harris	Cllr O'Brien
2	Town centre recovery plan	Cllr G McGill	Cllr O'Brien
3	NHS Pay	Cllr Whitby	Cllr Simpson
4	Covid Winter Grants	Cllr D Vernon	Cllr O'Brien
5	Brownfield First Strategy	Cllr M Hayes	Cllr O'Brien
6	Universal Credit	Cllr S Walmsley	Cllr Simspon
7	Councils use of bailiffs	Cllr Tegolo	Cllr O'Brien

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 8 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	Council funding	Cllr N Jones	Cllr O'Brien
2	Bus De-Regulation	Cllr M Powell	Cllr O'Brien
3	Radcliffe Regeneration	Cllr P Cropper	Cllr O'Brien
4	Hospital Discharge funding	Cllr Whitby	Cllr O'Brien

C.XXX 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.

(b)

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Metrolink ticketing	Councillor S Wright	Councillor Gold (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
2.	GMP 101 phone system	Councillor Powell	Councillor Jones (Representative on Police and Crime and Panel)
3.	GMP	Councillor R Caserta	Councillor Jones (Representative on Police and Crime and Panel)

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

C.XXX NOTICES OF MOTION

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:
Councillors J Black, S Briggs, R Cathcart, C Cummins, A Cummings, R Gold, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, M Hayes, 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.

(i) Right to Food

This Council notes that:

The Covid Pandemic has laid bare the vast inequalities that exist across communities. The crisis has highlighted the levels of poverty and inequality that has manifested itself in the lack of access to food. A recent analysis of Greater Manchester shows that an additional 4500 children have crossed the poverty threshold and have become eligible for free school meals. Data from the DWP also shows the number of households who receive Universal Credit in the region has increased to 252, 609 from 149,638 in February 2020. The government's constant u-turns on the issue has added to the stress of food insecurity and increased workloads on key workers. This insecurity is increased by the government's failure to agree to incorporate the additional £20 uplift in Universal Credit payments as a permanent measure.

The government is undertaking an independent review intended to set out a vision and a plan for a better food system for England, the National Food Strategy. The review will include economic and social issues.

The 'Right to Food' campaign, launched by Fans Supporting Foodbanks, calls for a change in the law to make access to food a legal right for all in the UK making Government legally responsible to help people suffering from food poverty. Greater Manchester has become the first city-region to support a campaign which calls for the 'Right to Food' to become a legal requirement.

In addition, Sustain a powerful alliance of organisations and communities working together for a better system of food, farming and fishing, and cultivating the movement for change, some of the measure it advocates are that Local Authorities should:

- Support fair pay by promoting the Real Living Wage to the local council and employers
- Ensuring children's access to food 365 days a year
- Supporting services that provide financial crisis support and advice
- Developing an alliance and action plan to tackle food poverty.
- Support measures to improve the uptake of Healthy Start vouchers

Measures that this Labour administration has supported.

This Council resolves to

- Endorse the campaign for the 'Right to Food' to be incorporated into the 'National Food Strategy'.
- Endorsing a legal mechanism for enforcing the right to food. The mechanism could set out responsibilities for the wide range of public bodies who would need to take action to improve incomes (such as the introduction of the RLW), control every day costs (such as utility costs) and improve access to good food (such as free school meals 365 days of the year).
- To write to the Independent Lead of the National Food Strategy commission to support the incorporation into law the Right to Food.
- To work with other authorities within the Greater Manchester region to develop 'No Child Should Go Hungry' campaign.
- To write to Government that the £20.00 uplift in Universal Credit should be retained permanently and for government funding of food vouchers to children entitled to Free School Meals during the school holidays.

On being put, with 30 voting for, 16 voting against, and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(ii) Tackling Litter and working towards cleaner communities

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of: **Councillors: Powell, Tegolo and S Wright**

Bury Council commits to tackling issues with litter across our Borough and to working for cleaner streets and public spaces across our communities.

Council notes that:

- The Keep Britain Tidy Campaign offers local authorities the opportunity to become a member of a Network, which provides access to specialist advice and support.
- The campaign is also promoting a Love Parks campaign and a Charity Bin sponsorship scheme whereby the monies raised from recycling cans deposited in designated local authority bins is contributed to local charities.

- Several national supermarket chains are now operating trials of reverse vending machines, where customers are rewarded for returning used cans and bottles for recycling.
- The Government department DEFRA has also previously published a voluntary code for local businesses and local business partnerships to sign up to and reduce the litter that results from fast food businesses.
- Existing good work that the Authority has done towards tackling litter and fly-tipping and the good work of many voluntary and community groups.

Council recognises that:

- Whilst we are committed to tackling litter across Bury, and to working for cleaner streets and public spaces across our communities, we cannot do this alone.
- In the battle for cleaner streets and public spaces, we must involve the public and our business partners in a co-operative effort.
- There are community champions and organisations commendably 'doing their bit'.
- The Keep Britain Tidy and DEFRA initiatives provide extra opportunities and an extra incentive for members of the public and business partners to become actively engaged and empowered in tackling the litter which blights our streets.
- In doing their bit, residents and business will help the Council to make the streets, district centres, parks and public amenities of our Borough cleaner and more inviting to residents and visitors.

Council resolves to:

- Promote participation in litter prevention activities to members of the public, community, faith and youth groups, and businesses through our social media, website and existing email-outs to partners.
- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine the merits of becoming a local authority member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network, and identify which of the campaign's initiatives, including Love Parks and Charity Bins, could be introduced in the Borough.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to national supermarket chains with stores in this borough asking them to consider Bury as the location for a future trial of a reverse vending machines.
- Promote take up of the DEFRA voluntary code amongst our fast-food businesses and local business partnerships and seek their sponsorship for the introduction of a Charity Bin scheme and for public education

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

(iii) Community Safety in our Borough

An Emergency motion had been received 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:

Safety in our towns comes before money. Street lighting is vitally important and helps residents feel safe at night.

This week in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Chief Constables from across the country discussed ways to improve community safety following the tragic death of Sarah Everard in London.

Yesterday, the government announced it will double its Safer Streets fund to £45 million to provide better lighting and CCTV at night. The increased funding for the scheme will target parks, alleyways and routes from bars, restaurants and nightclubs.

In the February Budget the Labour Group put forward plans to dim streetlights to save £20,000 and reduce energy consumption in 2021/22 and £10,000 in 2022/23

The Conservative Group in February put forward an alternative budget which focused on community safety. This included:

- Extra funding to install Hi-Tech CCTV
- Reversing the proposal to dim streetlights

The Council resolves to:

- Reverse the decision to dim streetlights and ensure all streetlights are switched on full through the night to ensure residents feel safe to walk the boroughs streets
- A report to be put forward to Overview and Scrutiny Committee to outline how many streetlights are currently not working in the Borough and a full review to take place of the Operations Directorate – Task and Finish Group to be set up from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- SLAs to be implemented for streets lights to be fixed within 5 days of them being reported as not working.
- The Council to conduct a full review of street lighting including alleyways or parks in the borough to ensure no street does not have sufficient lighting.
- Introduce the Women’s Safety Charter – The charter will be a voluntary pledge for all licensed organisations within the borough, including but not exclusive to, bars and clubs. The charter will include five principles on how they will support women experiencing sexual harassment in their premisses.

This Council thanks Bury’s frontline staff, charities and organisations for their life saving work.

It was moved by Councillor L Smith and seconded by Councillor Susan Southworth as an amendment to:-

Remove:

In the February Budget the Labour Group put forward plans to dim streetlights to save £20,000 and reduce energy consumption in 2021/22 and £10,000 in 2022/23

The Conservative Group in February put forward an alternative budget which focused on community safety. This included:

- Extra funding to install Hi-Tech CCTV
- Reversing the proposal to dim streetlights

Amend:

- Reverse the decision to dim streetlights and ensure all streetlights are switched on full through the night to ensure residents feel safe to walk the boroughs streets

To say:

- To ensure all streetlights are working to ensure residents feel safe to walk the boroughs streets

Add in:

- Write to the Home Secretary to demand the funding to replace the 2000 police officers lost across Greater Manchester since 2010.
- Express our concerns to the Home Secretary that the recent Crime & Sentencing Bill fails to mention domestic abuse, sexual violence or street harassment against women.
- That the Bury Community Safety Partnership conducts a listening exercise for women and girls in Bury to influence and improve our community safety plan.

On being put, with 26 voting for, 17 voting against and with 4 abstaining, the Mayor declared the amendment carried.

On being put, with 25 voting for, 21 voting against and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the substantive motion carried.

(**Note:** This item, which did not appear on the Summons for the meeting, was allowed by the Mayor to be considered as a matter of urgency).

Councillor T Pickstone
THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 11.05pm

NOTE:

- 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.