

Minutes of: **COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 21 September 2022

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)
Councillors A Arif, S Arif, N Bayley, R Bernstein, D Berry, C Birchmore, C Boles, A Booth, N Boroda, R Brown, L Dean, S Donnelly, D Duncalfe, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, N Frith, I Gartside, D Green, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, J Harris, K Hussain, N Jones, J Lancaster, G Marsden, L McBriar, G McGill, C Morris, E Moss, E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, T Rafiq, I Rizvi, J Rydeheard, L Smith, M Smith, T Tariq, C Tegolo, S Thorpe, D Vernon, M Walsh and M Whitby

Apologies for Absence C Cummins, R Gold, M Hayes, J Mason, D Quinn, S Walmsley and Y Wright

Public Attendance: 3 members of the public attended the meeting.

C. 14 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - MINUTES SILENCE

The Mayor reported that she was privileged to lay flowers and sign the book of condolence as Bury's first citizen, in memory of her Majesty the Queen. Members stood to observe a minutes silence.

Group Leaders were invited to speak on behalf of their Group and place on record their sadness at the Queens' passing.

C. 15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Berry declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as a Member of friends of Bury Folk Keep it Green, a Member of Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal Society. As well as a probationary bailiff for the Fishing and Angling Trust.

Councillor Gartside declared an interest in all matters under consideration as a member of Bury Folk Keep it Green.

Councillor Andrea Booth declared a personal interest in all items under consideration as a Member of Bury Folk keep it Green and a Member of Radcliffe litterpickers.

Councillor Carol Birchmore declared a personal interest in all items under consideration declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as a Member of friends of Bury Folk Keep it Green, a Member of Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal Society. As well as the probationary bailiff for the Fishing and Angling Trust and Radcliffe Litter pickers.

Councillor M Smith declared a personal interest as a Member of Bolton and Bury Canal Society.

C. 16 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 20th July 2022 be approved.

C. 17 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of 3 questions. 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.

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Charlie Allen	Bus services in Greenmount and Ramsbottom	Cllr Peel
Jacqui Connor	Traffic on Newcombe Road	Cllr Quinn
Andy Hay not present	One way system	Cllr Quinn
Additional Questions		
Jordan Lewis	Council Tax complaint	Cllr O'Brien

C. 18 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Meeting of Cabinet 7th September 2022 Treasury Management Outturn Report.

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

RESOLVED:

Cabinet is requested to approve, for onward submission to Council on the 21st of September, the:

- **2021/22 Prudential and Treasury Indicators**
- **Treasury Management 2021/22 Outturn Report**

C. 19 LEADER' 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:

	Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
1	Cllr Peel	Cllr O'Brien	Budget cuts
2	Cllr Moss	Cllr O'Brien	Anti-poverty strategy
3	Cllr Lancaster	Cllr Quinn	Skate park at Clarence Park
4	Cllr Thorpe	Cllr Morris	Bury Market Upgrade
5	Cllr McGill	Cllr Tariq	Health inequalities
6	Cllr Gartside	Cllr O'Brien	Petition

7	Cllr A Arif	Cllr Farooq	Flag of Kashmir
8	Cllr A Arif	Cllr Quinn	Energy Costs to transport fleet
9	Cllr Vernon	Cllr Rafiq	Council complaints
10	Cllr McGill	Cllr Farooq	Community Safety Plan

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 11 to 15 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

Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
Cllr Bernstein	Cllr O'Brien	Temporary Traffic Lights
Cllr Birchmore	Cllr O'Brien	Brownfield Sites and the PfE
Cllr Moss	Cllr O'Brien	George Peachment Commeration
Cllr Pilkington	Cllr O'Brien	Leaving GM
Cllr Hussain	Cllr O'Brien	LGO complaints
Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr Quinn	Tree Canopy project
Cllr Berry	Cllr Quinn	Waste prevention Officer
Cllr M Smith	Cllr O'Brien	Radcliffe Hub Scheme

C. 20

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 Rules:

Questioner	Combined Authority Member	Topic
Cllr Rizvi	Cllr Farooq	GMP response time
Cllr Bayley	Cllr Peel	Cap on bus fares
Cllr Hussain	Cllr Farooq	GMP
Cllr Green	Cllr Peel	Impact of Covid

Cllr Dean	Cllr Farooq	GMFRS
Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr O'Brien	Mcr airport passenger numbers

C. 21 NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Anti-social driving

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

Councillors; Arif, Bernstein, Brown, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Lancaster, Hussain, Jones, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon

This Council is determined to take further steps to combat the scourge of dangerous and anti-social driving which has been reported over many years and months, and which continues to be a major issue for communities across the borough.

Speeding, reckless and dangerous driving in Bury, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Tottington, Prestwich and Whitefield is utterly abhorrent and poses significant and unnecessary risks to both road users and pedestrians alike.

In recent reports in the Bury Times and on social media (from community groups) it is clear the situation is becoming worse.

As a Council we have a duty and responsibility to protect all our residents living in the borough and those people who are visiting or passing through our towns and villages.

This Council resolves to:-

- Call on the Chief Executive to write to the GMP Bury Division Chief Superintendent to ask that mobile speed camera initiatives are implemented across the borough to catch offenders, crack down on dangerous drivers and to provide reassurance to the communities of the borough.
- Call on the Chief Executive to write to the GMP Bury Division Chief Superintendent to undertake a borough wide initiative with the objective to reduce the illegal use Off-Road Bikes and e-scooters which are a cause of significant anti-social behaviour.
- To ask the Council to hold meetings with residents and community groups in known hotspots of dangerous and anti-social driving to understand their concerns and to listen to their suggestions on how to combat these issues.
- To ask the Council to explore more options which can be implemented to reduce dangerous driving, whether this be speed humps, permanent traffic cameras or traffic islands.
- To ask the Council to consider if measures already agreed such as crossing points can be implemented earlier than announced.

On being put with 42 Members voting for and 0 members voting against and the Mayor abstaining

The Mayor declared the motion was carried.

Councillor Donnelly was not in the Chamber when the vote was taken.

(ii) Work towards improving and safeguarding the Bury MBC stretch of the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal

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

Councillors; Birchmore, Berry, Booth, Duncalfe, Marsden, Mason, Cllr Mike Smith and Cllr Mary Walsh

Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal is a fantastic wildlife corridor through Radcliffe and Bury. It extends as far as the border with Little Lever in the south and runs up to Elton Reservoir and into Redvales and Church ward at the north end. It is well loved by residents and in the lockdown period it served as a much-needed green space for residents. In recent years, the Bury MBC section has been looked after by Little Britain Anglers and Radcliffe Litter Pickers.

For many years there has been talk of restoring the canal but the Canal and Rivers Trust to consider the canal low priority. CRT are obliged to keep the MBB canal safe for public use, however they are under no obligation to make it navigable because it is classed as a 'remainder canal' (Transport Act 1968). As custodians of the canal the Council needs to find a way to work with CRT to improve the prospects for the canal.

The Council notes:

The canal suffers from being overgrown by several species including:

- Duckweed, which as well as being unsightly and in hot weather is smelly, if left to thrive, the weed can cause problems for other aquatic plants and wildlife by starving it of oxygen and sunlight.
- Himalayan Balsam, growing along the banks and in reed beds is outgrowing native species and reducing biodiversity by restricting native plant growth
- Giant hogweed growing on the upper reaches near the Elton Reservoir end, is a very dangerous plant for which the sap can cause serious skin burns. It contains furocoumarin, which makes skin extremely sensitive to sunlight (phytophotodermatitis).
- Trees growing into the structure of the canal and can cause damage to the sides and will eventually impact on the structural integrity.

In addition to the problem plants and invasive species listed above, there is a problem with litter being thrown into the canal which is often difficult to retrieve. This is especially true at places where pedestrian bridges cross the canal. The Council should help to reduce the problems caused by litter by addressing littering on Council owned land bordering the canal and pedestrian access to the canal across Council owned land.

The Council resolves to

Commit to the following:

- Carry out a feasibility study into renovation of the canal with the possibility of including it in the Radcliffe Regeneration plans. This should consider the ambition to use the canal as a facility for fishing and water sports and working with the Canal and Rivers Trust to improve the tow paths to give better access for walking and cycling.
- Look at ways of preventing fly-tipping and littering from Council owned land such as car parks and bridges crossing the canal
 - Work to ensure visibility in currently obscured areas of access to the canal to prevent risk of crime, anti-social behaviour, and damage to property such as graffiti
- Working with the police to address the safety concerns of residents accessing and using the tow path

- Call on the Canal and Rivers Trust to adopt a strategy to stop the water in the canal dropping to a level hazardous to wildlife

An amendment was moved by Councillor Peel and Seconded by Councillor A Quinn to

Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal is a fantastic wildlife corridor through Radcliffe and Bury. It extends as far as the border with Little Lever in the south and runs up to Elton Reservoir and into Redvales and Church ward at the north end. It is well loved by residents and in the lockdown period it served as a much-needed green space for residents. In recent years, the Bury MBC section has been looked after by Little Britain Anglers and Radcliffe Litter Pickers.

~~REMOVE [For many years there has been talk of restoring the canal but the Canal and Rivers Trust to consider the canal low priority. CRT are obliged to keep the MBB canal safe for public use, however they are under no obligation to make it navigable because it is classed as a 'remainder canal' (Transport Act 1968). As custodians of the canal the Council needs to find a way to work with CRT to improve the prospects for the canal.]~~

The Council notes:

The canal suffers from being overgrown by several species including:

- Duckweed, which as well as being unsightly and in hot weather is smelly, if left to thrive, the weed can cause problems for other aquatic plants and wildlife by starving it of oxygen and sunlight.
- Himalayan Balsam, growing along the banks and in reed beds is outgrowing native species and reducing biodiversity by restricting native plant growth
- Giant hogweed growing on the upper reaches near the Elton Reservoir end, is a very dangerous plant for which the sap can cause serious skin burns. It contains furocoumarin, which makes skin extremely sensitive to sunlight (phytophotodermatitis).
- Trees growing into the structure of the canal and can cause damage to the sides and will eventually impact on the structural integrity.

~~REMOVE [In addition to the problem plants and invasive species listed above, there is a problem with litter being thrown into the canal which is often difficult to retrieve. This is especially true at places where pedestrian bridges cross the canal. The Council should help to reduce the problems caused by litter by addressing littering on Council owned land bordering the canal and pedestrian access to the canal across Council owned land.]~~

~~INSERT [The ongoing challenges of litter and fly-tipping and maintenance of trees and other growth along the canal and the responsibilities of all partners involved to keep the canal well maintained and prevent further deterioration.~~

The ambitious and exciting Restoration Feasibility Study commissioned in 2020 jointly by Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal Society, the Canal & Rivers Trust, Bury Council and Bolton Council for the full restoration of the 5-mile stretch of canal through Bury to Bolton.]

The Council resolves to

Commit to the following:

~~REMOVE [- Carry out a feasibility study into renovation of the canal with the possibility of including it in the Radcliffe Regeneration plans. This should consider the ambition to use the canal as a facility for fishing and water sports and working with the Canal and Rivers Trust to improve the tow paths to give better access for walking and cycling.]~~

- Look at ways of preventing fly-tipping and littering from Council owned land such as car parks and bridges crossing the canal
- Work to ensure visibility in currently obscured areas of access to the canal to prevent risk of crime, anti-social behaviour, and damage to property such as graffiti

- Working with the police to address the safety concerns of residents accessing and using the tow path
- Call on the Canal and Rivers Trust to adopt a strategy to stop the water in the canal dropping to a level hazardous to wildlife

INSERT [

- Maintain our commitment to the full restoration of the canal through Bury and Radcliffe as expressed in the 2020 Restoration Feasibility Study.
- Write to the relevant Minister making the case for funding for the restoration, which our study estimates would bring £1 million per annum in socio-economic benefits to Bury and Radcliffe.
- Continue as an active partner in the maintenance and restoration of the canal through the participation of our officer and member representatives on the MBBC steering group.]

The amendment on being put with 35 members voting for and 8 voting against and the Mayor abstaining

The Mayor declared the amendment was carried.

The substantive motion on being put with 36 members voting for and 7 voting against and the Mayor abstaining

The Mayor declared the substantive motion carried.

(III) Freeze Energy Prices With A Windfall Tax On Oil And Gas Companies

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

Councillors: A. Arif, N Bayley, C Boles, N Boroda, C Cummins, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, N Frith, R Gold, D Green, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, M Hayes, G McGill, C Morris, E Moss, E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, I Rizvi, L Smith, T Tariq, S Thorpe, S Walmsley, and M Whitby.

The Mayor announced that following changes since the publication of the agenda an altered motion will be moved.

Councillor Tariq moved the altered motion set out below, this was seconded by Councillor Quinn;

REMOVE [~~This Council notes:~~

~~The announcement that the household energy price cap will rise to £3,549 in October, a doubling of the cap in the last 12 months – equating to energy bills of £300 per month for a typical household.~~

~~Analysis from Citizens Advice which shows that a quarter of people in the UK simply won't be able to pay their energy bills in October.~~

This Council notes:

The announcement that the Government will now cap energy bills for typical a household to £2500, nearly £1500 higher than two years ago.

That this cap will still leave households facing significantly higher bills and steep financial pressures.

REMOVE

~~Alarming reports that the energy price cap could hit over £5,000 in January.~~

INSERT:

That this change of policy will not be funded by a windfall tax on excessive profits within the oil and gas industries

RETAIN:

That extortionate price hikes will still hit businesses, schools, local Councils, and hospitals which are excluded from the price cap and there are still reports that many vital local small businesses like small retailers, pubs and fish and chip shops may be forced to close.

That all of this come at a time when oil and gas companies are making enormous profits off the back of this crisis, giving out billions of pounds to shareholders.

This Council welcomes:

The Labour Party's plan to freeze the household energy price cap, halting a massive hike in energy bills and saving every household in Bury £1,000 this winter, and that this will be paid for by a windfall tax on excess profits from oil and gas companies.

The Labour Party's package of support to help businesses facing spiralling energy costs, including an increase in the Business Rates threshold for small businesses saving high street businesses up to £5,000.

The Labour Party's broader plan for energy sustainability and security as part of a £28 billion Climate Investment Pledge which includes proposals to upgrade energy efficiency in 19 million homes - saving families in Bury an average of over £1,000 a year off their energy bills - double our onshore and offshore wind capacity, triple our solar power production and end the delay on nuclear power.

This Council commits to:

Write to the new Prime Minister urging them to adopt Labour's plans to save households in Bury £1,000 this winter through a windfall tax, start insulating millions of homes to save households money in future years and address our long-term energy needs through investment in sustainable, renewable energy.

Include in the letter our concerns about the rising cost of energy for public services, including schools, hospitals and local authorities – as well as local businesses – who are not subject to a cap.

Continue to do all we can as a local authority, through our new Anti-Poverty Strategy, to support those residents most in need through the cost-of-living crisis, with £2.5 million targeted support this year for households in Bury.

On being put with 24 Members voting for and 12 against and 8 including the Mayor abstaining the motion was declared carried

C. 22 *FOR INFORMATION*** COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER**

For information

C. 23 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no scrutiny reports or specific items called in.

C. 24 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no questions on the work of the outside partnerships.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Notes: The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 10pm)