

**A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD
WAS HELD ON 20 JULY 2021**

Councillors Burgess, Chegwyn, Mrs Hook, Hylands, Philpott, Raffaelli and Westerby
(Substituting for Pepper)

62. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Due to ongoing concerns regarding Covid 19 Group Leaders agreed to reduce the number of Members in attendance to 7, 4 Conservative and 3 Liberal Democrat.

Apologies were received from Councillor Pepper who was substituted by Councillor Mrs Westerby.

63. ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Raffaelli be elected as Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2021/22

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Hook declared a personal interest in item 10 as she is a representative on the Building Partnership.

65. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 24 MARCH 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 be signed as a true and correct record.

66. DEPUTATIONS - STANDING ORDER 3.4

There were none

67. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - STANDING ORDER 3.5

There were none

**68. CROSS REFERENCE FROM THE COMMUNITY BOARD -RISK UNDERWRITING
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEME AT
ALVERSTOKE**

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Streetscene setting out the background information for the risk underwriting required by the Council as part of responsible project management of the contract of the Construction works.

RESOLVED: That the Board gave formal support of the risk underwriting by the Council for costs in excess of the current approved funding, allocated to the Council by the Environment Agency and other contributors for the scheme.

69. CROSS REFERENCE FROM THE COMMUNITY BOARD - ADDITIONAL REFUSE COLLECTION ROUND

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Streetscene seeking approval for an additional collection round and associated increase in budget costs.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved an additional waste collection round for Gosport and Lee-on-the-Solent as a result of operational requirements detailed in option 1 of the report.

70. CROSS REFERENCE FROM COMMUNITY BOARD - STOKES BAY SPLASH PARK

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Streetscene seeking approval for a further £155,000 in addition to the £275,000 funding already approved as part of the 2021/2022 Gosport Borough Council Capital programme to refurbish and upgrade the Stokes Bay Splash Park.

In answer to a Members question Officers agreed to provide further figures regarding the costs to date of build and maintenance of the Splash Park and to confirm its age.

Members agreed that the Splash Parks are very popular and well attended when working, but were concerned how often they broke down.

Members hoped that this expenditure would be a final investment and would resolve the issues and failings once and for all.

Members were advised that the expenditure included a complete new build for the plant room and improvements to Health & Safety requirements in regard to COSHH.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved that an additional £155,000 funding be allocated for an enhanced refurbishment and upgrade of the Stokes Bay Splash Park

71. UPDATED BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Building Control Partnership seeking Board approval for improvements to the working practices of the Building Control Partnership set out in the report,, and asking for delegated authority to be provided to the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor and Head of Building Control Partnership, to make the necessary amendments to, and formally complete an updated Deed of Delegation and Memorandum of Understanding for the joint provision of Building Control services with other partner authorities.

Members agreed that this was the most successful Partnership to date.

Officers advised that introducing a new agreement documenting financial system better reflected what Gosports contribution should be and created a year end saving of approximately £70k.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved improvements to the working practices of the Building Control Partnership set out in the report, and provided delegated authority to the Assistant Chief Executive, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor and Head of Building Control Partnership, to make the necessary amendments to, and formally complete an updated Deed of Delegation and Memorandum of Understanding for the joint provision of Building Control services with other partner authorities.

72. RECORDING OF QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a report by the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, regarding the minuting of members Questions under Standing Order 4.8 of the Council's Standing Orders and any supplementary questions and the verbal responses to the supplementary question.

Members agreed that the introduction of Teams had created a trend for full recording of meetings and a more open government which constituents welcomed.

Members felt that a move towards routinely recording all meetings in the Chamber would be a correct one and it shouldn't be difficult given the technology available.

Members agreed that if the recording of meetings was introduced then time limits for questions and answers, akin to those in place at County meetings, would have to be agreed. Questions would also be taken in the way they are tabled and Group Leaders would discuss how to deal with "hogging".

The Borough Solicitor advised that this would require a change to the Constitution.

A proposal was put forward and seconded.

That it is agreed that any responses to Members Questions under Standing Order 4.8 plus any supplementary questions and the responses be minuted.

A vote was taken and lost.

A second proposal was put forward and seconded.

That it is agreed that that any responses to Members Questions under Standing Order 4.8 be minuted, and that supplementary questions and responses are minuted as having been asked and answered.

A vote was carried.

RESOLVED: That the Board agree that Members Questions and responses should be minuted in full, and any supplementary questions and the responses should be acknowledged as having been asked and answered.

73. MAY 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS - POST ELECTION STATISTICS

Consideration was given to a report by the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer advising the Board of the steps that were taken to deliver triple elections held on Thursday 6th May 2021, and to provide an update on upcoming legislative changes within Electoral Registration and elections.

The Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer advised members that in regard to paragraph 3.7 the Election Bill has now been published and is available on the parliamentary website. He also advised that information regarding the problems experienced during the 2021 elections would be circulated in the form of a MIB by the end of the week.

Members wished to congratulate and give thanks to the RO and his team for how well the election was delivered considering the challenges and issues that arose.

In answer to a Members question regarding the timetabling of the May 2022 all out Borough elections, the RO explained that the complexities of two votes per ballot paper, requires additional stages in the count processes, and that is why the current proposal is to hold the verification immediately following the close of polling stations, and the count on the following day. This would only be the process for 2022 and would revert back to overnight counts for the subsequent elections and polls.

Members were advised that the verification and count for the 2022 Borough elections would take place at the Leisure Centre. This location provided facilities for the media, and allowed the RO to oversee all proceedings unlike the Town Hall where multiple rooms were used due to space constraints.

Members thanked the RO for a good report and asked for additional figures on the two postal vote issues which the RO agreed to add to the MIB.

The RO reported that he had received positive feedback on how the structured timetable for the postal vote openings and the verifications and counts for the May 2021 elections had helped to minimise waiting around, and movement around the hall.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted:

1. The steps and statistics contained within the report with regard to the delivery of the May 2021 elections within Gosport
2. The timetabling and scheduling that was required to deliver the elections in a Covid-19 secure environment was likely to be implemented at the 2022 Polls.
3. The proposed and upcoming changes to legislation impacting on the delivery of elections/Polls and the delivery of Electoral Registration services within the Borough.

74. ANY OTHER ITEMS

There were none

75. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in relation to the following items the public should be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the cases, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

76. CCTV FUTURE OPERATING MODEL

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Community Safety seeking a decision with regard to the future operating model for Gosport Borough Councils Public Open Space CCTV, and to approve any associated contract extension requirements.

RESOLVED:

That the Board

- i. Approved option 3 as the future operating model
- ii. Agreed any necessary contract extension

77. ALVERBANK HOTEL

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Finance asking the Board to write off the bad debt detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved the write off of the bad debt.

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 7.11 pm