

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD ON 22 MARCH 2022 AT 6.00 pm**

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Hook ) (in the Chair)

Councillors Hook, Ms Ballard, Bateman, Beavis, Blackman, Burgess, Carter, Chegwyn, Mrs Cully, Earle, Mrs Furlong, Hammond, Herridge, Mrs Hook, Mrs Huggins, Hutchison, Hylands, Jessop, Johnston, Mrs Jones, Miss Kelly, Meenaghan, Mitchell, Mrs Morgan, Murphy, Pepper, Philpott, Raffaelli, Scard and Westerby

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**TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FROM MEMBERS FOR THEIR INABILITY TO ATTEND THE MEETING**

Apologies for non attendance were received from Councillor Casey and Councillor Bradley and Honorary Freeman O'Neill.

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**TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2022 (COPY HEREWITH)**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 be signed as a true and correct record.

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**TO CONSIDER ANY MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor advised that the fundraising ball had raised £1500 for the Mayor's Charities.

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**TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO 3.4 AND TO ANSWER PUBLIC QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO 3.5, SUCH QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED ORALLY DURING A TIME NOT EXCEEDING 15 MINUTES**

There were none.

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**QUESTIONS (IF ANY) PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO 3.3**

A Question in the name of Councillor Kelly to the Chairman of the Community Board.

Question:

Would there be any solution to the menace of urban badgers and foxes without having to result in a cull of these creatures?

Answer:

There are solutions without having to undertake a cull with slightly different requirements for Badgers and Foxes:

### Badgers

Lawful methods of dealing with nuisance badgers without culling are;

- Excluding badgers from a sett
- Excluding badgers from an area of land.

However, to exclude badgers from a sett, a licence to interfere with a sett is required from Nature England which also requires a survey and appropriate mitigation methods. A licence is usually only granted where subsidence of buildings, paths and roads is occurring. There is further difficulty with this methodology in Gosport as there is such a high density population of badgers that it is essentially moving the problem from one place to another and there may be no suitable mitigation available for any given location. Badgers may also regain access to the original site again unless a badger proof fence is erected to exclude them from the area concerned which could be a costly exercise depending on the size of the area. There is no licence required to exclude badgers from an area of land by installing a badger proof fence however, it is now documented that badgers are capable of climbing fences so a reasonably high fence would be required.

### Foxes

There is no requirement to obtain a licence from Natural England to deal with foxes and they can also be dealt with by excluding them from their den or an area of land. This should be undertaken at a time when there are no cubs for obvious animal welfare reasons.

It is worth noting that badgers and foxes benefit from residents feeding them and the populations would naturally diminish to a more manageable level if all such feeding stopped and they were forced to survive on more natural foraging activities.

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## **CONSIDERATIONS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARDS OF THE COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to a report from the Policy and Organisation Board on the 17 March 2022.

RESOLVED: That the amended versions of the Code of Conduct for Members and Arrangements for Dealing with Allegations of Breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members be approved and that the necessary amendments be made to the constitution.

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## **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING PART II MINUTES OF THE BOARDS OF THE COUNCIL**

COUNCIL RESOLVED That the following Part II Minutes be received:

Community Board	8 March 2022
Climate Change Board	9 March 2022
Housing Board	10 March 2022
Economic Development Board	9 February 2022
Economic Development Board	16 March 2022
Policy and Organisation Board	17 March 2022

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### **QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer consider an amendment to the Council's standing orders in relation to the time allowed for Questions at Council meetings.

RESOLVED: Council agrees to an amendment to Council Standing Orders by the addition of new standing orders as set out in the Appendix to this report.

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### **INVESTMENT STRATEGY REPORT 2022/23**

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer seeking approval by Full Council of an Investment Strategy is a requirement of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Prudential Code), and the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes (Treasury Management Code) which were updated in December 2017.

RESOLVED: That the Investment Strategy be approved.

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### **CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT 2022/23**

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer seeking approval by full Council of the Capital Strategy is requirement of the Prudential code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Prudential Code), and the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes (Treasury Management Code) which were updated in December 2017.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 be approved.

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### **ANY OTHER ITEMS**

The Council paid tribute to Honorary Alderman Hayward, and those Members that were standing down, Councillors Hook, Bateman, Carter and Foster-Reed.

The Meeting concluded at 7.05 pm

The Mayor.