

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD ON 20 JULY 2022 AT 6.00 pm**

Attendance:

The Mayor ( Councillor Hutchison) (in the Chair)

Councillors Ms Ballard, Beavis, Bradley, Burgess, Casey, Chegwyn, Mrs Cully, Earle, Hammond, Herridge, Mrs Huggins, Hutchison, Hylands, Jessop, Johnston, Miss Kelly, Mrs Morgan, Pepper, Philpott, Raffaelli, Scard, Durrant, Gledhill, Marshall, Maynard, Bradley and Cox

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**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non attendance were received from Councillor Westerby and Honorary Alderman Foster.

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ballard advised that she had previously worked within the homelessness sector at Two Saints but no longer did.

Councillor Hylands advised that with regard to the Assets of Community Value it be noted that he was a Landlord.

Councillor Philpott advised that he had been Chairman of the Select Committee with regard to the Local Transport Plan.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 18 MAY 2022, 19 MAY 2022 AND THE  
EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS HELD ON 9 JUNE 2022 AND 22 JUNE 2022.**

That the minutes of the meetings held on 18 May, 19 May, 9 June, 22 June 2022.

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**MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION**

The Mayor advised that they had attended both the Scout District Camp where 1% of the population of the Borough had been on site and the Cats Protection team who were one of the largest in the country.

He had seen the brilliant work of the Police Cadets and was seeing wonderful aspects of the community.

He advised ward Councillors to recognise those people doing wonderful things for the Borough and encouraged them to invite them into the parlour to meet with him.

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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 Hammond to the Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board

With reference to events planned on Council land at Lee-on-the-Solent next month, are the organisers of the events, Jonathan Moore and Monserrat Events Limited, being charged the full commercial rate for the hire of Council land?

The Chairman of the Policy and Organisation advised that Mr Moore and Monserrat Events would be being charged in full for the hire of land for the events and that the final amount was still being calculated.

The Council was advised that the current hire charges had been put in place approximately 12 years ago, with an amendment in 2018 to remove the 'Not for Profit' hire rate.

The Council was advised that the fee for the fun fair had been set at £625 per day, based on the predicted attendees and that clarification would be sought as to whether the event was predicted to have above or below 2500 attendees and that further information would be presented to Members once the full fees were known.

It was recognised that Mr Moore ran successful events and that the appropriate commercial rate should be paid as per the fees and charges of the Council.

Councillor Hammond was invited to ask a supplementary question as follows:

If Mr Moore applied for the appropriate land hire under the auspices of a charity or organisation such as Lee Business Association or Lee Residents Association would the event then be entitled to pay less in the way of hire charges?

The Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board advised that it was difficult to predict the amount of attendees at such an event, but that the appropriate licences should be applied for and would detail anticipated attendance numbers.

The Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board advised that clarity would be sought from the Borough Solicitor as to which licences existed for the event and for how many people and advised that if the event was subsequently applied for under another organisation such as Lee Residents Association or Lee Business Association then commercial rates would still be applicable.

Any bookings advertised as charitable and seeking to book as such would need to provide accounts and documentation to prove their status.

The booking of land for commercial and charity events was welcomed and would be supported and it was recognised that previous events had been successful, however, there were appropriate fees and charges for such hire that would need to be paid.

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

The PART II Minutes of the following Boards were presented and accepted by the Council.

Community and Environment Board – 29 June 2022

Housing Board – 6 July 2022

Policy and Organisation Board – 30 May 2022

Policy and Organisation Board – 13 July 2022

The Council requested that it be placed on record thanks for the Housing team in the work they had undertaken.

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**INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer detailing the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, following their reconvention after the reduction in the size of the Council from 34 to 28 Members.

An amendment to the proposals of the Independent Remuneration Panel was proposed and seconded as follows:

Amendment to Recommendation on Item 8:

Add at end of a:

Subject to the amendments detailed below in respect of clauses 4.b, 4.c & 4.d

Amend clause 4.b to read:

Chair of Service boards, and Regulatory board: £5000

Amend clause 4.c to read:

Chair of Standards and Audit sub board: £2500

Amend clause 4.d to read:

Deputy leader of the council and vice-chair of the Policy & Organisation Board: £5,000

Vice-chairs of Service boards and Regulatory board: £2,500

Vice-chair of the Standards and Audit sub-board: £1,250

Delete clause 5

Add a new c at end:

Council notes that thanks to the reduction in the number of councillors from 34 to 28, the decision not to back-date new allowances, and the decision of the New council administration to reduce the number of service boards thereby Saving £14520.09 in special responsibility allowances paid to board chairs, The new liberal democrat administration will be saving council taxpayers over £32,000 in Councillor allowances in the 2022/23 financial year compared to the Sum spent by the former Conservative administration in 2021/22.

It was requested and granted that the meeting be adjourned to allow time to consider the proposed amendment.

**The meeting adjourned at 18:29 and reconvened at 18:39.**

The Leader of the Council advised that he was grateful for the work of the panel and acknowledged that there had been a lot of voluntary time and commitment to undertaking the review.

It was acknowledged that the report was independent and that the Council was permitted to amend recommendations should it wish to.

The Leader of the Council advised that there was additional work for Councillors since the reduction in the number of elected Members and that the uplift proposed reflected this. The £250 per annum, equated to less than £5 a week, which was taxable.

The proposed allowance for the Chairs of the Service Boards and the Group Leaders was not proposed to be changed and the reduction in the number of Boards would equate to a saving compared to what had previously been spent.

The Leader felt that the Vice Chairmen should receive an allowance for their role as they were required to deputise and attend meetings and that the proposed amendment ensured that those undertaking the work were compensated for doing so.

A Member advised that the proposed savings were in large the result of the reduction in the number of elected Members as dictated by the Boundary Commission, not as a result of the proposed amendments to the Independent Remuneration Panel's report and that the proposed amendments would reduce the saving published in the Budget from £40,000 to £30,000 as a result of the additional payments to Vice Chairman.

Some Members felt that the claim that the proposal would save the taxpayer money was misleading and inappropriate and that the reduction in the number of Boards, and the reduction in number of seats was regrettable and that the time given to consider the proposed amendment and the report had not been sufficient.

Members advised that the percentage increase to some Councillors was significantly more than being received in the public sector pay award many of which were struggling with the cost of living increase and as a result, some Members indicated that they would not be accepting the proposed uplift in allowance.

A Member advised that they wished to know who had been interviewed by the panel and reiterated their complaint about the lateness of the report.

A Member advised the Council that the papers had been available online for 5 days and that amendments to a report would usually be tabled at the meeting.

A Member suggest that the Council needed to consider the Nolan Principles within their debate and proposal and reminded the Council that an element of the work undertaken by Councillors was voluntary.

It was acknowledged that the rates of allowance paid to Gosport Councillors were less than those in other Local Authorities.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it was requested that the vote be a named vote.

The vote was as follows:

**FOR the amendment.**

Councillors Ballard, M Bradley, K Bradley, Chegwyn, Cox, Cully, Durrant, Earle, Hammond, Herridge, Hylands, Johnston, Kelly, Marshall, Maynard, Pepper, The Mayor.

**AGAINST the amendment.**

Councillors Beavis, Burgess, Casey, Gledhill, Huggins, Jessop, Morgan, Philpott, Raffaelli, Scard,

The motion was therefore CARRIED.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion and it was requested that a recorded vote be taken as follows:

**FOR the substantive motion**

Councillors Ballard, M Bradley, K Bradley, Chegwyn, Cox, Cully, Durrant, Earle, Hammond, Herridge, Hylands, Johnston, Kelly, Marshall, Maynard, Pepper, The Mayor.

**AGAINST the substantive motion.**

Councillors Beavis, Burgess, Casey, Gledhill, Huggins, Jessop, Morgan, Philpott, Raffaelli, Scard,

The substantive motion was therefore CARRIED.

The Meeting concluded at 7.22 pm

The Mayor.