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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10 MAY 2023 AT 6.00 pm

Attendance:

The Mayor (Pepper) (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, Scard, Westerby, Durrant, Gledhill, Marshall, Maynard, Bradley and Cox

Also in attendance:

APOLOGIES FOR NON ATTENDANCE

An apology for non attendance was received from Councillor Raffaelli.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor thanked those that had attended Mayor Making and thanked the staff that had attended the fire in Somerset Court.

MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2023 be signed as a true and correct record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

DEPUTATIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

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

There were no public questions

A question in the name of Councillor Scard to the Leader of the Council

Can the Chairman please give an update on the condition of Stoke Lake, which is covered in [algae](#) at the moment. The sluice gate under Jackie Spencer's bridge not being in working order means that flushing of the lake cannot be achieved.

Answer: There are issues with the weir that have been inherited following a lack of maintenance over the years, this had led to the lack of flow in the water, and the fish dying and there was a risk that this could happen again.

A report had been undertaken on the sluice gate and it was established that it couldn't be opened which was leading to an adverse impact on the environment downstream and the wildlife as a result.

The Environment Agency would not invest and there were currently investigations being undertaken into sources of funding to invest and improve.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Richard Earle be Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2023/24.

COMPOSITION AND REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL BOARDS AND SUB BOARDS AND DETERMINATION OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer detailing the composition and review of the Council's Boards Sub-Boards and determination of allocation of seats as per the addendum

An amendment was proposed to the composition of the of the Boards as follows.

Policy and Organisation Board

Liberal Democrat 3 Conservative 1 Labour 1

Community Board

Liberal Democrat 3 Conservative 2

Some Members felt that this was not a fair representation of proportionality and was appropriate for the make up of Boards presented.

A vote was taken on the amendment and subsequently carried.

Some Members felt that the proportionality of the sub-boards was also not reflective of the makeup of the Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Community and Environment Board, Housing Board, Policy and Organisation Board, and Regulatory Board comprise of 7 members; and the Licensing Sub-Board remain comprised of 3 members; and the Licensing (General Applications) Sub-Board remain comprised of 5 members. The Standards and Audit Sub-Board and the Grants Sub-Board will remain comprised of 5 members.
2. The allocation of seats on the Boards and Committee as set out as per the in paragraph 3.2 and the agreed amendment on the allocations to the Policy and Organisation and Community and Environment Board.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD

It was proposed, seconded and subsequently agreed that Councillor Chegwyn be elected as the Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Chegwyn be elected Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board.

APPOINTMENT OF THE BOARDS, SUB BOARDS, NOMINATED DEPUTIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: That the Boards, Sub-Boards, Outside Bodies and Champions be appointed as per the blue sheets, as amended at the Council meeting.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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 Paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That in relation to the following item the public 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 case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

ANY OTHER ITEMS

Consideration was given to the urgent report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration and the Assistant Chief Executive updating Members on required changes to the Community Skips Scheme following a trial period.

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that the following item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created as the next Council meeting did not take place until July, which would delay the scheme.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the continuation and funding of the community skip scheme as detailed within the report and approves the direct award of a revised contract to T.J. Waste as a “waiver” to the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs). The contract to consist of a 6 month term with the option to extend for a further 6 month period.

The Meeting concluded at 7.15 pm

The Mayor.