
COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Wednesday, 30 March 2022 from 7.00 pm - 9.08 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Mike Baldock, Cameron Beart, Monique Bonney, Lloyd Bowen, Derek Carnell, Simon Clark, Richard Darby, Steve Davey, Mike Dendor, Tim Gibson, Alastair Gould, James Hall, Ann Hampshire, Nicholas Hampshire, Angela Harrison, Alan Horton, Ken Ingleton, Carole Jackson, Denise Knights, Peter Marchington, Ben J Martin, Lee McCall, Pete Neal, Padmini Nissanga, Richard Palmer, Hannah Perkin, Ken Rowles, Julian Saunders, David Simmons, Paul Stephen (Mayor), Sarah Stephen, Bill Tatton, Eddie Thomas, Roger Truelove, Tim Valentine, Ghlin Whelan, Mike Whiting, Tony Winckless and Corrie Woodford.

PRESENT (Virtually): Councillors Roger Clark and Elliott Jayes.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Philippa Davies, Jo Millard and Larissa Reed.

OFFICERS PRESENT (Virtually): David Clifford, Lisa Fillery, Robin Harris, Joanne Johnson and Emma Wiggins.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Simon Fowle, James Hunt, Peter MacDonald and Ken Pugh.

732 Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 February 2022 (Minute Nos. 611 - 629) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

733 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

734 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor gave a summary of events he had attended since the last Full Council meeting in February 2022. He said he had attended two events at the media centre, one to mark the start of the BBC 100 year Anniversary and the second to award prizes to local school children on behalf of Swale in Bloom for their flowerbed design for a local roundabout, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Other events the Mayor had attended included an art exhibition at Bluewater Shopping Centre, Greenhithe which displayed paintings drawn by inmates of Isle of Sheppey prisons, an International Women's Day event at Diversity House, Sittingbourne at which the Mayoress spoke about her role as a Swale midwife, a tour of the Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham and the Faversham Brewery Ball.

Finally, the Mayor said he attended the launch of the Kent Wheels of Time which linked all Kent museums and heritage hubs of which Swale was the largest contributor to take part, with the most museums and heritage sites in Kent.

735 Leader's Statement

The Leader read out the following statement to Members:

“Whilst we have an extraordinary meeting on 27th April, this is the last Full Council meeting of the Strong Leader and Cabinet era on this Council, at least for some time.

We have opted democratically to be a committee led Council and whilst that will involve challenge and adaptability, we owe it to the Council and our residents to make it work. We should be encouraged by the degree of public support for this change, including very emphatically former Councillors who went through the change to the Cabinet system.

Who knows what new crises may yet occur, but it is clear that we, along, with the whole of local government are going to find the next period of time very hard.

Local Government has been under-funded for far too long and unless this is reversed, we will have to find radical ways to manage financially. If the government funds little more than statutory services, then the role of local government is going to be profoundly restricted. We are in danger of being a centralised state with less and less local empowerment. This is utterly the wrong direction. The Covid crisis showed exactly how able and adaptable lower tier Councils are, and Swale was a sterling example.

Swale has been able to expand its role over the last few years by the use of one-off funds, and I will be providing a statement on these at the final Cabinet meeting on 13th April. But these funds are finite and all the indications are that improvements to the borough in future may depend on successful bids for government funding, such as our levelling up bid, or how we stand with the government on their link between devolution, infrastructure and county deals.

The last three years of this Council has seen movement in several directions: the constitutional changes, the determination to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, the enhanced links with the voluntary sector, the climate change initiatives and the improvements to our public realm with a sense of our heritage. None of this is work completed and I hope we will see continuity into the committee period, over the next year and beyond.

If I can be personal, I have had three overall priorities.

Firstly, to ensure this council has a sense of stability both in its administrative management and in its finances. We were in a difficult place at first without a Chief Executive and without a very convincing structure to our senior management.

Secondly, I believed there were resources available, and had been for a long time, that could be utilised to the benefit of our local communities. I have referred to the one-off funding earlier, which has in total enhanced our public facilities, our open spaces, including play areas, made visiting Swale a more comfortable experience, improved our town centres and given support to others in our community that are a vital glue in our borough.

And thirdly, I have wanted Swale to be a kind Council, providing backing to disadvantaged groups, to foodbanks, children’s centres, and as indicated tackling homelessness with improved resources.

Along with this, for much of the first 18 months my own personal concentration, was taken up with ensuring that the Spirit of Sittingbourne project that we inherited would be delivered in a way that protected Council interests and delivered something valuable to our

residents. I believe a decisive part of that was ending the partnership with developers and recovering land that had been offered a way in the deal.

So, we enter a new stage, and a change in the way we are led. The leader will still need to represent the Council to the outside world and to keep an overall strategic view of the Council's progress. But the level of decision making will be different.

So, the next year will also be a learning period for both the leader and other lead members, who were previously cabinet members. We cannot know the outcome of the 2023 elections, but as far as possible it would be productive for the leader over the next 12 months to be around after those elections.

Which brings me to the point. I have been a Swale Councillor for 28 years. I was very doubtful about being a candidate in 2019 and I long ago decided I would not stand in 2023.

I believe it will be in the best interest of this Council, for someone else to take up the new leadership role for the next 12 months. I will be standing down as Leader but I will continue to play a part for the next year. I will continue to lead until the meeting of 27th April, when Council will elect a new leader. The Cabinet will continue until Annual Council on 18th May.

In the Cabinet, and in the opposition, there are a number of people who have the talent and commitment to take Swale forward over the next few years. I think I have been enormously lucky to have had the backing of the Cabinet over the last three years, and the talent and commitment in that Cabinet. Some said the Coalition wouldn't last. It has, because the will has been there, and because its members have shown great determination to make it succeed.

And just as I have been lucky with my Cabinet colleagues, I would like to acknowledge the courteous nature of the leader of the opposition but most of all to thank senior officers for their work and forbearance.

I'd like to propose that this Council donates £5k to the Disasters Emergency Committee to relieve the situation in Ukraine.

Thank you Mr Mayor."

The Leader of the main opposition group thanked the Leader for his statement and seconded the proposal to donate to the Ukraine Relief Fund. Turning to the announcement that the Leader was stepping down, the Leader of the main opposition group acknowledged how much he had learnt from the Leader when they were both ward members for Homewood ward. He said there was little difference in being a Conservative or Labour councillor when the focus was the community and he thanked the Leader, offering his very best wishes for the future.

The Leader of the main opposition group referred to the recent sacking of staff by P & O Ferries and said he was ashamed by their decision. He said he respected the rights of unions and hoped they would act to support those who were shamefully treated by P&O Ferries.

The Mayor invited other Members to respond. Several Members spoke of their positive working relationship with the Leader, despite being part of other political groups. Comments made included:

- It had been an honour to work as a Cabinet Member alongside the Leader;

- acknowledged the Leader's role in setting-up and developing the Environment Committee in the 1990's;
- the coalition had been lucky to work under the Leader;
- the Leader had been a magnificent ambassador;
- the Leader had brought political parties together and stuck to goals;
- highlighted the difficult issues the Leader had led the Council through such as, the Covid-19 pandemic and lack of management structure, whilst keeping the finances of the Council stable;
- the Leader was always respectful, especially to opposition, and treated others as he would wish to be treated;
- the Leader was highly respected and had integrity; and
- the Leader had instilled confidence.

In response, the Leader thanked Members. He said that all five party coalition leaders had shown leadership responsibilities and in listing each Cabinet Portfolio holder, said they worked well as a team. He said the coalition had worked better than anticipated due to collective good work. In responding to a Member highlighting the promotion of Sheppey United that week, the Leader acknowledged their success.

736 **Questions submitted by the Public**

The Mayor advised that one question had been received from a member of the public. Mr Collins was unable to read out his question and the Mayor did so on his behalf:

Questions 1 – Mr Collins

Swale can lead the way among statutory authorities in the transformation of local infrastructure and economy which the climate emergency demands. The challenge to achieve maximum sustainability presents many opportunities for employment at all levels. What is the Council doing to promote training to equip the local workforce with the requisite motivation and skills?

Response – Cabinet Member for Economy and Property

The Council has adopted a leadership role locally, in declaring a climate and ecological emergency in 2019. Alongside this is a Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan was adopted in 2020 and sets out a broad range of actions, against which progress is being made. This includes the roll-out of Carbon Literacy training for the Council's own workforce, which seeks to deepen understanding of both the issues and the opportunities for individuals to consider how they can contribute to meeting the challenges, both personally and through their work programmes.

Whilst wider responsibility and funding for learning and skills rests with KCC and other institutions, the Council has nonetheless placed great importance on promoting improved access, attainment and progression, encouraging learning providers to help address what are significant and fundamental skills gaps in the resident population. We also work with partners to encourage employers to invest in workforce development and directly promote opportunities for business to make their operations more sustainable.

Continuing to raise awareness amongst employers, improving links between them and learning providers and the new business opportunities associated with addressing climate change all help motivate investment in the skills that will be needed - but inevitably more could be done. The Council will continue to play its role, working with employers and providers and new funding opportunities, such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, may

also give district councils the ability to more directly influence local learning provision and support employee skills for the future.

737 **Questions submitted by Members**

The Mayor advised that one question had been submitted by Members and he invited Councillor Steve Davey to ask his question.

Question 1 – Councillor Steve Davey

Please can the Cabinet Member advise on the correct procedure, protocols, criteria, and data gathering methods required and their method of presentation in order that the CCTV cameras can be re-installed in Milton High Street?

Response – Cabinet Member for Community

Swale Borough Council will consider the introduction of additional CCTV, in consultation with Kent Police. In order to ensure that there is evidence of a legitimate aim and need, the Council consider:

The type of issue being encountered in a specified area:

The volume of incidents reported to Kent Police in a 6-month period, including the frequency and victim profile. ***It is Important that people report all incidents to the police via 101 or in emergency situations via the 999/112 system***

How it is felt that CCTV will specifically contribute to resolving the problem and if it will be effective.

In relation to Milton High Street, Kent Police have not highlighted this location as one of concern or a need for CCTV since the cameras there were removed. CCTV would also be considered as a possible action when a problematic location is highlighted to the CSU (Community Safety Unit).

As stated above residents must report all incidents to the police. Ward members play a key role in this and should be stressing to residents the need to report all incidents to the correct authority, reporting incidents via social media does not negate reporting incidents to the police. The ward members could also highlight to the CSU team any problematic locations within their wards.

Supplementary question:

There was no supplementary question.

738 **Motion - Violence against Women and Girls**

In introducing the motion, Councillor Hannah Perkin referred to the amendment proposed by Councillor Lloyd Bowen and seconded by Councillor Oliver Eakin as tabled and published on the Council's website. Councillor Perkin sought Council's agreement to include the amendment as an alteration to her original motion. On being put to the vote, Members agreed.

In proposing the altered motion, Councillor Perkin spoke about the high-profile murders of Sarah Everard and PCSO Julia James, in the summer of 2021 and said that since that

time, a further 125 women had been killed, an average of approximately two per week, as a direct result of violence by men. She said that each year Jess Philipp MP read out in Parliament the names of women that had been killed in the previous year, and the figure had increased by 10 more victims this year than on the previous year. Councillor Perkin said there were 618,000 sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults on woman by men in England and Wales in 2020.

Councillor Perkin said she had carried out a survey of women in Faversham in relation to their safety and highlighted that less than 50% of women said they felt safe in Faversham at night, and she read-out some of the responses from women who had explained how they changed their behaviour to keep themselves safe.

Councillor Perkin thanked Councillors Richard Palmer and Elliott Jayes, along with the Community Safety Unit for the work they had been doing alongside Kent Police. She also thanked Councillor Corrie Woodford for her work on the motion and thanked the Economy and Community Services Manager, and SATEDA.

Councillor Perkin recognised that men and boys could also be subject to violence and also deserved access to services to assist. She offered her support to any Councillor that brought a motion to the Council that highlighted this subject.

Councillor Perkin quoted her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary Zoe Billingham, who last year highlighted the serious issue of violence against women and girls and said that urgent action to address the issue was necessary with all agencies working together.

In seconding the motion Councillor Woodford spoke of her experiences as a teacher, in supporting students at schools. She gave national statistics of the number of girls that had experienced unwanted sexual touching and harassment in schools and detailed that 600 rapes in schools had been reported to Police between 2012 and 2016. Councillor Woodford gave further statistics of pupils and young women who had received inappropriate content and threats online. She referred to the Department of Education's Ofsted report on sexual abuse in schools and colleges in 2021, which found that almost all girls in schools had experienced at least one form of abuse, and she spoke about the report's findings on how prevalent online abuse was in young people.

Councillor Woodford said that violence against women and girls was part of what was stopping women achieving equality and forced them into making choices about what was and was not safe for them to do. Finally, she said that working together was key, beginning with working with schools.

Councillor Alan Horton sought agreement from Council for his amendment to be withdrawn. On being put to the vote, Members agreed.

In the debate that followed, Members raised points including:

- Explanation on the reasons for the amendment, stressed how powerful words were in both a positive and negative way, and supported the transparent, clear and understandable motion in its amended form;
- the motion allowed Swale Borough Council (SBC) to stand-up for this and other causes where appropriate;
- the motion reaffirmed SBC's support for the White Ribbon Campaign;
- praised Councillors Perkin and Woodford for the motion and for working together with other groups in agreeing the amendment;

- referred to the contents of the Ofsted report and the safeguarding changes due in September 2022 and the seriousness of the issues;
- to do nothing when witnessing violent behaviour was to condone;
- full support for motion and, should have come to Council sooner;
- violence against women and girls was unacceptable in any form;
- Members should challenge unacceptable behaviour;
- there needed to be a cultural change from a young age; and
- Members should carry-out their own due diligence on organisations and act if safeguarding and protection was not appropriate.

In summing-up, Councillor Perkin thanked Members for their support and sharing their experiences. She said that the inappropriate behaviour of some youngsters in normalising violence against women and girls was problematic. Councillor Perkin was supportive of the Government's 'Enough' campaign and the 'White Ribbon' campaign. She said that there needed to be a culture change and urged all Members to support the motion.

On being put to the vote, Members unanimously agreed the motion.

Resolved:

(1) That Council notes:

- ***That the murder of Sarah Everard, just over 1 year ago, launched a wave of anger and protests across the country.***
- ***That according to national crime statistics in the UK, on average one woman is killed by a man every three days.***
- ***The ONS reported that in 2020 alone 618,000 women were victims of a sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault by a man.***

Street harassment and violence against women and girls is endemic in the UK:

- ***80% of women of all ages have been sexually harassed in public, with 90% of these women not reporting it as they don't believe it will make a difference***
- ***One in two women are sexually harassed in the workplace***
- ***One in three women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime***
- ***One in five women will be raped in their lifetime***
- ***Two women a week are killed by a current or former partner (this rose to three a week during lockdown), and three women a week take their own lives following domestic abuse.***
- ***Women who report rape have a 3% chance of the report ending in conviction. Most women who survive domestic violence do not receive justice from the criminal justice system.***
- ***That transphobia has become more commonplace under the cover of 'protecting women's spaces'.***
- ***Swale Borough Council, on behalf of the Swale Community Safety Partnership, is a White Ribbon Borough meaning we're committed to leading by example and taking the White Ribbon pledge – to never excuse, commit or remain silent about male violence against women.***

(2) That Council believes:

- ***That transphobia, homophobia, misogyny and all forms of hate crime have no place in modern society.***

- *That male violence against women and girls is part of a broader culture of misogyny in society.*
- *Perpetrators of serious violence usually have a history of inflicting abuse and harassment against other women and girls. Tackling violence against women and girls means dismantling this culture.*
- *The seeds of violent behaviour are often sown at a young age and if the right interventions are not made in time, the problem continues to perpetuate.*

(3) That Council resolves to:

- *condemn violence of any kind against women and children or related to transphobia, homophobia, misogyny and hate crime.*
- *Commends work by the Community safety Unit and Kent Police as they look to the eradication of violence against women and girls.*
- *Commits to the delivery of the Violence Against Women and Girls action plan, that forms part of the Swale Community Safety Plan, delivered jointly with key partner agencies.*
- *Seek to develop work with schools and youth providers to educate and empower girls and young women regarding healthy relationships and safety*
- *Continue to work to ensure appropriate provision is in place for perpetrators of violence against women and girls to seek to change their behaviour*
- *Support Kent Police with delivery of their Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy*
- *Do all we can as a council and in our communities to champion the rights and entitlements of women and girls and to tackle violence against them. This includes continuing to invest in vital services, listening and responding to women and girls about the action we need, and calling out misogyny and sexism wherever we see and hear it.*
- *To support those providing services in Swale to deliver culturally competent services for VAWG which fully serve our diverse population.*
- *To continue to commit to the white ribbon pledge and to promote schemes that aim to educate men through campaigns that empower male “allies”.*
- *Work with our partners in the LGBTQ Community and Stop Hate UK to produce a Transphobia Hate Crime awareness plan*
- *Promote the Police “community voice” platform for reporting concerns*
- *Reaffirm our commitment to the ‘White Ribbon’ campaign.*

(4) That Council ask the Leader to write to the Home Secretary to ask that:

- *There is an urgent Royal Commission into male violence against women*
- *For public sexual harassment to be made a crime, as was originally indicated in the Home Office Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) consultation.*
- *Increase investment in victims’ services including in particular, refuges, mental health services and legal aid support for all victims of male violence.*

739 Motion - Ukraine

In proposing the motion as set-out on the Agenda, Councillor Mike Dendor described his family connection to the Ukraine and his Polish father’s experience escaping to the United Kingdom in 1939, and he drew parallels with the current conflict in Ukraine. He said he was pleased to see that Councils, including SBC and Kent County Council, were already taking steps to digress interest, investments and supplies from Russian companies and that the Government were working towards ending supplies from Russian-sourced energy and seizure of assets. Councillor Dendor also spoke of the work being carried-out by

Government to assist in the safe passage of refugees and referred to war criminals being answerable to their crimes. Finally, he said he was proud of the efforts of organisations and of individuals in opening their arms and hearts to genuine refugees.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Cameron Beart spoke of his personal connection to eastern Europe and his observations of the people and the impact that the outside influence of occupied forces had over the years. He spoke of the determination, strength and perseverance of the Ukraine population and the changes in political views in the Czech Republic.

Councillor Ben J Martin proposed an amendment to the motion as set-out on the Council's website and tabled. He said that whilst he welcomed the motion, there was more action the Council could do. Councillor Martin spoke of the difficulties faced by refugees entering the country and the need to simplify visa forms and protect escape routes. He said that the Council needed to look at where funds were going, and he highlighted that the Kent Pension Fund invested in Russian fuel. Councillor Martin said the amendment added to what action could be taken.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Perkin referred to the 1951 Refugee Convention which the UK had taken the lead on, giving protection to refugees. She said that more than 2million people had been forced to flee Ukraine within the first two weeks of the war. Councillor Perkin said Amnesty International had called for the measures of the Nationalities and Borders Bill currently making its way through Parliament to be abandoned since it 'flew in the face' of the Refugee Convention. She praised the Government for setting-up settlement schemes quickly and for the UK to commit humanitarian resources and work with global partners, to ensure that all those involved in crime under international law were found accountable. Councillor Perkin praised the generous British public for opening their doors to refugees but, said the process needed to be streamlined more rapidly as of the 200,000 that had agreed to house refugees, only 2,700 refugees had currently been housed. Finally, she spoke about the funding raised and support offered by the British public.

Members were invited to debate the amended motion and they raised points including:

- Welcomed the amendment;
- the war was an unprovoked, indefensible invasion of innocent people;
- it was hard to justify not implementing a no-fly zone;
- spoke in support of the amendment;
- welcomed the Prime Minister's statement that even in the event of a ceasefire, sanctions would continue;
- the Council had a role to play, what could be done practically?;
- referred to the issues of Ukrainian families arriving in the UK to join their families but becoming homeless due to lack of accommodation, and hoped the Government would link-up refugees with available accommodation more efficiently;
- spoke of the issues of blocked media and communication to Ukraine and Russia; and
- it was everyone's duty to do what they could and what was right.

Councillor Dendor said the issue was with Putin, not the Russian people. He spoke cautiously and did not support a no-fly zone and said that a better action was to provide Ukrainians with supplies. As proposer of the original motion, he said that whilst he was disappointed in some of the changes, he understood the spirit of the amendment and was happy to support it. On being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously to support the amended motion.

The motion was then put to the vote and Members agreed unanimously to support it.

Resolved:

(1) That Council note that:

Swale Borough Council is immensely troubled by the horrific devastation in Ukraine, and the escalating humanitarian crisis facing the Country as a result of the illegal invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. The attack on Ukraine, a democratic, sovereign nation is an attack on the principles of democracy and the right to self-determination.

(2) In light of (1), and as a way of expressing support for members of our community who are from or who have ties with Ukraine, this Council:

(a) Condemns the unprovoked illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine on the orders of the dictator Putin and his sycophants, and stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and their families and friends, including those within Swale;

(b) Sympathises with those Russians living under an oppressive regime whose only reward for speaking out against Putin is prison and risk of death;

(c) Stands ready to provide support and open our arms to all those affected by this War;

(d) Will work with and support the efforts of our community to provide help and comfort to those in need;

(e) Immediately request a report from the Kent Pension Fund on the investments our Council's Pension Fund currently has in Russian companies. Where these investments still exist, Council calls on the Pension Fund to make immediate arrangements to divest any shares in Russian companies;

(f) Admires the bravery and determination of Ukrainian forces and civilians in defending their nation;

(g) Acknowledges the opposition of many ordinary Russians, both within Russia and in other nations, including the UK, to Putin's aggression, and the risk many have taken to protest against the invasion.

(3) This Council also resolves to:

Ask all Group Leaders sign a joint letter to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary calling on the UK Government to:

(1) Offer sanctuary to Ukrainian people in their hour of need without having to go through the prolonged visa application process;

(2) End our dependence on Russian energy and fast-track the transition to renewable energy sources;

(3) Impose the severest economic, financial, technical and cultural sanctions on the Russian state;

(4) Work to strengthen international efforts to protect civilians and non-combatants, provide humanitarian relief, and help bring perpetrators of crimes under international law to justice;

(5) Press for parties to the conflict to create & respect humanitarian corridors to safe havens, for all civilians to have access to transportation and time to leave, and for international observers to be granted access to monitor their safe passage.

740 Committee System - Revised Constitution Parts 1 and 2

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Constitutional Reform introduced the report which updated Council on the work of the cross-party groups and asked Council to agree new wording for Parts 1 and 2, giving effect to the decision to move to the Committee System in May 2022.

He said that any Constitution was a living document that could be amended, tweaked and improved. He reminded Members that at the Extraordinary Council meeting on 27 April 2022, the whole Constitution would be considered.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Constitutional Reform proposed the recommendations with the following amendments to be added to the recommendations:

At 2.3.6.1 to add “.....and/or working groups”

To allow for further improvements to how Planning Services interact in decision-making: *“that it be delegated to the working group to carry-out further work at 2.8.15.2 (b) and (c) Delegations to the Head of Planning and bring back to consider at the Full Council meeting on 27 April 2022.”*

At 2.2.1.4 “....that the Policy and Resources Committee be given the ability to establish a working group.”

The Leader seconded the recommendations, as amended.

The Leader of the main opposition group congratulated the working group and staff, for their work on re-writing the Constitution which he said was a mammoth task. He said it was important that the Constitution was understood and highlighted that there was a mechanism in place to make further changes if necessary. He requested that any draft documents that needed to be considered were circulated in a timely manner in order to provide feedback.

In the debate that followed, Members made points including:

- Clarification that the document included reference that Policy and Resources had a working group;
- reassured that the final version of the Constitution would be considered at the next Council meeting;
- acknowledged the time and work spent by the working group;
- the working group would review the document throughout the year;
- highlighted a duplication of numbered paragraphs 2.3.6.1;
- sought clarification on whether the Housing and Health Committee could include consideration of Rainbow Homes in their Sub-Committee and suggested that a

- working group was more efficient to allow flexibility of shareholders of Rainbow Homes; and
- clarification on how non-Committee members could call-in decisions under the Committee System and how did the mechanism work?.

In summing up, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Constitutional Reform responded to the points raised. He said that working groups could not make decisions and Rainbow Homes would need the ability to do so but, the working group could look at this again although there were limited options. He said that the working group could look at the call-in of decisions. Finally, he thanked the working group and officers for their input.

Resolved:

- (1) That Council adopts the text at Appendices I and II as Parts 1 and 2 of the updated constitution, to come into effect at Annual Council in May 2022 as amended to include the following:**
- (a) At paragraph 2.3.6.1 to add and/or working groups;**
 - (b) That it be delegated to the working group to carry out further work at paragraph 2.8.15.2 (b) and (c) Delegations to the Head of Planning, and bring back to consider at the Extraordinary Council meeting on 27 April 2022;**
 - (c) At paragraph 2.2.1.4 that the Policy and Resources Committee be given the ability to establish a working group.**

741 **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned from 8.35pm to 8.45pm.

Chairman

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All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel