



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 18th JULY 2023

PRESENT: Councillors C Adams, C Bain, L Bone, R Claymore, T Clements, L Clarke, G Coates, A Cooper, C Dean, S Doyle, J Harper, T Jay, J Jones, D Maycock, B Price, R Pritchard, S Smith, M Summers, P Thompson, P Turner, J Wade, J Wadrup and L Wood

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Nicola Hesketh (Monitoring Officer) and Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager)

25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Bailey, B Clarke, S Daniels, D Cook, R Kingstone, J Oates, P Thurgood

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

27 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor made the following announcement

My very first Mayoral charity event was held last week, tail end of last week, and it was a Motown Disco at Bolehall Manor Club and it raised £300 which is now lodged into the Mayoral Charity and has given us a brilliant kick-off, I must put on record my thanks to the organiser Lee Smart who did a fantastic job and to Andy the Manager at Bolehall Manor who gave the venue free of charge and enabled us to get off to that sparkling start. So thank you to them. If anyone has any events or money raising things that they can think of that they would like to add to the Mayoral Charity I will ask Tracey again if she could to put on, to send out an email detailing the bank details to which any funds could be deposited into the Mayoral Charity. It would be fantastic if anybody could come up with some good ideas that would give that a good boost.

The Chief Executive made the following announcement

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, yes, I do have an announcement, probably quite a life changing one for me, today I've formally given notice to The Leader of the Council of my intention to retire as of 31st March next year, I think getting to 60 is about the right time to go for me personally. Lots of good things have happened in my tenure at Tamworth and I've been here about 20 years now. It's still a great place and I've still got a passion for it and I haven't gone yet but I'm giving members plenty of time to choose a successor and you know I really believe in the place and we're going far so yes thanks Mr. Mayor.

The Leader Councillor P Turner made the following announcement

Thank you I'd just like to say that on behalf of all of us Andrew we'd like to thank you sincerely for your service, I know you've not gone yet, and your continued support for the next few months until you do decide to sail off to the Isle of Wight or wherever you're going, so on behalf of all of us I think we'll all agree you've been a great servant to Tamworth and we thank you so much.

The Leader of the Opposition Councillor C Dean made the following announcement.

Thank Mr. Mayor – I'm quite surprised Mr. Barratt I'm really it'll be a shame because with my new group we're all just getting used to we're so thankful for the support you and your Team have given so you will be sadly missed, really missed but I hope you will enjoy the next few months, and my team don't make it too much of a struggle for you before you go.

Councillor R Pritchard made the following announcement Thank you Mr Mayor can I just add my thanks to that of everybody else to Andy Barratt and having worked with you for those 20 years you are very much a can-do officer, I remember many times over the years I'd come for a meeting with you and you'd say Rob you've got a problem with this but I've already solved it so can you sign this piece of paper to make sure it was legal. You have always been that sort of officer, a credit to the town you know when there was a problem you dealt with it you have always kept the members informed and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with you so most definitely retirement's gain is Tamworth's loss.

Councillor T Clements made the following announcement - thank you Mr. Mayor, Councillor Pritchard has kind of stole my thunder as he's the longest serving Councillor left here now, I'm slowly behind him. Andrew I just want to say your door has always been open, you're passion for Tamworth shone through right from when I've known you for the past 13 years, I can't go back 20 years but I'm not quite that old yet. But I want to thank you for the support that you've given myself when you came as Chief Executive as I was finishing my mayoralty and the support that you've given to the Cabinet, to me when I sat on the Cabinet only 12 months ago, it's your passion for Tamworth will always shine through. If you do go to the Isle of Wight I'm sure that you'll still be visiting us in the near future so thank you, enjoy your retirement, enjoy the bike I believe you've got that you're going to be out on the open road and hope the back holds up because I empathise with back pain thank you very much.

Councillor S Doyle made the following announcement – Thank you Mr. Mayor I basically agree with all the comments that have been made in the chamber tonight. I've been a councillor for approximately 12 years and my first portfolio was with Andrew. You've been a good friend, I have a great deal of respect for you and I will really miss you but I hope you have a very long and very happy retirement, fortunately you're not going til March so I'll see you before then okay.

The Mayor made the following announcement.

Personally on a note from myself and from a civic perspective may I just again echo the thoughts and compliments that everyone else has said by saying you are an exceptional Chief Executive and you've served Tamworth so well for so many years and you will be hugely missed not only for wisdom and your advice but for your personality and your courteous and gracious character which we all admire and well that will be unreplaceable.

28 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Jeremy Oates will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Turner, the following question:-

During 2013-2014 Tamworth was represented by the then Mayor of Tamworth Alderman John Garner. John had a vision to celebrate Tamworth history and heritage as well as provide a focal point and attraction for sign posting and ultimately now a decade later a point to take selfies, This vision was for an sculpture of a saxon warrior and titled The Spirit of Tamworth.

This council made the commitment to support this sculpture and its location at the end of Ladybridge.

I understand that the project has been let down in terms of private sponsorship.

Could the leader detail both renewed support for this project and identify specific funding streams to ensure Alderman Garners vision is delivered and Tamworth's history is celebrated with a new attraction?

The Leader gave the following answer

Answer

Yes, I would be happy to renew support for the Spirit of Tamworth, I agree that this public art would indeed provide Tamworth with a cultural and regenerative opportunity that we should support it.

On the subject of funding I am unable to identify any financial opportunities within the budget, given the many important things that require support across the Borough. That said, the regen team and the castle team are always horizon scanning for possible opportunities to pull in external funding for cultural and town centre activities. I will ask these services to identify possible opportunities that

could support this project and provide assistance in preparing bids and application forms if necessary.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Gareth Coates will ask the Portfolio Holder for Entertainment and Leisure, Councillor Andrew Cooper, the following question:-

First to thank the Leader of the council for keeping to his word and on the 14 day a bin was placed on Thackery Drive. Is it possible to either get an addition bin or a bigger bin outside the shops on Lakenheath? There is currently only one bin outside these shops and often 2 or 3 days after it's emptied it is overflowing, during May half term there was litter all over the place as it's near a park and I can only imagine over the summer it will get a lot worse. If it's a bigger bin that the council would be looking at putting there, can I suggest the Derby E Double Slimline Bin please, this bin is made by the current bin manufacturer the council use?

As Question 2 & 4 were similar Councillor A Cooper gave the following response to both Questions

There are currently over 800 litter bins in the borough and Tamworth Borough Councils remains committed to its priorities and we are working hard to keep Tamworth clean and tidy.

Instillation of new bins are generally carried out September through to March every year. This allows us the opportunity to review and establish whether litter bins are in the right spot for meeting the needs of residents and visitors, or if their locations need to be adjusted.

For general information, a standard litter bins cost is £310 each with an additional £100 installation cost, so it is important that we have tested the need by monitoring the demand in each area so that new litter bins are installed in hotspots and those areas where litter accumulates.

This is an on-going process, but we also urge the public to do what's right and help us keep Tamworth clean and green. The message is really simple: dispose of waste responsibly using the litter bins provided or take it home. help us by not dropping litter in the first place. For me bins are always allocated for a case by case basis. I will instruct officer to look at both of these locations to see if they require larger bins but the emphasis as got to be on the public to dispose of their own litter.

Councillor Coates asked the following Supplementary Question

I mean if it helps the council I don't mind paying for the bin myself, if it is a cost issue I have no issue paying for ti to help the area.

Councillor Cooper gave the following response.

Its not a direct cost issue for that single bin the costs is basically setting an open door policy for having a bin provided everywhere. If we did have a magic money tree growing outside then we could supply bins to every corner of Tamworth. I think the emphasis as to be on people doing the right thing with their own litter and taking it home or putting it in the bins provided just being responsible for it. Thank you for your offer but the cost isn't the single bin it's the overall costs.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 3

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Gareth Coates will ask the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Finance, Councillor Thomas Jay, the following question:-

I get a lot of residents ask why we have to use a blue bag and a blue bin, can the council explain once again why we have both and why we can't just have the blue bin with mixed recyclable materials like other local councils?

Councillor Jay gave the following response

The single blue bin system is certainly easier for residents. However there are a number of factors as to why the current system of a bin (for glass, cans and plastic) and a separate bag (for paper and card) was introduced.

The recycling markets have changed dramatically over the last few years. The material re-processors have raised the bar significantly in terms of what they will and won't accept. To produce good quality and price effective recycled product the re-processors need good quality product. You will be aware of the many debates we hear around needing to produce high quality recycling material that can be re-used , as well as the expression 'wish cycling' where residents are recycling materials which are not able to be processed and are actually contamination of the load.

Unfortunately some residents were not using the blue bin correctly and putting residual waste in the blue bin including nappies, food and animal waste and this resulted in whole lorry loads of recycling being rejected at the re-processing plant. A small amount of contamination, which could be caused by one resident, would lead to the whole load being rejected and up to 10 tonnes of recyclable material being sent for incineration at a cost of around £3k. During the final year of the old service rejected loads costed the service and taxpayer over £300k and significant tonnages of quality recyclables materials were lost. Since the new service was introduced only 1 load has been rejected, and this was not caused by a resident, but due to an operational error by my team.

As well as the lower quality of product we were producing there would have also have been significant cost to our residents to remain with the single bin system. When we went out to tender for a new disposal contract last year, the gate fee we would have had to pay the re -processors to stay with the current single stream

methodology has trebled compared to the existing arrangement. This would have resulted in an additional £1.2 million per annum cost pressure for the Joint Waste Service which is unaffordable.

The reason the gate fees have risen dramatically for single stream materials is because the quality of the material produced is of a lower quality.

To combat the two issues Lichfield and Tamworth made the decision change to a dual stream collection service. This followed the lead of other authorities in Staffordshire (Newcastle Under Lyme, East Staffordshire and Stafford at the time) and introduce a dual stream collection service with a bag being provided for paper and card. The feedback from these authorities showed that the move to dual stream collections improved the quality of the materials and as a result the gate fee is a lot lower. It is much harder to hide unwanted materials in a bag and the bins are less full thus making it easier to check them. For your information Cannock and South Staffordshire also made the change to a dual stream system last year for similar reasons to Lichfield and Tamworth. I'd also add all Shropshire Councils, and other neighbours have the same system.

The new system also increase the capacity the resident has for recycling. On the old system this was 240ltr bin as standard, it is a 240ltr bin and a 72ltr bag.

During the research and planning stages we made a number of visits to Newcastle and found the service to be working well. The change is quite minimal for residents in that they will need to spend a little bit more time breaking their cardboard down in to smaller pieces so that it will fit into the bag. We will also provide additional bags free of charge if residents need them, and large cardboard can be cut down, tied and left at the side of the bin/bag.

The bags do have a Velcro lid to help keep the materials dry and a weighted base to stop them blowing around in the wind after they have been emptied.

Our research also indicated that the bag is not suitable for storing glass, cans and plastics for a couple of reasons. Firstly glass can easily break which would present a risk to the collection staff. Secondly these containers often contain liquids and the bag is not completely waterproof which would make it difficult for it to be stored indoors. In contrast paper and card is a relatively clean product.

On a personal level I live in Stafford and have a bin and a blue bag myself and it works well. On a professional level I have also run waste transfer stations, single stream and dual stream operations. The quality of product from the dual stream is markedly higher. Although there is some inconvenience to the resident in separating fibre the benefits are a better quality product at a lower cost.

I thank all the residents of Tamworth who have embraced the new system and look forward to working together to increase the recycling rate of quality product across both Tamworth and Lichfield.

I hope that this information is useful and please do not hesitate to contact me again if I can be of further assistance.

Supplementary

How do residents ask for an additional bag

Councillor Jay gave the following response

They can use the numbers on the website of the joint waste service and can do that quite easily.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 4

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Craig Adams will ask the Portfolio Holder for Entertainment and Leisure, Councillor Andrew Cooper, the following question:-

To promote litter free residential areas, would the Environmental Health and Community Partnerships portfolio holder look into increasing the number of bins throughout residential areas?

Answer as above on question No.2

Supplementary

If we are relying on people doing the right thing it would make it a lot easier if bins were nearby can we at least have a survey on where the main rubbish are in areas not at bus stops or bus stations but near peoples homes as there seems to be a lot of bis in some areas.

Councillor Cooper gave the following response.

Yes, of course we are always reviewing our strategy with bins as I said in the response we have over 800 bins in the borough we are not a big Borough with 800 bins with ongoing costs to empty and install those bins and up keep them. But we always as the response said take a look at our bin strategy and see where and when the right bins need to be in the right place a t the right time. So absolutely bins are taken on a case by case basis so if there is a certain area you would like a bin then let us know and we can take that judgement on. And it might mean that we move a bin that' not being used form somewhere else and we pout it to where it neds to be used. We will look at tit on a case by case basis.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 5

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Rob Pritchard will ask the Portfolio Holder for Entertainment & Leisure, Councillor A Cooper, the following question:-

Decades before our current BMX track was built Tamworth had a long history of producing regional and national BMX Stars. Since being built in 2010, our current Tamworth BMX track is a facility that has fostered a new generation of BMX riders

in Tamworth, as well as bringing many older generations back to the local BMX community. I am proud to have secured funding for our current track and personally consider it my baby, now the baby has reached its teenage years, it is in need of investment. So the track will still be here in another 13 years, will the authority work with Tamworth BMX Club to secure funding to deliver some needed refurbishment to the track.

Councillor Cooper gave the following response

An enquiry regarding the BMX track and some potential need for maintenance was voiced by Councillor Wadrup on 5th June 2023, as a result of which Sports Development sent an email to Councillor Wadrup the same day outlining the historical pot of £10k that was allocated and retained for this purpose. Councillor Wadrup was informed that there is a balance of £2.4k left for maintenance purposes and that officers would need the BMX Club to make contact with Sports Development or Mark Greaves to detail the maintenance work required. Sports Development also highlighted that the pot of money was a one off allocation and once the remainder of the budget has been spent then they will work with the club to try and find externally funded monies for future works, but unfortunately there were no guarantees such funding would be available, in which case it may be that the club has to look at using the yearly membership and sessional subscriptions monies towards this purpose. On the 19th June Sports Development received an email from Tamworth BMX Club requesting a meeting to discuss the maintenance, to which a reply was sent outlining possible suitable dates, unfortunately no response to this email was received.

From both a physical activity and diversionary activity perspective Tamworth BMX Club is a valuable asset to Tamworth, and as with any other sports club or physical activity provider in the Borough, Sports Development will gladly support Tamworth BMX Club to attempt to secure external funding in order to meet the clubs objectives.

Supplementary

Thank you Mr mayor and would thank Cllr Wadrup for taking an interest in this issue. I put the question in May but this is the first meeting we have had where we can ask questions. I would ask the portfolio holder if he could join me on record in thanking the committee members both past and present of this club because they do give up a significant amount of their time to keep this club running and it really has helped thousands of children over the last decade.

Councillor Cooper gave the following response

Thank you I am more than happy to put that on record. I am often surprised at the many of clubs around Tamworth who do unpublicised work for the Town and its people and absolutely extends to the BMX club in Tamworth and I look forward to Councillors being invited to go down there and try and help them where possible.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 6

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor R Pritchard will ask the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Planning, Councillor S Smith, the following question:-

Leaseholds in Gillway are still very worried about charges they face for roof repairs and how the authority has communicated with residents over charges. Can the portfolio holder outline what is being done to address residents' concerns on leaseholder changes and what changes to the process the authority will implement to address leaseholders concerns.

Councillor Smith gave the following response

Councillor S Smith gave the following response

A very good question to an extremely important and pressing issue for Leaseholders.

Currently, I am actively working with officers and members to carefully assess all available information.

My hope is to reach a harmonious resolution on this matter which takes into consideration the concerns of Leaseholders. This can in itself go further to improving the overall communication process.

It is important we have a just and resilient system for supporting Leaseholders, ensuring transparency and fairness for everyone involved.

A full report, including a thorough examination of communications, will be presented during the Extraordinary Council meeting scheduled for 21 August.

There was no supplementary

29 REVISED COMMITTEE ALLOCATION DUE TO THE CHANGE IN POLITICAL BALANCE

The following Committee changes have taken place and agreed due to change in political balance.

Appointments and Staffing Sarah Daniles replaces Jan Wadrup
Planning Jan Wadrup replaces Sarah Daniels
Nominations and Grants Carol Dean replaces Jan Wadrup

(Moved by Councillor J Harper and seconded by Councillor T Jay)

30 OUTSIDE BODIES MEMBERSHIP - 2023-24

Outside Bodies 2023/2024

Outside Body	Appointees
Citizens Advice Mid Mercia Management Committee	Councillor T Jay Councillor D Maycock Councillor C Dean
Dorcas Management Committee	Councillor J Oates (Substitute Councillor M Bailey)
Civil Emergency Committee	The Mayor – Councillor J Harper Leader of the Council – Councillor P Turner Leader of Opposition – Councillor C Dean
High Rise Social Club	Councillor P Thurgood Councillor S Daniels
Local Government Association – General Assembly	Councillor P Turner (Substitute Councillor T Jay)
St. Peters Church Management Committee	Councillor J Wade Councillor S Doyle Councillor J Wadrup
Staffordshire County Council Health & Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Councillor C Bain
Staffordshire Planning Forum	Portfolio Councillor S Smith (Substitute Councillor P Turner)
Staffordshire Pension Fund Governance – Pensions Consultative Forum (Staffordshire Pension Fund - Pensions consultative forum (staffspf.org.uk))	Portfolio Councillor T Jay
Support Staffordshire	Councillor S Daniels Councillor M Summers

	Councillor D Maycock
Tamworth Cornerstone Housing Association	Councillor J Wadrup Councillor C Dean
Tamworth Municipal Charities	The Mayor Deputy Mayor Councillor - T Clements
Tamworth Strategic Partnership	Councillor P Turner
Tamworth Twinning Association	Councillor T Clements
Staffordshire Joint Waste Management Board	Councillor T Jay
GBS LEP	Councillor S Daniels
Sons of Rest	Councillor John Harper Substitute Councillor D Maycock
Friends of Wigginton Park	Councillor Andrew Cooper Councillor Robert Pritchard
Building Control Shared Service Board	Portfolio Councillor S Smith
Health & Safety Shared Service Board	Councillor J Wadrup
Waste Management Shared Service Board	Leader Councillor P Turner Portfolio Councillor T Jay
Tamworth Heritage Trust	Councillor D Maycock Councillor John Harper

Destination Tamworth	Councillor A Cooper Substitute P Thompson
Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Panel.	Councillor D Maycock Councillor T Clements
Rawlett Trust	Councillor S Smith
West Midlands Combined Authority Board (WMCA)	Councillor P Turner (Substitute Councillor T Jay)
West Midlands Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel (WMCA)	Councillor C Bain
West Midlands Combined Authority Audit Risk & Assurance Committee	Not required this year
West Midlands Combined Authority – Housing & Land Delivery Board	Councillor P Turner
Corporate Parenting Panel (Staffordshire)	Councillor R Claymore
Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership – Joint Scrutiny Membership	Councillor Dan Maycock
Stoke –on-Trent & Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership	Councillor P Turner
Stoke –on-Trent & Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Scrutiny Panel	Councillor J Jones
A5 Partnership	Councillor A Cooper

(Moved by Councillor J Harper and seconded by Councillor P Turner)

31 PETITION - TO SEE A FULLY FUNCTIONAL COUNCIL FRONT DESK SERVICE RETURNED TO TAMWORTH TOWN CENTRE.

The item was deferred to be discussed at Council 19th September.

(Moved by Councillor J Harper and seconded by Councillor J Wadrup)

32 PETITION - SECURING OF DOSTHIL PARK

Mrs Ruth Griffiths presented the following petition

A petition was submitted to the Council on 22nd March 2023 to petition the council to Secure Dosthill Park so that travellers cannot gain entrance onto the park. Some work has been done to make a dirt mound around the perimeter but it isn't big enough and due to weather and people cycling over it the dirt isn't holding so isn't robust enough. It needs a lot more dirt.

Following on from debate the following motion was moved

That the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Committee pick up this item and see if they can come up with a way forward.

(Moved by Councillor J Harper and seconded by Councillor C Bain)

33 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider excluding the Press and Public from the meeting by passing the following resolution:-

“That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, and Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 & 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public”

At the time this agenda is published no representations have been received that this part of the meeting should be open to the public.

(Moved by Councillor J Harper and seconded by Councillor T Jay)

34 GUNGATE PROJECT MOBILISATION REPORT (TO FOLLOW)

Report of the Leader of the Council to request authority to take necessary action to conclude land ownership and assembly in order to mobilise the Gungate Regeneration Project. Following on from the debate the following recommendations were approved.

RESOLVED That Council:

Approved the recommendations with changes to recommendation 1b and recommendation 1c.

(Moved by Councillor J Harper and seconded by Councillor L Wood)

35 APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

Report of the Leader of the Council and Chair of Appointments & Staffing Committee to seek approval for the appointment of Becky Smeathers as the Council's Section 151 Officer.

RESOLVED That Council:

1. approved the temporary appointment of Joanne Goodfellow (Assistant Director Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer) to the post of Executive Director Finance and Section 151 Officer so as to ensure business continuity and legal compliance;
2. approved the permanent appointment of Becky Smeathers (external appointment) to the post of Executive Director Finance and Section 151 Officer.

(Moved by Councillor P Turner and seconded by Councillor A Cooper)

36 ANKER VALLEY SPORTS AND COMMUNITY COMPLET 3G

RESOLVED That Council:

Approved the 5 recommendations in the report

(Moved by Councillor A Cooper and seconded by Councillor B Price)

The Mayor