

## Council

Tuesday, 25 June 2019

7.30 pm

### Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr Gurdip Ram Bungar  
The Deputy Mayor, Cllr John Caller

Councillors: Derek Ashenden Lyn Milner  
Ejaz Aslam Shane Mochrie-Cox  
Gurjit Kaur Bains Emma Morley  
Conrad Broadley Elizabeth Mulheran  
John Burden Leslie Pearton  
Colin Caller Anthony Pritchard  
Harold Craske Tony Rana  
Lee Croxton Tony Rice  
Dakota Dibben Alan Ridgers  
Aaron Elliott Christina Rolles  
Emma Elliott Lenny Rolles  
Brian Francis Brian Sangha  
Sarah Gow Peter Scollard  
Gary Harding Gurbax Singh  
Baljit Hayre Lauren Sullivan  
Leslie Hills Narinder Singh Thandi  
Leslie Hoskins Steve Thompson  
Nirmal Khabra Denise Tiran  
Bob Lane Jenny Wallace  
Diane Marsh Frank Wardle  
Jordan Meade

Stuart Bobby	Director (Corporate Services) - <i>Acting Chief Executive</i>
Nick Brown	Director (Environment & Operations)
Kevin Burbidge	Director (Housing & Regeneration)
Melanie Norris	Director (Communities)
Simon Walsh	Service Manager (Communities)
Jan Guylar	Head of Legal Services, Medway Council
Carlie Simmonds	Committee Services Manager

### 26. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ruth Martin.

### 27. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2019 were signed by the Mayor.

## 28. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox declared an 'other interest' in item 6 (Reserved Minutes) in that he works for Kent County Council.

## 29. To answer any questions received from members of the public of which notice has been given under Council Procedure Rule 13

### Question One

The following question had been submitted by Mr Colin Gardner and a response was given by the Leader of the Council, Councillor John Burden:-

#### *Question:*

I write further to the Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at which it was agreed that all Councillors and Senior Officers undertake a recognised mandatory training session on bullying awareness.

Please could Councillors confirm:-

Whether the cost of these courses will be funded from the public purse? If so what is the total cost of these courses? and do Councillors feel this is a good use of public funds given the squeeze on public funding and cuts to local services? Is there no code of conduct specified under the Council's Constitution which could have resolved this issue?

#### *Response:*

I write in response to your question addressed to the meeting of Full Council on 25 June 2019 relating to resolution at the Full Council meeting on 9 October 2018 that all Councillors and Senior Officers undertake a recognised mandatory training on bullying awareness.

To address your specific questions, I can provide you with the following responses;

- The cost of these courses will be funded from established budgets held by the Council for training of Members and Officers as approved by Full Council in February of each year as part of the annual budget setting process.
- The cost of the Bullying Awareness Training session, to be delivered on 18 July 2019 by ACAS, amounts to £600, with this being delivered as part of a wider programme of induction training for Members following the recent elections. Based on attendance at this session, it is anticipated that a further training date will need to be rearranged for those who cannot attend on 18 July 2019, together with a session for Senior Officers to attend, and the costs for these additional sessions are not yet known but are anticipated to be of a similar cost.

- The course is being delivered to ensure that all Members and Senior Officers appreciate the types of behaviour that can constitute bullying, and the effect that such behaviour could have upon others, so as to ensure that those individuals can avoid inadvertently being perceived as a bully or causing offence to others through their actions. The course will specifically draw the attention of both Members and Officers to the respective Codes of Conduct and ethical standards that need to be maintained whilst serving in a public service role.

### **Question Two**

The following question had been submitted by Mr Richard Bayfield on behalf of Leo and a response was given by the Leader of the Council, Councillor John Burden:-

#### *Question:*

Hello, my name is Leo. I am 6 years old. I would like to ask you some questions about climate change, it's very important to me because it is affecting our planet. The planet is getting hotter. People are dying. It is interesting and healthy for us to understand this. I don't think climate change will affect me because I am safe, but it is affecting a lot of other people in the world and I do not like it. Would you consider having a selection of children and young people on the Council to help make decisions about climate change? It will affect us the most.

#### *Response:*

Thank you Leo, that is a very good question, and the points you make are also very important to me.

As you might have seen, later on during this meeting we are due to consider a motion in relation to Climate Change, and specifically declaring a Climate Emergency as well as putting in place a series of pledges that we as a Council are prepared to commit to as we seek to play our part in protecting our planet. I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that Climate Change is a very important matter, and this is why we will be debating that in a few minutes time. As part of that motion, I will be asking my fellow Councillors here this evening to form a working group that will report back to another meeting of all of the Councillors in six months-time. During those six-months, it is my intention that this working group will consult with a wide range of groups, including the established Youth Council that we already have overseen by The Grand, local schools and other local groups, and therefore I fully expect there to be an opportunity for young people and children to play their part in developing the strategy for Gravesham.

### **30. Minutes of Committees**

Motions that proceedings, reports and recommendations of Committees, except those reserved under Council Procedure 5.2(6) as referred to below be received and adopted and where applicable the Orders made by them be ratified and confirmed were duly proposed, seconded and resolved in each case.

- Minutes of the Regulatory Board (Planning) held on Wednesday, 22 May 2019;
- Minutes of the Cabinet held on Monday, 3 June 2019;
- Minutes of the Finance & Audit Committee held on Tuesday, 11 June 2019;
- Minutes of the Regulatory Board (Planning) held on Wednesday, 12 June 2019; and
- Minutes of the Overview Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 13 June 2019.

The Council's attention was drawn to Minute 6 of the Finance and Audit Committee held on Tuesday, 11 June 2019.

### **31. Reserved Minutes**

It was moved by Cllr John Burden and seconded by Cllr Lee Croxton that:-

the reserved Minute of Cabinet held on Monday, 3 June 2019 be ratified and confirmed.

The Council's attention was drawn to Minute 7 (Minutes of the meeting of the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 2 April 2019) which related to:-

- Kent County Council's decision to reduce the scale of the bid for the MHCLG Supporting Families Against Youth Crime; and
- the request for the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner to meet with Members of the Council.

### **32. To consider reports from officers of the Council (Appointments to Outside Body (Elizabeth Huggins' Cottages Charity))**

The Council noted that Colin Caller had been appointed by Elizabeth Huggins' Cottages Charity as a family trustee and **resolved** that Brian Newell be replaced with Karen Hurdle as a representative trustee for the remainder of his term.

### **33. Notice of Motion**

#### **Motion One**

It was moved by Cllr John Burden and seconded by Cllr Sarah Gow that:-

*Gravesham Borough Council with this motion declares we have a climate emergency and we will begin to take action to prepare for the borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.*

*This may be a tiny step in the context of the long term global problem of climate change, but we believe the council should take a lead; taking action to reduce carbon emissions will also help make Gravesham a cleaner and more pleasant place to live in the short term.*

*This motion calls on the Full Council to:*

*Declare a climate emergency;*

*Pledge to do what is within its powers and resources to make Gravesham Borough Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;*

*Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;*

*Continue to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies;*

*Investigate all possible sources of external funding and match-funding to support this commitment; Complete a Green audit of all council services to ensure that weight is given to the environmental and sustainability impact as well as cost;*

*The Council will encourage plastic-free initiatives and support events intended to promote plastic reduction in the Borough;*

*Set up a working group to report back within six months with the actions the council will take to address this emergency.*

An amendment was moved by Cllr Jordan Meade and seconded by Cllr Ejaz Aslam that (the text in bold shows the proposed amendment to the original motion):-

*Gravesham Borough Council with this motion declares we have a climate emergency and we will begin to take action to prepare for the borough to become carbon neutral **by 2030**.*

*This may be a tiny step in the context of the long-term global problem of climate change, but we believe the council should take a lead; taking action to reduce carbon emissions will also help make Gravesham a cleaner and more pleasant place to live in the short term.*

*This motion calls on the Full Council to:*

*Declare a climate emergency;*

*Pledge to do what is within its powers and resources to make Gravesham Borough Council carbon neutral **as-soon-as-possible by 2030**, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;*

*Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make **the 2030 this target the Council's plans** possible;*

*Continue to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies;*

*Investigate all possible sources of external funding and match-funding to support this commitment;*

*Complete a Green audit of all council services to ensure that weight is given to the environmental and sustainability impact as well as cost;*

***The Council, where possible, commits to protecting and enhancing the borough's green and open spaces and in doing so acknowledges that such spaces are of fundamental importance to the local environment as well as the health and wellbeing of our residents;***

*The Council will encourage plastic-free initiatives and support events intended to promote plastic reduction in the Borough; and*

***Set up a Cross-Party working group to report back within six months, the fully costed actions the Council will take to address this emergency, with a quantifiable target date for implementation of the actions proposed.***

The amendment was declared to be lost by 24 votes to 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.00pm and reconvened at 9.15pm in order to provide the Palantypist with an appropriate break.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting and in accordance with paragraph 20.4 of Annex 2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, five Members demanded that a recorded vote be taken:-

For the motion	Against the motion	Abstain
The Worshipful the Mayor Cllrs: Burden, C Caller, J Caller, Craske, Croxton, Francis, Gow, Hayre, Khabra, L Milner, Mochrie-Cox, Morley, Mulheran, Pearton, Rana, C Rolles, L Rolles, Sangha, Scollard, Singh, Sullivan, Thandi, Thompson and Wallace.	None.	Cllrs: Ashenden, Aslam, Bains, Broadley, Dibben, A Elliott, E Elliott, Harding, Hills, Hoskins, Lane, Marsh, Meade, Pritchard, Rice, Ridgers, Tiran and Wardle.

It was therefore **resolved** that –

Gravesham Borough Council with this motion declares we have a climate emergency and we will begin to take action to prepare for the borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.

This may be a tiny step in the context of the long term global problem of climate change, but we believe the council should take a lead; taking action to reduce carbon emissions will also help make Gravesham a cleaner and more pleasant place to live in the short term.

This motion calls on the Full Council to:

Declare a climate emergency;

Pledge to do what is within its powers and resources to make Gravesham Borough Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;

Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;

Continue to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies;

Investigate all possible sources of external funding and match-funding to support this commitment; Complete a Green audit of all council services to ensure that weight is given to the environmental and sustainability impact as well as cost;

The Council will encourage plastic-free initiatives and support events intended to promote plastic reduction in the Borough; and

Set up a working group to report back within six months with the actions the council will take to address this emergency.

### **Motion Two**

Celebrating 30 Years of Town Twinning between Gravesham Borough Council and Cambrai, France.

It was be moved by Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox and seconded by Cllr John Burden that:-

*This Council expresses its gratitude for the reciprocal and enduring links of friendship between the peoples of the BOROUGH OF GRAVESHAM and the TOWN OF CAMBRAI since official twinning was approved by our elected bodies in 1989.*

*This Council:*

*Commends the benefits to our respective local communities that twinning has had in encouraging dialogue, tolerance, openness respect and the deepening of understanding of each other and of the way of life of our two peoples;*

*Recognises and celebrates the unique contribution that representatives of our citizens and members of our respective Town Twinning Associations have made to sustain and develop close and friendly relations;*

*Pays tribute to the many long-lasting friendships that have been forged through the frequent exchanges that have taken place between our citizens; and*

*Looks forward to a strengthening and growth of this partnership and mutual friendship and pledges to work together in cooperation in the years to come, to ensure the benefit of town twinning is secured for future generations.*

The motion was declared to be carried unanimously.

**34. To consider questions from Members of the Council of which notice has been given under Council Procedure Rule 14.**

No questions had been received.

**35. To receive the Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor invited Members to attend:-

- the 'Festival of Eid' which will be held on Saturday 29 June 2019, 1.30pm to 5pm, on the Community Square; and
- the 'Sea Service' which will be held on Sunday 14 July, 4pm to 5pm, at Christ Church, Gravesend.

The Mayor invited those present to join him in the Parlour for refreshments.

**Close of meeting**

The meeting ended at 10.01 pm