

## Gravesham Borough Council

### Council

Tuesday, 10 October 2017

7.30 pm

#### Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr Harold Craske  
The Deputy Mayor, Cllr David Hurley

Councillors:	Valerie Ashenden	Jordan Meade
	Gurjit Kaur Bains	Lyn Milner
	Lesley Boycott	Shane Mochrie-Cox
	Conrad Broadley	Leslie Pearton
	John Burden	Anthony Pritchard
	Julia Burgoyne	Peter Rayner
	Colin Caller	Alan Ridgers
	Lee Croxton	Lenny Rolles
	Brian Francis	Brian Sangha
	Sandra Garside	Peter Scollard
	Greta Goatley	Derek Shelbrooke
	Rob Halpin	Makhan Singh
	Leslie Hills	Lauren Sullivan
	Karen Hurdle	Narinder Singh Thandi
	Samir Jassal	Robin Theobald
	John Knight	Steve Thompson
	William Lambert	David Turner
	Sara Langdale	Jenny Wallace
	John Loughlin	Michael Wenban
	Bronwen McGarrity	

David Hughes	Chief Executive
Kevin Burbidge	Director (Housing & Regeneration)
Stuart Bobby	Director (Corporate Services)
Nick Brown	Director (Environment & Operations)
Melanie Norris	Director (Communities)
Sarah Kilkie	Assistant Director (Communities)
Jan Guylar	Head of Legal Services Medway Council
Carlie Simmonds	Committee Services Manager

#### 35. Presentation of Award

The Kent Healthy Business Awards are based on a national award scheme which recognises employers who contribute to improving the health of their workforce.

The Mayor announced that Gravesham Borough Council had achieved the excellence level in three areas of the Kent Healthy Business Awards, these being:-

- Health and safety
- Smoking and tobacco
- Leadership

Work had now commenced on gaining the award in the area of mental health.

The Mayor stated that participation in the Kent Healthy Business Awards was purely voluntary and was a good practice initiative demonstrating our commitment to the health, safety and welfare of our own staff, going above and beyond legal requirements.

Gaining these awards gives us recognition and means that we can lead by example when encouraging other local employers to get involved in the scheme.

The hard work that went into preparing for and achieving these awards was led by the Corporate Health and Safety team and the HR team, with support provided by the Gr@nd.

The Mayor invited Mandy Cartwright (Senior Corporate Health and Safety Advisor) and Charlotte Collins (Human Resources Officer) to come forward and receive the awards on behalf of the Council.

### **36. Councillor John Cubitt**

The meeting observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect for Councillor John Cubitt who passed away in August 2017.

### **37. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Gurdip Ram Bungar and John Caller.

### **38. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Council held on 27 June 2017 were signed by the Mayor.

### **39. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr John Loughlin declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Notice of Motion No2 – Housing) as he is a Trustee of the House of Mercy which receives grants from Kent County Council.

Cllr Conrad Broadley declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Notice of Motion No3 – National Joint Council (NJC) pay to Councils) as his wife would be a beneficiary. Cllr Broadley left the Chamber during consideration of this item.

Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Notice of Motion No3 – National Joint Council (NJC) pay to Councils) as his brother works for the local authority and would be a beneficiary.

Cllr Lauren Sullivan declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Notice of Motion No3 – National Joint Council (NJC) pay to Councils) as her brother-in-law works for the local authority and would be a beneficiary.

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

No questions had been received.

#### 41. 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 meeting of Finance and Audit Committee on the Monday, 10 July 2017

Minutes of meeting of Cabinet on the Tuesday, 11 July 2017

Minutes of meeting of Overview Scrutiny Committee on the Thursday, 13 July 2017

Minutes of meeting of Regulatory Board (Planning) on the Wednesday, 19 July 2017

Minutes of meeting of Cabinet on the Monday, 4 September 2017

Minutes of meeting of Regulatory Board (Planning) on the Wednesday, 6 September 2017

Minutes of meeting of Finance and Audit Committee on the Tuesday, 12 September 2017

Minutes of meeting of Overview Scrutiny Committee on the Thursday, 14 September 2017

Minutes of meeting of Licensing Committee on the Thursday, 28 September 2017

#### 42. Reserved Minutes

It was moved by Cllr John Burden and seconded by Cllr David Hurley that:-

**the reserved Minute of Overview Scrutiny Committee held on 13 July 2017 be ratified and confirmed.**

#### 43. Amendments to the Constitution

The Council was presented with proposed amendments to the Constitution to delegate various responsibilities previously delegated to the post of Assistant Director (Governance & law) which has been deleted.

It was **resolved** that:-

1. all proposed amendments to Annexes 1, 2, 3 and 5 as laid out in the report be approved.
2. the proposed amendments to Article 14 be received by council without debate and referred to the next ordinary council meeting on 5 December 2017 for a decision.

#### 44. Appointment to Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Stakeholder Council

As well as the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Stakeholder Council, the Mayor stated that two further requests had been received, following publication of the agenda, for The Gr@nd Community Interest Company and Elizabeth Huggins Cottages Charity.

It was **resolved** that:-

- Cllr Gurjit Bains and Cllr Lyn Milner be appointed to the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Stakeholder Council.
- Cllr Sandra Garside replace Cllr Jordan Meade on The Gr@nd Community Interest Company.
- Cllr David Hurley, Mr Brian Newell and Mr Ernie Brook be appointed to the Elizabeth Huggins Cottages Charity.

**45. To consider motions from Members of the Council of which notice has been given under Council Procedure Rule 15**

**Notice of Motion No1 - Fleet Leisure**

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

This council fully supports the retention of fleet leisure in council ownership and seeks its rebuilding as a community facility as soon as practically possible and reaffirms no housing development will be permitted on the site.

An amendment was moved by Cllr Sandra Garside and seconded by Cllr David Turner that (the text in bold shows the proposed amendment to the original motion):-

This council fully supports the retention of fleet leisure in council ownership and seeks its rebuilding as a community facility as soon as practically possible and reaffirms no housing development will be permitted on the site, **other than one unit to provide accommodation for a steward as this would provide security.**

The amendment was declared to be carried by 22 votes to 18.

Following a debate, a second amendment was moved by Cllr David Turner and seconded by Cllr John Burden that (the text in bold shows the proposed amendment to the substantive motion):-

This council fully supports the retention of fleet leisure in council ownership and seeks its rebuilding as a community facility as soon as practically possible and reaffirms no housing development will be permitted on the site, **other than to provide accommodation within the main leisure facility building for a steward as this would provide security.**

The second amendment was declared to be carried unanimously.

It was therefore **resolved** that –

This council fully supports the retention of fleet leisure in council ownership and seeks its rebuilding as a community facility as soon as practically possible and reaffirms no housing development will be permitted on the site, other than to provide accommodation within the main leisure facility building for a steward as this would provide security.

**Notice of Motion No2 – Housing**

It was moved by Cllr Jenny Wallace and seconded by Cllr Lee Croxton that:-

This council supports the need for more local authority housing and denounces Kent County Council for its proposed plans to withdraw support for the vulnerable in our housing stock and proposes that government be written to demand the relaxation of the oppressive ongoing central government austerity programme and allow us to provide more affordable housing for local people and to require Kent County Council to maintain its supported people programme for the vulnerable in our housing stock.

An amendment was moved by Cllr Anthony Pritchard and seconded by Cllr Karen Hurdle that (the text in bold shows the proposed amendment to the original motion):-

This council supports the need for more local authority housing **and is very disappointed that Kent County Council is proposing to withdraw financial support for the GBC Sheltered Housing service.**

**It is proud that both parties work together to deliver the best possible service to all its tenants, and confirms its commitment to deliver ever more local council owned social housing.**

The amendment was declared to be carried by 22 votes to 18.

It was therefore **resolved** that –

This council supports the need for more local authority housing and is very disappointed that Kent County Council is proposing to withdraw financial support for the GBC Sheltered Housing service.

It is proud that both parties work together to deliver the best possible service to all its tenants, and confirms its commitment to deliver ever more local council owned social housing.

### **Notice of Motion No3 – National Joint Council (NJC) pay to Councils**

It was moved by Cllr John Burden and seconded by Cllr Colin Caller that:-

This Gravesham Borough Council notes that:

- NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% since 2010 in real terms
- NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012
- Local terms and conditions of many NJC employees have also been cut, impacting on their overall earnings
- NJC pay is the lowest in the public sector
- Job evaluated pay structures are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements needed to reflect the increased National Living Wage and the Foundation Living Wage
- There are growing equal and fair pay risks resulting from this situation

This council therefore supports the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers and calls for the immediate end of public sector pay restraint. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector. This council also welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements.

This council also notes the drastic ongoing cuts to local government funding and calls on the Government to provide additional funding to fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Call immediately on the LGA to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify us of their action in this regard
- Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking additional funding to fund a decent pay rise and the pay spine review
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review

An amendment was moved by Cllr David Turner and seconded by Cllr Anthony Pritchard that (the text in bold shows the proposed amendment to the original motion):-

This **council** notes that:

- NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% since 2010 in real terms
- NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012
- Local terms and conditions of many NJC employees have also been cut, impacting on their overall earnings
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This council also notes the drastic ongoing cuts to local government funding and calls on the Government to provide additional funding to fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees and the pay spine review.

**This council resolves to:**

- **Call immediately on the LGA to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify it of its action in this regard**
- **Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and highlighting that cross-party effort is meeting the need to reduce the council's budget and that pay increases to the level sought requires additional funding**
- **Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review**

The amendment was declared to be carried unanimously.

It was therefore **resolved** that –

This council notes that:

- NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% since 2010 in real terms
- NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012
- Local terms and conditions of many NJC employees have also been cut, impacting on their overall earnings
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This council resolves to:

- Call immediately on the LGA to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review and notify it of its action in this regard
- Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and highlighting that cross-party effort is meeting the need to reduce the council's budget and that pay increases to the level sought requires additional funding
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review

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

No questions have been received.

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

The Mayor made the following announcements:-

- Gravesham Borough Council's annual firework display will be held on 4 November 2017. The Mayor will be attending the firework display with visitors from Neumunster.
- Thanks be given to Anita Tysoe and Kirsty Gaunt for the Silk River Project which the Mayor thoroughly enjoyed.
- Thanks be given to all participants of the Mayor's Boundary Walk which was held on 7 and 8 October 2017.
- There will be a number of Christmas events.

**Close of meeting**

The meeting ended at 10.22pm