

Council

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

7.00 pm

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr John Caller
The Deputy Mayor, Lyn Milner

Councillors: Ejaz Aslam
Gurjit Bains
John Burden
Harold Craske
Lee Croxton
Aaron Elliott
Leslie Hills
Samir Jassal
Bob Lane
Jordan Meade
Shane Mochrie-Cox
Diane Morton
Peter Scollard
Gurbax Singh
Lauren Sullivan
Narinderjit Singh Thandi
Jenny Wallace
Frank Wardle

Stuart Bobby	Chief Executive
Simon Walsh	Service Manager (Communities)
David Herrington	Digital Manager
Chris Wakeford	Committee Services Manager

1. Declarations of Interest

Cllr John Burden declared an interest in relation to agenda item 16 - Long term loan to Elizabeth Huggins Cottages Charity Housing Association as he is a representative on the Board of the Association. Cllr Burden left the Chamber during consideration of this item.

2. Election of Mayor for the ensuing municipal year

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

Cllr Lyn Milner be elected Mayor of the Borough for the municipal year 2021/2022.

Tribute was paid to Cllr Lyn Milner for her service to the Council, to previous Mayors and the community. Cllr Milner had previously served as Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

It was **resolved** unanimously that Cllr Lyn Milner be duly elected Mayor of the Borough for the municipal year 2021/22.

Cllr Lyn Milner made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office required by Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Mayor, in giving her acceptance speech, stated that she had selected Ellenor Hospice and Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services as her charities for the year

3. Vote of thanks to Outgoing Mayor

It was moved by the Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr Lyn Milner that the best thanks of the Council be accorded to Cllr John Caller for the manner in which he carried out the office of Mayor for the past municipal year. Cllr Caller suitably replied and in doing so offered thanks to those who had assisted him during his year in office.

The Worshipful the Mayor advised that the Past Mayor's Badge and Past Mayoress's Badge would be presented to Cllr John Caller after the meeting.

4. Mayoress / Mayor's Escort

The Worshipful the Mayor stated that she would not be appointing a Mayor's Escort.

The Worshipful the Mayor intended to invite family, friends, Councillors and Community Members to accompany her to various events and functions.

5. Appointment of the Civic Chaplain

The Worshipful the Mayor stated that the Civic Chaplain would be Reverend Jacqueline Littlewood.

6. Election of the Deputy Mayor for the ensuing municipal year

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

Cllr Peter Scollard be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the municipal year 2021/22.

Tribute was paid to Cllr Peter Scollard for his service to the Council, to previous Mayors and the community.

It was **resolved** unanimously that Cllr Peter Scollard be duly elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal year 2021/22.

Cllr Peter Scollard made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office required by Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972.

7. Deputy Mayoress / Deputy Mayor's Escort

The Deputy Mayor stated that his Deputy Mayoress would be his partner, Julie Easy.

8. Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 13 April 2021

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on Tuesday, 13 April 2021 were signed by the Mayor.

9. Confirmation of the arrangements in respect of the Cabinet

The Council noted the arrangements put in place for the Cabinet and the names of the Members that would comprise the Cabinet:-

- Leader – Cllr John Burden
- Deputy Leader & Operational Services Portfolio – Cllr Lee Croxton
- Commercial Services Portfolio – Cllr Lenny Rolles
- Community & Leisure Portfolio – Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox
- Strategic Environment Portfolio – Cllr Lauren Sullivan
- Performance & Administration Portfolio – Cllr Narinderjit Singh Thandi
- Housing Services Portfolio – Cllr Jenny Wallace

The following items (Minute 10 to 14) were moved by Cllr John Burden, seconded by Cllr Lee Croxton and agreed en-bloc unanimously.

10. Representation of Political Groups on Committees

1. Having reviewed the representation of the political groups on Council Committees and Boards, that the allocation of seats thereon to the political groups be determined as follows:-

Planning Committee	9 Members
Labour Group	4 seats
Conservative Group	4 seats
Gravesham Independent Group	1 seat
Licensing Committee	14 Members
Labour Group	6 seats
Conservative Group	7 seats
Gravesham Independent Group	1 seat
Finance and Audit Committee	9 Members
Labour Group	5 seats
Conservative Group	4 seats

Overview Scrutiny Committee	9 Members
Labour Group	5 seats
Conservative Group	4 seats
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee	14 Members
Labour Group	6 seats
Conservative Group	7 seats
Gravesham Independent Group	1 seat
Appointments Board	14 Members
Labour Group	6 seats
Conservative Group	7 seats
Gravesham Independent Group	1 seat
Standards Committee	9 Members
Labour Group	5 seats
Conservative Group	4 seats
Appeals Sub-Committee	3 Members
Labour Group	2 seats
Conservative Group	1 seat
Appointments Panel	3 Members
Labour Group	2 seats
Conservative Group	1 seat
Hackney Carriage Sub-Committee	3 Members
Labour Group	2 seats
Conservative Group	1 seat
Licensing Panel	3 Members
Labour Group	2 seats
Conservative Group	1 seat

That each political group may appoint substitute Members for all of the above Committees and Boards, except the Standards Committee and the Appointments Board, in accordance with Procedural Rule 7.

11. Appointment of Members to Committee and Boards

1. That the Committees and Boards of the Council be appointed as set out below so as to give effect to the wishes of the political groups as notified to the Service Manager (Communities) and that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs be as shown.

Planning Committee – 9 Seats

Labour Group (4 seats)

Cllr Brian Sangha (Chair)
Cllr Brian Francis
Cllr Elizabeth Mulheran
Cllr Emma Morley

Conservative Group (4 seats)

Cllr Gary Harding
Cllr Samir Jassal
Cllr Bob Lane
Cllr Tony Rice

Gravesham Independent Group (1 seat)

Cllr Harold Craske
(Vice-Chair)

Licensing Committee – 14 Seats

Labour Group (6 seats)

Cllr Steve Thompson (Chair)
Cllr Jenny Wallace
(Vice-Chair)
Cllr John Caller
Cllr Brian Francis
Cllr Baljit Hayre
Cllr Tony Rana

Conservative Group (7 seats)

Cllr Derek Ashenden
Cllr Helen Ashenden
Cllr Emma Elliott
Cllr Leslie Hoskins
Cllr Jordan Meade
Cllr Denise Tiran
Cllr Frank Wardle

Gravesham Independent Group (1 seat)

Cllr Leslie Pearton

Finance and Audit Committee – 9 Seats

Labour Group (5 seats)

Cllr Gurbax Singh (Chair)
Cllr Sarah Gow (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Nirmal Khabra
Cllr Emma Morley
Cllr Elizabeth Mulheran

Conservative Group (4 seats)

Cllr Derek Ashenden
Cllr Dakota Dibben
Cllr Samir Jassal
Cllr Jordan Meade

Gravesham Independent Group (0 seats)

Overview Scrutiny Committee – 9 Seats

Labour Group (5 seats)

Cllr Baljit Hayre (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Sarah Gow
Cllr Elizabeth Mulheran
Cllr Christina Rolles
Cllr Peter Scollard

Conservative Group (4 seats)

Cllr Jordan Meade (Chair)
Cllr Gurjit Bains
Cllr Leslie Hills
Cllr Diane Morton

Gravesham Independent Group (0 seats)

Crime and Disorder Committee – 14 Seats

<u>Labour Group (6 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (7 seats)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (1 seat)</u>
Cllr Baljit Hayre (Chair)	Cllr Derek Ashenden	Cllr Leslie Pearton
Cllr Brian Sangha (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Helen Ashenden	
Cllr John Caller	Cllr Ejaz Aslam	
Cllr Brian Francis	Cllr Dakota Dibben	
Cllr Elizabeth Mulheran	Cllr Aaron Elliott	
Cllr Tony Rana	Cllr Gary Harding	
	Cllr Frank Wardle	

Appointments Board – 14 Seats

<u>Labour Group (6 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (7 seats)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (1 seat)</u>
Cllr John Burden (Chair)	Cllr Helen Ashenden	Cllr Harold Craske
Cllr Lee Croxton (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Ejaz Aslam	
Cllr Lyn Milner	Cllr Leslie Hills	
Cllr Lenny Rolles	Cllr Jordan Meade	
Cllr Lauren Sullivan	Cllr Anthony Pritchard	
Cllr Jenny Wallace	Cllr Tony Rice	
	Cllr Denise Tiran	

Standards Committee (no substitutes) – 9 Seats

<u>Labour Group (5 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (4 seats)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (0 seats)</u>
Cllr John Caller (Chair)	Cllr Emma Elliott	
Cllr Lyn Milner (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Leslie Hills	
Cllr Tony Rana	Cllr Diane Morton	
Cllr Gurbax Singh	Cllr Denise Tiran	
Cllr Brian Sangha		

Appeals Sub-Committee – 3 seats

<u>Labour Group (2 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (1 seat)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (0 seat)</u>
Cllr Lyn Milner (Chair)	Cllr Gary Harding	
Cllr Christina Rolles (Vice-Chair)		

Hackney Carriage Sub-Committee – 3 seats

<u>Labour Group (2 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (1 seat)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (0 seat)</u>
Cllr John Burden (Chair)	Cllr Jordan Meade	
Cllr Brian Sangha (Vice-Chair)		

Appointments Panel (3 seats) - The panel's membership is drawn from available Appointments Board Members and will consist of two Labour Members and one Conservative Member.

Licensing Panel (3 seats) - The panel's membership is drawn from available Licensing Committee Members and will consist of two Labour Members and one Conservative Member.

Joint Arrangements with other Local Authorities

Joint Transportation Board (no substitutes) – 5 seats

<u>Labour Group (3 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (2 seats)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (0 seat)</u>
Cllr Peter Scollard (Chair) Cllr Brian Francis Cllr Nirmal Khabra	Cllr Leslie Hills Cllr Bob Lane	

South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee – 1 seat (plus substitute)

<u>Labour Group (1 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (0 seats)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (0 seat)</u>
Cllr John Burden (Chair) Cllr Brian Sangha (Substitute)		

Cabinet Committees

Community & Leisure Cabinet Committee – 10 seats

<u>Labour Group (5 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (4 seats)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (1 seat)</u>
Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox (Chair) Cllr Tony Rana (Vice-Chair) Cllr Emma Morley Cllr Christina Rolles Cllr Peter Scollard	Cllr Helen Ashenden Cllr Ejaz Aslam Cllr Gurjit Bains Cllr Aaron Elliott	Cllr Harold Craske

Operational Services Cabinet Committee – 10 seats

<u>Labour Group (5 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (4 seats)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (1 seat)</u>
Cllr Lee Croxton (Chair) Cllr Gurbax Singh (Vice-Chair) Cllr Nirmal Khabra Cllr Gurdip Ram Bungar Cllr Brian Sangha	Cllr Conrad Broadley Cllr Gary Harding Cllr Alan Ridgers Cllr Frank Wardle	Cllr Leslie Pearton

Housing Services Cabinet Committee – 10 seats

<u>Labour Group (5 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (4 seats)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (1 seat)</u>
Cllr Jenny Wallace (Chair) Cllr Christina Rolles (Vice-Chair) Cllr Baljit Hayre Cllr Lyn Milner Cllr Peter Scollard	Cllr Ejaz Aslam Cllr Dakota Dibben Cllr Leslie Hills Cllr Leslie Hoskins	Cllr Leslie Pearton

Performance and Administration Cabinet Committee – 10 seats

<u>Labour Group (5 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (4 seats)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (1 seat)</u>
Cllr Narinderjit Singh Thandi (Chair) Cllr Brian Francis (Vice-Chair) Cllr Sarah Gow Cllr Elizabeth Mulheran Cllr Gurbax Singh	Cllr Dakota Dibben Cllr Gary Harding Cllr Leslie Hills Cllr Samir Jassal	Cllr Harold Craske

Strategic Environment Cabinet Committee – 10 seats

<u>Labour Group (5 seats)</u>	<u>Conservative Group (4 seats)</u>	<u>Gravesham Independent Group (1 seat)</u>
Cllr Lauren Sullivan (Chair) Cllr Brian Sangha (Vice-Chair) Cllr Brian Francis Cllr Baljit Hayre Cllr Emma Morley	Cllr Dakota Dibben Cllr Leslie Hills Cllr Leslie Hoskins Cllr Bob Lane	Cllr Harold Craske

Commercial Services Cabinet Committee – 10 seatsLabour Group (5 seats)

Cllr Lenny Rolles
(Chair)
Cllr Sarah Gow
(Vice-Chair)
Cllr Gurdip Ram Bungar
Cllr Tony Rana
Cllr Gurbax Singh

Conservative Group (4 seats)

Cllr Samir Jassal
Cllr Anthony Pritchard
Cllr Tony Rice
Cllr Denise Tiran

Gravesham Independent Group
(1 seat)

Cllr Leslie Pearton

12. Appointment of representatives to Outside Bodies

That appointments to outside bodies be made in accordance with the following list:-

Action with Communities in Rural Kent

Cllrs John Burden and Leslie Hills

Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services

Cllr Lyn Milner

Charity of Knight's Almshouses (4 year term)

Cllr Elizabeth Mulheran

Choices (formerly North Kent Women's Aid)

Cllr Sarah Gow

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

Cllr Jenny Wallace

CCTV – Lay Panel of Visitors

Cllrs Lyn Milner, Jenny Wallace and Frank Wardle
Substitutes: Cllrs John Burden, Shane Mochrie-Cox and Dakota Dibben

Cyclopark

Cllr John Caller

Dartford and Gravesham District Partnership Group

Cllr John Burden

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Stakeholder Council

Cllrs John Burden and Jordan Meade

DGSM Your Choice

Cllr Lenny Rolles

Ebbsfleet UDC Board Planning Committee

Cllr Lauren Sullivan
Substitute: Cllr Harold Craske

Elizabeth Huggins Cottages Charity (4 year term)

Mr Ernie Brook

Gravesend & District Mencap Society

Cllrs Lee Croxton and Leslie Hoskins

Gravesend Regatta Committee

Cllrs Lenny Rolles, Shane Mochrie-Cox and Harold Craske

Gravesham Access Group

Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox

Gravesham Community Leisure Limited

Cllrs Shane Mochrie-Cox and Peter Scollard

Gravesham Community Safety Partnership

Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox

Substitute: Cllr John Burden

Gravesham Rights of Way Committee

Cllrs Lee Croxton, Brian Francis and Tony Rice.

Kent County Playing Fields Association

Cllr Brian Sangha

Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cllr Lee Croxton

Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel

Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox

Local Government Association

Cllr John Burden

Local Government Information Unit

Cllr John Burden

Meopham Community Sports and Leisure Association Management Committee

Cllrs John Caller and Ejaz Aslam

North Kent Crime Prevention Panel

Cllr Tony Rana

North Kent Marshes Internal Drainage Board

Cllrs Jenny Wallace, Harold Craske and Lee Croxton

North Kent Relate

Cllr Christina Rolles

North West Kent Volunteer Centre

Cllr Peter Scollard

PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Adjudication Joint Committee

Cllr Brian Sangha

Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS)

Cllr Lauren Sullivan

Substitute: Cllr Harold Craske

The Grand Community Interest Company

Cllrs John Burden and Shane Mochrie-Cox

Town Twinning Association

Cllrs Lyn Milner and Alan Ridgers

13. Scheme of Delegation

The scheme of delegation relating to the Council's functions other than Cabinet functions contained within Annexes 1.2, 1.3, 1.13, 1.14 and 1.15 of the Constitution were re-affirmed.

14. Timetable of meetings for the forthcoming municipal year

That the timetable of meetings for the 2021/22 municipal year be adopted.

15. Questions

No questions had been received.

16. Long term loan to Elizabeth Huggins Cottages Charity Housing Association - Update

The Chief Executive explained that in December 2019 Full Council approved the provision of a loan facility of up to £2m to The Elizabeth Huggins Cottages Charity Housing Association (The Charity). The loan facility was to be used to fund the development of housing at their site at Cross Lane West and provide a long term investment income stream to the council. To date this loan facility has not been utilised.

The Charity has recently identified potential additional funding for the development through Homes England. The Charity has subsequently approached the council to seek amendment to the loan facility structure previously agreed (should their bid for funds be successful), such that it is available to fund all stages of the scheme rather than just the element previously referred to as phase one. The total value of the loan facility requested remains as previously approved at up to £2m.

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

- Delegates responsibility to the Director (Corporate Services)(in the role of S151 Officer), in consultation with the Deputy Leader, Lead Member for Housing, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to negotiate and agree the final terms of any loan and enter into the necessary associated legal agreements on behalf of the council.

- Provides approval for the necessary updates to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement to reflect that the Non-Specified Investments time duration for term deposits with unrated counterparties be increased to 50 years, as per the potential loan arrangement with the Charity.

The motion was put to the meeting and declared to be carried unanimously.

Note: Cllr John Burden left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Close of meeting

The meeting ended at 7.33 pm