
West Sussex County Council – Ordinary Meeting

19 March 2021

At the virtual Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held at 10.30 am on Friday, 19 March 2021, the members present being:

Cllr Duncton (Chairman)

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| Cllr Arculus | Cllr Kitchen |
| Cllr Acraman | Cllr Lanzer |
| Cllr Atkins, RD | Cllr Lea |
| Cllr Baldwin | Cllr Lord |
| Cllr Barling | Cllr Magill |
| Cllr Barnard | Cllr Markwell |
| Cllr Barrett-Miles | Cllr Marshall |
| Cllr Bennett | Cllr McDonald |
| Cllr Boram | Cllr Millson |
| Cllr Bradbury | Cllr Mitchell |
| Cllr Bradford | Cllr Montyn |
| Cllr Brunsdon | Cllr R Oakley |
| Cllr Buckland | Cllr S Oakley |
| Cllr Burgess | Cllr O'Kelly |
| Cllr Burrett | Cllr Oppler |
| Cllr Catchpole | Cllr Oxlade |
| Cllr Cloake | Cllr Patel |
| Cllr Crow | Cllr Pendleton |
| Cllr J Dennis | Cllr Purchase |
| Cllr N Dennis | Cllr Purnell |
| Cllr Edwards | Cllr Quinn |
| Cllr Elkins | Cllr Russell |
| Cllr Fitzjohn | Cllr Smytherman |
| Cllr Hall | Cllr Sparkes |
| Cllr High | Cllr Sudan |
| Cllr Hillier | Cllr Turner |
| Cllr Hunt | Cllr Urquhart |
| Cllr A Jones, MBE | Cllr Waight |
| Cllr M Jones | Cllr Walsh, KStJ, RD |
| Cllr A Jupp | Cllr Whittington |
| Cllr N Jupp | Cllr Wickremaratchi |
| Cllr Kennard | |

87 Deaths of Lt Col David Jones and Mr Martin Daws-Chew

87.1 The Chairman reported the deaths of two former members of the Council, Lt Col David Jones, who had represented the Bourne division from 1989 to 1997 and Mr Martin Daws-Chew, who had represented The Witterings division from 1989 to 2009.

87.2 Members held a minute's silence.

88 Long Service Awards and Retirements

- 88.1 The Chairman asked members to join her in congratulating three members on 20 years' service on the County Council. Councillors Pat Arculus, Lionel Barnard and Louise Goldsmith were all first elected to the County Council in 2001. They had served in many important roles, with Cllrs Arculus and Barnard each serving as Chairman and Cllr Goldsmith serving as Leader.
- 88.2 As it was the last meeting before the election, the Chairman also expressed her thanks to members who were standing down at the end of the term and wished them well for the future.

89 Apologies for Absence

- 89.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Bridges, Cllr Goldsmith, Cllr Simmons and Cllr Smith.
- 89.2 Cllr Purchase and Cllr Barling and gave their apologies for the start of the morning session and joined at 11.10 am and 11.15 am respectively. Cllr A Jones joined at 10.42 am.
- 89.3 Apologies for the afternoon session were received from Cllr Barling and Cllr R Oakley. Cllr Montyn gave his apologies for the start of the afternoon session and joined at 3.36 pm. Cllr Purchase joined at 2.05 pm.
- 89.4 Cllr Oppler left at 2.27 pm and Cllr Buckland at 3.04 pm.

90 Members' Interests

- 90.1 Members declared interests as set out at Appendix 1.

91 Minutes

- 91.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held on 12 February 2021 (pages 9 to 22) be approved as a correct record.

92 Address by a Cabinet Member

- 92.1 Members received an address by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on the Council's Children First Improvement Plan, together with a report (pages 23 to 26).
- 92.2 In response to a question from Cllr Lord about whether young people were aware of the proposals for Find It Out centres in the early help consultation, the Cabinet Member agreed to review the level of engagement with young people with the Executive Director and respond to Cllr Lord.

93 Petition

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- 93.1 The Council debated the following petition. A briefing note from the Director of Children, Young People and Learning and a statement from the petitioners and been circulated with the agenda (pages 27 to 30).

Halt the planned cuts to West Sussex Children and Family Centres

'We call on West Sussex County Council to halt the planned cuts to its Early Help service and reverse the proposed closures of the Children's and Family Centres and Find it Out advice centres across the county.'

- 93.2 Mrs Catherine Arnold, on behalf of the petitioners, addressed the Council for five minutes in support of the petition.
- 93.3 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded to the petition for five minutes on behalf of the County Council.
- 93.4 The Council debated the petition.
- 93.5 A proposition was moved by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr A Jones as set out below:
- 'The Cabinet Member is invited to include this petition and the debate that follows in the consideration of her response to the consultation in due course.'
- 93.6 A proposition was moved by Cllr M Jones and seconded by Cllr Oxlade as set out below:
- 'This Council supports the petition and asks the Cabinet Member to halt the process of closures.'
- 93.7 Mrs Arnold, on behalf of the petitioners, and the Cabinet Member were each given three minutes to make a closing statement.
- 93.8 The proposition by Cllr Bennett was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.35.

(a) For the proposition – 44

Cllr Acraman, Cllr Arculus, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Barnard, Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Bradford, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Catchpole, Cllr Cloake, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Hall, Cllr High, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jones, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kennard, Cllr Kitchen, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Magill, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr R Oakley, Cllr S Oakley, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Purnell, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Turner, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the proposition – 5

Cllr Buckland, Cllr M Jones, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Quinn and Cllr Sudan.

(c) Abstentions – 13

Cllr Brunsdon, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Fitzjohn, Cllr Lea, Cllr Lord, Cllr Millson, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Patel, Cllr Purchase, Cllr Smytherman, Cllr Walsh and Cllr Whittington.

93.9 The proposition was carried.

93.10 The proposition by Cllr M Jones fell away.

94 Pay Policy Statement 2021/22

94.1 The Council considered the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22, in the light of a report from the Governance Committee (pages 31 to 42).

94.2 Resolved –

- (1) That the proposed revisions to the Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) That authority be given to the Directors of Law and Assurance and of Human Resources and Organisational Development, in consultation with the Chairman, to finalise the wording of paragraphs 10.1 and 11.1 of the Statement once revised Regulations on any public sector pay cap have been published’.

95 Governance Committee: Appointment of co-opted Independent member of Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee and change to Joint Scrutiny Arrangements

95.1 The Council considered a proposal for the inclusion in the constitution of the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee of an independent member and a minor change to the joint scrutiny arrangements, in the light of a report by the Governance Committee (pages 43 to 50). It was noted that paragraph 11 of the report had been included in error and should be deleted.

95.2 Resolved –

- (1) That the changes to the constitution of the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) That the Director of Law and Assurance and the Director of Finance and Support Services be given delegated authority to make arrangements to finalise the job description, advertise and take all other steps necessary to recruit to the role, for which travel expenses will be payable; and

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- (3) That the changes to the constitution of the Joint Scrutiny Steering Group, with effect from 1 May 2021, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report, be approved.

96 Question Time

- 96.1 Members asked questions of members of the Cabinet on matters relevant to their portfolios, as set out at Appendix 3. This included questions on those matters contained within the Cabinet report (pages 51 to 66) and a supplementary report (supplement pages 1 and 2) and written questions and answers pursuant to Standing Order 2.38 (set out at Appendix 2).
- 96.2 As this item was deferred at the last meeting due to lack of time, the Cabinet report also included an Appendix 1 which set out the written questions submitted for the meeting of the Council on 12 February 2021.

97 Report of Urgent Action: Regulation 19

- 97.1 The report of urgent action taken under regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (pages 67 to 70) was noted.

98 Soft Sand Review: adoption of changes to the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan

- 98.1 The Council considered the Soft Sand Review: Adoption of changes to the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan, in the light of a report by the Cabinet Member for Environment (pages 71 to 118).
- 98.2 Resolved –
- That the changes to the Joint Minerals Local Plan identified through the Soft Sand Review, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.

99 West Sussex County Council Armed Forces Strategy

- 99.1 The Council considered the draft Armed Forces Strategy for approval by the Leader after the Council meeting, in the light of a report by the Armed Forces Champion (pages 119 to 126). It was noted that in Appendix 1 on page 125, in Figure 1 of the draft Strategy there should be a dotted line between the West Sussex Civilian Military Partnership and the WSCC Armed Forces Champion to indicate it was a reporting line.
- 99.2 The recommendation was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.35.
- (a) For the recommendation – 58

Cllr Acraman, Cllr Arculus, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Barnard, Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Bradford, Cllr Brunson, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Catchpole, Cllr Cloake, Cllr Crow, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Fitzjohn, Cllr Hall, Cllr High, Cllr Hillier, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jones, Cllr M Jones, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Kennard, Cllr Kitchen, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Lea, Cllr Lord, Cllr Magill, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Millson, Cllr Montyn, Cllr O'Kelly, Cllr S Oakley, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Patel, Cllr Pendleton, Cllr Purnell, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Russell, Cllr Smytherman, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Sudan, Cllr Turner, Cllr Urquhart, Cllr Waight, Cllr Walsh, Cllr Whittington and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the recommendation – 0

(c) Abstentions – 0

99.3 Resolved –

That the Armed Forces Strategy, subject to the minor amendment set out in minute 99.1 above, be endorsed for approval by the Leader.

100 Council meetings - contingency arrangements for pandemic restrictions

100.1 The Council considered proposed contingency arrangements for holding Council and committee meetings if the regulations allowing virtual meetings are not extended or replaced with similar provisions, in the light of a report by the Director of Law and Assurance (pages 127 to 132). The report was moved with a minor revision to Appendix 1, as shown below in bold, italic text with a deletion struck through, which had been circulated.

'3.09d Other members of the Council or a committee may participate in the meeting virtually via audio or video conferencing, including the right to speak on matters ~~not~~ requiring a decision or vote **where the Chairman of the meeting agrees**. They will not be entitled to vote on any business on the agenda. Virtual attendance at meetings convened under these arrangements shall be recorded and treated as a special dispensation for non-attendance at the meeting under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.'

100.2 Resolved –

(1) That the Council approves the adoption of emergency Standing Orders (Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the revision set out in minute 100.1 above) for use for any meeting of the Council or of a committee at which business is

required to be transacted requiring member vote or approval and which cannot otherwise be lawfully convened;

- (2) That these arrangements only be applied for as long as all leaders of the political groups of the Council approve of their use;
- (3) That the supplementary Council Standing Orders approved by the Council to enable the use of virtual meetings be confirmed to continue and to be used where required;
- (4) That attendance via virtual link by a member at meetings convened under these arrangements be recorded and that this be treated as a special dispensation for non-attendance at the meeting under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (5) That the Director of Law and Assurance keep all members advised of any changes in the regulatory framework leading to the need for this contingency.

101 Motion on Pension Investments

101.1 At the County Council meeting on 6 November 2020 the following motion had been moved by Cllr Michael Jones, seconded by Cllr Oxlade, and referred to the Governance Committee for consideration. A report by the Committee was included with the agenda (pages 133 to 136).

'In line with the principles previously supported by this Council in taking strong local action to address the climate emergency and recognising the strength of public opinion, as evidenced by the large demonstration at the full County Council meeting in February 2020, this Council calls on the West Sussex Pensions Committee to take all necessary steps to divest all of its investments from fossil fuel companies as soon as practicable.'

101.2 An amendment was moved by Cllr Lanzer and seconded by Cllr Wickremaratchi as set out below:

'In line with the principles previously supported by this Council in taking strong local action to address the climate emergency and recognising the strength of public opinion, as evidenced by the large demonstration at the full County Council meeting in February 2020, this Council calls on the West Sussex Pensions Committee to **focus on sustainable investment for growth through the application of its environmental, social and governance principles** take all necessary steps to divest all of its investments from fossil fuel companies as soon as practicable.'

101.3 The amendment was put to a recorded vote under Standing Order 3.35.

(a) For the amendment – 37

Cllr Acraman, Cllr Arculus, Cllr Atkins, Cllr Barling, Cllr Barnard, Cllr Barrett-Miles, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Boram, Cllr Bradbury, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Burrett, Cllr Catchpole, Cllr Cloake, Cllr Crow, Cllr Duncton, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Hall, Cllr High, Cllr Hillier, Cllr A Jupp, Cllr Kennard, Cllr Kitchen, Cllr Lanzer, Cllr Magill, Cllr Markwell, Cllr Marshall, Cllr McDonald, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Montyn, Cllr S Oakley, Cllr Purnell, Cllr Russell, Cllr Sparkes, Cllr Turner, Cllr Waight, Cllr Whittington and Cllr Wickremaratchi.

(b) Against the amendment – 14

Cllr Brunsdon, Cllr N Dennis, Cllr Fitzjohn, Cllr M Jones, Cllr Lea, Cllr Lord, Cllr Millson, Cllr O’Kelly, Cllr Oxlade, Cllr Purchase, Cllr Quinn, Cllr Smytherman, Cllr Sudan and Cllr Walsh.

(c) Abstentions – 10

Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Bradford, Cllr J Dennis, Cllr Elkins, Cllr Hunt, Cllr A Jones, Cllr N Jupp, Cllr Patel, Cllr Pendleton and Cllr Urquhart.

101.4 The amendment was carried.

101.5 The amended motion, as set out below, was agreed.

‘In line with the principles previously supported by this Council in taking strong local action to address the climate emergency and recognising the strength of public opinion, as evidenced by the large demonstration at the full County Council meeting in February 2020, this Council calls on the West Sussex Pensions Committee to focus on sustainable investment for growth through the application of its environmental, social and governance principles.’

102 Motion on Emergency Services

102.1 Due to lack of time the motion on emergency services fell away.

103 Motion on Mental Health

103.1 Due to lack of time the motion on mental health fell away.

104 Motion on Bus Lanes

104.1 Due to lack of time the motion on bus lanes fell away.

105 Motion on Romance Fraud

105.1 Due to lack of time the motion on romance fraud fell away.

106 Motion on Unitary Council Status

106.1 Due to lack of time the motion emergency services fell away.

Chairman

The Council rose at 4.40 pm