

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL COUNCIL

25 AUGUST 2020

PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Lewis), Councillors Mrs A'Barrow, Bearne, Mrs Bragg, Mrs Brown, Brown, Cade, Mrs Crane, Cranham, Douglas, Eccleson, Ellis, Mrs Garcia, Gillias, Keeling, Miss Lawrence, Lowe, McQueen, Mahoney, McQueen, Mistry, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Pacey-Day, Picker, Poole, Ms Robbins, Mrs Roberts, Roberts, Roodhouse, Mrs Roodhouse, Shera, Mrs Simpson-Vince and Srivastava.

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Brader and Leigh Hunt.

18. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21 July 2020 were approved.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that, since 15 May, he had been attending some of the weekly virtual sing-along sessions run by Rugby Dementia Support, one of his charities. Those taking part had found the contact with one another and with family members who live elsewhere, sometimes in other countries, to be very helpful in dealing with isolation during lock-down.

Last Saturday, the Mayor and Mayoress attended their first 'face to face' engagement for five months, since 16 March. They were invited to a 'bring your own food and cutlery' picnic outside in Caldecott Park organised by the Benn Partnership Centre. It was held to thank the volunteer seamstresses who manufactured and delivered free of charge 10,000 cloth face masks, as part of the Rugby PPE Response Group, to vulnerable people and organisations that serve vulnerable people. There is another 'in person' mayoral engagement due to take place on Thursday this week.

It was good to witness a slight easing of the lock-down restrictions with people beginning to come out of 'summer hibernation'. However, the Mayor reiterated his message from the previous Council meeting that we must continue to take simple steps to reduce the likelihood of transmission of the disease and encourage our residents to do so too. We only have to look at some adjacent centres of population to see what can happen if we do not.

21. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

(a) Updated and amended Guidance to the Adopted Statement of Community Involvement (2019) in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Council considered the report of the Head of Growth and Investment (Part 1 – agenda item 4(a)) concerning the proposed updated and amended Guidance to the Statement of Community Involvement in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

RESOLVED THAT –

(1) the updated and amended Guidance to the Statement of Community Involvement for a temporary period be approved; and

(2) delegated authority be given to the Head of Growth and Investment to remove the updated and amended Guidance once the government guidance is changed.

22. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT - under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of information as defined in paragraph 2 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

23. PRIVATE REPORT OF OFFICERS

(a) Restructure to prepare for recovery

Council considered the report of the Executive Director (Part 2 – agenda item 1(a)) concerning the proposed initial process to commence the restructure of the Council's senior management team in order to prepare for recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

RESOLVED THAT -

(1) the process to commence the restructure of the senior management team be approved; and

(2) delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director to undertake a consultation period with any necessary staff and trade union representatives on the proposed restructure proposals.

MAYOR