

DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2020

Councillors Present: Adrian Abbs, Steve Ardagh-Walter, Phil Barnett, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Brooks, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Jeremy Cottam, Carolyne Culver, Lee Dillon, Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, Clive Hooker (Vice-Chairman), Gareth Hurley, Owen Jeffery, Rick Jones, Nassar Kessell, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Ross Mackinnon, Alan Macro, Thomas Marino, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Graham Pask (Chairman), Erik Pattenden, Claire Rowles, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Andrew Williamson, Keith Woodhams and Howard Woollaston

Also Present: Kofi Adu-Gyamfi (Waste Manager), John Ashworth (Corporate Director - Environment), Mandip Bilkhu (Communications and Marketing Officer), Nick Carter (Chief Executive), Sarah Clarke (Head of Legal and Strategic Support), Martin Dunscombe (Communications Manager), Tess Ethelston (Group Executive (Cons)), Joseph Holmes (Executive Director - Resources), Olivia Lewis (Group Executive (Lib Dem)), Bryan Lyttle (Planning & Transport Policy Manager), Andy Sharp (Executive Director (People)), Jon Winstanley (Head of Transport and Countryside), Moira Fraser (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager) and Honorary Alderman Andrew Rowles

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Peter Argyle, Councillor Jeff Cant and Councillor Royce Longton

Councillor Absent: Councillor Andy Moore

PART I

18. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman asked Members to observe a minute's silence in respect of former Councillor Peter Dolphin who had sadly passed away. Councillor Dolphin was a highly regarded councillor who had led the Conservative Group in the 1980s and was Chairman of Council in 1987/88. Councillor Tony Linden commented that he had served his country in the Second World War and was a very decent and principled man.

The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-Chairman had attended a number of events since the last Council meeting. The most poignant of these was attending the funeral of Councillor Andy Harper in Oxford which had been a very moving experience.

19. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2019 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Lee Dillon declared an interest in Agenda Item 20, and reported that, as his interest was a disclosable pecuniary interest he would be leaving the meeting during the course of consideration of the matter.

All Members declared that they had been lobbied on Agenda Item 6.

21. Petitions

There were no petitions presented to the meeting.

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22. Council's Response to a Plastic Waste Recycling Petition - Additional Plastic Waste Collections

The Chairman informed those present how the petition for debate would be managed. He explained that in accordance with paragraph 1.4 (f) of the Council's Procedure Rules for Dealing with Representations, the petition organiser had five minutes to introduce the petition and the petition would then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. This time limit was specified in the Constitution and could not be extended. Based on proportionality, the Conservative Group would be allocated eight of these minutes, the Liberal Democrat Group would have six minutes and the Green Party one minute.

The Council had three options for dealing with petitions for debate:

1. To take the action the petition suggested
2. Not to take the action for the reason put forward in the debate
3. To commission a further investigation into the matter

Members could propose one of the options, which if seconded, would be put to a vote.

The petition stated:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Council to

1. Improve the environmental solutions for single-use plastics, including the collection and recycling of domestic plastic waste within West Berkshire.
2. Provide more effective communication on the environmental solutions for single-use plastics, including the collection and recycling of domestic plastic waste within West Berkshire.
3. Improve research into alternative and more ecological approaches to managing domestic plastic waste within West Berkshire."

As the petition organiser, Ms Sukey Russell, was uncertain if she would be able to get to the meeting on time she had asked Councillor Steve Masters to introduce the petition on her behalf.

Councillor Masters stated that residents were making lots of sacrifices in order to take items that were not collected in West Berkshire to neighbouring authorities that did recycle them. Residents were concerned about the low levels of single use plastics collected by the Council. They were also concerned that the plastic was being incinerated and that residents were making a significant number of car journeys to take the plastics elsewhere. They were urging the Council to emulate recycling activity undertaken by other authorities. They urged the Council not only to look into the issue of food waste but also to increase the range of plastics collected at the kerbside. They urged the Council to improve research into alternative and more ecological approaches to managing domestic plastic waste within the District and to improve consultation and engagement with the public on this matter.

Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter proposed that Members did not take the action proposed in the petition for the reasons that would be put forward in the debate and as set out in the accompanying report. Councillor Ross Mackinnon seconded the motion. Councillor Carolyne Culver stated that she would like to propose that the Council commission a further investigation into the matter. The Monitoring Officer explained that only one motion could be moved at any one time and no further motion could be moved until that proposal had been dispensed with.

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Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter stated that while he welcomed the spirit of the petition, it was important that the Council disposed of any recycled matter responsibly. He suggested that the Council paused until there was further clarity from Central Government on emerging waste collection requirements, funding options and the development of established offtake markets for these additional materials preferably in the UK. Councillor Ardagh-Walter commented that plastic had become the symbol of harm being done to the planet. The Council would continue to ensure that it dealt with recycled materials in a responsible manner and that it did not add unnecessarily to carbon emissions by transporting the materials to Continental Europe to be processed. He stressed the need for manufacturers to bear the cost of dealing with the materials they were producing.

The Council was however committed to improving its recycling performance. Officers were of the view that a more cost effective solution would be to explore introducing separate food waste collections at the kerbside which would deliver significantly better environmental and value for money solutions.

Councillor Carolyn Culver stated that she agreed that it was not appropriate for tax payers to subsidise the costs being generated by the manufacturers. However she felt that the Council should opt to commission a further investigation into the matter. They could for example look into the way waste was handled by other authorities including Oxford and Exeter. She agreed that the Council should introduce the food caddy system as soon as possible. She also believed that the Council should revoke the green bin charge to reduce reliance on black bins.

Councillor Adrian Abbs contested the comment in the report that stated that the Council was one of the better performing local authorities in England. He stated that the Council was ranked 87th of the 345 local authorities in the country which meant they were not even in the top quartile. Recycling rates were 15.5% lower than the best performing authorities. He believed that some of the data that the recommendations were based on was inaccurate. The Council had recently declared a climate emergency and needed to act on it.

He noted that the re3 Recycling Centre in Reading accepted mixed plastics and the Council needed to look further afield to find a solution. This would not necessarily mean having to spend up to £1m on upgrading the sorting technology at the Padworth Recycling Facility. Over 2000 residents had taken the time to sign the petition and the Council needed to listen to their concerns. He therefore urged Members to support option 3 and spend some additional funding on additional investigations rather than opting not to take the action set out in the petition.

Councillor Owen Jeffery urged the Council not to be complacent about its recycling rate of 49% and urged it to do more. He stated that Members needed to listen to the concerns being raised by its residents.

Councillor Martha Vickers agreed that recycling was not the best option and that more should be done to reduce waste from the outset. She noted that the report outlined that around 25% of the waste in black bins was food waste and that not everyone had a green bin to put their food waste into. She felt that more should be done to promote schemes that supported the reduction of food waste being generated.

Councillor Graham Bridgman commented on the statements made by Councillor Abbs about recycling rates in Reading by reminding him that that West Berkshire Council's recycling rates were significantly better than theirs.

Councillor Hilary Cole reminded Members that residents could use their green bins for food waste irrespective of whether they paid for them or not.

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Councillor Ross Mackinnon acknowledged the concerns raised by residents through the petition. He questioned the statement about inaccuracies in the data. He acknowledged that more could be done but that the Council needed to act responsibly. He noted that many authorities exported their plastic pots, tubs and trays (PTTs), often through third party organisations which meant that they did not retain control of the disposal mechanisms.

The introduction of the technology to recycle these materials would come at a significant cost to tax payers and could potentially have a very short shelf life if legislative changes were introduced. He therefore supported the proposal not to make any changes to the existing collection service for plastic waste until there was further clarity from Central Government on emerging waste collection requirements, funding options and the development of established offtake markets for these additional materials. Hopefully any changes would result in producers moving away from using these materials or being forced to pick up the liability for their disposal where they did not choose to do so.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

Prior to the vote being taken Councillor Lee Dillon requested that, in accordance with paragraph 4.17.3, the vote be recorded. The requisite number of Members supported the motion by standing in their place.

For the Motion (Not to take the action for the reason put forward in the debate)

Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Clive Hooker, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Tom Marino, Ross Mackinnon, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart, Andy Williamson, Howard Woollaston (22)

Against the Motion (Not to take the action for the reason put forward in the debate)

Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Carlyne Culver, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Owen Jeffery, Nassar Kessell, Alan Macro, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Erik Pattenden, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams (17)

23. Public Questions

A full transcription of the public and Member question and answer sessions are available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As](#). *(right click on link and 'Edit Hyperlink'. Insert URL to pdf on website in 'address' field)*

- a) It was agreed that a question standing in the name of Mr Brian Withers would receive a written response, given that he was unable to attend the meeting.
- b) It was agreed that a question standing in the name of Mr Simon Gardner would receive a written response, given that he was unable to attend the meeting.
- c) It was agreed that a question standing in the name of Mr Simon Gardner would receive a written response, given that he was unable to attend the meeting.

24. Membership of Committees

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Graham Bridgman:

That the Council:

“amends its appointment to the Licensing Committee as follows: Councillor Hilary Cole to replace Councillor Peter Argyle.”

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The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Graham Bridgman:

That the Council:

“amends its appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission as follows: Councillor Dennis Benneyworth to replace Councillor Peter Argyle.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Hilary Cole:

That the Council:

“amends its appointment to the Eastern Area Planning Committee as follows: Councillor Ross Mackinnon to replace Councillor Peter Argyle on the Committee with Councillor Graham Bridgman replacing Councillor Ross Mackinnon as substitute on that Committee.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Graham Bridgman:

That the Council:

“amends its appointment to the Appeals Panel as follows: Councillor Clive Hooker to replace Councillor Peter Argyle.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Hilary Cole:

That the Council:

“amends its appointment to the District Planning Committee as follows: Councillor Graham Bridgman to replace Councillor Peter Argyle as a substitute.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lee Dillon and seconded by Councillor Jeff Brooks:

That the Council:

“amends its appointment to the Personnel Committee as follows: Councillor Adrian Abbs to replace Councillor Nassar Kessell as a member of the Committee and Councillor Nassar Kessell to replace Councillor Adrian Abbs as a substitute on the Committee.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

25. **Motions from Previous Meetings**

The Council noted the following responses to motions which had been brought to previous Council meetings:

1. a motion relating to Traffic Safety on Bowling Green Road which was presented to the 02 July 2019 Council meeting by Councillor Keith Woodhams.
2. a motion about reopening London Road Industrial Estate Football Ground which was presented to the 12 September 2019 Council meeting by Councillor Lee Dillon.

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26. **Licensing Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Licensing Committee had met on 18 November 2019.

27. **Personnel Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Personnel Committee had met on 12 September 2019 and 15 October 2019.

28. **Governance and Ethics Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Governance and Ethics Committee had met on 25 November 2019.

29. **District Planning Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the District Planning Committee had not met.

30. **Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission had met on 29 October 2019.

31. **Joint Public Protection Committee**

The Council noted that, since the last meeting, the Joint Public Protection Committee had met on 7 November 2019.

32. **Response to a Motion on Development Sites for the New Local Plan (C3842)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 16) which set out a response to a motion brought to the September 2019 Council meeting.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Hilary Cole and seconded by Councillor Alan Law:

That the Council:

“does not support the motion for the reasons set out in the report”.

Councillor Hilary Cole in introducing the response commented that West Berkshire was a Plan led authority which took public consultation very seriously. She informed Members that the legislation required all Councillors, at a full Council meeting, to make the final decision on which sites to include in the plan. This decision was made after an open process which included setting out the reasoning in the public domain. In addition the decision was subject to an independent examination in public.

The motion made reference to transparency and democracy but failed to take cognisance of the legislative requirements set out in Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Councillor Hilary Cole highlighted that the Housing Sites Allocation Development Plan Document had over 4488 consultees, resulting in over 18000 comments, at the first stage and a further 616 consultees at the final stage. Both consultations were agreed by Council and following the second consultation all the evidence and proposals were subjected to an independent public examination.

She also reminded Members that parishes could make use of Neighbourhood Planning processes should they wish to do so. A number of parishes including Burghfield, Cold

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Ash, Compton, Hermitage, Hungerford, Lambourn and Tilehurst had embarked on this journey and Stratfield Mortimer had already adopted a Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Alan Macro stated that he was disappointed with the response. Anecdotal evidence gathered during campaigning for the General Election showed that residents did not feel involved in decision making which led to cynicism on their part. He reiterated the need for this process to be transparent given the impact that it had on land values.

Councillor Macro commented that when a planning application was submitted and there were ten or more letters of objection the matter was determined at a public meeting. The objectors were able to address the committee about their concerns. However during the site allocation process, where a proposal could affect hundreds of residents that lived close by, they were not given the opportunity to address Members at the Council meeting. The Planning Advisory Group was a private meeting. Making the proposed changes would make the process more transparent and would provide the opportunity for residents to make changes to proposals.

Councillor Alan Law was concerned that the motion could mislead members of the public who were not conversant with the process. He highlighted that during the previous Local Planning process the proposed sites at Pincents Hill and Siege Cross were both withdrawn following the public consultation process. In addition, a site in Kintbury was also removed during the process in 2016.

Councillor Law explained that the purpose of the Planning Advisory Group (PAG) was to advise the Portfolio Holder for Planning as well as Officers and its role was to assist in the formulation of policy. In terms of the Local Plan, PAG's role was to review the local criteria, processes and policies for, amongst other things, site selection. They then managed the application of the policies and processes to bring the number of sites put forward to a more manageable number. These sites were then subjected to a range of consultations including with councillors, parish councillors and the public. These sites were discussed at full Council and ultimately by the Secretary of State's Independent Inspector. The Statement of Community Involvement, which was also included on this agenda, set out the Council's commitment to transparency and public consultation.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

Prior to the vote being taken Councillor Lee Dillon requested that, in accordance with paragraph 4.17.3, the vote be recorded. The requisite number of Members supported the motion by standing in their place.

Councillor Hilary Cole asked Members to support the motion not to support the motion proposed at the September 2019 meeting by Councillor Macro.

For the Motion

Steve Ardagh-Walter, Jeff Beck, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Lynne Doherty, Clive Hooker, Gareth Hurley, Rick Jones, Alan Law, Tony Linden, Tom Marino, Ross Mackinnon, Graham Pask, Claire Rowles, Garth Simpson, Richard Somner, Jo Stewart, Andy Williamson, Howard Woollaston (22)

Against the Motion

Adrian Abbs, Phil Barnett, Jeff Brooks, Jeremy Cottam, Carlyne Culver, Lee Dillon, Billy Drummond, Owen Jeffery, Nassar Kessell, Alan Macro, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Erik Pattenden, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams (17)

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33. **Response to a Motion on CO2 Emissions and Water Usage (C3843)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 17) which set out a response to a motion brought to the September 2019 Council meeting.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Hilary Cole and seconded by Councillor Alan Law:

That Council notes the following response to the motion:

“The motion to the Council seeks the introduction of an SPD for CO₂ and H₂O, while this is possible it would not be advisable to do so as any SPD would not be enforceable under planning legislation as it would not be in conformity with both national and our local planning policies.

In order for the Council to progress such a policy as proposed, it will have to be part of the new local plan and subject to consultation and examination in public and this is the intention.

However, this does not prevent the Council from progressing with the Environment Strategy, the consultation on which ends on the 21st February 2020, and which aims to make West Berkshire Council carbon neutral by 2030.

For the reasons set out in this report the motion to Council is not supported.”

Councillor Hilary Cole informed Members that West Berkshire Council was one of the first authorities in the country to have a policy adopted which went beyond the Merton Rule which required a standard of house building that was not only energy efficient but was able to be independently monitored. The policy was the Code for Sustainable Homes. It required all new homes built after 2016 to be zero carbon. Unfortunately the Government abolished the Code and stated that building regulation would be enhanced instead to deal with this issue.

The Motion proposed by Councillor Macro at the September Council meeting requested the introduction of a Supplementary Planning Document within six months which Councillor Cole commented was not possible given the regulations associated with their production. Councillor Cole stated that if the Council tried to insist on standards which exceeded those set out in the building regulations with regard to CO₂ emissions and water usage then the Council would be exposed to additional appeals.

Councillor Hilary Cole stated that despite this the Council was not ignoring the issue. The emerging Local Plan was looking at assembling evidence to support a new planning policy on this issue and some of the issue would be considered as part of the Environment Strategy albeit that this was not a planning document.

Councillor Alan Macro stated that he was pleased that this issue was being looked at but that the new Local Plan would not be in place for another three years. The Council needed to act now and should not rely on the introduction of enhanced building regulations in order to decrease emissions.

Councillor Lee Dillon stated that despite declaring a Climate Emergency a number of initiatives that had been brought forward to address issues had not been supported. He urged Members to vote against the recommendations in the report and start building a profile for the future of the District.

Councillor Alan Law commented that he would like to support the motion but as explained by Councillor Cole the Code for Sustainable Homes, which the Council had adopted in 2010 and which was due to be introduced in 2016, had been superseded by National Planning Regulations and he therefore urged Members to reject Councillor Macro's motion to Council on practical grounds.

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Councillor Hilary Cole stated that Members had lobbied Central Government extensively on this issue. The Council could not afford to divert valuable resources to develop this planning policy now given that it would be included in the emerging Local Plan.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

34. **Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Proposed Submission Version for Consultation and Associated Evidence Base Documents (C3720)**

This item was withdrawn after the agenda was published.

35. **Revised Statement of Community Involvement (2019) (C3751)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 19) concerning the adoption of the Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Hilary Cole and seconded by Councillor Alan Law:

That the Council:

“agrees to adopt the Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) following the public consultation on the draft Revised SCI carried out in July/August 2019.”

Councillor Hilary Cole stated that the document set out the policy for involving the community in the plan making and the consideration of planning applications within the district. The Council was required to review the document every five years under the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2017. The current SCI was published in September 2014. Consultation on the draft revised SCI was carried out in July/August 2019. A number of minor changes were made to the document as a result of the consultation and these were included in Appendix D to the report.

Councillor Alan Macro noted that in the flowchart on page 259 of the document it stated after ‘analysis of comments received’ the Development Plan Document (DPD) would be submitted to the Secretary of State. He was concerned that this might give the wrong impression to the community as it appeared that cognisance would not be taken of their input.

In addition Councillor Macro asked that consideration be given to reinstating the requirement to notify neighbours of an application albeit that this should be dependent on the nature and scale of the development and the character of the area. The orange notices were often not seen by parties. He did try and notify residents in his ward himself but he felt that this was something that the Council should be doing in order to promote consistency across the District. While it was not a requirement to do so he felt that it constituted good practice.

Councillor Alan Law welcomed the document which he felt would aid transparency. In response to Councillor Macro’s comment about the flowchart he suggested that the inclusion of the words ‘amended DPD’ would address the issue.

Councillor Hilary Cole stated that she agreed with the proposed wording change and, if agreed by Members, it would be inserted into the document. Councillor Cole noted that many Members and parish councils already notified their residents about planning applications.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED subject to the inclusion of the word amended in the flowchart on page 259 of the agenda.**

36. **Revision of the 2019/20 Investment and Borrowing Strategy (C3856)**

(Councillor Lee Dillon declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda item 20 by virtue of the fact that he was employed by Sovereign Housing Association. As his interest

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was a disclosable pecuniary interest he determined to leave the meeting and took no part in the debate or voting on the matter).

Councillor Dillon left the meeting at 8.59pm and returned at 9.02pm

Councillor Steve Masters left the meeting at 8.59pm

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 20) concerning amendments to the 2019/20 Investment and Borrowing Strategy which was approved by Full Council at the meeting held on 5 March 2019.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon and seconded by Councillor Howard Woollaston:

That the Council:

“agrees the proposed amendments to the 2019/20 Investment and Borrowing Strategy.”

This report is an amendment of the agreed strategy to reflect:

- (1) Outline compliance against the Prudential Indicators
- (2) An expansion in the sources of borrowing available to the Council
- (3) Allowance for provision of loan financing to local enterprises, charities, wholly owned companies and joint ventures as part of a wider strategy for local economic growth. In particular, the joint venture in the form of Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) with Sovereign Westing House Developments Ltd, a subsidiary of Sovereign Housing Association (SHA). “

Councillor Ross Mackinnon noted that the 2019/20 Investment and Borrowing Strategy was approved by Full Council at the meeting held on 5 March 2019. A number of amendments were being proposed to that document. The reasons for the amendments were to ensure compliance against the Prudential Indicators, allow for the expansion in the sources of borrowing available to the Council and to allow for provision of loan financing to local enterprises, charities, wholly owned companies and joint ventures as part of a wider strategy for local economic growth. In particular it would allow the Council to undertake the joint venture initiative with Sovereign Westing House Developments Ltd in the form of a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP).

Councillor Jeff Brooks raised concerns about the ongoing increase in the Council's borrowing and the risk this exposed the Council to.

Councillor Howard Woollaston accepted that borrowing levels were increasing, but he was not concerned about the level of risk the Council was being exposed to.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

Councillors Steve Masters and Lee Dillon did not vote on this item.

Councillor Alan Law left the meeting at 9.02pm.

37. **2020/21 West Berkshire Council Timetable of Public Meetings (C3845)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 21) concerning a timetable of meetings for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Lee Dillon:

That the Council:

“approves the timetable of public meetings for the 2020/21 Municipal Year”.

Councillor Lynne Doherty commended the calendar of meetings to the Council for approval. Councillor Doherty welcomed the proposal to move the July 2020 Council

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meeting back a week to accommodate the LGA Conference. She stated that she would like to revisit the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission dates outside of the meeting to ensure that they were aligned to key decision making times.

Councillor Dominic Boeck asked Members of the Panel to note the dates of the Corporate Parent Panel meetings. He reminded all Members of their responsibilities as Corporate Parents. Councillor Graham Bridgman urged all Members to attend the Member Development session on Corporate Parenting which was due to take place soon.

Councillor Dillon stated that he supported the timetable of meetings.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

38. Notices of Motion

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 22a refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Jeff Brooks relating to pedestrian safety along the A4/ Benham Hill section from the Lower Way traffic lights to Henwick Lane in Thatcham.

The Chairman informed the Council that the Motion would not be debated at the meeting. In accordance with Procedure Rule 4.9.8. it would be referred to the Speed Limit Review Task Group for consideration and the response would be reported back to a future Council meeting.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor Keith Woodhams:

That the Council

“contends that there is considerable risk to pedestrians and motorists along the A4/Benham Hill section from the Lower Way Traffic lights to Henwick Lane in Thatcham.

It is extraordinary that this section along the A4 allows a 40 Mile Per Hour speed limit when the rest of the A4 through Thatcham is at 30 MPH. Recent installation of a Pedestrian refuge at the top of Pound Lane is welcome but did not prevent a serious incident involving a young girl in September when her foot was run over and broken by a speeding vehicle.

We believe that the speed limit in these two stretches of road is anomalous and we therefore propose that this section of the A4 is adapted to a 30 Mile Per Hour limit by West Berkshire Highways Department and with a high degree of urgency.”

Councillor Steve Masters re-joined the meeting at 9.11pm.

The Council considered the under-mentioned Motion (Agenda item 22b refers) submitted in the name of Councillor Richard Somner relating to widening the ban on pavement parking.

The Chairman informed the Council that the Motion would be debated at the meeting.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Richard Somner and seconded by Councillor Rick Jones:

“Maintaining a Green District is one of this Council’s priorities for improvement. It’s about natural habitats, it’s about biodiversity, it’s about our open spaces, it’s about improving the environment we live and work in, it’s about our communities, it’s about our homes, our health, our wellbeing and more.

The Council recognises the freedoms for some that vehicle ownership brings, whilst it acknowledges that many older properties do not have designated off road parking. It fully

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recognises vehicle drivers are often reliant upon street parking with little alternative option. However, the practice of parking on pavements is becoming more widespread, and is a nuisance at best and a public danger at worst. Parking is not the only cause of pavement obstruction. It also arises from poorly placed advertising stands, protruding shop front displays and street clutter.

This Council notes the Healthwatch Voice of Disability Report which raises concerns for the disabled in our community; this Council has a long been concerned that pavement obstruction can risk public health and is detrimental to public wellbeing. The lack of easy navigability for wheel chair users, those with sight conditions and limited mobility as well as for parents with pushchairs, can become trapped in their homes, leading to social isolation or a danger to pedestrians, particularly children in often having to step in to traffic to avoid obstructions.

While the government select committee is considering widening the ban on pavement parking outside London and until legislation in England comes in to force;

The Council calls on:

- Parish Councils to champion an awareness campaign for considerate parking in their parishes.
- Drivers to respect the rights of pedestrians to exercise their right to safe and unobstructed passage on footpaths and pavements.
- Drivers to park any vehicle, motorcycle or bike with the maximum consideration to pavement users and to avoid blocking lines of sight or the passage of emergency vehicles.
- Drivers to limit their use of pavement parking where damage to curbs, street furniture and grass verges would occur.
- Businesses to be considerate with Advertising Board placement and remove where the footpath is obstructed.
- Residents to safely position curb clutter such as bins and recycling boxes, pushchairs and trollies.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED**.

39. **Members' Questions**

A full transcription of the public and Member question and answer sessions are available from the following link: [Transcription of Q&As](#). *(right click on link and 'Edit Hyperlink'. Insert URL to pdf on website in 'address' field)*

- (a) A question standing in the name of Councillor Keith Woodhams on the subject of cycling and pedestrian safety was answered by the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside.
- (b) A question standing in the name of Councillor Keith Woodhams on the subject of the Council's duty to maintain public roads safely was answered by the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside.
- (c) A question standing in the name of Councillor Phil Barnett on the subject of powers of private security guards controlling traffic movements was answered by the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside.

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- (d) A question standing in the name of Councillor Phil Barnett on the subject of the replacement of speed indicator devices was answered by the Executive Member for Transport and Countryside.

(The meeting commenced at 7.55pm and closed at 9.43pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature