

Councillor Gareth Jones (Mayor)

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

J A Barron	J Hood
R J Barron	R A James
F Beatty	P W Jones
A R G Brown	W J Kemp
R P Cooke	R Kenney
A G Cooper	A M Loughran
B M Cross	A Nixon
M G Dodson	L Nixon
A P Edgeller	G P K Pardesi
P M M Farrington	A N Pearce
I D Fordham	J M Pert
A T A Godfrey	P Roycroft
M Green	R M Smith
A S Harp	R M Sutherland
D Holbrook-Summers	C V Trowbridge
M V Holmes	M J Winnington

Officers in attendance:-

Mr T Clegg	- Chief Executive
Mr I Curran	- Interim Head of Law and Administration
Mrs T Redpath	- Corporate Business and Partnerships Manager
Mr W Conaghan	- Press and Communication Manager
Mr J Dean	- Democratic Services Officer

C16 Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 May 2019 were submitted and signed.

C17 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C A Baron, A D Hobbs, P A Leason, B McKeown, J A Nixon, M Phillips and J K Price.

C18 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J M Pert declared a personal interest in respect of Item 11 of the agenda.

Councillor E G R Jones declared a personal interest in respect of Item 9 of the agenda.

C19 Announcements

The Mayor thanked those who attended the Afternoon Tea on Thursday 18 July at The Upper House, Barlaston - raised just over £600.

Continuing, the Mayor detailed the following events for Members to note:-

- Izaak Walton Birthday Commemoration Church Service - Sunday 4 August at St Mary's Church, Stafford at 9.30am.
- Battle of Britain Commemoration - Sunday 15 September 2019.

C20 Notice of Motion

Councillors A N Pearce and A T A Godfrey had given the following Notice of Motion in pursuant of Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules:
Proposed Motion on Climate Emergency

Notes:

- 1 Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;
- 2 In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible:
- 3 Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;
- 4 Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;
- 5 Many councils have already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, signing the Nottingham Declaration in 2010 accepting the scientific evidence of

climate change and publicly declaring the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from its operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.

- 6 Unfortunately, current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5⁰C limit before 2050;
- 7 The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5⁰C, published Oct 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2⁰C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5⁰C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5⁰C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities;
- 8 Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'climate emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.

We believe that:

- 1 All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments recognise this and should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Stafford and the UK that councils commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;
- 2 The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5⁰C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority:
- 3 Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

In light of the above, Stafford Borough Council Agrees to:

- 1 Join other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency, and commit to the vision of carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest;
- 2 Pledge to make Stafford Borough Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3)
- 3 Call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;

- 4 Work with other elected bodies (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5⁰C;
- 5 Continue to work with partners across the Borough to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
- 6 Prepare a report within 6 months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.
- 7 Explore the expansion of community energy to keep the benefits of our local energy generation in our local economy.
- 8 Establish a Citizens Assembly made up of a representative range of our citizens to make recommendations for our council on how we, as a community, can best achieve these objectives.

The Notice of Motion was duly moved by Councillor A N Pearce and seconded by Councillor A T A Godfrey.

Councillor P M M Farrington responded to the Notice of Motion as provided for in Paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules, during which he proposed the following amendment, seconded by Councillor R M Smith:-

“Stafford Borough Council Agrees to:

1. Join other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency and work towards achieving our vision of carbon neutrality by 2040;
2. Continue to concentrate on activities that reduce emissions from its own activities and will work towards carbon neutrality by 2040;
3. Call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2040 target possible.
4. Work with other elected bodies (both within the UK and internationally) to determine best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5^oc and consider how this could be addressed through the Local Plan process;
5. Continue to work with partners across the Borough to deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and initiatives;
6. Explore through the Local Plan process, the expansion of community energy with a view to keeping the benefits of our local energy generation in our local economy;
7. Report progress to scrutiny at the appropriate time;

8. Encourage elected Members to work with their communities and local business enterprises and empower them to;
 - Sign up to the Climate Emergency pledge;
 - Take action that helps to improve the sustainability of their neighbourhoods, the health and wellbeing of residents and the energy efficiency of community and domestic buildings.”

The amendment was not accepted by both the proposer and seconder of the original motion.

Upon debating the amendment, Councillor R Kenney proposed a further amendment to point 7, to read:-

“Report progress to scrutiny at the appropriate time to include a report within **12** months as to the actions the Council has taken and proposes to take”

The second amendment was accepted by both the proposer and seconder of the first amendment.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was declared to be carried and hence formed the substantive motion, which was continued to be debated by Members.

On conclusion of the debate Members voted on the new substantive (as amended) motion which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the Council agree to:-

- (a) Join other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency and work towards achieving our vision of carbon neutrality by 2040;
- (b) Continue to concentrate on activities that reduce emissions from its own activities and will work towards carbon neutrality by 2040;
- (c) Call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2040 target possible.
- (d) Work with other elected bodies (both within the UK and internationally) to determine best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C and consider how this could be addressed through the Local Plan process;
- (e) Continue to work with partners across the Borough to deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans

and initiatives;

- (f) Explore through the Local Plan process, the expansion of community energy with a view to keeping the benefits of our local energy generation in our local economy;
- (g) Report progress to scrutiny at the appropriate time to include a report within 12 months as to the actions the Council has taken and proposes to take;
- (h) Encourage elected Members to work with their communities and local business enterprises and empower them to;
 - Sign up to the Climate Emergency pledge;
 - Take action that helps to improve the sustainability of their neighbourhoods, the health and wellbeing of residents and the energy efficiency of community and domestic buildings.

C21 HS2 Phase 2a - Planning Memorandum

Considered the report of the Head of Development (V1 15/07/19).

The Cabinet Member - Planning and Economic Development Portfolio introduced the report and noted the previous associated report as considered by Council on 26 July 2016, before detailing paragraphs 5.1, 5.3 and 5.15. Councillor Beatty concluded her comments by moving that the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor P M M Farrington.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that authority be given to the Chief Executive to sign the HS2 Phase 2a Planning Memorandum to enable Stafford Borough Council to become a Qualifying Authority for the purposes of the HS2 Hybrid Bill.

C22 Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan - Adoption

Considered the report of the Head of Development (V2 15/07/19).

The Cabinet Member - Planning and Economic Development Portfolio introduced the report and noted the high quality of the Plan. Councillor

Beatty concluded her comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor B M Cross.

Members then voted on the proposals as set out, which was declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:-
- (a) that the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan be 'made' to form part of statutory development plan for Stafford Borough and used when determining planning applications in Barlaston Parish;
 - (b) that the Decision Statement (as set out in the attached Appendix to the report) be approved and published with the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan.

C23 **Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy**

Considered the report of the Head of Development (V1 15/07/19).

The Cabinet Member - Leisure Portfolio introduced the report and noted its links to Corporate Business Objective 2. Continuing, Councillor Trowbridge addressed a query relating to the make up of the proposed working group prior to concluding her comments by moving that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor R M Smith.

Members then voted on the proposals as set out, which was declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:- that
- (a) the evidence base and the recommendations contained within the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Indoor Sport Facilities Strategy be approved and adopted;
 - (b) (subject to availability of resources) a working group with partners be established to oversee the development and monitoring of action plans in order to secure delivery of the strategies;
 - (c) the information and recommendations within these Strategies be used to inform policies and allocations as part of the New Local Plan 2020-2040.

C24 **Changes to Governance Arrangements with Stafford and Rural Homes**

Considered the report of the Head of Development (V1 15/07/19).

The Cabinet Member - Community and Health Portfolio introduced the report and provided an overview of the Council's relationship with Stafford

and Rural Homes and noted their track record for delivering affordable housing in the Borough. Councillor Pert concluded his comments by moving that the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor P M M Farrington.

Members then voted on the proposal as set out, which was declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the principle of three changes to current governance arrangements (should SARH decide to proceed with a merger with Housing Plus) be agreed.

MAYOR