

## Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Extraordinary Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Pippbrook, Dorking from 7.00pm to 8.41pm

Present: Councillors Mary Huggins (Chairman), Roger Adams, Simon Budd, Lesley Bushnell, Helyn Clack, Margaret Cooksey, Stephen Cooksey, Elizabeth Daly, Rosemary Dickson, Paul Elderton, James Friend, Nancy Goodacre, Raj Haque, David Harper, David Hawksworth, Chris Hunt, Metin Huseyin, Tracy Keeley, Bridget Kendrick, Paul Kennedy, Tim Loretto, Claire Malcomson, Wayne Monkman, Richard Moyse, Emma Norman, Paul Potter, David Preedy, Alan Reilly, Elsie Rosam, Caroline Salmon, Garry Stansfield, Keira Vyvyan-Robinson, Hazel Watson, Clayton Wellman and Charles Yarwood.

### 15. Apologies for absence

Tim Ashton, Lynne Brooks, Mary Cooper, David Draper, Simon Edge and Patricia Wiltshire

### 16. Disclosure of Interests

None

### 17. Motions

#### Motion 1/2019

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Margaret Cooksey and seconded by Councillor David Preedy, with the following drafting amendments, shown in bold below -

#### RETURN TO THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM

This Council resolves to:

1. Initiate the preparation of the recommendations to replace the current Cabinet system of governance with a Committee system which will return the powers which are presently the responsibility of the Cabinet to the full Council;
2. **Request that Cabinet establishes** a Cabinet Working Group to formulate an appropriate committee structure and recommend terms of reference, composition and mode of operation for each committee; **and**
3. Submit the new structure to Council for approval with a view to it becoming operational from the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2020.

Councillor Margaret Cooksey advised that the proposed motion would ensure that decisions were taken by the Council, not just by an administration of nine Members.

Councillor James Friend raised a point of order asking how the Extraordinary Meeting was constituted to take motions from two members.

Miss Davies, the Council's Monitoring Officer, advised that Standing Order 12, Part Four sets out the circumstances in which an Extraordinary Council Meeting could be called, advising that this evening's meeting has been requested by five members of the Council. It was noted that the constitution is silent on items which may be considered, however there was nothing in law which precluded motions being proposed and seconded.

Councillor James Friend proposed amendments to the motion which are shown in bold below. This was seconded by Councillor Richard Moyse.

This Council resolves to:

1. **Appoint a Council Committee in the same form as a Cabinet Working Group to:**

- a. initiate the preparation of the recommendations to replace the current Cabinet system of governance with a Committee system which will return the powers which are presently the responsibility of the Cabinet to the full Council
- b. ~~Establish a Cabinet Working Group~~ to formulate an appropriate committee structure and recommend terms of reference, composition and mode of operation for each committee;
- c. submit the new structure to Council for approval with a view to it becoming operational from the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2020.

**2. Agree that, at the discretion of the relevant Working Group Chairman, Cabinet Working Groups and Scrutiny Working Groups may meet in public from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 onwards.**

Councillor Friend advised that the agreed drafting changes to the original motion covered some concerns particularly regarding the role of Council in this process, however it was felt more could be done regarding transparent decision making. Members debated this motion in full. Whilst all Members were in agreement that decisions taken should be transparent, concerns were raised that having all meetings open to the public, could stifle open discussion and opportunities to challenge proposals constructively. Councillor Margaret Cooksey advised Council that she did not accept the amendment but committed to giving part two of the motion further consideration.

The Council voted on the motion, and it was lost.

(NB. Counted votes on motion: 9 in favour, 22 against and 2 abstentions)

Councillor David Hawksworth proposed amendments to the motion which are shown in bold below. This was seconded by Councillor Chris Hunt.

This Council resolves to:

1. Initiate the preparation of the recommendations to replace the current Cabinet system of governance with a Committee system which will return the powers which are presently the responsibility of the Cabinet to the full Council;
2. **Establish** a Working Group to **look into the feasibility, costs, and deliverability of the change, and also to** formulate an appropriate committee structure and recommend terms of reference, composition and mode of operation for each committee; and
3. Submit the new structure to Council for **consideration by November 2019** with a view to it becoming operational from the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2020

Members debated this motion in full. Councillor Margaret Cooksey advised Council that feasibility, costs and deliverability were part of the remit of the proposed Working Group and this was complicit in the original motion.

The Council voted on the motion, and it was lost.

(NB. Counted votes on motion: 13 in favour, 21 against and 0 abstentions)

Members debated the substantive motion in full.

The Council voted on the motion, and it was carried.

(NB. Counted votes on motion: 28 in favour, 0 against and 4 abstentions)

**RESOLVED:** that the substantive motion including the drafting amendments as detailed above be approved.

## **Motion 2/2019**

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Claire Malcomson and seconded by Councillor Clayton Wellman:-

### **CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOTION**

Council recognises that:

1. The consequences of global temperatures rising above 1.5 degree Celsius are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.
2. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of an increasingly erratic climate and biodiversity loss. Local authorities that recognise this should not wait for the national government to change its policies.
3. It is important that all organisations commit to carbon neutrality, as soon as possible.
4. Mole Valley District Council is uniquely placed to lead the way to a sustainable future by setting an example in the area
5. Bold action to mitigate changes in climate can deliver economic benefits, for example new jobs, savings and market opportunities, as well as improved personal, social and environmental well-being, for people locally and world-wide.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Declare a Climate Emergency.
2. Pledge to make Mole Valley District Council and its contractors carbon neutral by 2030, or earlier if possible, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.
3. Lobby Surrey County Council and the Government to provide resources that will make possible the 2030 target date set by scientists for total carbon neutrality.
4. Work cross-party within Mole Valley District Council, and with local businesses, land owners, community organisations and residents to make a positively beneficial impact on the environment and biodiversity in the District.
5. Place climate change on agendas to be discussed at appropriate committees - to build strategies and action plans with timescales.
6. Report actions undertaken to address this emergency to Council twice a year and inform Council of planned actions for the next period.
7. Use these actions to help create jobs and a stronger community, along with increased well-being and a sustainable future.

Councillor James Friend proposed amendments to the motion which are shown in bold below. This was seconded by Councillor Richard Moyse.

This Council resolves to:

Council recognises that:

1. The consequences of global temperatures rising above 1.5 degree Celsius are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.
2. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of an increasingly erratic climate and biodiversity loss. Local authorities that recognise this should not wait for the national government to change its policies.
3. It is important that all organisations commit to carbon neutrality, as soon as possible.
4. Mole Valley District Council is uniquely placed to lead the way to a sustainable future by setting an example in the area

5. Bold action to mitigate changes in climate can deliver economic benefits, for example new jobs, savings and market opportunities, as well as improved personal, social and environmental well-being, for people locally and world-wide.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Declare a Climate Emergency.
2. **Pledge to use the Council's assets, land and contracts so that the District Council itself becomes Carbon Negative, actively reducing the net amount of carbon produced by human activity, taking into account both production and consumption emissions, across the district and offsetting at least 10% of the district's overall carbon footprint by 2030.**
3. Lobby Surrey County Council and the Government to provide resources that will make possible the 2030 target date set by scientists for total carbon neutrality.
4. Work cross-party within Mole Valley District Council, and with local businesses, land owners, community organisations and residents to make a positively beneficial impact on the environment and biodiversity in the District.
5. Place climate change on agendas to be discussed at appropriate committees - to build strategies and action plans with timescales.
6. Report actions undertaken to address this emergency to Council twice a year and inform Council of planned actions for the next period.
7. Use these actions to help create jobs and a stronger community, along with increased well-being and a sustainable future.
8. **Specifically commit to:**
  - a) **Vastly expand the Council's infrastructure to support electric transport, including charging points in all public car parks and kerb-side, together with moving the Council and its suppliers to electric only fleets**
  - b) **Specifically request that the Planning Policy Working Group consider the potential inclusion in the Local Plan policies that:**
    - i. **incentivise the sustainable reuse of building materials,**
    - ii. **ensure that whenever permission is given for a tree to be felled then ten suitable replacements are planted somewhere in the District,**
    - iii. **make using public transport the easiest thing for local people to do,**
    - iv. **reuse previously developed land to create homes without building on green field sites,**
    - v. **prioritise conversion of existing buildings rather than allowing demolition,**
    - vi. **encourage greater density of vertical development and redevelopment delivering more homes within the same footprint**
    - vii. **make sure all new public buildings, community facilities and commercial buildings are at least carbon neutral**
  - c) **Make direct investment to make each council owned building at least carbon neutral**
  - d) **Adopt planting schemes in council parks and open spaces which are nectar friendly and perennial based so that annual replanting is eliminated and the use of artificial fertilisers and pesticides ceases**

Members debated this motion in full with Councillor Friend advising that the amendments proposed ensured Mole Valley District Council approached Climate Change in an ambitious and challenging way. Councillor Wellman responded that whilst ambitious, many of the proposals were unrealistic to deliver within the District at present. Councillor Malcomson did not wish to accept the proposed amendments.

The Council voted on the motion, and it was lost.

(NB. Counted votes on motion: 12 in favour, 22 against and 0 abstentions)

Councillor David Hawksworth proposed amendments to the motion which are shown in bold below. This was seconded by Councillor Chris Hunt.

Council recognises that:

1. The consequences of global temperatures rising above 1.5 degree Celsius are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.
2. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of an increasingly erratic climate and biodiversity loss. Local authorities that recognise this should not wait for the national government to change its policies.
3. It is important that all organisations commit to carbon neutrality, as soon as possible.
4. Mole Valley District Council is uniquely placed to lead the way to a sustainable future by setting an example in the area
5. Bold action to mitigate changes in climate **can deliver economic benefits, for example new jobs, savings and market opportunities, as well as to improve** personal, social and environmental well-being, for people locally and world-wide.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Declare a Climate Emergency.
2. **Endeavour** to make Mole Valley District Council carbon neutral by **2050**, or earlier if possible, taking into account both production and consumption ~~emissions.~~
3. ~~Lobby Surrey County Council and the Government to provide resources that will make possible the 2030 target date set by scientists for total carbon neutrality.~~
4. Work cross-party within Mole Valley District Council, and with local businesses, land owners, community organisations and residents to **identify and, as far as possible, implement ways** to make a positively beneficial impact on the environment and biodiversity in the District.
5. Place climate change **and its environmental impact** on agendas to be discussed at appropriate committees - to build strategies and action plans with timescales.
6. Report actions undertaken to address this emergency to Council twice a year and inform Council of planned actions for the next period.
7. Use these actions to help create jobs and a stronger community, along with increased well-being and a sustainable future.

Members debated this motion in full with Councillor Hawksworth advising that the proposed amendments were more realistic. However, whilst realistic, Members felt that the proposals were not ambitious enough.

The Council voted on the motion, and it was lost.

(NB. Counted votes on motion: 5 in favour, 20 against and 7 abstentions)

Members debated the substantive motion in full and it was noted that all members saw the importance of this motion and that the Council lead by example in creating a cultural change.

The Council voted on the motion, and it was carried.

(NB. Counted votes on motion: 34 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions)

**RESOLVED:** that the substantive motion detailed above be approved.