

# Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 21st June, 2017.

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Maurice Perry); Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Chris Clough, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Allan Mitchell, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Julia Whitehill, Cllr David Wilburn, Cllr Norma Wilburn, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

**Officers:** Neil Schneider (CE) Julie Danks, Peter Bell, Kirsty Wannop (DCE), Garry Cummings (F&BS), Martin Gray (CHS), Beccy Brown, Julie Butcher (HR, L&C) Jamie McCann (CS), Ann Workman (AH); Reuben Kench (CL&E).

**Also in attendance:** Members of the Public.

**Apologies:** Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Phil Dennis, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Andrew Stephenson, Cllr Tracey Stott and Cllr Sylvia Walmsley.

## **C Welcome and Evacuation Procedure**

**36/17**

The Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted.

## **C Minute's Silence**

**37/17**

Members stood in a minute's silence as a mark of respect for all the people that had lost their lives in the terrible events at Westminster Bridge, Manchester, London Bridge, Grenfell Tower and Finsbury Park Mosque. Members thoughts had been and, were with the families and friends of all those that had been effected by the tragic events.

## **C Annual Municipal Journal Achievement Awards**

**38/17**

On 15th June, The Worshipful the Mayor had the privilege of attending the Annual MJ Achievement Awards. He was joined by the Chief Executive, the Council Leader, Members from across the parties and employees, including the Chairs and Vice Chairs of some of the staff forum groups.

The Worshipful the Mayor was proud to represent the Council as one of only 6 Councils from across the country to be short listed for the prestigious " Local Authority of the Year " award, and were pleased to note that the Council was the only highly commended entry in that category, effectively making the Council runner up.

Although not the winner, it was a fantastic result, being named second best Local Authority in the country, an achievement that should be recognised by the people of the borough, for the hard work and dedication, that the Chief Executive, his team and the Councillors who had contributed to delivering the high standard, quality services and Investment in our long term future of the Borough.

It was a ringing endorsement of the 'can-do' attitude of employees, the strong working relationships between elected Members and Officers and the collective focus on serving the people of Stockton Borough.

Members had talked at Council before about the skills and dedication of employees and elected Members, which had seen the Council recognised as a high performing Council for many years. This was further recognition of the success and Members were delighted to receive the award.

**C**      **Presentation – The Infinity Bridge Competition**

**39/17**

In February 2017 the Council launched a competition asking people to send their photographs of the iconic Infinity Bridge.

The prize for the best photograph was for it to appear on the front cover of our residents' magazine – Stockton-on-Tees News.

Almost 500 photographs were submitted and as judge, The Worshipful the Mayor had the honour of choosing a winner.

The winning photograph was taken by Michelle Williams. Michelle was in attendance at the meeting and presented the Worshipful the Mayor with a framed copy of her photograph.

**C**      **Declarations of Interest**

**40/17**

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7 – Domestic Abuse Strategy as he was a Director of Catalyst.

**C**      **Minutes**

**41/17**

The minutes of the meetings held on 3 May 2017 were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

**C**      **Public Question Time**

**42/17**

The Chief Solicitor informed Members that no public questions had been received.

**C**      **Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017 – 2022**

**43/17**

Consideration was given to a report on the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017 – 2022.

The multi-agency Domestic Abuse Steering Group had produced a revised Domestic Abuse Strategy (2017-22) for the borough. The new strategy built on the work of preceding years and strengthens the focus on working together as local partners, agencies and communities to prevent individuals from becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

The strategic approach would support professionals to identify and deal with the earliest signs of abuse, stop abuse before it happens, prevent abusive behaviour from becoming entrenched and prevent perpetrators from moving from one victim to the next. Critically, it would provide victims and their families with support before a crisis point had been reached.

The draft Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-22 and a copy of the Domestic Abuse Strategy Action Plan 2017-18 was attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the Domestic Abuse Strategy (2017-22) be endorsed.

**C**  
**44/17**      **Community Governance Review - Grindon Parish**

Consideration was given to a report on Community Governance Review of Grindon Parish.

The report presented feedback from the second stage consultation with stakeholders and presents final recommendations.

Public Notices were displayed and further information included on the Council Website. Further letters were also sent to the key stakeholders setting out the draft proposals. The response that had been received was detailed within the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Grindon Parish be abolished and Grindon Parish Council be dissolved and that two new parishes and parish councils be created based on the ward boundaries of Grindon East and Grindon West;
2. The new parish in the Grindon West Ward be called Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish and the new parish in the Grindon East Ward be called Wynyard Parish;
3. Grindon and Thorpe Thewles Parish Council comprise 6 Parish Councillors and Wynyard Parish Council comprise 7 Councillors;
4. Subject to further consultation on the above proposals and final agreement by Council 21 June 2017, a reorganisation order be made to implement the changes which will come into force at the next ordinary parish elections in May 2019.

**C**  
**45/17**      **Appointment of Statutory Officer**

Consideration was given to a report on the appointment of Statutory Officers.

Various Statutory Officer appointments were needed following the Senior Management Review, implemented in January 2016 and ending of transition arrangements with the retirement of the former Director of Law and Democracy who had performed these statutory roles.

It was proposed that the appointments would be effective from the 23 June 2017 being the date following the relevant Cabinet and Council decisions and the Yarm Ward By-Election on 22 June 2017.

RESOLVED that the appointment of the officers to the statutory officer roles detailed in Appendix 2 be approved.

**C  
46/17**      **Election of a Mayor for the Tees Valley Combined Authority**

Consideration was given to a report that provided confirmation of the successful candidate who was elected the Mayor of the Tees Valley Combined Authority following the election on 4 May 2017.

The total number of valid first and second preference votes cast for each of the candidates remaining in the contest after the conclusion of the first count was detailed within the report.

Ben Houchen was therefore duly elected as Mayor of the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

**C  
47/17**      **Newtown Ward By - Election Results**

Consideration was given to a report on the result of the Newtown Ward By Election held on Thursday 18 May 2017.

Marilyn Margaret Surtees was duly elected to the Council.

RESOLVED that the result of the Newtown Ward By-Election be noted.

**C  
48/17**      **Appointments/Amendments to Committees and Panel for 2017/19**

At its Annual Meeting, held on Wednesday 3 June 2015, the Council approved appointments to its Committees, Panels and Joint/Outside Bodies for 2015/19.

The following appointments had been received and were presented for Council consideration:-

Planning Committee:—

Add Councillor Mick Stoker as Vice Chair (Lab) (position formerly held by Councillor Stephen Parry)

Add Councillor Marilyn Surtees (Lab) to vacancy (seat formerly held by Councillor Stephen Parry)

Remove Councillor Phil Dennis (Cons)

Statutory Licensing Committee

Add Councillor Ken Dixon (IBIS)\* to vacancy (seat formerly held by Councillor Stephen Parry)

Other Licensing Committee

Add Councillor Ken Dixon (IBIS)\* to vacancy (seat formerly held by Councillor Stephen Parry)

People Select Committee

Add Councillor Elsi Hampton (Cons) to vacancy (seat formerly held by Councillor Ben Houchen)

Add Councillor Barbara Inman (Lab) to vacancy (seat formerly held by Councillor Rachel Proud)

Crime & Disorder Select Committee

Add Councillor Carol Clark (Lab) to vacancy (seat formerly held by Councillor Stephen Parry)

Place Select Committee

Add Councillor Paul Rowling (Lab) to vacancy (seat formerly held by Councillor Rachel Proud)

Executive Scrutiny Committee

Remove Councillor Phil Dennis (Cons)

Local Joint Consultative Panel

Add Councillor Mathew Vickers (Cons) to vacancy (seat formerly held by Cllr Ben Houchen)

Better Health Care Committee

Remove Councillor Sonia Bailey (Lab)

Add Councillor Lisa Grainge (Lab)

Appeals and Complaints Committee

Remove Councillor Phil Dennis (Cons)

Local Joint Consultative Panel

Remove Councillor Phil Dennis (Cons)

Members Advisory Panel

Remove Councillor Phil Dennis (Cons)

\*In 2015 in accordance with political composition of Council, IBIS were entitled to, and allocated one seat on the Statutory Licensing and Other Licensing Committees. However, they declined their place and the seat was subsequently offered to and taken by Labour increasing their allocation to 9 seats on those Committees. IBIS have now expressed a wish to take up their place and Labour have agreed to relinquish their additional seat held by Councillor Parry who had resigned.

RESOLVED that the above appointments / amendments be agreed.

**C  
49/17**      **Use of Urgency – Acquisition of Employment Land at Belasis Business Park**

Consideration was given to a report on the use of Special Urgency for the acquisition of employment land at Belasis Business Park.

A key decision for the acquisition of employment land at Belasis Business Park was taken by chief officers under the special urgency provisions contained within the Constitution.

Details of the decision taken were set out in the delegated decision record attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the use of Special Urgency be noted.

**C  
50/17**      **Members' Question Time**

The Chief Solicitor informed Members that no Member questions had been received.

**C  
51/17**      **Forward Plan and Leader's Statement**

The Leader of the Council gave his Forward Plan and Leaders Statement.

It had been a busy period since the last meeting on the 3rd of May. Cabinet had met twice, first on the 18th of May and then on 21 June 2017 and considered reports on:

- The borough-wide Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
- The review of the Education Psychology Service
- The 2017-2022 Domestic Abuse Strategy
- The 2017- 2020 Children's Services Strategy
- Stockton-On-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report for 2015/16
- School Term and Holiday Dates for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020
- An update on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Services
- The Integrated 0-19 Wellbeing Model and the Creation of Family Hubs
- The Adult Social Care Strategy for Change and Improvement
- The Asset Review
- The Community Governance Review of Grindon Parish

- The appointment of Statutory Officers
- The use of Special Urgency powers for the acquisition of employment land at Belasis Business Park

The Leader of the Council also announced that, in light of the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower last week, he had requested an immediate task and finish scrutiny review of the safety of High Rise blocks in the Borough and of externally clad houses. The Leader of the Council had welcomed the prompt reassurance provided to residents by Cleveland Fire Brigade and their offer of home fire safety visits and he also welcomed their agreement to help with the scrutiny review. The scrutiny work would begin very soon and the results would be made available to all Members.

Cabinet would next meet on the 12th of July and consider reports on:

- The 2016/17 Council Plan performance
- The 2016/17 Financial Out-turn
- The 2016/17 Welfare Reform update
- Disabled Facilities Grants and the introduction of discretionary loan funding options
- The Local Economic Assessment
- The Economic Climate Report
- Billingham Event Infrastructure proposals
- An update on Prison Changes
- Thirteen Housing Group investment in the Borough
- The Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report

After that the Leader of the Council looked forward to seeing Members at the next Council meeting on the 19th of July.

**C**  
**52/17**      **David Bond**

The Leader of the Council reported that David Bond would be retiring at the end of the month and this was his last Council meeting. David had worked at the Council since 1987 when he joined as an Assistant Chief Solicitor. He had given 30 years of dedicated service to the Council.

On behalf of all of the Council, the Leader of the Council thanked David for all his help and guidance over the years and presented him with a picture of the Infinity Bridge.