
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Wednesday, 12 January 2022 from 6.34 pm - 6.57 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Alastair Gould, Alan Horton, Ben J Martin, Richard Palmer, David Simmons and Roger Truelove (Leader and Chairman).

OFFICERS PRESENT: David Clifford, Philippa Davies, Lisa Fillery, Jo Millard and Larissa Reed.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Cameron Beart, Lloyd Bowen (remotely), Monique Bonney (remotely), Steve Davey (remotely), Alan Horton, Elliott Jayes (remotely), Pete Neal (remotely), Kent Rowles (remotely) and Ghlin Whelan (remotely).

520 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman outlined the emergency evacuation procedure.

521 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 August 2021 (Minute Nos. 195 – 196) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

522 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

523 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS: DELEGATION TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman referred to the discussion at the General Purposes Committee meeting held earlier that evening and proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Ben J Martin.

In responding to a Member's question, the Chief Executive clarified that the proposal was a mechanism to put in place if a meeting could not be held.

On being put to the vote, the vote was tied, and the Chairman used his casting vote to support the recommendation which was then agreed.

Resolved:

(1) That the delegation in paragraph 3.1 of the report be added to the list of the Chief Executive's delegations.

524 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS: CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES TO OFFICER DELEGATIONS FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE

The Chairman proposed the recommendations including the minor amendment to Recommendation (2) agreed at the General Purposes Committee earlier in the evening. Councillor Alan Horton seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

(1) That the updates and other changes to the officer scheme of delegation set out in Appendix I of the report be agreed.

(2) That delegated authority be given to the monitoring officer in consultation with the Leader, Cabinet Member or Committee Chairman, to make further minor amends to the officer scheme of delegation in consequence of the management restructure, for example to update job titles.

(3) That further new and amended delegations set out in the table in paragraph 3.3 of the report be agreed.

525 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that there would be a change to the order of business, and items 10 and 11 would be considered before items 7, 8 and 9.

526 MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW FOR 2021/22

The Chairman introduced the report and drew attention to paragraph two which illustrated the difficult market circumstances the economy was in. He said it was not a good time for investment but Swale Borough Council (SBC) had done well over the period of time. The Chairman said that the report had been considered at Audit Committee in November 2021 and he proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Richard Palmer.

On being put to the vote, the recommendations were agreed.

Resolved:

(1) That the performance information in the report be noted.

(2) That the prudential and treasury management indicators within the report be approved.

527 REAPPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR - OPTION TO OPT INTO NATIONAL SCHEME

The Chairman asked the Director of Resources to introduce the report.

The Director of Resources explained that, like 98% of Councils, SBC had opted into the national scheme and those that had not struggled to appoint an auditor as there was a national shortage. She said that SBC may possibly be appointed the same auditor and consistency was a positive, and she recommended that SBC continued to opt in to the national scheme.

The Chairman proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Alan Horton.

On being put to the vote the recommendation was agreed.

Resolved:

(1) That the invitation from the Public Sector Audit Appointments to opt in to the national scheme to reappoint external audit be accepted.

528 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

Members noted the recommendations below which were the subject of reports elsewhere on the Agenda

Resolved:

(1) That Minute Nos. 444 - 445 from the Audit Committee held on 24 November 2021 be noted.

(2) That Minute Nos 488 – 489 from the Cabinet Meeting held on 8 December 2021 be noted.

529 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:

(1) That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 – Information relating to any individual.

530 WAIVER OF THE SIX-MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE

The Monitoring Officer gave the background and an update to the circumstances and reasons why it was necessary to consider a further extension to the waiver of the six-month Councillor attendance rule to a serving Councillor.

A Member supported a continual review of the situation.

The Chairman proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor David Simmons.

On being put to the vote, Members agreed the recommendation.

Resolved:

(1) To approve health grounds as an appropriate reason to continue to waive the requirement under s85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Councillor Roger Clark to attend a Council meeting within six months of his last attendance.

531 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned from 6.34pm to 6.41pm.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel