



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

9th March, 2022

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 9th day of MARCH, 2022, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Deputy Mayor

COUNCILLOR MS J. THOMMENY

Councillors

Miss N.A. Byron

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr S.R. Crellin

Mr. D.R. Watson

Mr F. Schuengel

Mr F. Horning

Mr P.J. Washington

The Chief Executive, Director of Environment and Regeneration, Director of Housing and Property and the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence were submitted by The Worshipful the Mayor, Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague and Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells.

1. **Chair of Meeting**

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ms J. Thommeny was unanimously elected to take the Chair.

2. **Minutes – 9th February, 2022**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 9th February, 2022, were approved and signed.

3. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E Skinner asked the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

3.1 *If not already when will the Civica Housing Management System be fully installed and operational?*

3.2 *When Civica is fully operational will it allow for cash rental payments to be made?*

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

3.1 *The Civica Housing System is being delivered in phases. Phase one included all tenant information, housing stock and transactional functionality including cash, this was successfully completed in May 2021 and is currently being used by the Housing and Finance staff. A report was tabled before the Housing and Property Committee updating members on the progress on Civica in September 2021 for the Housing and Property Committee to note the progress on the implementation of the new Housing ICT System.*

Phase two is scheduled to be completed July 2022, this includes repairs and allocations processes together with a range of modules including management function for anti-social behaviour and web portals.

3.2 *Yes, the cash receipting system has been integrated into the Civica system, and has been in place since going live in May 2021.*

4. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

Further to a question on 9th June 2021, when are the residents of Queen's Avenue, Queen's Terrace and Woodbourne Villas likely to see any improvement to the aesthetics of the Centenary Gardens formerly Queen's Park?

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

Within the budget approved by this Council in January, £30,000 was set aside in the Capital Programme for boundary improvement works to the Centenary Gardens. These works will repair/replace boundary treatments and railings and will take place during the 2022/23 financial year. Parks Services will review the planting within existing resources within the same timeframe, and paths and other features will be the subject of a future review.

5. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

5.1 *Run by the St John Ambulance Brigade and arranged by the Council, in each of the last four years how many*

a) Members of the Council; and

b) Council staff members

have attended a Defibrillator (AICD) training course?

5.2 *What was the date of the last course attended by*

a) a Council Member; and

b) a Council staff member.

5.3 *How many*

a) Council Members'; and

b) Council staff members'

AICD qualifications are still up in date?

Reply by Leader of the Council:

5.1 *Defibrillator Training undertaken by Councillors and Council staff:*

2018/19 – 2 Members and eleven staff;

2019/20 – 2 Members and 4 staff;

2020/21 – No Members but 4 staff; and

2021/22 – No Members but 4 staff.

5.2 *The last course attended by a Council Member was 17th May, 2019; the last by a staff member was 15th November, 2021.*

5.3 *No Council Member's qualifications are still valid but four staff members' are. This figure does not include staff members who have completed the full first aid training course which includes an element of defibrillator training.*

6. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

Due to the exterior refurbishment how many properties are currently unoccupied on the Willaston Estate?

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

In total there are 34 properties that are unoccupied due to the refurbishment works.

In detail there are currently 15 properties in the contractors possession for Willaston External Refurbishment and therefore not tenanted.

Before works began, 13 of these were tenanted and 2 were voids. They comprise;

- *11 flats*
- *x 2 bedroom semi-detached properties*
- *x 3 bedroom semi-detached properties*

In addition to the properties undergoing works, there are currently 19 vacant decant properties, comprising of a mixture of 2 and 3 bedroom semi-detached properties.

There are a total of 32 decant properties being used as part of the external refurbishment programme, these decant properties are used as temporary homes for tenants displaced by the refurbishment of their original property.

There would not normally be this many decant properties empty and awaiting tenants, the reason for this relates to the logistics of one phase of the programme ending and the second, and final, phase starting. This second and final phase of the project will start later this year, at which point all decant properties will be required for housing displaced tenants.

At the end of the second phase of the project, expected to finish at the end of 2027, these properties will be put back into circulation and allocated to families on the waiting list.

7. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor D.R. Watson

Mr Councillor D.R. Watson asked the Chair of the Pensions Committee:

When will the Council commit to follow the central Government's lead of divesting the pension and investment funds from Russian companies and entities?

Reply by the Chair of the Pensions Committee:

The Isle of Man Local Government Superannuation Scheme did hold two investments in Russian companies. One has been sold off and attempts have been made to sell the second one but no buyers have been found as yet.

Supplementary Question:

When did the Local Government Superannuation Scheme begin divestment from assets held with Russian companies and what is the scale of loss on these two investments?

Reply by the Chair of the Pensions Committee:

We are all aware of the events that started to unfold in Ukraine on Thursday 24th February, nobody expected it to go on this long. As the situation worsened before our eyes over that weekend, on Monday, 27th February, I met with senior financial officer Peter Pierce and discussed what was happening and we agreed that we should check our investments and any interests we may have in Russia, so we were then aware what's going on. The day to day management of the pensions scheme's investment is done by professional fund managers. They decided to try and sell two Russian holdings. The shares in one entity sold over the course of 4th to 7th March, the bonds held in the other have not yet been sold. The loss of the holdings sold was £32,000 which equates to 0.03% of the schemes total investments as at 31st December 2021.

8. **Standing Order 38 – Private Business**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause A1 of private report of meeting held on Thursday, 24th February, 2022, be considered in public.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

9. **Executive Committee – 24th February 2022 – Clauses A1 to A19 and private clause A1**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause A1 to A19 inclusive and private clause A1 of report of meeting held on Thursday, 24th February, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

10. **Executive Committee – 24th February 2022 – Clause C20**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C20 of report of meeting held on Thursday, 24th February, 2022, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Horning, Mr F. Schuengel, Mr P.J. Washington, the Deputy Mayor – 8

Against: Councillors: Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr J.E. Skinner – 2

Motion carried.

As a consequence of this resolution, Standing Orders 7 and 90 are amended to read as follows:

STANDING ORDER 7 Private Meeting - Selection of Mayor

The Chief Executive shall convene a special private meeting of the Council immediately prior to the monthly Executive Committee meeting in March in each year for the purpose of selecting the Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year. If the Council is unable to make such a selection or if the selected member is no longer a Member of the Council by 1st May, a person will be selected either at a special meeting convened in accordance with Standing Order No. 8 or at another special meeting convened by the Chief Executive especially for the purpose in May before the Annual Meeting.

STANDING ORDER 90 Meetings of Committees

Meetings of Committees of the Council, other than the Standards Committee, shall meet for the transaction of regular business on the days following the Annual or regular Council Meeting and at the times specified below, except that no Committee meetings shall be held in the months of April or August unless convened on the specific instruction of the Committee at a previous meeting, that Committee meetings shall be convened in September as though a regular Council Meeting were to take place on the second Wednesday, and further, that from time to time a Committee may change the time of a future meeting, but for not more than six occasions in a municipal year without the prior consent of the Council:

Executive Committee: third Thursday at 2.00pm;

Environmental Services Committee: first Monday at 10.00am;

Regeneration and Community Committee: first Tuesday at 10.00am;

Housing and Property Committee: first Wednesday at 10.00am;

Pensions Committee: fourth Wednesday in February, March, May, October and November at 10.30am; and in September the second Wednesday of the month at 10.30am.

Provided that the Chair of any Committee may authorise the Chief Executive in special circumstances to convene a meeting of that Committee at any time, and to alter the particular day or time for the holding of any regular Committee meeting.

11. **Executive Committee – 24th February 2022 – Clause C21**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C21 of report of meeting held on Thursday, 24th February, 2022, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

12. Pensions Committee – 23rd February, 2022

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd February, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

13. Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 15th February, 2022

Motion moved by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in report of meeting on Tuesday, 15th February, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

14. Housing and Property Committee – 16th February, 2022 – Clauses A1 to B8

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to B8 inclusive of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 16th February, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

15. Housing and Property Committee – 16th February, 2022 – Clause C9

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clause C9 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 16th February, 2022, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

16. Regeneration and Community Committee – 15th February, 2022

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 15th February, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically and the Motion was carried unanimously.

17. Environmental Services Committee – 14th February, 2022

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Schuengel, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 14th February, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

18. Standing Order 30 – Notice of Motion – Mr Councillor F. Horning

Mr Councillor F. Horning moved the following Motion, notice of which had been given:

“That Council policy be that access lanes, adopted as highway or otherwise, be not automatically lit. Where they provide key access to one or more properties, the Environmental Services Committee may consider the provision of lighting. The Environmental Services Committee may also consider the lighting for parks, glens, cycleways, lanes and alleyways on a case by case basis in line with the approved street lighting policy.”

Mr Councillor F. Schuengel seconded the Motion.

Under the provisions of Standing Order 30, the matter was referred to the Environmental Services Committee for consideration and report back to the Council by 8th June, 2022.

19. Adjournment and Resumption

The meeting adjourned at 4.08pm and resumed at 4.23pm with the same Members and officers present.

IN PRIVATE

20. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner submitted a question for response by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee. The question and response was noted on the minutes.

21. **Executive Committee – 24th February, 2022 – Clauses A2 and A3**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A2 and A3 of private report of meeting held on Thursday, 24th February, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Horning, Mr F. Schuengel, Mr P.J. Washington, the Deputy Mayor – **9**

Against: Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner – **1**

Motion carried.

22. **Pensions Committee – 23rd February, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd February, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

23. **Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 15th February, 2022 – Clause B1**

Motion moved by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in Clause B1 of private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 15th February, 2022, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

24. **Housing and Property Committee – 16th February, 2022 – Clause B1**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clause B1 of private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 16th February, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Horning, Mr F. Schuengel, Mr P.J. Washington, the Deputy Mayor – **9**

Against: Mr Councillor D.R. Watson – **1**

Motion carried.

25. **Housing and Property Committee – 16th February, 2022 – Clause C2**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clause C2 of private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 16th February, 2022, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

The Council rose at 5.00pm.



For the Town Clerk & Chief Executive