



## Borough of Douglas

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Town Hall,

Douglas,

13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 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 I.J.G. Clague

Mr S.R. Crellin

Mr. D.R. Watson

Mr F. Horning

Mr P.J. Washington

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

Apologies for absence were submitted by The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr Councillor F. Schuengel, the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and the Director of Housing and Property.

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 – 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, were approved and signed.

3. **Minutes – 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

The minutes of the special Council meeting held on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, were approved and signed.

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

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

*What checks are carried out on successful candidates prior to appointment and taking up employment within the Council?*

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

*Any offer of employment is made subject to:*

- *the receipt of satisfactory references (many employers do not and are not obliged to provide a reference and many of those that do simply confirm the dates between which the person was employed without any further detail);*
- *medical examination; and*
- *pre-employment screening, carried out by an external contractor on behalf of the Council.*

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

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

*Does Douglas Borough Council have any contracts with the operators of the TT Funfair usually sited on Douglas Promenade?*

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

*The Council has no contracts with either the Department for Enterprise or the operators of the TT funfair as the Council is not involved in any of the funfair arrangements. There will be no financial loss to the Council of the funfair not proceeding.*

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

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

*How long has the TT Marshals Association occupied the premises from which it currently operates in Nobles Park?*

Reply by Leader of the Council:

*As the Member is probably aware, the history of some of the buildings behind the Grandstand is vague at best. Research is ongoing into the precise nature of the arrangements with the TT Marshalls Association, and indeed all the different occupiers of various buildings and structures, with a view to producing a comprehensive record which can be made available to Members in due course.*

Supplementary question:

*Do the TT Marshals Association pay any rent or ground rent in respect of the building which they occupy and why is there or has been no reference in the Annual Budget to the occupancy of this building?*

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

*The TT Marshals Associate does not currently pay a ground rent, and because of that does not appear in the Annual Budget. There is concern that the “historical” arrangement needs formalisation and that will be done when further research has been completed.*

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

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

*When the changing rooms at Pulrose were last inspected prior to being condemned and were they actually leased to Pulrose United Football Club?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

*Following an inspection that was undertaken in August 2018, the Pulrose Football Club were issued with a Notice to Quit the Lease due to the condition of the building. A Licence to Occupy on a monthly rolling basis was implemented. This was to enable the club to continue occupying the building until it was demolished or deemed unfit to occupy. The changing rooms are hired out on a match day or for training as required by the clubs.*

*After the Notice to Quit, inspections were carried out on monthly basis by the Assistant Head of Parks and the Health & Safety Officer from December 2018 up to the end of the football season May 2021. Additional inspections were also undertaken in November 2018, January 2019, December 2019 and July 2020 by the Assistant Property Manager (Assets).*

Supplementary Question:

*Under the terms of their lease were Pulrose United responsible for any maintenance to the changing rooms and should a scheme be progressed to build new facilities for the club will it be on a "full maintenance and repair" lease similar to the other sporting tenants of the Council?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

*Pulrose United were not responsible for structural maintenance of the building and if any replacement is constructed, the preference would be for any tenant to take responsibility.*

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

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

*Having now been closed for more than six weeks when are works currently being carried out on the Jubilee Kiosk toilets likely to be completed and the facilities reopened and additionally when will the toilets on Loch Promenade become operational again?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environment Services Committee:

*The public toilet contractor has been waiting on a specific part to finish the work on the Jubilee Clock toilets. The parts arrived in the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> April and the works will be completed imminently, ahead of the Easter weekend. The majority of the Loch Promenade units are re-opened to the public including the Disabled unit and all works will be completed by Easter.*

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

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

*What progress is being made in respect of repairs and reinstatement of the walls to the "sunken gardens" following recent storms?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

*The Council is awaiting the final outcome from the insurance loss adjuster before repairs can proceed. In addition, the Council is in conversation with the Department of Infrastructure regarding future sea wall plans and how these may impact upon reinstatement of the garden walls.*

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

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

*With cancellation and the absence of the TT Funfair from Douglas Promenade this year does the Chairman know of any alternative suitable sites within the Borough?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

*There are no alternative suitable sites under the Council's control.*

**11. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

*11.1 How many empty transit houses do we currently have in Willaston?*

*11.2 How long have these been empty?*

*11.3 How often are the transit houses inspected and cleaned before the next transfer?*

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

*11.1 There are currently 19 transit houses empty. We are currently coming to the end of the first framework. The decant properties will be required for the second framework which is currently at tender stage.*

11.2 *The first framework is currently in the last stages and all decants will be empty ready for the second framework. The period varies between 3 weeks and 7 months. As the project comes to an end, the remainder of the 32 decant properties will also become vacant before the 2nd framework begins.*

*All empty decant properties are checked and inspected on a rolling two weekly cycle, water is run and general inspections carried out.*

11.3 *Occupied decant properties are checked and inspected once a tenant vacates the property.*

*Decant properties are cleaned approximately 1 week before the next tenant receives the keys, they are then inspected the day before the tenant receives the keys as a final check.*

**12. Standing Order 39 – Written Questions – Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin**

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

12.1 *How many pavement café licences are pending?*

12.2 *Will all the current licences be dealt with before TT fortnight?*

12.3 *If not will extra staff be brought in to help because of the financial impact on the shops/cafes if not approved in time?*

12.4 *Are the café pavement licences going to be expanded to include shop displays in the summer months?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

12.1 *Fifteen applications are currently pending, 80% of which are renewals rather than premises seeking brand-new licences.*

12.2 *Officers will endeavour to process them all before the TT period, but the time for processing is not entirely within officers' control as they need to await comment from other parties and sometimes further information from the applicants.*

12.3 *No further staff will be hired or assigned to the task. While it is primarily undertaken by the Town Centre Manager, he receives support from his line manager.*

12.4 *The current policy on pavement cafes has been agreed by Executive Committee and the Council. No changes are currently anticipated. The scheme does not apply to shops, but only to food and drink premises.*

**13. Executive Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Clauses A1 to A16**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A16 inclusive of report of meeting held on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received by the Council.”

Further Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause A1 of private report of a meeting held on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be considered in public together with the report.”

Question put on Further Motion, a vote was taken electronically and there voted **For** the Further Motion, Councillors: Miss N.A. Byron, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr P.J. Washington, the Deputy Mayor – **6**

**Against:** Councillors: Mr J.E. Skinner, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Horning – **4**

The Further Motion failed as the required two-thirds majority of Members in attendance had not been met.

Question put on original 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 I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Horning, Mr P.J. Washington, the Deputy Mayor – **9**

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

*Motion carried.*

**14. Executive Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Clause C17**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C17 of report of meeting held on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

**15. Housing and Property Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

**16. Housing and Property Committee – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022**

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 report of special meeting held on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

**17. Pensions Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

**18. Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 – Clauses A1 to A5**

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 Clauses A1 to A5 inclusive of report of meeting held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

**19. Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 – Clause B6**

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 B6 of report of meeting held on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

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

**20. Regeneration and Community Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 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 Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 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 I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Horning, Mr P.J. Washington, the Deputy Mayor – 9

Against: Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner – 1

*Motion carried.*

**21. Environmental Services Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

**22. Adjournment and Resumption**

The meeting adjourned at 3.48pm and resumed at 4.06pm with the same Members and officers present.

**IN PRIVATE**

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

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner submitted a question for response by the Leader of the Council. The question and response was noted on the minutes.

24. **Executive Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

25. **Pensions Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

26. **Housing and Property Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

27. **Pensions Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> March, 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 Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

28. **Environmental Services Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor D.R. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of Environmental Services Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

The Council rose at 4.22pm.



Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive