



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

13th January, 2016

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 13th day of JANUARY, 2016, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

COUNCILLOR MRS SARA DAWN ANDREA HACKMAN, JP

Councillor

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mr D.J. Ashford

Mrs R. Chatel

Ms C.R. Turner

Mr D.W. Christian, MBE, JP

Mrs C.E. Malarkey

Mr C.L.H. Cain

Mr G.J. Faragher

Miss D.A.M. Pitts

Mr R.H. McNicholl

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mrs C.L. Wells

Ms K. Angela

Mrs E.C. Quirk

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett, Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce and Mr Councillor S.C. Cain, JP.

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

1. **Minutes – 9th December, 2015**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 9th December, 2015 were approved and signed.

2. **Standing Order 39 – Question Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford**

The following question addressed by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford to the Leader of the Council, and the Leader's reply, were noted on the minutes:-

Bearing in mind the soon to be staged implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act, and the already low turnouts in local elections, what systems are in place to:

- 1) Ensure that all polling stations used for the local elections have disabled and wheelchair access?
- 2) If there are some that do not, what procedures are in place to ensure this is either publicised well in advance, or mitigated, in order that there is no repeat of what occurred in the 2012 local elections where several voters in Victoria and Athol Wards were disenfranchised by being unable to access the polling station to vote on the day?

Reply:

Although we are aware of the forthcoming implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act, the Council has always been sensitive to the needs of disabled people, and to the level of turnout in local elections which really needs to be improved if we are to uphold true democratic representation.

There were issues with access for disabled people at some polling stations in the 2012 general election of Councillors, and although that number was small, the reasons have been examined in the expectation of avoiding such issues if possible at any future election including that in April this year. I must point out that there may be some costs to the Council if additional equipment or work is required, but it is essential to ensure that no voter is disenfranchised because of disability.

An exercise is already under way on behalf of the Returning Officer to identify premises suitable and available for use as polling stations. This is being done early so that, each property can be scrutinised and if necessary, additional arrangements can be put in place to ensure the best possible access to all the properties being used. The Returning Officer will be very pleased to consider any suggestions made by Members, or indeed, any voter.

Difficulty in access to polling stations however is not confined to disabled people and I am disappointed that the Department of Infrastructure, while fixing Thursday 28th April as the polling day, has authorised closure of certain major roads for a large part of that same day, which is likely to create an even greater discouragement to voters. Again, steps will be taken, at additional cost, to inform those affected and to facilitate their use of absent votes.

3. **Executive Committee – 18th December, 2015**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Friday, 18th December, 2015, be received by the Council."

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion: Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Councillor Mrs C.R. Turner, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, Councillor Ms K Angela, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk, the Mayor – **14**

Against: Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher – **1**

Motion carried.

4. **Standards Committee – 7th December, 2015**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, seconded by Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Standards Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Monday, 7th December, 2015, be received by the Council."

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

5. **Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 22nd October, 2015**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Thursday, 22nd October, 2015, be received by the Council."

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

6. **Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 10th December, 2015 – Clauses A1 to A7 inclusive**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A7 inclusive of report of meeting held Thursday, 10th December, 2015, be received by the Council.”

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

7. **Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 10th December, 2015 – Clause B8**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in Clause B8 of report of meeting held Thursday, 10th December, 2015, be received for Council approval at the Special Budget Meeting on 27th January, 2016.”

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

8. **Housing Committee – 16th December, 2015**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Wednesday, 16th December, 2015, be received by the Council.”

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

9. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 15th December, 2015 – Clauses A6 and A7**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in Clauses A6 and A7 of report of meeting held Tuesday, 15th December, 2015, be received by the Council.”

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

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

10. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 15th December, 2015 – Clauses A1 to A5 and A8 to B11 inclusive**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A5 and A8 to B11 inclusive of report of meeting held Tuesday, 15th December, 2015, be received by the Council.”

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

11. **Environmental Services Committee – Monday, 14th December, 2015**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Monday, 14th December, 2015, be received by the Council.”

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

12. **Miscellaneous Business**

The Council considered a request from Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce to accept his apologies for the Council meeting. It is a requirement of the Local Elections Act 1986 that any Member who fails to attend a meeting for a period of three consecutive months shall cease to be a Member of the authority unless the reason is approved by the authority before the end of the three-month period.

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, “That Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce’s reason for apology be approved.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically and there voted **For** the Motion: Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, Councillor Mrs C.Q. Quirk, the Mayor – **7**

Against: Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, Councillor Mrs C.R. Turner, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Councillor Ms K. Angela – **8**

Motion failed. Mr E.A. Joyce ceased to be a Member of Douglas Borough Council.

13. **Adjournment and Resumption**

The meeting adjourned at 5.00pm and resumed at 5.15pm with the same Members and officers present.

IN PRIVATE

14. Executive Committee – 18th December, 2015

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Friday, 18th December, 2015, be received by the Council.”

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

15. Regeneration and Community Committee – 15th December, 2015

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, seconded by Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Tuesday, 15th December, 2015, be received by the Council.”

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

16. Environmental Services Committee – 14th December, 2015

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Monday, 14th December, 2015, be received by the Council.”

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

17. Environmental Services Committee – 16th December, 2015


Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in private report of resumed meeting held Wednesday, 16th December, 2015, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically and there voted **For** the Motion: Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Councillor Ms C.R. Turner, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain, Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk, Councillor Ms K. Angela, the Mayor – **14**

Against: Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts – **1**

Motion carried.

The Council rose at 6.17pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive