



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

8th December, 2021

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 8th day of DECEMBER, 2021, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

MRS RAINA CHATEL, JP

Councillors

Miss N.A. Byron

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr I.J.G. Clague, MBE

Mr D.R. Watson

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr F. Horning

Ms J. Thommeny

Mr P.J. Washington

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

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin and Mr Councillor F. Schuengel.

1. **Minutes – 10th November, 2021**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 10th November, 2021, were approved and signed.

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

Motion moved by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, seconded by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause A2 of private report of meeting held on Friday, 26th November, 2021, and the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee as contained in Clause B1 of private report of meeting held on Monday, 15th November, 2021, be considered in public.”

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 D.R. Watson, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington – 7

Against, Councillors: Mr A.J. Bentley, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr I.J.G. Clague – 3

Motion carried.

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

Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin asked the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

- 1.1 *How many electric vehicle chargers are currently installed in Council car parks and works depots for both Council vehicles and the public?*
- 1.2 *How many chargers are planned for installation in the next 3 years?*
- 1.3 *How many Council vehicles are electric?*
- 1.4 *How many electric vehicles are planned for procurement in the next three years?*

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

- 1.1 *None.*
- 1.2 *A report is going to the December Environmental Services Committee regarding the installation for six chargers for Shaw’s Brow Car Park.*
- 1.3 *None.*
- 1.4 *Consideration is given annually when looking at replacement of vehicles, to purchasing electric vehicles. However, to date, the specialist nature of vehicles used by the Council has precluded this option. It remains an avenue the Council intends to pursue when financially viable to do so.*

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

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

- 2.1 *How many electric vehicle chargers are installed in Council Estates?*
- 2.2 *How many electric vehicle chargers are planned for installation in Council estates?*
- 2.3 *Will electric vehicle charger installation be fully supported by Council if an application is put in by a Council tenant?*

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

- 2.1 *None at the moment, but all new builds will have infrastructure for future electric charging points, for example Peel Road Apartments*
- 2.2 *Peel Road Apartments – infrastructure for six future electric vehicle charging points will be installed.*
- 2.3 *Infrastructure for future electric charge points will be added to design briefs for new Council estates / buildings subject to building approvals. For existing buildings, tenants can apply for permission to carry out alterations.*

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

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

- 3.1 *What funding does the Council allocate to Douglas Town Band?*
- 3.2 *When was the funding of Douglas Town Band last increased?*
- 3.3 *When will the funding increase if it hasn’t been recently?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

The Council's contribution to Douglas Town Band has been re-examined many times in recent years. The current arrangement is that, instead of the previous lump annual sum contribution that used to be made historically, the band is paid a fee for each Council event to which they contribute. In a normal year, that is six principal events plus the occasional one-off special event. The fee was fixed at £400 per event in 2019 with provision for annual inflationary increases.

6. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley

Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley asked the Leader of the Council:

Which Council officers have access to e-mails to and from the Councillors' email addresses?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

None, apart from the Digital & Information Services Team who have access to all areas of the Council's systems in order to provide support as required.

7. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley

Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley asked Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

Will there be any difference in standards between those used for social housing by Douglas Borough Council and those that will be imposed on private landlords as a result of the recent Landlords Bill, and if so what will those differences be?

Reply by the Chair of the Housing and Property Committee:

Presumably the "standards" referred to are the procedural standards, rather than the Building standards which are largely covered by planning and Building Regulations.

No comparison has been carried out of those procedural standards. The procedures followed by Douglas Borough Council's Housing Department align with those of other Housing Authorities on the Island, as they are guided by policies laid down by Government. There are a substantial number of such policies, which are publicly available, governing all aspects of social housing including allocation and eviction. The exercise of comparison is not an effective use of Council's resources.

8. Executive Committee – 26th November, 2021 – Clauses A1 to A13 and Clause A2 of private report

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A13 inclusive of report of meeting held on Friday, 26th November, 2021, and in Clause A2 of private report of meeting held on Friday, 26th November, 2021, be received by the Council."

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

9. Executive Committee – 26th November, 2021 – Clause C14

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C14 of report of meeting held on Friday, 26th November, 2021, be received, approved, and adopted by the Council."

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

10. Executive Committee – 26th November, 2021 – Clause C15

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause C15 of report of meeting held on Friday, 26th November, 2021, be received, approved, and adopted by the Council."

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

11. Pensions Committee – 24th November, 2021

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, 24th November, 2021, be received by the Council."

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

12. Housing and Property Committee – 17th November, 2021

Motion moved by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17th November, 2021, be received by the Council."

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

13. Regeneration and Community Committee – 16th November, 2021

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 16th November, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

14. Environmental Services Committee – 15th November, 2021 and Clause B1 of private report

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 15th November, 2021, and in Clause B1 of private report of meeting held on Monday, 15th November, 2021, 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 I.J.G. Clague, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Ms J. Thommeny Mr P.J. Washington – **9**

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

Motion carried.

15. Standing Order 30 – Notice of Motion – Councillor Miss N.A. Byron

Councillor Miss N.A. Byron moved the following Motion, notice of which had been given:

“That the Council install a memorial to the animals of war, within the vicinity of the War Memorial on Harris Promenade.”

Councillor Ms J. Thommeny seconded the Motion.

Under the provisions of Standing Order 30, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and report back to the Council by 9th March, 2022.

16. Adjournment and Resumption.

The meeting adjourned at 3.30pm and resumed at 3.45pm with the same Members and Officers present.

IN PRIVATE

17. Executive Committee – 26th November, 2021

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Friday, 26th November, 2021, 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 A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mrs C.L. Wells, Ms J. Thommeny, Mr P.J. Washington – **7**

Against: Councillors: Mr S.R Pitts, Mr J.E. Skinner. Mr F. Horning - **3**

18. Pensions Committee – 24th November, 2021

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, 24th November, 2021, be received by the Council.”

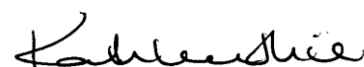
Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

19. Housing and Property Committee – 17th November, 2021

Motion moved by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, 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, 17th November, 2021, be received by the Council.”

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

The Council rose at 4.00pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive