



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

10th January, 2023

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on TUESDAY, the 10th day of JANUARY, 2023, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

COUNCILLOR MS JANET THOMMENY, JP

Councillors

Miss N.A. Byron

Mr J.E. Skinner

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr I.J.G. Clague. MBE

Mr D.R. Watson

Mr S.R. Crellin

Mr F. Schuengel

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr F. Horning

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. Pitts.

1. **Minutes – 14th December, 2022**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 14th December, 2022, were approved and signed.

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

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

What costs for Heras fencing have been incurred by way of (a) rent (hire) and (b) purchase since the changing rooms at Spring Valley football pitches were first confirmed as unfit for purpose?

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration Committee:

Pulrose Changing Rooms were condemned on the 18th March 2022 and the site had to be made safe immediately. As a consequence the site had to be cordoned off immediately to comply with Health & Safety Regulations. Heras fencing was hired from a local supplier and installed on the same day to prevent the general public access to the unsafe building. The fencing was hired until the 27th May 2022 for the total cost of £1,584.00 plus VAT.

By the end of April it was then known what the long term plan was to be for the building. A review was undertaken of the costs for the hiring against purchasing the Heras fencing. Quotations were obtained for the purchase of the fencing from suppliers, and the Heras fencing was ordered on the 16th May 2022 to replace the hired fencing. The lead in time for the fencing to be delivered was 10 working days.

The newly purchased Heras fencing replaced the hired fencing on 27th May 2022. The cost to purchase the fencing was £931.14 plus VAT.

In total the Heras fencing has cost £2,515.14 and the purchased fencing can be used in other Council sites as required.

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

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

3.1 *How many staff vacancies are there currently in the Parks and Gardens Section of the Council?*

3.2 *What steps are currently being taken to recruit and retain staff within the Parks and Gardens Section of the Council and additionally identify what the difficulties are associated with retaining staff?*

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

3.1 *At the time of composing this response, there are six vacancies within Parks Services. There has been a constant rolling vacancy rate of five to six posts throughout the year.*

3.2 *Every vacancy is advertised as soon as possible. The overriding reason for loss of staff and difficulty in recruiting is pay.*

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

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

Will the Chairman investigate the benefits of Gardens Volunteer Schemes which are common throughout the UK and consider the introduction of such a scheme in the Council's parks, squares and gardens?

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

Yes, Committee can receive a report on the merits and issues with such schemes which will include 'friends' groups and other community ownership initiatives.

5. **Executive Committee – 21st December, 2022**

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 report of meeting held on Wednesday, 21st December, 2022, be received by the Council."

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

6. **Housing and Property Committee – 16th December, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, 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 Friday, 16th December, 2022, 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 – 15th November, 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 held on Tuesday, 15th November, 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 J.E. Skinner, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **10**

Against, Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague – **1**

Motion carried.

8. Regeneration and Community Committee – 20th December, 2022

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Schuengel, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 20th December, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

9. Environmental Services Committee – 19th December, 2022

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 19th December, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

10. Adjournment and Resumption

The meeting adjourned at 3.35pm and resumed at 3.55pm with the same Members and officers present.

IN PRIVATE

11. Minutes – 14th December, 2022

The minutes of the Special private Council meeting held on Wednesday, 14th December, 2022, were approved and signed.

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

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

13. Executive Committee – 21st December, 2022

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 Wednesday, 21st December, 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 A.J. Bentley, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **10**

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

Motion carried.

14. Housing and Property Committee – 16th December, 2022

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.R. Watson, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Crellin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Friday, 16th December, 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 A.J. Bentley, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **10**

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

Motion carried.

15. **Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 15th November, 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 private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 15th November, 2022, be received by the Council.”

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

16. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 20th December, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Schuengel, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 20th December, 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 A.J. Bentley, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.R. Watson, Mr S.R. Crellin, Mr F. Schuengel, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr F. Horning, Mr P.J. Washington, the Mayor – **10**

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

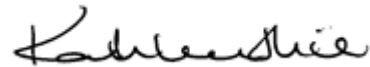
Motion carried.

17. **Environmental Services Committee – 19th December, 2022**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor F. Horning, seconded by Mr Councillor P.J. Washington, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Monday, 19th December, 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 4.25pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive