

COUNCIL
Thursday, 18 July 2019

PRESENT – The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Bartch, Bell, Boddy, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Cossins, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Heslop, Holroyd, Howarth, Howell, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Keir, Laing, Layton, Lee, Lister, Lucas, Marshall, McCollom, Mills, Newall, K Nicholson, M Nicholson, Paley, Preston, Renton, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Snedker, Tait, Tostevin and Wright.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Baldwin, Haszeldine and McEwan.

11 MINUTES - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THIS COUNCIL HELD ON 25 APRIL 2019 AND 23 MAY 2019

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council, held on 25 April 2019 and 23 May 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

13 SEALING.

Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Queen's Birthday Honours – The Mayor reported that Mr. David Christopher Hayward, Chief Executive Officer, Micropore Technologies, and a resident of Darlington, had been admitted as a Member of the British Empire for services to International Trade and to the North East Chemical Sector.

The Mayor also advised Members that Mrs. Bernadette Thomas, Intercountry Adoption Team Leader, Department for Education, and a resident of Darlington, had been admitted as a Member of the British Empire for services to Young People.

Srebrenica – The Mayor informed Members that it was the 24th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and that Councils and elected representatives had been encouraged to remember and acknowledge both the victims and survivors of Srebrenica. Members observed a period of silence and reflection to honour the victims and survivors of this terrible atrocity.

15 QUESTIONS - TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE APPROPRIATE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN FROM):-

(1) THE PUBLIC;

There was one question, with notice, from a member of the public, who received an answer thereon.

(2) MEMBERS TO CABINET/CHAIRS;

There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, for the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

(3) MEMBERS TO THE POLICE, CRIME AND VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM AND DARLINGTON.

The Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner for Durham and Darlington, had submitted his apologies for the meeting.

16 COUNCIL REPORTS.

(1) HONORARY FREEMAN AND HONORARY ALDERMEN

The submitted report (previously circulated) recommended that the long service of former Councillors who did not stand for re-election in the 2019 Local Government Election be recognised by admitting Bill Dixon as a 'Honorary Freeman' and bestowing the title of 'Honorary Alderman' on David Lyonette and Tony Richmond.

The submitted report stated that the Local Government Act 1972 enabled the Council to admit 'persons of distinction' and persons who have 'rendered eminent service' to the Borough as an 'Honorary Freeman' or 'Honorary Freewoman' of Darlington. It was noted that the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman was the highest civic honour that the Council was able to bestow.

It was stated that the Local Government Act 1972 also enabled the Council to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' to former Members of Council who had 'rendered eminent service' to the Council.

RESOLVED – a) That Bill Dixon be admitted to the title of 'Honorary Freeman of Darlington' and that David Lyonette and Tony Richmond be conferred the title of 'Honorary Alderman' are a fitting way to recognise and honour the service of those past members of Council.

b) That a Special Meeting of the Council be convened as soon as can practicably be arranged to enable Members to formally vote (with a two-thirds majority) on a resolution that Bill Dixon be admitted to the title of 'Honorary Freeman of Darlington' and that David Lyonette and Tony Richmond be conferred the title of 'Honorary Alderman'.

c) That the Assistant Director, Law and Governance be authorised to finalise the arrangements for a Special Meeting of the Council, the conferment the award and titles, and an appropriate event to follow on from that meeting.

REASONS – a) To recognise the long and eminent service of former Members of the Council by the conferment of the titles of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Aldermen.

b) For decisions to be made in compliance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.

17 CABINET REPORTS.

The Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings. Cabinet Members answered questions on their portfolios.

18 SCRUTINY REPORTS - TO CONSIDER SCRUTINY OVERVIEW REPORTS

Four Scrutiny Committee Chairs each submitted a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings.

NOTE: The Chair of the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee had been unable to prepare a written report in advance of this meeting as the most recent meeting of the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee took place after the Agenda and Papers for this Ordinary Meeting of the Council had been circulated, however the Chair provided a verbal update for Members at the meeting.

19 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Motion was moved by Councillor Howarth, and seconded by Councillor Snedker:

Climate Emergency

'This Council notes that many Darlington residents are demanding action on climate change.

Council accepts that in order to limit the effects of global warming it is necessary for the world population to reduce its annual carbon emissions from the current 6.5 tonnes per person to less than 2 tonnes, as soon as possible.

Council recognises that individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own.

All governments nationally and locally have a duty to limit the negative impacts of global warming. This Council has already acknowledged the importance of addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, having signed up to the Global Covenant of Mayors. Darlington Borough Council also supports the Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy 2010-2020, which notes that a 'business as usual' approach to reducing carbon emissions will not deliver anywhere near the savings needed to meet local and national targets.

The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050. Local councils should not wait for their national governments to change their policies.

Council therefore resolves to:

- a) Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
- b) Sign up to a science-based carbon reduction target that is consistent with achieving the Paris Agreement of no more than 1.5°C global temperature increase;
- c) Work with nurseries, schools and colleges to include age appropriate learning about climate change while calling for the national curriculum to be reformed to include "the ecological crisis as an educational priority";
- d) Work to make the borough of Darlington carbon neutral by 2030 and call on central government to provide the funding and powers to make this possible;
- e) Work with other organisations and governments within the UK and internationally to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
- f) Work with partners to run a conversation with residents, Trade Unions, public sector organisations, businesses and the third sector on developing a plan with the actions and milestones required to reach this target;
- g) Report the progress to Full Council every 6 months.'

The following Amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Marshall and seconded by Councillor Keir:

'To delete d) and replace with:-

d) Work to make Darlington Borough Council carbon neutral by 2050 and call on central government to provide funding and powers to make this possible.

Re-name g) to h) and insert an additional paragraph g) as follows:-

g) Set up a cross-party working group to develop an action plan and milestones to achieve carbon neutral status.'

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, a request was made by five Members for a named vote on the Amendment. A named vote was taken of those Members present at the meeting and there appeared:-

For the Amendment – Councillors Bartch, Bell, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Crudass, Mrs. Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Howell, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Keir, Laing, Lee, Marshall, Mills, K. Nicholson, Preston, Renton, Mrs. H. Scott, Tait, Tostevin and Wright (25)

Against the Amendment – The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Boddy, Cossins, Crumbie, Curry, Harker, Heslop, Holroyd, Howarth, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Layton, Lister, Lucas, McCollom, Newall, M. Nicholson, Paley, A. J. Scott and Snedker (22)

The Amendment was carried and thus became the Substantive Motion.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, a request was made by five Members for a named vote on the Substantive Motion. A named vote was taken of those Members present at the meeting and there appeared:-

For the Motion – The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Bartch, Bell, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Cossins, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs. Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Heslop, Holroyd, Howarth, Howell, C. L. B. Hughes, L. Hughes, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Keir, Laing, Layton, Lee, Lister, Lucas, Marshall, McCollom, Mills, Newall, K. Nicholson, M. Nicholson, Paley, Preston, Renton, A. J. Scott, Mrs. H. Scott, Snedker, Tait, Tostevin and Wright (45)

Absentions – Councillors Allen and Boddy (2)

Motion Carried.

20 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - TO CONSIDER ANY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHER BODIES.

Consideration was given to membership changes of the Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019/20.

RESOLVED – (a) That Councillor Renton replace Councillor Bartch on the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee;

(b) That Councillors Dr. Chou and Lee replace Councillors Mrs. D. and B. Jones on the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee;

(c) That Councillor Marshall replace Councillor Mills on the Corporate Parenting Panel;

(d) That Councillor Linda Hughes be appointed to the Labour vacancy for a Named Substitute on the Combined Fire Authority;

(e) That Councillor Heslop be appointed to the Labour vacancy for a Named Substitute on the Police and Crime Panel; and

(f) That Councillor McEwan be appointed to the Labour vacancy for a Named Substitute on the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.