

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

**Meeting of the Council held as a Virtual Meeting
on Thursday, 12th November, 2020 at 7.30 pm**

1 WELCOME AND REMOTE/PARTLY REMOTE MEETINGS PROTOCOL SUMMARY

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual Council meeting that was being conducted with Members and Officers at various locations, communicating via audio/video and online. There was also the opportunity for the public and press to listen to and view proceedings.

The Chair invited the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager to explain how proceedings would work and to confirm that Members and Officers were in attendance.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager undertook a roll call to ensure that all Members and Officers could hear and be heard and gave advice regarding the following:

The meeting was being streamed live onto You Tube and recorded via Zoom.

Extracts from the Remote/Partly Remote Meetings Protocol was included with the agenda and the full version was available on the Council's website which included information regarding:

- Live Streaming;
- Noise Interference;
- Rules of Debate and
- Voting

Members were requested to ensure that they were familiar with the Protocol.

The Chair of the Council, Councillor Terry Tyler started the meeting proper.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daniel Allen, David Barnard, Faye Frost, Gary Grindal, Ian Moody, Helen Oliver and Kay Tart.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Carl Holland

It was with great sadness that the Chair announced that Carl Holland sadly passed away on 15th September 2020 after a relatively short illness. He was employed by NHDC as an Assistive Technologies Officer for the Careline team and had worked there since 1st August 2017. Carl was an incredibly happy and popular member of the team who is survived by his wife Samantha and two young daughters.

A minutes silence was held in Carl's memory.

(2) Audio Recording

The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council policy this meeting was being audio recorded as well as filmed. The audio recordings would be available to view on Mod.gov and the film recording via the NHDC Youtube channel.

(3) Climate Emergency

The Chair advised that, since the council declared a climate emergency, he felt that it was important to continue to demonstrate the progress and commitment that the Council had made to this. Therefore all future agendas would have the following wording included:

“The Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to achieving a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030 and helping local people and businesses to reduce their own carbon emissions.

A Cabinet Panel on the Environment has been established to engage with local people on matters relating to the climate emergency and advise the council on how to achieve these climate change objectives. A Climate Change Implementation group of councillors and council officers meets regularly to produce plans and monitor progress. Actions taken or currently underway include switching to green energy, incentives for low emission taxis, expanding tree planting and working to cut food waste.

In addition the council is a member of the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership, working with other councils across Hertfordshire to reduce the county's carbon emissions and climate impact.

The Council's dedicated webpage on Climate Change includes details of the council's climate change strategy, the work of the Cabinet Panel on the Environment and a monthly briefing on progress.

(4) Gill Hills – 25 years service

Gill worked as a Parking attendant for 25 years and since reaching this milestone had retired.

Gill would always be known as the Matron of the team with the kindness, support and friendship she had shown to everyone, her professional attitude and leading by example

She had a 'no fear' attitude towards her role and didn't suffer fools gladly.

So friendly and helpful to all members of the public, although did manage to sustain an injury to her foot (twice) after it was driven over by a member of public, that was how much determination she demonstrated to her role.

Gill featured on the front page of the Comet in January 2005 as a result of the Traffic Management Act and up to her retirement she maintained that pride.

Gill was a perfect Ambassador for Parking Services and NHDC who would be difficult to replace.

During the 25 years she served with NHDC she gained many friends in every department, saw many people come and go, and experienced many changes but every day she came to work with the same sunny nature taking all changes onboard every time.

She would be incredibly missed and we wish her well in her retirement.

Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to the service given by Gill and wished her well in her retirement.

Councillor Terry Tyler proposed, Councillor Val Bryant seconded and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council place on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Gill Hills for her long and valuable service to Local Government”

(5) Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded to make declarations of interest before an item, the detailed reminder about this and speaking rights was set out under Chair’s Announcements on the agenda.

(6) Rules of Debate

Members were reminded that the normal procedure rules in respect of debate and times to speak would apply.

(7) Comfort Break

The Chair announced that, if the meeting was still in progress at 9pm, he would call a comfort break at an appropriate place.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no presentations by members of the public.

6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

a Item Referred from Cabinet: 22 October 2020 - Hertfordshire Growth Board - Proposed Joint Committees

RESOLVED:

- (1) To confirm the establishment of the Growth Board and Growth Board Scrutiny Joint Committees (to hold their inaugural meetings in January/February 2021 and then HGB Scrutiny aligned to confirmation of securing Government funding in 2021);
- (2) To adopt the Growth Board Integrated Governance Framework into the Councils own constitutional framework;
- (3) To agree the Council’s nominated representatives on the Growth Board as the Leader of the Council, Deputy as Deputy Leader of the Council, or in their absence another Executive member and Scrutiny Committee as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Deputy as Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or in their absence another member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To provide longer term joint place leadership.

b Item Referred from Licensing and Appeals Committee - 26 October 2020 - Adoption of a Statement of Licensing Policy Required by Virtue of Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003

RESOLVED: That the Statement of Licensing Policy be adopted.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) Licensing authorities are required to publish a policy every five years by virtue of section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 (“the Act”).
- (2) A new policy must be published by 7 January 2021 to comply with this statutory requirement.
- (3) The proposed policy builds on the success of the previous and existing versions of the policy, whilst reflecting legislative changes and the Council’s priorities.
- (4) Responses to the public consultation were limited and raised no significant opposition to any of the proposals.

7 RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE 6 MONTH RULE - SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED: That Council approves an extension of the six-month rule for Councillor Kay Tart, on ill health grounds, for an additional six-month period, until 9 July 2021.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that ‘if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority’. Whilst the Local Government Association has been lobbying for this to be dealt with (potentially under the Coronavirus Bill 2020), this has so far not been included.
- (2) To enable Cllr Tart to continue to serve as a District Councillor.

8 USE OF URGENCY IN RELATION TO CALL-IN FOR DECISION ON BUSINESS RATE POOLING

RESOLVED: That the use of urgency provisions in relation to the Business Rate Pooling decision made by Cabinet on 22 October 2020 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that Council is informed of the use of urgency provisions.

9 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11(b), one question had been submitted by Members by the deadline date for questions set out in the Council’s Constitution regarding:

- (A) Policy regarding the Local Plan

10 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

No motions had been submitted.