

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	Thursday, 30 September 2021
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

The Mayor (Councillor Makinson)

Central Ward	- Councillors
Cudworth Ward	- Councillors Hayward, Houghton CBE and Wraith MBE
Darfield Ward	- Councillors Markham, Osborne and Smith
Darton East Ward	- Councillors Crisp and Hunt
Darton West Ward	- Councillors A. Cave, T. Cave and Howard
Dearne North Ward	- Councillors
Dearne South Ward	- Councillors Coates, Danforth and Noble
Dodworth Ward	- Councillors Fielding, Wray and Wright
Hoyland Milton Ward	- Councillors Franklin and Shepherd
Kingstone Ward	- Councillors Mitchell, Ramchandani and Williams
Monk Bretton Ward	- Councillors Green and Richardson
North East Ward	- Councillors Cherryholme and D. Higginbottom
Old Town Ward	- Councillors Lofts and Newing
Penistone East Ward	- Councillors Barnard
Penistone West Ward	- Councillors Lowe-Flelo
Rockingham Ward	- Councillors Andrews BEM, Lamb and Sumner
Royston Ward	- Councillors Cheetham and McCarthy
St. Helen's Ward	- Councillors Leech, Platts and Tattersall
Stairfoot Ward	- Councillors Bowler and Gillis
Wombwell Ward	- Councillors Frost and J. Higginbottom
Worsbrough Ward	- Councillors Bowser, Clarke and Lodge

92. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Danforth declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items relating to education in view of his membership of a school Governing Body.

Councillor J Higginbottom declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 118 'Minutes of the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board' in view of his employment for Mr D Jarvis MP who was also the Sheffield City Region Mayor.

Councillor Newing declared a non-pecuniary interest in any items relating to the NHS in view of her being an employee of the NHS.

Councillor Smith declared an interest in Minute No 117 'Minutes of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority' in view of him being a Member of that Authority.

93. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 29th July, 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

94. Communications

Arts Fund Museum of the Year 2021 – Letter of Congratulation

The Executive Director Core Services, in the absence of the Chief Executive, reported the receipt of a letter from Jenny Waldman, Director and Chair of Judges for the Museum of the Year 2021 which he read to the Council as follows:

'I am writing formally to congratulate Experience Barnsley on being a finalist for the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021. As you know, we had a record-breaking number of entries and drawing up the shortlist of only five finalists was no easy feat. You then responded to your inclusion on the list with all the energy, enthusiasm and imagination befitting for one of the finest museums in the UK today. Thank you.

May I also extend my heartfelt thanks, and those of my fellow judges, for arranging such an enjoyable and enlightening visit to the museum. We had an excellent day and having the opportunity to meet your very talented team was a real honour.

Our final citation was as follows: 'Experience Barnsley is a museum in the heart of the town, deeply committed to strengthening their local communities' self-belief through bringing the history of Barnsley to life. The judges were particularly impressed by the outreach work, including people with dementia, refugees and those living with learning disabilities, and the extraordinary and deep impact of these programmes. An array of successful digital programmes sustained local communities through lockdown, while also bringing the museum and its collection to the attention of new audiences.

Thank you for the work you do and for such an inspiring entry to Museum of the Year. Please do now send an invoice to Amy Dickinson for your £15,000 finalist prize.

We look forward to continuing our work together in the future. Meanwhile my renewed congratulations and warmest wishes'.

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Support Member for Place (Regeneration and Culture) stated that whilst he was obviously disappointed that the Museum had not won, nevertheless to be shortlisted was a magnificent achievement. He expressed thanks to all staff and volunteers who had been involved and particularly for the work they had done during the Covid pandemic.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE (Leader of the Council) expressed his thanks to the Members of the Barnsley Heritage Museums Trust who were all volunteers for their help and support of Barnsley Museums and without whom, the Museums of the Borough would not be the top-class facilities that they were. He also expressed his thanks and appreciation to the staff of the Museums Service led by Sue Thiedeman for all their hard work and dedication. He then made reference to the visit by the Judges to Experience Barnsley and to the support given at that event by all staff and volunteers and to the groups who had showcased its achievements and success and he extended his thanks to all concerned.

The Mayor extended her own personal thanks and appreciation to all staff, volunteers and groups who were involved in Experience Barnsley.

The Mayor and Members of the Council expressed their thanks to all involved in the usual manner.

95. Appointment to Outside Bodies

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor Cherryholme; and

RESOLVED that the following appointments be made to the Outside Bodies detailed:

Barnsley Business Innovation Centre

Councillor Frost (Reserve Member)

Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Green and Osborne (Reserve Members)

Barnsley Ex-Service Personnel Fund

Councillor Markham

Virtual School Governors

Councillors Cain and Platts

Dearne Playhouse Community Theatre Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Councillor Noble

Penistone School Trust

Councillor Barnard

Shaw Lands Trust

Councillors Hayward, Mitchell, Richardson and Williams together with Mr M Price and Mr T Sheard (3 year term)

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel Violence Reduction Unit Reference Group

Cabinet Spokesperson for Adults and Communities (1 year term)

96. Goldthorpe Masterplan Framework (Round 2 Adoption) (Cab.22.9.2021/11)

Moved by Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the progress made in the development of the masterplan framework for Goldthorpe be noted; and
- (ii) that the acceptance of £0.580m grant funding via Sheffield City Region from Ministry of Homes Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Get Building Fund (GBF) be delegated to the Executive Director Core Services in consultation with the Executive Director Place to facilitate the necessary infrastructure improvements required to facilitate the ES10 land south of Dearne Valley Parkway in accordance with the approved Strategic Growth Clusters update Cabinet report submitted to Cabinet on the 20th March, 2019 (Cab.20.3.2019/17 refers).

97. Revisions to the Selective Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Severance Policy (Cab.22.9.2021/14)

Moved by Councillor Franklin – Seconded by Councillor Howard; and

RESOLVED that the suggested revisions and introduction of additional criteria as outlined in section 4 of the Revisions to the Selective Voluntary Early Retirement/Voluntary Severance Policy be approved in order to allow greater flexibility for services and employees throughout the Managing Change process.

98. Planning Regulatory Board - 27th July, 2021

Moved by Councillor Richardson - Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson) xx; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on the 27th July, 2021 be received.

99. Planning Regulatory Board - 14th September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Richardson - Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson) xx; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on the 14th September, 2021 be received.

100. Audit and Governance Committee - 28th July, 2021

Moved by Councillor Lofts - Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on the 28th July, 2021 be received.

101. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 8th September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board held on the 8th September, 2021 be received.

102. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board - 8th September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board held on 8th September, 2021 be received.

103. General Licensing Panel - Various

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Panel held on the 31st August, 2021 be received.

104. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various

Moved by Councillor Shepherd – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the details of the various Appeals, Awards and Standards Regulatory Board Panels held in the last cycle of meetings together with their decisions be received.

105. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Healthy Barnsley Workstream) - 20th July, 2021

Moved by Councillor Newing – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Healthy Barnsley Workstream) held on the 20th July, 2021 be received.

106. Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 7th September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Newing – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 7th September, 2021 be received.

107. Central Area Council - 7th July, 2021

Moved by Councillor Williams - Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on the 7th July, 2021 be received.

108. North Area Council - 19th July, 2021

Moved by Councillor Leech – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North Area Council held on the 19th July, 2021 be received.

109. North East Area Council - 22nd July, 2021

Moved by Councillor Hayward – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on the 22nd July, 2021 be received.

110. Penistone Area Council - 22nd July, 2021

Moved by Councillor Barnard – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on the 22nd July, 2021 be received.

111. Dearne Area Council - 26th July, 2021

Moved by Councillor Noble – Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on the 26th July, 2021 be received.

112. South Area Council - 3rd September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Markham - Seconded by the Mayor (Councillor Makinson); and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the South Area Council held on the 3rd September, 2021 be received.

113. Cabinet Meeting - 18th August, 2021

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 18th August, 2021 be received.

114. Cabinet Meeting - 8th September, 2021

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton, CBE – Seconded by Councillor Andrews BEM; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 8th September, 2021 be received.

115. Questions relating to Joint Authority, Police and Crime Panel and Combined Authority Business

The Executive Director Core Services, in the absence of the Chief Executive, reported that he had received no questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.

116. Police and Crime Panel (Draft) - 19th July, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

117. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (Draft) - 26th July, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

118. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority Board (Draft) - 26th July, 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

119. Questions by Elected Members

The Executive Director Core Services, in the absence of the Chief Executive, reported that he had received a number of questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 11.

(a) Councillor Fielding

‘The increased costs of the Dodworth Road Improvement Scheme (better known as the Penny Park Gyratory) was approved at Cabinet in October 2020 as £7.448 million. Is it likely that the scheme will now be completed within this increased budget?’.

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation), thanked Councillor Fielding for his question and stated that in October 2020, Cabinet had approved the release of additional funding from the Council's capital reserves to support the delivery of the civil works contract and the wider project cost increases that had arisen since project approval had been granted back in 2018.

It was anticipated that the A628 Dodworth Road improvement scheme would be delivered within these allocated resources. However, as with any development, the full extent of third-party issues that caused delays were not fully known until the scheme was completed.

He stressed that Elected Members could be assured that robust contract management was in place, supported by detailed project monitoring and forecasting processes. This ensured that any issues around cost were identified early and considered on an ongoing basis through routine budgetary procedures.

Councillor Fielding thanked Councillor Lamb for his response and commented that it was reassuring that the Cabinet Spokesperson was suggesting that the project would be delivered on budget but questioned whether or not the Cabinet Spokesperson was aware of delays on works and night-time working that was being carried out to the disturbance and annoyance of local residents. He also questioned whether or not the project could be delivered on budget given the compensation events that were likely to be brought forward.

Councillor Lamb stated that he hoped that the project would be delivered on budget and all the information he had suggested that it would.

(b) Councillor Hunt

'In February 2019 the Council announced changes to street bin collections. The changes made included providing residents with the ability to dispose of dog waste in any of the general litter street bins and tagging all street bins with a unique reference number. Following on from this the Council were to roll out in-cab technology and use data to inform a second phase of changes to street bin collections. What improvements are planned and when will this second phase be implemented?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation), thanked Councillor Hunt for his question and stated that Street Bin Collections was one of the first services planned to go live as part of the in-cab technology programme.

The Service was currently focusing on delivering essential front-line services to residents whilst dealing with the wider impacts of the Covid pandemic. It was anticipated, therefore, that the programme would start in the next financial year.

Plans were for the live data regarding collections to be available online. It would help the Service see when street bins needed to be replaced and review collection schedules in line with local demand.

He was pleased to inform the Council that additional funding 'WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme)' had been secured to support the replacement of bins across the primary gateway routes and laybys. This funding would also allow the Service to upgrade a small number of bins in local communities, which would be agreed on in collaboration with Elected Members. It was anticipated that this work would start in October 2021.

A Street Bin Replacement Policy was being drafted and would detail how street bins were maintained and replaced across the borough. The policy followed the framework of the National Litter Strategy and WRAP Right Bin Right Place guidance. A report would be presented on this to Cabinet for consideration and approval later this financial year.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Lamb for his response and, as a supplementary question, asked whether or not plans were being made in the future for larger bins to be provided in certain locations where there were currently issues on a regular basis such as in Mapplewell Park and outside fast food retailers.

Councillor Lamb stated that such proposals were already under consideration and it was planned for larger bins to be provided in some locations where required.

(c) Councillor Fielding

'I was pleased to learn that following my earlier interventions on the costs of heat to tenants of district heating schemes that costs have been reviewed but no announcement of the results of this review is planned to be made public until at least November when Cabinet consider the results of the review. Will this announcement be made immediately so that vulnerable tenants can learn as soon as possible if their heating costs are being reduced to a level that they can afford as they enter the winter heating season?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) thanked Councillor Fielding for his question and stated that similar issues and questions had been raised by other members in relation to their Wards. He commented that the Council was doing all it could in terms of energy efficiency and in respect of the costs both in respect of district heating tenants and indeed for all residents of the borough.

The review promised by the Council in relation to district heating was nearing completion. This was due to be considered at a Cabinet meeting in November. Any changes to tenant's heating costs would be announced at that time.

Alongside the proposed changes to the heating tariffs, officers were looking at where there was the potential to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions across district heating schemes. An assessment would be made of any changes to heating systems, ensuring that they promoted a just transition to net-zero carbon targets in line with the Council's Sustainable Energy Action Plan. Residents would also be engaged in any proposed changes.

Options would be explored to access the government's Heat Network Efficiency Scheme launched to support performance improvements to existing district heating or communal heating projects.

Work was also progressing with Berneslai Homes and other partners delivering the Warm Homes Service (which was additional to the Berneslai Homes Tenant's First Team). The Warm Homes Service gave advice, guidance, and pathway referrals to help residents (across tenure), who struggled to keep their homes warm, access the right energy.

The Service would shortly transfer into the Housing, Sustainability and Climate Change Team, aiming to grow this offer further, with an aspiration (delivered via the Affordable Warmth Task Force) to create a one-stop-shop for energy efficiency support and advice to all residents across the borough.

The Council could not, of course, control energy prices (except for the welcomed district heating scheme review) but could provide advice to residents on keeping well and warm, how to make the most of their benefits, and retrofit funding from the government initiatives such as Local Authority Delivery (LAD) and the Sustainable Warmth programmes.

From a council housing perspective, officers were developing a suite of costed retrofit options to improve the efficiency of homes across the borough. This would seek to help people experiencing fuel poverty and with energy performance below an EPC C

rating, in the first instance. This offer was aligned to the government's Fuel Poverty Strategy and funding initiatives (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund).

Councillor Fielding thanked Councillor Lamb for his response. He was pleased, as no doubt were other Councillors, that this matter was going to be resolved as would tenants who struggled to pay excessive heating bills. He then asked, as a supplementary question, if the Cabinet Spokesperson could advise him when residents would be informed of the changes to be introduced and whether or not any rebate would be provided.

Councillor Lamb commented, as outlined within his response, that the process was nearing completion and changes would be announced and introduced following the completion of that review.

(d) Councillor Hunt

'The council's website details litter cleaning schedules. Service levels are shown for various roads in the borough varying from two weekly to four weekly cleaning. Is the council currently meeting these service levels and how has the litter cleaning schedule been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic?'

Councillor Lamb, Cabinet Spokesperson for Place (Environment and Transportation) in thanking Councillor Hunt for his question stated that litter collection schedules focused on arterial routes and areas of highest traffic and footfall, including Barnsley town centre, the six principal towns and ten local centres.

Areas with the most significant footfall or traffic received more frequent litter collections than those with less footfall and traffic.

A dedicated team worked across the week on this schedule. There had been some disruption due to staff vacancies and where staff had had to be redeployed to maintain other essential services.

The focus for street cleaning remained on emptying street bins, maintaining the daily schedules in the town centre, and the areas identified for twice-weekly litter collection.

To help maintain essential services when resources are impacted, the Service reactively cleared the routes that were on a 3 and 4 weekly schedule.

Local community groups had been an essential part of keeping the borough clean, and he wanted to thank them all for their hard work and dedication to their local areas.

It was planned that all litter collection schedules will return to normal service by December 2021.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Lamb for his response and commented that one of the roads on the 4 weekly schedule was the A61 through Darton East between the Eastfield Arms and the boundary with Wakefield. There was a fantastic 'Green Space' Group in the area whose members litter picked this section both before and during the pandemic, however, no Council staff had been seen to be litter picking. Councillor Hunt asked, therefore, if this was as a direct result of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

Councillor Lamb responded by stating that he was not in a position to be able to respond as to which specific areas were 'litter picked' and with what frequency, however, it was probably a safe assumption that the lack of Council staff undertaking such work was due to the pandemic. He stressed, however, that if any Member had concerns about areas being missed, they should contact him or the Service direct so that this matter could be investigated.

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Chair