

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	Thursday 28 July 2022
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

The Mayor (Councillor Tattersall)

Central Ward

- Councillors M. Dyson and Moyes

Cudworth Ward

- Councillors Hayward and Houghton CBE

Darfield Ward

- Councillors Markham, Osborne and Smith

Darton East Ward

- Councillors Crisp, Denton and Hunt

Darton West Ward

- Councillors T. Cave and Howard

Dearne North Ward

- Councillors Bellamy, Cain and Gardiner

Dearne South Ward

- Councillors Bowler, Coates and Danforth

Dodworth Ward

- Councillors P. Fielding, W. Fielding and Wray

Hoyland Milton Ward

- Councillors Franklin, Shepherd and Stowe

Kingstone Ward

- Councillors Mitchell, Ramchandani and Williams

Monk Bretton Ward

- Councillors Green and Richardson

North East Ward

- Councillors Ennis OBE and Peace

Old Town Ward

- Councillors Lofts, Newing and Pickering

Penistone East Ward

- Councillors Barnard, Hand-Davis and Wilson

Penistone West Ward

- Councillors Greenhough and Lowe-Fiello

Rockingham Ward

- Councillors Lamb, Sumner and White

Royston Ward

- Councillors Makinson, McCarthy and Webster

St. Helen's Ward

- Councillors Leech and Platts

Stairfoot Ward

- Councillors K. Dyson and Gillis

Wombwell Ward

- Councillors Eastwood, Frost and Higginbottom

Worsbrough Ward

- Councillors Bowser, Clarke and Lodge

32. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Barnard declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 39 'Appointments to Boards, Committees and Outside Bodies' in view of him being a member on the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation.

Councillor Gardiner declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 39 'Appointments to Boards, Committees and Outside Bodies' in view of him being a member on the General Management Committee of the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation.

Councillor Ramchandani declared a non-pecuniary interest in any item relation to the NHS in view of her being employed by the NHS.

33. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20 May 2022 and the ordinary meeting held on the 26 May 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

34. Communications

Fires at Woodland Drive

The Chief Executive reported that on Tuesday 19 July, unprecedented weather contributed to house fires at Woodland Drive in Kingstone. The Council's thoughts were with the people who had lost their homes and belongings in the devastating fire. Alongside its partners in the emergency services and Berneslai Homes, the Council would continue to provide support to these people, making sure they received longer-term support.

She was sure that Members would join her in saying a huge thank you to staff, Berneslai Homes staff and the emergency service partners for the support they had provided and continued to provide to the people and the communities affected.

A big thank you was also extended to the residents that came together to provide aid to those affected. This really highlighted the amazing community spirit that was so visible in Barnsley.

Councillor Wray asked to place on record his thanks to all staff, Berneslai Homes staff, the emergency services as well as local residents for the help and support provided. He also stated that local residents and businesses had raised over £25,000 to provide support for those affected.

Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE stated that this had been a significant incident and some families had been devastated as they had lost everything. He praised the actions of all the agencies involved as well as the local community and expressed gratitude to all who had come together to provide support which he felt demonstrated the spirit of the town and its people. He echoed the comments of the Chief Executive and thanked Councillor Wray for his comments. He also praised the actions of staff,

Bernerslai Homes staff, the emergency services and local residents in rallying together to provide support for the affected people.

35. Local Code of Planning Conduct and Guidance 2022 (Cab.1.6.2022/13)

Moved Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Osborne; and

RESOLVED that the Local Code of Planning Conduct and Guidance 2022 be approved.

36. Adoption of updated Affordable Housing and Sustainable Travel SPDs (Cab.27.6.2022/8)

Moved by Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Osborne; and

RESOLVED that the updated Affordable Housing and Sustainable Travel Supplementary Planning Documents be adopted and approved.

37. Urban Town Centre Urban Design and Sustainability Strategy Adoption (Cab.13.7.2022/7)

Moved by Councillor Frost – Seconded by Councillor Osborne; and

RESOLVED that the Town Centre Urban Design and Sustainability Strategy produced by Urban be adopted and approved.

38. Local Government Act 1972: Section 85: Absence from Meetings of the Authority; Councillor Wraith MBE

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the absence from meetings of the Authority on behalf of Councillor Wraith MBE be approved on the grounds of ill health pending the receipt of medical certification that he is fit to resume his duties.

39. Appointments to Boards, Committees and Outside Bodies

Moved by Councillor Howard – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the following changes to representation on Boards, Committees and Outside Bodies detailed below be approved:

Appeals, Awards and Standards Regulatory Board

Add Councillor Bowler – Delete Councillor Makinson

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Add Councillor Williams – Delete Councillor Makinson

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Healthy Barnsley Workstream)

Add Councillors Smith, Sumner and Williams – Delete Councillors Cain, Peace and Makinson

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream)

– Add Councillors Cain and Peace – Delete Councillors Smith and Sumner

Planning Regulatory Board

Delete Councillor Makinson – one vacancy remaining

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Place, Health and Adult Social Care

Barnsley Local Access Forum

– Add Cabinet Spokesperson Environment and Highways

Barnsley Magistrates Court Liquor Licensing Forum

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

Barnsley Premier Leisure Board

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Environment and Highways

Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Place, Health and Adult Social Care

Minding the Gap Multi-Agency Steering Group

– Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Environment and Highways

Safer Barnsley Partnership Board

– Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

Schools Forum

Add Councillor Newing – Delete Councillor McCarthy

Shaw Lands Trust

Add Councillor Makinson for a term of three years

Smokefree Tobacco Alliance

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

South West Yorkshire Foundation Trust (previously South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)

Add Cabinet Support Member Place, Health and Adult Social Care

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Audit, Standards and Risk Committee

Add Councillors Lofts and Councillor Richardson (Substitute) – Delete Councillors Clarke and Stowe

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Education, Skills and Employability Board

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Regeneration and Culture and Cabinet Support Member Regeneration and Culture (Substitute)

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Transport and Environment Board

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Regeneration and Culture and Cabinet Support Member Regeneration and Culture (Substitute)

South Yorkshire PCP Violence Reduction Unit Reference Group

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

South Yorkshire Sub-Regional Migration Group

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

Stronger Communities Partnership

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities

Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee

Add Cabinet Spokesperson Regeneration and Culture

Yorkshire and Humber Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

Add Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

YPO Management Committee

Add Councillor Gardiner and Councillor Barnard (Substitute)

YPO Audit and Governance Sub Committee

Add Councillor Gardiner and Councillor Barnard (Substitute)

40. Responsibility for Executive Functions - Officer Delegations

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED that the Responsibility for Executive Functions – Officer Delegations as detailed within the document now submitted be approved.

41. Audit and Governance Committee - 1st June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Lofts – Seconded by Councillor Barnard; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 1 June 2022 be received.

42. Planning Regulatory Board - 7th June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Richardson – Seconded by Councillor Makinson; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on 7 June 2022 be received.

43. Planning Regulatory Board - 5th July, 2022

Moved by Councillor Richardson – Seconded by Councillor Makinson; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Planning Regulatory Board held on 5 July 2022 be received.

44. General Licensing Regulatory Board - 22nd June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the General Licensing Regulatory Board Panel meeting held on 22nd June 2022 be received.

45. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board - 22nd June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor Shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board held on 22 June 2022 be received.

46. Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board Sub-committee - 8th June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Green – Seconded by Councillor shepherd; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board Sub Committee held on 8 June 2022 be received.

47. Appeals, Awards and Standards - Various

Moved by Councillor Shepherd – Seconded by Councillor Bowler; 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.

48. Health and Wellbeing Board - 9th June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Platts – Seconded by Councillor Makinson; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Health and Well Being Board held on 9 June 2022 be received.

49. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Sustainable Barnsley Workstream) - 31st May, 2022

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by Councillor Newing; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Sustainable Barnsley Workstream) held on 31 May 2022 be received.

50. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream) - 28th June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Ennis OBE – Seconded by Councillor Newing; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Growing Barnsley Workstream) held on 28 June 2022 be received.

51. North East Area Council - 26th May, 2022

The Minutes of the North East Area Council held on the 26 May 2022 were:

Moved by Councillor Hayward – Seconded by Councillor Ennis OBE.

In moving the minutes, Councillor Hayward made reference to the ceremony held for former Councillor Dorothy Higginbottom when she had been presented with her MBE which was well deserved. The Mayor, Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE and Councillors Ennis OBE, Coates and Higginbottom all expressed their congratulations to Dorothy in receiving this award.

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the North East Area Council held on 26 May 2022 be received.

52. Penistone Area Council - 9th June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Barnard – Seconded by Councillor Markham; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Penistone Area Council held on 9 June 2022 be received.

53. South Area Council - 24th June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Markham - Seconded by Councillor Stowe; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the South Area Council held on 24 June 2022 be received.

54. Central Area Council - 6th July, 2022

Moved by Councillor Williams - Seconded by Councillor Bowser; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Central Area Council held on 6 July 2022 be received.

55. Dearne Area Council - 11th July, 2022

Moved by Councillor Coates – Seconded by Councillor Gardiner; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Dearne Area Council held on 11 July 2022 be received.

56. Cabinet - 18th May, 2022

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 18 May 2022 be received.

57. Cabinet - 25th May, 2022

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 25 May 2022 be received.

58. Cabinet - 1st June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 1 June 2022 be received.

59. Cabinet - 16th June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 16 June 2022 be received.

60. Cabinet - 27th June, 2022

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb;
and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 27 June 2022 be received.

61. Cabinet - 13th July, 2022

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb;
and

RESOLVED that the minutes as printed and now submitted of the proceedings of the Cabinet held on 13 July 2022 be received.

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

The Chief Executive reported that she had received no questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 12.

63. South Yorkshire Pensions Authority - 9th June, 2022 (Draft)

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

64. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - 20th June, 2022 (Draft)

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

65. Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority - 6th June, 2022 (Draft)

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

66. Police and Crime Panel - 6th June, 2022 (Draft)

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

67. Questions by Elected Members

The Chief Executive reported that she had received a number of questions from Elected Members in accordance with Standing Order No. 11.

(a) Councillor Lodge

‘What enforcement action can be taken by the Council, against landowners who fail to maintain their land?’

Councillor Makinson, Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities thanked Councillor Lodge for his question. She stated that there were different ways in which 'a failure to maintain private land' could be applied. It wasn't easy to provide a specific response without details, but she would give an overview of the areas officers could look at.

1) If there was a nuisance complaint, it may be appropriate to use powers under anti-social behaviour legislation. To do this, the authority would need to establish:

- that there was a detrimental impact on people in the surrounding area
- that the situation was persistent or continuing
- that the conduct of the landowner was unreasonable.

In these circumstances, the Council could issue a Community Protection Notice. Failing to comply with a Community Protection Notice could lead to a fixed penalty notice or prosecution.

2) If the land contained household waste or other items likely to provide a food source and a home for rats or other vermin, the Council could serve a legal notice on the landowner requiring them to clear the land. If they failed to do this, the Council could enter the land, remove the items, and recharge the landowner.

3) If the condition of the land was judged to be adversely affecting the surrounding area, it may be more appropriate to consider planning legislation to get the landowner to clear their land. This would also be the case where the land was being used for purposes which were not allowed.

Councillor Lodge stated that despite requests, parcels of land had been left in a dire state in Worsborough for over a decade. This included land on Cross Street and Park Road. As such, he asked if the Cabinet Spokesperson could direct officers to investigate these areas and others as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Makinson, in response, stated that now this information about the specific locations had been provided and, if she could discuss this matter further with Councillor Lodge outside the meeting in order to obtain more information, she would contact the relevant officers to see what action could be taken.

(b) Councillor P Fielding

'Given the significantly higher cost of energy for tenants having to use prepayment meters, can the cabinet member please advise how many Berneslai Homes tenants have prepayment meters installed and what is being done to reduce that number?'

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture thanked Councillor P Fielding for his question. He stated that this information was not held, as tenants made their own arrangements with their utility supplier. However, the

Warm Homes Service had a fund to help families struggling with pre-payment meters, across tenure. This fund covered any costs associated with outstanding debt and the meter swap. Staff within Berneslai Homes Tenancy First Team were aware of this funding and could signpost tenants to information and support.

Councillor P Fielding thanked Councillor Frost for the response and, as a supplementary question, asked if Berneslai Homes replaced repayment meters with credit meters before a tenant moved in so that the new tenant could start their tenancy with access to the best energy tariffs and if not, why not?

Councillor Frost did not have this information to hand so would provide Councillor P Fielding with the information outside this meeting.

(c) Councillor Lodge

‘Given the varying uses of communal facilities and the variation in tenancies, should a review be undertaken of service charges at ‘sheltered housing’ operated by Berneslai Homes, in order to take away any burdensome costs from tenants during the current cost of living crisis and beyond?’

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture, thanked Councillor Lodge for his question. He stated that there was no sheltered housing owned by the Council and managed on its behalf by Berneslai Homes.

There were a number of Independent Living Schemes where the properties were under one roof and had some shared facilities such as communal lounges.

The service charge covered costs associated with door entry, communal cleaning, and water, which were essential services for people living in these properties.

There had not been an increase in general service charge costs over the last four years. There was a review of communal heating charges during 2021/22 and this resulted in a reduction in the price of heating for people.

Councillor Lodge did not ask a supplementary question.

(d) Councillor Hunt

‘At the Full Council meeting in February 2022, in response to my question, the Cabinet Support member confirmed that there had been a delay in the project to provide status updates to online requests raised by residents. The response provided stated. “I’m pleased to confirm that the rollout of this functionality is due to start by the beginning of March at the latest, initially providing updates to residents who report fly-tipping issues online. The work to obtain status updates will then be rolled out to other transactions, offering our residents status updates for their online enquiries”. Please can a further update be provided as to my knowledge this functionality promised for March 2022 is still not in place?’

Councillor Gardiner, Cabinet Spokesperson for Core Services thanked Councillor Hunt for his question and stated that the refreshed Fly Tipping tracking capability had been running as a pilot for approximately eight weeks. People reporting fly-tipping online could now track status updates through the updated pin on a map functionality. A review of the improved system developments would be undertaken

over the coming weeks with a view to making any further revisions for the benefit of residents and communities and informing the rollout of the approach to other relevant services and transactions.

Councillor Hunt thanked Councillor Gardiner for his response and stated that it was good to see him back in the Chamber. This was the third time he had asked about this project, and it appeared that some progress had been made. He was still not confident, however, that the level of service that customers and residents should be receiving was being delivered and he asked, as a supplementary question, if the Cabinet Member would agree to meet him and officers to discuss this project so that they could look at it in more detail together.

Councillor Gardiner thanked Councillor Hunt for his supplementary question. As stated earlier, this project was being examined in depth with the Senior Management Team and with departments and services. He was, of course prepared to meet Councillor Hunt and anyone else who wished so that this issue could be progressed.

(e) Councillor Lodge

‘A number of tenants in ‘sheltered housing’ have described feeling unsafe and feel this should be a priority of the Council and Berneslai Homes, as such should a review of additional safety measures e.g. CCTV be undertaken?’

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture, thanked Councillor Lodge for his question and stated that officers were unaware of tenants in the independent living schemes expressing feelings of being unsafe in their properties. If any tenants did feel unsafe, they were encouraged to contact their Scheme Manager or Housing Management Officer so help could be provided.

There was one person who had expressed concerns about wider anti-social behaviour in the area that they lived in.

In this community, the Service had been working closely with local elected members, Berneslai Homes and South Yorkshire Police to take action and tackle issues which had included installing CCTV.

Councillor Lodge asked, as a supplementary question, whether the Cabinet Spokesperson would like to attend the ‘Your Community, Your Say’ meeting on the 10 August 2022 for Worsborough residents so that he could understand the feelings from the tenants directly.

Councillor Frost stated that he would be happy to attend this meeting subject to other diary commitments.

(f) Councillor W Fielding

‘Why does this Council insist on appointing a member of the ruling group to be chair of Overview and Scrutiny contrary to the LGA guidance on best practice?’

Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE, Leader of the Council, commented that the statutory guidance for Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities stated that ‘the method for selecting a Chair was for each authority to decide for itself.’ It also stated that ‘the Chair should also possess the ability to lead and build a

sense of teamwork and consensus among Committee members.’ In his view, Councillor Ennis OBE had done an outstanding job in relation to that. As Members would be aware, it was the Annual Council that decided the Chair of the Committee and again this year Members had voted Councillor Ennis OBE as the Chair. An appointment that was unopposed.

Councillor W Fielding thanked Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE for his response and, as a supplementary question, asked if he thought it was right that a member of the ruling group had the sole power to waive the important scrutiny function of calling in key decisions of the ruling party so that other elected Members could not scrutinise that decision, as had happened recently.

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE responded by stating that as the Local Government Association had been quoted, he was happy to continue to do that. The Council prided itself on good governance and it ensured it had an effective Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He assured Members that the Council did indeed have an effective Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in fact the Local Government Association Peer Challenge in March 2019 commented that ‘The Council’s scrutiny function appears to work well. Members are knowledgeable about the areas they scrutinise, and they’re appropriately inquisitive about the subject matter, with good working relationships with officers.’

It worked well in Barnsley because it was inclusive and non-partisan. Obviously, the Committee needed to be politically proportionate, which it was, but the Council went above and beyond that. Two of the Committees were Chaired by opposition members Councillor P Fielding and the other by a Member from the Conservative Group. So, in terms of proportionality, objectivity both now, in the past and in the future, he felt that Councillor Ennis OBE had done a tremendous objective job and he had his full support. Indeed, Councillor Ennis OBE had brought him to task on a number of occasions. The role that Councillor Ennis OBE played in this process and the Scrutiny Committee was as effective as it could be.

(g) Councillor P Fielding

‘What has the Council done to date to prepare for the 5-year revision of the Local Plan in 2024 and what is the target date for the revised local plan to be adopted?’

Councillor Frost, Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture, thanked Councillor P Fielding for his question. He stated that Officers within the Planning Service had produced monitoring reports and carried out general research relating to Local Plan Reviews.

The Planning Advisory Service had a toolkit which had been populated and would be published alongside the relevant Cabinet report along with a note from the Planning Officer’s Society, who had been appointed as a critical friend.

It was intended to update the Forward Plan shortly to confirm timescales for a report to Cabinet relating to the Local Plan Review.

Councillor P Fielding thanked Councillor Frost for his response. Given the recent census results that showed Barnsley’s population had increased by just 5% in the last 10 years, and was slowing down, and the working age population of Barnsley grew by just 2% in that period he asked, as a supplementary question, if the Local

Plan targets of 28,000 new jobs and a 20% increase in the number of houses were correct to meet the needs of the existing Barnsley residents or were they intended to attract new residents and grow the population even further.

Councillor Frost stated that the Local Plan covered the period to 2033, it therefore, took into account the type of issues raised by Councillor P Fielding.

(h) Councillor Greenhough

'Back in 2018 residents of Fullshaw Cross, between Millhouse Green and Langsett in Penistone West, were promised that a significant chunk of the £1.4m A628 Road Safety Grant would be spent on remodelling that junction. There have been numerous accidents and near misses over the years and myself and my Penistone West colleagues get frequent reports from residents about yet another vehicle ending up in their garden. Initial plans were drawn up which remodelled the junction to clearly define turning priorities on and off the main road to reduce accidents. Since then we have heard nothing, despite frequent emails to the Highways Team to ask for updates. The other planned improvements connected to this grant are moving forward slowly but surely.'

Could the Cabinet Member please let us know what is happening with the plans for the Fulshaw Cross junction? This project is already funded, so why the hold up?'

Councillor Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways thanked Councillor Greenhough for his question and stated that the construction of the revised layout for the junction at Fulshaw Cross had been delayed due to difficulties in securing the land purchase necessary to deliver the proposed scheme, which extended beyond the current boundaries of the adopted highway.

Regarding the comment about *"frequent emails to the Highways Team to ask for updates"*, he asked if these could be forwarded to the member enquiries email address, as the Service would like to understand why these had not been responded to. Upon receipt of these, the Service would endeavour to answer any questions raised.

68. Cost of Living Emergency

Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 6.

Moved by Councillor Denton - Seconded by Councillor W Fielding

That this Council notes that:

- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54%.
- In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).
- In 2021/22 Barnsley Foodbanks distributed food parcels at a rate of 3200 per 100,000 people – a total of 7265 parcels (Trussell Trust, 2022).

That this Council notes the decision taken in June 2022 to impose a ‘Windfall Tax’ on the super-profits of oil and gas companies and to redistribute this as a one-off payment of £400 to households later this year. Council notes that the Windfall Tax was called for by both Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the Liberal Democrats, and Sir Keir Starmer MP, leader of the Labour Party. Though the Windfall Tax is welcome, Council believes it does not go nearly far enough and the Government should be doing much more to support local people through the Cost of Living crisis. This Council therefore declares a ‘Cost of Living Emergency’ and calls on the Government to:

- Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household in Barnsley a further £600 this year.
- Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021.
- Extend free school meals to all those families on Universal Credit.

Therefore, that this Council asks the Chief Executive and Council Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council’s demands for VAT to be cut to 17.5%, for the £20 Universal Credit supplement to be restored and for free school meals to be extended to all families on Universal Credit.

An Amendment was submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 8

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb

This Council commends the Council’s administration for the work it has done to support people during the Covid Pandemic and the current cost of living crisis.

However, it notes:-

- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54%.
- In light of the increased energy price cap, the average standard tariff energy bill will increase by £693 per year. The average pre-pay meter energy bill will increase by £708 per year (Ofgem, 2022).
- In 2021/22 Barnsley Foodbanks distributed food parcels at a rate of 3200 per 100,000 people – a total of 7265 parcels (Trussell Trust, 2022).
- That the cost of living crisis is having a significant effect on Council budgets and the ability to deliver services to the most vulnerable.

Council welcomes the decision taken in June, 2022 to impose a windfall tax on the super profits of oil and gas companies and to redistribute this as a ‘one off’ payment of £400 later this year.

The Council notes that the windfall tax was first called for by Sir Kier Starmer, Leader of the Labour Party and then by Sir Ed Davey, Leader of the Liberal Democrats but initially rejected by Boris Johnson.

Though the windfall tax is welcome Council believes it does not go far enough, and the Government should be doing more to support local people during the cost of living crisis.

Rishi Sunak MP, one of the two candidates to be the next Prime Minister, has said in his campaign there is a national economic emergency in the UK.

This Council agrees and calls upon the next Prime Minister to declare a national economic and cost of living emergency and to:-

- Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household in Barnsley a further £600 this year.
- Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021.
- Extend free school meals to all those families on Universal Credit.
- Provide additional and fair funding to local councils to ensure continuity of service delivery.

Council asks the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's wishes on these matters.

On being put to the vote, the Amendment was WON.

The Amendment was then put as the Substantive Motion and:

Moved by Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE – Seconded by Councillor Lamb; and

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council calls upon the next Prime Minister to declare a national economic and cost of living emergency and to:-
 - Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, saving the average household in Barnsley a further £600 this year.
 - Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021.
 - Extend free school meals to all those families on Universal Credit.
 - Provide additional and fair funding to local councils to ensure continuity of service delivery; and
- (ii) That the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's wishes on these matters.

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Chair