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DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

13 NOVEMBER 2024

Present:

MEMBERS:

Adeleke, Allen, Anderson, Banks, Barradell, Barry-Mears, Bhinder, Bristow, Bromham, Capozzi, Cox, Deacon, Dhyani, Douris, Elliot, England, Freedman, Gale, Guest, Hannell, Hobson, Johnson, C Link (Mayor), Maddern, McAreyve (Deputy Mayor), Mitchell, Patterson, Pesch, Pound, Pringle, Reynolds, Riddick, Santamaria, Silwal, Smith-Wright, Stevens, Symington, Taylor, Timmis, Walker, Weston, Williams, Williams and C Wyatt-Lowe (44)

OFFICERS:

Darren Welsh	Strategic Director Housing and Property Services
Mark Brookes	Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services
Cassy O'Neil	Democratic Services Manager
Layla Fowell	Democratic Support Assistant Manager

The meeting began at 7.30 pm

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 15th October 2024 were agreed.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Mayor confirmed there was no public participation registered for the meeting.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 The Mayor advised she was saddened to announce the passing of a former Ward Councillor, Nick Tiley, who represented the Ashridge Ward from 2003-2015.

The Mayor invited any reflections, which were shared by Cllr Douris before a 1 minute silence was held.

Full details can be viewed in the video minutes.

- 4.2 The Mayor invited Strategic Director of Housing & Property Services, Darren Welsh, to give any announcements on behalf of the Chief Executive.

DWelsh announced that the by-elections for the Hemel Hempstead Town Ward & Bennetts End Ward will take place on Thursday 21st November 2024. The count will commence at 10am on Friday 22nd November at the Forum.

- 4.3 The Mayor invited Group Leaders to give apologies on behalf of their groups.

Cllr England gave apologies on behalf of Cllrs Stewart & C Link
Cllr Williams gave apologies on behalf of Cllr Durrant and advised that Cllr Guest would be joining the meeting at 8pm.
Apologies were also received on behalf of independent members Cllrs Wilkie & Tindall.

Cllr Guest joined the meeting at 8pm.

5 CABINET MEMBER UPDATES

The Mayor referred to the Portfolio Holder updates as published with the agenda and advised she would invite questions against each update in turn.

Before doing so, she invited Cllr England to give his verbal update as Leader of the Council.

To view the Leader's update and questions posed to Portfolio Holders, please refer to the video minutes.

The following actions were noted;

1. Cllr Timmis addressed the Leader re. the consultation on new local plan noting that there is a large map in the reception of The Forum of the new plan which includes the towns, greenbelt, villages, areas of manufacture and various alternative green spaces. Cllr Timmis noted that one thing that appears to be missing and not marked is the AONB and asked the Leader to please explain why that is?

Cllr England responded he is not aware of why and advised he would enquire with officers and will provide a written response.

2. Cllr Mitchell addressed the Leader and asked; with all the good work happening at adventure playgrounds, would it be possible to consider satellite schemes for areas where residents do not have access to the established playgrounds due to the distance required to get to them.

Cllr England advised he would be happy to take that request away to see what can be done within current resource arrangements and would provide a written response.

3. Cllr Barradell addressed Cllr Smith-Wright in reference to her update as the Portfolio Holder Transformation (People, Climate & Ecological Emergency) and referred to the work being undertaken with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC)

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to identify electric vehicle charging sites in the Borough and asked; what has happened in the last year and when can we expect to see these on street?

Cllr Smith Wright advised she would follow up with HCC and report back

4. Cllr Barradell again addressed Cllr Smith-Wright again on her update and this time referred to the installation of charging points as referenced at 6 car parks across the Borough and asked for an update on which of those installations are working

Cllr Smith Wright advise she would seek information on this and provide a written response.

Cllr Hobson addressed Cllr Smith-Wright as the Portfolio Holder Transformation (People, Climate & Ecological Emergency) and advised she has not received any of the official guidance as referenced on how to access emails on mobile devices, asking the Portfolio Holder if it could please be checked that all councillors have received that information.

Cllr Smith Wright confirmed she would follow this up and provide a written response.

5. Cllr Elliott addressed Cllr Smith-Wright as the Portfolio Holder Transformation (People, Climate & Ecological Emergency) and referred to the solar panels recently installed, asking for details of the country of manufacture of those units.

Cllr Smith-Wright advised that she would seek that information and provided a written response.

6. Cllr Freedman addressed Cllr Allen, Portfolio Holder of Corporate & Commercial Services and asked if the Portfolio Holder could amend his report to reflect that the parking call-in was reviewed and voted on last week at the Finance & Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee (F&R OSC), of which the minutes and video are available.

7. Cllr Allen responded that he is not sure that the published update can be amended but requested it be noted here in the minutes that this matter was indeed thoroughly reviewed at the F&R OSC meeting on Tuesday 5th November 2024.

8. Cllr Mitchell addressed Cllr Bromham as the Portfolio Holder Neighbourhood Operations and asked; when will refurbishment works start at the Warners End play park (situated in Gadebridge)

Cllr Bromham advised he would need to refer to officers for the timeline and will provide a written response.

9. Cllr Douris addressed Cllr Bromham as the Portfolio Holder Neighbourhood Operations and referred to a question asked at the previous meeting (action point reference FC12 under tonight's agenda item 6 business from last Council meeting) in which he was asked to provide a timeline regarding parking options/verge hardening. Cllr Douris commented that the written response provided was a series of steps, rather than a timeline, and asked; could I

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please have a timeline with dates and times to fulfil that response, noting that he would be happy to receive a written response.

Cllr Bromham confirmed he would review the response provided.

6 BUSINESS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor advised that all updates against outstanding business from the previous meeting are provided in the action point list as published under agenda item 6.

7 CABINET REFERRALS

The Mayor invited Cllr England to introduce the referrals from Cabinet.

Cllr England moved the recommendations as set out in the following;

- 7.1 CA/72/24 (23rd July 2024) Appointment of a Principal Contractor for the refurbishment of two Multi-Use Game areas (MUGA) and construction of a canopystructure at Hemel Hempstead School

The recommendations were seconded by Cllr Dhyani and **agreed**.

- 7.2 CA/90/24 (14th October 2024) Medium Term Financial Strategy & Fees & Charges

The recommendations were seconded by Cllr Dhyani and **agreed**.

- 7.3 CA/95/24 (14th October 2024) Dacorum Investment Partnership Proposals

The recommendations were seconded by Cllr Dhyani and **agreed**.

8 REFERRAL FROM THE LICENSING AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

The Mayor invited Cllr England to introduce the referral from the Licensing and Health and Safety Enforcement Committee.

Cllr England moved the referral as agenda Item 6 of 4th November 2024 committee; Gambling Act 20025 – Review of Statement of Principles.

The recommendations were seconded by Cllr Dhyani and **agreed**.

9 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REFERRALS

There were no referrals from the Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

10 CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Mayor advised that Cllr England would like to address the Council with regard committee membership.

Cllr England read out the following statement;

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'It has been brought to my attention that I may have inadvertently misled Council in my response to Councillor Weston when, at the Extraordinary Council, she asked me a question about the allocation of Chairperson positions. It was certainly not my intention to mislead so I wish to clarify that, whilst committee allocation on an overall basis is agreed by political proportionality between the groups with remaining seats allocated to Independent Members, Council could decide to appoint an Independent Member to Chairperson or Vice-Chair positions if Council agreed to do so. The proposal before the Extraordinary Council meeting for Committee membership has been re-circulated to Members. This currently doesn't have any Independent Members as Chair or Vice Chair, but for clarity I suggest that a vote is taken this evening to confirm the overall committee membership, as presented.

I understand there is one amendment requested to the version circulated in that one independent seat on the Housing and Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee will change, to remove Cllr Santamaria who will be replaced by Councillor Pringle. In addition, I would like to appoint Cllr Taylor as the Vice Chair of the Appeals Committee.

I therefore move the committee membership as originally considered at the meeting of the 15th October, subject to the changes I have just set out'

Cllr Dhyani seconded the proposal.

The Mayor asked if there were any further proposed changes?

Cllr Capozzi advised that she would like to move two amendments, as follows;

That Cllr Barry Mears be reinstated as the Chair of Housing and Community Overview & Scrutiny and that Cllr Weston be reinstated as the Vice Chair of Licensing Health & Safety full and sub committees.

The proposals were seconded by Cllr Hobson.

The Mayor advised that there would be a vote on each of the proposed amendments as moved by Cllr Capozzi.

A vote was held on the proposed amendment to appoint Cllr Barry Mears as the Chair of Housing & Community Overview & Scrutiny.

Vote:

For 7

Against 33

Abstain 1

(there were a total of 44 member present, of which 41 votes were cast)

The Mayor announced that the vote in respect of the amendment to appointment of Cllr Barry Mears as the Chair of Housing & Community Overview & Scrutiny was lost.

A vote was held on the proposed amendment to appoint Cllr Carole Weston as the Vice Chair of the Licensing Health & Safety full and sub committees.

Vote:

For 7

Against 32

Abstain 0

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(there were a total of 44 member present, of which 39 votes were cast)

The Mayor announced that the vote in respect of the amendment to appointment of Cllr Carole Weston as the Vice Chair of the Licensing Health & Safety full and sub committees was lost.

The Mayor announced that as both amendments had been lost, she would be asking Council to vote on Cllr England's initial proposal, namely the committee membership as originally considered at the meeting on the 15th October, subject the removal of Cllr Santamaria from the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to be replaced with Cllr Pringle and the appointment of Cllr Taylor as the Vice Chair of Appeals.

Vote:

For	37
Against	4
Abstain	1

(there were a total of 44 member present, of which 42 votes were cast)

The Mayor announced that the vote had carried and the committee membership as set out has been agreed.

11 CHANGE TO COMMITTEE DATES

It was agreed that the Health & Wellbeing meeting planned for the 21st November will move to 28th November due to the by-elections.

The Meeting ended at 8.40 pm

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