



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

14th March, 2018

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 14th day of MARCH, 2018, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

MISS DEBRA ANNE MARIE PITTS, JP

Councillors

Ms N.A. Byron

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mrs R. Chatel

Mr I.J.G. Clague, MBE

Mr J. Joughin

Mr D.W. Christian, MBE, JP

Ms C.E. Malarkey

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr C.L.H. Cain

Mr F. Horning

Mr R.H. McNicholl

Mr J.E. Skinner, JP

Ms K. Angela

Mrs E.C. Quirk

Ms J. Thommeny

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Mrs H. Callow, Mr Councillor F. Pabellan and the Chief Executive.

The Director of Finance, Director of Housing and Property and the Director of Environment and Regeneration were in attendance.

1. **Minutes – 14th February, 2018**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 14th February, 2018 were approved and signed.

2. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

- (a) How many serious incidents involving Council or Contractor's refuse wagons in narrow lanes have been reported since 2000?
- (b) How many incidents involving serious injury or death of Council or Contractor's refuse disposal operatives have been reported since 2000?
- (c) How many incidents involving serious injury or death to Council or Contractor's refuse disposal operatives caused by manually handling refuse bins have been reported since 2000?
- (d) Is it Council policy that refuse disposal operatives do not remove refuse bins for emptying from private property?
- (e) What is the Council's policy in respect of drying washing in the front of residential properties?

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

- (a) Since 2011, there have been 41 incidents involving reversing refuse wagons where there has been damage to the wagon and/or other vehicles and property and 15 of these were specifically within back lanes. There has been one case of an injury to an operative who was struck by a reversing refuse wagon in a back lane, which was reportable. There are no records before this date. It would be irresponsible of the Council to wait for a serious incident to occur before taking positive action to protect the public and its staff.
- (b) Council records only go back to 2006. In that time, 23 accidents involving refuse disposal operatives have been reported to the Health and Safety Inspectorate. All these accidents resulted in the staff member having at least 3 days off work. None of the accidents resulted in major injuries or death. There may be some incidents that do not get reported but the Council is always striving to continue improving its Health and Safety Culture.
- (c) Council records only go back to 2006. In that time, there have been 49 instances where refuse disposal staff have suffered from musculoskeletal type injuries which resulted in time off work. None of these resulted in ill health retirement or death, however, since 2010, ten staff suffered long term sickness as a result of musculoskeletal conditions and some of those were on long term sickness prior to their retirement. Each crew attends between 600-800 properties per day, meaning each operative manually handles at least 300 bins per day, five days per week, 52 weeks of the year. This is a physically demanding and challenging job and the Council has a legal duty to minimise the health risks associated with its undertaking.
- (d) The Council collects waste from the curtilage of residents properties or where arranged from specific collection points and does not offer a bespoke waste collection service for each individual household. It is not appropriate for waste operatives to enter private land or property to collect refuse receptacles or remove waste that is deposited there, unless attending a household that qualifies for 'assisted' collections.
- (e) Within the Douglas General Byelaws 2013, it is an offence to dry clothing, bedding, towels or other items at the front or side of a building which abuts any street. The penalty for contravening the byelaw is a fine up to £2,500. Should a case be noted on patrol or reported, the Wardens would speak to the householder in the first instance, and issue a fine if the contravention persisted.

3. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

What training and Continuous Professional Development is given to Refuse Disposal Operatives upon them commencing employment?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

The following lists the mandatory training that all refuse and recycling staff receive. There is also some driver specific training which is listed. In addition, there will be individuals who will have specific training depending on need, for example, first aid training. Some of the training listed below will be one-off training and some is repeated to ensure skills remain current. Assessments of competency will also be undertaken from time to time and retraining provided as necessary.

All staff

- Council induction which covers corporate governance employment conditions, Health and Safety, ICT;
- Terberg lift training for refuse collection vehicles (certificated);
- Lift training on Kerbside vehicles (certificated);
- Familiarisation of both refuse and kerbside vehicles;
- Manual handling of bins and boxes (certificated);
- Reversing assistant training (certificated);
- More in-depth Health and Safety training regarding reporting near misses;
- Site induction at the Service Centre, Energy from Waste plant (for refuse crews only);
- Customer service orientated training, for example, conflict training, Disability Discrimination Act (certificated);
- On-going tool box talks on specific issues as they arise.

Driver specific

- Drivers handbook issued to all drivers;
- Defensive driver training including practical vehicle manoeuvring, risk assessment, daily vehicle checks, safe and efficient driving, and ongoing driver assessment in accordance with the Transport and Plant Policy;
- Vehicle specific training delivered in-house and by external training, for example, fork lift training (waste transfer station), hookloader, rear wheel steer refuse vehicles (certificated);
- Familiarisation training of AMCS bin weigh system and on-board computers.

Individual specific

- Appointed first aider (certificated);
- Emergency First Aid.

4. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner**

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Leader of the Council:

When will the new Borough Wardens commence employment and what will be their first priorities in enforcing the bye-laws?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

The two roles recently advertised were for the Manager and the Senior Borough Warden. The first position has been filled and the successful applicant will take up post from the beginning of April. Their first priority will be to review the methodology currently employed by the team with a view to re-aligning effort where it is most needed, so less in car parks due to the introduction of ANPR, and more in enforcement of general and specific bye-laws. The post of Manager has been effectively vacant for a year and so much change will be needed however it is intended that the warden team will now have a much higher profile on the streets, particularly in relation to litter and dog fouling. There are some specific projects the new Manager needs to take forward and these include incorrect disposal of waste and bins not being returned to the curtilage of the property. The Senior Borough Warden post has not yet been filled.

5. **Executive Committee – 2nd March, 2018, Clauses A1 – A13 inclusive**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A13 inclusive of report of meeting held on Friday, 2nd March, 2018, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

6. **Executive Committee – 2nd March, 2018, Clauses B14**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause B14 of report of meeting held on Friday, 2nd March, 2018, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

7. **Executive Committee / Environmental Services Committee – 19th February, 2018**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor J. Joughin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee and Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of joint meeting of the two Committees held on Monday, 19th February, 2018 be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

8. **Pensions Committee – 28th February, 2018**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor J. Joughin, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Wednesday, 28th February, 2018 be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

9. **Housing Committee – 21st February, 2018 – Clauses A1 – A9 inclusive**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Councillor Ms C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A9 inclusive of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 21st February, 2018, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** resolution: Councillors Miss N.A. Byron, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr D.W. Christian, Ms C.E. Malarkey, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr C.L.H. Cain, Mr F. Horning, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mrs E.C. Quirk, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **13**

Against: Councillors Mr J. Joughin, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Ms K. Angela – **3**

Motion carried.

10. **Housing Committee – 21st February, 2018 – Clause C10**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Councillor Ms C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clause C10 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 21st February, 2018, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the Council move into Committee.” Question put on the Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion: Councillors Miss N.A. Byron, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr I.J.G. Clague, Mr J. Joughin, Mr D.W. Christian, Ms C.E. Malarkey, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr C.L.H. Cain, Mr F. Horning, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Mr J.E. Skinner, Ms K. Angela, Mrs E.C. Quirk, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **15**

Against: Councillor Mr S.R. Pitts – **1**

Motion carried.

On resumption of proceedings in Council; question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

11. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 20th February, 2018**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Tuesday, 20th February, 2018, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

12. **Environmental Services Committee – 19th February, 2018**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor J. Joughin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 19th February, 2018, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

Adjournment and Resumption

At the end of the public business the Mayor, speaking on behalf of the Council, offered good wishes on their retirement to the Director of Finance, Mr Geoff Bolt, and the Mayor’s Attendant, Mr David Allcock.

The meeting adjourned at 5.05pm and resumed at 5.15pm with the same Members present and officers in attendance.

IN PRIVATE

13. Executive Committee – 2nd March, 2018; Clauses A1 – A4 inclusive

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 – A4 inclusive of private report of meeting held on Friday, 2nd March, 2018, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

14. Housing Committee – 21st February, 2018

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Councillor Ms C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 21st February, 2018, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

15. Regeneration and Community – 20th February, 2018

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 20th February, 2018, be received by the Council.”

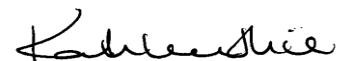
Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

16. Environmental Services Committee – 19th February, 2018

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor J. Joughin, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Monday 19th February, 2018, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

The Council rose at 6.20pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive