



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

8th July, 2020

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 8th day of JULY, 2020, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

MR COUNCILLOR JONATHAN JOUGHIN, JP

Councillors

Mrs H. Callow

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mrs R. Chatel

Mr I.J.G. Clague, MBE

Mr D.W. Christian, MBE, JP

Mrs C.E. Crawley

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr A.J. Bentley

Mr F. Horning

Mr R.H. McNicholl

Mr J.E. Skinner

Ms K. Angela

Mrs E.C. Quirk

Ms J. Thommeny

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron and the Director of Finance.

The Chief Executive, Director of Environment and Regeneration, Director of Housing and Property and the Assistant Chief Officer (Finance) were in attendance.

1. **Minutes – 11th March, 2020**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 11th March, 2020, were approved and signed.

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

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

What is the Council's policy on responding to correspondence?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

General correspondence is dealt with under a service standard approved in 2011:

“All written and electronic correspondence received to be acknowledged in the same medium within three working days and to receive a response within fifteen working days, except where a longer period is required to provide the information, but in such case the respondent to be advised accordingly within the fifteen day period.”

Some items of correspondence that have statutory deadlines for response, such as Freedom of Information requests, legal documents, etc. and those are followed. In other areas, such as complaints, a process is fixed within the Council's Constitution for responding within set timescales.

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

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

Since the last Council Meeting on 11th March 2020 to date how many times has the “Two Chair” procedure been required for Council business in accordance with Standing Order 125?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

Nine. And in three other cases, urgent decisions were made in consultation with myself and other Executive Committee Members.

Supplementary Question:

Could the Members be circulated with a summary of the “Two Chair” procedures that have taken place as highlighted in the answer to the question?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

Certainly; the list circulated to the Executive Committee can be circulated to all Members.

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

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

Why was the decision to reintroduce charging for car parking on Shaws Brow, The Bottleneck, Drumgold Street and Chester Street reintroduced with effect from Monday 8th June 2020 and not left free of charge at least until the end of the extension to the State of Emergency that was due to end 15th June 2020?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

The Council suspended tariffs at its public car parks from 27th March 2020. The purpose of this move was partly to support key workers who were being deployed to operations in the centre of Douglas and partly to prevent the need for car park users, staff and contractors to interact with or touch any pay stations or other hardware. The move also supported those essential retailers who were able to remain open. Use of the car parks was minimal during this period so revenues would have been markedly below budgeted levels even if the tariffs had not been suspended.

Use of the car parks was being monitored on a daily basis and as the island moved through the Stay Safe phase shoppers and office workers began returning to the town centre albeit in lower numbers than before the Coronavirus outbreak. As commuters returned to work there was a reluctance to use public transport so it was anticipated that workers would aim to travel either actively or by private car. Since the full lockdown restrictions were imposed on 27th March, the car parking at the Lord Street site and Loch Promenade walkway were both removed. This had the potential to lead to a situation where the town centre car parks filled up with commuter parking during normal working hours leaving no spaces available for shoppers. Officers therefore recommended that tariffs in all four car parks recommenced and this was approved by Executive Committee with effect from 8th June.

Supplementary Question:

When did payment for parking on the Bottleneck Car Park recommence?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

Charges were re-introduced on 8th June 2020 but due to technical equipment issues, charging resumed on 2nd July, 2020.

5. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

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

The last sitting of the Council took place on Wednesday 11th March 2020 with no further meetings of Council or Committee until Executive met on 29th May. Following the setting up of facilities enabling staff to be able to work from home what investigations or attempts were made in order to carry out “virtual” Council and Committee Meetings to take place earlier than 29th May?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

There were meetings of the Environmental Services, Regeneration & Community and Housing Committees, and a special meeting of the Executive Committee, in the week commencing 16th March, the week before the “lockdown” commenced. Standing Orders impose a recess for Committees in April so they would not normally meet then. And the May cycle of meetings had to be cancelled due to the restrictions. During that time, the facility for online meetings was put into place, and the end result was that the Executive Committee was enabled to meet electronically on 29th May; arrangements had been put in place for similar meetings of the other Committees in June but fortunately the restrictions were lifted sufficiently for the meetings to be held in person. Members now all have access to the appropriate software and it is intended to hold some tutorial sessions to familiarise Members with electronic meetings and so enhance our resilience for the future.

6. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

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

What is the Council’s policy with regard to replacement of vehicles and plant?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

The Council’s policy is contained within the Transport and Plant Policy, Section 3 which determines when vehicles should be replaced. One of the criteria is age, as follows:

- *Small items of plant – 6 years*
- *Light vehicles – 9 years*
- *Vehicles over 3500kg – 9 years*
- *Agricultural/Engineering periodic evaluation (dependent on work/environment)*

In reality, most vehicles are kept for longer periods of time if they are assessed as being in good condition at the time it is due for replacement. All vehicles to be replaced are subject of a report to the Executive Committee usually in October of each year.

7. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

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

The Council recently disposed via auction of three vehicles. Was there a reserve price put on these vehicles and if so did they reach and sell for more than the reserve price?

Reply by the Leader of the Council:

An auction of vehicles and plant for disposal was held on 27th June. All vehicles had a reserve price and the reserve prices were exceeded.

- *DAF Hookloader, reserve £5,000, sold for £8,500;*
- *Dennis Eagle Refuse Wagon, reserve £800, sold for £1,000;*
- *Scarab Sweeper, reserve £7,000, sold for £16,000.*

8. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner asked the Chair of the Regeneration & Community Committee:

What is the Council’s policy relating to the creation of Pollination areas?

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration & Community Committee:

The Regeneration and Community Committee agreed a Pollinator Action Plan in October 2017.

Bees, and other pollinators, are essential to food production and therefore to our lives. We are all now very aware that the bee population has been declining at an alarming rate in recent years due to a range of

factors and that we must all work to reverse this decline. Causes of the decline are complex but include disease, climate change, habitat loss and pesticide use.

The Action plan includes pledges in relation to habitat protection and creation, use of pesticides, awareness and education, and future sustainability within new planning developments. It also sets out a range of actions in relation to parks and open spaces, highway verges, the golf course, use of pesticides and herbicides, wildflower areas, the lawn cemetery, allotments, links to pollinator supporting bodies, large development projects and section 13 agreements and future landscape development projects undertaken by the Council.

In October 2019, the Committee approved the Pollinator Plan Landscape Management Prescriptions which set out detailed proposals for the treatments of different landscape areas around the Borough. Each site was allocated one of the four following prescriptions;

Prescription 1 - Naturalised grassland verges

This management prescription will result in only the margins, edges and visibility splays of the verges being cut, the remainder of the verge will be left to naturalise.

Prescription 2 - Creation of wildflower areas within verges

This management prescription aims is to create and develop areas of wildflower planting within verges, these will be primarily perennial plants or swaths of prairie type planting.

Prescription 3 – Creation of wildflower areas within established flower borders

This management prescription will see established annual flower beds and displays move away from traditional summer planting schemes to annual or perennial wild flower planting sown directly into borders.

Prescription 4 – Mixture of wildflower and naturalised grassland verges.

This management prescription is a mix of prescriptions 1 and 2.

Some of the revenue savings put forward by the Parks Service for the 2020/21 budget were made possible because of the labour savings arising from managing the sites in a manner that supports pollinators.

Unfortunately, with the restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 outbreak, some of the pollinator-friendly prescriptions have been delayed.

A copy of the action plan and the Landscape Management Prescriptions can be circulated to all members if required.

Supplementary Question:

Could a list of current and proposed Pollination Areas within the Douglas area be circulated please?

Reply by the Chair of the Regeneration and Community Committee:

Yes.

9. Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner

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

How many secure bicycle shelters are there currently in car parks run by Douglas Borough Council, how many bicycles can they accommodate and how many keys are currently rented?

Reply by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

There are two secure bicycle shelters (bike nests) both located at the entrance of Shaw's Brow Car Park and supplied by the Department of Infrastructure. Each shelter can accommodate six cycles. Users pay a £10 deposit for a key for one of the shelters. Currently there are five keys out on deposit.

10. Executive Committee – 20th March, 2020

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 report of meeting held on Friday, 20th March, 2020, be received by the Council."

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

11. Housing Committee – 18th March, 2020

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded Councillor Mrs C.E. Crawley, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 18th March, 2020, be received by the Council."

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

12. Regeneration and Community Committee – 17th March, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Callow, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 17th March, 2020, be received by the Council.”

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

13. Environmental Services Committee – 16th March, 2020 – Clause A10

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in Clause A10 of report of meeting held on Monday, 16th March, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors; Mrs H. Callow, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr D.W. Christian, Mrs C.E. Crawley, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Horning, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Mr J.E. Skinner, Ms K. Angela, Mrs E.C. Quirk, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **14**

Against: Mr Councillor I.J.G Clague – **1**

Motion carried.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, the Director of Environment and Regeneration declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

14. Environmental Services Committee – 16th March, 2020 – Clauses A1 to A9 and A11 to A13

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A9 and A11 to A13 inclusive of report of meeting held on Monday, 16th March, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors; Mrs H. Callow, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr I.J.G Clague, Mr D.W. Christian, Mrs C.E. Crawley, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Horning, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Ms K. Angela, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **13**

Against, Councillors; Mr J.E. Skinner, Mrs E.C. Quirk – **2**

Motion carried.

15. Executive Committee – 29th May, 2020

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 report of meeting held on Friday, 29th May, 2020, be received by the Council.”

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

16. Executive Committee – 26th June, 2020

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 report of meeting held on Friday, 26th June, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors; Mrs H. Callow, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor I.J.G Clague, Mr D.W. Christian, Mrs C.E. Crawley, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Horning, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Mrs E.C. Quirk, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **13**

Against, Councillors; Mr J.E. Skinner, Ms K. Angela – **2**

Motion carried.

17. Housing Committee – 17th June, 2020 – Clauses A1 to A9

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded Councillor Mrs C.E. Crawley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A9 inclusive of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17th June, 2020, be received by the Council.”

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

18. Housing Committee – 17th June 2020 – Clause C10

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded Councillor Mrs C.E. Crawley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clause C10 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17th June, 2020, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors; Mrs H. Callow, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr Councillor I.J.G Clague, Mr D.W. Christian, Mrs C.E. Crawley, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Horning, Mrs E.C. Quirk, Ms J. Thommeny – **10**

Against, Councillors; Mrs R. Chatel, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Mr J.E. Skinner, Ms K. Angela, the Mayor – **5**

Motion carried.

19. Housing Committee – 17th June, 2020 – Clause C11

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded Councillor Mrs C.E. Crawley, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clause C11 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 17th June, 2020, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors; Mrs H. Callow, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr I.J.G Clague, Mr D.W. Christian, Mrs C.E. Crawley, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Horning, Mr J.E. Skinner, Ms K. Angela, Mrs E.C. Quirk, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **13**

Against, Councillors; Mr S.R. Pitts, Mr R.H. McNicholl – **2**

Motion carried.

20. Regeneration and Community Committee – 16th June, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Callow, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 16th June, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors; Mrs H. Callow, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr D.W. Christian, Mrs C.E. Crawley, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Horning, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Ms K. Angela, Mrs E.C. Quirk, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **13**

Against, Councillors; Mr I.J.G Clague, Mr J.E. Skinner – **2**

Motion carried.

21. Environmental Services Committee – 15th June, 2020 – Clause A9

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in Clause A9 of report of meeting held on Monday, 15th June, 2020, be received by the Council.”

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

Under the provision of the Local Government Act 1985, the Assistant Town Clerk declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

22. Environmental Services Committee – 15th June, 2020 – Clauses A1 to A8 and A10 to B14

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A8 and A10 to B14 inclusive of report of meeting held on Monday, 15th June, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors; Mrs H. Callow, Mr S.R. Pitts, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor I.J.G Clague, Mr D.W. Christian, Mrs C.E. Crawley, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Horning, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Ms K. Angela, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **13**

Against, Councillors; Mr J.E. Skinner, Mrs E.C. Quirk – **2**

Motion carried.

23. Adjournment and Resumption

The meeting adjourned at 5.20pm and resumed at 5.40pm. Councillor Mrs C.E. Crawley submitted apologies for the remainder of the meeting.

IN PRIVATE

24. Housing Committee – 18th March, 2020

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Councillor Ms J. Thommeny, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 18th March, 2020, be received by the Council.”

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

25. Regeneration and Community Committee – 17th March, 2020

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Callow, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 17th March, 2020, be received by the Council.”

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

26. Environmental Services Committee – 16th March, 2020 – Clause B4

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in Clause B4 of private report of meeting held on Monday, 16th March, 2020, be received by the Council.”

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

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Mr Councillor A.J. Bentley declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

27. Environmental Services Committee – 16th March, 2020 – Clauses A1 to A3 and B5

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor F. Horning, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A3 and B5 inclusive of private report of meeting held on Monday, 16th March, 2020, be received by the Council.”

During discussion Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl agreed, subject to consent of the Council to withdraw Clause A3.

A vote on consent to withdraw Clause A3 was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

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

28. Executive Committee – 29th May, 2020 – Clause A5

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 A5 of private report of meeting held on Friday, 29th May, 2020, be received by the Council.”

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

Under the provision of the Local Government Act 1985, the Assistant Town Clerk declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

29. Executive Committee – 29th May, 2020 – Clauses A1 to A4, A6 and A7

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 A4, A6 and A7 inclusive of private report of meeting held on Friday, 29th May, 2020, be received by the Council.”

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

30. Executive Committee – 26th June, 2020

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 private report of meeting held on Friday, 26th June, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors; Mr I.J.G Clague, Mr D.W. Christian, Mrs C.L. Wells, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Horning, Ms K. Angela, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **8**

Against, Councillors; Mr S.R. Pitts, Mrs H. Callow, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mrs E.C. Quirk, – **6**

31. **Standing Order 9 – Duration of Meeting**

His Worship the Mayor drew attention to the provisions of Standing Order 9, “Duration of Meetings.”

The Council resolved unanimously, “that the Council continue after 6.30pm to consider the outstanding business.

Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells submitted her apologies and left for the remainder of the meeting.

32. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 16th June, 2020 – Clause A3**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Callow, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in Clause A3 of private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 16th June, 2020, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For** the Motion, Councillors; Mr S.R. Pitts, Mrs H. Callow, Mrs R. Chatel, Mr D.W. Christian, Mr A.J. Bentley, Mr F. Horning, Mr R.H. McNicholl, Mr J.E. Skinner, Mrs E.C. Quirk Ms K. Angela, Ms J. Thommeny, the Mayor – **12**

Against, Mr Councillor I.J.G Clague – **1**

Under the provision of the Local Government Act 1985, the Assistant Town Clerk declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

33. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 16th June, 2020 – Clauses A1 and A2**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Mrs H. Callow, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in Clause A1 and A2 of private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 16th June, 2020, be received by the Council.”

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

The Council rose at 6.38pm.



For Town Clerk & Chief Executive