

# Crawley Borough Council

## Minutes of the Full Council

Wednesday 19 October 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor R Sharma (Mayor)  
Councillor B J Quinn, (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors M L Ayling, T G Belben, Dr H S Bloom, B J Burgess, R G Burgess, R D Burrett, C A Cheshire, D Crow, C R Eade, R S Fiveash, F Guidera, I T Irvine, K L Jaggard, M G Jones, S J Joyce, P K Lamb, R A Lanzer, T Lunnon, K McCarthy, B McCrow, C J Mullins, D M Peck, M W Pickett, C Portal Castro, T Rana, A C Skudder, B A Smith, P C Smith, J Stanley, M A Stone, K Sudan, J Tarrant, G Thomas, K J Trussell and L Vitler.

**Also in Attendance:** Mr P Nicolson – Appointed Independent Person.

**Officers Present:**  
Ann-Maria Brown Head of Legal and Democratic Services.  
Peter Browning Deputy Chief Executive  
Lee Harris Chief Executive  
Chris Pedlow Democratic Services Manager.

### 38. Apologies for Absence

Mr J G Smith MBE – Honorary Freeman and Alderman  
Mr A Quine - Honorary Freeman and Alderman.

### 39. Members' Disclosures of Interests

The disclosures of interests made by Members were set out in **Appendix A** to the minutes.

### 40. Communications

The Mayor, on behalf of the Full Council welcomed the new Democratic Services Manager Chris Pedlow back to working for Crawley Borough Council and wished him luck in his new role.

### 41. Public Question Time

Questioner's Name Subject	Name of Councillor(s) Responding
Mr A Khan, (Bewbush)  Why had the Council's licensing team revoked his hackney carriage licence ?	In response to this matter, the Mayor informed Mr Khan that the Full Council would not be discussing an individual case at this meeting  Mr Khan was not happy with the reply and

Questioner's Name Subject	Name of Councillor(s) Responding
	<p>strongly made this known to the meeting, including making accusations over the propriety of a number of senior officers.</p> <p>As a result of this disruption, and at the request of the Mayor, Mr Khan was removed from the meeting.</p>
<p>Mr S Quinn, (Tilgate)</p> <p>Safety of the public leaving Three Bridges station, especially trying to go to the bus stops?</p>	<p>Cllr P Smith – (Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)</p> <p>We share your concerns and there were plans, which have been out for public consultation to improve the forecourt and the access for all forms of transport to Three Bridges station. As a Council we are working with our partners, such as WSCC on these improvements.</p>

#### 42. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 20 July 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

#### 43. Items for Debate (Reserved Items)

Members indicated that they wished to speak on a number of items as set out in the following table:

Minute Book Page no.	Committee/ Minute no. (and the Member reserving the item for Debate)	Subject (Decisions previously taken, reserved for debate only).	Subject (Recommendation to Full Council, reserved for debate)
54	<p>Cabinet 5 October 2016 Minute 21</p> <p><b>(Conservative Group)</b></p>		<p>Affordable Housing Delivery Programme: Redevelopment of 257/259 Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley &amp; Budget Approval for development of Woolborough Road (Northgate Surgery) Northgate, Crawley.</p> <p><b>(Recommendation 3)</b></p>
55	<p>Cabinet 5 October 2016 Minutes 22 and 23, respectively</p>	<p>West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Housing Provision for Care Leavers, and;</p>	

<b>Minute Book Page no.</b>	<b>Committee/ Minute no. (and the Member reserving the item for Debate)</b>	<b>Subject (Decisions previously taken, reserved for debate only).</b>	<b>Subject (Recommendation to Full Council, reserved for debate)</b>
	<b>(Conservative Group)</b>	Crawley Leisure Card Scrutiny Panel final Report	

#### **44. Reports of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Committees**

Moved by Councillor Quinn (as the Deputy Mayor), subject to the following clerical corrections,

##### **Audit Committee 26 July 2016**

That with regard to Minute No. 5, and the text in the second bullet point, delete the words “risk adverse” and replace with the words “risk averse”.

##### **Audit Committee 28 September 2016**

That with regard to the fourth paragraph of Minute No. 17, insert the text (shown in bold) as follows:-

The Committee discussed the update provided on Risk Management. Members received clarification on issues arising, **including matters on the financing and development of the Three Bridges Railway Station project**, whilst in response to comments from a Member, it was confirmed by the Head of Finance, Revenue's and Benefits that with regard to the matter of recruitment and retention, details on starters and leavers - which had not been included in recent publications of the Council's Information Bulletin, would be reintroduced to that document shortly.

#### **RESOLVED**

(1) That the following reports be received:-

- (a) Audit Committee – 26 July 2016.
- (b) Planning Committee – 1 August 2016.
- (c) Planning Committee – 30 August 2016
- (d) Overview and Scrutiny Commission – 5 September 2016.
- (e) Governance Committee – 20 September 2016.
- (f) Audit Committee – 28 September 2016.
- (g) Overview and Scrutiny Commission – 3 October 2016.
- (h) Cabinet – 5 October 2016.

(2) That the recommendations contained in the reports on the following matter, which had not been reserved for debate, be adopted:-

**Changes to the Constitution.  
(Governance Committee – 20 September 2016)  
(Recommendation 1)**

The Committee had considered report [LDS/121](#) of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

### **RESOLVED**

That the Full Council approves the amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendix A to the Governance Committee [minutes](#) on 20 September 2016.

### **West Sussex County Council Electoral Boundary Review – Polling District Amendments (Governance Committee – 20 September 2016) (Recommendation 2)**

The Committee considered report [LDS/120](#) of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which

### **RESOLVED**

That the Full Council approves the creation of polling districts LFD, LKC, LLC, LI and LMC with the boundaries and polling stations as set out in Section 5 of Governance Committee report [LDS/120](#) subject to the minor clerical corrections as previous identified.

## **45. Reserved Items**

These included the reserved items containing a recommendation to Full Council which were dealt with as set out in Minute Numbers 46 and 47 below:-

## **46. Affordable Housing Delivery Programme: Redevelopment of 257/259 Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley & Budget Approval for development of Woolborough Road (Northgate Surgery) Northgate, Crawley (Cabinet – 5 October 2016 - (Recommendation 3)**

The Cabinet had considered the report [CH/168](#) of the Head of Crawley Homes, which had also been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 3 October 2016. Councillor Lamb moved the report and its recommendations, which was seconded by Councillor Joyce.

Councillors Crow and Burrett also spoke on the subject.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Full Council

- 1) approves a budget of £1.27m from the Housing Revenue Account and Right to Buy one-for-one receipts for 257/259 Ifield Road West Green, Crawley for the construction of 6 No 2 Bed Houses, as outlined in Option 3 in paragraph 6.4 of the report.
- 2) agrees an increase in the allocated budget from the Housing Revenue Account and Right to Buy one-for-one receipts for the Woolborough Road, Northgate scheme from £1.4m to £1.8m

- 3) authorises officers to enter into the procurement of a contractor in accordance with the Council's Procurement Code to assist with the feasibility and delivery of 257/259 Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley and the Woolborough Road site and delegates authority to the Head of Crawley Homes to approve the appointment of a contractor in consultation with the Head of Strategic Housing and Planning Services, Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits, and the Cabinet Member for Housing.

**47. West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Housing Provision for Care Leavers, and;  
Crawley Leisure Card Scrutiny Panel final Report  
(Cabinet – 5 October 2016)**

Councillor R Burgess, on behalf of the Conservative Party, stated that the reason why he had requested that both items be debated as one issue, was the concern he wished to address relating to how both items were introduced at Cabinet, rather than the decisions themselves. Both reports had been introduced by Cabinet Members even though they were Scrutiny Panel reports. This had not been the case in the past, irrespective of which party had been in power. The Chair of the individual Scrutiny Panel would have presented their Panel's report to the Cabinet.

In response the Leader commented that once a report had been considered by the Commission, it was 'handed over' to the Cabinet to make a decision on, at this point it became a Cabinet report. Cabinet reports were presented by the appropriate Portfolio Holder to the Cabinet, and that this was the approach used for those reports. Each of the Panel Chairs were invited to address Cabinet on their reports. That was the approach Cabinet used and would be continuing to use in going forward.

Councillors Joyce, Crow, B A Smith, Burrett and Lanzer also spoke on the subject.

**48. Notice of Motion – 9 a)**

The Council considered the Notice of Motion 9 a) as set out in the agenda. The Motion was moved by Councillor Crow and seconded by Councillor McCarthy and was in relation to the recently announced rail strikes affecting Southern Rail trains.

During a lengthy debate on the Motion, Councillors Jones, Lanzer, P C Smith, Cheshire, Mullins, Irvine, Belbin, B Burgess Pickett and Thomas all spoke on the subject.

A recorded vote was requested.

*Voting in Favour:* Councillors: Belben, Dr Bloom, B J Burgess, R G Burgess, Burrett, Crow, Eade, Guidera, Jaggard, Lanzer, McCarthy, McCrow, Peck, Stone, Tarrant, Trussell and Vitler. (17)

*Voting Against:* Councillors: Ayling, Cheshire, Fiveash, Irvine, Jones, Joyce, Lamb, Lunnon, Mullins, Pickett, Portal Castro, Quinn, Rana, Skudder, B A Smith, P C Smith, Stanley, Sudan, and Thomas. (19)

*Abstaining from Voting:* Councillor Sharma (1)

The Mayor declared the Motion to have fallen – votes in favour 17, and votes against 19 with 1 abstention.

## **RESOLVED**

The Notion of Motion 9 a) was rejected by the Full Council.

### **49. Notice of Motion – 9 b)**

The Council considered the Notice of Motion 9 b) as set out in the agenda. The Motion was moved by Councillor Cheshire and seconded by Councillor Sudan and was in relation to the transitional arrangement to the State Pension age for all women born on or after 6 April 1951. Councillors Crow and Dr Bloom also spoke on the subject.

A recorded vote was requested.

Voting in Favour: Councillors Ayling, Belben, Dr Bloom, B J Burgess, R G Burgess, Cheshire, Crow, Eade, Fiveash, Guidera, Irvine, Jaggard, Jones, Joyce, Lamb, Lunnon, McCrow, Mullins, Peck, Pickett, Portal Castro, Quinn, Rana, Skudder, B A Smith, P C Smith, Stanley, Stone, Sudan, Tarrant, Thomas and Vitler. (32)

*Voting Against:* None (0)

*Abstaining from Voting:* Councillors Burrett, Lanzer, McCarthy, Sharma and Trussell (5)

The Mayor declared the Notion of Motion 9 b) was carried – votes in favour 35, and votes against 0 with 5 abstentions.

## **RESOLVED**

This Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6 April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little/no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Many women are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered, with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace, so struggle to find employment.

Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families, and paid their tax and National Insurance, with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute – it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same age.

The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid, and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

The Council is particularly concerned about the effect on women in Crawley, and calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or

after 6 April 1951, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

## 50. Members' Written Questions

Members' written questions, together with the answers, were tabled as follows:-

Questioner	Councillor Irvine.
Addressed to	Cabinet Member for Housing.
Subject	Sale of Council Houses.
Questioner	Councillor R Burgess.
Addressed to	Leader of the Council.
Subject	The Armed Forces Working Group and the requirement for an annual report.
Questioner	Councillor Guidera
Addressed to	Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
Subject	Feasibility of an ice rink at Tilgate Park
Questioner	Councillor Crow
Addressed to	Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability
Subject	The Council's response to the upcoming ban on microbeads in cosmetic and cleaning products
Questioner	Councillor Crow
Addressed to	Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability
Subject	The Council's approach to flytipping

## 51. Announcements by Cabinet Members

Cabinet Member	Subject
Councillor Lamb (Leader of the Council)	Scrutiny Members presenting at Cabinet.  The Leader commented having given further consideration to the debate raised earlier and having consulted the Constitution, he was willing to change his approach, and going forward he would be inviting Scrutiny Panel Chairs to introduce their reports to Cabinet.
Councillor Thomas (Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability).	Provided an update on the Annual Junior Citizen event which had recently been held at The Hawth, with over 1,200 year 6 students from 21 schools attending the event. The Council was informed that the event had been running for 26 years and the Cabinet Member thanked all the partner organisations, especially the volunteer organisations, such as Crawley's Neighbourhood Watch and Crawley Magistrates, for their support of the event.

**52. Questions to Cabinet Members**

<b>Name of Councillor asking Question Subject</b>	<b>Name of Cabinet Member(s) Responding</b>
<p>Councillor Crow to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability</p> <p>How does he rate the Council's apparent crackdown on flytipping and abandon shopping trollies, in-light of the figures contained within his reply to the flytipping written question?</p>	<p>Councillor Thomas - <i>(Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability)</i>.</p> <p>Whilst the information does state that there has not been a prosecution for flytipping, it doesn't mean we are not tackling the issue. An example being recently behind Peterhouse parade. A large pile of flytipping was reported to me and I passed this over to the anti-social behaviour team to investigate. The outcome was an individual who lived outside of the borough was tracked down and came up from Brighton to clear up the mess.</p> <p>On the shopping trollies, our new patch working project within Amenities which was scheduled to be rolled out next year, following the successful trial in Bewbush, will also help in tackling both issues.</p>
<p>Councillor Guidera:</p> <p>On 16 August I received an invite to a public consultation event over the redevelopment of 83-7 Three Bridges Road, to be held on the following day 17 August at Three Bridges Cricket Club.</p> <p>On the day of the public consultation there were significant road closures, making attendance very difficult.</p> <p>Does he agree that this was not a satisfactory scenario for an important public consultation, i.e. short notice and the road to the venue being closed?</p>	<p>Councillor Joyce - <i>(Cabinet Member for Housing)</i></p> <p>Yes, I agree that the notice period was poor and should have been longer. Also having those road closures was not ideal either. I'll ensure this situation doesn't happen again, certainly on the consultation aspect.</p>
<p>Cllr R Burgess.</p> <p>What has or what will the Council be doing at this time to pass across our sympathies regarding the 50 year anniversary of the Aberfan nursery disaster?</p>	<p>Cllr Lamb – <i>(Leader of the Council)</i></p> <p>Thank you for bringing this tragic event to our attention. I'll be to writing with the Mayor to the local community to pass on our condolences at this poignant time.</p>



<p>Councillor B A Smith.</p> <p>At the last council meeting I asked you about the boulevard toilets and that they need an update.</p>	<p>Councillor Thomas – <i>(Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability)</i>.</p> <p>The toilets within the Town Centre have been an area of concern for a number of years. Between July–September 2016 a survey about the use of public conveniences had taken place and the 213 responses were currently being considered by officers.</p> <p>The toilet upgrading program would likely take place as part of the wider Town Centre Regeneration.</p>
<p>Cllr Eade</p> <p>Is the Cabinet Member aware of the rise in the use of mini-motos and quad bikes being used on Crawley land, including across the Tilgate golf course and if he is, what are the Council going to do about it?</p>	<p>Councillor Jones – <i>(Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement)</i></p> <p>Thank you for raising the issue. Quad bikes and mini-motors are a perennial problem that appears from time to time across the Borough.</p> <p>I've raised the issue at the Sussex Crime Panel and directly with Chief Inspector Dave Padwick in the past. However, I've not recently heard about any reports, so please pass that information on to me.</p>
<p>Councillor Stone</p> <p>What steps are being taken to make the Town Centre as welcoming for the Christmas season, in light of the Queen's square regeneration?</p>	<p>Councillor P Smith – <i>(the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)</i></p> <p>We have committed to ensure all retail units are open throughout the Christmas period and are keeping them informed over developments as they occur.</p>
<p>Councillor B Smith</p> <p>A follow up question on the boulevard toilets. I recently observed that within them there were broken tiles on the floor. Whilst I am pleased over the potential plans for refurbishments, could he ensure that any necessary repairs are carried out?</p>	<p>Councillor Thomas – <i>(Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability)</i>.</p> <p>I'll pass that information on to the officers.</p>

<p>Councillor Stone</p> <p>Referring back to my question I wasn't solely talking about Christmas in Queens Square. What about across the town? Will there be a Christmas tree and lights across the town, what about the High Street?</p>	<p>Councillor P Smith – (the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)</p> <p>Our Council's events team are working with the Town Centre Partnership, County Mall and other business organisations on this matter, but I am not in a position at this time to make any announcements, but things are being worked on.</p>
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**53. Questions to Committee Chairs**

No questions were asked.

**54. Closure of Meeting**

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

R Sharma  
**Mayor**

**APPENDIX A**

**Members' Disclosures of Interest**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Name and date of Cabinet/ Committee and Minute No.</b>	<b>Minute Book Page No.</b>	<b>Subject or Planning Application No.</b>	<b>Type and Nature of Disclosure.</b>
Councillor B J Burgess	7 (1)(c)	Planning Committee 30 August 2016 Minute 25	P29	CR/2016/0524/FUL 95-97 Three Bridges Road, Three Bridges, Crawley.	Personal Interest as she lived near to the application site.
Councillor F Guidera	7(1)(c)	Planning Committee 30 August 2016 Minute 25	P30	CR/2016/0557/RG3 25 Ifield Drive, Ifield, Crawley.	Personal and Prejudicial Interest.
Councillor Dr H S Bloom	7(1)(d)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 5 September 2016 Minute 26	P34	Cabinet Member Discussion with the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement.	Personal Interest – Wife is a Trustee of Crawley Community Voluntary Service.
Councillor R D Burrett	7(1)(d)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 5 September 2016 Minute 27	P35	Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)	Personal Interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council.
Councillor R D Burrett	7(1)(e)	Governance Committee 20 September 2016 Minute 6	P39	West Sussex County Council Electoral Boundary Review – Polling District Amendments	Personal Interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council.
Councillor D G Crow	7(1)(e)	Governance Committee 20 September 2016 Minute 6	P39	West Sussex County Council Electoral Boundary Review – Polling District Amendments	Personal Interest as he was a West Sussex County Councillor

Full Council Meeting  
Wednesday 19 October 2016

Councillor M G Jones	7(1)(e)	Governance Committee 20 September 2016 Minute 6	P39	West Sussex County Council Electoral Boundary Review – Polling District Amendments	Personal Interest as he was a West Sussex County Councillor
Councillor P K Lamb	7(1)(e)	Governance Committee 20 September 2016 Minute 6	P39	West Sussex County Council Electoral Boundary Review – Polling District Amendments	Personal Interest as he was a West Sussex County Councillor
Councillor R A Lanzer	7(1)(e)	Governance Committee 20 September 2016 Minute 6	P39	West Sussex County Council Electoral Boundary Review – Polling District Amendments	Personal Interest as he was a West Sussex County Councillor
Councillor R D Burrett	7(1)(g) and 8	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 3 October 2016 Minute 38	P47	West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Housing Provision for Care Leavers	Personal Interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council.
Councillor P K Lamb	7(1)(g) and 8	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 3 October 2016 Minute 38	P47	West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Housing Provision for Care Leavers	Personal Interest as he was a West Sussex County Councillor
Councillor R D Burrett	7(1)(g)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 3 October 2016 Minute 40	P48	Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)	Personal Interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council.
Councillor R D Burrett	7(1)(h) and 8	Cabinet 5 October 2016 Minute 22	P55	West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Housing Provision for Care Leavers	Personal Interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council.
Councillor R A Lanzer	9 a)			Notice of Motion (Southern Rail)	Personal Interest. As the Vice Chairman of the Sussex Community Rail Partnership.
Councillor T Belbin	9 b)			Notion of Motion (Transitional arrangement to the State Pension age for all women)	Personal and Non Prejudicial Interest. Due to having been born in the 1950's
Councillor K Sudan	9 b)			Notion of Motion (Transitional arrangement to the State Pension age for all women)	Personal and Non Prejudicial Interest. Due to having been born in the 1950's