

# Crawley Borough Council

## Minutes of the Full Council

Wednesday 14 December 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, 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
Karen Hayes	Head of Finance, Revenue and Benefits
Chris Pedlow	Democratic Services Manager

Prior to the start of business, the Full Council observed two Minute's silence in memory of former Councillor Jim Smith MBE, Honorary Freeman and Alderman of the Borough.

The Mayor then invited representatives from each party to pay tribute to former Councillor Jim Smith MBE, Honorary Freeman and Alderman of the Borough. Councillors Lamb, Dr Bloom, Stanley, Burrett, Mullins and Crow, on behalf of their respective Groups, paid their heartfelt respects with glowing and touching tributes.

Councillor Brenda Smith, then addressed the Council, thanking them for their support during this difficult time and for the tributes made.

### 55. Apologies for Absence

Councillor C R Eade  
Mr A Quine – Honorary Freeman and Alderman.

### 56. Members' Disclosures of Interests

The following disclosures of interests were:

<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 R D Burrett	7 (1) (b)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 7 November 2016 – Minute 51	21	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)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 28 November 2016 – Minute 62	45	Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)	Personal Interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council

### 57. Communications

There no communications made.

### 58. Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

### 59. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 19 October 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

Members requested that going forward that any Notice of Motion or any amendments to a Notice of Motion be recorded within the minutes, even if they were rejected.

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

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

<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>
p.23	Planning Committee 8 November 2016 Minute 36 / Item 001,  <b>(Conservative Group)</b>	CR/2015/0552/NCC Forge Wood, North East Sector Crawley	

<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>
p.37	Governance Committee 14 November 2016 Minute 11  <b>(Conservative Group)</b>		Review of Democratic Structures Scrutiny Panel Final Report  <b>(Recommendation 2)</b>
p.55	Cabinet 30 November 2016 Minute 37  <b>(Labour Group – Councillor P Smith)</b>		Supporting Business through Crawley Small Business Grant.  <b>(Recommendation 7)</b>

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

The Full Council were informed that the Licensing Committee minutes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 including Recommendation 1, the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy Revisions Post Consultation had been deferred to the Full Council meeting on the 22 February 2017.. The reason for this deferral was to enable the completion of the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), relating to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy Revisions Post Consultation. This will ensure that Members receive a copy of the EIA in advance so that they can have due regard before making their decision on the Recommendation.

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

### RESOLVED

- (1) That the following reports be received:-
  - a) Planning Committee – 10 October 2016
  - b) Overview and Scrutiny Commission – 7 November 2016
  - c) Planning Committee – 8 November 2016
  - d) Governance Committee – 14 November 2016
  - e) Overview and Scrutiny Commission – 28 November 2016
  - f) Audit Committee – 29 November 2016
  - g) Cabinet – 30 November 2016
  
- (2) That the recommendations contained in the reports on the following matter, which had not been reserved for debate, be adopted :-

**Appointment of External Auditor  
Audit Committee – 29 November 2016  
(Recommendation 3)**

The Full Council considered the Audit Committee report [FIN/397](#) of the Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits.

**RESOLVED**

That Full Council approves that the Council opts in to the Appointing Person arrangements made by the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors.

**Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2016/2017  
Cabinet – 30 November 2016.  
(Recommendation 4)**

The Full Council considered the Cabinet report [FIN/396](#) of the Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits

**RESOLVED**

That the Full Council approves an amendment to the Council's Annual Investment Strategy to include additional investment types to the Investment Strategy (Sections 5.2 – 5.4 of report [FIN/396](#) refers)

**Review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme  
Cabinet – 30 November 2016.  
(Recommendation 5)**

The Full Council confirmed that it has taken due consideration of the Cabinet's report and its appendices on the Review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme [FIN/399](#) of the Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits in coming to its decision.

**RESOLVED**

That the Full Council approves the revised Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/2018 with Options 2, 4 and 5c forming its criteria, from 1 April 2017, having had due regard to report [FIN/399](#) of the Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits that includes the results of the analysis of the consultation exercise undertaken and the findings of the second stage Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) shown in Appendix 2 of the report.

**Review of Statement of Licensing Policy Gambling Act 2005  
Cabinet – 30 November 2016.  
(Recommendation 6)**

The Full Council considered the Cabinet report [PES/222](#) of the Head of Economic and Environmental Services,

**RESOLVED**

That the Full Council approves and adopts the Council's revised Statement Licensing (Gambling Act 2005) Policy.

## 62. Reserved Items

These included the reserved items containing a recommendation to Full Council which were dealt with as set out in Minute Numbers 62, 63 and 64 below:-

## 63. CR/2015/0552/NCC, Forge Wood, North East Sector Crawley Planning Committee 8 November 2016

Councillor Jaggard, on behalf of the Conservative Group, stated that the rationale for bringing forward this item for debate was over the concerns over the built density issues with the Forge Wood development. In discussing the item it was noted that the outline planning permission was for 1900 dwellings at an average density of 41 dwellings per net hectare (dph), across the four phases of the development. However, due to some of the land having unexpected extensive flooding problems, it would likely mean that 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> phases would have to have a average density of between 53 and 57 dph in order to achieve the proposed 1900 dwellings.

Councillors Burrett, Guidera, Lanzer and Irvine also spoke on the subject.

## 64. Review of Democratic Structures Scrutiny Panel Final Report Governance Committee– 14 November 2016 (Recommendation 2)

The Committee considered report [OSC/253](#) of the Chair of the Review of Democratic Structures Scrutiny Panel which had also been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 7 November 2016, Councillor Stanley moved the report and its recommendations, which was seconded.

Councillors Crow, Brenda Smith, Burrett, and Irvine also spoke on the subject.

Following a request, the Full Council voted and agreed to hold separate votes on each of the parts of the Recommendations 2.

On the vote in respect of part (i) of the recommendation, i.e. *the Full Council supports and endorses the continuation of the current model of governance (Strong Leader Model i.e. Leader and Cabinet Executive)*, the Mayor declared the recommendation to be carried by 34 votes for, 0 against with 2 abstention.

On the vote in respect of part (ii) of the recommendation, i.e. *the Full Council approves an increase to the size of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, with effect from the next municipal year*, the Mayor declared the recommendation to be carried by 21 votes for, 13 against with 2 abstention.

## RESOLVED

That the Full Council:

- (i) Supports and endorses the continuation of the current model of governance (Strong Leader Model i.e. Leader and Cabinet Executive).
- (ii) approves an increase to the size of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, with effect from the next municipal year

**65. Supporting Business through Crawley Small Business Grant Scheme  
Cabinet – 30 November 2016.  
(Recommendation 7)**

The Cabinet had considered report [PES/226](#) Head of Economic and Environmental Services and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development. Councillor Lamb moved the report and its recommendations, which was seconded by Councillor Peter Smith, who spoke in detail about the Crawley Small Business Grant Scheme and the benefits it would provide across the Borough.

The recommendation was agreed.

**RESOLVED**

That the Full Council approves the amendments to the Constitution to the Grants Appeals Panel as set out in Appendix A to the Cabinet [minutes](#) on 30 November 2016

**66. Notice of Motion – 9**

The Council considered the Notice of Motion 9) as set out in the agenda. The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Belben and seconded by Councillor B J Burgess and was in relation to requesting that the number of calories on all bottled and canned alcoholic drinks be displayed.

During the debate on the Motion, Councillors Dr Bloom, Cheshire, Crow, Irvine, Lunnon and Joyce all spoke on the subject.

The Notion of Motion was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED**

That this Council believes in consumers being able to make informed choices for themselves on alcohol consumption. Alcohol content is always displayed on bottled and canned alcohol products but often calories are not.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to work with the alcoholic drinks industry to help make consumers truly drink-aware by displaying the number of calories on all bottled and canned alcoholic drinks.'

**67. 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 Crow
Addressed to	Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development
Subject	The number of planning appeals during 2016 including the number dismissed and upheld, along with the costings.

**68. Announcements by Cabinet Members**

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Councillor Thomas (Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability).	<p>Two items of announcement were made.</p> <p>The first was in relation to the announcement that Crawley was ranking 318 out of 326 districts for having low levels of living environment deprivation, with a score of just 6.58, compared to Mid-Sussex, who scored 10.76, Horsham 13.2 and Chichester 18.92 with a Sussex Average of 22.1 and an England average of 21.82.</p> <p>The second related to the number of infectious disease cases recorded within the Borough since 2011. There had been almost 1000, which consists of approximately 160 per year. However, in 2016 even without the December 2016 figures were higher. Most of the cases recorded were Campylobacter and Salmonella which were most closely associated with contamination from poultry products. As a result, the Council had published press releases about the importance of storing and cooking food safely, especially poultry at this time of year.</p>
Councillor Mullins – ( <i>Cabinet Member for Wellbeing</i> ).	<p>The Cabinet Member informed the Council over the recent meetings that had been held by the Friends of Tilgate (FOT). It was noted that over 60 people attended the first two meetings with a lot of enthusiastic discussions. Whilst the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was set to devise a steering group for the running and organising of the FOT going forward. However, no firm decision over the creation of the steering group occurred, but the discussions were positive.</p>

**69. 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>Can the Cabinet Member confirm where the Bandstand, which was in the Queen's Square was and when will it be installed in the Memorial Garden as promised?</p>	<p>Councillor Mullins – (<i>Cabinet Member for Wellbeing</i>).</p> <p>It's currently being stored safely in one of the Council's warehouses. Whilst the bandstand was being dismantled, it was found that the roof was beyond repair and some of the side panels were missing. Quotes were being sourced to find the best cost and approach for its renovation. I am expecting some developments in the Spring.</p>

<p>Councillor Vitler to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement.</p> <p>What is the Council doing for providing awareness and provision of services and support for elderly, lonely and vulnerable people during the Christmas period?</p>	<p>Councillor Jones – <i>(Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement)</i>.</p> <p>Thank you for your question and with the greatest of respect, I feel your question falls under the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing portfolio or under the responsibly of West Sussex County Council.</p>
<p>Councillor Stanley to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement.</p> <p>He is aware of the distressing event at Ifield station recently where a young women was brutally assaulted and if there is anything the Council can do in response to this?</p>	<p>Councillor Jones – <i>(Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement)</i>.</p> <p>I have been made aware of this event and will be writing to the Chief Constable of the British Transport Police, as they have responsibility for policing our train stations. I've asked for assurances that they are doing all they can to ensure justice is served on this matter. I am also asking for a review of security at Ifield Station, as a result of this event, especially as it appears there is no CCTV there and will be pushing that it be installed by Network Rail.</p>
<p>Councillor Guidera to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development</p> <p>I've received feedback that our market traders are really struggling with their new location. What is he doing to do to address this feedback?</p>	<p>Councillor Peter Smith – <i>(Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)</i>.</p> <p>We are committed to having a market, and we have worked with the trade to move their original location in the High Street to Queen's Square to help increase their footfall. Obviously with the redevelopment of Queen's Square, they had to be moved to their current temporary location. Our Town Centre Manager is constantly in communications with the stall holders and was aware of some of their concerns and we are doing our best to ameliorate them.</p>
<p>Councillor Peck to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability.</p> <p>What is the Cabinet Member going to do about the mess and eyesore that's occurring across the Borough in respect of the metal broadband metal boxes, which have their doors hanging off their hinges and with a significant amount of wires and cables falling out of them?</p>	<p>Councillor Thomas – <i>(Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability)</i>.</p> <p>I am aware of those boxes he is describing and I am not sure that they would be under my portfolio responsibility, but I will endeavour to look into the matter with the appropriate telecom companies, to see if this matter can be addressed.</p>



<p>Councillor Brenda Burgess to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement.</p> <p>Picking up on the question asked by Councillor Vickers, I was clear of the response by the Cabinet Member on what support that the Council was providing or promoting to the facilities available to lonely and vulnerable people during the festive period such as the Charis Centre and Open House?</p>	<p>Councillor Jones – <i>(Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Engagement)</i>.</p> <p>I apologise if it was felt I hadn't answered the question from Councillor Vitler fully. The Council's role is as enabler to provide significant 3<sup>rd</sup> sector grants to the organisations, such as you've mentioned and to others like CVS. The Council does use its Communications, Community Development and its front facing teams to promote those 3<sup>rd</sup> sectors and other organisations that provide this important support at this time of year.</p>
<p>Councillor Stanley to the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>Will the Leader join me in wishing all the Council staff, all the emergency services, health workers across the town and in the hospitals, all those working Christmas day, all the charity organisations supporting our community and of course our residents, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year?</p>	<p>Councillor Lamb – <i>(Leader of the Council)</i>.</p> <p>Of course how could I refuse?</p>

## 71. Questions to Committee Chairs

<b>Name of Councillor asking Question Subject</b>	<b>Name of Committee Chair(s) Responding</b>
<p>Councillor Jaggard to Chair of the Licensing Committee</p> <p>In the press recently there has been an article stating that Uber have made a request to operate within Crawley. As the Council's Licensing Committee had recently been assessing a stricter code of conduct criteria for being a Hackney Carriage driver and operator, can the Councillor explain what oversight the Licensing Committee will have over Uber, to ensure that they follow the Council's code of conduct.</p>	<p>Councillor Pickett - <i>(Chair of the Licensing Committee)</i>.</p> <p>I can confirm that Uber have made an application to the Council for an operator's licence. The Licensing Team have written back seeking more information.</p> <p>If they are granted a licence, they will have to follow our code of practice as any other operator would.</p>

## 72. Closure of Meeting

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

R Sharma  
Mayor