

Crawley Borough Council

**Full Council**

**Supplementary Agenda**

**Wednesday, 20 July 2022**



**Chief Executive**

**Minute Silence**

At the start of the meeting the Mayor will lead two separate minute silences in memory of Former Councillor Doug Mayne and Former Councillor Mike Pickett, who both sadly died recently

The Mayor will invite the following Councillors who requested in advance to say a few words on the sad passing of Doug Mayne:

- Councillor C Mullins
- Councillor Burrett
- Councillor Jones

The Mayor will invite the following Councillors who requested in advance to say a few words on the sad passing of Mike Pickett:

- Councillor Jones
- Councillor McCarthy
- Councillor Rana
- Councillor K Khan

**2 Disclosures of Interest**

Enclosed are the Disclosures of Interests received in advance of this meeting.

**Pages**

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<b>5</b>	<b>Public Question Time</b>	
	<p>There are no written questions submitted in advance for Full Council to consider</p> <p>To answer public questions under Full Council Procedure Rule 1.1-E. The questions must be on matters which are relevant to the functions of the Council, and should not include statements.</p> <p>One supplementary question from the questioner will be allowed.</p> <p>Up to 30 minutes is allocated to Public Question Time.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Consideration of Full Council Recommendations and Call-In Decisions</b>	<b>7 - 14</b>
	<p>This document is an updated set of Overview and Scrutiny Commission minutes from the 4 July 2022 which replaces those previously published minutes contained as Appendix G of Item 8</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Councillors' Questions Time</b>	<b>15 - 18</b>
	<p>Enclosed are the Councillors' written questions along with the response to those Questions</p> <p>There will be a maximum of <b>30</b> minutes for Councillors' Question Time (CQT). Councillors may ask questions relating to either a portfolio issue or with regard to the functions delegated to a Committee.</p> <p>There are <b>two</b> methods for Councillors asking questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councillors can submit written questions in advance of the meeting and written answers will be provided on the evening of the Full Council.</li> <li>2. Councillors can also verbally ask questions during the CQT.</li> </ol> <p>Councillors have the opportunity to ask oral supplementary questions in relation to either of the methods above.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Receiving the Minutes of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Other Committees</b>	<b>19 - 20</b>
	<p>Enclosed are Items for Debate which are not Full Council Recommendations.</p>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Appointment of Independent Person – (Urgent Item of Business) – Recommendation 5</b>	<b>21 - 22</b>
	<p>To consider report LDS/188 of the Head of Governance People and Performance as the Council's Monitoring Officer.</p>	

**14**      **Amendment to Recommendation 2 - Public Spaces Protection Order - Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park (Technical)**      **23 - 24**

Enclosed is a proposed technical Amendment to Recommendation 2 - Public Spaces Protection Order - Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park. The amendment relates to the proposed PSPO draft order and it proposes a minor technical correction to the Order.

This is to be moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor C Mullins

This amendment will be discussed under item 8 – *Consideration of Full Council Recommendations and Call-In Decision*, during the debate on Recommendation 2

**15**      **Amendment to Recommendation 2 - Public Spaces Protection Order - Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park - Proposed Option (Labour Group)**      **25 - 28**

Enclosed is a proposed Amendment to Recommendation 2 - Public Spaces Protection Order - Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park – which contained a proposed PSPO Option to be moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor C Mullins

This amendment will be discussed under item 8 – *Consideration of Full Council Recommendations and Call-In Decision*, during the debate on Recommendation 2

**16**      **Amendment to Recommendation 2 - Public Spaces Protection Order - Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park - Proposed Option (Furnace Green & Maidenbower Councillors)**      **29 - 32**

Enclosed is a proposed Amendment to Recommendation 2 - Public Spaces Protection Order - Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park – which contained a proposed PSPO Option to be moved by Councillor Crow and seconded by Councillor Jaggard

This amendment will be discussed under item 8 – *Consideration of Full Council Recommendations and Call-In Decision*, during the debate on Recommendation 2

*NOTE: The Chair has agreed that, although this report and information was not available for at least five clear days before the meeting, there are special circumstances justifying its urgent consideration.*

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# Agenda Item 2

## Disclosures of Interest

## Appendix A

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item and Minute</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Type and Nature of Disclosure</b>
Councillor Irvine	Planning Application CR/2021/0693/FUL – Hedley House, 225 Three Bridges Road, Three Bridges, Crawley (Minute 4)	Planning Committee 4 April 2022	Personal Interest – Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor A Belben	CR/2021/0844/FUL – 9 Mill Road, Three Bridges (Minute 4)	Planning Committee 6 June 2022	Personal interest – a neighbour of the site, who had raised an objection to the application, was known to him.
Councillor A Belben	CR/2022/0034/TPO – 8 Haversham Close, Three Bridges (Minute 5)	Planning Committee 6 June 2022	Personal interest – the applicant was known to him.
Councillor Burrett	CR/2022/0034/TPO – 8 Haversham Close, Three Bridges (Minute 5)	Planning Committee 6 June 2022	Personal interest – the applicant was known to him.
Councillor Jaggard	CR/2022/0034/TPO – 8 Haversham Close, Three Bridges (Minute 5)	Planning Committee 6 June 2022	Personal interest – the applicant was known to her.
Councillor Lanzer	Appointments and Membership of Scrutiny Panels (HASC) (Minute 5)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 13 June 2022	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor Lanzer	Appointments and Membership Of Scrutiny Panels (HASC) (Minute 5)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 13 June 2022	Personal Interest – WSCC Cabinet Member for Public Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Burrett	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) (Minute 10)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 4 July 2022	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor Lanzer	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) (Minute 10)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 4 July 2022	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC

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Councillor Lanzer	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) (Minute 10)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 4 July 2022	Personal Interest – WSCC Cabinet Member for Public Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Jones	Property Acquisition to Increase the Council's Portfolio of Temporary Accommodation (Minute 17)	Cabinet 6 July 2022	Personal Interest – Councillor Jones was aware of one of the owners of the properties the Council was proposed to buy, who was his former landlord 5 years previously.

## Crawley Borough Council

### Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Monday, 4 July 2022 at 7.00 pm

#### Councillors Present:

T G Belben (Chair)

K Khan (Vice-Chair)

M L Ayling, H Hellier, I T Irvine, R A Lanzer, A Pendlington, S Piggott, S Pritchard, T Rana and S Sivarajah

#### Also in Attendance:

Councillor J Bounds, S Buck, R D Burrett, K L Jaggard, M G Jones and C J Mullins

#### Officers Present:

Russell Allison	Housing Enabling and Development Manager
Chris Corker	Operational Benefits and Corporate Fraud Manager
Ian Duke	Deputy Chief Executive
Trish Emmans	Community Safety Officer
Heather Girling	Democratic Services Officer
Karen Hayes	Head of Corporate Finance
Matt Lethbridge	Community Services Manager
Becky Pearce	Transformation Officer
Chris Pedlow	Democracy & Data Manager
Paul Windust	Chief Accountant

#### 1. Disclosures of Interest and Whipping Declarations

The following disclosures were made:

Councillor	Item and Minute	Type and Nature of Disclosure
Councillor R A Lanzer	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) (Minute 10)	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor R A Lanzer	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) (Minute 10)	Personal Interest – WSCC Cabinet Member for Public Health & Wellbeing

# Agenda Item 8

Overview and Scrutiny Commission (6)

4 July 2022

## 2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 13 June 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## 3. Public Question Time

Questioner's Name	Name of Councillor Responding
<p>Michelle Mineau, Furnace Green You have asked for public opinion on this subject of dog walking on leads and the majority has given a very firm 'no'. Do you intend to respect it?</p> <p>Supplementary – My worry is the way it will be implemented by asking people to spy on other people and report it on a special website. It doesn't build communities.</p>	<p>Councillor Chris Mullins (Cabinet Member for Wellbeing) - Following receipt of a petition the council sought views from the public who had great concerns and incidents at the park and also witnesses. As a result of a survey, a large majority were dog owners, but we need to look at incidents that take place within the park. We have amended our original proposals and taken on board the comments and are trying to find a compromise whilst listening to the safety concerns and taking into consideration the need to exercise dogs by putting in dog facilities. There is still a large area for dogs 'off lead' and I think it is a fair compromise.</p> <p>Councillor Ian Irvine – The Overview and Scrutiny Commission can only make a recommendation. Members tonight need to scrutinise the legislation and make sure views are taken into consideration and the final vote will be taken by Full Council as a whole. All opinions needed to be taken into account.</p> <p>Councillor Chris Mullins – We live in a society that has rules and legislation and all of us should obey those regulations. We want to run an education programme and inform dog walkers of why the changes have been introduced and help them train their dogs. I see it as an introduction, change and conditions of the park.</p>
<p>Peter Crosskey, Furnace Green Does the council recognise the risk of conflict of interest in its relations between Parkwood Leisure or its subsidiary running the golf club and</p>	<p>Councillor Chris Mullins (Cabinet Member for Wellbeing) – I don't see a conflict of interest as we need to be in a situation where we're all cooperating with each other. We want to</p>



# Agenda Item 8

Overview and Scrutiny Commission (7)

4 July 2022

<p>Crawley voters and Crawley residents?</p>	<p>enhance this with an education campaign and explain to dog owners whilst working together. It will be possible to walk the perimeters of the golf course into the woodland and we have 241 acres.</p>
<p>David Lightfoot, Furnace Green Two poorly publicised public consultations have apparently taken place. Both consultations found the public to be substantially opposed to the proposals. In which case on what grounds are these proposals being advanced? The curtailment of freedom for which evidence has been sighted must have very strong backing to merit the measures being proposed. The main issue is on what grounds are these proposals being put forward as I cannot think of any that are justified?</p> <p>Supplementary – I notice the proposal map, and I notice the area highlighted around the golf course. Is it not entirely orchestrated following pressure from the people that run the golf course to take dog owners off the golf course because they're a nuisance, even though we possibly make up a majority of users that make up those on that acreage?</p>	<p>Councillor Chris Mullins (Cabinet Member for Wellbeing) – I can provide witness sessions from individuals who have seen deer chased by dogs. We have chosen not to include the whole of the park, we have chosen areas of the park that include wildlife, the majority where the public go and where there are incidents. We are asking dog owners to be responsible.</p> <p>Councillor Chris Mullins – We are not banning dogs off the golf course. If a dog owner wishes to cross the golf course, the dog is kept on a lead. It is a safety concern for the dog as well as golfers. We are not keeping dog walkers off the golf course.</p> <p>Councillor Ian Irvine – Within the consultation responses the golf club has responded that they are not strongly in favour of a PSPO so I do not think we can say that they are strongly pushing this at all.</p>

## 4. Public Spaces Protection Order - Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park

The Commission considered report [HCS/41](#) and [HCS/41a](#) of the Head of Community Services which was presented by Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, the Community Services Manager and Community Safety Officer. The report reviewed the findings of the consultation and considered the options for implementing a Public Spaces Protection Order; Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park.

Councillor Jaggard spoke on the item and matters raised included that consultation had not taken place on the proposed 'Option X', concern regarding the golf course perimeter and access, particularly from Maidenbower and how residents would be affected. It was also queried why the silt lakes had not been included in the proposal. Councillor Jones also spoke recognising it was an emotive subject, and the consultation responses had been acknowledged and it was important to consider all park users.

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Overview and Scrutiny Commission (8)

4 July 2022

During the discussion with the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, the Community Services Manager and Community Safety Officer, Commission members made the following comments:

- It was noted that the proposal and potential change was for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to be considered to prohibit dog related anti-social behaviour within specific areas of Tilgate Park: the main lake, Peace Garden, lawn area and golf course. It was acknowledged that the topic was sensitive and divisive. Yet it was important to find a balanced, fair, and reasonable approach to this emotive subject.
- There was recognition that the many dog owners who visit Tilgate Park were responsible; keeping their dog under control and exercise it in a manner that does not cause distress to other park users. It was important not to alienate responsible dog owners but to manage anti-social behaviour.
- Support was offered for the Hound Ground, together with the training facility/circuit area to be provided which would offer areas for dogs 'off lead'. However queries were raised regarding costs and operation. It was also noted that dogs needed to remain healthy and be exercised.
- Queries were raised with regards to the perimeter footpaths and clarification was provided with reference to the PSPO areas. In addition, any preservation of woodland and paths would be undertaken as necessary. Comments were raised concerning the woodland area from both Furnace Green and Maidenbower immediately into the PSPO area.
- Acknowledgement that at the expiration of the 3 years, the process would be reviewed to determine whether the threshold to sustain if a PSPO was still being met and repeated if deemed necessary. It was confirmed that reviews could take place within the 3-year period if amendments to the PSPO were required.
- Views were expressed that the item should be unwhipped at Full Council, however this was not felt to be a discussion point to comment upon further at the Commission's meeting.
- Confirmation was provided on the consultees and responses received. There was an acknowledgement that there was likely to be under-reporting of incidents and the true scale of the issue was not necessarily reflected in formal complaints and reports and that whilst the majority of formally reported and anecdotal incidents were largely focused around the lake and lawn areas, there was evidence of the issue affecting other areas of the park, particularly where wildlife was concerned. It was however noted that whilst incidents did occur in other areas, some of these were reported less frequently. It was suggested an overlap of incidents with the PSPO map would be beneficial (particularly the golf course).
- It was remarked that only the main lake had been included in the proposed PSPO and the Silt lake had not been included in the revised area ('Option X'). It was commented that wildlife existed around all lakes within the park, where dogs were walked and it was therefore moved by Councillor Lanzer (seconded by Councillor T Belben) that the Cabinet be requested to consider the inclusion of the Silt Lake within the PSPO area. A vote was taken and upon being put to the Commission, the proposal was declared to be lost.
- Concerns were expressed that public consultation had not taken place on the proposed PSPO. Although some members also queried if subsequent responses would significantly add value and would delay the implementation. It was proposed by Councillor Lanzer and seconded by Councillor K Khan that the Cabinet be requested to consider a further consultation exercise on the proposed 'Option X'. Following a vote, the recommendation was declared as carried.

Having considered all the matters in detail, and as a result of the comprehensive discussion and subsequent voting, the Commission noted the report and felt that

the views expressed above along with the following recommendation was appropriate to be referred to the Cabinet:

## **RESOLVED**

That the Commission:

Requests that the Cabinet consider a further consultation exercise on the proposed 'Option X'.

## **5. Treasury Management Outturn 2021 – 2022**

The Commission considered report [FIN/575](#) with the Leader of the Council, Head of Corporate Finance and the Chief Accountant. The CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management recommends that Councillors be updated on treasury management activities regularly and the report ensured the Council was implementing best practice in accordance with the Code. The report provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Councillors.

During the discussion with the Leader of the Council, Head of Corporate Finance and Chief Accountant, the following points were expressed:

- Clarification was offered on the maturity structure together with number of detailed holdings. It was confirmed most were on fixed rate of return, with only the Money Market Funds and Strategic Fund being variable rate.
- Confirmation that there was an error within the Non-Treasury Investment table concerning the valuations for Ashdown House and Atlantic House were reversed. This resulted that the rate of return was incorrect for these two properties and should have read 7.96% for Atlantic House and 7.52% for Ashdown House. The Treasury report show only those investment properties that we purchased for that purpose.
- Recognition that the current investment properties were valued on an annual basis and provided a good rate of return. It was felt that it would be beneficial to receive a detailed holdings table of commercial properties to allow further analysis to take place
- Explanations were sought and obtained on the details provided within appendices.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Commission noted the report and requested that the views expressed during the debate, were fed back to the Cabinet through the Commission's Comment sheet.

## **6. Financial Outturn 2021-2022 (Quarter 4)**

The Commission considered report [FIN/572](#) of the Head of Corporate Finance on the quarter 4 budget monitoring, which set out a summary of the Council's outturn for the year for both revenue and capital spending for the financial year 2021/22. It identified the main variations from the approved spending levels and any potential impact on future budgets.

During the discussion with the Leader of the Council, Head of Corporate Finance and Chief Accountant, Councillors made the following comments:

- Acknowledgement that the report documented the financial viability of the council. It was recognised that revenue streams had increased due to car parking and community centres together with the Hawth Theatre management fee.

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Overview and Scrutiny Commission (10)

4 July 2022

- Confirmation that the Hawth agreement was the repayment of the capital grant occurring over the four-year contract extension period.
- Recognition that that the cost of living and inflation were a concern and would have an overall impact on the Council's finances in areas such as suppliers' costs and energy prices would be just one of the significant challenges in the future
- Verification was provided on the delay to major works at Milton Mount flats due to a late design change coming from Sussex Building Control.
- Clarification was sought on specific details within the report and those provided within appendices.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Commission noted the report and requested that the views expressed during the debate, were fed back to the Cabinet through the Commission's Comment sheet.

## **7. Exempt Information – Exclusion of the Public**

### **RESOLVED**

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

## **8. Online Benefits**

Exempt Paragraph 3

*Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)*

The Commission considered report [FIN/573](#) of the Head of Corporate Finance. The report sought approval for the procurement of an online Software system to enable customers to self-serve Benefits and Council Tax Reduction online, through an online portal.

During the discussion with the Leader of the Council, Head of Corporate Finance and Transformation Officer, the following comments were made:

- Support for the creation of a self-service channel for customers to make claims, report changes, access information and respond to communication online, via a secure portal which would be available 24/7.
- Recognition that as part of the Transformation programme there was an expectation and commitment to deliver channel shift by moving services online. However it was acknowledged that there was also a need to assist those who were more vulnerable or less 'internet savvy' to be supported by Older Persons Services, Housing Officers, Contact Centre and voluntary groups.
- Acknowledgement that the procurement approach would look to provide best value, whilst automating services and improving customer experience.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Commission noted the report and requested that the views expressed during the debate, were fed back to the Cabinet through the Commission's Comment sheet.

## 9. Telford Place Land Proposal

Exempt Paragraph 3

*Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)*

The Commission considered report [SHAP/86](#) of the Head of Strategic Housing. The report requested the Cabinet to consider recommendations associated with the Telford Place site.

During the discussion with the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Housing and the Housing Enabling & Development Manager, the following comments were made:

- Recognition that the site at Telford Place had significant potential to contribute towards meeting Crawley's housing needs. There was support for the mix of housing and it remained a site of strategic significance within the context of achieving residential development within the town centre.
- Acknowledgement that the development opportunity would be subject to a planning application, which would address development characteristics, water neutrality, scale of the building, car parking and any potential impacts.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Commission noted the report and requested that the views expressed during the debate, were fed back to the Cabinet through the Commission's Comment sheet.

### **Re-Admission of the Public**

The Chair declared the meeting reopen for consideration of business in public session.

## 10. Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC)

An update was provided from the most recent [HASC](#) meeting. The key item of discussion included the scrutinising of Shaw Healthcare Contract. The committee was considering the performance against the current contract and whether the services will meet future demand.

## 11. Forthcoming Decision List - and Provisional List of Reports for the Commission's following Meetings

The Commission confirmed the following reports:

### **5 September 2022**

CBC Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Statement 2022-26  
(The OSC would also consider the Review of the Transformation Plan)

## **3 October 2022**

Budget Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28  
2022/2023 Budget Monitoring - Quarter 1  
Proposed Changes to the Essential Car User Allowance Scheme

## **Closure of Meeting**

With the business of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.05 pm

**T G Belben (Chair)**

# Agenda Item 10

## Councillors Written Questions and the Responses

### Full Council – 20 July 2022

(Questions in *italics and Answers in RED*)

#### **Question to Councillor Chris Mullins (Cabinet Member for Wellbeing) from Councillor Hellier**

*From the minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 23rd February this year, Cllr Duncan Crow asked the following verbal question to which you gave the following answer.*

*Councillor Crow to the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing: "Would you be able to provide any details of what those potential options are for the Waterlea playground site? Will you ensure that you and officers will liaise with local councillors over any future options for the Waterlea site? And what would you say to parents of children in Furnace Green and further afield who were looking forward to an unsupervised play area at that location to replace the adventure playground?"*

*Councillor Mullins, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing: "We are looking at serious options and the intention is to bring something in Furnace Green that people are really going to enjoy and want when they see it. It was a preferred site from an interested company but it's sad we've had to take the decision we've made on the adventure playgrounds but it was necessary in the circumstances. There is the potential for something exciting to happen in that locality. I will be committed to communicating and consulting with local councillors."*

*Virtually five months later, Cllr Crow and myself have yet to hear anything at all from either the Cabinet Member or Officers as to any update and there remains disappointment locally that no progress appears to have occurred. Having not been used for three years, we are keen to see progress with Waterlea being brought back into use to provide a facility for children.*

1. *Please provide any information on progress to date on the future use of the Waterlea Adventure Playground site?*

#### **Response**

Since Full Council on 23 February, Officers continued to explore a proposal from a third party Community Interest Company to deliver an indoor skate park facility / community café / unsupervised play facility at the Waterlea APG site however unfortunately they have withdrawn their interest due to viability concerns at this time.

Whilst bringing forward costed options for Waterlea APG site is an element of the service work programme for 2022/23, the focus has so far been largely on delivering the programme to convert Cherry Lane and Millpond sites into unsupervised play provision as well as establishing the outreach play programme across the Borough. Members will recall that the decision to retain Millpond as an unsupervised site instead of Waterlea was largely driven by feedback received from the community

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2. *Can you confirm that the site is earmarked to provide a facility for children, and if not certain at this stage, state what other potential uses are being considered?*

## **Response**

The options appraisal process has yet to begin so at this stage we retain an open mind as to how we best provide play facilities in Furnace Green and the wider town and part of this process will determine if the Waterlea site is the most appropriate location for any future provision, mindful also of the budget challenges that we face

3. *Are you willing to arrange a meeting with the Furnace Green ward Councillors and Officers to discuss the future use of the Waterlea site?*

## **Response**

Yes, I would be pleased to facilitate that meeting and have asked Officers to coordinate diaries.

## **Question to Councillor Jones (Leader of the Council) from Councillor Crow**

*Last month, the McColls newsagent closed down at Furnace Parade, along with the Post Office branch that it operated. This means that there are now two empty Council-owned shop units at Furnace Parade as well as no Post Office branch in either Furnace Green or Tilgate. It has also been reported that the newsagent at Ifield Parade along with its Post Office branch, will be closing in September.*

1. *Across all the Council-owned neighbourhood parades, how many shop units are either currently not operating or have given notice to quit?*

## **Response**

Two shops are currently vacant (17 and 21 Tilgate Parade). Offers have been received on 17 Tilgate Parade and 21 Tilgate Parade is yet to go onto the market. No tenants (including Martin McColl) have given notice to quit yet.

2. *Can a (non-commercially sensitive) update be provided as to the Council's progress in bringing the two empty shop units at Furnace Parade back into use?*

## **Response**

Both the properties on Furnace Parade still have existing leases and tenants

3. *With Post Office branches being valued by local communities as well as contributing to the vibrancy and commercial vitality of our neighbourhood parades, can an update be provided as to what efforts are being made by the Council to bring back Post Office branch facilities to those neighbourhoods where they have been recently lost, as well as those neighbourhoods where they are due to be lost soon?*

## **Response**

Until Martin McColl Limited serve notice to terminate their leases, the Council is not able to do anything. One of the offers for 17 Tilgate Parade does include



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the use as a post office, but a post office on its own is not a viable business. The ancillary uses being proposed conflict with numerous other businesses on the parade and could adversely affect existing businesses. This was to be discussed at the Neighbourhood Parade Scrutiny Panel last week, however this was cancelled due to staff sickness.

4. *Is the Council aware of any Post Office branches at any other neighbourhood parades that are at risk of closure and if so, what efforts are being made to maintain Post Office branch facilities for those neighbourhoods?*

## **Response**

Cllr Crow's question misses the point that inadequate Post Office provision is not a failure of the council who has no say over any of this, but the strategy of the Post Office making a vital public service such as a post office dependent on retail chains such as Martin McColl, making the service extremely vulnerable. And the regrettable situation in neighbourhoods such as his own is almost certainly a consequence of policies that his party in Government has allowed to be put in place which have brought Post Office provision to this position and we have already seen foreshadowed in Crawley with the closure of the Crown Post Office in the Boulevard.

The only other Post Office Branch that is possibly at risk of closure is Gossops Parade, which is also contained within the Martin McColl shop.

The asset team has had conversations with the Post Office property department. They have advised us that there is no plan to open new branches on parades and believe that the area is served best by the main branch in W H Smith in County Mall, a view I certainly do not agree with. The Post Office says it is rationalising its branches in many locations, not just Crawley. They would support a post office counter in a suitable shop such as a newsagent. However no suitable offers have been received from prospective tenants which incorporate a post office counter. If an offer were to be received it still has to be in line with the market rent for the parade and the tenant has to pass financial scrutiny and conflict checks with existing users.

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# Agenda Item 11

## 11. Receiving the Minutes of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Other Committees including Items for Debate

Items for Debate which are not Full Council Recommendations

<b>Agenda Page no.</b>	<b>Committee/ Minute no.</b>	<b>Item</b>
p.70	Cabinet 6 July 2022 (Minute 15)  Labour Group	Telford Place Land Proposal <b>(Part B Item)</b>
p.72	Cabinet 6 July 2022 (Minute17)  Labour Group	Property Acquisition to Increase the Council's Portfolio of Temporary Accommodation <b>(Part B Item)</b>
p.73	Cabinet 6 July 2022 (Minute 18)  Labour Group	Crawley Innovation Centre - Proposed Tender for works contractor <b>(Part B Item)</b>

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# Agenda Item 13

## Appointment of an Independent Person

LDS/188

Head of Governance People and Performance  
as the Council's Monitoring Officer

The Committee of Standards in Public Life (CSPL), recommends that local authorities appoint an Independent Person(s) for a term of office of two years. Currently the Council has only two Independent Persons, Mr Russell Brown whose term ends in July 2023 and Mr Peter Nicolson whose term ends in July 2022.

At the Full Council meeting in July 2021 it was agreed to ensure continuity of the role by preventing both Independent Persons' positions from becoming vacant at the same time and appointments to be scheduled for renewal in alternate years.

The Monitoring Officer has spoken to Mr Nicolson and has indicated that he would be willing to serve a further term in the role, as such this is the proposal the Monitoring Officer is putting forward for Full Council's consideration

Should the Full Council not wish to re-appoint Mr Nicolson, there would be two options, one being to request that the Monitoring Officer go out to advert for a further Independent Person, with a proposed candidate being put before the Full Council at its October 2022 meeting for their consideration. The other would be the Council only retain one Independent Person, Mr Brown.

### **RECOMMENDATION 5**

It is therefore recommended that Mr Nicolson be appointed for a further two years until July 2024.

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# Agenda Item 14

## Full Council

20 July 2021

### **Amendment to Recommendation 2 – Public Spaces Protection Order - Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park**

*Mover Councillor Jones and  
Seconder Councillor C. Mullins*

The wording below in **bold** is a proposed minor technical correction to the draft PSPO order contained on pages 111 of the Agenda, replacing the wording struck through

#### New

**8, Subject to the exceptions stated below, a person who is reasonably believed to have engaged in a breach of this Order within the restricted area shall provide, when asked by an authorised officer, their name and address.**

#### Replaced

~~8, Subject to the exceptions stated below, a person in charge of a dog within the restricted area shall provide, when asked by an authorised officer, their name and address to that authorised officer.~~

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# Agenda Item 15

## Full Council

20 July 2021

### **Amendment to Recommendation 2 – Public Spaces Protection Order - Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park**

*Mover Councillor Jones and  
Seconder Councillor Mullins*

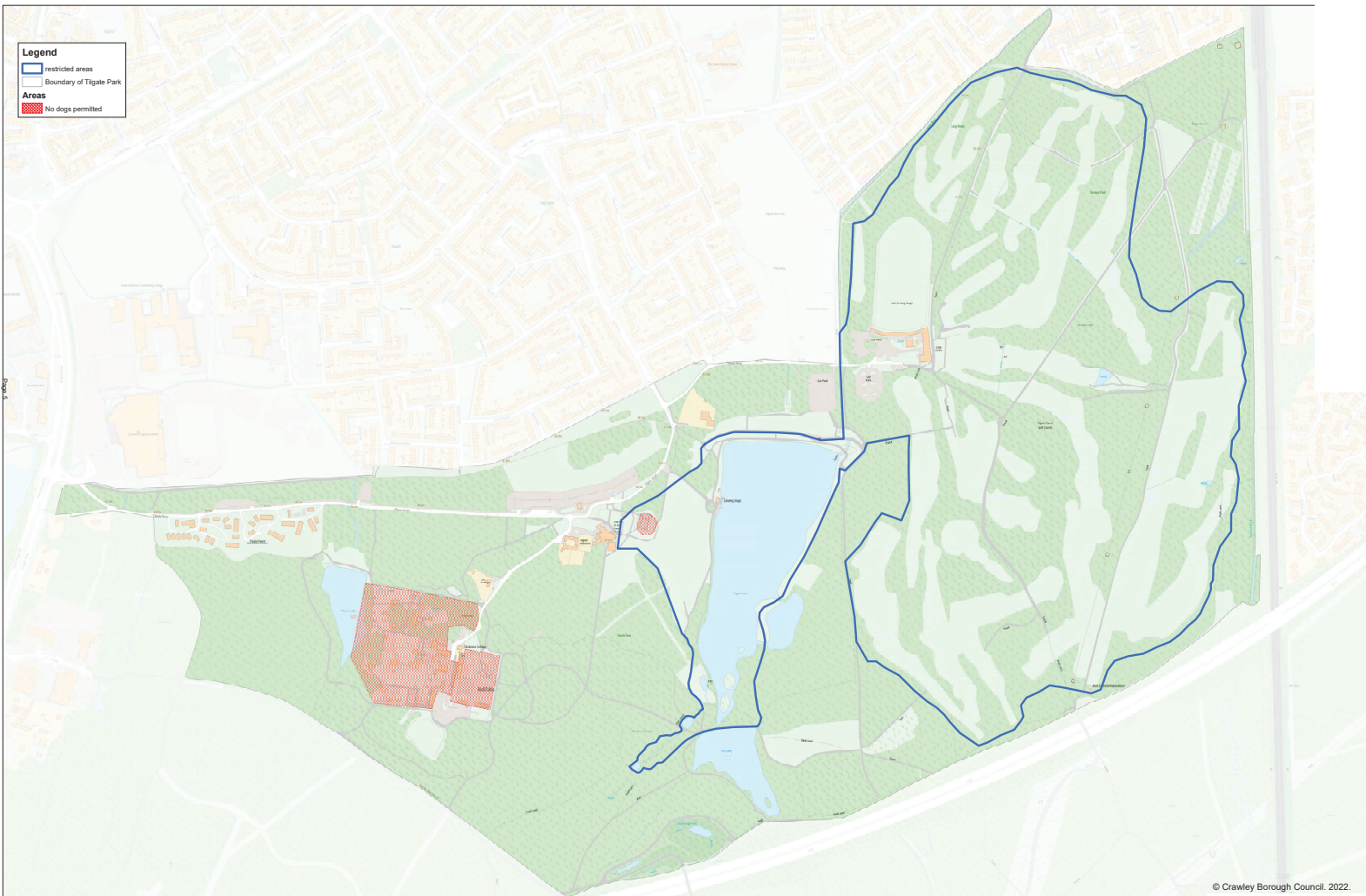
The Wording below is in Red is the Proposed Option being proposed by the Labour Group in relation to this Recommendation

*Request that Full Council make a PSPO as set out in Appendix B of report HCS/41a, with the restricted area covering main lake, Peace Garden and lawn area and golf course within Tilgate Park, as detailed as Option X shown in the plan at Appendix A of report HCS/41a.*

*N.B The diagram of this has been included as an appendix to this amendment.*

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Tilgate Park - PSPO restricted area Option X



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# Agenda Item 16

## Full Council

20 July 2021

### **Amendment to Recommendation 2 – Public Spaces Protection Order - Keep your dog on a lead in Tilgate Park**

*Mover Councillor Crow and  
Seconder Councillor Jaggard*

The Wording below is in Red is the Proposed Option being proposed by Furnace Green & Maidenbower Councillors in relation to this Recommendation

*Amendment – Furnace Green & Maidenbower Councillors PSPO proposal*

*Request that Full Council make a PSPO as set out in Appendix B of report HCS/41a, with the restricted area covering main lake, Peace Garden and lawn area within Tilgate Park, as detailed as Option 3 shown in the plan at Appendix E of report HCS/41.*

*N.B The diagram of this has been included as an appendix to this amendment*

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