

Crawley Borough Council

Minutes of Full Council

Wednesday, 18 July 2018 at 7.30 pm

Councillors Present:

C Portal Castro (Mayor)

T Rana (Deputy Mayor)

M L Ayling, A Belben, T G Belben, N J Boxall, 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, P K Lamb, R A Lanzer, T Lunnon, S Malik, K McCarthy, C J Mullins, D M Peck, A Pendlington, M W Pickett, B J Quinn, R Sharma, A C Skudder, B A Smith, P C Smith, M A Stone, K Sudan, J Tarrant, G Thomas, L Willcock and L Vitler

Also in Attendance:

Mr Peter Nicolson Appointed Independent Person

Officers Present:

Natalie Brahma-Pearl	Chief Executive
Ann-Maria Brown	Head of Legal, Democracy and HR
Chris Pedlow	Democratic Services Manager
Heather Girling	Democratic Services Officer

1. Disclosures of Interest

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

2. Communications

The Mayor welcomed all Councillors to the first Council meeting at the Charis Centre and reminded everyone that it was an opportunity to experiment a new layout and approach. The Mayor also welcomed the Council's new Deputy Chief Executive, Ian Duke to his first Full Council meeting and wished him all the best for his new role.

The Mayor provided the Full Council with a brief update of the Mayoral events he had attended since the start of his mayoral year, including his recent meeting with the President of Madeira, Armed Forces Day and the opening of the new Museum.

3. Presentation of Gifts to Former Councillors

The Mayor presented gifts to Councillor Dr Howard Bloom who had ceased to hold office, to commemorate his service to the Council. Former Councillor Stephen Joyce, was unable to attend the Full Council meeting and had already received his commemorative gift.

4. Presentation of Long Service Badges

The Mayor presented Councillor Ayling with a 10 year commemorative badge to mark her long service as a Member of Crawley Borough Council. In doing so, thanked her for her long and dedicated service to the Authority.

Whilst Councillor Crow had in advance of the meeting received his long service badge, the Mayor acknowledged his 15 year service as a Member of Crawley Borough Council.

It was noted that Councillor Quinn, who was elected to the Council in 1998 and would be receiving 20 year long service badge at Full Council meeting later in the year.

5. Public Question Time

Questions asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 were as follows:

Questioner's Name	Name of Councillor Responding
Janet Roskilly - (Southgate on behalf of the Friends of Goffs Park) Since the increase in new housing units, there is a need for more amenities in parks, the most expensive being public toilets. Sadly there were public toilets but these were burnt down. Additionally, part of the land in Goffs Park is officially part of Crawley's war memorial to the First World War. There are funding bodies we could work with to raise funds, but how can we work together to achieve these amenities? Supplementary Question You are aware that the drains are damaged?	Councillor Mullins <i>(Cabinet Member for Wellbeing)</i> In particular reference to the toilets within Goffs Park, I have asked officers to complete an investigation into the feasibility to have toilet provision, probably by the pitch and putt area. However funding is an issue. Councillor Mullins <i>(Cabinet Member for Wellbeing)</i> We are aware of the drainage issues and we are currently investigating. On the war memorial, I would mention Crowd Funding as a potential option. I would be happy to come along to one of your Goffs Park meetings to provide you with further information.

Questioner's Name	Name of Councillor Responding
<p>Richard Symonds (Ifield on behalf of the Ifield Society)</p> <p>Ifield Brook Meadows in Ifield has been dedicated a green space. Please can the Council confirm if the Homes and Communities Agency and its associates have again earmarked for development a small area within Ifield Brook Meadow, a small and beautiful area where they destroyed two small bridges and thus preventing community access along this river bank?</p>	<p>Councillor P Smith <i>(Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)</i></p> <p>I will send you a formal written response. I am familiar with Ifield Brook Meadow and it was included in the Council's Local Plan, which was adopted in December 2015. The local green space designation implies that green belt policies apply to Ifield Green Meadow for it to be safeguarded from development under planning legislation. It is additionally a Site of Nature Conservation Importance, which provides further protection and the northern part of the site is situated in the Ifield Village Conservation Area. As far as the Council is aware Homes England has accepted that there should not be any development on the site and no notification or planning application has been received, however we would not necessarily be aware if they were planning any action on the site.</p>
<p>Charles Crane (Bewbush)</p> <p>I've heard it said that the new town hall won't cost the council a penny. I've also read that funding for the town hall will be from commercial offices and also the housing element of the scheme. So please can you tell me how the town hall will be funded (particularly the town hall part of the structure), initially and in the future?</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Are you yet in a position to say how much it's going to cost (particularly the town hall part) including interest?</p>	<p>Councillor Lamb <i>(Leader of the Council)</i></p> <p>I don't know if this falls under the 6 month rule the same question previously was asked but the information is currently commercially sensitive and consequently we are not obliged to discuss funding. However if you would like to come and discuss further I would be happy to do so.</p> <p>Councillor Lamb <i>(Leader of the Council)</i></p> <p>The town hall cost of the structure will be free to the council at the end of the process, however it's important that all factors are taken into account and you need to understand all the details.</p>
<p>Darren Kirkham (Tilgate)</p> <p>Currently there are a number of independent, small businesses due for rent review on the parades. In a number of cases there are proposals for an increase in excess of 30%</p>	<p>Councillor P Smith <i>(Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)</i></p> <p>The Council is keen to support local businesses but it also has a duty to generate income for our council tax</p>

Questioner's Name	Name of Councillor Responding
<p>putting the sustainable futures of some of these businesses at risk. Is the council in favour of supporting the sustainable futures of small, independent, local businesses to maintain the diverse local feel of the parade or do the landscapes of our parades need to resemble the high street with the same multi-national companies?</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>It wasn't Tilgate Bakery I wanted to be specific about it was more the parades in general across the town and whether the Council had formed a position, but I recognise there needs to be a balance.</p>	<p>payers from our commercial properties. We have a dedicated team that manages the rent. At the last review there were very few empty properties. However if you would like to come in I would be happy to discuss your property, Tilgate Bakery, I believe, with you.</p> <p>Councillor P Smith <i>(Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)</i></p> <p>There are some businesses that have issues with their rent, not surprisingly. Currently we have no funds available and are obliged to maximise the income we receive from our commercial properties.</p>
<p>Robin Duke (Tilgate)</p> <p>In a small business, when under tremendous pressure on prices from the internet and rates, are you filling the empty shops with businesses that are profitable?</p> <p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>This could be the peak of things and heading for a downward trend with small businesses forced to sign long leases and pay high rents.</p>	<p>Councillor Lamb <i>(Leader of the Council)</i></p> <p>The issue is a national one. The Council retains very little in terms of business rates. As Councillor Smith alluded to the Council's commercial properties are there to provide a revenue stream. If we were to introduce a programme of subsidised rent that would need to be offset from elsewhere and impact on services. We have a rule in the past to limit a certain number of specific retail outlets on the same parades to avoid impact.</p> <p>Councillor P Smith <i>(Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)</i></p> <p>We are willing to listen to concerns and we not unsympathetic.</p>

In line with the constitution, the Mayor also rejected three separate questions raised by members of the public, as the question(s) *either did not or was not related to the matters which were relevant to the functions of the Council*, or the question related to an individual's case that would *disclose personal information*.

6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 18 May 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor subject to the following two changes. Firstly that the following wording be added to Minute 12 on page 5, Recommendation 2, in respect of item 7 – Crawley Open House Management Committee, '*That in nominating Councillor K McCarthy, Councillor R Burgess commented that he was aware that Open House had requested a nomination from each party and with this in mind Councillor R Burgess suggested that the Labour Group should honour this request by having one of the Labour nominations withdrawn so that both Groups had a place on Open House*'. Secondly that in the Appendix D, page 14, item 7 – Crawley Open House Management Committee that Councillor Thomas' name replaces Councillor Lunnon.

7. Items for debate (Reserved Items)

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

Page no.	Committee/ Minute no. <i>(and the Member reserving the item for Debate)</i>	Subject <i>(Decisions previously taken under delegated powers, reserved for debate only).</i>	Subject <i>(Recommendation to Full Council, reserved for debate)</i>
P.33	Overview and Scrutiny Commission, 4 June 2018, Minute 4 <i>Conservative Group</i>	Broadfield Residents Parking Petition - To have more grass verges for parking at Halley Close, Eddington Hill, Broadfield	
P.45	Planning Committee, 5 June 2018, Minute 6 <i>Conservative Group</i>	Town Hall, The Boulevard, Northgate, Crawley.	
P.49	Licensing Committee, 11 June 2018, Minute 3 <i>Conservative Group</i>	Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Livery Requirements.	
P.68	Cabinet 27 June 2018 Minute 9 <i>Labour Group</i>		<u>Recommendation 2</u> Financial Outturn 2017/2018 Budget Monitoring - Quarter

8. Minutes of the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Committees

1) ***Moved by Councillor Rana (as the Deputy Mayor):-***

RESOLVED

That the following reports be received:

- Planning Committee – Monday, 9 April 2018
- Overview and Scrutiny Commission – Monday 4 June 2018
- Planning Committee – Tuesday 5 June 2018
- Licensing Committee - Monday 11 June 2018
- Governance Committee – Tuesday 19 June 2018
- Overview and Scrutiny Commission – Monday 25 June 2018
- Cabinet – Wednesday 27 June 2018
- Planning Committee – Monday 2 July 2018

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

**Changes to the Constitution
(Governance Committee – Tuesday 19 June 2018)
(Recommendation 1)**

The Full Council considered report LDS/140 of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

RESOLVED

That the Full Council approves the amendments to the Constitution proposed in Appendix of report LDS/140.

9. Broadfield Residents' Parking Petition - to have more grass verges for parking at Halley Close, Eddington Hill, Broadfield - Overview & Scrutiny Commission 4 June 2018

Councillor Crow, on behalf of the Conservative Group, stated that the rationale for bringing forward this item. Having attended his first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 4 June 2018, he found the meeting eventful and was interested to hear from local residents regarding the parking issues in Broadfield. He had welcomed the discussion that had taken place and the recommendation to request the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability to discuss with Cabinet and BAG and consider re-introducing the Environmental Resident Improvement Scheme. However, he had been disappointed that the Cabinet Member's response report to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's comments had not been included in the Full Council minute book and discouraged that the Cabinet Member's response was not wholly positive.

Councillors Lunnon, Quinn, Burrett, Thomas, Irvine, Lanzer, Lamb, Jones, Cheshire and Belben also spoke on the subject.

10. CR/2017/0997/OUT Town Hall, The Boulevard, Northgate, Crawley - Planning Committee 5 June 2018

Councillor Lanzer, on behalf of the Conservative Party, explained the rationale for bringing forward this item for debate. He welcomed that the Planning Committee had approved the application for the New Town Hall. However, he questioned the current number of Cabinet members that sit on the Planning Committee, particularly looking at the decision making process from a resident's perspective and with Cabinet having collective responsibility it would be remarkable that any Cabinet member would vote against the planning application.

Councillor Lanzer considered that it was expected that members of the Cabinet might have considered declaring a personal interest in the matter in light of public perception and transparency reasons.

Councillors P Smith, Crow, Lamb, Thomas, Skudder and Irvine also spoke on the subject.

It was noted that all Cabinet Members on Planning Committee had received advice on this matter pertaining to their different roles. When discussing matters as a Cabinet, Councillors' considerations should be strategic, political and financial perspective. However when acting as a Planning Committee Member, as with any Councillors on that committee they must remain "open minded," avoid predetermination and consider the plans in accordance with the Council planning procedure and formulate their decisions only with regards to planning matters. Each of the Cabinet Members on the Planning Committee confirmed that was what they did and what they will continue to do.

11. Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Livery Requirements - Licensing Committee 11 June 2018

Councillor Malik and Rana left the room prior to the commencement of the discussion on this item and return once the item had concluded.

Councillor Crow, on behalf of the Conservative Group, explained the rationale for bringing this item for debate. Councillor Crow expressed sympathy with the issues raised throughout the meeting and expressed support for the proposed consultation. He urged members of both the trade and public to complete the consultation to ensure all views were recorded. It was hoped that challenges that existed during the meeting would improve.

Councillors Tarrant, Mullins, Thomas, Guidera, Sudan, Jones, B J Burgess, Sharma and Pickett also spoke on the subject.

12. Financial Outturn 2017/2018 Budget Monitoring

The Full Council considered report [FIN/443](#) of the Head of Finance, Revenue and Benefits, which had been previously considered at the Cabinet on 27 June 2018.

Councillor Lamb presented the report.

Moved by Councillor Lamb, seconded by Councillor Jones and

RESOLVED

That Full Council approved a supplementary capital estimate of £250,000 to the College car park site for additional units and for a sprinkler system as outlined in paragraph 8.7 of the report FIN/443, 30% of this to be funded from 1-4-1 receipts

13. Councillors' Written Questions

Councillors' written questions, together with the answers, were [published](#) in advance of the start of the Meeting. The questions were as follows:-

Questioner Councillor Crow
Addressed to Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
Subject(s) Attendance for Indoor Bowls at K2 Crawley
Total number of annual visitors between 2013/14 - 2017/2018

Questioner Councillor Pendlington
Addressed to Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community
Engagement
Subject *Monitoring footfall and gaining feedback at events (particularly town centre)*

14. Announcements by Cabinet Members

Cabinet Member	Subject
Councillor Thomas – <i>(Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability).</i>	The Cabinet Member made two announcements: 1) He informed the Full Council that the Council had successfully won a prosecution for fly-tipping following good work by the Council's Fraud Team and Community Wardens. 2) Also a stolen dog from Croydon has been found and successfully reunited with his owner by the Community Wardens. By law all dogs must be microchipped, but this again highlighted the excellent work from Community Wardens and their commitment to animal welfare.
Councillor Skudder – <i>(Cabinet Member for Resources)</i>	As you are aware the Full Council meetings were now in a different venue. The sound quality has hopefully improved and we now have a visible countdown count on speeches. Any feedback from the public and Councillors was important. Please provide this via Democratic Services.

Cabinet Member	Subject
Councillor Mullins – <i>(Cabinet Member for Wellbeing)</i>	<p>The Cabinet Member made two announcements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Crawley Museum was now open. It is a unique space and houses Crawley’s diverse heritage and records the history of the town. 2) The bandstand is also open and looks good in the Memorial Gardens. It will be used for many events including those for Crawley Festival.

15. Questions to Cabinet Members

Name of Councillor asking Question	Name of Cabinet Member Responding
<p>Councillor Crow to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability</p> <p><i>Abandoned trolleys are still within the town however is the Cabinet Member relieved that the summer has been the hottest and driest on record and the grass has stopped growing and turned brown and therefore the grass cutting has been solved by the weather?</i></p>	<p>Councillor Thomas – <i>(Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability)</i></p> <p><i>There has been progress made on abandoned trolleys as the legislation that can be adopted after a period of consultation that if any patch teams identify an abandoned trolley they can return it to the store themselves and charge the store for its return. This process is just being embarked upon. With regards to grass verges clearly there were major challenges with cold/wet weather followed by dry/warm weather that escalated the grass growth. This made it challenging to keep up with grass cutting at the start of the season. Saturday overtime was made available which was beneficial to residents across the town. The Council has committed patch working staff who should be praised for their efforts.</i></p>
<p>Councillor Burrett to the Leader of the Council</p> <p><i>Would Councillor Lamb tell us if he’s concerned that prominent members of his Cabinet appear to give the impression that they don’t know the difference between revenue and capital and what funds what?</i></p>	<p>Councillor Lamb – <i>(Leader of the Council)</i></p> <p><i>You can spend revenue on capital if you really want to. If you have less money, you spend less money and unfortunately this is the current reality.</i></p>

<p>Councillor Guidera to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development</p> <p><i>Are there any signs that the water from the Queen's Square fountains is recycled? Also are there any safeguarding issues?</i></p>	<p>Councillor P Smith – (Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)</p> <p><i>The water does have cleansing agents within it and all the information is documented on the Regenerating Crawley website. Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the appropriate authority as a matter of priority.</i></p>
<p>Councillor Quinn to the Cabinet Member for Resources</p> <p><i>Why are the Cabinet not sitting on the front row of this new venue?</i></p>	<p>Councillor Skudder – (Cabinet Member for Resources).</p> <p><i>If the Cabinet was situated on the front row, their backs would be to everyone. With the current arrangement the Cabinet can see the Group. Please provide any feedback via Democratic Services.</i></p>
<p>Councillor B J Burgess to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability</p> <p><i>How well is patch team working, and should more staff be employed?</i></p>	<p>Councillor Thomas – (Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability).</p> <p><i>The patch teams are currently becoming knowledgeable about their areas but it takes time. Prior there was time being wasted travelling to the depot and various sites, where as now there is greater flexibility. The officers are multi-skilled and they enjoy meeting familiar faces and residents.</i></p>

16. Questions to Committee Chairs

Name of Councillor asking Question	Name of Committee Chair Responding
<p>Councillor B J Burgess to the Chair of the Licensing Committee.</p> <p><i>What lessons would you like to share from the last meeting of the Licensing Committee (which I think you did very well by the way)?</i></p>	<p>Councillor Pickett – (Chair of the Licensing Committee)</p> <p><i>I don't think there are any lessons to share. I anticipated it would be a difficult meeting. As has already been alluded to it was a meeting in public, not a public meeting. I thought it was right out of courtesy to invite the two Chairs of the various hackney carriage associations to speak and</i></p>

	<p><i>the Leader as I thought this would take the heat out of the situation. But communication was important and there was a right time and a wrong time to communicate and express yourself and that was the wrong time.</i></p>
<p>Councillor T Belben to the Chair of the Cabinet</p> <p><i>Would you please assure fellow Councillors that you still believe the recommendation you made to spend Council Tax money to subscribe to the Greater Brighton Economic Board and that it was in the best interests for our residents? As if you think this is fair why were you quoted in the Evening Argus questioning whether Crawley was getting value for money, but also why was the charge levied, referring to an additional charge. Please can you inform us what the exact costs to date are?</i></p>	<p>Councillor Lamb – (Chair of the Cabinet)</p> <p><i>There is an annual fee to pay upon set up and joining. To clarify, I questioned the rates at the meeting and whether they would be reduced. Greater Brighton Economic Board is a positive development for the local area and the town is getting more attention than in the past.</i></p>
<p>Councillor Crow to the Chair of the Governance Committee</p> <p><i>Given the overwhelming response by residents from Tinsley Lane area of Three Bridges to the proposal by the Council to combine Tinsley Lane with Langley Green and then also the draft recommendation of the Boundary Commission that Tinsley Lane is a key part of Three Bridges. Does he now regret his comments at Full Council that Tinsley Lane should be part of Langley Green?</i></p>	<p>Councillor Lunnon – (Chair of the Governance Committee)</p> <p><i>I think at the time, based on assumptions I had, the comments were justified. The Boundary Commission disagreed with the proposal, but they also disagreed with the majority of the recommendations the Conservative Group provided. They disagreed with both of us. I wish we didn't have to go through that process, but thought at the time that was the best proposal for the whole of Crawley.</i></p>

Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Full Council concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.00 pm

C Portal Castro (Mayor)
Mayor

Appendix A - Disclosures of Interests

Disclosures of Interest received from Members in advance of the meeting

Councillor	Item	Meeting & Minute	Type and Nature of Disclosure
Councillor P C Smith	CR/2017/1057/FUL - BCL House, Gatwick Road, Northgate, Crawley	Planning Committee 9 April 2018 – Minute 5, Page 25	Personal Interest – a Local Authority Director of the Manor Royal Business Improvement District
Councillor N J Boxall	To Consider the Expediency of Enforcement and Legal Action in Respect of Unauthorised Alterations to Flint Cottage, Brighton Road, Tilgate, a Grade II Listed Building.	Planning Committee 9 April 2018 – Minute 9, Page 28	Prejudicial Interest – Knows the owner of the property well as a result of previous Council business over a number of years. Councillor Boxall left the meeting before consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion or voting on the item.
Councillor R D Burrett	Broadfield Residents Parking Petition – To have more grass verges for parking at Halley Close, Eddington Hill, Broadfield	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 4 June 2018 – Minute 4, Page 32	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor D Crow	Broadfield Residents Parking Petition – To have more grass verges for parking at Halley Close, Eddington Hill, Broadfield	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 4 June 2018 – Minute 4, Page 32	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor R A Lanzer	Broadfield Residents Parking Petition – To have more grass verges for parking at Halley Close, Eddington Hill, Broadfield	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 4 June 2018 – Minute 4, Page 32	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor T Rana	Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Livery Requirements.	Licensing Committee, 11 June 2018, Minute 3, Page 49	Personal and Prejudicial Interest. Councillor Rana left the Chamber for this item

Cllr S Malik	Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Livery Requirements.	Licensing Committee, 11 June 2018, Minute 3, Page 49	Personal and Prejudicial Interest. Councillor Malik left the Chamber for this item
Councillor R D Burrett	Crawley Growth Programme - Update	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 25 June 2018 – Minute 6, Page 61	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor R A Lanzer	Crawley Growth Programme - Update	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 25 June 2018 – Minute 6, Page 61	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor D Crow	Health and Social Care Select Committee (HASC)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 25 June 2018 – Minute 8, Page 63	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor R D Burrett	Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)	Overview and Scrutiny Commission 25 June 2018 – Minute 8, Page 63	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor R D Burrett	Crawley Growth Programme - Update	Cabinet 27 June 2018 – Minute 8, Page 68	Personal Interest – Member of WSCC
Councillor N J Boxall	CR/2017/1060/FUL - Greensleeves Retirement Home, 15 – 21 Perryfield Road, Southgate, Crawley	Planning Committee 2 July 2018 – , Minute 4, Page74	Prejudicial Interest – Is a close friend of the occupier of a neighbouring property. Councillor Boxall left the meeting before consideration of this item and took no part in the discussion or voting on the item.