

# ***Minutes***



## Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on  
WEDNESDAY, 30 JANUARY, 2019 at 6.00pm

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor L. Scanlan) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Snowdon)

Councillors	Appleby	Fletcher	Marshall	Snowdon, D.E.
	Atkinson	Foster	McClennan	Speding
	Ball	Francis	Miller, F.	Stewart
	Beck	Galbraith	Miller, G.	Taylor
	Bell	Gibson, E.	Mordey	Trueman, D.
	Blackburn	Gibson, P.	Mullen	Trueman, H.
	Blackett	Haswell	O'Brien	Turner
	Chequer	Hodson	Oliver	Tye
	Cunningham	Jackson	O'Neil	Walker, G.
	Curran	Johnston	Porthouse	Waller
	Dixon, M.	Kelly	Rowntree	Williams
	Elliott	Lauchlan	Samuels	Wilson, A.
	English	Lawson	Scullion	Wood, A.
	Essl	Leadbitter	Smith, G.	Wood, K.
	Farthing	MackKnight, N.	Smith, P.	Wood. P.

### Also Present:-

Honorary Aldermen: - R.D. Tate

The notice convening the meeting was read.

### Minutes

36. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 November 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared interests as follows: -

Item 8 (3) – Report of the Cabinet – Review of Library Byelaws	Councillor Mordey	Member of Sunderland Libraries.
Item 10 (i) – Motions of Notice – Period Dignity	Councillor Mordey	Member of Unite the Union.

## **Announcements**

### **(i) Former Council Leader, Robert Symonds**

It was with great sadness that the Mayor reminded Council of the death of former Leader and Councillor, Robert Symonds OBE, who had spent six years as Leader of the Council from May 2002 to May 2008, representing the Town End Farm Ward from 1988 until 2004, when the ward changed to Castle Ward, which he represented until 2010.

### **(ii) Former Councillor, Lord Derek Foster**

The Mayor paid tribute to the service and contribution of Lord Foster, who had first been elected to Sunderland Borough Council in 1972 and then in 1973 elected to serve on Tyne and Wear County Council. Lord Foster became Assistant Director of Education for Sunderland Borough Council from 1974 until his election as MP for Bishop Auckland in 1979.

### **(iii) Former Port of Sunderland Manager, Mr. Frank Major**

The Mayor paid tribute to the service and contribution of Mr Frank Major MBE, who was the former Port of Sunderland Manager, who had recently passed away.

Members and Officers stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the former Leader of the Council, Robert Symonds, Lord Derek Foster and Mr. Frank Major.

## **Reception of Petitions**

37. RESOLVED that the petitions listed below submitted by the Councillors named, be received and referred for consideration in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme: -

Councillor Waller – Petition from residents calling on the Council to install railings around the footpaths on Gleneagles Road at Grindon Infant School in order to improve safety for the children attending there.

Councillor Samuels – Petition from teachers, staff, parents, carers and families of pupils attending English Martyrs R.C. Primary School and residents living in the surrounding area calling on the Council to urgently look to implement road safety measures on Redcar Road.

## **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Davison, D Dixon, Heron, Howe, Hunt, D MacKnight, Scaplehorn, P Walker, Watson and D Wilson, and on behalf of Aldermen Arnott, Forbes and Greenfield.

## **Written Questions under Rule 9**

Pursuant to Rule 9 of the Council Rules of Procedure, the Leader and Members of the Cabinet were asked questions which had been submitted by members of the public.

### **Report of the Cabinet**

The Cabinet reported and recommended as follows: -

#### **1. Council Tax Base 2019-2020**

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services seeking approval to the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2019/2020 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and recommended to Council that: -

- (a) the report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2019/2020 be approved; and
- (b) pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2019/2020, shall be 70,389 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 3,786.

#### **2. Local Council Tax Support Scheme**

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services requesting that the Council continue with its Local Council Tax Support Scheme for the financial year 2019/2020.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to: -

- (i) approve that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, the main features of which were set out at Appendix A to the report, continue to be implemented for the financial year 2019/2020 without revision; and
- (ii) approve that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme be published on the Council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.

#### **3. Review of Library Byelaws**

That they had given consideration to a report of the Executive Director of People Services seeking approval to replace the current Library Byelaws with updated model Byelaws.

Accordingly, the Cabinet recommended the Council to: -

- (i) approve the revised Library Byelaws, which were set out in the Schedule to the report, under section 19 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 and in accordance with the procedure for byelaws as set out in section 235 of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (ii) authorise the Executive Director of People Services and Head of Law and Governance to take all steps in relation thereto.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Mordey, moved the report of the Cabinet.

38. RESOLVED that the report of the Cabinet be approved and adopted.

### **Written Questions under Rule 10.2**

Pursuant to Rule 10.2 of the Council Rules of Procedure, Members of the Council asked questions of the Leader and Members of the Executive.

Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Oliver, moved an extension to the time for responding to written questions.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 13 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Appleby	Haswell	Mullen	Smith, G.
	Blackett	Hodson	O'Brien	Wood, A.
	Dixon, M	Leadbitter	Oliver	Wood, P.
	Francis			

And 48 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Atkinson	Fletcher	McClennan	Speding
	Ball	Foster	Miller, F.	Stewart
	Beck	Galbraith	Miller, G.	Taylor
	Bell	Gibson, E.	Mordey	Trueman, D.
	Blackburn	Gibson, P.	O'Neil	Trueman, H.
	Chequer	Jackson	Porthouse	Turner
	Cunningham	Johnston	Rowntree	Tye
	Curran	Kelly	Samuels	Walker, G.
	Elliott	Lauchlan	Scullion	Waller
	English	Lawson	Smith, P.	Williams
	Essl	MacKnight, N.	Snowdon, D.	Wilson, A.
	Farthing	Marshall	Snowdon, D.E.	Wood, K.

*(Note: Councillor Beck advised the meeting that she had inadvertently voted to abstain and asked that her vote be recorded as "against" in respect of the motion to extend the time for responding to written questions.)*

## **Notices of Motion**

### **(i) Period Dignity**

Councillor Chequer, duly seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved the following motion:-

“Periods are natural and female health is important; neither should be taboo subjects, in this council chamber or anywhere else. Having a period should not be considered a luxury as it is not a choice but a decades-long and expensive reality of being a woman.

Everyone who needs sanitary products – including tampons, towels, pads, and other items – should have access to them.

In recognising this basic right this Council notes that:

- One in 10 girls and women aged 14-21 are unable to afford sanitary products.
- Almost 140,000 girls and young women, particularly amongst girls who are in receipt of Free School Meals, have missed school in the UK the last year because they cannot afford to buy sanitary products.
- 91% of girls and young women say that they have been asked to buy a pad or tampon for a friend.

This council therefore agrees to work with its Partners to ensure that nobody in Sunderland suffers through:

- provision of free sanitary products for all who need them in all civic buildings at the earliest opportunity
- local schools, including primary schools given the increasing number of girls beginning their periods as early as age 8, maintaining a provision of sanitary products for pupils
- local employers being encouraged to provide them on site for staff and visitors.”

The motion having been unanimously agreed it was:-

39. RESOLVED that:-

Periods are natural and female health is important; neither should be taboo subjects, in this council chamber or anywhere else. Having a period should not be considered a luxury as it is not a choice but a decades-long and expensive reality of being a woman.

Everyone who needs sanitary products – including tampons, towels, pads, and other items – should have access to them.

In recognising this basic right this Council notes that:

- One in 10 girls and women aged 14-21 are unable to afford sanitary products.

- Almost 140,000 girls and young women, particularly amongst girls who are in receipt of Free School Meals, have missed school in the UK the last year because they cannot afford to buy sanitary products.
- 91% of girls and young women say that they have been asked to buy a pad or tampon for a friend.

This council therefore agrees to work with its Partners to ensure that nobody in Sunderland suffers through:

- provision of free sanitary products for all who need them in all civic buildings at the earliest opportunity
- local schools, including primary schools given the increasing number of girls beginning their periods as early as age 8, maintaining a provision of sanitary products for pupils
- local employers being encouraged to provide them on site for staff and visitors.

## **(ii) Justice for Orgreave Miners**

Councillor Johnston, duly seconded by Councillor Cunningham moved the following motion:-

“Sunderland City Council believes that issues relating to events at the picketing of Orgreave on 18 June 1984 are of both local and national importance.

In Sunderland, miners and their families were adversely affected by the events of that day in terms of wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, ill-health, family breakdown and termination of employment and as a direct result of policing tactics at Orgreave. A full investigation into the military style policing used on that day is long overdue and only a full public inquiry can fully investigate this.

Sunderland City Council therefore calls on the Home Secretary to order a full public inquiry into the deployment and actions of the police on 18 June 1984, and to hold meaningful discussions with the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, The NUM and concerned MPs.”

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared to be carried with 56 Members voting in favour: -

Councillors	Appleby	Fletcher	Marshall	Snowdon, D.E.
	Atkinson	Foster	McClennan	Speding
	Ball	Galbraith	Miller, F.	Stewart
	Beck	Gibson, E.	Miller, G.	Taylor
	Bell	Gibson, P.	Morley	Trueman, D.
	Blackburn	Haswell	O'Brien	Trueman, H.
	Chequer	Hodson	O'Neil	Turner
	Cunningham	Jackson	Porthouse	Tye
	Curran	Johnston	Rowntree	Walker, G.
	Dixon, M.	Kelly	Samuels	Waller
	Elliott	Lauchlan	Scullion	Williams
	English	Lawson	Smith, G.	Wilson, A.



Essl  
Farthing

Leadbitter  
MacKnight, N.

Smith, P.  
Snowdon, D.

Wood, A.  
Wood, K.

4 Members voting against: -

Councillors Francis

Mullen

Oliver

Wood, P.

And 1 Member abstaining: -

Councillor Blackett

Accordingly, it was:-

40. RESOLVED that:-

Sunderland City Council believes that issues relating to events at the picketing of Orgreave on 18 June 1984 are of both local and national importance.

In Sunderland, miners and their families were adversely affected by the events of that day in terms of wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, ill-health, family breakdown and termination of employment and as a direct result of policing tactics at Orgreave. A full investigation into the military style policing used on that day is long overdue and only a full public inquiry can fully investigate this.

Sunderland City Council therefore calls on the Home Secretary to order a full public inquiry into the deployment and actions of the police on 18 June 1984, and to hold meaningful discussions with the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, The NUM and concerned MPs.

### **(iii) Condition of the City Centre**

Councillor Oliver, duly seconded by Councillor Wood, P. moved the following motion:-

“This Council recognises the frustration of residents in the City at the condition of the city centre, compared to other towns and cities, and resolves to bring forward ambitious plans to breathe new life into it in 2019.”

The motion having been unanimously agreed it was:-

41. RESOLVED that:-

This Council recognises the frustration of residents in the City at the condition of the city centre, compared to other towns and cities, and resolves to bring forward ambitious plans to breathe new life into it in 2019.

**(iv) Commemorating Sunderland's Past with Blue Plaques**

The Mayor advised that the above motion submitted by Members of the Majority Party in Opposition had been withdrawn.

**(v) The Council Buffet or: How I Learned to Stop Troughing and Love the Packed Lunch**

Councillor Hodson, duly seconded by Councillor O'Brien moved the following motion:-

"This Council recognises that residents of Sunderland feel the provision of meals to Councillors after meetings is not a justifiable use of taxpayers' money.

Accordingly, Council resolves to end the provision of meals after meetings for Councillors and their guests, and scrap the facility for Councillors to make subsistence expenses claims in cases other than an overnight stay."

Councillor Oliver, duly seconded by Councillor Mullen, moved the following amendment to the motion:-

Insert the word 'some' after 'recognises that'

Insert 'of the Full Council' after 'meetings'

Insert 'free' after 'provision of'

Insert 'of the Full Council' after 'meetings'

And after 'guests' insert 'or introduce a facility for Councillors to pay'

So that the amended motion would read:-

"This Council recognises that some residents of Sunderland feel the provision of free meals to Councillors after meetings of the Full Council is not a justifiable use of taxpayers' money.

Accordingly, Council resolves to end the provision of free meals after meetings of the Full Council for Councillors and their guests or introduce a facility for Councillors to pay and scrap the facility for Councillors to make subsistence claims in cases other than an overnight stay."

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated with 13 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Appleby	Haswell	Mullen	Smith, G.
	Blackett	Hodson	O'Brien	Wood, A.
	Dixon, M.	Leadbitter	Oliver	Wood, P.
	Francis			

And 48 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Fletcher	McClennan	Speding
	Ball	Foster	Miller, F.	Stewart
	Beck	Galbraith	Miller, G.	Taylor
	Bell	Gibson, E.	Mordey	Trueman, D.
	Blackburn	Gibson, P.	O'Neil	Trueman, H.
	Chequer	Jackson	Porthouse	Turner
	Cunningham	Johnston	Rowntree	Tye
	Curran	Kelly	Samuels	Walker, G.
	Elliott	Lauchlan	Scullion	Waller
	English	Lawson	Smith, P.	Williams
	Essl	MacKnight, N.	Snowdon, D.	Wilson, A.
	Farthing	Marshall	Snowdon, D.E.	Wood, K.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and was defeated with 13 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Appleby	Haswell	Mullen	Smith, G.
	Blackett	Hodson	O'Brien	Wood, A.
	Dixon, M.	Leadbitter	Oliver	Wood, P.
	Francis			

46 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Galbraith	Miller, G.	Stewart
	Ball	Gibson, E.	Mordey	Taylor
	Beck	Gibson, P.	O'Neil	Trueman, D.
	Bell	Jackson	Porthouse	Trueman, H.
	Blackburn	Johnston	Rowntree	Turner
	Chequer	Kelly	Samuels	Tye
	Cunningham	Lauchlan	Scullion	Walker, G.
	Curran	Lawson	Smith, P.	Waller
	Elliott	MacKnight, N.	Snowdon, D.	Williams
	Essl	Marshall	Snowdon, D.E.	Wilson, A.
	Fletcher	McClennan	Speding	Wood, K.
	Foster	Miller, F.		

And 1 Member abstaining:-

Councillor	English
------------	---------

## **Report on Special Urgency Decisions**

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report on executive decisions which had been taken as a matter of special urgency, which advised that there were no such instances since the last report.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Mordey, moved the report and accordingly, it was:-

42. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Declaration of Vacancy – Washington South Ward**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report which requested the Council to note that Mr Paul Middleton ceased to be a Councillor by virtue of his absence and to formally declare a vacancy in the Washington South Ward.

Under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, if a Councillor fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he/she shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by Council before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.

Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires an authority to declare a vacancy in such circumstances.

Mr Middleton last attended a meeting of the Council on 6 June 2018. There was no record of Mr Middleton attending a meeting between 7 June and 6 December 2018. Within that period Council had not given its approval to any reason for failure to attend and therefore Mr Middleton ceased to be a Councillor by virtue of section 85 of the Act.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Mordey, moved the report and accordingly, it was:-

43. RESOLVED that the Council note that Mr Middleton had ceased to be a member of the authority by virtue of his absence and declare the seat in the Washington South Ward to be vacant.

### **Appointments to Outside Bodies**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report which requested the Council to consider appointments and nominations to a number of committees, boards and outside bodies.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Miller, duly seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Mordey, moved the report and accordingly, it was:-

44. RESOLVED that: -

- (i) Councillor Mordey be appointed as the substitute Member in place of Councillor Waller on the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee;
- (ii) The appointments of the Leader of the Council as the Deputy NECA Representative for the Transport for the North Board and of the Deputy

Leader of the Council as the NECA Representative for the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee be noted;

- (iii) The existing Council board representatives on Siglion LLP; namely the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Economy and Place, be appointed to the board of directors of Siglion Newco Ltd; and
- (iv) The appointment of the Portfolio Holder for Children, Learning and Skills on the Board of Sunderland College, be noted.

(Signed) L. SCANLAN,  
Mayor.

