

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At an Extraordinary meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held remotely on
WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2020 at 4.00pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor David Snowdon) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor H. Trueman)

Councillors	Armstrong	Gibson, E.	McClennan	Speding
	Atkinson	Gibson, P.	McDonough	Stewart
	Bewick	Greener	McKeith	Taylor
	Blackett	Haswell	Miller, F.	Thornton
	Butler	Hunt	Miller, G.	Trueman, D.
	Chequer	Heron	Mordey	Turner
	Crosby	Hodson	Mullen	Tye
	Cunningham	Jackson	O'Brien	Walker, G.
	Davison	Jenkins	Oliver	Walker, P.
	Dixon, D.	Johnston	Potts	Waller
	Dixon, M.	Kelly	Rowntree	Watson
	Doyle	Lauchlan	Samuels	Williams
	Fagan	Lawson	Scanlan	Wood, A.
	Farthing	MackKnight, D.	Scaplehorn	Wood, K.
	Fletcher	MackKnight, N.	Smith, G.	Wood, P.
	Foster	Mann	Smith, P.	
	Francis	Marshall	Snowdon, D. E.	

The notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

60. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 March 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of interest was made: -

Councillor N. MacKnight	Item 7 – Approval of Reason for Absence from Meetings	Relative of a Councillor named in the report
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Announcements

It was with great sadness that the Mayor informed Council of the death of former Councillor, Margaret Beck.

The Mayor invited Council to join him in partaking in a minute's silence as a mark of respect for their former colleague and all those in the city who had lost family members and loved ones as a result of the COVID - 19 pandemic.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Blackburn, Essl, Howe, Leadbitter, A. Wilson and D. Wilson together with Aldermen Arnott, Forbes, Greenfield and Tate.

Covid-19 Verbal Update from the Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holders

The Mayor invited the Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holders to provide an update and PowerPoint presentation to the Council on how the Council had been operating during the Covid-19 pandemic.

61. RESOLVED that the update from the Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holders be received and noted.

Approval of Reason for Absence from Meetings

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report which sought the approval of Council, under Section 85 Local Government Act 1972, to the absence of Members from Meetings.

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

62. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the absence of Councillors Scaplehorn and D. MacKnight from meetings due to ill health be noted, and, in accordance with section 85 Local Government Act 1972 (the Act), the reason for their absence from meetings be approved, such approval to apply up to and including 30 November 2020 and
- b) also in accordance with section 85 of the Act, the absence of any other Member who does not attend a meeting during a period of six consecutive months be approved in circumstances where either:
 - i) no meeting was held between the Council meetings of 10 June and 17 November 2020 of either Council, or a committee, sub-committee or other body to which they had been appointed by the Council or,
 - ii) where any meeting or meetings referred to in paragraph 3.1.2.1 of the report is, or are, convened, the member does not attend the meeting or meetings as a result of illness, or being unable to connect to, and participate remotely in, the meeting or meetings; such approval, in respect of absences referred to in paragraph 3.1.2 of the report, to apply up to and including 18 November 2020, and
- c) any member who wishes to rely on the approval for absence referred to in 3.1.2 of the report notifies the monitoring officer of the reason for their non-attendance at a meeting that they would otherwise have been able to attend.

Council Diary – Dates and Times of Meetings

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report on the draft diary of meetings for 2020-2021 for Council's consideration and agreement.

Council noted that with regard to ordinary Council meetings, depending upon Government guidelines, it might be some time before the Council was able to hold such meetings other than remotely, with the associated challenges of conducting formal business with a large number of participants connecting to the meeting from a variety of locations, and with a variety of electronic devices. It was therefore proposed that ordinary meetings, with the full range of agenda items normally considered at such meetings, did not commence before November 2020.

Prior to that date, subject to the guidelines prevailing at the time, it was intended that an extraordinary meeting or meetings be held during September 2020 in order to appoint the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor and if necessary, to consider any other matters of Council business which required determination prior to the November meeting.

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

Councillor Doyle, duly seconded by Councillor Hodson moved the following amendment:-

"That all meetings of the Planning and Highways (East) Committee be held at 5.30pm."

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was defeated with 22 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Armstrong	Fagan	Mann	Potts
	Bewick	Francis	McDonough	Smith, G.
	Blackett	Greener	McKeith	Wood, A.
	Crosby	Haswell	Mullen	Wood, P.
	Dixon, M.	Hodson	O'Brien	
	Doyle	Jenkins	Oliver	

43 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Heron	Mordey	Trueman, D.
	Butler	Johnston	Rowntree	Trueman, H.
	Chequer	Kelly	Samuels	Turner
	Cunningham	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Tye
	Davison	Lawson	Scaplehorn	Walker, G.
	Dixon, D.	MackKnight, D.	Smith, P.	Walker, P.
	Farthing	MackKnight, N.	Snowdon, D. E.	Waller
	Fletcher	Marshall	Speding	Watson
	Foster	McClennan	Stewart	Williams
	Gibson, E.	Miller, F.	Taylor	Wood, K.
	Gibson, P.	Miller, G.	Thornton	

And 2 Members abstaining,
Councillors Jackson and D. Snowdon

The substantive recommendation that Council approve the Diary of meetings was then put to the vote, with 44 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Hunt	Rowntree	Turner
	Butler	Johnston	Samuels	Tye
	Chequer	Kelly	Scanlan	Walker, G.
	Cunningham	Lauchlan	Scaplehorn	Walker, P.
	Davison	Lawson	Smith, P.	Waller
	Dixon, D.	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon, D. E.	Watson
	Farthing	MacKnight, N.	Speding	Williams
	Fletcher	Marshall	Stewart	Wood, K.
	Foster	McClennan	Taylor	
	Gibson, E.	Miller, F.	Thornton	
	Gibson, P.	Miller, G.	Trueman, D.	
	Heron	Mordey	Truman, H.	

20 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Bewick	Francis	Mann	Oliver
	Blackett	Greener	McDonough	Potts
	Crosby	Haswell	McKeith	Smith, G.
	Doyle	Hodson	Mullen	Wood, A.
	Fagan	Jenkins	O'Brien	Wood, P.

And 3 Members abstaining

Councillors Armstrong, Jackson and D. Snowdon

Accordingly it was: -

63. RESOLVED that :-

- i) the diary of meetings be approved,
- ii) the intention to hold an extraordinary meeting or meetings during September 2020, at a date or dates to be set by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor, in order to appoint the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor and to consider any other matters, that in the interests of the efficient conduct of Council business, require determination prior to the ordinary meeting scheduled for November 2020, be noted and
- iii) the Assistant Director of Law and Governance be authorised to change the dates and times of meetings in consultation with the relevant Chair, and to cancel meetings.

Review of Temporary Delegations to Officers

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report informing Council that at its meeting on 25 March 2020, in view of the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, Council agreed that non-executive functions that ordinarily would be determined by a Committee or Sub-Committee, would be determined by the appropriate Chief Officer, in consultation, so far as reasonably practicable, with the relevant Chair. It was also agreed that these arrangements would be subject to review at the next Council meeting.

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

In moving the report, the Leader of the Council advised that he wished to amend 4.1.4 of the recommendations to provide that the delegations would be reviewed again at an extraordinary meeting to be held in September, if they have not been discontinued beforehand and moved that 4.1.4 of the recommendation be amended accordingly.

The proposed amendment to recommendation 4.1.4 was unanimously agreed.

Councillor Hodson, duly seconded by Councillor Oliver moved the following amendment:-

- “In recommendation 4.1.1, after the words ‘any matter normally determined by the Committee of Sub-Committee’ insert ‘where it relates to the Council’s response to the covid-19 pandemic,’
- In recommendation 4.1.2, insert at the end: ‘which relate to the Council’s response to the covid-19 pandemic,’
- In recommendation 4.1.3, delete the words ‘the relevant Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chair,’ and insert: ‘the relevant Chief Officer, in consultation with the members of the Committee,’

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was defeated with 21 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Armstrong	Francis	McDonough	Smith, G.
	Bewick	Greener	McKeith	Wood, A.
	Blackett	Haswell	Mullen	Wood, P.
	Crosby	Hodson	O'Brien Oliver	
	Doyle	Jenkins	Potts	
	Fagan	Mann		

44 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Heron	Miller, G.	Thornton
	Butler	Jackson	Mordey	Trueman, D.
	Chequer	Johnston	Rowntree	Trueman, H.
	Cunningham	Kelly	Samuels	Turner
	Davison	Lauchlan	Scanlan	Tye
	Dixon, D.	Lawson	Scaplehorn	Walker, G.
	Farthing	MacKnight, D	Smith, P	Walker, P
	Fletcher	MacKnight, N	Snowdon, D E	Waller
	Foster	Marshall	Speding	Watson
	Gibson, E	McClennan	Stewart	Williams
	Gibson, P	Miller, F	Taylor	Wood, K

And 1 Members abstaining, Councillor D. Snowdon

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and was agreed with 43 Members voting in favour:-

Councillors	Atkinson	Johnston	Samuels	Tye
	Butler	Kelly	Scanlan	Walker,
	Chequer	Lauchlan	Scaplehorn	G.Walker, P.
	Cunningham	Lawson	Smith, P.	Waller
	Davison	MacKnight, D.	Snowdon, D. E.	Watson
	Dixon, D.	MacKnight, N.	Speding	Williams
	Farthing	Marshall	Stewart	Wood, K.
	Fletcher	McClennan	Taylor	
	Foster	Miller, F.	Thornton	
	Gibson, E.	Miller, G.	Trueman, D.	
	Gibson, P.	Mordey	Trueman, H.	
	Heron	Rowntree	Turner	

20 Members voting against:-

Councillors	Armstrong	Fagan	Mann	Oliver
	Bewick	Francis	McDonough	Potts
	Blackett	Haswell	McKeith	Smith, G.
	Crosby	Hodson	Mullen	Wood, A.
	Doyle	Jenkins	O'Brien	Wood, P.

And 1 Members abstaining, Councillor D. Snowdon

Accordingly, it was :-

64. RESOLVED that:-

- i) Chief Officers, in respect of those areas for which they have managerial or professional responsibility, be authorised to determine, in consultation with the Chair of the relevant Committee or Sub-Committee, whether the Chief Officer or relevant Committee or Sub-Committee will determine

any matter normally determined by the Committee or Sub-Committee, in accordance with the arrangements set out in the report,

- ii) subject to i) above, to the extent permitted by law, the relevant Chief Officer with professional or managerial responsibility for the function concerned, be authorised to determine matters normally determined by a Committee or Sub-Committee,
- iii) the relevant Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to determine the procedure to be followed at a remote meeting including, in respect of those Committees or Sub-Committees where ordinarily members of the public or other parties would have the opportunity to address the Committee or Sub-Committee verbally, to determine whether such arrangements be put in place,
- iv) in respect of the matters referred to in i) to iii) above, the delegations would be reviewed again at an extraordinary meeting to be held in September, if they had not been discontinued beforehand, and
- v) the Assistant Director of Law and Governance be authorised to include a provision in the Constitution to the effect that where a particular function under legislation was to be carried out by an officer authorised, appointed or designated by the Council to undertake the function concerned, the Chief Executive and/or other Chief Officer with professional or managerial responsibility for the relevant function or service area concerned, may authorise, appoint or designate such officers.

Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report which sought approval to note the decision of the Leader of the Council on the appointments to the Cabinet and the portfolio responsibilities and to note the appointment of Deputy Cabinet Members. In accordance with legislation introduced as a result of the current pandemic, existing appointments to committees etc. were carried forward unless Council decided otherwise. The report detailed proposed changes to a number of committees and outside bodies that would otherwise continue under the “carry-forward” arrangements.

In addition, it was noted that at Council on 25 March, authority was granted to the Chief Executive to implement changes in respect of the new Planning and Highways Committees and the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, which came into effect on 20 May 2020. Those appointments were listed within the report for the Council to note.

It was also noted that a full list of appointments to committees and outside bodies would be circulated to Members for information, following the meeting.

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

65. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the decision of the Leader on the appointments to the Cabinet and the portfolio responsibilities aligned to the Council's City Plan and also the appointment of deputy cabinet members be noted;
- (ii) the composition of the Planning and Highways Committees and the Licensing and Regulatory Committee under the delegation to the Chief Executive approved at the last Council meeting, be noted;
- (iii) the changes required to the Standards Committee and the Joint Consultative Committee as a result of the review of the political balance allocation of seats on committees detailed at paragraph 4.1 of the report be noted;
- (iv) the appointments to the Committees and Outside Bodies detailed in paragraphs 5.1 and 6.1 of the report; be approved and
- (v) the changes made by the Leader to appointments to bodies established under Joint Arrangements detailed at paragraph 7.1 of the report, be noted.

(Signed) D. SNOWDON,
Mayor.