

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2022/2023

7TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Present - Councillors Zaman (Mayor), Mrs. Thomas (Deputy Mayor), Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

25. PETITION

A petition was received requesting that the new Thomasson Memorial School be built now and was referred to the Director of Children's Services.

26. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 27th July 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**27. POLICY FRAMEWORK – DRAFT GAMBLING ACT 2005
'STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES'**

It was moved by Councillor Khurram, seconded by Councillor Dean -

That the draft Gambling Act 2005 'Statement of Principles', as now circulated, be approved and replace the current 'Statement of Principles' which were approved in 2019.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 50 viz:

Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

28. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Khurram and agreed –

That the following appointments and changes in membership be approved:-

1. That Councillor McGeown replace Councillor Priest on the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
2. That Councillor Patel be nominated to replace Councillor Eckersley-Fallon on the Bolton at Home Board

29. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)

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The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(a) –

- (i) by Councillor Newall relating to the Disabled Facilities Grant

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor McKeon relating to SATs, GCSEs, Btecs and A Level Results

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor Peel relating to Voter ID

The Chief Executive replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor Mort relating to fly tipping

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Murray relating to the former Great Lever Library

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Donaghy relating to the future use of Westhoughton Town Hall

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to the Hulton Park planning application

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (viii) A comment by Councillor Hayes relating to the

Council's Standing Orders

The Chief Executive replied to this comment.

- (ix) by Councillor McGeown relating to the collection of excess recycle waste

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Service Delivery replied to this question.

- (x) by Councillor Mrs. Thomas relating to accrued debt in Adult Social Care

The Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care replied to this question.

- (xi) by Councillor Hornby relating to Little Lever Health Centre

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Hornby relating to the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xiii) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to litter bins

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Service Delivery replied to this question.

- (xiv) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to nature reserves

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Service Delivery replied to this question.

- (xv) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to historical sex abuse issues

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

30. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Peel and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21st July and 18 August 2022 be approved.

31. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Khurram, seconded by Councillor Cowen and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 12th July and 16th August 2022 be approved.

32. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Councillor Grant and agreed –

That the minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be approved:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee – 25th July and 22nd August 2022

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – 20th July 2022

Place Scrutiny Committee – 28th July and 23rd August 2022

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 26th July and

24th August 2022

**33. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –
LEASEHOLD REFORMS**

It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Wright -

I ask this council to request that a letter is sent to our 3 elected MPs and the government requesting:

1. That the Government
 - a. Delivers the leasehold reforms that were promised (but continually delayed) and that they include the online calculator for lease extensions and enfranchisement as soon as possible.,
 - b. Prevents the sector from fixing capitalisation rates at a low rate in the calculation as this will push up the cost for the leaseholder
 - c. speeds up progress on other reforms that the Law Commission worked on - such as Right to Manage and commonhold as this will address the abuses that we see today with service charges and insurance commissions, and,
 - d. implements planning policy changes to ensure councils adopt the estates residents live on in full, to stop developers creating what we call “fleecehold” where fees are typically secured by a rent charge which means if residents fall into default on those fees the property can be converted from freehold to leasehold again and so the cycle begins again.
2. Furthermore, this council resolves that it will no longer sell its reversionary freehold or leasehold interests to 3rd parties without offering the first refusal to the existing leaseholder at fair value.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 49 viz:

Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Challenger, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**34. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –
PROPOSED RISES IN ENERGY CAPS**

It was moved by Councillor Veevers and seconded by Councillor Priest -

Council notes that if the proposed rises in energy caps take place many more Bolton residents will be forced into extreme fuel poverty and choosing between turning their heating off and doing without food and other essentials.

Council condemns the potential rises as a major risk to the health and wellbeing of those who are vulnerable and suffer from ill health.

Council urges the Borough's MPs to support calls for the recall of Parliament to vote for

- a) Cancellation of the rises in the fuel cap; and

- b) Introduction of windfall taxes on the excessive profits of energy and fuel companies.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 50 viz:

Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

35. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – CURRENT ENERGY BILLS CRISIS

It was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Jiva
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This Council believes that the current energy bills crisis is causing serious financial hardship for the people of the Bolton Borough, and all future projections point to an even bleaker future. This is not only adding to the severe cost of living crisis, but is also a major cause of the sharp rise in inflation. This is a national emergency.

Council believes that the help offered so far by the Government is inadequate and pitiful, and that they are clearly putting the profits of oil and gas giants before the wellbeing of the public.

Oil and gas company giants are making eye watering profits, directly from the pockets of struggling households, despite their previous dire warnings of a sharp drop in profits. This council believes that they are not playing their fair and affordable part in ensuring that energy bills remain as low as possible. Therefore Council fundamentally supports the policy of additional tax on these companies to be used to cancel the Energy Price Cap rise. Council notes that this targeted tax can raise £29 billion pounds in order to save the average family £1000 this winter.

Council notes that cancelling the Price Cap would bring inflation down by an estimated 4%, thus making future interest rates rises less likely, as well as boosting consumer spending power

In addition, Council believes that the Government needs to urgently address the longer term problems through a Warm Homes Plan that would see the insulation of 19 million homes over the next decade, which again would lead to a reduction in energy costs as well as making a significant contribution to achieving our carbon emissions target. Further, we believe that a planned and sustained policy of securing our countries energy needs should be pursued as a matter of priority, through investment in British sustainable energy sources, that will bring stability to the energy sector in the long term.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 49 viz:

Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe,

Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

36. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

It was moved by Councillor Heslop and seconded by Councillor Newall -

The national Council Tax Benefit Scheme was abolished on 1st April 2013 to be replaced by the local Council Tax Support Scheme. For some of the least well-off in this borough including low-paid workers, carers and the disabled, the former paid all of the Council Tax due. The current scheme which was devised by this Council now requires that all liable non-pensionable-age Council Tax payers contribute at least 17.5% towards the Council Tax - the minimum currently being £170.99 per year for a single person in a Band A property. Entitlement to help under the Council Tax Support Scheme is withdrawn for non-pensionable-age residents if the householders' savings exceed £3,000 which means that many older people who are under age 66 could be excluded for simply having a small financial safety-net in their old age.

This Council acknowledges that the reduction in help with Council Tax for residents has in large part been due to central government limiting the amount that it sends to Councils to administer the scheme.

In Greater Manchester, the savings limit that triggers no entitlement to help varies from: Bolton £3,000, Stockport £8,000, Wigan £12,000 and the remaining seven Councils £16,000.

One Council in Greater Manchester looks at limiting the level of support based on only Band A levels of Council Tax but does not insist that householders pay a minimum amount to the Council Tax. Another Council gives extra help for those with children under five.

Trafford Council has looked at the percentage of available income that the resident should contribute towards their Council Tax. Trafford expects householders to pay 30% of their excess income compared to 20% by the other authorities. On the face of it, Trafford may appear to provide less help but it should be noted that many of their least well-off do not pay – the financial support that they receive only reduces with increased income over and above a minimum income level.

This Council accepts that within Greater Manchester, this borough's scheme is one of the simplest. However, it also accepts that it may also be the most unfair – particularly for the least well-off.

This Council agrees to

1. ask officers to consider alternatives to the current Council Tax Support Scheme by reference to other schemes in Greater Manchester with emphasis on helping the least well-off, and,
2. call an urgent PDG to consider the alternatives identified by officers referred to above.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 46 viz:

Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders,

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Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh,
Warren, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.45 p.m.)