

FULL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 8 October 2024 at 7.30 pm

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

The following papers have been published for the above meeting.
They were not available when the agenda was originally published.

Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Pages 3 - 6)

To confirm as being a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Full Council held on 9 July 2024 and the extraordinary meeting held on 9 September 2024, and for them to be signed by the Chair.

Note: minutes amended since first publication.

9. QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER AND LEAD MEMBERS (Pages 7 - 8)

To receive the answers to questions submitted to the Leader and Lead Members.

Note: response to question 16, which was listed as to follow, is provided.

11. MOTIONS (Pages 9 - 16)

To consider any Motions submitted under Council Procedure 11.

Note: the Chair of the Council will accept these motions as urgent business because of special circumstances in accordance with S100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, namely that the motions were submitted in accordance with the council's procedure rules and erroneously not listed on the original agenda.

General Enquiries: Please contact the Committee Team at
committeeteam@threerivers.gov.uk

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Three Rivers House
Northway
Rickmansworth
Herts WD3 1RL

Full Council MINUTES

Of an extraordinary meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth WD3 1RL, on Monday, 9 September 2024 from 7.00 - 7.21 pm

Present: Councillors:

Christopher Alley, Oliver Cooper, Harry Davies, Andrea Fraser, Elinor Gazzard, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Philip Hearn, Lisa Hudson, Keith Martin Chris Lloyd, David Major, Abbas Merali, Chris Mitchell, Debbie Morris, Ian Morris, Sarah Nelmes, Louise Price, Kevin Raeburn, Reena Ranger, Ciaran Reed, Andrew Scarth, Narinder Sian, Mike Sims, Tom Smith, Jonathon Solomons, Cheryl Stungo, Jon Tankard, Chris Whately-Smith and Anne Winter

Officers in Attendance:

Anita Hibbs, Committee Officer
Sharon Keenlyside, Interim Senior Committee Officer
Stephen Rix, Associate Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)
Matthew Stickley, Interim Group Manager – Democratic and Electoral Services
Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive

14 TO CHOOSE A MEMBER TO PRESIDE IF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR BE ABSENT

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, it was moved by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes that Councillor Keith Martin take the chair and preside over the meeting.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Keith Martin take the chair for the duration of the meeting.

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sara Bedford, Stephen Cox, Rue Grewal, Tony Humphreys, Raj Khiroya, Joan King, and Stephen King.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

There were no announcements.

18a SUSPENSION OF PROCEDURE RULES

Council considered the suspension of its procedure rules to allow for the transaction of business at item 5b, namely the election of a Leader, Deputy Leader, and Lead Members of the Council, and then the election of members to these roles.

Members discussed the fact that the proposals represented the Liberal Democrat group's proposals for the formation of an administration, the proposals to increase the size of the Policy and Resources Committee, the number of Lead Members, and that the proposals for the number of lead members had not changed from those adopted at the annual meeting on 21 May 2024.

The recommendations of the report were moved by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes.

RESOLVED: To suspend the procedure rules in accordance with rule 32.

18b APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER, DEPUTY LEADER, AND LEAD MEMBERS

Council considered proposed appointments to the positions of Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Members.

Members discussed the number of lead members, the size of the Policy and Resources Committee, and the proposed allocation of two independent members to the Audit Committee.

The recommendations of the report were moved by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes.

RESOLVED: To agree the existing appointments of the Leader, Deputy Leader and Lead Members as set out at Appendix A to the report:

- a. Leader of the Council: Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
- b. Deputy Leader of the Council: Councillor Sarah Nelmes
- c. Lead Members:
 - i. Resources: Councillor Jonathon Solomons
 - ii. Infrastructure and Economic Development: Councillor Louise Price
 - iii. General Public Services: Councillor Sarah Nelmes
 - iv. Housing and Public Health: Councillor Steve Drury
 - v. Leisure: Councillor Chris Lloyd
 - vi. Community Safety and Partnerships: Councillor Andrew Scarth
 - vii. Sustainability and Climate Change: Councillor Jon Tankard

19 COMMITTEE SIZES, SEATS, CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

Council debated the changes to committee sizes, the allocation of seats to independent members, and membership of the Local Area Fora.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the establishment of the committees, sub-committees, and other bodies, and proportionality thereof, as set out at Appendix A.
2. To approve the appointments of the Chairs and Vice Chairs as set out at Appendix B.
3. To approve the appointments of members to committees, sub-committees, and other bodies as set out at Appendix B.
4. To agree that where there are any outstanding places the relevant political group may give written notice to the Monitoring Officer of their appointments 10 clear days before the relevant committee is due to meet.
5. To agree that the political groups may notify the Monitoring Officer of any in-year changes to committee membership by giving written notice 10 clear days before the relevant committee is due to meet.
6. To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to fill any vacant seats reserved for co-opted members, be they unfilled by Council or made vacant through resignation, following the normal recruitment processes for those roles and subject to consultation with the Chair of the relevant committee and the Leaders of the political groups.
7. To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential changes to the constitution arising out of this report, such as changes to committee names, size, procedures, and removal of reference to committees not established.

20 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Council considered proposals to appoint to outside bodies.

The recommendations of the report were moved by Councillor Steven Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes subject to the inclusion of Councillor Andrea Fraser as a member of the Environmental Forum.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the appointments to outside bodies and internal bodies as set out at Appendix A subject to the inclusion of Councillor Andrea Fraser as a member of the Environmental Forum.
2. To agree that where there are any outstanding places the relevant political group may give written notice to the Monitoring Officer of their appointments.
3. To agree that the political groups may notify the Monitoring Officer of any in-year changes to outside body membership by giving written notice.
4. To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential changes to the constitution arising out of this report.

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**16. Question from Councillor Chris Alley to the Lead Member for
Community Safety:**

In response to recent crimes and the release of thousands of criminals on to our streets by the Labour government, will TRDC increase resources for more CCTV in areas such as Delta Gain and South Oxhey?

Written response:

We continue to work closely as a Community Safety Partnership to review the situation in Three Rivers District. With regard to the deployment of CCTV, we have recently applied for Community Infrastructure Levy funding to purchase 8 new CCTV Cameras. CCTV is deployed to areas of the district whereby there is hotspot issues. Several of our shops across the district have issues with shoplifters and the Police have a specialised team managing this, including giving advice, patrol plans, organising furniture within shops and the use of a number of disruption methods.

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Proposed by Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Cllr Chris Lloyd

Council recognises the importance and significance of Oxhey Jets Football Club (OJFC) not only for South Oxhey but the wider Three Rivers community. Council reaffirms its commitment to retain OJFC on its current site and the continued support from Three Rivers Council in that endeavour and thanks TRDC officers for their hard work in supporting OJFC.

Council agrees that TRDC will continue to press HCC for clarity on their future intentions for the now closed 3G pitch, grassed areas and woodland area which falls outside of the lease negotiations with Oxhey Jets.

Council is of the view strategic planning of this site should be for the benefit of South Oxhey residents by enhancing its leisure provision and notes that the emerging local plan protects that area for such use.

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Proposed by Cllr Chris Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Anne Winter

Council notes with concern:

1. The increased use of vaping products by children in the UK. Recent data from the ASH Smokefree GB Youth Survey 2022 found that the prevalence of vaping amongst 11–18-year-olds is increasing – from 4% in 2021 to 8.6% in 2022 – and a significant number of children buy these vaping products directly from newsagents or supermarkets.
2. The increased number of local authorities who have recently had to take enforcement activity against shops illegally selling vaping products to youngsters.
3. The marketing of certain vaping products – with bright coloured packaging and flavours such as bubble gum – that might appeal to children.
4. The significant increase in availability of disposable and single-use vaping products which are cheaper and easier for children to access.
5. The high volume of single use vapes being disposed of in general waste.
6. An increase in fires at UK waste plants due to damaged and highly flammable batteries and the increased costs this causes.
7. The delay in the Government bringing forward legislation to act on the outcomes of last year's consultation on smoking and vaping.

Council acknowledges the role vaping products may play in aiding adults to stop smoking, and that vaping products carry a small fraction of the risk, and exposure to toxins, that are associated with cigarettes. However, vaping is not risk-free; particularly for those who have never smoked.

Vaping products contain nicotine, and research shows that most children who use them have never smoked. Council recognises the Local Government Association has raised concerns about the sale of vaping products to children.

Council calls for vaping products to be regulated in a similar way as tobacco products, with plain packaging and a requirement for products to be kept out of sight behind shop counters. Council calls for legislation to be brought forward in the current parliamentary session to:

1. Ensure vaping products are in plain packaging and kept out of sight behind the counter.
2. Make age-of-sale signage on vaping products mandatory.
3. Ban free samples of vaping products being given out to people of any age.
4. Ban the sale of single-use vaping products in the UK.

Council commits to not allowing the sale of vaping products in any Three Rivers District Council run premises.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to both the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Secretary of State for Environment, to express the Council's demand for the greater regulation of vaping products detailed in this motion and ban on the sale of single use vapes.

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Proposed by Cllr Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Cllr Louise Price

Council notes the issues faced by residents on new housing developments, where unadopted roads leave residents at the mercy of residual landowners, especially as regards street lighting, signage and general maintenance, as well as additional service fees on top of Council Tax payments.

Council therefore calls upon Hertfordshire County Council alleviate this burden on local residents and ensure more roads built to adoptable standards are adopted across the District and instructs the Chief Executive to write to both the Chief Executive and Leader of Hert County Council. Council notes the issues faced by residents on new housing developments, where unadopted roads leave residents at the mercy of residual landowners, especially as regards street lighting, signage and general maintenance, as well as additional service fees on top of Council Tax payments.

Council therefore calls upon Hertfordshire County Council alleviate this extra "tax" burden on local residents and roads built to adoptable standards across the District and instructs the Chief Executive to write to both the Chief Executive and Leader of Hert County Council requesting that Herts County Council reviews its current policy that leaves some residents at a disadvantage and subject to the whims of residual landowners.

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Proposed by Cllr Jon Tankard, seconded by Cllr Chris Lloyd

Council notes the twin threats to our rivers from the Conservative government's failure to act on sewage discharges by privatised water companies, together with the recent pronouncement by the previous Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the then-government's intention to remove regulations regarding nutrient neutrality. Council believes that both Conservative policies will add to the pollution of our precious waterways, seas and oceans and the habitats that depend on them.

Council further believes that extensive building in our Green Belt is also a threat to local habitats, and that whilst the then-Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had brought forward this plan to amend the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, he had not sought to introduce an amendment to change the Standard Methodology or enable Local Planning Authorities to safeguard Green Belt land.

Council therefore calls for:

1. The immediate end to the threats to our waterways by a commitment to keep rules on nutrient neutrality and the retention of the entire Habitats' Directive.
2. A speeding up of the Environment Agency's largest ever criminal investigation into potential widespread breaches of environmental permit conditions at wastewater treatment works by all water and sewerage companies.
3. A reduction in the amount of sewage which can legally be discharged into waterways and the sea.
4. Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, backed by primary legislation to enable the safeguarding of valuable Green Belt land. Council therefore calls for the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs stating the council's views on these matters.

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