

## **COUNCIL**

**22nd November 2016**

**Present:**        **The Mayor, Councillor P. Denham, in the Chair**

**Councillors Agar, Amos, Bayliss, Berry, Biggs, Cawthorne, Cronin, L. Denham, Ditta, Feeney, Geraghty, Gregson, Hodges, Mrs L. Hodgson, S. Hodgson, Johnson, Jones, Knight, Lacey, Lamb, Laurenson, Mackay, Mitchell, Riaz, Roberts, G. Squires, J. Squires, Stafford, Stanley, Stephen, Udall, Wilkinson, E. Williams and G. Williams**

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Jim Brown, offered prayers to the start of the Council meeting

**51    Apologies for Absence**

None.

**52    Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made:

Questions (Minute 56) – Councillor Cawthorne – In relation to question 1 as a Trustee of Maggs Day Centre

Licensing Sub-Committee (Street Collections) (Minute 62) – Councillor S. Hodgson – As the holder of a street collection permit for Rotary Worcester Christmas Parcels

**53    Minutes**

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

**54    Mayor's Communications**

Family Fun Day

The Mayor commented on the success of his Family Fun Day on 28<sup>th</sup> October at the Guildhall. Hundreds of children had attended the event, which raised over £500 for the Mayor's Charities.

Remembrance Day

The Mayor thanked Members and Officers for supporting this year's Remembrance Day Service at Worcester Cathedral. The service had been well attended and members of the public had turned out in large numbers to support the event.

Honorary Aldermen

The Mayor reminded the Council that the conferment ceremony would be taking place on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 5.30p.m. and all Members were welcome to attend.

Victorian Christmas Fayre

The Victorian Christmas Fayre would be starting on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November. Visitors and stall holders would be attending from the Council's twin towns of Kleve, Le Vesinet and Ukmerge, and he had arranged for their flags to be flown from the Cathedral roundabout for the duration of the event.

Mayor's Charity Concert

This concert would be taking place on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, with the Elgar Chorale performing seasonal music.

Mayor's Christmas Lunch

The Mayor's Christmas lunch for the homeless and under privileged had been arranged for Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at the Guildhall. The chef from the YMCA would be cooking the festive meal.

Christmas Drinks

The Mayor would be welcoming all employees, including election employees, to the Mayor's Parlour for Christmas drinks between 12 noon and 2p.m. on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December.

**55     Public Participation**

None.

**56     Questions**

<b>Question No. 1</b>	
<b>Question From:</b>	<b>Councillor Alan Feeney</b>
<b>Question To:</b>	<b>Councillor Roger Berry, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Heritage</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on plans for tackling homelessness in Worcester?
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>The previous Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2010 – 2015 and the Worcestershire Homelessness Strategy 2011 – 2017 are currently being replaced by the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Plan. I would commend these documents to all Councillors, and we're currently involved in consultation with a closing date for comments to be received by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. The three priorities in the Plan already identified by partners are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a partnership approach to enable people to live as independently as possible – that's about prevention and intervention;</li> <li>• Drive the growth of the right type of homes to promote opportunity; and thirdly</li> <li>• Improve homes and transform places.</li> </ul>

	<p>The consultation responses will be taken into account and used to inform the final document which will be taken to Cabinet in March 2017. A detailed action plan will then be created to ensure the outcomes required from the Plan are delivered.</p>
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>	<p>Thank you very much for your response. I'll frame the question but not make it too long. The Conservative government has recently brought forward a Bill which recognises everybody has a statutory obligation. It's excellent news but will put pressure on social housing and homelessness service provision. My concern is that with £350,000 gone from the social housing budget and the Park Street Hostel lying empty, costing us tens of thousands of pounds a year, when it could either be sold or brought back into use, that does give me cause for concern. Can the Cabinet Member give us an assurance that there will not be a housing blockage at the end of the pipeline, to ensure that no-one has a first night out, much less a second, and can he confirm an immediate, if required, root and branch review of all outreach services and providers to ensure everything remains cohesively joined up for the most vulnerable in our society?</p>
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>Thank you for that very significant supplementary. The Bill that you refer to is the Homelessness Reduction Bill, which I believe has just gone through Parliament and is expected to receive its royal assent. Like most Conservative government Bills, it looks like there will be no extra money available, so it's highly unlikely local authorities will reap funding to take on additional responsibilities.</p> <p>You made a statement about Park Street Hostel which is quite untrue. That Hostel is currently being converted to be used for single homelessness.</p> <p>Blockages in the current system – I'm not sure what you mean by that? We currently operate on behalf of the County Council, who you'll be interested to know cut significantly the amount of money for homelessness this year. We currently operate on behalf of all authorities a Single and Childless Couples Homeless Service currently provided by CCP across the county, and at last review we were happy with the outcomes.</p> <p>I do believe no one organisation has the answer to the problems of homelessness, and I believe that, as indicated, the wish to pursue partnership working is absolutely essential and I certainly hope that all homelessness organisations in the City will play their part in delivering a comprehensive service. It has to</p>

	be said, it's impossible to provide a decent service without adequate funding.
--	--

<b>Question No. 2</b>	
<b>Question From:</b>	<b>Councillor Alan Feeney</b>
<b>Question To:</b>	<b>Councillor Adrian Gregson, Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Question:</b>	With the new swimming pool at Perdiswell nearing completion, can the Leader of the Council confirm Labour's plans for its opening?
<b>Answer:</b>	As Leader of the Council, what I can confirm is the Council's plans for the opening. There's nothing party political about the new Swimming Pool opening. The doors will open to the public on Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup> January and there is a range of publicity activity which is going to be attached to that. The official opening will be 24 <sup>th</sup> January, which is a Tuesday. We are in discussion with a Rio medal winner to join the Mayor to cut the ribbon, and obviously all City Councillors will be invited to what is an important milestone to ensure Worcester is a healthy and active city.
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>	My concern – and you say that there is no party politics in the opening of course – what I wanted, was some sort of confirmation that no Labour Member will be claiming credit or publicity for the project given their immense resistance to it?
<b>Answer:</b>	I'm not sure that merits an answer, really.

<b>Question No. 3</b>	
<b>Question From:</b>	<b>Councillor Roger Knight</b>
<b>Question To:</b>	<b>Councillor Jabba Riaz, Portfolio Holder for Clean, Green and Leisure Services</b>
<b>Question:</b>	<p>I'm sure the Cabinet Member is aware that one of our CEOs was recently given responsibility for Environmental Enforcement, in fact this responsibility was taken up on the 14<sup>th</sup> October; but is he aware of just how successful this action has been?</p> <p>Further to this two members of the Team attended a forum in Malvern on Environmental Enforcement Training to further develop their knowledge and to provide training right through to Court presentation.</p> <p>This has led to some remarkable work; since mid October some 80 premises have been visited in the heart of the city, delivering and explaining the new Trade Waste Policy, 83 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for a variety of issues including littering, 5 cases of fly tipping, 3 cases of graffiti and 33 abandoned vehicles investigated, as well as cases of illegal advertising.</p> <p>May I ask the Cabinet Member and the Mayor to write</p>

	to the staff concerned, recognising their contribution and offering our thanks for their efforts in helping to restore pride in our city?
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>The figures in the question are indeed quite correct, and I know you've been an adamant supporter of enforcement in the past. This is one of the first things that I pursued when I took office in May. We have policies across the city which often get implemented and don't get enforced, and I think that's the point of this. The frustration that the public feel is that we introduce these policies and we don't back them up with adequate enforcement. Great credit goes to the officer involved, who's been truly brave in some of the circumstances to challenge people on their behaviour.</p> <p>The new trade waste policy, as you may know, has made a noticeable difference to the street scene in the City Centre and officers have been working closely with businesses to educate and encourage them to comply. We know littering is socially unacceptable, and enforcement action is sometimes required. We've taken an "educate first" approach, and then enforce later, and it's beginning to work. All staff should be congratulated on their hard work in maintaining that quality environment. We've recently been voted one of the cleanest cities in the UK, and I'm sure all Members would want that image, and that level of cleanliness, to be upheld and to improve. So, I would be happy to join with the Mayor in passing on Members' thanks to the team. Thank you.</p>
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>	I'm just pleased that our views concur; it's something we can absolutely agree on. The only thing I would like assurance on is that this action will continue and in fact develop, and that you will continue to pursue this agreement that we have in place?
<b>Answer:</b>	As I said, it's been barely two or three months since enforcement has been taking place, we have to evaluate all the data that's coming in and how that is impacting on behavioural change in Worcester. If we feel that it's making a difference and there's a reduction in occurrences, we'll monitor that. If we feel we need more resources to plough into that area, I'm sure we'll assess that also.

<b>Question No. 4</b>	
<b>Question From:</b>	<b>Councillor Stephen Hodgson</b>
<b>Question To:</b>	<b>Councillor Jabba Riaz, Portfolio Holder for Clean, Green and Leisure Services</b>
<b>Question:</b>	I welcome the decision by the administration to waive car parking charges, as the previous Conservative Administration has done, to help trade in the city in the run up to Christmas including next week's Victorian Christmas Fayre. Can the Portfolio Holder confirm

	whether St. Martin's Gate car park will be open beyond 9pm during the Christmas Fayre?
<b>Answer:</b>	It's never been the intention of this administration to change or charge a fee during the Christmas Fayre at St. Martin's Gate, so I'm glad that's continued. I support that wholeheartedly. I can confirm that St. Martin's Gate will be open all night during the Victoria Fayre and in the run up to Christmas.
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>	I'm very pleased to hear that St. Martin's Gate will be open during that period. The Portfolio Holder states that the trial is still going on. When is it likely to come to an end? If a decision is to be made on premature closing of the car park at 9 o'clock, I will be very disappointed, as other Members will be. Can the signage please be reviewed as it's still quite confusing in parts? Going back to the previous answer you gave, there were cars that were locked in. Fortunately they weren't charged, but the signage does need to be addressed.
<b>Answer:</b>	Thank you for your supplementary, I'll take those points on board. The trial that ran was due to end, and it was decided with my input that we should carry that on, particularly the changing of the time and it's hard to see how that will impact, but I can confirm we will be changing that and the trial will come to an end.

<b>Question No. 5</b>	
<b>Question From:</b>	<b>Councillor Stephen Hodgson</b>
<b>Question To:</b>	<b>Councillor Jabba Riaz, Portfolio Holder for Clean, Green and Leisure Services</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Will the Portfolio Holder for Clean, Green and Leisure Services join me in thanking the Parks Maintenance Team for their recent hard work in Warndon Villages and especially on Hastings Drive and Newark Green in cutting back overgrown hedges?
<b>Answer:</b>	I congratulate the team on the excellent work they've been doing. I know over the past week there's been horrendous weather, and they've been out there doing their bit. Hedge maintenance, as you may be aware, is completed by the Neighbourhood Team between October and March every year, avoiding the bird nesting season. All of our teams work very hard on keeping the environment clean and green and I will pass on your remarks and thanks to them.
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>	Is he also aware that the Council currently only has one tractor, that's 15 years old and towards the end of its life? The hedge cutting equipment is also quite old and there doesn't appear to be a spare. In fact there's only one tractor and hedge cutting equipment for the whole city. Obviously the decision by the Cabinet not to contract out services does mean that we don't have a plan in terms of replacing this aged equipment. Cleaner and Greener do an excellent job, it's important

	that they have the equipment so that they can do the job properly, so I would say what plans have you got to address that particular shortfall in equipment?
<b>Answer:</b>	Tractors generally have an extremely long life, and if well maintained they don't have any problems. If problems do occur I'm sure there are plans in order to replace that equipment. I'm sure I can give him an answer to that from Officers as well.

<b>Question No. 6</b>	
<b>Question From:</b>	<b>Councillor Andy Stafford</b>
<b>Question To:</b>	<b>Councillor Jabba Riaz, Portfolio Holder for Clean, Green and Leisure Services</b>
<b>Question:</b>	Can the Portfolio Holder for Clean, Green and Leisure Services provide an update on the Perdiswell Park culvert works and when the 18 hole golf course will be restored?
<b>Answer:</b>	<p>All underground works with respect to the culvert repair are complete and the brook is now flowing freely and safely through it. The contractor, Montel Engineering of Worcester, should be congratulated for completing such a challenging project on time and budget, and thanks to the Environment Agency for working with the Council to part funding for the works. An initial seeding has now taken place in order to stabilise the works area. Further works will be required to remove any remaining debris and raise ground levels after some natural settlement. After this the process of returning the area to a condition fit for golf can commence. This is likely to take at least 12 months as reported in the original Cabinet paper of February 2015, which advised of the need to temporarily close the course and enter into a temporary agreement with Ravenmeadow Golf Course.</p> <p>I am grateful for the question however, as it provides me with the opportunity to announce that we will be shortly launching a consultation with golfers, local residents and users of Perdiswell Park to establish their preferences for the future provision of golf across Perdiswell.</p>
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>	Thank you very much for that answer, you've answered most of my supplementary question regarding a consultation process if any changes are to be considered regarding the golf. I'm very pleased that the culvert works have gone well, I'd just ask if you can include local Members in the consultation process?
<b>Answer:</b>	Thank you Councillor Stafford, I'm sure all local Members will be contacted nearer the time when that consultation takes place.

<b>Question No. 7</b>	
<b>Question From:</b>	<b>Councillor Andy Stafford</b>
<b>Question To:</b>	<b>Councillor Jabba Riaz, Portfolio Holder for Clean, Green and Leisure Services</b>
<b>Question:</b>	The splashpad at Gheluvelt Park has been a great success and has contributed to the vastly increased number of visitors to the park, in August planning approval was granted for a replacement Sons of Rest Building with new public toilets, a much needed facility to support the increased number of visitors, and to improve safety for children. Can the Portfolio Holder for Clean, Green and Leisure Services provide an update on this important project, including when the people of Worcester can expect this new building to open?
<b>Answer:</b>	Officers are currently reviewing tenders prior to appointing a contractor. The works are programmed to currently complete in time to allow for opening for Easter 2017.
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>	So can you make a firm commitment that this building will be built?
<b>Answer:</b>	There's a procurement tender process, and that tender process has to be seen through, to meet our criteria. We have full intention of building it, the money's been committed, there's no reason why we would aim not to build it.

## 57 **Notices of Motion**

The Council considered the following three Notices of Motion, which had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8:

### **1. Funding for Community Pharmacies**

This Council believes that the Government's plans to reduce funding for community pharmacies threaten patient access to pharmacies and pharmacy services in Worcester.

Our local pharmacies are at risk of closure or being forced to cut services such as free delivery of prescription drugs, family planning advice and advice on medicines. This will put more pressure on GPs and hospitals and impact social services and is at odds with the local Clinical Commissioning Group's desire to increase the use of pharmacists to ease pressure on GPs and Accident and Emergency Services.

Council therefore calls on the Government to abandon these cuts and maintain a fully funded community pharmacy service and requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group expressing this view.

The proposer, Councillor J. Squires and the seconder, Councillor L. Denham, spoke in support of the Motion.



Members then entered into a debate on the Notice of Motion where support and opposition were expressed. On being put to the vote, the Motion was agreed and it was

**RESOLVED: That the Council calls on the Government to abandon these cuts and maintain a fully funded community pharmacy service and request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group expressing this view.**

## **2. Perdiswell**

The freehold of Perdiswell is owned by this Council and is established public open space. In the interests of local democracy this Council believes Perdiswell should remain so and not be sold, leased, transferred or given away for any other purpose than its current designated status. Should any proposal to sell, lease, transfer or give away land at Perdiswell come forward Full Council should determine any such proposal rather than Officer delegation or Cabinet.

The proposer, Councillor Jones, stated that, in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rule 11.8 set out in the Constitution, he had amended the wording of the Motion, as follows:

The freehold of Perdiswell is owned by this Council and is established public open space. This Council acknowledges that there are statutory safeguards in place which protect public open space from disposal and it is necessary for there to be formal public consultation before public open space is sold, leased or transferred for an alternative use.

This Council also believes that any proposal to sell, lease or transfer public open space at Perdiswell should be based on a robust business case, with appropriate professional advice.

This Council also believes that Perdiswell is the largest and most significant area of land in the Council's ownership, therefore all members should have the opportunity to consider any future disposal.

Should any proposal to sell, lease, transfer or otherwise dispose of land at Perdiswell come forward Full Council should determine any such proposal rather than Officer delegation or Cabinet.

The proposed Motion, as amended, was seconded by Councillor Laurenson.

On being put to the vote the Motion, as amended, was agreed and it was

**RESOLVED: That, should any proposal to sell, lease, transfer or otherwise dispose of land at Perdiswell come forward, Full Council should determine any such proposal rather than Officer delegation or Cabinet.**

## **3. Governance Arrangements**

Given the fact that there have been four political administrations in five years and that there is a very real prospect of a situation of no overall control continuing for the foreseeable future, it is Council's belief that governance arrangements that

enable all political parties to share in shaping and directing the future direction of the Council should be developed.

Therefore, Council resolves under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011:

- To change its governance arrangements and start to operate a Committee system form of governance from the annual meeting in May 2017.
- To request the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Director Governance to work with the three group leaders to draw up by February Council detailed proposals for the operation of the Committee system, including, but not limited to, a review of the Constitution, developing a Committee structure, the distribution of seats on those Committees in accordance with political balance rules and a review of Members allowances.
- To take note of any pertinent results emanating from the cross party scrutiny review of governance arrangements as it concludes.
- To begin planning public consultation arrangements for implementation following February Council's adoption of an agreed Committee system.

The Proposer, Councillor Bayliss and the seconder, Councillor Stephen, spoke in support of the Motion.

In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rule 11.8 set out in the Constitution, the following amendment to the Motion was proposed by Councillor Gregson and seconded by Councillor Geoff Williams:

Delete all 4 bullets and replace with the following:

1. To develop new governance arrangements to take effect from the annual meeting in May 2017.
2. In developing these new governance arrangements, to take account of the conclusions reached by the Scrutiny Working Party on Governance which is due to complete its work in January 2017.
3. To request that the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Director - Governance work with the three Group Leaders and their political groups to draw up for February Council detailed proposals for the operation of the new Governance arrangements, including but not limited to a review of the Constitution to facilitate the new governance arrangements to be agreed by Council in February.
4. To begin planning public consultation arrangements so that the decision on the new arrangements can be informed by the results of the public consultation.

Members then entered into a debate on the proposed amendment to the Motion, where support and opposition were expressed. On being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

Members then proceeded to debate the original Motion, as submitted. In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rule 11.22 the Managing Director also spoke upon the request of the Mayor.

On being put to the vote the Motion was agreed and it was

**RESOLVED: That the Council agrees to:**

- 1. change its governance arrangements and start to operate a Committee system form of governance from the annual meeting in May 2017;**
- 2. request the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Director Governance to work with the three group leaders to draw up by February Council detailed proposals for the operation of the Committee system, including, but not limited to, a review of the Constitution, developing a Committee structure, the distribution of seats on those Committees in accordance with political balance rules and a review of Members allowances;**
- 3. take note of any pertinent results emanating from the cross party scrutiny review of governance arrangements as it concludes; and**
- 4. begin planning public consultation arrangements for implementation following February Council's adoption of an agreed Committee system.**

## **58 Local Development Scheme 2016-2019**

The Council considered a revised Local Development Scheme for 2016-19. The Scheme had been prepared within the context of the joint working arrangements across the south Worcestershire councils. It replaced the previous document which covered the period 2015-2018. This revision reflected the fact that the South Worcestershire Development Plan had been adopted and set out the latest timetable for the Community Infrastructure Levy as well as updating the list of Supplementary Planning Documents to be prepared and setting out timetables for their adoption.

It was proposed by Councillor G. Williams and seconded by Councillor Gregson and on being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed and

### **RESOLVED: That the Council:**

- 1. approve the Local Development Scheme 2016-2019 set out at Appendix 1, to come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016; and**
- 2. delegate authority to the Corporate Director – Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity and Growth to make minor amendments to the LDS prior to publication.**

## **59 Warndon Parish Neighbourhood Area Designation**

The Council received a report on an application from Warndon Parish Council to the Council to designate the Parish as a Neighbourhood Area. The designation of a Neighbourhood Area was the first stage in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

It was proposed by Councillor G. Williams and seconded by Councillor Gregson and on being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed and

**RESOLVED: That the Council designate Warndon Parish (as outlined on the map at Appendix A to this report) as a Neighbourhood Area under Section 61G of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended.**

#### **60 Fees & Charges for 2017/18 - Freedom Leisure Contract**

The Council considered a report on proposed Fees & Charges submitted by Freedom Leisure for 2017/18 relating to Perdiswell Leisure Centre, St John's Sports Centre, Nunnery Wood Sports Complex and the Sport, Art & Play Development Service.

The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Resources explained that, as the new facilities at Perdiswell Leisure Centre were due to open in early January 2017, the proposal from Freedom Leisure needed to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 inclusive. In order to keep the fees and charges across all of the leisure centres aligned it was proposed that the fees and charges for St John's Sports Centre and Nunnery Wood Sports Complex would also be approved for the same period.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Squires and seconded by Councillor Riaz and on being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed and

**RESOLVED: That the Council approve the Fees & Charges submitted by Freedom Leisure for 2017/18 relating to Perdiswell Leisure Centre, St John's Sports Centre, Nunnery Wood Sports Complex and the Sport, Art & Play Development Service, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.**

#### **61 Independent Remuneration Panel Recommendation for Members' Allowances 2016/17**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for Members' Allowances.

In summary, the IRP recommended a 1% increase on the Basic Allowance for 2016/17, which gave a figure of £4,250. The IRP's recommendations for Special Responsibility Allowances were as set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The IRP had considered Travel Allowances and recommended that for 2016/17 they continue to be paid in accordance with the HMRC rate as paid for 2015/16. The IRP recommended that Subsistence Allowances and the Dependent Carer's Allowance for 2016/17 remained unchanged.

If the recommendations were accepted and implemented the total increase from December 2016 - March 2017 would be £846 and for 2017/18 the full year effect would be £2,538. This increase would have to be found within the 2016/17 budget on a one-off basis, and then included in the base budget for subsequent years.

It was proposed by Councillor Gregson and seconded by Councillor Bayliss and upon being put to the vote it was agreed and

**RESOLVED: That the Council:**

1. **agree the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Members' Allowances; and**
2. **adopt a Scheme for Members' Allowances from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016, in accordance with the IRP's recommendations.**

**62 Report from the Leader of the Council, Chairman of Relevant Committee or Committee Member on Matters which are Referred to Council for Decision**

**Licensing Sub-Committee (Street Collections)**

The Chairman of Licensing and Environmental Health Committee explained that, at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the Committee approved and adopted a revised Street Collection Policy. The Policy provided that any organisation that had an application refused could ask for the matter to be reviewed by the Committee, or a Sub-Committee. Furthermore, should the Council receive in excess of 35 street collection applications in any calendar year, those additional applications would also be referred to the Committee, or a Sub-Committee, for consideration and determination. However the Council did not currently have in place a Licensing Sub-Committee which was able to determine street collection applications.

It was proposed by Councillor Ditta and seconded by Councillor Cronin and on being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed and

**RESOLVED: That the Council creates a Licensing Sub-Committee which is responsible for the determination of applications for Street Collections and that Part 3 of the Council's Constitution is amended to include reference to the Licensing Sub-Committee (Street Collections).**

**Tree Preservation Orders – Scheme of Delegation for Amending and Revoking Orders**

The Chairman of Planning Committee explained that, under the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, the Development Services Manager was authorised to make Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). The Council were recommended to amend the Scheme of Delegation to include modification or revocation of TPOs. Delegation of these powers would be consistent with the scheme of delegation for making TPOs and would allow for efficient and timely decision making.

It was proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor G. Williams and on being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed and

**RESOLVED: That the Council delegate the power to amend and revoke Tree Preservation Orders to the Deputy Director of Economic Development & Planning.**

**63 Report from the Leader of the Council of Decisions Taken by Cabinet**

The Council received and noted a report on decisions taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The Leader answered questions from Members.

**64 Report from the Leader of the Council on any matters which he is of the opinion require urgent consideration by The Council**

None.

**65 Reports from Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

The Chairman of Scrutiny Committee provided the Council with a summary of the items that had been considered at the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**66 Items Involving the Disclosure of Exempt Information**

**RESOLVED:** That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act.

**67 Minutes (Exempt Items)**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes (exempt items) of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**68 Report from the Leader of the Council of Exempt Decisions Taken by Cabinet**

The Council received and noted a report on exempt decisions taken by the Cabinet at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

**Duration of the meeting:** 7.00p.m. – 10.00p.m.

Chairman at the meeting on  
21st February 2017