

Minutes of the **Council**  
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**  
held in Crosfield Hall, Broadwater Road, Romsey  
on 1 September 2021 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

**Councillor M Cooper (Chairman)**

**Councillor A Dowden (Vice-Chairman)**

Councillor N Adams-King  
Councillor I Andersen  
Councillor G Bailey  
Councillor D Baverstock  
Councillor C Borg-Neal  
Councillor Z Brooks  
Councillor J Budzynski  
Councillor P Bundy  
Councillor T Burley  
Councillor J Burnage  
Councillor D Coole  
Councillor N Daas  
Councillor C Donnelly  
Councillor C Dowden  
Councillor D Drew  
Councillor C Ecclestone  
Councillor M Flood

Councillor S Gidley  
Councillor N Gwynne  
Councillor K Hamilton  
Councillor V Harber  
Councillor M Hatley  
Councillor I Jeffrey  
Councillor A Johnston  
Councillor N Lodge  
Councillor M Maltby  
Councillor N Matthews  
Councillor R Meyer  
Councillor J Neal  
Councillor K North  
Councillor P North  
Councillor J Parker  
Councillor C Thom  
Councillor A Ward

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**Prayers**

Prayers were led by Reverend Wharton.

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**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Cross, L Lashbrook, P Lashbrook, Swain, Tasker and Warnes.

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**Public Participation**

In accordance with Council's Procedure Rules, 2 members of the public were invited to address Council in relation to item 16, Notice of Motion - Rule 12, consideration of a motion in relation to 'Climate Emergency' and Ms Vincent and Miss Dovey spoke on the item in that order.

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### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Cooper and Councillor Burnage wished it to be noted that they were members of Romsey Extra Parish Council and Romsey Town Council for item 12 – Community Governance Review, Romsey Town Council.

Councillor Parker wished it to be noted that he was the Chairman of Romsey Extra Parish Council and a member of Romsey Town Council for item 12 – Community Governance Review, Romsey Town Council.

Councillor Baverstock, Councillor Daas and Councillor Gwynne wished it to be noted that they were members of Romsey Town Council for item 12 – Community Governance Review, Romsey Town Council.

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### **Minutes**

#### **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

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### **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor reported that the Red Ensign would be flown at the Guildhall and Beech Hurst in Andover and Crosfield Hall and Former Magistrates Court in Romsey to support sea farers on Merchant Navy Day on 3 September.

The Test Valley Showcase will be held on 16 September and all Civic Heads in Hampshire have been invited. The day will also include a visit to Mottisfont Abbey and a tour of Romsey Abbey.

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### **Presentation of Past Mayor and Mayoress Badge**

Due to restrictions that the Council were working under at the date of Annual Council in May and the requirement to restrict contact, presentation of the Past Mayor and Mayoress' badges were postponed.

As restrictions have now been relaxed Councillor Hatley was presented with his Past Mayor's badge by Councillor Bailey and also received the Past Mayoress' badge on behalf of the Past Mayoress.

The Mayor gave thanks to Councillor Hatley for his support and contribution to the residents of the Borough.

Councillor Hatley reported that he had presented cheques to the charities that he had supported during his term as Mayor, The BOAZ Project, Jane Scarth House and Romsey Opportunity Group. He would also soon distribute additional funds to the Ambulance Trust.

Councillor Hatley gave thanks to the staff and Councillors for their support during the last 18 months in difficult times and wish the Mayor and Deputy Mayor all the best for the future.

178 **To receive and adopt Committee reports**

178.1 **Minutes of Meetings:**

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the following Committees and Cabinet meetings be received:**

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2 June 2021**

**Northern Area Planning Committee – 3 June 2021**

**Southern Area Planning Committee – 8 June 2021**

**Cabinet – 23 June 2021**

**General Purposes – 24 June 2021**

**Northern Area Planning Committee – 24 June 2021**

**Southern Area Planning Committee – 29 June 2021**

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 14 July 2021**

**Northern Area Planning Committee – 15 July 2021**

**Southern Area Planning Committee – 20 July 2021**

**Cabinet – 18 August 2021**

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25 August 2021**

**Northern Area Planning Committee – 26 August 2021**

**Southern Area Planning Committee – 31 August 2021**

**178.2 To adopt recommendations from the following:**

178.2.1 Cabinet – 18 August 2021

178.2.1.1 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Allocation of CIL Funds

**Resolved:**

**That the applications for CIL funding set out in the report are determined in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraph 3 and release of £1,202,808 be authorised.**

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**Questions under Rule 11.1**

There were no questions under rule 11.1.

**180 Councillor approval under s85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972**

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Portfolio Holder which considered approving Councillor Cross's reason for non-attendance under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 to allow him to continue in his role as a Borough Councillor.

Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that "if a member of a local authority 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 the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a Member of the authority".

Councillor Cross has been unable to attend meetings since his last attendance at a Council meeting on 11 November 2020. On 7 April 2021 Council approved the reason for his non-attendance.

Councillor Cross still remains unable to attend any Council or Committee meeting due to illness and in accordance with the legislation, on 11 October 2021, would cease to be a Member of Test Valley Borough Council if Council does not further approve the reason for his non-attendance.

The Mayor ask Councillor C Dowden to convey the Council's good wishes and hope for a speedy recovery.

**Resolved:**

**That Council approves the waiver of the six month attendance rule provided for at section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to Councillor Cross for the reason set out in the report for a period of six months to the 11 April 2022.**

181 **Draft Calendar of Meetings June 2022 to December 2023**

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Portfolio Holder which requested the Council to approve the draft Calendar of Meetings for June to December 2022 and January to December 2023.

The report also requested approval to move General Purposes Committee to a 5.30pm start time in line with all other committees and the addition of a Southern Area Planning Committee on Monday 16 May 2021.

**Resolved:**

1. **That the draft Calendar of Meetings for June to December 2022 and January to December 2023, as set out in the Annex to the report, be approved.**
2. **That the standard General Purposes Committee start time is moved from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.**
3. **That the current Calendar of Meetings for 2022 is amended to include an additional Southern Area Planning Committee on Monday 16 May.**

182 **Community Governance Review - Romsey Town Council**

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Portfolio Holder to consider undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR) of the boundaries of Romsey Town, following a request from Romsey Town Council to extend the existing boundaries, so that the new boundary is coterminous with the existing Borough Ward boundaries.

Although a CGR process was carried out in 2018, the conclusion of that review in respect of the Romsey area was essentially no change in governance arrangements. However, since that review, working arrangements between Romsey Town and Romsey Extra Parish have changed, leading to joint working between the two councils. In addition, a formal request has now been received from Romsey Town Council, seeking to extend the boundaries of Romsey Town to be coterminous with the three Borough Wards.

Such changes can only take place following a CGR process. Agreeing to carry out a CGR does not pre-judge the outcome of the process, which would involve full public consultation before a decision is made.

**Resolved:**

1. **Council agrees to carry out a Community Governance Review to consider the request from Romsey Town Council to extend its boundaries; and**

- 2. a further report be brought to Council on 10 November 2021 to agree the process for undertaking the Review and its terms of reference.**

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### **Nitrate Mitigation**

Consideration was given to a report of the Planning Portfolio Holder which requested the Council to consider purchasing an additional 250 nitrate credits.

In order to satisfy the Habitat Regulations certain types of development are required to be nutrient neutral in order to have no adverse impact on The Solent. The absence of mitigation is an impediment to housing delivery.

In line with the adopted Nitrate Mitigation Framework it is proposed that the Council purchase nitrate credits from Roke Manor Farm. Applicants would be able to purchase these credits.

In April 2021 Council agreed to the purchase of 250 credits. The Council has reached the stage where it needs to consider whether to purchase an additional 250 credits.

The challenge of finding nitrate mitigation is one that many Hampshire authorities are facing. In the absence of alternative mitigation measures to unblock current and future housing delivery the Council has needed to explore land based solutions. This is in line with the Council's adopted Nitrate Mitigation Framework. The option of buying further credits from Roke Manor Farm represents an opportunity to unlock existing planning permissions and achieve wider environmental benefits.

#### **Resolved:**

- 1. That the purchase of 250 nitrate credits from land shown in Annexes 1 & 2 to the report be approved.**
- 2. That the Council releases funding from the unallocated New Homes Bonus Reserve, up to the amount described in section 8 for the purpose of purchasing nitrate credits from the land shown in Annexes 1 & 2 to the report.**
- 3. That authority is delegated to the Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development in consultation with the Head of Finance and Revenues, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Finance Portfolio Holder and the Planning Portfolio Holder to enter into the appropriate Agreement/s securing the purchase and delivery of the nitrate credits from the land shown in Annexes 1 & 2 to the report.**

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### **Procurement of Andover Masterplan Services**

Consideration was given to a report of the Leader which sought approval for expenditure in relation to two elements of the Andover Masterplan delivery project, to be funded from the Regeneration Reserve in accordance with the delegations in the resolution of Council of 27 January 2021.

The feasibility study will ensure this is progressed in a commercially informed way that will allow the Council to make decisions that protect both its strategic and financial interests.

The Urban Design Strategies will provide tools that will allow Development management to safeguard the quality of the Town Centre built environment. This will create a place that is attractive to residents, visitors and investors, protecting the economic prosperity of the Town.

The recommended approval to spend will allow officers to deliver this work in a timely and efficient way providing the high standard of professional advice and guidance that will help the Council in its decision making process.

#### **Resolved:**

**That the budget and funding, as set out in paragraph 9.1, for the projects described in this report and confidential annex relating to the delivery of the Andover Town Centre Masterplan be approved.**

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### **Questions under Rule 11.2**

Councillor Ecclestone withdrew the three questions he had submitted as set out in the agenda.

1. Councillor A Dowden submitted a question asking *‘After receiving numerous complaints last winter from different areas of Southern Test Valley, about the state of footpaths where leaves had fallen and later the footpaths became muddy and slippery for pedestrians and cyclists. Would the Executive Member for Environmental Services consider the hiring this Autumn of a few small sweeping machines to help to prevent these unnecessary Health & Safety hazards?’*

The Environmental Portfolio Holder thanked him you for his question. I am aware that there were some issues relating to the quality of leaf removal at specific locations in southern Test Valley last year. In short, the answer is yes, we will ensure that we hire in the appropriate vehicle to assist with the removal of leaves and detritus during autumn leaf fall.

2. Councillor Daas submitted a question asking *‘Could the Planning Portfolio holder update the Council on any progress made in bringing the Romsey Brewery Site forward for completion of the extant Planning?’*

The Planning Portfolio Holder thanked Cllr Daas for his question

Resolving the immensely frustrating problem of the Brewery Site has been my top priority since becoming Portfolio Holder for Planning. Our Planning and Legal teams have been working assiduously to find a solution including considerable liaison with Government agencies. That process is detailed, sensitive and commercially confidential. Providing a public update could at this point prejudice both the options available to the Council and the significant progress we have made in investigating and advancing those options.

I have been happy to provide updates and answer questions from Romsey Members about the Brewery Site in our monthly Romsey Future Members Briefings. It is a shame that you, Cllr Daas, have failed to attend any of the 21 meetings of the group held since you were elected in 2019. Had you done so you would be better briefed about our progress. Our next Romsey Future Member Briefing is on Monday 13th September, where I would be happy to provide you with a detailed, confidential, update should you wish."

Councillor Daas requested an update as he was unable to attend the meeting on 13 September.

3. Councillor A Dowden submitted a question asking *'Would the Leader of Test Valley Borough Council notify the Full Council how many Afghan refugees has he agreed to accept under the new Government resettlement scheme?*

The Leader thanked Cllr A Dowden for his question on this hugely important issue. "Like you all, I have watched in horror the unfolding situation in Afghanistan. It is a humanitarian disaster which requires us to help in any way we can. Officers have been in daily contact with County Council colleagues who are co-ordinating the response in Hampshire, in conjunction with the Home Office. Officers know that we want to do as much as we can and have fed this message back in their meetings. To date the only official request we have had is to make two family houses available under the Afghan Locally Employed Staff scheme. We offered two furnished properties immediately, in partnership with Aster. The scheme is targeted at those Afghans who worked with our armed forces over the last 20 years. Whilst we have yet to receive our first families we understand that it is just a matter of time. Two Saints have now been engaged to support the Afghan families with their day to day needs, across the County. A further scheme, the Afghan Resettlement Scheme, has now been announced by the Home Office. That scheme is targeting those most at risk, primarily at women and children. Once again the relevant agencies know of our willingness to assist and were are awaiting further details. It's natural that people want to assist the Afghan families that will be living in our communities in the County. The County Council is currently developing ideas of how that could work in practice."

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## **Notice of Motion - Rule 12**

Council considered the following motion moved by Councillor Gwynne and seconded by Councillor C Dowden.

*Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1.2°C from pre-industrial levels and the natural world has reached crisis point, with [28% of plants and animals](#) currently threatened with extinction.*

*Unless we drastically change course, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's safe 1.5°C limit. Pledges like the Paris Agreement and updated emissions targets are not legally binding. The gap between pledges and policies leaves the world on course for catastrophic warming of [near 3%](#) (or more). As the [2018 report](#) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made clear, every half a degree makes a world of difference: severe climate impacts with 1.5°C of warming, such as extreme weather patterns causing flooding and heat waves, get significantly worse with 2°C. According to the IPCC's 2021 report, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still just be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities.*

*The UK is [one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world](#) and more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction and more than 40% are in decline. As an example, we have lost [95% of our hedgehog population](#). The UK needs a legally-enforceable nature target so that by 2030 nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery, in line with the [Global Goal for Nature](#) and the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#) .*

Council notes that:

- I. *Many local authorities are playing an important role in the UK taking action to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and to protect and revitalise local wildlife and natural habitats.*
- II. *Parliament in May 2019 declared an Environment and Climate Emergency. This Council declared a Climate Emergency in the same year and has had a Biodiversity Action Plan in place since 2008.*
- III. *There is a Bill before Parliament—the [Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill](#) (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”), which, if it became law, would require the government to develop a strategy to address the emergency that would ensure:
  - A. **the ecological emergency is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis** in a joined-up approach;
  - B. **the Paris Agreement** is enshrined into law to ensure that UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement -1.5°C.*

- C. the **Leaders Pledge for Nature** is enshrined into law to ensure that the **UK's ecosystems are protected and restored** with a focus on biodiversity, soils and natural carbon sinks;
- D. the UK takes **full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint** (ie consumption emissions plus shipping, flights and land-based transport) by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume;
- E. the UK takes **full responsibility for our ecological footprint** so that we protect health and resilience of ecosystems along both domestic and our global supply chains;
- F. an **independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly** is set-up, representative of the UK's population, to engage with the UK Parliament and UK Government to help develop the **emergency strategy**.

Council therefore resolves to:

- I. **Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;**
- II. **Inform the local media** of this decision;
- III. **Write an open letter to Kit Malthouse MP and Mrs Caroline Nokes MP** (shared with our residents through local and social media) urging them to sign up to support the Bill; and
- IV. Write to the [CEE Bill Alliance](#), (now known as Zero Hour), the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support ([joinus@ceebill.uk](mailto:joinus@ceebill.uk)).

Councillor Johnston proposed an amendment to the motion that:

Council refers the motion to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration and response.

Councillor Parker requested that a recorded vote be taken on the amendment. In accordance with the Constitution more than 10 members supported this and the recorded vote was as follows;

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Adams King	Baverstock	Ward
Andersen	Burnage	
Bailey	Coole	
Borg Neal	Cooper	
Brooks	Daas	
Budzynski	A Dowden	
Bundy	C Dowden	
Burley	Gidley	
Donnelly	Gwynne	
Drew	Harber	
Ecclestone	Meyer	
Flood	Parker	

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Hamilton	Thom	
Hatley		
Jeffrey		
Johnston		
Lodge		
Maltby		
Matthews		
Neal		
K North		
P North		

Councillor Johnson's amendment therefore became the substantive motion, which was voted on accordingly and carried.

**Resolved:**

**Council refers the following motion to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and response:**

**That Council:**

- i. Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;**
- ii. Inform the local media of this decision;**
- iii. Write an open letter to Kit Malthouse MP and Mrs Caroline Nokes MP (shared with our residents through local and social media) urging them to sign up to support the Bill; and**
- iv. Write to the CEE Bill Alliance (now known as Zero Hour), the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (joinus@ceebill.uk).**

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**Exclusion of the Public**

No confidential information was discussed on item 14 therefore the public were not required to leave the meeting.

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**Procurement of Andover Masterplan Services Annex**

No confidential information from the annex to item 14 was discussed.

(The meeting terminated at 7.25 pm)