

COUNCIL

**MEETING HELD AT THE AINTREE RACECOURSE
ON THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Clare Louise Carragher) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Burns) and Vice Chair

Councillors Atkinson, Bennett, Blackburne, Brodie - Browne, Brough, Carlin, Carr, Corcoran, Cummins, D'Albuquerque, Dodd, Dowd, Doyle, Evans, Fairclough, Friel, Grace, Halsall, Hansen, Hardy, Howard, Irving, John Kelly, John Joseph Kelly, Sonya Kelly, Killen, Lappin, Lewis, Ian Maher, Chris Maher, McGinnity, Moncur, Morris, Murphy, Myers, O'Brien, Prendergast, Pugh, Riley, Robinson, Roche, Roscoe, Sathiy, Shaw, Spencer, Anne Thompson, Lynne Thompson, Veidman, Waterfield and Webster

62. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed Members, Officers and Members of the Public to the Council Meeting at Aintree Racecourse and reported that many Councillors had expressed concerns after the last Full Council meeting about their own personal safety and so after taking some advice the Mayor reported that she had concluded that it was not safe for 66 Councillors and 9 Officers to meet in the Council Chamber. The Mayor reported that it was clear that Covid rates were not reducing in Sefton and at the time of the last Council meeting rates were around 300per 100k population whereas now they were over 400 and the 7 day case rate was around 850 people testing positive whereas now they were at 1,140. The Mayor added that with Schools returning after half term we had seen an increase and in addition to that and on a regular basis the Council were seeing circa 25 staff testing positive for Covid despite having two vaccinations. When Full Council met in September local hospitals were not experiencing the same pressures as they were today and were now at their highest admission rates since March 2021.

The Mayor reported that the Director of Public Health had stated that there were more colds, respiratory viruses and flu in circulation and that she had consulted with the Chief Executive of the Council and that they had both agreed that the safest action was to meet at Aintree racecourse with significantly more distancing available and less risks.

The Mayor referred to the criticism that had been received when the Council had previously met at Aintree and stated that the Government funding for Covid could be used; and the Mayor emphasised that on balance both herself and the Chief Executive believed the decision was

the best one under the current circumstances in protecting Councillors, staff and supporting the NHS and our communities by limiting the risks of spreading Covid.

The Mayor reminded all those in attendance to observe Social Distance and requested that Members and Officers wore a face covering whilst moving around the meeting room.

Members were advised that they should indicate in the usual way if they wished to speak and a microphone would be brought to them.

Members were also advised that there were hand sanitizers at the entrance to the room and on each desk and that all Members and Officers should have already taken a lateral flow test and only attended if that test was negative.

63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bradshaw, Brennan, Byrom, Cluskey, Dutton, Jones, McKinley, Page, John Sayers, Yvonne Sayers, Thomas, Tweed and Sir Ron Watson.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received.

65. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

66. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor of Sefton's Charity Oktoberfest Night

The Mayor reported that her Charity Event "Oktoberfest" was a huge success and approximately £800 was raised. The Mayor thanked all those who had supported the event and thanked the Civic and Mayoral Officer who worked extremely hard in organising and promoting the Charity events.

Mayor's Lottery

The Mayor reminded members of the opportunity to sign up for the Mayors Lottery and reported that it was £2 per month with half the proceeds of the lottery going toward her Charity Fund.

Death of Sir David Amess MP

The Mayor reported on the tragic death of Sir David Amess MP on 15 October 2021 who had been an MP since 1983 and was married with 5 children. The Mayor, on behalf of the Council sent prayers to his family, friends and constituents at this sad time.

Former Councillor Barry Griffiths

The Mayor reported on the sad passing of former Councillor Barry Griffiths who had passed away on 1 November 2021 at the age of 87. He was a Conservative Member representing Ravenmeols Ward from 7 May 1998 to 6 May 2012. Former Councillor Barry Griffiths' appointments to Cabinet/Committees included the following:-

- 2008/09 – Chair of Licensing Committee
- 2009/10 – Cabinet Member – Communities
- 2010/11 – Member of Planning Committee
- 2011/12 – Conservative Spokesperson on Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care)

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council sent her prayers to all his family at this sad time.

Councillors Brough, Pugh, Fairclough, Maher and Killen paid tribute to former Councillor Barry Griffiths.

Councillor Bradshaw

The Mayor reported on the sad passing of Councillor Bradshaw's Daughter and sent the Councils heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Councillor Bradshaw and all her family at such a sad time.

The Council observed a one-minute silence as a mark of respect in reflecting on the sad passings.

Liverpool Women's Hospital

The Mayor referred to the horrific event that led to a car explosion on Sunday 14 November 2021, at the Liverpool Women's Hospital and commended the taxi driver's bravery and fast action in preventing further devastation in the Community. The Mayor, on behalf of the Council would send best wishes to him for a speedy recovery and to all those effected by the tragic terrorist attack.

Remembrance Sunday

The Mayor extended her gratitude of appreciation to all Members of the Council, Officers, Royal British Legion, Ex Service Organisations and members of the public who attended the various Remembrance Sunday events held throughout the Borough, which were all extremely well attended.

The Mayor referred to the hard work required in the organisation of such events and thanked the Civic and Mayoral Officer and all those Officers who worked hard behind the scenes in ensuring that all Services across the Borough ran smoothly.

67. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

The Mayor reported that a public petition had been received containing the signatures of 503 people and that the summary of the petition stated:

“We the undersigned petition the Council to agree to offer and install a number of beach huts at a suitable location on Crosby beach, nearby to the public toilets and other leisure amenities.

Justification:

These could be offered on a leasehold basis to members of the public for an annual rental sum which would cover their capital purchase price, then ongoing operational charges including maintenance, security and insurance, although ideally power and water could be provided (from connecting to mains sources in the leisure centre area).

One or more of the beach huts could be offered for philanthropic or charitable causes (for example, to local children’s hospices or hospitals so that parents or families of terminally ill children can enjoy some time with either the child and/or siblings in a safe local environment).

Clearly there is a cost to the Council, however case studies from other coastal areas have demonstrated the success in beach huts rental adequately covering if not exceeding outlay costs.

The huts would add interest and amenity to the Crosby coastal pathway which is vast and has capacity to accommodate them. The huts would need to be kept in good order by tenants but would need the support of the Council to deter vandalism, although other case studies again prove this is committed in the minority and not the majority.

It could be a requirement that they are painted in specific tones to maintain the aesthetics of the area or in a specific style (i.e. to match the famous Edwardian villas on Mersey View for which the area is renowned). This could attract tourism and good PR to the area, complementing the existing Antony Gormley statues but also following in the wake of other Liverpool City Region art events such as the Super Lambananas where each is designed by a local resident). In the future, more huts could be made available to individuals or on corporate rental. Local schools could also have access to a hut as part of educational initiatives, to collect and preserve specimens (various flora or shells, etc. or display of litter and how far it has travelled to the beach).

In the wake of the COVID-19 lockdowns this could be a brilliant opportunity to encourage residents to retain their interest for the outdoors, for exercising and for caring about their neighbourhood.”

In accordance with the Councils Constitution, the Lead Petitioner was advised of her right to make representations to the Council, not lasting more than 5 minutes.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Moncur responded to the petition and Members debated the petition.

Thereafter, it was moved by Councillor Moncur, seconded by Councillor Maher and

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the lead petitioner be thanked for submitting and presenting the petition to the Council;
- (2) the Head of Operational In-House Services be requested to investigate and actively pursue the concept of Beach Huts at Crosby; and
- (3) the Head of Operational In-House Services be requested to provide progress reports to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing with a view to submitting a full report to a future meeting of the Council.

68. QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council considered a schedule setting out the written questions submitted by:

- (1) Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (2) Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (3) Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (4) Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (5) Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (6) Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (7) Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (8) Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (9) Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)

- (10) Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (11) Councillor Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (12) Councillor Evans to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)

together with the responses given. Supplementary questions to questions 1, 3, 4 and 12 were responded to by the Cabinet Member for Locality Services.

69. MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT

The Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer in relation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Adult Social Care and Health, Mental Health Working Group Final Report.

It was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Waterfield and

RESOLVED:

That the following recommendations be approved:

- (1) That the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health be requested to develop an action plan that incorporates the following recommendations and that the recommendations are taken forward into commissioning plans:
 - A. support the development of accurate data to evidence Key Performance Indicators, to include waiting times for services and customer satisfaction, to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) on a regular basis, in the form of a dashboard;
 - B. support the development of greater parity of esteem for mental health within the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and other strategic documents;
 - C. consider methods of increasing feedback from service users, to include case studies and a "secret shopper" approach, in order to encourage an approach of continuous improvement for service user experience;
 - D. consider methods of increasing service user involvement, particularly in their own crisis planning, in anticipation of reforms to the Mental Health Act;

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- E. consider methods of encouraging service users to become “experts by experience”, particularly through the use of Mersey Care facilities such as the Life Rooms and Crisis Cafes;
 - F. support the development of Integrated Care Systems for a more holistic approach to issues that can impact on mental health, such as housing, addiction, complex lives issues, etc.;
 - G. support the inclusion of approaches adopted during the pandemic, such as the use of video technology, within the development of the Technology Enabled Care Services Strategy;
 - H. undertake a review of some of the services traditionally provided, in the light of alternative services provided and service user take-up of those services, during the pandemic;
 - I. submit a report on the work and outcome of the Sefton Mental Health Review Task and Finish Group, set up between the Council, CCG's, Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and the voluntary sector, to the to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health), in due course;
 - J. review digital entry points for service users to access the Council's mental health services, in order to ensure that access is as straightforward as possible via the Council's website and that links to other organisations are readily available;
 - K. submit a report on the work undertaken in relation to transitions from children's services to adult services, to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health), in due course to include care leavers and other vulnerable user groups;
 - L. review the Directory of Services available, in order to produce a map of services, to assist service users to navigate the system;
 - M. report progress regarding the formal assessment of diagnosis for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder conditions in young people aged 18-25 and adults, within the six-monthly monitoring report, on the outcome of additional funding and training of staff provided by Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Groups for the reduction of waiting times for diagnosis; and
2. that the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to liaise with relevant officers in order to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) receives a six-monthly monitoring report, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations outlined above;

**70. HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE
WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT**

The Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer in relation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Regeneration and Skills, Housing Support Services for Vulnerable People Working Group Final Report.

It was moved by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Anne Thompson and

RESOLVED: That the following recommendations be approved:

- (1) in order for elected Members to provide a local insight into the Postcode Check process, appropriate Ward Councillors views be sought as part of the Postcode Check consultation process;
- (2) to provide as much evidence base as possible as part of the Postcode Check process the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be requested to write to all elected Members urging them to contact the Head of Communities as to which areas within their wards maybe suffering issues that should be taken into account, such as instances of crime, including hate crime, anti-social behaviour and any community tensions, when considering future asylum accommodation procurement;
- (3) in order that elected Members are aware of the strategic planning, location and distribution of Housing and Support Services for vulnerable households the Head of Communities be requested to provide 6-monthly updates to all Councillors;
- (4) when commissioning specific housing and support services for vulnerable groups, the Council should continue to adopt a strategic approach that is cognisant of other such services, the capacity of wider statutory, community and voluntary services and reflects issues at a local community level within each ward as to the location of the housing element;
- (5) any support services that are commissioned by the Council to support vulnerable households should be tailored to the target group with specialist provision and the ability to flex up and flex down as and when required. Local, Sefton based services, often run by the Community and Voluntary sector based in our communities should always be the preferred option wherever possible. The longer-term aim of self-reliance for the service user and longer-term sustainability of the project should always be the aim with a focus on reducing demand on demand-led services; and
- (6) where housing and support services that are not commissioned by

the Council fail then officers should use the governance structures in place to escalate issues.

An example of this is where officers have used the Liverpool City Region Officers network and the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership so that issues can be escalated by elected members to the Lead Member for the Liverpool City Region group.

71. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNCIL'S ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT

The Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer in relation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Regeneration and Skills, Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group Final Report.

It was moved by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Dowd and

RESOLVED: That the following recommendations be approved:

That:

- (1) a very significant increase in uniformed enforcement officers be established to tackle the problems of littering, fly-tipping and rear entry dumping;
- (2) a high-profile publicity campaign be introduced to highlight the increased enforcement activity to be undertaken;
- (3) as part of the evidence base to understand the options for an additional enforcement regime, an evaluation should take place to detail the invest to save opportunities that may exist that could reduce demand on Cleansing Services as enforcement activity is increased with the requirement for the proposal to be cost neutral on the Council's budget; and
- (4)
 - (a) Investigations take place to see whether sanctions could be imposed on private landlords, via the Selective Licensing Scheme, for the anti-social actions of their tenants in littering and dumping rubbish in rear entries; and
 - (b) All registered social landlords operating in Sefton be contacted and urged to consider taking action against those tenants who act irresponsibly and fly-tip or dump rubbish in rear entries

72. NORTH WEST REGIONAL COASTAL MONITORING PROGRAMME PRE- PROCUREMENT REPORT - TOPOGRAPHIC SERVICES

The Mayor reported that the North West Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme Pre- Procurement Report - Topographic Services did not require Council approval and accordingly had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

73. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2021/22

The Council considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services in relation to the Treasury Management activities undertaken to 30 September 2021.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management update to 30 September 2021, the effects of decisions taken in pursuit of the Treasury Management Strategy and the implications of changes resulting from regulatory, economic and market factors affecting the Council's treasury management activities, be noted.

74. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 2021/22 TO 2024/25 AND FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE 2020 - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 TO 2024/25

The Council considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services that detailed:

1. The latest position with regard to Government's Comprehensive Spending Review and the potential impact that this could have on the Council's funding for 2022/23 to 2024/25.
2. The update to the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2022/23 to 2024/25 taking account of all currently available information.
3. The position in respect of the Council's High Needs Budget and the need to establish a remedial action plan in respect of the deficit within the High Needs Block, which would be shared with the external auditor in order to support financial sustainability.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED:

That the updated Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022/23 to 2024/25 and any assumptions made, be approved.

75. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2021/22

The Mayor reported that notice had been given by the Labour Group Whip, of the following changes to Memberships of Committees and Outside Bodies in respect of their Groups Membership:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

- Councillor Page to replace Councillor John Sayers as the Substitute Member for Councillor Murphy on the above Committee.
- Councillor Blackburne to replace Councillor Wilson as a Member on the above Committee and Councillor Roche to be appointed as the Substitute Member for Councillor Burns.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)

- Councillor Sonya Kelly to replace Councillor Wilson as the Substitute Member for Councillor Cluskey.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)

- Councillor John Sayers to replace Councillor Page as the Substitute Member for Councillor Howard on the above Committee.

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

- Councillor Roche to replace Councillor Blackburne as a Member on the above Committee

Joint Consultative Committee for Teaching Staff

- Councillor Corcoran to replace Councillor Wilson as a Member on the above Committee.
- Councillor Grace to be appointed as the Substitute Member for Councillor Corcoran on the above Committee.

The Mayor reported that Councillor Pugh had resigned his seat and Membership on the Planning Committee and that no other member from the Liberal Democrat and Progressive Alliance Group wished to take his place. The Mayor further reported that at the next meeting of the Council scheduled to take place on 20th January 2022 she would seek nominations from other Groups to appoint to the vacant position on the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED:

The changes as detailed above, be approved.

76. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MORRIS - THE LOCAL ELECTRICITY BILL

The Local Electricity Bill

It was moved by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Brough and unanimously:

RESOLVED:

That this Council supports and

- acknowledges the efforts that this Council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy by declaring a 'Climate Change Emergency' in July 2019; and
- Further recognises:

that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,

that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for local companies, community groups and councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, if they wished, and

that revenues received by such local companies, community groups or councils that chose to become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.

That this Council:

- (i) recognises that the issues involved do in themselves raise a number of issues that can only be resolved through direct experience and as a consequence we recommend that a number of areas become initial pilot schemes to enable a full assessment to be made and any discernible problems to be resolved, using Council buildings as a trial for producing power by use of solar and/or wind;
- (ii) notes that the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee, as a result of its 2021 Technological Innovations and Climate Change inquiry, recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this;
- (ii) accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 264 MPs and which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running

costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company; and

- (iv) Further resolves to inform the local media of this decision; write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at Camden Collective, 5-7 Buck Street, London NW1 8NJ or info@powerforpeople.org.uk) expressing its support; and
- (v) upon approval of (i) above, that the Council refers the Motion to the Cabinet to consider all costs associated with the Motion.

77. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ROSCOE - FIRE AND REHIRE

It was moved by Councillor Roscoe, seconded by Councillor Halsall:

That this Council notes:

- 1 in 10 workers have experienced 'fire and rehire' - told to reapply for their jobs on worse pay, terms and conditions or face the sack, with BME workers facing this at twice the rate of white workers, since March 2020 (TUC research, January 2021). A quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions – including a cut in their pay – since the pandemic began.
- That while the Prime Minister has called the practice “unacceptable” he has continually refused to take action to outlaw the practice, raising concerns that he will not intervene in this race to the bottom as an escalating number of employers across all sectors, using our weak employment protections force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, leaving many having to work longer hours and for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
- Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers - 3.8 million people - were already 'insecure', meaning they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will; including those on zero hour contracts and agency workers.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Recognise that local residents should be protected against such unscrupulous employers and agrees to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister demanding he outlaw fire and rehire and act now to keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions;
- Not use fire and rehire itself as an employer and to discourage its use by council contractors and to ensure that the council's

procurement practices ensure that we are working with contractors that have good employment, equality and environmental records, for example, fostering good Trade Union relationships;

- Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees' standard of living and their wellbeing, work with our anchor institutions and key partners to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment and to work with recognised trade unions on this;
- Support the TUC campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People'.

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Lewis that the following paragraph be included as the 3rd bullet in the resolution:

"Recognise and note that the local government sector as a whole should follow best practice, noting that UNISON said this summer that Tower Hamlet Council's "use of 'fire and rehire' tactics more commonly associated with dodgy employment practices in the private sector is a stain on the council's reputation that it will struggle to shake off".

Following debate, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared the **amendment was lost** by 37 votes to 13 with 1 abstention.

Thereafter, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared the **Motion was carried** by 44 votes to 4 with 1 abstention and it was

RESOLVED: That This council notes:

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- That while the Prime Minister has called the practice "unacceptable" he has continually refused to take action to outlaw the practice, raising concerns that he will not intervene in this race to the bottom as an escalating number of employers across all sectors, using our weak employment protections force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, leaving many having to work longer hours and for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
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This Council therefore resolves to:

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- Not use fire and rehire itself as an employer and to discourage its use by council contractors and to ensure that the council's procurement practices ensure that we are working with contractors that have good employment, equality and environmental records, for example, fostering good Trade Union relationships;
- Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees' standard of living and their wellbeing, work with our anchor institutions and key partners to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment and to work with recognised trade unions on this;
- Support the TUC campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People'.

**78. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SIR RON WATSON -
COURTESY IN PUBLIC LIFE**

The Mayor reported that she had received notice that due to the non-attendance of Councillor Sir Ron Watson, the proposer of the Motion, the Motion would be considered at the next meeting of the Council.