

COUNCIL

**REMOTE MEETING HELD
ON THURSDAY 7TH MAY, 2020**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Burns) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Robinson) Vice Chair
Councillors Atkinson, Brough, Dowd, Dutton, Evans,
Fairclough, Grace, Hardy, John Joseph Kelly,
Lappin, Maher, McCann, Moncur, Myers,
Brenda O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, Pugh, Pullin,
Roscoe and Shaw

1. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Remote Meeting of the Council

The Mayor took the opportunity to welcome Members to the first remote meeting of Sefton Council and extended a special welcome to members of the public who may be viewing the meeting online. This meeting was being held using Microsoft Teams Live Events software and prior to the meeting a test meeting had been held to ensure the meeting ran smoothly. A protocol for Members attending remote meetings had been circulated prior to the meeting and Members were respectfully requested to adhere to this protocol.

The Mayor advised the meeting that it would be particularly helpful if Members turned their cameras off and muted their microphones when not addressing the meeting; and that if Members would like to address the meeting at any time, they should indicate by using the chat facility in Microsoft Teams. The chat facility enabled elected Members to raise issues and interact with the meeting in real time.

Covid-19 Pandemic

The Mayor stated that as Members knew only too well the United Kingdom, and indeed the whole world, was in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic. This was having a devastating impact on communities across the Country and here in Sefton.

However, our communities were pulling together and key workers across the Council, the NHS, transport, the food retail and distribution sector, Military, voluntary sector and Schools were continuing to provide valuable and in many cases life-saving services to our residents; and the Council was extremely grateful for the services provided by the key workers.

Tragically, key workers across the Country and here in Sefton had lost their lives due to Covid-19.

The Council then observed a minute's silence to honour the frontline NHS staff and key workers in the transport, food retail and distribution, Military, voluntary and Schools sectors who had died from Covid-19.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bennett, Blackburne, Bradshaw, Brennan, Brodie-Browne, Byrom, Carr, Carragher, Cluskey, Cummins, Dawson, Dodd, Doyle, Friel, Gannon, Halsall, Hands, Howard, Irving, Jones, Keith, John Kelly, Killen, Lewis, Marshall, McGinnity, McKinley, Morris, Murphy, O'Hanlon, Pitt, Roche, Sathiy, John Sayers, Yvonne Sayers, Spencer, Thomas, Anne Thompson, Lynne Thompson, Tweed, Viedman, Waterfield, Sir Ron Watson and Webster.

The Members concerned were not present as they were unable to attend the Meeting because of the current Covid-19 situation and this is the formal reason recorded by the Council for their absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – SECTION 85 - ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS – COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS

The Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought, due to the reduction of meetings because of the Covid-19 pandemic, authority to approve and authorise the absence of any Councillors from attendance at Council and Committee Meetings pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

RESOLVED:

That the absence of any Elected Members from all Council and Committee Meetings be authorised and approved for the period until 7 November 2020, pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.