

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held Tewkesbury Abbey on
Tuesday, 16 May 2023 commencing at 7:00 pm**

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor

Councillor I Yates

and Councillors:

N D Adcock, C Agg, H J Bowman, T J Budge, C L J Carter, C M Cody, C F Coleman,
M Dimond-Brown, S R Dove, D W Gray, S Hands, A Hegenbarth, M L Jordan, E J MacTiernan,
J R Mason, G C Madle, H C McLain, P D McLain, P W Ockelton, K Pervaiz, G M Porter,
E C Skelt, P E Smith, R J Stanley, M R Stewart, H Sundarajoo, M G Sztymiak, R J E Vines,
M J Williams and P N Workman

CL.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P A Godwin, E J MacTiernan, G C Madle, C E Mills, J P Mills and J K Smith.

CL.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR

- 2.1 With the retiring Mayor, John Murphy, in the Chair, it was proposed by Councillor Mary Jordan and seconded by Councillor Richard Stanley, that Councillor Ian Yates be, and is hereby elected, Mayor of the Borough of Tewkesbury for the ensuing Municipal Year.
- 2.2 On the Motion being put to the meeting it was declared to be carried, whereupon the Mayor took the Chair, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty the King.
- 2.3 In thanking Members for the privilege of being elected Mayor of the Borough of Tewkesbury, Councillor Yates stated that he was profoundly honoured by the trust placed in him and promised to do all he could to live up to that trust. Councillor Yates thanked the Democratic Services Team for their hard work since the election and all officers for making the first few days of the new Council easier than they might otherwise have been. He advised that he had not chosen a Chaplain; being a Methodist Minister himself, he regarded all Ministers as brothers and sisters and during his year in Office he intended to invite several colleagues to assist him. His chosen charity for the year would be the food banks across the Borough – he was profoundly saddened by anyone having to be hungry but especially children. Finally, the Mayor announced that his wife, Christine, would be his Mayoress for the year. For the past 50 years she had been his constant companion and any good things he had done/good ideas he had had were due to her input. He was delighted to name her as his Mayoress and looked forward to attending engagements with her.

CL.3 RETIRING MAYOR - JOHN MURPHY

- 3.1 Councillor Jim Mason expressed the Council's thanks to John Murphy for his service to the Borough. He explained that 12 months ago he had the privilege to propose John for the position of Mayor as he knew he would be excellent in the role. He felt John had been a fantastic Ambassador for the Borough and, together with his Mayoress Anne, he had attended over 60 functions and events despite having to take time out for a couple of months due to a nasty accident. At Council meetings, he had been a fair and impartial Chair who managed meetings expertly and with a quiet authority ensuring a smooth transaction of business. Councillor Mason expressed his sadness at John having lost his seat in the recent local elections and felt he would be missed, especially in his role as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He indicated that John had conducted his Mayoral Year with great dignity and decorum, had been very popular out in the community and was spoken of with great affection and warmth – he had great support from Anne and together they had worked tirelessly with compassion and commitment making everyone feel comfortable with their relaxed way. It had been a very successful Mayoral year full of great memories for the community as well as for John and Anne.
- 3.2 John Murphy thanked Councillor Jim Mason for his words of thanks and expressed what a privilege it had been to be Mayor; he had been thinking about his experiences over the past year and, setting aside Council meetings, he had been to many civic events with the Chain Gang and had attended too numerous engagements to count; however, there were some highlights he had to mention including commemorating the death of Her Majesty the Queen and subsequent Proclamation of the ascent of King Charles III – the Proclamation was a page of A4 with one full stop making it quite difficult to deliver. However, the main message of the year was how much really good work the citizens of Tewkesbury Borough did. John Murphy referred to Tom Cat which was a firm to which he had the privilege of awarding its second Queens Award for Industry – they produced tricycles for severely disabled children and customised them so they grew with them as they got older – they had even developed the business as they saw an opportunity for older people in Florida. In addition, the Butterfly Garden was run by an amazing person who had built up a charity to help people with learning difficulties/disabilities to do art, plays, look after plants etc. Both organisations had shown him what joy people were bringing to the Borough.
- 3.3 The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Yates, presented John Murphy with a Past Mayor's Badge; Mrs Murphy presented the new Mayoress with the Mayoress' Badge of Office; and the new Mayoress presented Mrs Murphy with a Past Mayoress' Badge. Flowers were presented to the new Mayoress and to Mrs Murphy.

CL.4 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

- 4.1 It was proposed, seconded and
- RESOLVED** That the appointment of Deputy Mayor be adjourned until the June meeting of the Council.

CL.5 ADJOURNMENT

- 5.1 Upon the Motion of the Mayor, the meeting of the Council stood adjourned until Tuesday 17 May 2023 at 6.00pm.

CL.6 RESUMPTION

6.1 The meeting then resumed in the Severn Room of the Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury on Tuesday 17 May 2023, when the attendance was as follows:

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Vice-Chair

Councillor I Yates
Councillor P E Smith

and Councillors:

N D Adcock, C Agg, H J Bowman, T J Budge, C L J Carter, C M Cody, C F Coleman, M Dimond-Brown, S R Dove, P A Godwin, M A Gore, D W Gray, S Hands, D J Harwood, A Hegenbarth, M L Jordan, E J MacTiernan, G C Madle, J R Mason, H C McLain, P D McLain, C E Mills, J P Mills, P W Ockelton, K Pervaiz, G M Porter, E C Skelt, J K Smith, R J G Smith, R J Stanley, M R Stewart, H Sundarajoo, M G Sztymiak, R J E Vines, M J Williams and P N Workman

CL.7 ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 The evacuation procedure, as noted on the Agenda, was advised to those present.

CL.8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

8.1 The Committee's attention was drawn to the Tewkesbury Borough Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 24 January 2023 and took effect on 1 February 2023.

8.2 There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

CL.9 MINUTES

9.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

CL.10 ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

10.1 There were no items from members of the public.

CL.11 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

11.1 Upon being proposed and seconded, it was

RESOLVED That Councillor R J Stanley be elected as Leader of the Council, and therefore Chair of the Executive Committee, for the ensuing Municipal Year.

CL.12 ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

12.1 Upon being proposed and seconded, it was

RESOLVED That Councillor S J Hands be elected as Deputy Leader of the Council, and therefore Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee, for the ensuing Municipal Year.

12.2 The Leader of the Council welcomed all Councillors and expressed a hope that they could all work together for the wider needs of the Borough and stand together with equal responsibility to do good and take the opportunity to make a difference for the people of the Borough. He felt the Council was already listening and that was the reason he had asked for the Garden Town project to be paused whilst a review was undertaken, particularly given the concerns raised about the loss of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) land, the loss of the Ashchurch Bridge over Rail appeal and loss of land which was already being developed as well as the lack of community involvement to date. He felt it was essential that any progression of the project was done in partnership with the local communities. In terms of the Council's Planning Committee, he was recommending the membership be reduced from 19 to 13 in line with the review into reforming planning in the Council. He also recognised the significant challenges faced by the Council and the financially painful and difficult times for millions of people – the Council was poorly funded and he was under no illusion there would need to be difficult choices made and the Council could not hide away from those challenges instead it must be ambitious and pragmatic. The Council had tremendous officers which needed support, clear direction and a stable political structure which he, along with the Deputy Leader of the Council, intended to work hard to provide.

12.3 The Deputy Leader of the Council offered her congratulations to all new and returned Councillors and expressed the hope they could work together for a stable Council and Borough for the future.

CL.13 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

13.1 The Leader of the Council proposed, and upon being seconded, it was

RESOLVED That Councillor P E Smith be appointed as Vice-Chair for the meeting.

CL.14 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES**Number of Lead Members, Appointment of Lead Members and Support Members**

14.1 Referring to items 8(a), (b) and (c) on the Agenda, the Leader of the Council proposed, and it was seconded that 1. the Executive Committee be increased from 11 to 12 Members which would include nine Members with portfolios and three without; 2. that the membership of the Executive Committee, the nine portfolios and the Lead and Support Members for each be as set out on the paper circulated at the meeting, marked as Appendix 1; and 3. that, as the current Scheme of Member Allowances did not address membership of the Executive Committee without a portfolio, the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to meet and make a recommendation to Council as to whether the Scheme required amendment to accommodate that new role. In response to a query regarding the increase in numbers of the Committee, but decrease in portfolios, the Leader of the Council explained that it was difficult to strike a balance in a Council with no overall control but he felt it was appropriate for all parties/groups to have the opportunity to

sit on the Executive Committee even if they did not all have a portfolio. Accordingly, it was

- RESOLVED**
1. That the Executive Committee be increased from 11 to 12 Members which would include nine Members with portfolios and three without.
 2. That the membership of the Executive Committee, the nine portfolios and the Lead and Support Members for each be as set out on the paper circulated at the meeting, marked as Appendix 1 and attached to these Minutes.
 3. That, as the current Scheme of Member Allowances did not address membership of the Executive Committee without a portfolio, the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to meet and make a recommendation to Council as to whether the Scheme required amendment to accommodate that new role.

Committee Membership and Membership of Ad-Hoc Committees

14.2 In respect of Items 8(d) and (e) on the Agenda, the Leader of the Council proposed that the number of seats on the Planning Committee be reduced from 19 to 13 and that the membership of Committees, including the Ad-Hoc Committees, be as set out on the paper circulated at the meeting marked Appendix 2 (set out below). A Member expressed the view that it had been a meticulous process to get to the number of 19 on the Committee so that it had representation from across the Borough rather than in small pockets. He understood the recent external review had seen the large number of Members on the Planning Committee as a weakness but the Member saw it as a strength as it was more democratic. In response, the Leader of the Council explained that the review had suggested a membership of between 11 and 13 and he was proposing the higher end of that range which he felt was sensible and should be acceptable to the Council. Another Member reminded the Council that the Planning Committee was quasi-judicial and therefore non-political. In addition, local Members were able to address the Committee on matters affecting their Ward. Accordingly, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That that the number of seats on the Planning Committee be reduced from 19 to 13 and that the membership of Committees, including the Ad-Hoc Committees, be as set out below:

Planning (13)

Thomas Budge
 Matt Dimond-Brown
 Mel Gore
 Sarah Hands
 Debbie Harwood
 Mary Jordan
 Gemma Madle
 Jim Mason
 Paul Ockelton
 Paul Smith
 Richard Smith
 Robert Vines
 Philip Workman

Licensing Committee (15)

Nigel Adcock
 Cheryl Agg
 Craig Carter
 Christopher Coleman
 Pauline Godwin
 Sarah Hands
 Alex Hegenbarth
 Heather McLain
 Charlotte Mills
 Paul Ockelton
 Richard Smith
 Helena Sundarajoo
 Mike Sztymiak
 Robert Vines
 Mark Williams

Overview and Scrutiny (15)

Nigel Adcock
Cheryl Agg
Thomas Budge
Hilarie Bowman
Craig Carter
Matt Dimond-Brown
Pauline Godwin
Gemma Madle
Heather McLain
Charlotte Mills
George Porter
Liz Skelt
Mark Williams
Philip Workman
Ian Yates

Audit and Governance (9)

Hilarie Bowman
Stewart Dove
David Gray
Elaine MacTiernan
Paul McLain
Jason Mills
Paul Smith
Richard Smith
Murray Stewart

Standards Committee (7)

Hilarie Bowman
Stewart Dove
Elaine MacTiernan
Paul McLain
George Porter
Paul Smith
Mark Williams

Horsford Trust Management Committee

(Committee of Councillors representing the Tewkesbury Wards)

Hilarie Bowman
Cate Cody
Matt Dimond-Brown
Helena Sundarajoo
Mike Sztymiak
Philip Workman

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Employee Appeals Committee (any 5 from 8)

Mel Gore
Sarah Hands
Paul Ockelton
Liz Skelt
Richard Smith
Richard Stanley
Mike Sztymiak
Robert Vines

Employee Appointments/Disciplinary Committee (5)

Cate Cody
Mary Jordan
Elaine MacTiernan
Jim Mason
Kashan Pervaiz

Appointment of Representatives to Panels and Liaison Groups

14.3 The Mayor invited nominations for the Panels and Liaison Groups and upon being proposed and seconded, it was

RESOLVED That the Membership of Panels and Liaison Groups be as follows:

Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel – representative - Councillor GM Porter and reserve – Councillor M R Stewart.

Shared Legal Services Joint Monitoring and Liaison Group – representatives – Lead Member for Corporate Governance and Councillor G C Madle and substitutes – Councillor C L J Carter and vacancy.

Shared Building Control Joint Monitoring and Liaison Group – representative - Lead Member for Built Environment and substitute – Councillor P W Ockelton.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

14.4 Referring to Item 8(g) on the Agenda, the Leader of the Council proposed the outside body representatives as set out on the list circulated at the meeting marked as Appendix 3 (set out below) with the amendments that Councillor C Coleman would not stand for the A46 Partnership but would instead be the representative on the South West Councils – Employers Panel and that Councillor S J Hands would be replaced by Councillor P N Workman on the Tewkesbury Regeneration Partnership. This would leave vacancies on the A48 Meeting and Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) and information would be circulated to Group Leaders on the role and frequency of those meetings to enable them to request nominations to fill the vacancies. The outcome of this process would be reported to the next meeting of the Council. The proposal was seconded and, accordingly, it was

RESOLVED That the outside body representatives be **AGREED** as follows:

A46 Member Partnership	Hilarie Bowman
A48 Meeting	Vacant
Ambulance Trust (<i>observer</i>)	Liz Skelt
Cleeve Common Trust	Cheryl Agg
Cotswolds National Landscape Conservation Board	Nigel Adcock
District Councils Network	Leader of the Council
Gloucester and District Citizens' Advice Bureau	Murray Stewart
Gloucestershire Airport Consultative Committee	Richard Smith
Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (formerly 2gether NHS Foundation Trust) (<i>observer</i>)	Alex Hegenbarth

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (<i>observer</i>)	Kashan Pervaiz
Leadership Gloucestershire (plus 1 reserve)	Leader of the Council Deputy Leader of the Council
Local Government Association	Leader of the Council <i>* should the Leader of the Council be unable to attend the Annual Local Government Association Conference in any year, authority will be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to appoint a representative to attend.</i>
Lower Severn (2005) Internal Drainage Board	Paul Ockelton
Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) Adjudication Joint Committee	Vacant
Prior's Park Neighbourhood Project	Ward Members for Tewkesbury South
Roses Theatre Trust (<i>observer</i>)	Murray Stewart
South West Councils	Leader of the Council + Deputy Leader
South West Councils – Employers Panel	Christopher Coleman
Tewkesbury Community Safety Partnership	Lead Member (<i>Community</i>) + 1 Hilarie Bowman
Tewkesbury District Twinning Association Management Committee	Helena Sundarajoo
Tewkesbury Leisure Centre Partnership Board	Lead Member (<i>Housing, Health and Wellbeing</i>) Lead Member (<i>Finance and Asset Management</i>)
Tewkesbury Regeneration Partnership	Lead Member (<i>Economic Development/Promotion</i>) + 2 Cate Cody Sarah Hands
Winchcombe Sports Hall Management Committee	Gemma Madle

Report from Leader of the Council

- 14.5 In respect of Agenda Item 8(h), the Leader of the Council proposed that 1. a Working Group consisting of the Group Leaders be set up to undertake a detailed examination of the portfolios on the Executive Committee and to make recommendations on any changes required before the annual meeting in May of next year; and 2. that the Working Group also look at all of the Working Groups / Panels that had previously been in place, to determine whether they were still required, whether any changes were necessary to their Membership and Terms of Reference and if they were to continue; and 3. that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Working Group, to fill the seats on those Groups / Panels. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

1. That a Working Group consisting of the Group Leaders be set up to undertake a detailed examination of the portfolios on the Executive Committee and to make recommendations on any changes required before the annual meeting in May of next year.
2. That the Working Group also look at all of the Working Groups / Panels that had previously been in place, to determine whether they were still required, whether any changes were necessary to their Membership and Terms of Reference and if they were to continue.
3. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Working Group, to fill the seats on those Groups / Panels.

Appointment of Chairs, Vice-Chairs and County Groups

- 14.6 The Mayor invited each of the main Committees to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was also invited to elect representatives to the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

1. That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each Committee be **AGREED** as follows:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Chair – E M Dimond-Brown

Vice-Chair – C L J Carter

Audit and Governance Committee:

Chair – M R Stewart

Vice-Chair – S R Dove

Planning Committee:

Chair – P E Smith

Vice-Chair – P W Ockelton

Licensing Committee:

Chair – P W Ockelton

Vice-Chair – C E Mills

Standards Committee:

Chair – E J MacTiernan

Vice-Chair – G M Porter

2. As there were no nominations for the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this would be discussed at the next meeting of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3. That Councillor E M Dimond-Brown be the Council's nominated representative on the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee and that Councillor H J Bowman be the reserve.

CL.15 MAYOR OF TEWKESBURY'S APPEAL FUND

15.1 It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That Councillors C Cody, E C Skelt and M G Sztymiak be appointed as Trustees of the Mayor of Tewkesbury's Appeal Fund for 2023/24.

CL.16 NOTICE OF MOTION: TO WIDEN THE SCOPE FOR OUR CLIMATE EMERGENCY TO INCLUDE THE WHOLE BOROUGH, TO DECLARE A NATURE (ECOLOGICAL) EMERGENCY AND SUPPORT THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL

16.1 The Worshipful the Mayor referred to the Notice of Motion set out on the Agenda and indicated that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, it was necessary for the Council firstly to decide whether it wished to debate and determine the Motion at this evening's meeting, or whether it wished to refer the Motion, without debate, to a Committee for consideration with authority either to make a decision on the matter or to bring a recommendation back to Council.

16.2 Upon being proposed and seconded, it was

RESOLVED That the Motion would be discussed at this evening's Council Meeting.

16.3 The Motion, as set out on the Agenda, was proposed and seconded. The proposer of the Motion advised that the Motion was a follow-up to the one she had submitted four years ago and sought to widen the scope of the Council's declared climate emergency to cover the whole Borough; to incorporate nature recovery and to support the Climate and Ecology Bill. That Bill was a plan for a new UK law which would address the full extent of the climate and nature crisis in line with the most up to date science and ensure a comprehensive and joined-up approach to the emergency. The proposer of the Motion indicated that she had Officer support for both elements of the Motion to build on what had already been happening in terms of carbon reduction. She was of the view that, although it may not appear easy financially, the Council had already seen that acting now would save us later, both financially and literally – people would want to live in the Borough and would also want to visit and invest in it. Nature also paid; beauty spots, restoration programmes, nurturing and recovery all encouraged and attracted visitors and investors. Studies had shown the value of health benefits associated with outdoor recreation within the UK was estimated to be between £6.2 billion and £8.4 billion in 2020 with time spent in the outdoors being worth about £4.5 trillion a year in the improved mental health of people. It was also estimated that the NHS could save

£2.1 billion every year in treatment costs if everyone in England had access to good quality green spaces. Much of what the Motion aimed to do was partnership work, sharing resources, ideas and best practice. A local nature recovery strategy was a requirement of the 2021 Environment Act and Gloucestershire County Council was the lead authority for that; in addition, Stroud District Council had set up a Biodiversity Officers' Working Group. From November 2023, it would be a requirement for larger developments to show the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and that had to be incorporated into the Council's planning policies to ensure that the habitat was delivered and was of high quality. All of the Councils in Gloucestershire, through their participation in Climate Leadership Gloucestershire, had committed to supporting the Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund to retain and bring external Biodiversity Net Gain funding into the county and had committed to reviewing their own estate for opportunities. It was noted that the Council would need more Officers and they, in turn, would bring in more funding – the finer detail would need to be decided in Working Groups with specialists who would develop a strategy in conjunction with Officers. If Tewkesbury Borough continued to grow in green terms as it had done recently, she felt people would have further faith that the Borough had their best interests at heart and be proud to live in it.

- 16.4 The seconder of the Motion felt it was fitting that the new Council would start with this Motion. The work to date on the climate emergency had led to several different initiatives, including the solar canopy, and it was a pleasure to be able to second the Motion.
- 16.5 During the discussion which ensued, a Member questioned whether the Borough being carbon neutral by 2030 was achievable. In response, the proposer of the Motion was of the view that there had to be targets and there was no point in them being easily achievable but she did feel they were achievable. In terms of retrofitting gas boilers, there was a need for expert advice but Officers were good at finding funding so it was hoped something could be done. In addition, the Executive Director: Resources explained that the deliverability of targets also depended on factors like development of a strategy and external factors in the carbon journey and Officers would work towards those things over the next seven years and beyond. Another Member questioned how the open letter to the MP would be shared and the proposer explained that the letter would be shared with residents through local and social media via the normal channels the Council used. It was noted that the Motion was very thorough and carefully worded to state the Council would commit to doing all in its power to make Tewkesbury Borough carbon neutral by 2030, but a Member questioned whether outside help would be needed for the Procurement Strategy, whether that would come with a cost and whether that was in budget. In response, the Executive Director: Resources advised that it would be considered by Officers initially then if not achievable there may be a budget available for external help but that would depend on the price and expertise needed. A Member questioned how it was envisioned scope three would be assessed. In response, the proposer of the Motion explained that scope one and two had been the easy part so the Council needed to do scope three. The more Councils that signed up, the more the government would see that local authorities and people were interested. Carbon neutrality needed to be factored in the same way as other implications and that needed to be within the Council's policy approach hence the Motion.
- 16.6 In supporting the Motion, a Member expressed the view that this was an extremely important topic. He felt carbon neutrality was a missed target and that the target should actually be carbon negative and therefore taking carbon out of the atmosphere. If this was not achieved the world would see greater problems with food security as farming in some areas would not be possible. Another Member suggested that it would have been helpful for questions to be provided in advance to enable the proposer to provide a briefing note for all Members. During campaigning for the local elections, he had received questions on a number of local issues but also on climate change so he was delighted with the Motion and was certain

residents would be supportive of it. He was happy to support the ambitious targets but would also ask for three minor additions to the Motion – 1. That the letter to the MP also be published through the Council’s normal channels; 2. That to celebrate the role Members had as community leaders, the Working Group be asked to inform the Council how that could be embraced; and 3. That a structure be put forward where Members could receive ongoing training to ensure they were fully informed about what they could do as individuals, and as a Council, to get behind the Motion. Another Member offered his full support to the Motion and expressed the view that Town and Parish Councils should also be encouraged to take on board the Motion. He felt that the Borough Council should be leading the way in this regard. A Member endorsed the view that the electorate had expressed great interest in the climate change agenda and it was very clear that, whilst it was recognised the Borough was doing something, it was not really doing enough and residents wanted it to do more. He also endorsed the importance of partnerships and the need to nurture relationships and be more collaborative than the Council had been previously and this would need engagement from everyone in the Council to progress. Several Members offered their support to the Motion and felt the climate anxiety amongst residents, but especially in young people, was getting worse and something needed to be done to address this huge issue. One Member indicated that, whilst he supported the principles of the Motion, he was aware that the Climate and Ecology Bill was a Private Members’ Bill and there were a few elements in the Bill that he had concerns about. The Environment Bill 2021 set targets, and it was worth noting in the existing net zero legislation, 50% of energy had come from renewables in March. The issue he had was with the introduction of peoples panels through the Climate and Ecology Bill and he questioned whether the Motion could be supported without supporting the Bill. The proposer of the Motion appreciated the comments made but she felt the people’s assembly was really important; she also felt that young people had great ideas for tackling climate change and that type of support was essential.

16.7 Accordingly, the Motion was proposed and seconded as set out on the Agenda. A five minute adjournment was requested and the meeting then resumed with the same membership in attendance. Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

1. That the Council extend its current scope and declare a Borough wide “Climate and Ecological Emergency”.
2. That the Council commit to doing all in its power to make Tewkesbury Borough carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.
3. That the Council commit to doing all in its power to eliminate the Council’s scope 3 emissions through the development of a carbon neutral procurement strategy.
4. That the Council continue its Climate Change and Flood Risk Management Group.
5. That the Council call again upon the UK Government to provide additional powers and resources to support local and national action towards the 2030 target.
6. That the Council commit again to working with partners in Gloucestershire to achieve county-wide carbon neutrality aims.
7. That the Council declare a nature (ecological) emergency recognising that the threat to continued human wellbeing from the loss of biodiversity and healthy habitats, whilst linked to the climate emergency, requires specific emergency measures for nature recovery.

8. That the Council declare its support for the Climate and Ecology Bill and inform the local media of this decision.
9. That the Council write an open letter to Laurence Robertson MP, to be shared with residents through local and social media, urging him to sign up to support the Climate and Ecology Bill.
10. That the Council write to the Zero Hour, the organisers of the campaign for the Climate and Ecology Bill, expressing its support (councils@zerohour.uk).

CL.17 SEPARATE BUSINESS

17.1 The Mayor proposed, and it was

RESOLVED That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CL.18 SEPARATE MINUTES

18.1 The separate Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

CL.19 MONITORING OFFICER

(Exempt – Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – Information relating to any individual)

19.1 The Council agreed the appointment of a Monitoring Officer to the Council with effect from 1 July 2023 for a 12 month period.

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm

Lead Member Portfolios 2023/24

Councillor Richard Stanley	Councillor Stewart Dove	Councillor Christopher Coleman	Councillor Mike Szymiak	Councillor Debbie Harwood	Councillor Mary Jordan	Councillor Sarah Hands	Councillor Cate Cody	Councillor Alex Hegenbarth
Economic Development/Promotion	Finance and Asset Management	Corporate Governance	Customer Focus	Staff and Culture	Built Environment	Clean and Green Environment	Community	Housing, Health and Wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Council Plan . External Relations and Communication . Community Leader for Emergencies . Economic Development and Promotion, including the Growth Hub . LEP and Economic Partnerships . Tourism and the visitor economy . Markets and Festivals . Regeneration and Market town support including High Street Heritage Action Zone . Car parking strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Financial Strategy . Financial management . Procurement . Revenues and Benefits . Investments . Property and Asset Management . Commercial property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Corporate Governance . Audit . Risk Management . Democratic Service . One Legal . Business Continuity . Member Development . Overview and Scrutiny Process . ICT and Cyber 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Customer Services Strategy . Customer Services . Customer Engagement and Access . Business Transformation (incl Digital) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Organisational Development . Workforce Development Strategy . Human Resources . Trade Union Liaison. . Organisational Health and safety . Organisational Equalities . Performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Strategic Planning . Development Management . Conservation . Building Control . Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision . Land Charges . Garden Communities . Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) /S106 framework. . Neighbourhood plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Waste Collection . Recycling . Street Cleansing . Grounds Maintenance . Environmental Health and Licensing . Land Drainage and Flooding Response . Sustainable environment. . Environmental Enforcement . Climate change and carbon reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Community Development . Community Safety . Community Partnerships . Town and Parish Council Support . Emergency Planning . Safeguarding Children and Adults . Cost of Living Response . Shared Prosperity . Voluntary and Community Sector support . Armed Forces Covenant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Public Health and inequalities . Strategic and Affordable Housing . Operational Housing and Homelessness . Resettlement . Physical activity and mental wellbeing . Equalities . Integrated Locality Partnership . Private sector housing
Support Member - Councillor George Porter	Support Member – Councillor Kashan Pervaiz	Support Member – Councillor Gemma Madie	Support Member – Councillor Philip Workman	Support Member – Councillor Charlotte Mills	Support Member – Councillor Paul Ockelton	Support Member – Councillor Murray Stewart	Support Member – Councillor Hilarie Bowman	Support Member – Councillor Thomas Budge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Leadership Gloucestershire . LGA . South West Councils . District Councils Network . Glos Economic Growth Joint Committee . Gloucestershire County Region Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Tewkesbury Leisure Centre Partnership Board 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Safer Gloucestershire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Health and Wellbeing Partnerships

Councillor David Gray
Councillor Jim Mason
Councillor Jill Smith