

Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive on 11 August 2020

+ Cllr Alan McClafferty (Chairman)

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| + Cllr Colin Dougan | + Cllr David Lewis |
| + Cllr Josephine Hawkins | + Cllr David Mansfield |
| + Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans | + Cllr Adrian Page |

+ Present

- Apologies for absence presented

In Attendance: Cllr Graham Alleway, Cllr Peter Barnett, Cllr Rodney Bates, Cllr Tim FitzGerald, Cllr Sharon Galliford, Cllr Edward Hawkins, Cllr Emma-Jane McGrath, Cllr Pat Tedder, Cllr Victoria Wheeler, Cllr Valerie White and Cllr Kristian Wrenn

30/E Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 21st July 2020 were confirmed as being a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Minute 21/E Community Infrastructure Levy – It was agreed that details of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments received by ward over the last five years and how the CIL money had been spent on a ward basis would be circulated.

31/E Questions by Members

In response to a question from Councillor Victoria Wheeler, the Leader, in light of the recent fires at Chobham Common, undertook to formally write to Surrey County Council requesting that they review the levels of funding received by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and to the Chief Fire Officer raising concerns over the resourcing of the County's smaller fire stations. It was agreed that the Leader would liaise with Councillor Wheeler over the specific details.

32/E Reinstatement of Car Parking Charges

The Executive considered a report setting out proposals to reintroduce parking charges at the Council's Main Square and Knoll Road Car parks following their suspension in March 2020 as a result of the implementation of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Following the easing of Government restrictions car park use had increased and occupancy levels of the Main Square car park were now at 91% of pre-lockdown levels, whilst Knoll Road car park occupancy was at 23% of pre-lockdown levels. It was noted that over a two week period the year on year incomes from the fees

and charges collected from Main Square car park charges had fallen from £47,162 to £3,442 when compared to the same period in 2019/20. Losses which when replicated over a continuous twelve month period represented a £1.136million loss of income for the Council, a sum which equated to 9% of the Council's overall budget.

It was noted that there were typographical errors in the customer figures relating to the Main Square car park set out in Table 2 of the report's addendum and the correct figures were:

Year on Year Change in customers numbers from 2019 to 2020

	26 Jul - 8 Aug 2019	24 Jul - 6 Aug 2020	Change	% change
Total Customers	33,848	27,291	-6,557	-19.4%
Up to 4 hours	28,812	24,734	-4,078	-14.2%
Over 4 hours	5,036	2,557	-2,479	-49.2%

It was agreed that data in all the tables would be checked and the information circulated to members.

It was noted that, following similar decisions to temporarily suspend parking charges, neighbouring local authorities had reinstated car parking charges in June and July. It was agreed that clarification would be sought from those neighbouring authorities which had reinstated charges on their car park occupancy rates and if reintroduction of changes had had an impact on these.

The Executive RESOLVED that:

- i. The temporary provision of free parking up to 4 hours charges in Knoll Road and Main Square car parks be lifted on 14 September 2020 and fees and tariffs revert to pre-lockdown charges;
- ii. Free parking at Knoll Road Car Park introduced pre-lockdown to support the town during the High Street refurbishment works be reintroduced but extended to two hours rather than one until January 2021;
- iii. Parking charges remain suspended in the rural car parks beyond 13 September 2020 but to be reviewed in October 2020;
- iv. The Executive Head of Business, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, is granted delegated authority to introduce parking reductions and promotions as and when required

33/E Increased Security Measures on Council Owned Greenspaces

The Executive considered a report summarising the outcomes of a review of existing security measures currently in place across the Council's Greenspace estate and its car parks and setting out proposals to enhance the security arrangements at those sites considered to be vulnerable to unauthorised encampments.

It was stressed that no work would take place until consultation with local communities, ward councillors, the Gypsy and Traveller communities and other

stakeholders had been undertaken. If the feedback received indicated that the proposed measures were unnecessary or alternative security measures were preferred for example bollards were preferred over bunds then plans would be reviewed. Reassurance was given that no money would be spent until consultation work had been completed and local stakeholders had endorsed any work proposed.

It was noted that the list of sites included in Annex A was not an exhaustive list and over 80 sites had been assessed during the review. It was agreed that the full list would be circulated to all members so that any anomalies could be identified.

Members were informed that the Council was working closely with Surrey County Council and the Surrey Borough and District Councils to identify appropriate locations for transit sites for the Gypsy and traveller community and a report would be brought to the Executive in September setting out potential options for permanent pitch sites.

The Executive RESOLVED that:

- i. A programme of investment into enhancing Greenspace security measures to be implemented at the locations listed in priority order shown in Annex A (subject to consultation with the local communities, the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities and planning where required);
- ii. The implementation of the individual schemes be delegated to the Executive head of Business after consultation with the Places and Strategy Portfolio Holder.
- iii. The Executive is advised to recommend to Council that the Capital Programme for 2020/21 be increased by £192,000

Chairman