

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27 January 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Terry Piccolo (Mayor), Sue Shinnick (Deputy Mayor), Qaisar Abbas, Abbie Akinbohun, John Allen, Alex Anderson, Chris Baker, Gary Byrne, Daniel Chukwu, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Tony Fish, Oliver Gerrish, Garry Hague, James Halden, Shane Hebb, Victoria Holloway, Sue Hooper, Deborah Huelin, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Susan Little, Ben Maney, Fraser Massey, Allen Mayes, Sara Muldowney, Jane Pothecary, David Potter, Shane Ralph, Joycelyn Redsell, Gerard Rice, Elizabeth Rigby, Sue Sammons, Jennifer Smith, Luke Spillman, David Van Day, Aaron Watkins and Lynn Worrall

Apologies: Councillors Colin Churchman, Mike Fletcher, Robert Gledhill, Angela Lawrence and Bukky Okunade

In attendance: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
Ian Hunt, Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised the meeting was being live streamed to the Council's online webcast channel.

187. Tribute

The Mayor made the following tribute:

Mr Albert England

Albert England was a friend to many here this evening. I am sure, like me, the news of his passing stopped all who knew him in their tracks. I am sure, like me, your thoughts turned immediately to Mrs Wyn England and their family.

Albert England's military career was well known. Albert was part of what was known as a combined operation, with the Navy and Army working together. In June 1944, Albert helped pilot a landing craft to the Normandy beaches. As with so many ships, Albert's boat was bombed, and he was rescued from the sea. In 2015, Albert was appointed to the rank of Chevalier by the French Government in recognition of his service – Councillor Cathy Kent received his insignia on Albert's behalf and handed it to Albert in this Chamber where he received a standing ovation. Albert was later flown to Burma where he served with honour. Back in Thurrock, both Wyn and Albert were the backbone of

Thurrock's Burma Star Association for many years, ensuring members had someone to turn to and support them. They were the inspiration behind the rose garden installed in Orsett where annual services were still being held. Thurrock Burma Star Association received the Freedom of the Borough in 2008. As well as being remembered as a distinguished veteran, Albert was also a lifelong Thurrock resident. He attended Orsett Primary School as a young boy from 1930 till the age of 11. Albert would often visit school children to share the memory of his experiences in the Second World War. In 2019 Albert and Wyn presented Thurrock Burma Star Association's Union Jack Standard and Shield to Orsett Primary School for longevity and safekeeping. Albert worked for Shell in Coryton and lived in Corringham. Albert was a much loved member of the local community, the service community and a friend to Thurrock. Rest in peace Albert, you will be missed.

Mr Baldev Singh Gill

Many members would have known Mr Gill as a leading member of the Sikh community in Thurrock. Indeed, Mr Gill was President of the Gurdwara Sikh temple in Grays which had done so much to engage with communities over the years, helping to teach about the Sikh religion and culture. Others would remember Mr Gill as a familiar resident of Grays, often seen around the town, always with a welcoming smile. As well as the important leadership role he played within the Sikh community, Mr Gill sought to build stronger community networks between different faiths, and between different communities, active over the years with many different organisations to consider local issues. I have had many dealings with Baldev over the years, firstly through the Thurrock Faith Matters organisation and later during my time with Thurrock CVS. He would be remembered as a gentle and kind man who always made time for others. Our thoughts are with Mr Gill's family at this difficult time.

Mr Eddie Coull

Mr Coull was a RAF veteran known widely across Thurrock for his organisation of The Wings Appeal which supported RAF serving members as well as veterans and their families who had sadly passed away on the 23 January. Mr Coull was heavily involved in their fund raising activities and was a member of the Thurrock Branch of RAFA and heavily involved with the ATC Squadrons in Grays and Stanford Le Hope. Whilst I only met Eddie on a couple of occasions, his amazing dedication to fund raising and supporting veterans was outstanding. My condolences go out to his family, he would be sadly missed.

The Mayor announced today people around the world had commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. As with so many events, we had not been able to mark this occasion as we normally would, but many tributes had been made virtually to remember the victims of the Holocaust and further genocides, including the Jewish people and millions of others targeted due to their faith, gender, culture, ability and sexual orientation.

This year, the Holocaust Memorial Day theme was 'be the light in the dark'. This call to action encouraged us all to reflect on the depths humanity could sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities had resisted darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide.

The first fully digital UK Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 ceremony started at 7.00pm today and was now being live streamed. The Mayor informed members the meeting would be paused at 8.00pm which was when the ceremony concluded so they could join the nation, light a candle and put it in their window.

Prayers were led by Reverend Canon Darren Barlow.

This was followed by a minute silence.

188. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 25 November 2020 were approved as a correct record.

189. Items of Urgent Business

There were no urgent items of business.

190. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

The Mayor announced he would change the order of the agenda and to take Item 10 next.

191. Police Fire & Crime Commissioner (Presentation and Q&A)

The Mayor welcomed Roger Hirst, the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, and Chief Inspector Richard Melton to the meeting and asked they delivered their presentation which would then be followed by questions by members. Roger Hirst updated members on the following:

- Recorded crime and anti-social behaviour had been significantly impacted by COVID. The effects on policing demand, the types of incidents and crimes reported to Essex Police as a result of COVID had been complex and had not been uniform across all fields.
- During the 12 month reporting period up to November 2020 crime had decreased in Thurrock by 13%.
- Operation policing command in Thurrock in 2019/20 were in excess of 300 hours of patrols, arrested 150 individuals, conducted 150 stop and search and had attended 4000 reported incidents.
- Operation SHIELD, a trial tackling repeat risk/violent domestic abuse offenders.

- Operation ENVISON, being run to understand why victims of domestic abuse who were not supportive of Police action.
- The “Ports as a Community” project to look to increase intelligence sharing between law enforcement agencies to strengthen borders and support victims of organised immigration crime.
- Emergency (999) and non-emergency (101) remained a priority focus with significant improvements being seen year on year.
- Next steps were: tackling gangs and drug-driven violence, domestic abuse and prevention activities.

The full PowerPoint can be found on-line from the following link:

<https://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=5801&Ver=4>

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor Spillman: Referred to domestic abuse and questioned what had been the main challenges faced during the pandemic and what operational changes had been made to tackle them. Roger Hirst stated the Police had been very alert and had tried very hard to make themselves accessible with work being undertaken with charities. That a recent National Initiative called ANI would assist people with reporting by less obvious means. The J9 project had been launched to help other people to understand how to spot signs of domestic abuse and how to report it. That advertising had been undertaken alongside social media. Chief Inspector Richard Melton stated there needed to be a way to predict those at risk or provide other platforms for victims to come forward. Operation SHIELD had been rolled out across the whole county to work around prevention before it became a problem and the provision to provide better platforms would be an ongoing piece of work. Members were assured there was the commitment to deal with not only perpetrators but to give victims every opportunity to come forward and would be mindful and keep a close eye on the situation when lockdown started to finish.

Councillor Redsell: Referred to the Motorcycle problem in Thurrock with some perpetrators drawing knives on residents and questioned what more could be done to help prevent this. Roger Hirst stated this was a priority and asked Chief Inspector Richard Melton to provide a response from a local level. Chief Inspector Richard Melton agreed this was a blight on Thurrock and was a high priority with some good joint working with the Council being undertaken on Operation CAESAR. That a lot of work was being undertaken but recognised there was still a lot to do and information would be shared through the Community Safety Engagement Officers and pleaded that residents continued to report incidents.

Councillor Muldowney: Referred to the increase of incidents of anti-social behaviour in Chadwell St Mary being reported and asked what additional Police presence or other Police services would residents expect to see over the coming year. Chief Inspector Richard Melton agreed there had been an

increase in reports of anti-social behaviour and these had been contributed due to a nature increase in some anti-social behaviours, a lot of COVID reporting would go down as anti-social behaviour and motorbikes. To tackle this the community policing team were fully up to strength and pro-active patrols would be undertaken. It was hoped the figures for anti-social behaviour in Chadwell St Mary would come back under control and would continue to be a main focus.

Councillor Ralph: Referred to town centre policing and questioned when the town centre policing would be seen in Corringham. Chief Inspector Richard Melton reassured Councillor Ralph that conversations were taking place looking at the viability of extending the Stanford Le Hope policing teams to Corringham with an update to be provided shortly. That the town centre policing were fully resourced and fully staffed with four additional funded town centre officers covering Purfleet and Tilbury. That going forward through the Community Safety Engagement Officer, data could be identified on how many hours were spent in each town centre, what they were undertaking and what affect that was having. The town centre policing were doing everything they wanted them to do and would be more visible in 2021 and going forward.

Councillor Jefferies: Referred to the two push bikes that had been delivered to the South Ockendon Police Station in 2019 from the Council. These push bikes had required servicing and for the need for the Police Officers to pass their cycling proficiency tests and asked for assurance those Police bikes would be used, evidenced and visible policing would come back to South Ockendon. Chief Inspector Richard Melton acknowledged there had been some challenges and had seen an increase in anti-social behaviour in South Ockendon and policing would continue to be visible in the communities through the town policing team and agreed he would look into the bike matter.

Councillor Byrne: Referred to why the crime report figures were watered down and questioned were these crime figures down because the full story was not being reported. Roger Hirst assured Councillor Byrne the full story was being reported with Essex Police being regularly inspected on the accuracy of crime data recording and was pleased to announce Essex Police received an outstanding rating. Chief Inspector Richard Melton agreed national recording standards would not allow crime figures to be watered down and again reassured Councillor Byrne this was not happening.

Councillor Allen: Referred to the anti-social unlicensed motorcycle use in Tilbury and asked for assurance that patrols would be tightened to tackle this behaviour and what plans would be put in place to tackle these unlicensed motorcycles. Roger Hirst reassured Councillor Allen that road crime was being taken seriously and would commit resources to it. Chief Inspector Richard Melton again recognised these motorcycles were a real blight on Thurrock, had the focus of Operation CAESAR and work would continue with the Council on joint funded operations. That some good results had been seen with 58 motorcycles seized in the last year, seven people had been arrested and a number of anti-social driving notices had been issued.

Councillor Holloway: Referred to the tragedy of the lorry where the Vietnamese people were found in West Thurrock and questioned what Essex Police were doing in partnership with other agencies to make sure this never happen again and nobody could be trafficked through the ports in Thurrock. Roger Hirst stated work was being undertaken more closely with Border Force and Immigration Services. Chief Inspector Richard Melton recognised that a tragedy this like could not be allowed to happen again, prosecutions had been made with a fantastic result all be it in tragic circumstances. That Ports Watch was where professionals get together to share information and with Ports Watch set up in non-Government organisations and voluntary sector level so discussions on issues within the Thurrock area and to share information and intelligence. There was also the Ports Watch at the industrial and commercial level where port operatives would be able to report issues within the confines of the ports. The Ports Community Project between Essex Police, Immigration Services and Border Force was a multi-agency task force brought together to share all information across all platforms. To also uplift and focus activity on the Police resources to tackle organisation crime groups and going forward into 2021/22 a significant and a focused multi-agency response would be seen to prevent tragedies like this happening again.

The Mayor thanked, on behalf of members, Roger Hirst and Chief Inspector Richard Melton for their time this evening and asked Roger Hirst to sum up. Roger Hirst thanked members for the opportunity to present this evening and would be happy to answer any further questions that could be submitted through democratic services. That investments would continue to be made in policing across the county and in Thurrock. The key topics to be addressed over the next couple of years would be to see more problem solving policing, working on hot-spots, working around known offenders and working around vulnerable people with Thurrock's community safety partnership.

At 7.58pm, the meeting was paused to allow members to light candles in recognition of the UK Holocaust Memorial Day 2021.

At 8.02pm, the meeting resumed.

At 8.02pm, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst and Chief Inspector Richard Melton left the meeting.

192. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council

The Mayor made thanks to those who had continued to work through the pandemic to ensure vital services were maintained where possible and thanked the voluntary sector who had played an important role in keeping in contact and supporting the vulnerable in Thurrock.

The Mayor stated as he was not able to attend functions due to the pandemic he had continued to make small donations to local voluntary groups to enable them to carry on the support for local residents.

The Mayor hoped by the end of his time as mayor he would be able to visit some of the voluntary groups to express his gratitude on all the work they had carried out over the last year.

Councillor Hebb, Deputy Leader of the Council, echoed the tributes made this evening and sent best wishes to Councillor Fletcher and his family.

Councillor Hebb then made the following announcements:

In regards to COVID-19 the rate of infection in Thurrock was moving in the right direction in all age groups but were by no means out of the woods yet. We were in fact still very much in the grip of the more infectious variant which had led to the huge spike in local infections that we were still experiencing despite the drop in positive tests we have seen in the past weeks. That it was now more important than ever we keep on doing all we can to stop the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and save lives. The simple truth was we all needed to act like we had COVID and anyone we meet had it as well. By following hands, face, space advice, practising social distancing and taking extra care to look out for one another we would be playing an active role in defeating the virus. Those who seek to bend or break the rules not only pose a risk to themselves, their loved ones and our communities, they hindered our chances of leaving national lockdown and being able to get back to more relaxed restrictions.

In regards to vaccinations, these were being given to the groups identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation as being most at risk. This included those living and working in the borough's care homes, those aged 80 and over and then the over 70s and those who were clinically extremely vulnerable. That residents and staff in our care homes were being given vaccines right now while vaccines were also being delivered to the other priority groups across the borough's two vaccine centres at Chadwell Medical Centre and Stifford Clays Health Centre. That plans were also being put in place to ensure all housebound residents would be visited and given their vaccine at home. The key message here was there was no need for anyone to call their doctor, you would be notified directly by the NHS. There was no charge for a vaccine and the NHS would never ask you to share bank details to confirm your identity or pay for a vaccine. It was important for those who had received the vaccination to remember it could take up to three weeks after the first injection for the body to develop some protection from the first dose and during this three week period and indeed after it as well, you must to continue to take the same precautions to avoid either infecting yourself or passing on the virus to others.

In regards to the Tilbury and Grays Town Fund Bids, Councillor Hebb was pleased to inform members that bids for the Towns Fund programme, which could potentially bring over £50 million in Government funding to improve Grays and Tilbury, had now been submitted by their Towns Boards. These Towns Boards, led by local business community partners and community leaders, had developed the bids to address issues which had the potential to significantly enhance these two towns and we await their outcome with

interest. That Grays had already been awarded £750,000 to kick start works including a new outdoor play and sports area at Grays beach while in Tilbury being awarded £500,000 had been unlocked from the Towns Fund.

193. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no public questions received.

194. Petitions from Members of the Public and Councillors

The Mayor informed Members that in accordance with the Council's petition scheme, no requisition of notice had been given to present a petition at the meeting.

195. Petitions Update Report

Members received a report on the status of those petitions handed in at Council meetings and Council offices.

196. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels

The Mayor enquired whether Group Leaders wished for any changes to be made to the appointments previously made by Committees and Outside Bodies, statutory and other panels.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Hebb, informed the Chamber he had no changes to make.

Councillor J Kent, Leader of the Labour Group, informed the Chamber he had no changes to make.

Councillor Byrne, Leader of the Thurrock Independent Group informed the Chamber he had no changes to make.

Councillors Massey and Allen informed the Chamber they had no changes to make.

197. Director of Public Health Recruitment

Councillor Halden introduced the report and sought the approval from Council to appoint to the interim Director of Public Health. Following a search and selection process, the General Services Committee had interviewed on the 19 January 2021 and recommended the appointment of Jo Broadbent as interim Director of Public Health. The Council would be obliged to establish a specialist panel to conduct the recruitment of a permanent Director of Public Health with the final approval of appointment being granted by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

The Mayor called a vote on the recommendations to which these were carried.

RESOLVED. That

- 1. To approve in accordance with the Council's Constitution the appointment of Jo Broadbent as the interim Director of Public Health.**
- 2. To agree in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Chapter 2; Part 1; Article 4; 4:1) the appointment of the sub-committee set out at 4.5 below to conduct recruitment to the permanent Director of Public Health.**
- 3. To agree in accordance with the Council's Constitution (Chapter 2; Part 1; Article 4; 4:1) to discharge approval of the appointment to a permanent Director of Public Health to the sub-committee set out at 4.5 and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.**

198. Local Council Tax Scheme

Councillor Hebb presented the report that provided details of Thurrock's scheme and in line with the above there were no proposals to amend the scheme for 2021/22.

The Council were required to agree the scheme annually, even if there had been no changes. The current Local Council Tax Scheme had been implemented on the 1 April 2017 following consultation and had subsequently been agreed for each financial year with no changes.

Councillor Gerrish supported this item but asked for reassurance that a review of the scheme would be forthcoming next year as it was important the views of those who used the scheme were heard to ensure it reflected the needs of the community. Councillor Hebb stated the focus this year had been to stabilise the offer with the offer being increased by £0.85 million and it was important to engage in line with university credit reviews but at this time it was to stabilise the offer and offer support where the Council could. Councillor Hebb gave Councillor Gerrish the commitment this would be done at the right time.

RESOLVED

That Council agreed to maintain the existing scheme for 2021/22.

199. Report of the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour

The item was withdrawn.

200. Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sports & Leisure

Councillor Watkins presented his fourth annual report which was being delivered under very different and difficult circumstances. Firstly, Councillor Watkins acknowledged the amazing work being undertaken by staff either on the front line or in offices for the work undertaken this year and thanked every member of staff for their contribution. Councillor Watkins passed on his thoughts and well wishes to those who had lost family and friends in the current pandemic.

Some of the key points made were:

- Residents were thanked for their patience over this difficult time where more waste was being collected where more people were at home.
- The service has had to deal with an increased number of parked vehicles that had caused blocked access issues.
- This and the absence of staff due to a number of reasons had put a great strain on the service.
- The team had worked flat out to deliver the best service over this time.
- During the pandemic and lockdown it would continue to prioritise the waste, refuse and recycling over this period and aimed to bring the garden service collections back up as quickly as was possible.
- The first phase of the communal recycling programme had been rolled out with all council areas now complete.
- Over the year this would be rolled out over private estates and work would begin with estate operators and residents.
- Over this period the cleaner and greener teams had continued to do a fantastic job to keep the borough tidy.
- Investments made had seen a magnificent difference and within the last two periods of the tranche scoring of the Keep Britain Tidy, the Council had seen the best scores they had ever seen.
- The Active Place Strategy had been passed and would now enable sports which would make a difference within the borough.

Councillor Watkins stated that in 2021 when safe to do so, services would be resumed to where they once were and recognised this would not be easy. That garden waste would return when it was safe to do so without putting a strain on refuse and recycling collections. The HWRC site would be back to normal as soon as was possible. The Trailer Thursday would enable trailers to access the site all day on Thursdays on an initial trial basis but members were reminded this would be done to ensure the safety of staff on site and residents. Other projects would include the improvements of recycling, aim to launch a new recycling campaign "Getting Thurrock Recycling", a new missed bin collection scheme, a separate food waste system to which a date had yet to be confirmed. Councillor Watkins encouraged members to come forward with any ideas, comments or feedback. Work would also continue to improve on street cleaning, cemeteries and tree strategies.

Councillor Redsell referred to the Sports Strategy and asked for assurance this would be taken forward as the youth of the borough need sport now and even more so post COVID. Councillor Watkins gave his reassurance and stated an update would be provided to the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee within the autumn period of 2021 outlining where the strategy was but it was imperative this was done right first time.

Councillor J Kent stated his disappointment members were unable to comment and ask questions on Councillor Gledhill's portfolio report and commented although he understood members had issues or ill health that prevented them from attending meetings he stated Councillor Gledhill's attendance at both Council and General Services Committees had been woeful.

Councillor J Kent stated his surprise the portfolio holder report had not mentioned the Cabinet's decision to move to fortnightly collections of residual waste and questioned when this was expected to take place. Councillor Watkins stated the only change that would be taking place would be the new recycling campaign, the separate food waste collections would need to be administered by 2023 with all other aspects of the waste strategy being currently under review.

Councillor Byrne questioned whether Corringham Athletic would still be able to continue to play on the pitches on the Manorway and would the Council stand up to Shell to fight to save those pitches. Councillor Watkins stated yes as previously committed but we had to see sporting changes which did not mean destroying the sporting facilities the borough already had.

Councillor Allen touched on the Sports Strategy and the improved sport opportunities and wondered if this was the time for the Council to offer Grays Athletic the opportunity to continue their great work with youngsters. Councillor Watkins stated work and conversations were being undertaken with Grays Athletic about them getting back to their rightful home. That there were plans in the Active Place Strategy and there were aspirations to move forward into 2021 and into future years where this strategy would be a key part of that.

Councillor Muldowney referred to the commitment made by Councillor Watkins in June 2019 an investment would be made for play and sports equipment in parks in Chadwell St Mary. Councillor Muldowney questioned when would residents of Chadwell St Mary see the investment promised in play and sports facilities into their parks. Councillor Watkins stated investments had been made in other parks in the borough which had been part of the initial plan but due to the pandemic changes had to be made. The Council were still tackling the pandemic and services had to be changed in line with this and once services were back to normal and safe to do so this work would continue.

Councillor Rice questioned whether Impulse Leisure had approached the Council for any financial grants. Councillor Watkins stated conversations and

work were being undertaken with Impulse Leisure in relation to the national leisure recovery fund grant which had come forward from Government.

Councillor Worrall asked for assurance the brown bin collections would be back ready for spring time and there would be no attached costs to this service. Councillor Watkins categorically stated there would no charges for these collections and in relation to when they would return they were currently on a rolling two week notice. That the portfolio holder and his team were doing everything physically possible but the safety of staff would continue to be the main priority. Councillor Watkins was unable to give Councillor Worrall any guarantees as to when the service would resume but guaranteed the team were doing everything they could.

Councillor Watkins summed up by stating members could ask him questions at any time. That it had been a pleasure to be in this position with the team undertaking an exceptional job over the previous year and continued to do an outstanding job. They were the front line staff of the Council and thanked them all for the work they undertook.

201. Questions from Members

The Mayor informed the Chamber that no questions to the Leader had been received and five questions to Cabinet Members. Those questions not heard would either receive a written response or have the option to withdraw and resubmit.

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be found at Appendix A to these minutes.

202. Reports from Members representing the Council on Outside Bodies

Councillor Hebb provided an update on the future management of funds by the Mucking Charitable Trust which was a charity that managed an endowment set up in 2011 to fund the costs of running the Thameside Nature Park in Mucking for a planned period of 99 years. That in September 2018, the trustees of the Mucking Charitable Trust proposed to pass the responsibility for safeguarding the restricted funds of the Mucking Charitable Trust to the directors of Thameside Nature Park Limited the charitable company responsible for managing the Thameside Nature Park but not the Visitors Centre housed within the Park. It was further proposed by the trustees of Mucking Charitable Trust that once the responsibility for safeguarding the funds and the transfer of the balance of funds, all in compliance with the rules of the Charity Commission, had been made to Thameside Nature Park Limited the Mucking Charitable Trust would be wound up and some of the present trustees of Mucking Charitable Trust would join the board of Thameside Nature Park Limited. The view that amalgamating the effort would be beneficial for both parties. However, after months of endeavour on the part of the trustees for Mucking Charitable Trust the negotiations had not been successful, and consequently, the trustees of Mucking Charitable Trust decided in November 2020 to not pursue this at the current time, although

remained open to future possibilities if they arose. After the closure of negotiations and in recognition of common practice within charities, the trustees of the Mucking Charitable Trust took the opportunity to review the make-up of their trustee board. As a result of that review, which was carried out at the end of November 2020, the trustees of the Mucking Charitable Trust decided to move the responsibilities and duties for the Chair of the Mucking Charitable Trust by appointing a paid-for trust company, Brachers Trust Corporation Limited, with this new arrangement beginning on 1 January 2021, and four out of the five current trustees of Mucking Charitable Trust would remain.

The key change was the Mucking Charitable Trust would now be chaired by a professional body, which would ensure best practice in line with the ever-changing requirements of the Charities Act and would work alongside the lay trustees who would continue to pursue the wishes of local people in all matters. Following completion of the changes the Mucking Charitable Trust was in good shape and in line with the original endowment and was ready to continue to provide financial support to the Thameside Nature Park Limited for many years to come.

Councillor Redsell provided members with an update as a member on the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel that a lot of good work had been achieved such as £20 million Class A drugs and £1.8 million in cash had been seized in Essex under the serious crime directorate which was part of an international operation and trained Police Officers would be coming through into the community.

Councillor Coxshall provided members with an update on projects that would be coming through the Grays Town Board and Tilbury Board. Two new jetties with electric clippers into central London and into Kent; Youth Centre would be built into Tilbury; in Grays a riverside activity centre; bringing back two new beaches in Tilbury and Grays; revamp of Grays Beach Park into a new play centre and updated cafe; a new outside entertainment centre; development work on Tilbury Fort; £25 million for each town with the bids being submitted in February and hopefully finding out by the summer if the Council can forward on business cases.

203. Minutes of Committees

The Minutes of Committees as set out in the Agenda were received.

204. Update on motions resolved at Council during the previous year

Members received an information report updating the progress in respect of Motions received at Council.

205. Motion received from Councillor Anderson

The Motion, as printed in the Agenda was proposed by Councillor Anderson and seconded by Councillor Halden. The Motion read as follows:

Given the great importance the Conservative government has placed on the “prevent” agenda in terms of countering extremism, and the need to consider all of the human trafficking and modern day slavery implications of illegal entry and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, especially in areas with a large waterfront or port industry, the chamber wishes to have an appropriate member’s forum for “prevent”.

Therefore, following the procedure used to constitute the Corporate Parenting Committee as a formal Council Committee, we instruct the monitoring officer to present relevant terms of reference for the next meeting of the Full Council to help better protect our communities and those who come into our care.

Therefore, following the procedure used to constitute the Corporate Parenting Committee as a formal Council Committee, we instruct the monitoring officer to present relevant terms of reference for the next meeting of the Full Council to help better protect our communities and those who come into our care.

Councillor Anderson stated the motion recognised the seriousness and the challenges being faced with the Prevent agenda and would give members the opportunity to scrutinise and discuss issues in an appropriate forum. That the current Prevent Members Working Group did not reflect the need to scrutinise these issues to the required extent required. With Thurrock being a port locality it was already known the seriousness of legal entry. That the scrutiny of these issues would not only serve the community but for those vulnerable people who would come into care in Thurrock. The Motion sought to create one committee that would focus on those issues and provide members with a joined up picture and approach. That a report would need to be presented to the General Services Committee in the event the motion being passed and encouraged members to support these important issues.

Councillor Coxshall was pleased to support the motion which would enable the Council to do something themselves to get that to move forward and work together to make sure human trafficking and modern day slavery would be addressed as Thurrock would become more of a target with the increasing traffic coming into Thurrock ports. That the motion would enable members to be fully aware across the full aspects of the concerns that would affect planning and port issues. Councillor Coxshall concluded the change to the constitution would highlight this properly.

Councillor Allen stated his full support of the motion which would provide an opportunity for members to discuss and scrutinise.

Councillor Halden, as seconder of the motion, stated it was good to see there was no opposition to the motion. That the issues affected all 49 members and all 49 members should be able to engage with and see how issues were being actioned. Councillor Halden stated were the motion passed this evening he would encourage all members to engage in the work of the committee to formulate a works plan and provide the appropriate scrutiny which was so important to safeguarding.

Councillor Anderson thanked members for their comments and requested the motion moved to the vote.

The Mayor called a vote on the Motion.

Members voted in favour of this Motion to which the Mayor announced the Motion carried.

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**