

Minutes

Council Meeting



11th October 2021

These Minutes principally record decisions taken and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions. An audio recording of the meeting is available for six months at www.braintree.gov.uk

Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
Councillor J Abbott	Yes	Councillor Mrs J Pell	Yes
Councillor J Baugh	Yes	Councillor I Pritchard	Yes
Councillor Mrs J Beavis	Yes	Councillor M Radley	Yes
Councillor K Bowers	Yes	Councillor S Rehman	Yes
Councillor G Butland	Yes	Councillor F Ricci	Yes
Councillor J Coleridge	Yes	Councillor B Rose	Yes
Councillor G Courtauld	Yes	Councillor Mrs J Sandum	Yes
Councillor Mrs M Cunningham	Yes	Councillor Miss V Santomauro	Yes
Councillor T Cunningham	Yes	Councillor Mrs W Scattergood	Yes
Councillor Mrs C Dervish	Yes	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt	Apologies
Councillor P Euesden	Yes	Councillor P Schwier	Yes
Councillor T Everard	Yes	Councillor Mrs G Spray	Yes
Councillor Mrs D Garrod	Yes	Councillor P Tattersley	Yes
Councillor A Hensman (Vice-Chairman)	Yes	Councillor P Thorogood	Yes
Councillor S Hicks	Yes	Councillor N Unsworth	Apologies
Councillor P Horner	Yes	Councillor R van Dulken	Yes
Councillor D Hume	Apologies	Councillor D Wallace	Yes
Councillor H Johnson	Apologies	Councillor T Walsh	Yes
Councillor Mrs A Kilmartin	Yes	Councillor Mrs L Walters	Yes
Councillor W Korsinah	Yes	Councillor Miss M Weeks	Yes
Councillor D Mann	Apologies	Councillor D White	Yes
Councillor T McArdle	Yes	Councillor Mrs S Wilson (Chairman)	Yes
Councillor J McKee	Yes	Councillor J Wrench	Yes
Councillor A Munday	Yes	Councillor B Wright	Yes
Councillor Mrs I Parker	Apologies		

Councillor Mrs S Wilson, Chairman of the Council welcomed everyone to the Council meeting, which was being held 'in person' at New Rickstones Academy Theatre, Conrad Road, Witham.

42 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:-

Councillor J Abbott declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item 10, 'Cabinet Report to Full Council,' as he intended to make reference to the Essex Climate Action Commission, of which he was a member.

On behalf of all Members, Councillor G Butland declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item 4, 'Public Question Time,' as one of the registered speakers, Mr R Playle, was known to the Council. Councillor Butland also declared a further Interest as an Elected Member at Essex County Council (ECC).

Councillor T Cunningham declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as an Elected Member at ECC.

Councillor Mrs C Dervish declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item 4, 'Public Question Time,' as one of the registered speakers, Miss E Knight, was known to her.

Councillor Mrs J Sandum declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item 4, 'Public Question Time' as one of the registered speakers, Ms K Hopkins, was known to her.

Councillor P Schwier declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as an Elected Member at ECC.

Councillor P Thorogood declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item 4, 'Public Question Time' as one of the speakers, Ms K Hopkins, was known to him. Councillor Thorogood also declared a further Interest as an Elected Member at ECC.

Councillors remained in the meeting, unless stated otherwise and took part in the debate and decision when the Items were considered.

43 **MINUTES**

DECISION: The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council held on 20th September 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

44 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were four statements made, as follows:

The first statement was made by Miss Emily Knight, who spoke on the issue of domestic violence and the importance of raising awareness of this. Councillor F Ricci, Cabinet Member for Communities, replied to the statement.

The second statement was made by Ms Julia Fletcher, who spoke in respect of Agenda Item 6, 'Motion by Councillor Tom Cunningham – Government's Commitment to Uniting and Levelling Up Every Part of the United Kingdom.' Councillor G Butland, Leader of the Council, responded to the statement.

The third statement was made by Mr Ross Playle, who asked a question in respect of future investment plans for Witham. Councillor T Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, replied to the statement.

The fourth and final statement was made by Ms Kathryn Hopkins, who spoke in respect of Agenda Item 6, 'Motion by Councillor Tom Cunningham – Government's Commitment to Uniting and Levelling Up Every Part of the United Kingdom.' Councillor G Butland, Leader of the Council, replied to the statement.

45 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

INFORMATION: The Chairman's announcements covered the following:

It was with great sadness that the Chairman announced the death of former District Councillor Fred Swallow. Fred was elected to Braintree District Council in 2007 after which he served for one term of office until 2011, representing the Conservatives for Hedingham and Maplestead Ward. During his term, Fred served on the Audit Committee, Licensing Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Halstead Local Committee. He was also the Council's representative on the Braintree District CAB Management Board throughout his term of office.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman expressed her sincere sympathy to Fred's family and friends.

The Chairman was pleased to announce that she had started to conduct a series of visits to local businesses and community organisations within the District. Thus far, she had visited Essex Gliding Club at Ridgewell Airfield, Steeple Bumpstead Neighbourhood Network, William Bendlowe Charity and Shalford Village Magazine, Meet 'n' Greet, the Big Bear Cider Mill in Stisted and Hearing Help Essex, the sessions for which were based at St Michael's Hospital in Braintree.

The Leader's announcements covered the following:

Although the Leader had no formal announcements to make, he wished to mark the retirement of two long-serving members of staff at the Council: Jo Albini, Head of Housing and Community, and Lee Crabb, Head of Environment, Leisure and Heritage.

Firstly, the Leader remarked upon Jo's career at the Council, which spanned 38 years and began in 1982 where she started as a trainee in the Housing Team and developed through the various Housing roles whilst working towards a professional qualification with the Institute of Housing. Jo became a Principal Housing Advisory Officer at the age of 25 and by this time had gained a range of housing experience in areas such as estate management, development of tenants associations and management of staff. Jo had led and supported the Housing Team through one of the more complex periods of its history when the housing stock was transferred from the Council to Greenfields Community Housing (now Eastlight Community Homes). Following the transfer, Jo became Head of Housing and later, of Housing and Community. Jo was instrumental in the delivery of a number of important projects across the District to improve access to housing options for residents, including New Directions, the Foyer, Digby's Court and the Women's Refuge.

The Leader expressed both his personal thanks to Jo and gratitude on behalf of the Council for her support, knowledge and dedication over the course of her career towards Council staff and the District's residents.

Councillor K Bowers, Cabinet Member for Housing, concurred with the comments made by the Leader and thanked Jo for her unwavering support and devotion to her role over the years, particularly in light of the challenges that had emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic over the last 18 months.

Councillor J Abbott, Leader of the Green and Independent Group, echoed the comments made previously and added his grateful thanks to Jo on behalf of both the Group and the District's residents for her exceptional career.

Councillor Mrs J Pell, Leader of the Halstead Residents' Association, added her thanks as well and commented on the ready support that Jo was always willing to provide for Members, Council staff and residents alike.

Councillor T Everard also expressed his thanks to Jo for her support over the years.

Jo, who was in attendance at the meeting, thanked Members for their kind words and support during the years that they had worked together.

Secondly, the Leader remarked upon the service of Lee Crabb, who began his career at the Council in 1987 with the Environmental Services Team. Lee became an Environmental Health Manager in 1991, followed by Environmental Protection Manager and had been the Head of Service for the department since 2008. Over the years, Lee's role had incorporated a range of services, including Emergency Planning, Health and Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Leisure Services and Heritage Services. Lee had played an instrumental role in the development of the Council's plan to respond to the increasing role of the Authority with regard to public health through the Live Well Strategy, as well as supporting the development of a number of partnerships through the Museum Trust and Fusion. Lee was also an experienced officer in regard to responding to emergencies, including the management of rest centres and coordinating on-site Council responses to incidents. Furthermore, since the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic over the last 19 months, Lee had led the Environmental Health Team through an unprecedented situation, and the work, knowledge and the professionalism of the team's response had been noted at local, regional and national level. On behalf of the Council, the Leader expressed his sincere gratitude to Lee for his work and support over the years.

Councillor P Tattersley, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, expressed his delight at having worked with Lee over the years and highlighted his charisma and determination to put actions into motion as some of his key attributes as a Council Officer.

Councillor J Abbott, Leader of the Green and Independent Group concurred with the comments made and noted how complex the area of environmental legislation had become over the years that he had worked with Lee. Councillor Abbott expressed his thanks to Lee on behalf of the Group for all he had achieved over the years for both Members and residents alike.

Councillor Mrs J Pell, Leader of the Halstead Residents' Association, echoed comments made previously and added that Lee would be a great loss to the organisation.

Councillor T Everard also added his grateful thanks to Lee and commended his knowledge of the subject of environmental health and the Council as a whole. In particular, Councillor Everard drew attention to Lee's work on the Bocking Windmill.

46 **MOTION BY COUNCILLOR TOM CUNNINGHAM – GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO UNITING AND LEVELLING UP EVERY PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a Motion by Councillor T Cunningham, as follows:-

“With the establishment of the new Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, this Council welcomes and fully supports the Government's commitment to uniting and levelling up every part of the United Kingdom.

The intention of the new Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Michael Gove, to relentlessly focus on delivering for those overlooked families and undervalued communities by spreading opportunity, improving public services, and restoring people's sense of pride in their communities sits fully alongside this Council's aspirations as we emerge from the worst of the pandemic.

This Council believes that it is vital that these aspirations are not put at risk by policies that would:

- *Reduce the ability of the UK to feed itself by converting to less intensive agriculture and converting grassland to forest where possible.*
- *Seriously interfere in the running of private companies and the economy and hurt pensions and investments by introducing legislation to reduce the size of companies.*
- *Go soft on crime and pro-legalisation of drugs by requiring reparation for crimes committed rather than punishment or retribution and making powder cocaine available in fixed dosages at fixed prices to people who wish to use the drug for recreational purposes.*
- *Weaken the UK's defence and position in the world by taking the UK out of NATO and ending the special relationship between the UK and the US.*
- *Make house purchasing even more difficult by placing ceilings on the % of a property's value and borrower's income that may be lent on mortgage.*
- *Effectively nationalise the banking system by bringing it under “democratic control, preferably at a local level.”*
- *Reduce controls on immigration to the UK by progressively reducing UK immigration controls and allow Migrants illegally in the UK for over 5 years to remain.*
- *Introduce a “Levelling Down” taxation regime through a tax policy that creates a disincentive for employers, employees, and wealth creators with increased tax grab of £124.4 billion.*
- *Reduce our community's sense of pride by abolishing the monarchy.*

The Chairman then informed Members that further to the publication of the Agenda for the meeting, Councillor J Abbott, Leader of the Green and Independent Group, had submitted an amendment to the original Motion submitted by Councillor T Cunningham.

The proposed amendment sought to add and delete text of the original Motion, to be read as follows (changes underlined):-

“With the establishment of the new Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, this Council welcomes and fully supports the Government’s commitment to uniting and levelling up every part of the United Kingdom.

The intention of the new Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Michael Gove, to relentlessly focus on delivering for those overlooked families and undervalued communities by spreading opportunity, improving public services, and restoring people’s sense of pride in their communities sits fully alongside this Council’s aspirations as we emerge from the worst of the pandemic.

This Council believes that it is vital that these aspirations are not put at risk supported by policies that would:

- ~~*Reduce the ability of the UK to feed itself by converting to less intensive agriculture and converting grassland to forest where possible.*~~
- ~~*Seriously interfere in the running of private companies and the economy and hurt pensions and investments by introducing legislation to reduce the size of companies.*~~
- ~~*Go soft on crime and pro-legalisation of drugs by requiring reparation for crimes committed rather than punishment or retribution and making powder cocaine available in fixed dosages at fixed prices to people who wish to use the drug for recreational purposes.*~~
- ~~*Weaken the UK’s defence and position in the world by taking the UK out of NATO and ending the special relationship between the UK and the US.*~~
- ~~*Make house purchasing even more difficult by placing ceilings on the % of a property’s value and borrower’s income that may be lent on mortgage.*~~
- ~~*Effectively nationalise the banking system by bringing it under “democratic control, preferably at a local level.”*~~
- ~~*Reduce controls on immigration to the UK by progressively reducing UK immigration controls and allow Migrants illegally in the UK for over 5 years to remain.*~~
- ~~*Introduce a “Levelling Down” taxation regime through a tax policy that creates a disincentive for employers, employees, and wealth creators with increased tax grab of £124.4 billion*~~
- ~~*Reduce our community’s sense of pride by abolishing the monarchy.*~~

For ease of reference, the proposed amendment is set out in full below:-

“With the establishment of the new Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, this Council welcomes and fully supports the Government’s commitment to uniting and levelling up every part of the United Kingdom.

The intention of the new Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Michael Gove, to relentlessly focus on delivering for those overlooked families and undervalued communities by spreading opportunity, improving public services, and restoring people's sense of pride in their communities sits fully alongside this Council's aspirations as we emerge from the worst of the pandemic.

This Council believes that it is vital that these aspirations are supported."

There followed a general debate on Councillor Abbott's proposed amendment to the substantive Motion. Once the debate had concluded, a recorded vote was taken and the results were as follows:-

For the Amendment: Councillors: Abbott, Mrs Beavis, Hicks, Mrs Sandum, Thorogood, Wallace, Walsh, Miss Weeks, Wright (9).

Against the Amendment:

Councillors: Baugh, Bowers, Butland, Coleridge, Courtauld, Mrs Cunningham, T Cunningham, Mrs Dervish, Euesden, Everard, Mrs Garrod, Hensman, Horner, Mrs Kilmartin, Korsinah, McArdle, McKee, Pritchard, Rehman, Ricci, Rose, Miss Santomauro, Mrs Scattergood, Schwier, Mrs Spray, Tattersley, van Dulken, Mrs Walters, White, Mrs Wilson, Wrench (31).

Abstained:

Councillors: Munday, Mrs Pell, Radley (3).

Absent:

Councillors: Hume, Johnson, Mann, Mrs Parker, Mrs Schmitt, Unsworth (6).

The proposed amendment to the Motion was **LOST**.

There followed a general debate on the Motion submitted by Councillor T Cunningham in its original format. Once the debate had concluded a recorded vote was taken, the results of which were as follows:-

For the Motion:

Councillors: Baugh, Bowers, Butland, Coleridge, Courtauld, Mrs Cunningham, T Cunningham, Mrs Dervish, Euesden, Mrs Garrod, Horner, Mrs Kilmartin, Korsinah, McArdle, McKee, Pritchard, Rehman, Ricci, Rose, Mrs Scattergood, Schwier, Mrs Spray, Tattersley, van Dulken, Mrs Walters, White, Mrs Wilson, Wrench (28).

Against the Motion: Councillors: Abbott, Mrs Beavis, Hicks, Mrs Sandum, Thorogood, Wallace, Walsh, Miss Weeks, Wright (9).

Abstained:

Councillors: Everard, Hensman, Munday, Mrs Pell, Radley, Miss Santomauro (6).

Absent:

Councillors: Hume, Johnson, Mann, Mrs Parker, Mrs Schmitt, Unsworth (6).

The Motion was declared **CARRIED**.

47 **THE SALINGS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADOPTION**

INFORMATION: Members gave consideration to a report on The Salings Neighbourhood Plan which had been produced by The Salings Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Spray, Cabinet Member for Planning, was invited to present the report. Before beginning her address to the Council, Councillor Mrs Spray wished to congratulate the Neighbourhood Plan Group for their production of a highly detailed and thorough Plan.

The Salings Parish was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 6th February 2017. Following submission and consultation on The Salings Neighbourhood Plan the Council, in agreement with the Parish Council, appointed an independent examiner to review whether the Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) met the basic conditions required in legislation, and if it should proceed to referendum. With the examiner's proposed modifications, the Plan was judged to have met the basic conditions as set out in Paragraph 8 (2) of Schedule 4B of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, was compatible with EU obligations and the convention rights, and complies with the relevant provisions made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended.

The referendum on the Plan was held on 16th September 2021; of those residents who voted, 89 voted in favour of the Plan with just 16 having voted against. The Council agreed that the Plan, including its preparation, did not breach or would otherwise be incompatible with any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998) and had passed referendum.

DECISION: That the Decision Statement attached was approved, and the Salings Neighbourhood Plan made under section 38A (4) of the 2004 Act.

REASON FOR DECISION: The Salings Parish Council had been working to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan, once agreed, could be used in the determination of planning applications within The Salings Neighbourhood Area.

48 **PLANNING COMMITTEE – TO APPROVE A CHANGE IN THE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE GREEN AND INDEPENDENT GROUP**

INFORMATION: The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 required that the allocation of seats on Council Committees and Sub-Committees were assigned to Political Groups on a politically proportionate basis. Further to the agreement of the Planning Committee Membership at the Council's Annual General Meeting on 19th April 2021, the Council had received notification that it was necessary to make a change to the Green and Independent Group appointment to the Committee.

Accordingly, it was proposed that Councillor N Unsworth stepped down from the Planning Committee, and Councillor Mrs J Beavis be appointed as the replacement Member.

DECISION: That Council approved the proposed changes to the Planning Committee Membership.

REASON FOR DECISION: To obtain approval to an amendment to the Green and Independent appointment to the Planning Committee.

49

CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF INSURANCE SERVICES

INFORMATION: It was reported that notice of the use of the Special Urgency Provision was published on the Council's website and at its offices on 28th September 2021. The decision related to the Council's current insurance services, whose provision was through a Long term Agreement (LTA) from 1st December 2020 to 30th September 2023. However, during the annual renewal preparations, the Council's incumbent insurer for the two largest lots elected to break the LTA and sought to bring in significant increases to the premium rates.

The Council had entered into negotiations with the insurer, but these were unsuccessful. As a result of the insurer's refusal to extend the Insurance Cover or negotiate their premiums, the Council accordingly undertook a full procurement exercise in order to obtain insurance cover for the following areas: Motor, Combined Liability, and Casualty.

Due to the limited notice that the Council had in having to undertake the procurement exercise, and the uncertainty as to whether it would result in a better price for the Council, it was not possible to give the necessary 28 days' notice of its intention to take a Key Decision or take the matter before Cabinet. In view of the fact that the current insurance cover had been due to expire on 30th September 2021, the Council utilised its Special Urgency Procedure and allowed the decision to be taken by Councillor G Butland, Leader of the Council.

The Leader approved the following decisions:

- 1) To approve the award of three contracts for the provision of Insurance Services, for the values set out in the Confidential Appendix, commencing on 1st October 2021 for a period of 2 years, with the option to extend in 12 months increments up to a further 2 years, namely:
 - a) Combined Liability insurance to Travelers;
 - b) Motor insurance to Protector; and
 - c) Fidelity Guarantee to Zurich Municipal;
- 2) To delegate to the Head of Finance to agree to extend the contracts in accordance with the provisions set out above.

A copy of the decision report was available on the Council's website

DECISION: That Council:-

- 1) Noted the use of the Special Urgency Provision as set out in the Constitution, and;
- 2) Noted the decision taken by the Leader, relating to the Council's insurance provisions.

REASON FOR DECISION: To inform the Council that it became necessary to use the Special Urgency Provision as set out in Braintree District Council's (the Council) Constitution.

50 **CABINET REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL**

INFORMATION: The Chairman invited the Leader of the Council to introduce the Cabinet Report to Full Council. Following this, the Chairman invited Members to ask their questions. Questions were not limited to the content of the report and could be about matters relating to a portfolio, the powers and duties of the Council, or matters pertaining to the District.

Councillor K Bowers, Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Skills provided an update to Members on the two Afghan resettlement schemes that had been announced by the Government: they were the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), and these formed part of 'Operation Warm Welcome.' As part of the schemes, two, two-bedroom properties had been identified within the Braintree District and submitted to Essex County Council (ECC) for consideration. To date, no matches had been received for the two properties. Two further properties had also been identified for potential consideration, although the timescales for these had yet to be confirmed. Members were reminded that the District Council did not own or hold housing stock, and that its supply of affordable housing was limited. Going forward, the Council would continue its work with ECC in order to establish opportunities to identify suitable properties that could be put forward to support the Government's schemes. It was added that the Council was in regular contact with the Government in order to better understand how the schemes would operate at a practical level, as well as the financial implications on individuals and Authorities. The Council's efforts would be focused on working with local groups and private sector landlords to identify potential properties that could also be used to support refugees and the overall programme.

Members then asked several questions arising from the report. A webcast of the questions to and the responses of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members is available on the Council's website and its YouTube channel at <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/youtube>

The main topics were as follows:-

- Councillor J Abbott asked whether the re-fresh of the Council's economic plan would take into consideration the Essex Climate Action Commission's Net-Zero report and the District Council's Climate and Cycling Strategies.
- Councillor J Abbott referred to comments that had been made previously by Councillor P Tattersley, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, in respect of the Silver End Surgery.
- Councillor J Abbott questioned the removal of mature trees on development sites such as the Gimsons site in Witham.
- Councillor Mrs J Beavis asked what events the Council had planned in order to celebrate Black History Month 2021 in October.

- Councillor Mrs J Beavis asked for confirmation as to who was leading on the new park land sale in Castle Hedingham, and what proportion of this sale and capital receipt to the Council would benefit the Hedingham area.
- Councillor T Everard commented on the current issue regarding the lack of performing arts venues in Braintree and asked what could be done by the Council to help rectify the situation.
- Councillor T Walsh asked whether Councillor K Bowers, Cabinet Member for Housing, Assets and Skills would like to make contact with an Essex-based C of E group which had already provided assistance to 60 refugees across several countries since its implementation.
- Councillor T Walsh requested an update on the analysis of the Climate Change Strategy and asked whether there were any further plans of action based on the direct air quality monitoring mentioned by Councillor Mrs W Schmitt, Cabinet Member for the Environment, at the Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council on 20th September 2021.
- Councillor T Walsh asked whether any air quality management areas had been declared in the Braintree District since 2019, if there was an action plan in place, and whether the Council had applied for the Government grant intended to help Local Authorities to tackle air pollution.
- Councillor T Walsh queried whether the Council was giving consideration to air quality management areas and other initiatives to combat poor air quality, given the extent of road, traffic and housing growth detailed under the Local Plan.

The following actions were agreed in response to questions raised by Members. Written answers would be issued within 10 working days of the meeting and circulated to all Members:-

- Councillor F Ricci, Cabinet Member for Communities, agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Mrs J Beavis with the details of any plans that the Council had in place to celebrate Black History Month 2021.
- Councillor J McKee, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Transformation, agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Mrs J Beavis further to her question in regard to the new park land sale in Castle Hedingham.
- On behalf of Councillor Mrs W Schmitt, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor G Butland, Leader of the Council, responded to Councillor T Walsh following his queries in regard to air quality management and the plans that the Council had in place to tackle this. It was reported that active consideration was being given to plans and announcements would be made in due course to all Members as the budget process for 2022/23 progressed.
- Councillor F Ricci, Cabinet Member for Communities, would update all Members in due course with regard to the closure of the Braintree Arts Theatre at Notley High School in Braintree.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 10.10pm.

Councillor Mrs S Wilson
(Chairman)