

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL,
HELD ON TUESDAY, 2ND JUNE, 2026 AT 7.30 PM
IN THE PRINCES THEATRE, AT THE TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD, CLACTON-
ON-SEA, CO15 1SE**

Present:	Councillors Oxley (Chairman), Guglielmi (Vice-Chairman), Alexander, Amos, Baker, Barrett, Barry, Bensilum, Bray, Bush, Calver, Casey, Chapman BEM, Codling, A Cossens, M Cossens, Davidson, Doyle, Fairley, Ferguson, Fowler, Goldman, Griffiths, I Henderson, J Henderson, P Honeywood, S Honeywood, Keteca, Land, Placey, Platt, Scott, Skeels Jnr., Smith, Steady, G Stephenson, M Stephenson, Sudra, Talbot, White and Wiggins
In Attendance:	Ian Davidson (Chief Executive), Keith Simmons (Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support) & Deputy Monitoring Officer), Ian Ford (Democratic Services Manager), William Lodge (Corporate Communications Manager), Bethany Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Katie Koppenaar (Democratic Services Officer), Rebecca Catchpole (Leadership Support Officer) and Simon Kedge (Casual Technician (Princes Theatre))
Also in Attendance:	Bethany Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Rebecca Catchpole (Leadership Support Officer) and Simon Kedge (Casual Technician (Princes Theatre))

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Davis, Harris, Kotz, Morrison, Newton and Thompson.

16. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson, duly seconded and:-

RESOLVED that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 31 March 2026 and of the annual meeting of the Council held on 19 May 2026 be approved as correct records and be signed by the Chairman.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to agenda item 14 (reference from the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee – A.2 – Community Governance Review for Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands – Phase II: Final Recommendations), Councillor Alexander declared an Interest insofar as he was the Council's appointed representative to the Rush Green Allotments Trust.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman (Councillor Oxley) stated that she had no real announcements to make at this time as she was still easing herself into the role and had only undertaken a couple of civic engagements to date. Councillor Oxley would be informing all Members of her chosen Charities.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive read out the following statement:-

“Madam Chairman, I formally report that, on 26 May 2026, and in accordance with the wishes of the Leader of the Tending Independents Group and the wishes of the Leader of the Conservative Group, as appropriate, I exercised my delegated powers and:-

- (1) appointed Councillor Mark Platt to fill the vacant allocated seat on the Audit Committee;*
- (2) appointed Councillor Adrian Smith to serve on the Human Resources & Council Tax Committee in the stead of Councillor Andy Baker; and*
- (3) appointed Councillor Andy Baker to serve on the Standards Committee in the stead of Councillor Adrian Smith.”*

Council noted the foregoing.

20. STATEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

There were no statements made by the Leader of the Council on this occasion.

21. STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**Brooklands, Jaywick Sands – Emergency road repairs**

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism (Councillor I J Henderson) made the following statement:-

“I want to briefly update Members on the emergency repairs currently underway at Brooklands in Jaywick Sands. As Members will be aware, the road, running parallel to the seafront, is unadopted and so not the responsibility of any Council to maintain.

However, following extensive engagement with residents in Jaywick Sands, it became clear that addressing the condition of this road was their highest priority for investment from the Community Regeneration Partnership funding that the Council has received from Government.

In response, Cabinet took the decision at the end of March to authorise emergency works. I am pleased to confirm that contractors are now on site, filling the potholes, with the work expected to be completed within a week. The works will cost up to a total value of £10,000.

This intervention is about doing the right thing – improving safety for residents and visitors and preventing damage to vehicles – while recognising that we are not in a position to adopt the road on an ongoing basis.

Members should note that there will be some temporary disruption while the works are carried out, including changes to the number 4 bus route.

This project reflects the progress we are making in listening to and responding to residents' concerns. Thank you."

Active Lives in Tendring

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Public Realm (Councillor Barry) made the following statement:-

"Many of you will know that Tendring has faced persistently low levels of participation in sport and physical activity and this has been reflected in time and again in the national data we receive from Sport England.

Today, I am genuinely delighted to share news that represents a real turning point for our District. The latest Active Lives results, covering November 2024 to November 2025, show a statistically significant 9.5 percentage points increase in activity levels, alongside a 5.6 percentage point reduction in inactivity. This means around 13,500 fewer adults in Tendring are inactive compared with when this data started to be collected around ten years ago. Tendring is now in line with England, the east of England and Greater Essex and our reduction in inactivity is the third highest improvement in the entire country.

These figures reflect extensive partnership working across the District, including collaboration with Active Essex, health partners, sports clubs, community organisations and volunteers. This shift should not be underestimated. Active Lives is the nationally recognised benchmark for physical activity, and these improvements come at a time when there is widespread concern about declining healthy life expectancy and the growing societal cost of inactivity. Against that backdrop, the scale of Tendring's improvement is both timely and deeply meaningful.

We see this too in the growth of our sports facilities, where the number of memberships has risen from 1,800 before the pandemic to over 6,000 today. Alongside the impact of the Local Delivery Pilot, these efforts are reshaping activity levels across the District and improving quality of life for our residents.

Our Sport and Activity Strategy has been central to this progress. It focuses on behaviour change, widening access to opportunity and improving access to diverse and rich sport and activity sessions closer to where our residents live. Over the past year alone, the Council has awarded £55,000 in grant funding to 41 community groups in all parts of our District. This funding has supported:-

- after school activities for young people;*
- local sports clubs offering opportunities for residents of all ages;*
- targeted club subscription support schemes for young people who would otherwise be unable to participate; and*
- training and qualifications for members.*

A powerful example of what these sessions can deliver can be seen in the supported walking programme we recently funded in Jaywick for residents recovering from cancer. This isn't simply a walk; it is a structured, confidence-building activity led by trained facilitators. Participants are supported to rebuild stamina at their own pace, connect with others who understand their journey and regain independence in a safe and encouraging environment.

Sessions such as these, together with continued investment in our sports facilities, the delivery of play zones and reduction in energy costs, will further support our drive towards sustaining and increasing the opportunities for our residents to be active where they live. Thank you."

22. PETITIONS TO COUNCIL

On this occasion it was reported that no 'live' petitions had been submitted in accordance with the Scheme approved by the Council.

23. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.1

Subject to the required notice being given, members of the public could ask questions of the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

It was reported that, on this occasion, no such questions on notice had been submitted.

24. URGENT CABINET OR PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS

On this occasion Members were informed that there were no urgent Cabinet or Portfolio Holder decisions that needed to be reported to Council.

25. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson and:-

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following Committees, as circulated, be received and noted:-

- (a) Standards of Wednesday 11 March 2026;
- (b) Audit of Thursday 26 March 2026;
- (c) Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny of Monday 30 March 2026; and
- (d) Standards of Wednesday 22 April 2026.

26. MOTIONS TO COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

On this occasion it was reported that no motions on notice had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

27. JOINT REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND THE CABINET - A.1 - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION: NEW PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE RULES

Council discussed a joint report of the Monitoring Officer and the Cabinet (A.1) which enabled Council to consider proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution in respect of the Procurement Procedure Rules.

It was reported that, at its formal meeting held on 24 April 2026 (minute 140 referred), and in accordance with the Council's adopted Procurement Strategy, Cabinet had

considered a report of the Assets & Community Safety Portfolio Holder which had sought Cabinet's approval for the Procurement Procedure Rules developed through Essex Procurement Partnership to be recommended onto Full Council for adoption, thereby replacing the Council's current Procurement Procedure Rules, contained within the Rules of Procedure as set out in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution. That report had also provided a high-level update of the Local Government Reorganisation for Greater Essex, Procurement and Contracts System Working Group.

Cabinet had resolved *"that Cabinet -*

- (a) approves in principle, the draft Procurement Procedure Rules, as set out in Appendix A to report A.1, as developed by the Essex Procurement Partnership, of which Tendring District Council is an active Member Authority, for recommendation onto Full Council for adoption;*
- (b) authorises the Corporate Director (Law & Governance), being the responsible Officer for the Council's corporate procurement function and the Council's statutory Monitoring Officer, to make any necessary minor amendments and to produce a final draft of the Procurement Procedure Rules, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Assets and Community Safety, for Full Council to consider;*
- (c) recommends to Council that the final draft Procurement Procedures Rules be adopted, replacing the Council's current Procurement Procedure Rules, as contained within the Rules of Procedure set out in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution;*
- (d) endorses the review to be undertaken by both Internal Audit and the Audit Committee to ensure the Council's corporate governance requirements continue to be maintained through the new Rules and lessons learnt have been captured;*
- (e) notes the update of the activity within the Essex Procurement Partnership and the Local Government Reorganisation for Greater Essex, Procurement and Contracts System Working Group; and*
- (f) notes Officers will present the outcome of the detailed analysis of the Council's Contracts Register in due course in readiness for the transition phases of LGR."*

Cabinet resolution (c) was pertinent to this meeting of the full Council.

Having considered the Cabinet's recommendation arising from its consideration of the aforementioned matters, and to enable that recommendation to be approved and adopted:-

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson and:-

RESOLVED that the final draft Procurement Procedures Rules, as set out at Appendix 1 to the joint report (A.1), be approved and formally adopted, and that they replace, with immediate effect, the Council's current Procurement Procedure Rules, as contained within the Rules of Procedure as set out in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution.

28. REFERENCE FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - A.2 - COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR CLACTON-ON-

SEA, HOLLAND-ON-SEA AND JAYWICK SANDS - PHASE II: FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Earlier on in the meeting, as recorded under minute 17 above, Councillor Alexander had declared an Interest in this matter insofar as he was the Council's appointed representative to the Rush Green Allotments Trust.

Council discussed a reference report (A.2) that enabled Council to consider the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee's final recommendations following the Community Governance Review undertaken for the currently unparished areas of the District.

It was reported that, at its meeting held on 30 March 2026 (minute 46 referred), the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee ("the Committee") had considered a report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Policy & Support) that had informed the Committee of the current point in the community governance review process, the outcome of the Phase II consultation and which sought to enable the Committee to determine the recommendations to be submitted to Council in respect of the conclusion of the review.

That report had supported the Committee in its constitutional role in respect of Community Governance Reviews (as set out at Article 6.02 of the Council's constitution – as follows):-

"The Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with Section 9F (d) and (e) of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) will also perform the functions relating to community governance reviews as provided for by Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the 2007 Act") where those functions have been delegated to the Committee by full Council (as set out in Part 3 Schedule 2 Responsibility for Council (Non-Executive) Functions).

In performing its delegated functions, the Committee is required, by section 100(4) of the 2007 Act, to have regard to the guidance, which is issued by the Secretary of State, under section 100(1) and (3), and the LGBCE under section 100(2) of the same Act."

The Committee had made six main resolutions which had contained several recommendations to full Council. Those recommendations were fully detailed within the reference report (A.2).

Having considered the Committee's recommendations arising from its consideration of the aforementioned matters, and to enable those recommendations to be approved and adopted:-

It was moved by the Chairman of the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Steady) that Council formally:-

- (a) acknowledges the implementation of the Community Governance Review which commenced on 1 July 2025 with the Terms of Reference for that review, the outcomes of the Phase I and Phase II consultations and the final recommendations from the review as determined by the Council's Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

- (b) approves that the current unparished area of the District of Tendring be parished with effect from 1 April 2027 and that this parishing shall consist of three new parishes, as identified in the maps set out at Appendices F, G and H appended hereto this reference report which, together, cover the entirety of that unparished area;
- (c) approves that the names of the three new parishes referenced in (b) above shall be Holland-on-Sea (for the area edged black in the aforementioned Appendix F), West Clacton & Jaywick Sands (for the area edged black in the aforementioned Appendix G) and Clacton-on-Sea (for the area edged black in the aforementioned Appendix H);
- (d) approves that, in accordance with Section 94 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, all three new parishes shall have their own parish councils;
- (e) approves that the alternative styles of the three parishes shall be as immediately below:
- Village – for the parish council of Holland-on-Sea;
Town – for the parish of Clacton-on-Sea;
Community – for the parish of West Clacton & Jaywick Sands;
- (f) notes that references to style in (e) above and (f) below do not negate the basic position that all three areas will become civil parishes;
- (g) approves that the total number of parish councillors to serve on the three separate parish councils shall be as follows:
- 15 - on Holland-on-Sea Village Council;
25 - on Clacton-on-Sea Town Council;
12 - on West Clacton & Jaywick Sands Community Council;
- (h) concurs that no parish wards be created in the new parishes of Holland-on-Sea and West Clacton & Jaywick Sands;
- (i) approves that, in the new parish of Clacton-on-Sea, the following parish wards be created and that the number of parish councillors to represent the parish ward concerned be as set out immediately below:

Parish Ward Name	Area of the Parish Ward by reference to the existing District Council Ward	Number of Parish Councillors to represent the Parish Ward on the Parish Council
Bluehouse Ward	Bluehouse Ward	3
Burrsville Ward	Burrsville Ward	4
Cann Hall Ward	Cann Hall Ward	3
Coppins Ward	Coppins Ward	4
Pier Ward	Pier Ward	1
St James' Ward	St James' Ward	4

St John's Ward	St John's Ward	4
St Paul's & Eastcliff Ward	St Paul's Ward and that part of Eastcliff Ward within the Clacton-on-Sea Parish	2

- (j) approves, in order bring the term of office of the parish councillors in line with the second and subsequent elections to any unitary authority established for the area as part of local government reorganisation, that the term of office of the first parish councillors elected in May 2027 shall be five years to the normal retirement day in May 2032 and that all subsequent terms of office shall be four years;
- (k) approves, in order to provide for interim parish councillors, for the period 1 April to 10 May 2027 (when newly elected parish councillors for the three parishes would take up office) for the councils of the three new parishes as follows:

Holland-on-Sea Parish – the District Councillors for the St Bartholomews and Eastcliff District Wards and the Essex County Councillor for the Clacton South Electoral Division;

Clacton-on-Sea Parish – the District Councillors for the Bluehouse, Burrsville, Coppins, Pier, St James', St John's, St Paul's and Eastcliff District Wards and the Essex County Councillors for the Clacton North, Clacton South and Clacton West and St Osyth Electoral Divisions;

West Clacton & Jaywick Sands Parish – the District Councillors for the West Clacton & Jaywick Sands District Ward and that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Ward Councillors for West Clacton and Jaywick Sands Ward, to identify an additional appointee role to the interim parish council and to include that appointee role in the Community Governance Order;

- (l) authorises the Chief Executive to prepare the necessary Community Governance Order(s) to bring the Council's formal decisions on this matter into being and to provide for the matters set out above, and for the Council's seal to be applied to that Order and to ensure that the Council's legal obligations in respect of the making of such Order(s) are fully complied with; and
- (m) invites Cabinet to consider the next steps to be undertaken and allocation of resources and, as part of this, to determine the steps the Council considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the outcome and the reasons behind the Council's decisions in this matter.

A copy of Councillor Steady's motion had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Its contents had differed from the recommendations contained in the agenda document pack in that the wording of original recommendation (k) had been amended, and original recommendation (l) had been deleted entirely. The rationale, as also circulated, for those changes was as follows:-

"Recommendation (k) - as set out in the Monitoring Officer's section of the report, the current representation on the interim parish council would be two people (Cllrs Dan Casey and Brad Thompson, due to the fact that Cllr Thompson had recently been

elected as the Essex County Councillor for the Clacton West & St. Osyth electoral division). By virtue of the Local Government Act 1972 we require three persons to constitute the parish council for this short initial period. To allow time for consultation to take place on the appropriate office holder for this position, a delegation is sought to make the appointment/reference the appointee in the resulting Order.

Recommendation (I) - the Solicitors acting on behalf of the trustees of Rush Green Allotments have applied for, and been granted, a transfer of the allotment land concerned from this Council to the Official Custodian for Charities in trust for that charity. The Charity Commission made this vesting Order on 23 April 2026.

The Official Custodian for Charities is a statutory corporation that holds land and other assets on behalf of charities, primarily to simplify property management and protect assets. The Official Custodian for Charities was established under the Charities Act 2011 to act as a trustee for charities in specific circumstances, mainly for holding land and other assets on their behalf. Its primary purpose is to safeguard charity property and reduce administrative burdens, especially for unincorporated charities that cannot hold land in their own name. The custodian does not manage the land. Charity trustees retain all powers and responsibilities for administration, including leasing, paying taxes, or making management decisions.

As the land in question is no longer held by this Council, for the reasons set out above, original recommendation (I) to transfer the land to the proposed Clacton-on-Sea Parish Council is void and so should not be approved."

Councillor P B Honeywood then moved, and Councillor Amos seconded that Councillor Steady's motion be amended to read as follows:-

That Council formally:-

- (a) acknowledges the implementation of the Community Governance Review which commenced on 1 July 2025 with the Terms of Reference for that review, the outcomes of the Phase I and Phase II consultations and the final recommendations from the review as determined by the Council's Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (b) that, in view of the cost to the taxpayer being unknown and the possibility that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) does not go ahead, the recommendations from the Community Governance Review (CGR) not be considered this evening but instead be scheduled for consideration at the 13 October 2026 meeting of Full Council; and
- (c) invites Cabinet to consider the next steps to be undertaken and allocation of resources and, as part of this, to determine the steps the Council considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the outcome and the reasons behind the Council's decisions in this matter.

A copy of Councillor Honeywood's amendment had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. The reasoning, as also circulated, for the amendment was as follows:-

“On the basis that the Government’s intentions are pursued, this will allow the minded to decision on Greater Essex LGR to be progressed to draft legislation. Otherwise, by this point any delay or reconsideration of the Government’s stance on LGR should have been announced and its implications on the recommendations from the CGR assessed. By recommendation (n) proceeding (as new (c)), greater clarity could be available on the likely budgetary positions for the proposed parishes.”

In relation to Councillor Honeywood’s amendment, the written advice of the Council’s Statutory Officers had also been circulated to Members prior to the commencement of the meeting. That advice was as follows:-

“The report to Council sets out the timeline for this CGR. On page 173-174 the relevant decisions are referenced. Commencing on 17 September 2024, it predated the Government’s announcements for LGR and the Devolution Priority Programme that Greater Essex responded to.

The original timetable for the CGR and consideration of the final recommendations envisaged a decision by Council in March 2026. Due to the volume of responses received in the Phase I consultation (July-September 2025) the Community Leadership Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved a realignment of the timetable to delay the final recommendations from March to April 2026. At the 30 March 2026 meeting of that Committee a further delay was agreed until June 2026 for the final recommendations to be determined. This was specifically to avoid a decision in the pre-election period. As such, we are already 2-3 months into the originally envisaged planning phase for delivering the outcome from the CGR.

The amendment, if passed, would add a further deferral of four months into that planning phase ahead of, what would be a 1 April 2027 commencement of the three parishes based on the recommendations.

In view of the amendment referencing the LGR process, Council’s attention is drawn to the report submitted to it under the heading “Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation” on pages 180-181. This includes the following conclusion:

“...proceeding with this community governance review was appropriate as the approval of the review pre-dated the publication of the Government’s White Paper on 16 December 2024 on devolution and local government reorganisation and the commencement of the Devolution Priority Programme. In addition, the outcome of this Community Governance Review will not directly impact on the Government’s announced expectation for new Unitary Councils to establish appropriate neighbourhood Area Committees to facilitate engagement with residents in their Unitary Area.”

On page 185 of the report, Council is reminded that:

“The findings from the Phase II consultation are set out at Appendices A (A1 and A2) and C to this report. They inform the proposed final recommendations to be submitted to Full Council on 2 June.”

In respect of the cost to taxpayers, the report before Council identifies that this is a matter that is planned to be assessed following any decision to proceed. On page 184, and referencing the consultation undertaken, the report says:

“As part of the Phase II consultation, consultees were also invited to indicate services, activities, events or arrangements that they would wish to see a possible new Parish Council be responsible for. This information can then inform a future process of looking beyond the base costs of operating a Parish Council in the event that establishing such Parish Councils is approved.”

In the event that the final recommendations are adopted by the Council (now or in October), it would be this Council that would determine the initial precepts for the funding of those Parish Councils. Thereafter it would be entirely a matter for the new Parish Councils based on the costs of services and functions they determine are required.

At Appendix E to this report is information put into the public domain as part of the Phase II CGR consultation and sets out both base costs for the recommended new parish councils (as assessed by Essex Association of Local Councils) and the average Band D equivalent of existing Parish Council precepts in 2025/26 of £75.94. These pieces of information were addressed in the public meetings held during the Phase II consultation as well as being made available.

The final recommendations from the CGR are now finalised (as set out in the report) and cannot be re-opened. Whatever the position is now and may be in October 2026 Full Council will still need to determine those recommendations.

Any proposed Community Governance Order following determination of the recommendation from the review concerned would need to be in place by 15 October 2026 to enable the new parishes to be formed on 1 April 2027. This is because 15 October in any given year is the reference date for residency in respect of the electoral registers published on the 1 December in the same year. The new registers of electors for the parishes would require the residency date to be ahead of 15 October.”

In addition to Councillor P B Honeywood, Councillors Amos, Bartlett, Steady, M E Stephenson, Doyle, Platt, M A Cossens, Griffiths, Baker, Calver, I J Henderson, Scott and Bray addressed Council during the debate on Councillor Honeywood's amendment.

Pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 19.5, Councillor P B Honeywood, supported by, at least, nine other Members rising in their places, requisitioned a record of the voting on his amendment as set out above. That vote resulted as follows:-

<u>Councillors For</u>	<u>Councillors Against</u>	<u>Councillors Abstaining</u>	<u>Councillors Not Present</u>
Alexander	Baker	Bush	Davis
Amos	Barrett	Ferguson	Everett
A I Cossens	Barry	Keteca	Harris
M A Cossens	Bensilum	Land	Kotz
Fairley	Bray		Morrison
Griffiths	Calver		Newton
Guglielmi	Casey		Thompson
P B Honeywood	Chapman BEM		
S A Honeywood	Codling		
Platt	Davidson		
Skeels	Doyle		

Fowler
Goldman
I J Henderson
J Henderson
Oxley
Placey
Scott
Smith
Steady
G L Stephenson
M E Stephenson
Sudra
Talbot
White
Wiggins

Councillor P B Honeywood's amendment was declared **LOST**.

In addition to Councillor Steady, Councillor M E Stephenson spoke during the debate on Councillor Steady's motion.

Councillor Steady's motion on being put to the vote was declared **CARRIED**.

29. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11.2

Subject to the required notice being given, members of the Council could ask questions of the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.

It was reported that no questions on notice had been submitted by Members on this occasion.

30. SEATING PLAN FOR MEETINGS OF THE FULL COUNCIL IN THE 2026/2027 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Council considered a proposed seating plan for its meetings to be held during the 2026/2027 Municipal Year. The seating plan had been amended to take into account the election of the new Chairman of the Council and the appointment of the new Vice-Chairman of the Council.

It was moved by Councillor M E Stephenson, seconded by Councillor P B Honeywood and:-

RESOLVED that the proposed seating plan for meetings of the full Council, to be held during the 2026/2027 Municipal Year, be approved.

31. URGENT MATTERS FOR DEBATE

No urgent matters had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 3(xv), 11.3(b) and/or 13(p) for this meeting.

The Meeting was declared closed at 8.42 pm

Chairman