

## **Full Council**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019

At 7:00 pm in the Council Chamber, The Cube, George Street, Corby

**Present:** - Councillor Beeby (Mayor), Dady, Addison, P Beattie, T Beattie, Caine, Colquhoun, Eyles, Ferguson, Keane, Latta, McEwan, McGhee, McNab, Pengelly, Rahman, Riley, Watt & Watts.

*Prior to the meeting commencing, those attending observed a minutes silence out of respect for the former councillor Stan Heggs who had recently passed away.*

### **24. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Elliston, Rutt, Goult, Brown, Cassidy, McKellar, Reay & Sims.

### **25. Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare any personal interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate whether this was prejudicial or non-prejudicial, the nature of the interest and whether they intended participating in the relevant agenda item. None.

### **26. Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting**

The minutes of the previous Full Council meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 had been circulated.

#### **RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be approved.

### **27. Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor informed Members of a series of civic and mayoral charity fundraising events confirmed over the next few weeks. These included a Civic Service on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and a Civic Ball on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### **28. Petitions**

No public petitions had been received.

### **29. Public Question Time**

No public questions had been received.

### **30. Minutes of Committee & Panel Meetings**

#### **30.1 One Corby Policy Committee**

Councillor T Beattie presented the minutes of the One Corby Policy Committee meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

#### **RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the One Corby Policy Committee meetings of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 be received.

#### **30.2 Development Control Committee**

Councillor Riley presented the minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

#### **RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be received.

#### **30.3 Audit & Governance Committee**

Councillor McEwan presented the minutes of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

#### **RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be received.

#### **30.4 Overview & Scrutiny Panel**

Councillor Watts presented the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

#### **RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 be received.

#### **30.5 Standards Committee**

Councillor Eyles presented the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

#### **RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the Standards Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be received.

### 30.6 Local Plan Committee

Councillor Dady presented the minutes of the Local Plan Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

#### **RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the Local Plan Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019 be received.

### 31. Motion – Climate Emergency

The following motion had been submitted -

*Council notes:*

- *Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm), exceeding the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;*
- *In order to reduce runaway Global Warming and limit effects of Climate Breakdown, it is vital that we as a species reduce our CO<sub>2</sub>eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from the current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to 2 tonnes or less as soon as possible;*
- *Individuals cannot be expected to achieve this reduction alone. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;*
- *Current plans and local actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published last year, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and states that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities;*
- *Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.*

*Council endorses the view that:*

- *All governments, whether national, regional and local, have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Corby and the UK that all settlements commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;*
- *Areas like Corby are well placed to lead in reducing carbon emissions, as they are in many ways easier to decarbonise than rural areas – for example because of their capacity for heat networks and mass transit;*
- *The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be a shared global priority;*

- *Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).*

CBC commit to:

- *Declare a 'Climate Emergency';*
- *Call on Westminster to provide powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;*
- *Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;*
- *Continue to work with partners across the town and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;*
- *End Council and Pension Fund investment in fossil fuels within three years;*
- *Report to Council within six months the actions that we will take to address this emergency.*

The motion was MOVED by Councillor Pengelly and SECONDED by Councillor Caine.

Councillor Pengelly moved the motion and in doing so highlighted steps already taken by the Council to reduce its carbon footprint. These included purchase of electric vehicles for the Council's fleet, solar panels on Council owned properties, innovative building solutions e.g. Wilby Close, supporting energy efficient projects e.g. with Electric Corby and liaising with local businesses. Councillor Pengelly stressed that the Council could do more and it was important to seek to reduce the amount of material going to landfill sites. In addition, the Council should seek to encourage the public to reduce their individual carbon foot print. Councillor Pengelly recognised that it was about doing things locally and building up momentum.

Councillor Caine seconded the motion. It was important that the Council added its voice to the growing movement to act, and that the Council builds on its previous positive actions.

Councillor Watt suggested that the motion was ambitious, particularly with its target of 2030. Councillor Watt suggested that the public would need to make fundamental lifestyle changes in order to meet that target. It was important that the community fully supported this initiative in order for it to succeed. Councillor Watt fully supported planting more trees and was a little concerned that the Council's Street Scene Service had chopped some down recently on Tower Hill. Councillor Watt questioned what resources the Council were willing to put into this project. Councillor Watt would look forward to receiving a report in 6-months time together with associated costings.

Councillor Colquhoun recognised that it was ambitious but supported the motion. Councillor Colquhoun felt that it was important to concentrate on a local campaign and gain momentum. He recognised that internationally there would be varying degrees of support, but that was why local campaigns were so important and should be progressed. The movement to address this important issue would grow and expand.

Councillor McGhee felt that the Council had done many positive things to date; these would continue. Everyone had a responsibility to act. The Council had made a good start and this needed to be developed.

Councillor T Beattie supported the motion and did not think it was over ambitious. It was important that all councils supported and acted on this matter. There was a growing understanding across local government that it was time to act. The motion was a statement of intent and collectively the voice of local government would be heard. There was now an impetuosity to take action.

Councillor Watt felt that the motion itself lacked significant targets and felt without the full understanding and support of local people it may fail.

Councillor Dady recognised that there were legitimate reasons to fell trees but the Council had an agreed policy of planting replacements, and negating any damage caused.

Councillor T Beattie stressed that councillors were leaders within their local community, and should be seeking to set high standards.

In conclusion, Councillor Pengelly had looked at several motions supported by local councils around the country. The motion before Full Council he felt best reflected the needs and resources of Corby Council. The Council would be setting an example locally and would encourage the public and local businesses to support this. Supporting the motion would provide a signal to others and would enable the Council to build upon its previous successes.

**RESOLVED that:-**

- i) The motion be approved.

**32. Questions to the Leader**

No questions had been received.

**33. Close of Meeting**

Meeting closed at 7:41 pm.