



## Borough of Douglas

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Town Hall,

Douglas,

12<sup>th</sup> April, 2017

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 2017, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

**MR COUNCILLOR JOHN EDWARD SKINNER, JP**

Councillors

Mr S.R. Pitts

Ms C.R. Turner

Mrs R. Chatel

Mr J. Joughin

Mr D.W. Christian, MBE, JP

Ms C.E. Malarkey

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr C.L.H. Cain

Miss D.A.M. Pitts

Mr F. Horning

Ms K. Angela

Mrs E.C. Quirk

Ms J. Thommeny

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Miss N.A. Byron, Mr Councillor I.J.G. Clague, MBE, Mr Councillor F. Pabellan and Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl.

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Environment and Regeneration, and the Director of Housing and Property were in attendance.

1. **Minutes – 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**

The minutes of the monthly Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, were approved and signed.

2. **Minutes – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017**

The minutes of the special Council Meeting held on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017, were approved and signed.

3. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Councillor Mrs R. Chatel**

Councillor Mrs R. Chatel asked the Chair of the Housing Committee:

Question:

In relation to tenants whose actions are causing disturbance and distress to other tenants:

- (a) What is the step by step process taken by the Housing Department?
- (b) What is meant by the term ‘collection of evidence’ and what is considered an adequate and excessive period of collection?
- (c) What discussions are pro-actively taken with the Police where there has been Police involvement?
- (d) What level is the threshold for evidence in order to proceed with an eviction?

Reply:

- (a) When a complaint of this nature is received the details are recorded and the Police and Environmental Health are asked for confirmation. If confirmation is received a warning letter is sent by the Housing Manager, advising the tenant that should any further report be received legal proceedings will be instigated. If further reports are received, supported by evidence, then either a further written warning or an advocate’s letter is sent. Ultimately, if reports continue to be received, court action can be taken towards eviction.
- (b) Collection of evidence, in this context, requires gathering of data on frequency, duration and impact of any disturbance or series of disturbances; this can be through monitoring or through report by Police or Environmental Health officers. The period of such collection will vary according to the details of the case.
- (c) Housing Officers participate in monthly meetings with the Police and other housing authorities, raising individual property matters where appropriate, and discuss anti-social behaviour issues across all Council estates.
- (d) For a case to be able to proceed to eviction, the Council’s advocate has to be satisfied with the quantity and quality of evidence collected. There are no fixed trigger points and each case is dealt with according to the individual circumstances.

Councillor Mrs R. Chatel asked the Chair of the Housing Committee:

Supplementary Question:

In light of her response, what does the Chairman have to say to those tenants whose health is in decline due to on-going anti-social behaviour. In particular one of my constituents whose health is now in serious decline due to the lack of effective and positive action being taken.

Reply:

Action has been taken within the parameters available to the Council, and working with the appropriate authorities. However, I cannot give further details as this case is currently the subject of legal action.

4. **Executive Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

5. **Pensions Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain, seconded by Councillor Ms C.R. Turner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

**6. Standards Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017**

Motion moved by Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Ms C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Standards Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

**7. Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**

In the absence of the Council’s representative, the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, were deferred for consideration at the June monthly Council meeting.

**8. Housing Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 – Clauses A1 to A7**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Councillor Ms C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A7 inclusive of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

**9. Housing Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 – Clause C8**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Councillor Ms C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clause C8 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

**10. Housing Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 – Clause C9**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells, seconded by Councillor Ms C.E. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing Committee, as contained in Clause C9 of report of meeting held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

**11. Regeneration and Community Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, be received by the Council.”

During discussion Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts agreed, subject to the consent of the Council, to refer Clause A7 back to the Committee for further consideration.

A vote to refer Clause A7 was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously. Clause A7 was referred back to Committee for further consideration.

Question put on amended Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

**12. Environmental Services Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**

Motion moved by Councillor Ms C.R. Turner, seconded by Councillor Ms K. Angela, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

**13. Adjournment and Resumption**

The meeting adjourned at 3.40pm and resumed at 3.50pm with the same Members and Officers present.

**IN PRIVATE**

**14. Executive Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 – Clauses A1 and A2**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 and A2 of private report of meeting held on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

15. **Executive Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 – Clause B3**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause B3 of private report of meeting held on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

16. **Pensions Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain, seconded by Councillor Ms C.R. Turner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion, a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

17. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

The Council rose at 4.20pm.



Acting Chief Executive