



COUNCIL

MEETING : Thursday, 16th November 2023

PRESENT : Cllrs. Williams (Mayor), Hudson (Sheriff & Deputy Mayor), Cook, Norman, S. Chambers, Lewis, Padilla, Hilton, Chambers-Dubus, Gravells MBE, Tracey, Morgan, Wilson, Bhaimia, D. Brown, Taylor, Field, Patel, Toleman, J. Brown, Hyman, Bowkett, Ackroyd, Castle, A. Chambers, Conder, Dee, Durdey, Evans, Kubaszczyk, O'Donnell, Radley, Zaman, Sawyer, Campbell and Trimnell

Others in Attendance

Managing Director
Corporate Director
Monitoring Officer
Head of Culture
Head of Finance and Resources
Head of Place
Head of Transformation and Commercialisation
Policy and Governance Manager
Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Pullen, Brooker and Finnegan

43. MINUTES

43.1 **RESOLVED that:-** The minutes of the ordinary Council meeting which took place on 21 September 2023 and of the extraordinary Council meeting which took place on 19 October 2023 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

44.1 Councillor Field declared a personal interest in agenda item 12 (1) by virtue of his employment by the King's School.

45. CALL OVER

45.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 9, 10 and/or 11 for discussion. It was indicated that item 9 was to be reserved for discussion.

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46. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

46.1 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

Why are there certain things being moved away from people's graves - we pay money for the plot for our loved ones, why are we not allowed to add things to make it personal for us?

46.2 Councillor Norman, Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, responded:

The cemetery is maintained in accordance with the rules and regulations of the cemetery. Deed Holders are allowed to place Ornaments within the 3ft by 2ft planting boundary. All plot holders are given written notice in accordance with the rules and regulations prior to items been removed.

46.3 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

If its ok to put a wooden bench on the outskirts of the graves then why are we not allowed a wooden border around our loved ones resting place especially if we keep it maintained? I've had my wooden border around my son's garden for 4 months now, why has it now only came to your attention, even though I have previously had plastic borders, and why wasn't the wooden border on a neighbouring grave removed sooner, instead of being allowed to remain for up to a year until a headstone was place on it?

46.4 Councillor Norman responded that:

The cemetery is maintained in accordance with the rules and regulations of the cemetery, any boarders which are not consistent with the rules are removed. Wooden benches are placed around the edges of the cemetery allowing the grounds team to safely maintain the grounds.

46.5 A Gloucester resident submitted the following question:

I understand benches should have a stable base for the benches to sit on. Why is there loads around the cemetery that has no base and has not been removed?

46.6 Councillor Norman responded as follows:

Families have a choice as to whether they wish to have their wooden bench placed on lawn or on a hardstanding. Families are notified when purchasing a bench that benches need to remain removable to allow access for future burials.

46.7 A Gloucester resident asked the following question:

How is having the border around my son's grave a health and safety risk?

46.8 Councillor Norman answered that

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When using commercial mowers and strimmer's we must be practical with what materials are placed around the grounds to ensure that our employees and members of the public are kept safe from flying objects.

Granite kerb

sets and chippings that are stone mason approved and fitted by a mason that has

liability insurance to fit in the cemetery are approved because they are made of suitable material that contains

the chippings within the borders. This allows

the grounds team to maintain

the grounds and limit the health safety risk of injury to staff and members of the public

46.9 A Gloucester resident asked:

Why are the cemeteries and crematorium garden rules so rigid? A lot of money is paid, so why can't the rules be tailored to families' needs and why can't families make the gardens how they choose to have them in memory of their loved ones, as long as they maintain them?

46.10 In answer, Councillor Norman stated:

Families purchase the burial rights to the grave which allows them to authorise who can be buried in the plot, We allow families to personalise their grave for their loved one within the 3ft x 2ft border as per the rules and regulations.

46.11 A resident of Gloucester asked:

Does the Council not think families have been through enough to now send a letter threatening to remove their lost family members resting place? Will you be going around the cemetery and sending letters to every single resting place breaking the rules and regulations or is it just certain people?

46.12 Councillor Norman answered that:

The rules and regulations apply to all plots purchased from August 2014. All graves purchased after this date not complying with the Cemetery rules and regulations will receive a letter politely asking Deed Holders to remove any items that are not permitted per the rules and regulations.

46.13 A Gloucester resident asked:

How would you feel if it was you who was getting threatened to have personal items removed from your loved ones resting place?

46.14 Councillor Norman in answer stated:

We send a polite letter out to deed holders asking them to remove anything which does not comply with the rules and regulations. We allow families to

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personalise their grave for their loved one within the 3ft x 2ft border as per the rules and regulations.

46.15 A Gloucester resident asked:

How does it affect anyone else when the family cut around the edge of the grave their self?

46.16 Councillor Norman answered that:

Not all families have the time to maintain their own graves and the rules apply across the board to any burial rights purchase from August 2014. Rules and regulations across the whole of the cemetery allows us to maintain the cemetery to a high standard. We have had situations in the past where families have asked to maintain their own area and unfortunately, graves have not been maintained.

46.17 A resident of Gloucester asked:

There is more health and safety issues around the crematorium, why are those issues not being fixed?

46.18 Councillor Norman stated

All health and safety issues are addressed in accordance with Council procedures, if you have any specific health and safety concerns please raise these with the Bereavement Services Manager who will address each case individually.

46.19 A Gloucester resident asked:

Have the rules and regulations actually been looked at properly when been reviewed in 2014 or just passed on and kept the same - the same thing has been happening since the early 90s and seems to be no change?

46.20 Councillor Norman responded that:

The rules were implemented in August 2014 by Gloucester City Council to allow us to maintain the cemetery to an appropriate standard.

46.21 A resident of Gloucester asked:

I have Safety concerns over Longsmith carpark footbridge. Which flies over cross keys pub garden that sits directly under the closed off redundant footbridge from Longsmith carpark (thats been closed). This footbridge concrete has fallen off the soffit and is only suspended above peoples heads due to a weak seagull netting. This will kill people when the bird netting gives way and large concrete shards fall on peoples heads. I note a city councillor has raised this already. What are you going to do about this?

46.22 Councillor Norman responded that:

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Structural inspections have been ongoing since the closure and will continue in the coming weeks. We will seek to follow the recommendations of the engineers on site and should work be required on this area we will liaise with the affected tenants to ensure works are carried out safely.

46.23 A Gloucester resident asked:

Longsmith remains closed months later, is this because it's not safe for the carpark to be fully used?

46.24 Councillor Norman responded that:

There have been a number of works carried out to include tap testing and removal of the affected concrete. It is safer for all to carry this out with the car park closed. A specification for works will be drawn up in the coming weeks as the initial concrete testing is now drawing to a close.

46.25 A Gloucester resident asked:

I have major safety concerns over the kings walk car park we're there are bricks flaking of from the wall and the ceiling sand seems to be unsafe just like longsmith car park are the council waiting for someone to die before they act I get we need parking but what at the safety of the public ?

46.26 Councillor Norman answered that:

We are aware of some water ingress in some areas of the car park which has caused the concrete to expand and then 'pop'. This along with all our multi storey car parks is being checked by structural engineers and again specifications for ongoing works is currently being collated. We have not been advised that this car park needs to shut but will continue monitor the situation.

46.27 A Gloucester resident asked:

How much a week is lost in car park revenue at Longsmith car park?

46.28 Councillor Norman stated:

The Council would normally receive revenue in the region of £7k a week on this car park. £5k covers operating costs with the remaining £2k covering costs and future investment across the whole car park portfolio.

46.29 A Gloucester resident asked

How much money has been lost in revenue so far for Longsmith, Gloucester City Council car park? (Provide dates and amounts)

46.31 Councillor Norman advised

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The Council would normally receive in the region of £7k a week on this car park. The car park has been closed for 7 weeks so approx. £49k. This is pure revenue, operating costs over the same period are £35k with the remaining £14k reinvested across the car parks portfolio.

46.32 A Gloucester resident asked:

Kings theatre could the council consider some urgent funding to improve the theatre for the public and allow for a sign to go on east gate street advertising the theatre.

46.33 Councillor Lewis, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, responded that

Kings theatre is run by a group of dedicated trustees and volunteers. The council owns the building and provides ongoing support through essential maintenance to maintain the building's exterior.

Beyond these essential maintenance requirements, the city council has no funds available to invest into the theatre's development. However, if the theatre submits the information, the council is able to help promote the theatre's events through the Visit Gloucester website.

Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for directional street signage. Requests for additional street signage can be made by the Kings Theatre trustees to the county council.

46.34 A Gloucester resident asked:

After so many years of a PSPO public space protection order being in place, where one of the rules is there is no drinking alcohol within the city centre, why do we see daily down and outs still drinking, and why do the police do nothing about it? Why was it only and for the very first time there was an operation recently after the PSPO in operation for 6 plus years?

46.35 Councillor Padilla, Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that:

The PSPO in Gloucester city centre has always been enforced through our partner agency approach called Street Aware, which has focussed on an "engage, support, enforce" approach. This is where people seen drinking are given education and information, and the opportunity to comply with the PSPO and offered support if they need it; enforcement then takes place if people drink persistently and engage in anti-social behaviour.

Since implementation, the city centre PSPO has been enforced where appropriate, and this is through the Street

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Aware partnership process- by the police and the CPO's (City Protection Officers) who are authorised on behalf of the Council to undertake this enforcement work. City Safe and the City Protection Officers have been funded in partnership by the Council, the BiD and OPCC to deal with anti-social behaviour including being the front-line responders in the Street Aware process, with the procedure being that they call on Police for back up when needed. This summer we saw a need for increased enforcement because the usual engagement and support were not being accepted by a number of individuals we were trying to engage with. In response, the Street Aware partnership delivered Operation Ebrius, which was a proactive enforcement operation. Op Ebrius saw Policing resources ringfenced and brought together all partners to be proactively managed by the City council. We saw an increase in engagement with drinkers, and a consistent approach from all partners removing alcohol when people were seen drinking. This had an almost immediate positive impact on the city centre and saw a reduction in incidents occurring. Op Ebrius was a temporary enforcement led operation which was possible because of external funding and we have recently secured additional funding to continue this work. We are working with partners currently to align processes to continue and embed this working.

46.36 A Gloucester resident asked the following:

Why is SWEP not being called this year to help the homeless?

46.37 Councillor Stephanie Chambers, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy responded that

SWEP is the acronym for Severe Weather Emergency Protocol and is a national response to periods of severe weather across the country throughout the year. The Council implements SWEP as necessary throughout the year in response to weather events that may result in negative health impacts to people sleeping rough. This remains the case and SWEP continues to operate.

47. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

47.1 Councillor A. Chambers presented a petition with 156 signatures:

The petition requested that the council to discounted licence rates for disabled taxis in Gloucester City and request operators to ensure there is always an accessible/disabled taxi on shift which gives priority to blue badge

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disabled customers as well as do all the city council can to encourage more disabled taxis in Gloucester.

47.2 Councillor Norman accepted the petition and advised that the request could present a challenge by virtue of taxi drivers being self employed and that they therefore choose their own hours of work. She stated that she would look into the matter and respond in further detail in due course.

47.3 Councillor A. Chambers presented a petition with 1,106 signatures.

The petition requested that: the council agrees to getting the rules and regulations reviewed at the cemetery [in regard to the installation of borders and the keeping of ornaments on burial sites]

47.4 Councillor Norman acknowledged the petition and advised that issues raised would be addressed during the Members' Questions item as well as the notice of motion pertinent to the matter which had been submitted.

48. ANNOUNCEMENTS

48.1 The Leader of the Council, Councillor Cook, announced that the Food Dock had opened the previous month and that several more were due to open soon. He stated that with the new University campus due to open in early 2024, it would provide both work opportunities and further income generation in the area.

48.2 The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Councillor Norman, informed Members that 'Putt Pot Noodle' was due to open in the former Primark site providing 10 full time and 30 part time jobs. It also showed the success of repurposing former retail units.

48.3 Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Lewis, proffered an apology for a comment made at the most recent extraordinary Council meeting.

He informed Members that Freedom Leisure had been appointed as interim provider of leisure services for the City. Much provision had been restored and many previous staff had been reemployed.

48.4 Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning Strategy, Councillor S. Chambers, advised that the home building survey for 2022/23 had concluded and that 1,354 had been built with 417 of these being affordable. This represented the biggest increase since records began and thanked Members and Officers for their endeavours in achieving this.

48.5 Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods, Councillor Padilla, informed Members that a funding application to the Safer Streets fund had been successful and £184k had been awarded towards various projects.

48.6 The Head of Paid Service announced that a new political group, consisting of Councillor A. Chambers and Councillor O'Donnell – the Community

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Independents Group – had been formed and that details of revised committee constitution would be published in due course.

49. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

- 49.1 With regard to question 1, Councillor Hilton asked the Cabinet Member whether she agreed that the Council should stand in solidarity with the Ukraine and condemn those who removed the flag without permission. Councillor Norman agreed and asked that anyone with information on it to come forward.
- 49.2 With regard to question 2, Councillor Hilton asked when all schools would recommence swimming lessons at GL1. Councillor Lewis confirmed that some schools were already back, but that others had temporary alternative arrangements in place and would return later. He agreed to provide more detail in writing.
- 49.3 With regard to question 7, Councillor Field asked what the difference was between weeds being sprayed and being 'knocked out.' Councillor Cook responded that at some points in the year, some weeds were too wet for spraying to be effective and that 'knocking out' (i.e. removal) was the preferred method of maintenance.
- 49.4 In respect of question 10, Councillor Hilton asked what was being done to claw back the remainder of overspend. Councillor Norman responded that one measure was the previously discussed acquisition of temporary accommodation. Service Managers had been asked to conduct reviews of all spending from a 'value for money' perspective.
- 49.5 With regard to question 12, Councillor A. Chambers asked if there had been any overspend on projects related to the Forum. Councillor Cook responded that there had been no overspend.
- 49.6 In respect of question 15, Councillor Hilton asked Councillor S. Chambers was pleased that the previous Home Secretary was no longer in post. Councillor S. Chambers stated that she disagreed with the previous Home Secretary's comments regarding rough sleepers.
- 49.7 In respect of question 16, Councillor O'Donnell asked how many non-UK nationals were single men being temporarily accommodated in hotels. Councillor S. Chambers advised that there were mixed demographics in temporary accommodation and that she would write with an answer in due course.
- 49.8 With regard to question 18, Councillor Hilton asked the Cabinet Members if she would apologise to those seeking an article 4 order to prevent further HMOs. Councillor S. Chambers answered that it was regrettable that the results had not yet been published and that there were multiple pressures on housing.

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49.9 In respect of question 20, Councillor A. Chambers asked what the council would do to resolve structural issues at Kingswalk. Councillor Norman advised that a full review of all assets was currently underway.

50. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION ACQUISITION PROGRAMME

50.1 Councillor S. Chambers moved and Councillor Norman seconded the motion contained within the report.

50.2 Councillor S. Chambers advised that the report sought approval for further capital investment as there had been an increase in the use of temporary accommodation in the past six months and that this was a national trend. She further advised that council owned assets helped only 11% of those in need.

50.3 Councillor Norman stated that there had been an overspend for temporary accommodation but that the forecast spend for Q.2 was less.

50.4 Councillor Hilton stated that he was broadly in favour of the proposal as it would be preferable to not spend funds on using hotels. He proposed and Councillor Wilson seconded the following amendment:

Council is asked to RESOLVE that:

(1)

Delegated authority be provided to the
Corporate Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance
and

Resources and the Director of One Legal to:

a)

approves the establishment of a capital
investment fund, funded from borrowing, to enable an acquisition
programme for
buildings or other structures for use as temporary accommodation for
households who present as homeless to the Council.

b) explore options and appoint a provider, or other arrangement, to
manage the temporary accommodation provided on behalf of the
Council.

c) procure and appoint contractors and associated professional services
to carry out any works required to bring the properties into use as
units of temporary accommodation.

(2) Acquisitions

will be made in
accordance with the principles of this report and
the total costs will not exceed £5m.

(3) Endorse the letter sent by Cllr. Sam

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Chapman-Allen chairman of the District Council Network to the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt MP, which called for the government to urgently:

- Raise Local Housing Allowance rates to a level that will cover at least 30% of local market rent and commit to annual uprating.
- Provide £100m additional funding for Discretionary Housing Payments in 2023-24 and an additional £200m in 2024-25.
- Provide a £150m top-up to the Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2024-25.
- Review the cap for housing benefit subsidy rate for local authority homelessness placements.
- Develop policy to stimulate retention and supply in the privately rented sector.
- Give councils the long-term funding, flexibility and certainty needed to increase the supply of social housing.

(4) Continue to lobby the city MP, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to provide the city council with additional revenue and capital funding to enable the council to meet its obligations to tackle homelessness within the city of Gloucester.

50.5 The amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion.

50.6 In response to a query from Councillor A. Chambers regarding whether specific provision would be made for military veterans, Councillor S. Chambers advised that she would seek clarity on this and respond in due course.

50.7 **RESOLVED that:-**

(1) Delegated authority be provided to the Corporate Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources and the Director of One Legal to:

- a)
- approves the establishment of a capital investment fund, funded from borrowing, to enable an acquisition programme for buildings or other structures for use as temporary accommodation for households who present as homeless to the Council.

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- b) explore options and appoint a provider, or other arrangement, to manage the temporary accommodation provided on behalf of the Council.
- c) procure and appoint contractors and associated professional services to carry out any works required to bring the properties into use as units of temporary accommodation.

(2) Acquisitions will be made in accordance with the principles of this report and the total costs will not exceed £5m.

(3) Endorse the letter sent by Cllr. Sam Chapman-Allen chairman of the District Council Network to the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt MP, which called for the government to urgently:

- Raise Local Housing Allowance rates to a level that will cover at least 30% of local market rent and commit to annual uprating.
- Provide £100m additional funding for Discretionary Housing Payments in 2023-24 and an additional £200m in 2024-25.
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- Review the cap for housing benefit subsidy rate for local authority homelessness placements.
- Develop policy to stimulate retention and supply in the privately rented sector.
- Give councils the long-term funding, flexibility and certainty needed to increase the supply of social housing.

(4) Continue to lobby the city MP, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to provide the city council with additional revenue and capital funding to enable the council to meet its obligations to tackle homelessness within the city of Gloucester.

51. CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTER AND TEWKESBURY STRATEGIC AND LOCAL PLAN - PUBLIC CONSULTATION (REGULATION 18)

51.1 **RESOLVED that:-**

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- (1) the Strategic and Local Plan Consultation Document (Appendix 1) be approved for consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
- (2) authority be delegated to the Head of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing, to prepare diagrams illustrating the general location of development options for inclusion in the consultation document, and Page 79 Agenda Item 10 to make any other necessary minor amendments, corrections and additions to the document prior to publication for consultation.

52. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP - DISPENSATION

52.1 RESOLVED that:-

- (1) A period of absence from meetings by Councillor Terry Pullen pursuant section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 is approved.
- (2) The Monitoring Officer is authorised to extend Councillor Terry Pullen's current period of absence for up to three months, to 3 March 2023.

53. NOTICES OF MOTION

53.1 Councillor Trimnell proposed and Councillor Hilton seconded the following motion:

“This council notes the two conifer trees over 50+ years on the corner of St Mary's Street and the controversy over imminent felling of one of them.

This council notes the boundary wall to Kings School nearby is unstable due to the tree, but that most of the wall came down in February last year.

The council notes that to rebuild the wall in the same place would invalidate the council's insurance, but to relocate and erect an alternative boundary structure may not.

This council believes a compromise needs to be found with Kings School for the said tree to remain in situ and for an alternative measure of boundary security to be found.”

53.2 The motion was put to the vote and was lost.

53.3 Councillor A. Chambers proposed and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following motion:

“This council notes that bulk item waste disposal for families and individuals on low income is disproportionate to their household revenue.

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Matson,
Podsmead
and Coney Hill have a
large proportion
of families on low income and many without vehicles. Therefore
the use of the city council landfill is not possible.

This
council requests that families and individuals on Universal Credit are
included
in the reduced fee for bulky item waste collection.

At
present not all benefit users are able to use the discounted rate.

I
therefore request that all
members support this motion to ensure that families and individuals on
universal credit have the opportunity
to use this
discounted collection rate.

Discounted rates for universal credit
will help reduce those struggling to dispose of waste legally due to no funds
available in a cost of living crisis and will undoubtedly reduce
illegal fly tipping.”

53.4 The motion was put to a recorded vote. The votes were as follows:

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINING
Williams		Y	
Hudson		Y	
Cook		Y	
Norman		Y	
Chambers S.		Y	
Lewis		Y	
Padilla		Y	
Hilton	Y		
Gravells		Y	
Tracey		Y	
Morgan		Y	
Wilson	Y		
Bhaimia	Y		
Brown D	Y		
Taylor		Y	
Field	Y		

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Patel		Y	
Toleman		Y	
Brown J.	Y		
Hyman	Y		
Bowkett	Y		
Ackroyd		Y	
Castle	Y		
Chambers A.	Y		
Chambers-Dubus	Y		
Conder	Y		
Dee		Y	
Durdey		Y	
Evans		Y	
Kubaszczyk		Y	
O'Donnell	Y		
Radley	Y		
Zaman		Y	
Sawyer	Y		
Campbell		Y	
Trimnell	Y		
Total	16	20	0

The vote was therefore lost.

- 53.4 Councillor A. Chambers proposed and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following motion:

“The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us clearly that the Internet is no longer a luxury, a convenient enhancement for lifestyles for those who can afford it. Rather, Internet access has become a basic necessity.

During the lockdown, it has become vital for everyday activities. It often is the only way we can contact and care for close friends and family. In some instances, it even has become the only way to say goodbye to loved ones quarantined in hospital. Yet, online access is also necessary during non-emergencies for fair opportunities to work, study, to engage with government, and to exercise our political freedoms. We thus have weighty reasons to accept a right to Internet access. If we doubted this before, few will doubt this now.

This council notes that WiFi internet access is a basic need and not a luxury. Therefore this motion is to provide FREE fast access WiFi for all Gloucester city residents on every City Council ward.

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Free WiFi

will be provided to all areas of the Gloucester city by 2026.”

- 53.5 Councillor Radley proposed and Councillor Wilson seconded the following amendment

“The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us clearly that the Internet is no longer a luxury, a convenient enhancement for lifestyles for those who can afford it. Rather, Internet access has become a basic necessity, **and can be viewed as a utility such as water or power.**

During the lockdown, it has become vital for everyday activities. It often is the only way we can contact and care for close friends and family. In some instances, it even has become the only way to say goodbye to loved ones quarantined in hospital. Yet, online access is also necessary during non-emergencies for fair opportunities to work, study, to engage with government, and to exercise our political freedoms. We thus have weighty reasons to accept a right to ~~Internet access~~ **digital equality**. If we doubted this before, few will doubt this now.

This council notes that ~~WiFi internet access~~ **digital equality** is a basic need and not a luxury. Therefore this motion is to provide ~~FREE fast access WiFi for all Gloucester city residents on every City Council ward.~~

~~Free WiFi will be provided to all areas of the Gloucester city by 2026.~~

- **Request officers explore partnering with the DAISI (Digital Accessibility, Inclusion, Support and Innovation) project hosted by GRCC: leveraging their expertise in digital equity initiatives and existing resources.**
- **Officers review support to help residents on lower incomes to access social tariffs for broadband and mobile phone access and make recommendations for improvement.**
- **Officers review Gloucester City’s Website and report back regarding its accessibility.**

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We ask that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods responds with a cabinet report within 6 months of this meeting.”

- 53.6 The amendment was accepted by the mover of the motion and therefore became the substantive motion. This was put to the vote and was carried.
- 53.7 **RESOLVED that:** - The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us clearly that the Internet is no longer a luxury, a convenient enhancement for lifestyles for those who can afford it. Rather, Internet access has become a basic necessity, and can be viewed as a utility such as water or power.

During the lockdown, it has become vital for everyday activities. It often is the only way we can contact and care for close friends and family. In some instances, it even has become the only way to say goodbye to loved ones quarantined in hospital. Yet, online access is also necessary during non-emergencies for fair opportunities to work, study, to engage with government, and to exercise our political freedoms. We thus have weighty reasons to accept a right to digital equality. If we doubted this before, few will doubt this now.

This council notes that digital equality is a basic need and not a luxury. Therefore this motion is to

- Request officers explore partnering with the DAISI (Digital Accessibility, Inclusion, Support and Innovation) project hosted by GRCC: leveraging their expertise in digital equity initiatives and existing resources.
- Officers review support to help residents on lower incomes to access social tariffs for broadband and mobile phone access and make recommendations for improvement.
- Officers review Gloucester City’s Website and report back regarding its accessibility.

We ask that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods responds with a cabinet report within 6 months of this meeting.

- 53.8 Councillor A. Chambers proposed and Councillor O’Donnell seconded the following motion:

Pump Tracks offer a fun, safe space for all ages and abilities to enjoy a range of wheel based activities including BMX bikes, scooters, skateboards and rollerblades.

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The proposed Coney Hill Pump Track will be a much-used and valued asset by its community and we're keen to work with partners to help more areas such as Saintbridge/ Matson/ White City and Robinswood enjoy these same benefits.

What is a Pump Track?

So what is a pump track? A pump track is designed to create a safe, fun and inclusive playground for all wheels-based users regardless of age or gender.

They provide a playground for kids and adults from beginners to professionals, and a sustainable and fun-packed activity for everyone in the community.

Their design combines rolling jumps with turns that teach the basic skills of carrying momentum, balance and speed by using your arms and legs to pump your bike/ skateboard/ scooter around the track....

'A Moment to Learn, a Lifetime to Master'.

Community benefits

Pump Tracks not only offer a space to exercise and improve skills, such as balance and coordination, they also provide a community focal point. Coney Hill Pump Track will become a key feature of the community, with regular meet-ups, litter picks and events.

A planned track at Coney Hill park next to the pond will create a Hub in the area for those walking and cycling, with rest stops and community events. A Coney Hill Community Pump Track group hopes to be situated alongside environmental and nature-based projects while a Track.

Support

This Council notes that children and adult well being, fitness and mental health is priority. Therefore this council will allocate an area of City Council land at Coney Hill park off Metz Way by Stanway Road and Boughton Way for the construction of a Pump track.

This location is far enough away from houses and homes to ensure no associated ASB will be generated.

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It's an ideal location for a pump track.

This Gloucester City council will work with City Council Planning department, Gloucestershire County Councillor for the ward as well as NHS and city Council Cil & S106 budgets to ensure that this pump track will be built and operational before April 2026

This is a great motion helping keep children off the streets, build community's, support mental health and well being and promote health equalities to one of the County Councils most deprived areas and one the top 10 most deprived areas in England. Please support."

53.9 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor Lewis seconded the following amendment:

"Pump Tracks offer a fun, safe space for all ages and abilities to enjoy a range of wheel based activities including BMX bikes, scooters, skateboards and rollerblades.

The proposed Coney Hill Pump Track will be a much-used and valued asset by its community and we're keen to work with partners to help more areas such as Saintbridge/ Matson/ White City and Robinswood enjoy these same benefits.

What is a Pump Track?

So what is a pump track? A pump track is designed to create a safe, fun and inclusive playground for all wheels-based users regardless of age or gender.

They provide a playground for kids and adults from beginners to professionals, and a sustainable and fun-packed activity for everyone in the community.

Their design combines rolling jumps with turns that teach the basic skills of carrying momentum, balance and speed by using your arms and legs to pump your bike/ skateboard/ scooter around the track....

'A Moment to Learn, a Lifetime to Master'.

Community benefits

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Pump

Tracks not only offer a space to exercise and improve skills, such as balance and coordination, they also provide a community focal point. Coney Hill Pump Track will become a key feature of the community, with regular meet-ups, litter picks and events.

A

planned track at Coney Hill park next to the pond will create a Hub in the area for those walking and cycling, with rest stops and community events. A Coney Hill Community Pump Track group hopes to be situated alongside environmental and nature-based projects while a Track.

Support

This Council notes that children and adult well being, fitness and mental health is priority. Therefore this council will allocate an area of City Council land at Coney Hill park off Metz Way by Stanway Road and Boughton Way for the construction of a Pump track.

This

location is far enough away from houses and homes to ensure no associated ASB will be generated.

It's

an ideal location for a pump track.

This

~~Gloucester City council will work with City Council Planning department, Gloucestershire County Councillor for the ward as well as NHS and city Council Cil & S106 budgets to ensure that this pump track will be built and operational before April 2026~~ **This Council notes that this request is not on the Council Forward Plan and there is at present no funding to invest in it, however the Council will establish a group including all our partners to develop plans, consult the local community and look for funding to enable delivery of the project in the fullness of time.**

This is a

great motion helping keep children off the streets, build community's, support mental health and well being and promote

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health equalities to one of the County Councils most deprived areas and one the top 10 most deprived areas in England. Please support.”

53.10 The amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion and therefore became the substantive motion.

53.11 **RESOLVED that:-**

“Pump Tracks offer a fun, safe space for all ages and abilities to enjoy a range of wheel based activities including BMX bikes, scooters, skateboards and rollerblades.

The proposed Coney Hill Pump Track will be a much-used and valued asset by its community and we're keen to work with partners to help more areas such as Saintbridge/ Matson/ White City and Robinswood enjoy these same benefits.

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So what is a pump track? A pump track is designed to create a safe, fun and inclusive playground for all wheels-based users regardless of age or gender.

They provide a playground for kids and adults from beginners to professionals, and a sustainable and fun-packed activity for everyone in the community.

Their design combines rolling jumps with turns that teach the basic skills of carrying momentum, balance and speed by using your arms and legs to pump your bike/ skateboard/ scooter around the track....

‘A Moment to Learn, a Lifetime to Master’.

Community benefits

Pump Tracks not only offer a space to exercise and improve skills, such as balance and coordination, they also provide a community focal point. Coney Hill Pump Track will become a key feature of the community, with regular meet-ups, litter picks and events.

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A planned track at Coney Hill park next to the pond will create a Hub in the area for those walking and cycling, with rest stops and community events. A Coney Hill Community Pump Track group hopes to be situated alongside environmental and nature-based projects while a Track.

Support

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This location is far enough away from houses and homes to ensure no associated ASB will be generated.

It's an ideal location for a pump track.

This Council notes that this request is not on the Council Forward Plan and there is at present no funding to invest in it, however the Council will establish a group including all our partners to develop plans, consult the local community and look for funding to enable delivery of the project in the fullness of time.

This is a great motion helping keep children off the streets, build community's, support mental health and well being and promote health equalities to one of the County Councils most deprived areas and one the top 10 most deprived areas in England. Please support.

53.12 Councillor A. Chambers proposed and Councillor O'Donnell seconded the following motion:

"Gloucester City Council created a set of rules and regulations on the 1st August 2014 for the Coney Hill Cemetery and Crematorium.

Following complaints from hundreds of families about their child's, brothers, mothers fathers, & grandparents graves vases/ personal possessions and borders being removed by the council as they don't fit into the councils ridged set of rules and regulations has caused much hurt

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and upset around the families who manage their beloved members final resting place.

Some personal possessions, gifts, pictures, lights and borders have been removed from the graves over night without the families being made aware. I am sure council letters in some cases may have been sent. However this does not help the situation when your beloved family's members picture/ gift or toy has been removed because it was an inch too big.

This council notes that the rigid cemetery and crematorium rules needs reviewing urgently as currently there are many families who have been given a deadline by the council which have threatened to remove personal items from their beloved ones final resting places.

Graves and resting areas of loved ones should be a place of peace for family members. A place to visit loved ones and feel close. A place of sanctuary where family members are able to make the resting places bespoke to their past family member, a resting place of a beloved family member should have the option to be able to use colours that they liked, as well as pictures and ornaments. The current rules and regulations are too specific and too rigid.

There are fixed rules for set edgings, many families can not afford to buy solid granite sets for edgings and they have used an alternative to mark out their family members resting place. As a result the Council have removed these edgings and the gravel infill leaving the resting place bare and empty. A further 12 letters have been sent by the City council to family members to advise they will have items removed from their loved ones graves if they do not follow the strict council rules.

The council cemetery and crematorium rules need to be reviewed and current family members/users consulted as well as a City wide consultation to reach a fair balance of new rules and regulations which will include a more modern, flexible approach to these final resting places. This council will also postpone any grave / resting place removal till these new rules and regulations have been consulted on, therefore

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protecting the 12 current graves which are set to be dismantled by Gloucester City Council.

I therefore ask City Council to support this motion to review the current rules and regulations, while working with family members that maintain the resting places to reach a fair & flexible outcome. The consultation must be conducted within a maximum 8 weeks from this council motion and the new cemetery and crematorium rules and regulations will be in action before the 1st May 2024. The graves under threat of dismantle/ removal of edgings and toys etc will be postponed till the new rules and regulations are created as some of these edgings and toys would fit in the new modern rules approach.”

- 53.13 Councillor Norman proposed and Councillor Dee seconded the following amendment:

“Gloucester City Council created a set of rules and regulations on the 1st August 2014 for the Coney Hill Cemetery and Crematorium.

Following ~~complaints~~ **a complaint and comments on social media** from hundreds of families about their child’s, brothers, mothers, fathers, & grandparents graves vases/ personal possessions and borders being removed by the council as they don’t fit into the councils ~~rigid~~ **rigid** set of rules and regulations has caused much hurt and upset around the families who manage their beloved members final resting place.

Some personal possessions, gifts, pictures, lights and borders have been removed from the graves over night without the families being made aware. I am sure council letters ~~in some cases may~~ have been sent. However this does not help the situation when your beloved family’s members picture/ gift or toy has been removed because it was an inch too big.

This council notes that the ~~rigid~~ cemetery and crematorium rules needs reviewing urgently as currently there are many families who have been given a deadline by the council ~~which have threatened~~ to remove personal items from their beloved ones final resting places **or the council shall do so and hold for collection.**

Graves and resting areas of loved ones

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should be a place of peace for family members. A place to visit loved ones and feel close. A place of sanctuary where family members are able to make the resting places bespoke to their past family member, a resting place of a beloved family member should have the option to be able to use colours that they liked, as well as pictures and ornaments. ~~The current rules and regulations are too specific and too rigid.~~ **These needs however need to be balanced with the requirements of a operation cemetery.**

From the 2014 rules, ~~There~~ are fixed rules for set edgings, many families ~~can~~ **cannot** afford to buy solid granite sets for edgings and they have used an alternative to mark out their family members resting place. As a result, the Council have ~~removed these~~ **written to the families advising that these** edgings and the gravel infill ~~leaving the resting place bare and empty~~ **should be removed within 14 days to comply with the rules which were signed prior to the grave being purchased. Recently,**

A
a
further
12 letters have been sent by the City council to family members to advise they will have items removed from their loved ones graves if they do not follow the ~~strict council~~ **cemetery rules.**

This council notes the hard work and dedication of the cemetery team who work in a very challenging area, providing support and guidance to the bereaved with the upmost compassion and empathy.

~~The council cemetery and crematorium rules need to be reviewed and current family members/users consulted as well as a City wide consultation to reach a fair balance of new rules and regulations which will include a more modern, flexible approach to these final resting places.~~

The council agrees to conduct a review of the 2014 rules and regulations for the cemetery, considering industry best practice and the rules of all local cemeteries. A report shall be brought to Cabinet outlining the results. Should this review recommend changes to the rules, Cabinet will be asked to approve a full public consultation requesting comments from

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families who use the cemetery and all Gloucester residents.

This council will also

postpone any grave / resting place **edging** removal

till

~~these new rules and regulations have been consulted on, therefore protecting~~

~~the 12~~

~~current graves which are set to be dismantled by Gloucester City Council~~
until the end of the review process and consultation if required.

I

~~therefore ask City Council to support this motion to review the current rules~~

~~and regulations, while working with family members that maintain~~

~~the resting places to reach a fair & flexible outcome. The consultation~~

~~must be conducted within a maximum 8 weeks from this council motion and the new~~

~~cemetery and crematorium rules and regulations will be in action before the 1st~~

~~May 2024. The graves under threat of dismantle/ removal of edgings and toys etc~~

~~will be postponed till the new rules and regulations are created as some of~~

~~these edgings and toys would fit in the new modern rules approach.”~~

53.14 The amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion and therefore became the substantive motion.

53.15 **RESOLVED that:-**

Gloucester City Council created a set of rules and regulations on the 1st August 2014 for the Coney Hill Cemetery and Crematorium.

Following a

complaint and comments on social media from

hundreds of families about their child's, brothers, mothers,

fathers, & grandparents graves vases/ personal possessions and borders

being removed by the council as they don't fit into the councils rigid

set

of rules and regulations has caused much hurt and upset around the families

who

manage their beloved members final resting place.

Some personal

possessions, gifts, pictures, lights and borders have been

removed from the graves over night without the families being made aware. I am

sure council letters have been sent. However this does not help the situation

when your beloved family's members picture/ gift or toy has been removed

because it was an inch too big.

This council notes that

the cemetery and crematorium rules needs reviewing urgently as currently there

are many families who have been given a deadline by the council to remove

personal items from their beloved ones final resting places or

the council shall do so and hold for collection.

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Graves and resting areas of loved ones should be a place of peace for family members. A place to visit loved ones and feel close. A place of sanctuary where family members are able to make the resting places bespoke to their past family member, a resting place of a beloved family member should have the option to be able to use colours that they liked, as well as pictures and ornaments. These needs however need to be balanced with the requirements of an operational cemetery.

From the 2014 rules, there are fixed rules for set edgings, many families cannot afford to buy solid granite sets for edgings and they have used an alternative to mark out their family members resting place. As a result, the Council have written to the families advising that these edgings and the gravel infill should be removed within 14 days to comply with the rules which were signed prior to the grave being purchased.

Recently, a further 12 letters have been sent by the City council to family members to advise they will have items removed from their loved ones graves if they do not follow the cemetery rules.

This council notes the hard work and dedication of the cemetery team who work in a very challenging area, providing support and guidance to the bereaved with the upmost compassion and empathy.

The council agrees to conduct a review of the 2014 rules and regulations for the cemetery, considering industry best practice and the rules of all local cemeteries. A report shall be brought to Cabinet outlining the results. Should this review recommend changes to the rules, Cabinet will be asked to approve a full public consultation requesting comments from families who use the cemetery and all Gloucester residents. This council will postpone any grave / resting place edging removal until the end of the review process and consultation if required.

53.15 Councillor O'Donnell proposed and Councillor

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A. Chambers seconded the following motion:

“This council notes that there are 20 plus rough sleepers each night in and around our Gloucester City Streets.

After speaking to other organisations who want to remain confidential at this point they have advised that the current system is not fit for purpose.

Rough sleepers who do not own mobile phone devices are unable to receive help as they are missed off the system if they move at the point when the out reach team visit.

This city council owes the rough sleepers a duty of care and protection. Currently there have been numerous incidents of rough sleepers tents and bedding being set on fire.

Not only that there are many rough sleepers who have mental health conditions and also pose a risk to the general public and themselves with several incidents occurring recently.

There are also more worryingly British military veterans that have served our country sleeping rough with no help or assistance.

Temporary hotel places for rough sleepers and ex British military veterans are becoming increasing harder to obtain due to the fact over 2 large Hotels in our city are full to the brim of small boat economic illegal immigrants. These economic immigrants are predominately male of working age. This therefore has left British ex military veterans and nationals out in the cold.

Moreover, the city's missions night shelter has closed this year meaning many U.K. nationals will be left out in the frost and snow over our harsh winter.

This council notes that a solution is urgently required to safe guarding our cities rough sleepers and make our city overall a safer place.

This motion is for the City Council to find an empty building within the city and form a night shelter within 14 days of this motion with a capacity of 100 people.

This will then enable a safe space

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and shelter for the rough sleepers and any families that find themselves homeless this Christmas.

This night shelter must remain open
24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

The saving of housing people in the temporary night shelter will ensure that the City Council save enormous costs charged by hotels.”

- 53.16 Councillor S. Chambers proposed and Councillor Padilla seconded the following amendment:

“This council notes that there are ~~20 plus~~ rough sleepers each night in and around our Gloucester City Streets.

After speaking to other organisations who want to remain confidential at this point they have ~~advised~~ **claimed** that the current system ~~is not fit for purpose~~ **does not work as well as it could.**

It can be more difficult for Rough sleepers who do not own mobile phone devices ~~are unable~~ to receive help as they ~~are~~ **can be** missed off the system if they move at the point when the out reach team visit.

This city council owes the rough sleepers a duty of care and protection. ~~Currently there have been numerous incidents of rough sleepers tents and bedding being set on fire.~~

~~Not only that there are many~~ **There are** rough sleepers who have mental health conditions and ~~also pose a risk to the general public and themselves with several incidents occurring recently.~~

~~There are also more worryingly British~~ **No one should be sleeping rough on the streets of Gloucester including** military veterans that have served our country ~~sleeping rough with no help or assistance.~~

~~Temporary hotel places for rough sleepers and ex-British military veterans are becoming increasing harder to obtain due to the fact over 2 large Hotels in our city are full to the brim of small boat economic illegal immigrants. These economic immigrants are predominately male of working age. This therefore has left British ex military veterans and nationals out in the~~

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cold.

Temporary accommodation for rough sleepers can be harder to obtain due to demand.

~~Moreover, the City's Mission's~~
~~night shelter has closed this year meaning many~~
~~U.K. nationals will be left out in the frost and snow over our harsh winter~~
will not be opening this winter however Severe Weather Emergency Protocol will continue to operate during extreme weather conditions.

This council notes that a solution is urgently required to safe-guarding our ~~cities~~ city's rough sleepers and make our city overall a safer place.

This motion is for the City Council to ~~find an empty building within the city~~ and form a night shelter within 14 days of this motion with a capacity of 100 people **work with partners to provide a night shelter to help meet the needs of rough sleepers that we owe a duty to in Gloucester.**

This will then enable a safe space and shelter for the rough sleepers and ~~any families that find themselves homeless this Christmas with~~ **children will always be provided with accommodation either through the city council under the Housing Act 1996 or the County Council under the Children's Act 1989 so no family should be without a roof this Christmas.**

This night shelter ~~must~~ ~~remain open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year~~ **will operate to meet the needs that are required in line with assessed.**

~~The saving of housing people in the temporary night shelter will ensure that the City Council save enormous costs charged by hotels. Any cost saving is to be determined,~~ **however this shelter would be another offering to support homeless people we owe a duty to."**

53.17 **RESOLVED that:-**

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This council notes that there are rough sleepers each night in and around our Gloucester City Streets.

After speaking to other organisations who want to remain confidential at this point they have claimed that the current system does not work as well as it could.

It can be more difficult for rough sleepers who do not own mobile phone devices to receive help as they can be missed off the system if they move at the point when the out reach team visit.

This city council owes the rough sleepers a duty of care and protection.

There are rough sleepers who have mental health conditions.

No one should be sleeping rough on the streets of Gloucester including military veterans that have served our country.

Temporary accommodation for rough sleepers can be harder to obtain due to demand.

The City Mission's night shelter will not be opening this winter however Severe Weather Emergency Protocol will continue to operate during extreme weather conditions.

This council notes that a solution is urgently required to safe-guard our city's rough sleepers and make our city overall a safer place.

This motion is for the City Council to work with partners to provide a night shelter to help meet the needs of rough sleepers that we owe a duty to in Gloucester.

This will then enable a safe space and shelter for the rough sleepers and families with children will always be provided with accommodation either through the city council under the Housing Act 1996 or the County Council under the Children's Act 1989 so no family should be without a roof this Christmas.

This night shelter will operate to meet the needs that are required in line with assessed.

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Any cost saving is to be determined, however this shelter would be another offering to support homeless people we owe a duty to.

- 53.18 Councillor Wilson proposed and Councillor Hilton seconded the following motion:

“At the September meeting of Full Council the non availability of audited accounts for Gloucester City Council for the financial years of 2022/22 and 2022/23 was debated. During the course of the debate it was explained that this was partly due to a crisis in local government auditing that was also affecting other councils in the country.

Openness and transparency are nonetheless important, especially in these times of great financial uncertainty.

Council notes that Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Stroud District Council and The Forest of Dean District Council have all published draft (unaudited) accounts for 2022/23.

Council therefore requires Gloucester City Council to adopt this practice and ensure that fully audited accounts for 2021/22 and draft (unaudited) accounts for 2022/23 are published on the council’s website by January 2024.”

- 53.19 Councillor Norman proposed and Councillor Cook seconded the following amendment:

“At the September meeting of Full Council the non availability of audited accounts for Gloucester City Council for the financial years of 2022/22 and 2022/23 was debated. During the course of the debate it was explained that this was partly due to a crisis in local government auditing that was also affecting other councils in the country.

Openness and transparency are nonetheless important, especially in these times of great financial uncertainty.

Council notes that Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Stroud District Council and The Forest of Dean District Council have all published draft (unaudited) accounts for 2022/23.

Council

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therefore requires Gloucester City Council to adopt this practice and ensure that fully audited accounts for 2021/22, **subject to completion of audit work by Deloitte, are published on the website. The Deloitte audit is subject to ongoing proposals from Central Government with regards to expected back stop dates to clear the sector wide backlog of audits. Council also requires that and draft (unaudited) accounts for 2022/23 are published on the council's website by January 2024 before the March 2024 Council meeting to allow transparent debate."**

53.20 The amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion and therefore became the substantive motion.

53.21 **RESOLVED that:-**

At the September meeting of Full Council the non availability of audited accounts for Gloucester City Council for the financial years of 2022/22 and 2022/23 was debated. During the course of the debate it was explained that this was partly due to a crisis in local government auditing that was also affecting other councils in the country.

Openness and transparency are nonetheless important, especially in these times of great financial uncertainty.

Council notes that Gloucestershire County Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Stroud District Council and The Forest of Dean District Council have all published draft (unaudited) accounts for 2022/23.

Council therefore requires Gloucester City Council to adopt this practice and ensure that fully audited accounts for 2021/22, subject to completion of audit work by Deloitte, are published on the website. The Deloitte audit is subject to ongoing proposals from Central Government with regards to expected back stop dates to clear the sector wide backlog of audits. Council also requires that draft (unaudited) accounts for 2022/23 are published on the council's website before the March 2024 Council meeting to allow transparent debate.

53.22 Councillor Patel proposed and Councillor Zaman seconded the following motion:

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“This council strongly condemns the horrific atrocities by Hamas on the people of Israel on 7th October 2023.

We not only condemn those atrocities, but also the current campaign of bombings (over 10,000 bombs so far) by Israel on residential towers, schools, hospitals, ambulances and refugee camps killing and injuring thousands of innocent Palestinian people. Since 7th October, approximately 10,000 Palestinians have died (40% of those were children) and over 1,400 Israeli's in this latest conflict.

We call on the council leader to write to the MP Richard Graham and PM Rishi Sunak urging Israel to immediately stop the bombings and collective punishment against 2 million Palestinian people, and also call on Hamas to free the innocent kidnapped Israeli citizens back to Israel. We also support a call for a ceasefire by both IDF and Hamas.

A blockade preventing access to the most basic human necessities such as food, water, electricity, medical supplies etc is also classed as a war crime under International Law.

This council agrees with the world that Hamas are terrorists and that they don't represent the Palestinian people, and furthermore acknowledges that Israel's fight is with Hamas, not the Palestinian people.

We therefore call on the British Government and all its allies to listen to us and the world, and request an immediate end to the siege and the constant bombardment of Gaza.

We also call on the Home Secretary to cease her unacceptable attempts to suppress the democratic rights of the British people to peaceful protests.

This council prays for peace not only in Israel/Palestine, but all over the world and we condemn all forms of hate crimes such as Antisemitism, Islamophobia etc.”

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53.23 RESOLVED that:-

This council strongly condemns the horrific atrocities by Hamas on the people of Israel on 7th October 2023.

We not only condemn those atrocities, but also the current campaign of bombings (over 10,000 bombs so far) by Israel on residential towers, schools, hospitals, ambulances and refugee camps killing and injuring thousands of innocent Palestinian people. Since 7th October, approximately 10,000 Palestinians have died (40% of those were children) and over 1,400 Israeli's in this latest conflict.

We call on the council leader to write to the MP Richard Graham and PM Rishi Sunak urging Israel to immediately stop the bombings and collective punishment against 2 million Palestinian people, and also call on Hamas to free the innocent kidnapped Israeli citizens back to Israel. We also support a call for a ceasefire by both IDF and Hamas.

A blockade preventing access to the most basic human necessities such as food, water, electricity, medical supplies etc is also classed as a war crime under International Law. This council agrees with the world that Hamas are terrorists and that they don't represent the Palestinian people, and furthermore acknowledges that Israel's fight is with Hamas, not the Palestinian people.

We therefore call on the British Government and all its allies to listen to us and the world, and request an immediate end to the siege and the constant bombardment of Gaza.

We also call on the Home Secretary to cease her unacceptable attempts to suppress the democratic rights of the British people to peaceful protests.

This council prays for peace not only in Israel/Palestine, but all over the world and we condemn all forms of hate crimes such as Antisemitism, Islamophobia etc.

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Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours
Time of conclusion: 9.40 pm hours

Chair