



service in Yateley, including Ranil Jayawardena MP, Hart District Council and Meridian News. A response has been received from Mr. Jayawardena, indicating that more funds will be put into local transport. It is, therefore, vital that these funds are accessed by Local Authorities and that the case for extending the bus service is impressed upon the County Council. Cllr Simpson explained that the County Council cannot operate bus services directly but commission the routes. There are set criteria that bus companies must fulfil in order to tender for the commissioned services, however, the route itself needs to be commercially viable for the operator. Setting up locally run community transport schemes may offer suitable links to bus service hubs in the town and also reduce traffic. The resident left the meeting at 8.12pm.

#### **C5882 Councillors' Question Time**

Cllr Griffin proposed to the Council that a new grouping is required to focus on climate change and to promote sustainable actions, for both the Council and in the wider community.

A suggestion was made to split the Community and Environment Committee to enable a single Committee to focus on climate change. There was some discussion regarding whether the creation of a working group, much like the Community Events Working Group, would be more suitable as it allows non-Council Members to join. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is considering the creation of a climate change action group, which would effectively fulfil the same function.

It was agreed that the Community & Environment Committee will review the following options at their next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February in order to give climate change a stronger focus for the Council:

- 1) To split the Community and Environment Committee and re-evaluate the terms of reference for the two Committees (which will require a Full Council decision);
- 2) To create a working group to take the lead on climate change and sustainable living, which will report to the current Community and Environment Committee.

A suggestion was also made to establish sustainability and environmental criteria that will apply to all Council decision making. **Action:** Town Clerk to add this to the draft Corporate Plan.

#### **C5883 Town Mayor's Announcements**

Cllr Crisp has recently attended the following community activities:

- Hedge Croft retirement complex Christmas event;
- Carol service at St. Swithun's Church

#### **C5884 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies & Local Updates**

Cllr Spencer attended the last Hart District Association for Parish and Town Councils meeting with Cllr McSorley. Eight parishes will be submitting a letter to Hart District Council to campaign against the Shapley Heath plans. Hart is launching a Green Grid initiative, for which parish funding may be available. The Hook Neighbourhood Plan is being taken to judicial review by developers.

Cllr Griffin left the room at 8.43pm.

Once the Local Plan is in place, the implementation of section 106 developer contributions or the Community Infrastructure Levy will be determined.

**C5885 District & County Reports**

Cllr Simpson provided an update on County Council matters. The roads continue to deteriorate, due to the programme of budget cuts at the County Council. The feasibility study for a new household waste site has been completed and is now earmarked for development off Blackbushes Road in Yateley, subject to gravel extraction at the proposed site. The Lions, in conjunction with the Royal British Legion, will be writing to the Town Council to ask for letters to be sent to all schools inviting them to join the parade on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day and for pupils to wear any military medals from their great / grandparents.

Cllr Griffin returned to the meeting at 8.50pm.

**C5886 Police Matters & Community Safety**

The last Police Liaison meeting was on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The matter of the serious assault in Yateley, which Police are investigating, was raised with Police. Crime statistics for the parish were also shared. The Police now have access to a drone squad.

Cllr Bailey and one member of the public left the meeting at 8.50pm.

**C5887 Committee Minutes & Recommendations from Other Committees**

The Committee minutes from the Planning & Licensing meetings on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the Personnel Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and the Finance & Policy meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were all accepted.

**C5888 Investment Policy & Strategy 2020/21**

The Investment Policy and Strategy was reviewed by the Finance and Policy Committee, with a recommendation to investigate ethical investments. Cllr Bailey and the Town Clerk met with St. James's Place Wealth Management in January to discuss this. As ethical investments represent a higher risk profile than the Council's current investment plan, it was recommended more time is allowed to consider this approach.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Investment Policy and Strategy 2020/21 with the suggested changes.

**C5889 Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Cllr Phelps-Jones provided an update following the last Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January. A survey based on the policies in the draft Neighbourhood Plan is to be distributed to all parish households with the Town Council newsletter in February.

**C5890 Information Items**

i) Town Clerk's Report

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Griffin to represent the Council at the Hart District Council Climate Change Forum.

Suggestions for the format of the Annual Town Meeting included promoting the 2020 festival in September, the Neighbourhood Plan survey and to invite the Police.

ii) Forward Plan

The items on the Forward Plan were noted.

Cllr Simpson and a member of the public left the meeting at 9.05pm.

**C5891 Exclusion of the Public**

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that confidential information of a legal nature, as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, is likely to be disclosed.

The minutes for this item can be found in a separate confidential minute.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.