

# Bristol City Council

## Minutes of the Full Council

15 January 2019 at 2.00 pm



### Members Present:-

**Councillors:** Mayor Marvin Rees, Peter Abraham, Donald Alexander, Nicola Beech, Nicola Bowden-Jones, Harriet Bradley, Mark Bradshaw, Mark Brain, Charlie Bolton, Tom Brook, Fabian Breckels, Tony Carey, Craig Cheney, Barry Clark, Jos Clark, Stephen Clarke, Harriet Clough, Eleanor Combley, Asher Craig, Chris Davies, Mike Davies, Carla Denyer, Kye Dudd, Richard Eddy, Jude English, Martin Fodor, Helen Godwin, Paul Goggin, Geoff Gollop, John Goulandris, Fi Hance, Margaret Hickman, Claire Hiscott, Helen Holland, Gary Hopkins, Chris Jackson, Hibaq Jama, Carole Johnson, Anna Keen, Tim Kent, Sultan Khan, Gill Kirk, Cleo Lake, Mike Langley, Jeff Lovell, Brenda Massey, Matt Melias, Graham Morris, Anthony Negus, Paula O'Rourke, Steve Pearce, Celia Phipps, Ruth Pickersgill, Kevin Quartley, Liz Radford, Jo Sergeant, Afzal Shah, Steve Smith, Paul Smith, Clive Stevens, Jerome Thomas, Mark Weston, Chris Windows and Mark Wright

### Aldermen in Attendance:-

J McLaren, B Price, J Smith, M Bailey, A Massey, S Williams

## 1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

The Lord Mayor welcomed all attendees to the meeting, and made a safety announcement in relation to the fire/emergency evacuation procedure.

## 2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lesley Alexander, Jones, Mead, Threlfall, Wellington and Whittle.

## 3. Minutes of the previous meeting - 11 December 2018

On the motion of the Lord Mayor, seconded by Councillor Hance, it was

### RESOLVED:

- i. That the minutes of the meeting of the Extraordinary Full Council held on 11 December 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.



- ii. That the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 11 December 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

#### 4. Declarations of Interest

None.

#### 5. Lord Mayor's Business

None.

#### 6. Public Forum (Public Petitions, Statements and Questions)

##### Public petitions:

The Full Council received and noted the following petitions:

Petition PP 01 – “A pedestrian crossing for Langton Court Road”

Petition organiser – Andrew Varney

##### Public statements:

The Full Council received and noted the following statements (which were also referred to the Mayor for his consideration/information):

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
PS01	Trudy Curtis	Joint Spatial Plan
PS02	Oliver Fortune	No confidence in government
PS03	Kathryn Chiswell Jones	Ursa the bear
PS04	Emma Harvey	Ursa the bear
PS05	Andree Nicola Corbett	Ursa the bear
PS06	John Handover	Fly tipping
PS07	Hazel Handover	Fly tipping
PS08	Nancy Brenchley	Stoke Lodge playing fields
PS09	Viran Patel	Budget
PS10	Bristol Independent SEND Community	High Court Ruling
PS11	Kim Hicks	Joint Spatial Plan
PS12	Ray Kelly	Fly tipping
PS13	Claire Shute	Joint Spatial Plan
PS14	Alison Percival	Joint Spatial Plan
PS15	Ivan Hudd	Joint Spatial Plan
PS16	Steve Thier	Joint Spatial Plan



PS17	Terry Buffery	Joint Spatial Plan
PS18	Ann Sell	Joint Spatial Plan
PS19	Jackie Rainbow	Joint Spatial Plan
PS20	Marie Walters	Whitchurch Lane
PS21	Janice Sharp	Whitchurch Lane
PS22	Martyn Sell	Whitchurch Lane
PS23	Benoit Bennett	Save our Bear!
PS24	Sue Rich	South Bristol Orbital Link Road
PS25	Jeanne Apperley	Whitchurch Lane
PS26	Dr S French	Tree Preservation Order regulations
PS27	Brian and Bev	Whitchurch Lane
PS28	Lois Grinter	Save our Bear!
PS29	Corra Boushel	protect vital agricultural land
PS30	Michael Owen	Bristol Energy
PS31	David Redgewell	Transport
PS32	Mark Runacres, Avon and Somerset Police.	Bear Pit
PS33	Andrew Varney	People's Vote
PS34	Gill Shire	Whitchurch Lane
PS35	Helen Powell	Stoke Lodge Playing fields
PS36	Pete Bullard	Ursa the Bear
PS37	Karen Sillence	Glyphosate use in Bristol
PS38	Rebecca McLellan	Brislington, Old Tramway clearance of traveller's waste
PS39	Lucianne Lassalle	Save our Bear!
PS40	Fiona Prescott	Glyphosate use in Bristol
PS41	Me and My Library group	Libraries
PS42	Jen Smith	Stoke Lodge Playing fields
PS43	Alderman Griffey	Ownership of City Docks
PS44	Nicola Evans	Whitchurch Lane
PS45	South West Transport Network	Transport
PS46	Bee the Change	Against Glyphosate
PS47	Tim Rogers	Against Glyphosate
PS48	Chris Chalkley	Save our Bear
PS49	Carol and Ray Andrews	proposed link road

Within the time available, statements were presented by individuals present at the meeting.

**Public questions:**

The Full Council noted that the following questions had been submitted:



	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
PQ01 & PQ02	Fiona Castle	Education and Health Care Plans
PQ03	Rick Carey	Anti Homeless Infrastructure
PQ04 & PQ05	Oliver Fortune	Filwood Library
PQ06	Graham Donald	New Crossing Point in Coombe Lane, Westbury On Trym
PQ07 & PQ08	Helen Powell	Open Spaces
PQ09	Graham Donald	Rescue package for High Streets
PQ10 & PQ11	Mary Page	Community Open Space/ Stoke Lodge Playing Fields
PQ12 & PQ13	Lloyd Roberts, Bristol Libraries Forum	Libraries
PQ14 & PQ15	Max Langer	Bus Services in Bristol
PQ16	James Cox	Afgan Relocation Scheme
PQ17	Barry Cash	School Playing Fields
PQ18	Barry Cash	Portishead Railway Line Proposals
PQ19 & PQ20	Joanna Booth	Libraries
PQ21	Viran Patel	Bristol Holdings, Bristol Waste and Bristol Energy
PQ22	Viran Patel	Voluntary Locally Elected Government Officials
PQ23	Dick Willis	proposed expansion of Bristol airport

Within the time available, the Mayor responded verbally to questions PQ 04, PQ 05, PQ 06, PQ 07, PQ 08, PQ 09, PQ10 and PQ 11, also responding to supplementary questions where asked.

## **7. Petitions Notified by Councillors**

The Full Council received and noted the following petitions:

Petition CP 01 – “Reinstate services to the Oatlands Avenue bus stops on Bamfield in Whitchurch by agreeing to allow the Metro Bus service, route M1, to stop at these bus stops”



Petition presented by Councillor Kent with 806 signatures  
Petition organiser – Councillor Kent

### **8. Petition debate - BRISTOL: Save Our Bear!**

The Full Council considered a report of the Service Director - Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of a petition entitled "BRISTOL: Save The Bear." The petition had reached the 3,500 signature threshold to qualify for a Full Council debate.

Caitlin Telfer, the petition organiser, was invited by the Lord Mayor to present the objectives of the petition.

The Full Council then debated the petition.

Following the debate, it was

**RESOLVED:**

**That the petition be noted and referred to the Mayor for consideration and response.**

### **9. Petition debate - Marvin Rees: deliver your promise to ban glyphosate in Bristol**

The Full Council considered a report of the Service Director - Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of a petition entitled "Marvin Rees: Deliver Your Promise to Ban Glyphosate." The petition had reached the 3,500 signature threshold to qualify for a Full Council debate.

Harriet Williams, the petition organiser, was invited by the Lord Mayor to present the objectives of the petition.

The Full Council then debated the petition.

Following the debate, it was

**RESOLVED:**

**That the petition be noted and referred to the Mayor for consideration and response.**

### **10 Petition Debate - Compulsory Purchase Order for Hamilton House**

The Full Council considered a report of the Service Director - Legal and Democratic Services setting out details of a petition entitled "Compulsory Purchase Order for Hamilton House." The petition had reached the 3,500 signature threshold to qualify for a Full Council debate.



Gem Burgoyne, representing the petition organiser, was invited by the Lord Mayor to present the objectives of the petition.

The Full Council then debated the petition.

Following the debate, it was

**RESOLVED:**

**That the petition be noted and referred to the Mayor for consideration and response.**

### **11 Annual Report of Local Government Ombudsman Decisions**

The Full Council considered a report which summarised the findings made by the Local Government Ombudsman. The report had been referred by the Audit Committee.

Cllr Stevens moved the report and the recommendations contained therein.

Following debate, it was:

**RESOLVED:**

**That Full Council note the findings in the report and actions taken as a result.**

### **12 Annual Report of items of Special Urgency (APR16)**

The Full Council considered a report which outlined the use of special urgency provisions (APR16) in relation to decisions that were taken by Cabinet.

Cllr Cheney moved the report and the recommendations contained therein.

Following debate, it was:

**RESOLVED:**

**Full Council noted the use of special urgency provisions (APR 16) in relation to decisions that were taken by Cabinet in respect of :**

- WECA Strategic Transport Feasibility – 23rd January 2018
- Consent to WECA – Supplement Business Rates – 3rd April 2018
- BNet – 4th December 2018

### **13 Update report from Youth Mayors and Youth Council**

The Full Council received a progress report from the Youth Mayors and representatives of the Youth Council.



**RESOLVED –**

**That the progress report from the Youth Mayors and Youth Council be noted.**

**14 Motions**

**Motion 1 – Tackling Poverty And Inequality, Delivering For Bristolians**

Councillor Hickman moved the following motion:

**Full Council notes that:**

1. The Government's continued pursuit of ideological austerity, started under the Tory-Lib Dem coalition, will see local government lose around three-quarters of its 2010 funding by 2025.
2. The progressive budget, incorporating almost £1 million of cross-party amendments, passed by Labour councillors in February 2018 saw all three opposition parties oppose Mayor Marvin Rees' administration's commitment to cut senior management costs, innovate to increase income, invest in the city, and continue to protect frontline council services.
3. Mayor Rees has prioritised delivering a real Living Wage, as did Labour councillors through work on the HR committee under his predecessor; accreditation has recently been awarded to the council by the Living Wage Foundation; and analysis which shows that wages are still worth less than a third in some parts of the country than a decade ago, with the average worker in the South West having lost £14,400 since 2008 according to the Trades Union Congress.
4. Forecasts that Labour's ambitious 2016 housing targets are set to be smashed: almost 2,900 new homes – including more than 800 new affordable homes – are due to be completed in the target year of 2020; Labour's £100 million investment in a new housing company, City Hall making available £57 million to housing associations and earmarking £45 million for new council homes, and the memorandum of understanding for the Bristol Bond.
5. Data showing that the UK's progress on life expectancy stalled in 2015-17, against a historic trend of improvement, with life expectancy falling for the poorest for the first time since the end of the Second World War; deprived areas often suffer the worst health outcomes; and preventable diseases caused by smoking, obesity, and alcohol account for almost 110,000 early deaths each year in the UK, with smoking-related ill health alone costing local authorities some £760 million per annum in social care costs.

**Full Council believes that:**

1. The Government should have listened to calls from Mayor Rees and Labour councillors, together with more than 5,000 Labour councillors and Labour council leaders ahead of both the Budget and Local Government Finance Settlement, to end austerity and invest in Bristol and other cities.



2. The current administration has brought competence where the previous one left chaos: turning around a £30 million overspend; bringing genuine ambition and political leadership to the authority, as endorsed by the recent cross-party Local Government Association peer review; and, through financial discipline and despite Tory Government cuts, securing the future of the council at a time when other ones are going bust or teetering on the brink.
3. Mayor Rees was right to set out the ambition of making Bristol the UK's first real Living Wage City, and to engage with city employers, trade unions, and the Living Wage Foundation to work towards this.
4. Contrary to views set out by some members of the chamber, Labour's complete commitment to building affordable housing is not a 'vanity project': there's nothing vain about lifting people out of rent poverty; there's nothing vain about helping people off housing waiting lists and onto the property ladder.
5. Cutting prevention services is a false economy. Cuts to public health grant funding, which will see local authorities left with over half a billion pounds less to spend next year than in 2015/16, must be reversed by the Government.

**Full Council resolves to:**

1. Call on all Party Group Leaders (PGLs) to write to the Prime Minister and back the Mayor's calls for fair funding for Bristol and an end to austerity.
2. Ask all PGLs and whips to work to ensure that Bristol City Council agrees another progressive Labour budget, following on from the four-year plan to invest in Bristol and protect Bristolians' services which was passed by Labour councillors in February.
3. Encourage local employers to follow Bristol City Council's lead on the real Living Wage, and back the Mayor's plan to work with the Living Wage Foundation to roll out the real Living Wage across Bristol – making Bristol the first Living Wage City in the UK
4. Celebrate much-needed historic progress in building new homes, including affordable, under the Mayor's Labour administration, and welcome projections that ambitious manifesto targets look set to be exceeded by 50% due to be completed in the target year of 2020.
5. Endorse calls from Cancer Research UK and others for the UK Government to invest in public health, and a sustainable health and social care system, and also back the One City Approach, which will deliver improved outcomes by utilising the resources, influence, and energy of city partners alongside that of the local authority.

Councillor Seargant seconded the motion.

Councillor Combley then moved the following amendment:

**Full Council notes that:**



1. The Government's continued pursuit of ideological austerity will see local government face a £7.8 billion funding gap by 2025, according to the Local Government Association.
2. Data showing that the UK's progress on life expectancy stalled in 2015-17, against a historic trend of improvement, with life expectancy falling for the poorest for the first time since the end of the Second World War; deprived areas often suffer the worst health outcomes; and preventable diseases caused by smoking, obesity, and alcohol account for almost 110,000 early deaths each year in the UK, with smoking-related ill health alone costing local authorities some £760 million per annum in social care costs.

**Full Council believes that:**

1. The Government should have listened to calls from across the political spectrum to end austerity and invest in Bristol and other cities.
2. We should make Bristol the UK's first real Living Wage City, and engage with city employers, trade unions, and the Living Wage Foundation to work towards this.
3. Cutting prevention services is a false economy. Cuts to public health grant funding, which will see local authorities left with over half a billion pounds less to spend next year than in 2015/16, must be reversed by the Government.

**Full Council resolves to:**

1. Call on all Party Group Leaders (PGLs) and the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister and call for fair funding for Bristol and an end to austerity.
2. Work to ensure that the 2019 budget is as progressive as possible by protecting support for the most vulnerable through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Local Crisis and Prevention Fund, and standing up for local services.
3. Encourage local employers to follow Bristol City Council's lead on the real Living Wage, and back the Mayor's plan to work with the Living Wage Foundation to roll out the real Living Wage across Bristol – making Bristol the first Living Wage City in the UK
4. Work to support progress in building new homes, especially affordable and social, and with high standards of energy efficiency to keep people's bills low.
5. Endorse calls from Cancer Research UK and others for the UK Government to invest in public health, and a sustainable health and social care system, and also back the One City Approach of utilising the resources, influence, and energy of city partners alongside that of the local authority.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Hance.

Following debate after being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST.



Following further remarks on the substantive motion, upon being put to the vote, the original motion was CARRIED (34 members voting in favour, 13 against, with 10 abstentions), and it was then

**RESOLVED:**

**Full Council notes that:**

- 1. The Government's continued pursuit of ideological austerity, started under the Tory-Lib Dem coalition, will see local government lose around three-quarters of its 2010 funding by 2025.**
- 2. The progressive budget, incorporating almost £1 million of cross-party amendments, passed by Labour councillors in February 2018 saw all three opposition parties oppose Mayor Marvin Rees' administration's commitment to cut senior management costs, innovate to increase income, invest in the city, and continue to protect frontline council services.**
- 3. Mayor Rees has prioritised delivering a real Living Wage, as did Labour councillors through work on the HR committee under his predecessor; accreditation has recently been awarded to the council by the Living Wage Foundation; and analysis which shows that wages are still worth less than a third in some parts of the country than a decade ago, with the average worker in the South West having lost £14,400 since 2008 according to the Trades Union Congress.**
- 4. Forecasts that Labour's ambitious 2016 housing targets are set to be smashed: almost 2,900 new homes – including more than 800 new affordable homes – are due to be completed in the target year of 2020; Labour's £100 million investment in a new housing company, City Hall making available £57 million to housing associations and earmarking £45 million for new council homes, and the memorandum of understanding for the Bristol Bond.**
- 5. Data showing that the UK's progress on life expectancy stalled in 2015-17, against a historic trend of improvement, with life expectancy falling for the poorest for the first time since the end of the Second World War; deprived areas often suffer the worst health outcomes; and preventable diseases caused by smoking, obesity, and alcohol account for almost 110,000 early deaths each year in the UK, with smoking-related ill health alone costing local authorities some £760 million per annum in social care costs.**

**Full Council believes that:**

- 1. The Government should have listened to calls from Mayor Rees and Labour councillors, together with more than 5,000 Labour councillors and Labour council leaders ahead of both the Budget and Local Government Finance Settlement, to end austerity and invest in Bristol and other cities.**
- 2. The current administration has brought competence where the previous one left chaos: turning around a £30 million overspend; bringing genuine ambition and political leadership to the authority, as endorsed by the recent cross-party Local Government Association peer review; and, through financial discipline and despite Tory Government cuts, securing the future of the council at a time when other ones are going bust or teetering on the brink.**



3. Mayor Rees was right to set out the ambition of making Bristol the UK's first real Living Wage City, and to engage with city employers, trade unions, and the Living Wage Foundation to work towards this.
4. Contrary to views set out by some members of the chamber, Labour's complete commitment to building affordable housing is not a 'vanity project': there's nothing vain about lifting people out of rent poverty; there's nothing vain about helping people off housing waiting lists and onto the property ladder.
5. Cutting prevention services is a false economy. Cuts to public health grant funding, which will see local authorities left with over half a billion pounds less to spend next year than in 2015/16, must be reversed by the Government.

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2. Ask all PGLs and whips to work to ensure that Bristol City Council agrees another progressive Labour budget, following on from the four-year plan to invest in Bristol and protect Bristolians' services which was passed by Labour councillors in February.
3. Encourage local employers to follow Bristol City Council's lead on the real Living Wage, and back the Mayor's plan to work with the Living Wage Foundation to roll out the real Living Wage across Bristol – making Bristol the first Living Wage City in the UK
4. Celebrate much-needed historic progress in building new homes, including affordable, under the Mayor's Labour administration, and welcome projections that ambitious manifesto targets look set to be exceeded by 50% due to be completed in the target year of 2020.
5. Endorse calls from Cancer Research UK and others for the UK Government to invest in public health, and a sustainable health and social care system, and also back the One City Approach, which will deliver improved outcomes by utilising the resources, influence, and energy of city partners alongside that of the local authority.

**Motion 2 – Delivering the phasing out of pesticide/weed-killers in Bristol**

Councillor Negus moved the following motion:

**Council notes:**

1. There is an increasing body of evidence concerning the dangers of unrestricted use of glyphosate. This is often referred to as a pesticide but although it is actually a herbicide it has deleterious effects on fauna as well as flora so diminishing our biodiversity.



2. There is considerable debate about the carcinogenic risks from glyphosate and a recent high profile court case in the United States. Concerns for those particularly vulnerable, including children, are even more sustainable.
3. The 2016 Labour manifesto pledged to 'stop using harmful pesticides' and 'eliminate the use of the most harmful substances and ensure proper safety for employees and contractors using pesticides.'
4. Mayor Marvin Rees' column in the November 2018 *SERA New Ground* magazine which highlighted the administration's work 'exploring alternatives with other councils so that we can be able to phase out the use of glyphosate': [https://www.sera.org.uk/bristol\\_a\\_leading\\_green\\_city](https://www.sera.org.uk/bristol_a_leading_green_city)
5. Glyphosate is applied at present in parks and green spaces and in highways by Bristol Waste Company.
6. It is also used by many different contractors and agencies commissioned for the city's housing estates, schools, nurseries, hospitals and other institutions.
7. Discussions about the use of this weed killer have for some time been less about its health risks and more about the viability, particularly financial, of suitable alternative treatments. Nevertheless cities and Local Authorities in this country and abroad have taken a variety of measures to limit or exclude the use of glyphosate pesticides for treatment of weeds. Recently Croydon Council has confirmed they are phasing out glyphosate for this purpose over the next three years. Bristol's Labour administration are already actively working with other councils to identify viable alternatives to glyphosate.
8. There have been several attempts within Bristol City Council over recent years to examine this problem and to seek a resolution. In 2014 the then Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission confirmed a study of alternative treatments based on a year-long trial in Cotham ward. This study did not deliver its objective as it did not practically trial any alternatives, except the use of vinegar, with all other options considered on a desktop study basis only. There is still some doubt as to whether the correct number of treatments was carried out during this trial period.
9. Subsequent attempts, including a well-attended meeting of all relevant parties and pressure groups in 2017 did raise one alternative option, pelargonic acid, for which this council failed to obtain a licence and so was unable to trial. All attempts to arrange a follow-up meeting over more than 12 months were rebuffed.
10. The Mayor's response to a members question on 11th September 2018 was that "our options are based on finding affordable alternatives".

**Council believes:**

1. This council has a duty of care to its citizens regarding concerns over the use of glyphosate. In the same way that this council is looking to address the risks from air pollution caused largely by vehicles under the control; of others, it should establish the risks to all of its residents from unrestricted spraying of certain types of weed killers.
2. This council should use its considerable influence and leadership to impress and inform all other users of such weed killers of its study's findings of the risks and alternatives.

**Council resolves:**

1. To request the Mayor to produce a report on the risks to human health and to our biodiversity from unrestricted use of glyphosate as a weed killer, using evidence including but not limited to that from the European Chemical Agency, which relicensed the substance until 2022, the World Health



- Organisation, who have expressed concerns, and the European Food Safety Agency, which felt it 'unlikely' to pose a public health risk
2. To request the Mayor to meaningfully test and evaluate the practicality and the cost of alternative forms of treatment in parks and highways, informed by the report produced and work with other councils.
  3. To request the Mayor to set up a stakeholder forum/task force as requested by the Pesticide Safe Bristol Alliance. The University of Bristol, Sustrans, Bristol Zoo and the Soil Association have shown interest in being part of such a body. It should be charged with planning and delivering a phased withdrawal from the use of glyphosates over a period of three years based on the information from the studies commissioned by the Mayor building on the experience of other authorities.
  4. To request the Mayor to provide regular updates to members on the progress of this initiative

Councillor Clark seconded the motion.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED (57 members voting in favour), and it was then

#### **RESOLVED:**

#### **Council notes:**

1. **There is an increasing body of evidence concerning the dangers of unrestricted use of glyphosate. This is often referred to as a pesticide but although it is actually a herbicide it has deleterious effects on fauna as well as flora so diminishing our biodiversity.**
2. **There is considerable debate about the carcinogenic risks from glyphosate and a recent high profile court case in the United States. Concerns for those particularly vulnerable, including children, are even more sustainable.**
3. **The 2016 Labour manifesto pledged to 'stop using harmful pesticides' and 'eliminate the use of the most harmful substances and ensure proper safety for employees and contractors using pesticides.'**
4. **Mayor Marvin Rees' column in the November 2018 SERA *New Ground* magazine which highlighted the administration's work 'exploring alternatives with other councils so that we can be able to phase out the use of glyphosate': [https://www.sera.org.uk/bristol\\_a\\_leading\\_green\\_city](https://www.sera.org.uk/bristol_a_leading_green_city)**
5. **Glyphosate is applied at present in parks and green spaces and in highways by Bristol Waste Company.**
6. **It is also used by many different contractors and agencies commissioned for the city's housing estates, schools, nurseries, hospitals and other institutions.**
7. **Discussions about the use of this weed killer have for some time been less about its health risks and more about the viability, particularly financial, of suitable alternative treatments. Nevertheless cities and Local Authorities in this country and abroad have taken a variety of measures to limit or**



exclude the use of glyphosate pesticides for treatment of weeds. Recently Croydon Council has confirmed they are phasing out glyphosate for this purpose over the next three years. Bristol's Labour administration are already actively working with other councils to identify viable alternatives to glyphosate.

8. There have been several attempts within Bristol City Council over recent years to examine this problem and to seek a resolution. In 2014 the then Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission confirmed a study of alternative treatments based on a year-long trial in Cotham ward. This study did not deliver its objective as it did not practically trial any alternatives, except the use of vinegar, with all other options considered on a desktop study basis only. There is still some doubt as to whether the correct number of treatments was carried out during this trial period.
9. Subsequent attempts, including a well-attended meeting of all relevant parties and pressure groups in 2017 did raise one alternative option, pelargonic acid, for which this council failed to obtain a licence and so was unable to trial. All attempts to arrange a follow-up meeting over more than 12 months were rebuffed.
10. The Mayor's response to a members question on 11th September 2018 was that "our options are based on finding affordable alternatives".

**Council believes:**

1. This council has a duty of care to its citizens regarding concerns over the use of glyphosate. In the same way that this council is looking to address the risks from air pollution caused largely by vehicles under the control; of others, it should establish the risks to all of its residents from unrestricted spraying of certain types of weed killers.
2. This council should use its considerable influence and leadership to impress and inform all other users of such weed killers of its study's findings of the risks and alternatives.

**Council resolves:**

1. To request the Mayor to produce a report on the risks to human health and to our biodiversity from unrestricted use of glyphosate as a weed killer, using evidence including but not limited to that from the European Chemical Agency, which relicensed the substance until 2022, the World Health Organisation, who have expressed concerns, and the European Food Safety Agency, which felt it 'unlikely' to pose a public health risk
2. To request the Mayor to meaningfully test and evaluate the practicality and the cost of alternative forms of treatment in parks and highways, informed by the report produced and work with other councils.
3. To request the Mayor to set up a stakeholder forum/task force as requested by the Pesticide Safe Bristol Alliance. The University of Bristol, Sustrans, Bristol Zoo and the Soil Association have shown interest in being part of such a body. It should be charged with planning and delivering a phased



**withdrawal from the use of glyphosates over a period of three years based on the information from the studies commissioned by the Mayor building on the experience of other authorities.**

**4. To request the Mayor to provide regular updates to members on the progress of this initiative**

Meeting ended at 6.05 pm

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_

