

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 4 MAY 2004

Councillors: Keith Lock (*Chairman*) (P), Mrs Barbara Alexander (P), Peter Argyle (P), Trevor Banning (P), Phil Barnett (P), Brian Bedwell (P), J.C.G. Brooks (P), Paul Bryant (P), Mrs Val Bull (P), George Chandler (P), John Chapman (P), Keith Chopping (P), Billy Drummond (P), Sue Farrant (*Vice-Chairman*) (P), John Farrin (P), Geoff Findlay (P), Marcus Franks (P), Mrs Kathleen French (P), Miss Denise Gaines (P), Manohar Gopal (P), Mrs Sally Hannon (P), Mrs Sandra Harding (P), Roger Hunneman (P), Owen Jeffery (P), Graham Jones (P), Bob Judge (P), Mrs Susie Kemp (P), Andy Kilgour (P), Tony Linden (P), Mrs Mollie Lock (P), Dr Royce Longton (P), Gordon Lundie (P), Alan Macro (P), Tim Metcalfe (P), James Mole (P), Joe Mooney (AP), Mrs Irene Neill (P), Graham Pask (P), Alexander Payton (P), Terry Port (P), Paul Pritchard (P), Mike Rodger (P), Andrew Rowles (P), Anthony Stansfeld (P), Ms Caroline Suggett (P), Julian Swift-Hook (P), Tony Vickers (P), Quentin Webb (P), Chris Webber (P), Emma Webster (P), Keith Woodhams (P), Laszlo Zverko (P)

PART I

1. APOLOGY.

An apology for the inability to attend the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Joe Mooney.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

The Chairman welcomed all present to the annual meeting of Council and reported that he had been proud and privileged to represent West Berkshire Council on over 150 occasions during his year in office. He reported that he had met many volunteers who were working hard to provide a better life for other people. He also referred to the excellent work being undertaken in schools.

The Chairman also referred to the forthcoming marriage of former Councillor Alan Thorpe and reported that he had, on behalf of the Council, wished him well for the future.

In concluding his remarks, the Chairman placed on record his thanks for the support which Councillor Sue Farrant, Vice-Chairman, had provided during his term of office. He also placed on record his thanks to his wife, Councillor Mollie Lock, Jo Watt, Members' Services Officer, and Laura Dean, Support Services Assistant.

3. PRESENTATIONS.

The Chairman made presentations of certificates and paperweights, and on behalf of the Council, congratulated the following Council employees who had served in Local Government for 25 years or more:-

Kevin Dennis, Outdoor and Residential Education Manager, Culture and Youth Services;
Marion Kite, Homecare Assistant;
Margaret Lansley, Home Care Manager;
Andy Tubbs, Chief Advisor, School Improvement;
Josie Wilding, Homecare Assistant.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2004/05.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Royce Longton and seconded by Councillor Keith Lock that Councillor James Mole be elected Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2004/05.

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RESOLVED that Councillor James Mole be elected as Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2004/05.

(The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the retiring Chairman for his year of service)

(Councillor James Mole in the Chair)

5. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2004/05.**

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2004/05. In response to this, Council received two nominations:

Councillor John Chapman (proposed by Councillor Tim Metcalfe, seconded by Councillor Graham Jones).

Councillor Tony Vickers (proposed by Councillor Sue Farrant, seconded by Councillor Phil Barnett).

The two nominations were put to the meeting and by a simple majority of votes, Councillor Tony Vickers was declared Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2004/05.

RESOLVED that Councillor Tony Vickers be appointed Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2004/05.

(The Vice-Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office).

(NOTE: Councillor Susie Kemp arrived at the meeting at 7.30pm)

6. **MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2004 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest received.

8. **ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE.**

MOTION proposed by Councillor Owen Jeffery and seconded by Councillor Jeff Brooks:

“That Councillor Royce Longton be elected Executive Leader for the 2004/05 Municipal Year.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

On acceptance of his election as Leader, Councillor Royce Longton announced the appointment of Members to the Executive for 2004/05 as follows:

Royce Longton - Leader of Council - also responsible for Planning and Sustainability;

Owen Jeffery - Deputy Leader of Council - also responsible for Environment and Waste;

Mollie Lock - Children and Young People;

Phil Barnett - Community Care and Affordable Housing;

Billy Drummond - Community Safety - also responsible for Public Protection and Youth Services;

Mike Rodger - Culture and Leisure Services - also responsible for Policy, Legal and Information;

Denise Gaines - Financial Management - also responsible for ICT;

Sally Hannon - Highways and Transportation - also responsible for Public Consultation, Equalities, Newbury Town Centre and the Amey Partnership.

9. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Council considered two reports (Agenda Item 9), one proposing various amendments to the Constitution and one recommending the establishment of a Health Scrutiny Panel, which would be accountable direct to Council rather than through the Community Care and Housing Select Committee.

In relation to the revised schedule of meetings, Councillor Graham Jones expressed concern at the proposal to hold a Council meeting in August and Councillor Royce Longton reported that he was awaiting responses from various members of his group to ascertain whether the proposed date could be changed. He agreed to liaise with Councillor Graham Jones in due course. Councillor Sally Hannon reported that she understood the meeting was required in order for the accounts to be approved by the end of August.

MOTION proposed by Councillor Royce Longton and seconded by Councillor Owen Jeffery:

“That the Council agree to:

1. minor changes to Paragraph 2.65 of Article 6 (Executive Portfolios) as advised at the Annual Council Meeting;
2. the amendments to the Council’s Scheme of Delegation in relation to public rights of way and the integrated Waste Management Contract as set out in Paragraph 3.1 to 3.8 of the report;
3. the change to the Councils’ Rules of Procedure (Paragraph 4.1.4) (as set out in Paragraph 4) in relation to the adjustment in dates of Council meetings;
4. the Council’s Budget and Policy Framework for 2004/05 (as set out in Paragraph 5.1 and 5.2 of the report) and in accordance with Regulation 4 and Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, and that all other plans and strategies requiring approval be delegated to the Executive;
5. adopt the Overview and Scrutiny Guide (Appendix 9(a)), and incorporate it in the Council’s Constitution under Part 14 – Codes and Protocols;
6. the revised Schedule of Meetings as set out in Appendix 9(b);
7. approve the change of reporting line of the Health Scrutiny Panel from the Community Care and Housing Select Committee to full Council and to the terms of reference set out in Paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of the supplementary report;
8. the terms of reference of the Community Care and Housing Select Committee being amended to reflect the change in the reporting line of the Health Scrutiny Panel.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

10. APPOINTMENT AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES.

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 10) concerning the appointment and allocation of seats on Committees and associated Bodies for the Municipal Year 2004/05.

Whilst introducing the report, Councillor Royce Longton requested the Council’s permission to re-name the ‘Partnership Strategy Board’ to the ‘Amey Partnership Strategy Board’.

MOTION proposed by Councillor Royce Longton and seconded by Councillor Owen Jeffery:

“That the Council agree to:

1. note that under Paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice has been received that the Members set out in Paragraph 1.1 of the report are to be regarded as Members of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively;

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2. the appointment of the various Committees and Area Forums and to the number of places on each as set out in Paragraph 2.1;
3. Regulation 20 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Proportionality Rules) not be applied the appointment of Members to Area Forums and the four Area Planning Sub-Committees;
4. the re-appointment of Mr James Rees and Mrs Margaret Hancock as the Independent Members on the Council's Standards Committee until May 2006;
5. the allocation of seats to the political groups in accordance with Section 15(5) of Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Paragraph 3.4 refers);
6. the appointment of Members to Committees as set out in Appendix 10 and in accordance with the wishes of the political groups;
7. the Partnership Strategy board being renamed the 'Amey Partnership Strategy Board'."

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

11. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.**

RESOLVED that the meeting of Council be adjourned to enable the various Committees and Area Forums to determine their Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the appointment of four Area Planning Sub-Committees and the determination of other business set out on each respective agenda.

12. **RE-COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING.**

The meeting re-commenced at 7.50pm.

13. **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 14) of the West Berkshire Independent Remuneration Panel arising from a review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

In introducing the report, Councillor Royce Longton reported that the Independent Remuneration Panel had made an amendment to Recommendation 5 and introduced a new Recommendation (Recommendation 8) which had not been incorporated into the Recommendations set out in the accompanying report. These were:

"That the Council introduce an allowance for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Parish Representative of the Standards Committee based on a per meeting allowance of £100 per meeting up to a maximum of £1,000 in any one year."

"That the Council's Officers be requested to arrange for the recruitment of an additional member of the Independent Remuneration Panel."

In addition to the above, Councillor Royce Longton requested the Council's approval to instructing the West Berkshire Independent Remuneration Panel to review and consider the implementation of a Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Panel.

MOTION proposed by Councillor Royce Longton and seconded by Owen Jeffery:

"That the Council agree to:

1. the Special Responsibility Allowance payable to the Chairman of the Area Forums in the sum of £1,062 being abolished with effect from 1 April 2004;
2. a new Special Responsibility Allowance of £4,250 in relation to the Chairman of the Licensing Committee being introduced with effect from 1 April 2004;

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3. the ICT allowance for each Member being increased from £250 to £350 with effect from 1 April 2004 to part-compensate Members for the additional costs associated with signing up to Broadband or other suitable dial-up facility (i.e ISDN).
4. Members who do not sign up to either Broadband, dial-up or other suitable connection (i.e ISDN) forgoing the additional ITC allowance of £100;
5. the Council introducing an allowance for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Parish Representative of the Standards Committee based on a per meeting allowance of £100, up to a maximum of £1,000 in any one year;
6. the Council adopting a Travel Allowance Scheme based on the Inland Revenue rate;
7. the Council adopting a Subsistence Allowance Scheme based on the rates set out in Paragraph 5.26 of the report;
8. the Council's Officers being requested to arrange for the recruitment of an additional member of the Independent Remuneration Panel;
9. the West Berkshire Independent Remuneration Panel being requested to consider the implementation of a Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Panel."

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

14. EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE STRATEGIC PLAN 2004 – 2006.

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 15) concerning the 2004/06 Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan.

Councillor Mollie Lock reported that the plan set out progress made on the targets included within the Early Years Development and Childcare Strategic Plan 2001-04 and set new targets for 2004-6 based on the funding allocated by the DfES Surestart Unit. Councillor Lock thanked Janet Scott and her staff for all the hard work that they had put into the Plan.

MOTION proposed by Councillor Mollie Lock and seconded by Councillor Billy Drummond:

"That the Council approve the Early Years and Childcare Strategic Plan 2004-6".

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.10pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature: