

# DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

## COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

**THURSDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2012**

**Councillors Present:** Peter Argyle, Howard Bairstow, Pamela Bale, Jeff Beck, Brian Bedwell, Dominic Boeck, Jeff Brooks, George Chandler, Keith Chopping, Hilary Cole, Roger Croft, Richard Crumly, Billy Drummond, Marcus Franks, Dave Goff, Manohar Gopal, Paul Hower, John Horton, Roger Hunneman, Mike Johnston, Graham Jones, Alan Law, Mollie Lock, Royce Longton, Gordon Lundie, Alan Macro, Gwen Mason, Geoff Mayes, Tim Metcalfe, Irene Neill, Graham Pask, David Rendel, Garth Simpson, Anthony Stansfeld, Julian Swift-Hook, Tony Vickers, Quentin Webb, Keith Woodhams and Laszlo Zverko

**Also Present:** John Ashworth (Corporate Director - Environment), Nick Carter (Chief Executive), David Holling (Head of Legal Services), Andy Walker (Head of Finance), Moira Fraser (Democratic Services Manager) and Linda Pye (Principal Policy Officer)

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor David Allen, Councillor David Betts, Councillor Paul Bryant, Councillor Sheila Ellison, Councillor David Holtby, Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge, Councillor Tony Linden, Councillor Joe Mooney, Councillor Andrew Rowles and Councillor Virginia von Celsing

#### PART I

##### 22. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

##### 23. Roll of Honorary Aldermen

The Council considered Agenda Item 3 which proposed that former Councillor John Miles Chapman be conferred the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of his eminent service rendered on behalf of the Council and the residents of West Berkshire over a period of time.

The Chairman explained that the Local Government Act 1972 made provision for the appointment of former Councillors as Honorary Alderman to recognise the eminent service they provided above and beyond their normal duties. The Honorary Alderman needed to be advocates for their communities and needed to exhibit high standards of conduct and ethics. Members had discussed and agreed to the introduction of the scheme at the September 2011 Council meeting. The two Leaders had met and discussed potential candidates. Following these discussions it had been agreed to offer the title to former Councillor John Miles Chapman who had accepted the nomination.

**MOTION:** Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Tim Metcalfe:

“That the Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor John Miles Chapman.”

In proposing former Councillor Chapman Councillor Jones reported that he had served as a West Berkshire Councillor for 27 years and continued to serve as a Purley Parish Councillor as he had done for the past 36 years. Former Councillor Chapman had a wide range of interests which served him so well is a role as a community representative. These included Education (he had served as governor on a number of local schools and he was also an Ofsted Inspector), was a member of Purley Volunteer Centre, was the author of a flooding report, oversaw the introduction of all properties in the district

**COUNCIL - 13 DECEMBER 2012 - MINUTES**

receiving 'wheelie bins' in his role as Portfolio Holder, had written a number of military books and was a railway enthusiast. As a Councillor he was always willing to provide new Members with kindly advice. Councillor Jones noted that former Councillor Chapman was always very much his 'own man' and always did what he felt was the best for the people of West Berkshire.

Councillor Metcalfe in seconding the nomination noted that former Councillor Chapman had an impressive depth of knowledge and was always a useful source of information for him when he needed advice on resolving a resident's issue. He felt that the honour could not be bestowed on a more worthy recipient.

Councillor Jeff Brooks congratulated former Councillor Chapman on his nomination. He noted that former Councillor Chapman was a man of great standing and integrity and he was delighted with his recommendation given his immense contribution to the people of West Berkshire.

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

Honorary Alderman Chapman thanked the Council for bestowing the honour on him. He explained that as a historian he was more conscious than most about the great honour that was being bestowed on him. Honorary Alderman Chapman noted that in his former career he had the opportunity to work with a number of councils across the region and he was always grateful that the political debate at West Berkshire Council was conducted without the tremendous animosity he experienced elsewhere. He valued the friendships that he had garnered across the chamber in his years as a District Councillor. Honorary Alderman Chapman thanked the Council again for the honour which he sincerely appreciated.

*(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 7.19pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature** .....