

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2007

Councillors: Brian Bedwell (Chairman) (P), Barbara Alexander (P), Peter Argyle (P), Howard Bairstow (P), Pamela Bale (P), Jeff Beck (P), David Betts (P), Jeff Brooks (P), Paul Bryant (P), George Chandler (P), Keith Chopping (P), Hilary Cole (P), Ellen Crumly (P), Richard Crumly (P), Lee Dillon (P), Billy Drummond (P), Adiran Edwards (P), Geoff Findlay (P), Marcus Franks (P), Dave Goff (P), Manohar Gopal (P), Paul Hewer (P), David Holtby (P), Roger Hunneman (P), Carole Jackson-Doerge (P), Owen Jeffery (P), Mike Johnston (P), Graham Jones (P), Alan Law (P), Tony Linden (P), Keith Lock (P), Mollie Lock (P), Royce Longton (P), Gordon undie (P), Alan Macro (P), Gwendoline Mason (P), Gabrielle McGarvey (P), Tim Metclafe (P), Joe Mooney (P), Irene Neill (P), Graham Pask (P), Terry Port (P), David Rendell (P), Andrew Rowles (P), Anthony Stansfeld (P), Julian Swift-Hook (P), Leuan Tuck (P), Tony Vickers (P), Quentin Webb (P), Emma Webster (P), Keith Woodhams (P), Laszlo Zverko (P).

PART I

1. WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the meeting.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

The Chairman reported that he had been proud and privileged to represent West Berkshire Council on over 176 occasions during his year in office. He reported that his Chairity for the Year was the Volunteer Centre, Newbury and that he had enjoyed attending many Citizen Ceremonies. He also referred to Wokingham Borough Council being granted Borough status and reported that he felt that this Council should retain its Unitary title.

The Chairman also thanked his wife, Mary, Jo Watt, Members' Services Officer and the staff of Policy and Communication for their help during his year as Chairman.

3. PRESENTATIONS.

The Chairman made presentations of certificates and paperweights, and on behalf of the Council, congratulated the following Members who had completed more than 10 years on the Council and employees who had served in Local Government for 25 years or more:-

- Councillor Graham Jones
- Councillor Peter Argyle
- Councillor Andrew Rowles

- Freda Batten, School Crossing Patroller
- Andy Walker, Head of Finance
- Susan Nethercott, Care Assistant (not in attendance)
- Andrea Ferguson, Librarian (not in attendance)

The Chairman also reported that the Council had also introduced a scheme which recognised outstanding service by volunteers in relation to work for the Council. In this connection, he reported that Mr David Wootton had been a School Governor for Kennet School for over 39 years. He presented My Wootton with a Certificate and paperweight in recognition of outstanding service.

COUNCIL – 10 MAY 2007 – MINUTES

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2007/08.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Anthony Stansfeld and seconded by Councillor Barbara Alexander that Councillor Andrew Rowles be elected Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

RESOLVED that Councillor Andrew Rowles be elected as Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

(Councillor Rowles in the Chair)

The Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the retiring Chairman for his year of service.

5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2007/08.

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2007/08. In response to this request Councillor Irene Neill was nominated by Pamela Bale and Seconded by Councillor Graham Pask. .

RESOLVED that Councillor Irene Neill be appointed Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

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

6. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2007 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the list of dispensations being amended to reflect the fact that Councillor Paul Bryant was not Chairman of Greenham Common Trust Grants Committee and that Councillor Geoff Findlay was no longer Chairman of 14/21 Time to Talk Group .

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 Jeff Beck and seconded by Councillor Gordon Lundie:

“That Councillor Graham Jones be elected Executive Leader for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.”

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

Councillor Graham Jones then proceeded to announce the appointment of Members to the Executive for 2007/08 as follows:

Graham Jones - Leader of Council ;

Keith Chopping - Deputy Leader of Council - also responsible for Planning and Highways;

Geoff Findlay - Environment and Public Protection;

Marcus Franks - Leisure, Culture and Youth Services, Libraries and Housing;

Joe Mooney - Community Care including Pensions and Insurance;

Graham Pask – Partnerships and the Cleaner and Greener Portfolio.

Anthony Stansfeld - Strategy and Performance including Information, Communication, Property and HR;

Emma Webster - Community Safety, ICT, Equalities and “The Visions”;

Laszlo Zverko - Finance.

Barbara Alexander - Children and Young People

(Note: Councillor Carole Jackson-Doerge arrived at 7.36pm)

COUNCIL – 10 MAY 2007 – MINUTES

9. APPOINTMENT AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES.

The Council considered a report concerning the appointment and allocation of seats on Committees and associated Bodies for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

MOTION proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Keith Chopping:

“That the Council agree:

- (1) To 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.
- (2) To the appointment of the various, Committees, Commissions and Area Forums and to the number of places on each as set out in paragraph 2.1.
- (3) That under Regulations 16A and 20 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Proportionality Rules) is not applied to the appointment of Members to Area Forums and the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.
- (4) The Council notes and supports the position in relation to the allocation of seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Commission based on the Local Agreement.
- (5) To the allocation of seats to the Political Groups in accordance with Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Paragraph 3.4 refers).
- (6) To each Political Group appointing the number of substitutes listed in Paragraph 4.1.
- (7) To approve the appointment of Members' to the Committees, Commissions as set out in Appendix 9A and in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.
- (8) That in accordance with Regulation 4, Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, the Council's Policy Framework for 2007/08 be as set out in Paragraph 6.1
- (9) That, in accordance with regulation 5, Schedule 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, all other Plans and Strategies requiring approval and not included in the Policy Framework be delegated to the Council's Executive.
- (10) That Paragraph 2.6.5 of Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, setting out the Executive Portfolios, be amended to reflect the changes made at this meeting.
- (11) That the appointments of Mr James Rees and Mr John Bingham as Independent members of the Standards Committee for a four year period be confirmed.

Amendment: Proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and Seconded by Councillor Keith Chopping:

That the recommendations (1-11 inclusive) set out in item 9 be approved and adopted subject to the following amendments:

- (i) That recommendation be amended by the deletion of the words “and Overview and Scrutiny Commission”
- (ii) That recommendation 4 be amended to reflect the fact that the Local Agreement agreed by Council on 13 December 2006 in relation to seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Commission is to be withdrawn.

The amendment was put to the meeting and declared **CARRIED**.

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

COUNCIL – 10 MAY 2007 – MINUTES

10. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.

RESOLVED that the meeting of Council be adjourned to enable the various Committees, Commissions and Area Forums to determine their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

11. RE-COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING.

The meeting re-commenced at 8.16pm

12. DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Council considered a report by the Returning Officer on the result of the District Council Elections held on 3 May 2007.

MOTION

“That the Council agree to note the report of the Returning Officer in relation to the results of the District Council Elections held on 3 May 2007”

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

13. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION – PART 12 – CONTRACT RULES OF PROCEDURE.

The Council considered a report proposing changes to Part 12 of the Constitution relation to Contract Rules of Procedure. In relation to Paragraphs 12.6.3 and 12.7.3, it was agreed that the Governance and Audit Committee should be asked to review these again.

MOTION proposed by Councillor Barbara Alexander and seconded by Councillor Jeff Brooks:

- “(i) That with the exception of Paragraphs 12.6.3 and 12.7.3 all other changes to the Contract Rules of Procedure set out in Appendix 6A be approved.
- (ii) That the Protocol for Member Involvement in Contracts over £50,000 (appendix 6A refers) be adopted.
- (iii) That Governance and Audit Committee be asked to review again Paragraphs 12.6.3 and 12.7.3 of the Contract Rules of Procedure.

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

(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.24pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date: