



## COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a SPECIAL MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on 10 OCTOBER 2006.

Present: Mr KC Wren (Chairman), Mr ML Baker, Mrs NS Bryant, Mr TP Chivers, Mr PCB Coleman, Mr M Connolly, Mr BE Dalton, Mr A Davis, Mr PR Davis, Mr AN Deane, Miss MF de Rhé-Philipe, Mrs SK Doubell, Mrs MJ Douglas, Dr JM English, Mrs MEM Groom, Brigadier RWS Hall, Mrs EM Hannaford-Dobson, Mr JR Henning, Mr M Hewson, Mr CP Humphries, Mr JP Johnson, Mr A Molland, Mr WR Moss, Mr C Newbury, Mr JC Noeken, Mr SJ Oldrieve, Mr JB Osborn, Mr RT Rogers, Mrs JH Rooke, Mrs P Rugg, Mrs JA Scott, Mrs JH Seager, Mrs CA Soden, Mr TR Sturgis, Mrs J Swabey, Mr JP Thomson, Mr AJ Trotman, Mrs BA Wayman, Mr IC West, Mr RS While, Mrs M White, Mr DJ Willmott and Mr CS Winchcombe.

88. **Apologies** Apologies were received on behalf of Mrs EA Chettleburgh, Ms SM Content, Mrs HM Dixon, Mrs G Hill and Mrs MSN Taylor.

89. **Communications by the Chairman**

(a) Mr John Syme

The Chairman informed members that Mr John Syme had resigned from his position as Member for the Warminster West Ward for personal reasons. The by election would take place on 2 November 2006. The Chairman thanked Mr Syme for his service with Wiltshire County Council and wished him well for the future.

(b) Salisbury Hospital

The Chairman informed members of his attendance, in September, at the visit by HRH the Princess Royal to Salisbury Hospital where she unveiled a plaque to mark the completion of the development of the new building. The Chairman stated that the facilities now available at Salisbury Hospital were first class and a far cry from the days when it occupied a selection of run down buildings on top of the downs at Odstock. He was sure that the Princess was impressed with the new development and stated that Wiltshire was fortunate to have such a modern, well-run hospital.

(c) Best Kept Village Awards

The Chairman informed Members that on Sunday 1 October, he and his wife had the pleasure of a wide tour of Wiltshire presenting Best Kept Village awards for the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). Despite less than fair weather it had been an excellent day, most efficiently organised by the CPRE. The Council recorded its congratulations to the three winning villages:

Bratton	the Best Kept Large Village
Lea	the Best Kept Medium Village
Wilcot	the Best Kept Small Village

The CPRE appreciated both the County Council's and the participants' support for the awards. The Chairman also congratulated the CPRE for its continuing organisation of the event.

(d) Wiltshire Youth Orchestra Concert

The Chairman reported that he had attended a concert given by the Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Orchestra on 3 September. The orchestra had played the symphonic dances from West Side Story with great vitality and enthusiasm and followed it with Dvorak's New World Symphony which they had played with real maturity.

The young people were aged between 12 and 21 and came from across Wiltshire and Swindon. They are enormously talented and dedicated young musicians and spend a great deal of time practising at home and rehearsing with the orchestra during the school holidays. The Chairman had been filled with pride to hear a group of young Wiltshire people making music of such a high standard.

The Chairman urged all members to go along to the Wiltshire Music Centre to hear the orchestra. The next concerts would take place on Saturday 6 January at 7.30pm and on Sunday 7 January at 3pm when they would be playing Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker and Stravinsky's Petrushka.

90. Wiltshire's Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Draft Community Strategy On motion by Mr KC Wren, seconded by Mrs JH Seager it was agreed to adjourn the meeting to allow members to receive a presentation by Dr K Robinson, Chief Executive, regarding the Local Area Agreement and draft Community Strategy. Dr Robinson responded to several factual questions from members.

After receiving the presentation, the Council reconvened and considered a report by the Chief Executive. The report provided information to enable members to consider the Wiltshire Strategic Board's developing Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy and to influence their direction. Mrs JA Scott, Leader of the Council, moved and Mr JP Thomson seconded a motion which was circulated to members at the meeting.

The Leader opened the debate by confirming that the Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy were partnership documents and not solely owned by the County Council. Taking into account recent budget difficulties it was important to ensure that the necessary checks and balances were in place and that any agreements reached were both affordable and realistic for the County Council. While wishing to move forward with the Agreement and Strategy it was also vital to recognise the need to provide for challenge by all partners as necessary.

The debate was then opened to all members and the Appendix to these minutes sets out a summary of the discussions.

On being put to the meeting the Leader's motion was carried and it was,

*Resolved: To welcome the work which has been done to prepare a local area agreement (LAA) for the County. The Council notes the importance to the eventual LAA of strong performance management, effective governance, and clear accountability to elected Members. Before the Council signs up to the eventual LAA it will require the following agreement from the Government:*

- *The LAA will describe a clear structure of governance with appropriate authority and accountabilities for the partnerships which will manage the LAA.*
- *It will describe how democratic accountability will operate within the world of Local Strategic Partnerships and LAAs.*
- *The LAA will provide the means to commit public sector partners to agreements, so that changes in national priorities do not automatically override local agreements.*
- *And it will provide robust arrangements for joint performance management, while reducing the current bureaucracy of performance reports to government.*

(Duration of meeting: 10.30am – 12.45pm)

The officer who has produced these minutes is Marie Todd, Democratic and Members' Services, direct line 01225 713011.

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