

**KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Browfort,
Bath Road, Devizes on Tuesday 25th October 2005 at 2.15pm

PRESENT: Councillor P.W. Richardson - Chairman

Councillor B.G. Ashley	Councillor C.P.G. Hoddinott
Councillor J.A. Booth	Councillor C.P. Humphries
Councillor P. Brown	Councillor J.J. Kunkler
Councillor Mrs K. Callow	Councillor S.J. Miles
Councillor D. Campbell	Councillor A. Molland
Councillor Mrs T.M. Carr	Councillor J.D. Ody
Councillor N. Carter	Councillor R.T. Parsons
Councillor W. Cavill	Councillor J.D. Percy-Caldwell
Councillor Mrs J.K. Combe	Councillor Mrs N.G. Rawlins
Councillor A. Connolly	Councillor A. Skittrall
Councillor A.P.J. Duck	Councillor A.H. Still
Councillor P. Evans	Councillor C.R.W. Stone
Councillor N. Fogg	Councillor Mrs M.S.N. Taylor
Councillor Mrs S.M. Findley	Councillor B.J. Twigger
Councillor Mrs J.M. Giles	Councillor P.N. Veasey
Councillor L.H. Grundy	Councillor D.J. Willmott
Councillor Mrs E. Hannaford-Dobson	Councillor Mrs P. Winchcombe
Councillor Mrs A. Hayhoe	Councillor A.S. Wood

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor K.R.F. Beard
Councillor G. Brewer
Councillor P.L. Colling
Councillor Mrs R.S.E. Cummins
Councillor D.T.B. Hunter
Councillor Dr J.P.M. Reid

PART 1

Items considered whilst the meeting was open to the public

25. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 26th July 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the inclusion of Councillor Mrs J.M. Giles in the list of apologies.

26. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures were made.

27. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

1. Long Service Awards

The Chairman presented long service awards to the following members of staff:-

Victor Nobbs – Environment and Amenity Operative (Driver) – 30 years service

Robert Haynes – Environment and Amenity Operative (LGV) – 20 years service

Sue Evans – Customer Service Officer – 20 years service

Amanda Legg – Council Tax Recovery Manager – 20 years service

John Hughes – Senior Building Control Surveyor – 20 years service

2. Donations to Charity

The Chairman reported that a sale of old phones to the Third World had raised £219 for charity and that Unison staff acting as beer workers at the Glastonbury Festival had also raised £300. A further £300 had been raised on Jeans for Genes Day and the Chairman thanked Unison and all those responsible for the work they had put in.

The Chairman's Sponsored Swim raised over £300 for his Step Up charity and this was now well on the way to the target sum of £10,000 in the year.

There were no announcements from the Leader of the Council or from the Chief Executive.

28. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

**29. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -
13th SEPTEMBER 2005**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Development Executive Committee held on 13th September 2005 were submitted by way of report. Arising therefrom:-

1. Minute No 33 – Health and Safety at Work Safety Enforcement Policy

On consideration of the recommendation in this Minute it was:
RESOLVED

THAT

the Council fully adopt the Health and Safety at Work Enforcement Policy.

**30. PLANNING POLICIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 8th
SEPTEMBER 2005**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Policies Executive Committee held on 8th September 2005 were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

31. RESOURCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 26th JULY 2005

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Executive Committee held on 26th July 2005 were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

32. RESOURCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 30th AUGUST 2005

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Executive Committee held on 30th August 2005 were submitted by way of report. Arising therefrom:-

1. Minute No 24 – Financial Prospects 2006/2007

On the consideration of the recommendation contained in this Minute it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Council set the following guidelines for the Executive Committees in framing the budget for 2006/2007:-

1. Essential growth should be minimised consistent with the need to maintain essential core services.
2. All sources of income and expenditure should be critically examined with a view to achieving savings such as to produce a balanced budget in 2006/2007 that conformed to the Council's medium term financial strategy.
3. Staff structures and staffing levels should be kept under review and opportunities taken in association with the Human Resources Committee to reduce staff costs, consistent with the need to maintain priority services.

2. Minute No 25 – Medium Term Financial Strategy

On the consideration of the recommendation contained in this Minute it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2005/2006 to 2008/2009 be adopted by the Council.

3. Minute No 28 – Wiltshire Compact

On consideration of the recommendation contained in this Minute it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Council continues to support the Wiltshire Compact and adopts the Codes of Practice contained in the Report.

4. Minute No 29 – Best Value Audit Inspection – Customer Focus

On consideration of the recommendation contained in this Minute it was

RESOLVED

THAT the recommendations made in the Audit Commission Report be added to the Council's Corporate Action and Improvement Plan.

5. Minute No 30 – Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 – Race Equality Scheme

On consideration of the recommendation contained in this Minute it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Race Equality Scheme attached to the Report be adopted by the Council.

**33. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
11th OCTOBER 2005**

The Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 11th October 2005 were submitted by way of Report. There were no matters arising.

34. REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Regulatory Committee held on 21st July, 1st August (site meeting), 11th August, 1st September and 22nd September were submitted by way of Report. There were no matters arising.

35. HUMAN RESOURCES – 15th SEPTEMBER 2005

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 15th September 2005 were submitted by way of Report. There were no matters arising.

**36. ADOPTION OF THE KENNET COMMUNITY STRATEGY
2005-2015**

The Committee gave detailed consideration to Report C/19/05 by the Policy Support Manager concerning the adoption of the Community Strategy 2005/2015.

Members were reminded that the Council had a duty to establish Local Strategic Partnerships and through those Partnerships to develop a community strategy. Whilst the legislation did not prescribe how this should be done, it suggested that it should be done at a level to best suit local need. Kennet District Council had therefore developed a strategy through the establishment of four Area Community Planning Partnerships who had each produced a local Area Plan. The key issues of those plans had been incorporated in the Kennet wide Community Strategy.

In particular members gave detailed consideration to the question of the key issues emerging from the four Community Strategies and the question of how transport might sit more readily with these identified priorities.

Members also asked a series of questions of the Policy Support Manager focusing particularly on the index of deprivation domains, General Practitioner services and transport targets. The Policy Support Manager indicated that written answers would be provided for members.

Consideration was also given to the proposals to construct up to 500 new houses by the Ministry of Defence at Tidworth, and the possibility that further land might be made available to balance this with more private sector housing.

RESOLVED

THAT the Council adopts the Kennet Community Strategy for 2005/2015.

Note

Councillor S.J. Miles requested his vote against the adoption of the plan be recorded.

37. NOTION OF MOTION – COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE No. 11

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule Number 11, Councillor C.P. Humphries, supported by Councillor K.R.F. Beard submitted the following Notice of Motion:-

“In the light of strong and persistent Environmental Health concerns expressed by the community in urban areas about the erection of Telecom masts and base stations;

THAT

1. The Council writes to the Deputy Prime Minister asking for an urgent review of Government Policy with the objective of removing the apparent presumption in favour of the erection of masts and base stations in areas of high population density, particularly in the immediate vicinity of homes, schools and healthcare facilities. Failing this, that the government affords more weight to perceived health concerns of residents as a material consideration in the planning process as suggested in PPG8 Paragraph 29:-

“29. Health considerations and public concern can in principle be material considerations in determining applications for planning permission and prior approval.

Whether such matters are material in a particular case is ultimately a matter for the Courts. It is for the decision maker (usually the Local Planning Authority) to determine what weight to attach to such considerations in any particular case”.

AND

2. Officers be instructed to prepare a policy in our Local Development documents that will resist the erection of masts and base stations near homes, hospitals and schools, and require mast operators to demonstrate that there is no alternative location to site masts and base stations outside urban areas”.

The Chairman of Council indicated that in accordance with Paragraph 11.04 of Part 4 (1) A of the Kennet District Council Constitution he intended the matter to be dealt with at the meeting rather than referred to the appropriate Committee.

Members debated the motion in some detail and broad support for the proposal was expressed. Members did however have some reservations about Paragraph 2 of the Notice of Motion which it was considered should be changed to refer to a Report being prepared for the Planning Policies Executive Committee.

RESOLVED

THAT the Notice of Motion presented by Councillors Humphries and Beard be adopted subject to Paragraph 2 of the Motion being amended to read as follows:-

“2. That the Officers prepare a Policy on this matter to be brought to members of the Planning Policies Executive Committee for consideration”.

38. NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE No 11

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule Number 11 Councillor A.H. Still supported by Councillor A. Wood submitted the following Notice of Motion:-

“That the Officers restore the position of Arts Officer, recently given up, and that the funding be provided by the Members, who shall agree to their annual remuneration being reduced by £500 per person per annum.”

The Chairman of Council indicated that in accordance with Paragraph 11.04 of Part 4 (1)A of the Kennet District Council Constitution he intended the matter to be dealt with at the meeting rather than referred to the appropriate Committee.

Members expressed general support for the sentiment that the Council should have the position of Arts Officer restored but not with the proposed method of dealing with the matter.

It was confirmed to the Council that Officers were preparing a Report on this and other staffing matters to be considered by appropriate Committees and that this would be brought before members in due course.

At this point Councillor Still withdrew his Notice of Motion and no vote was taken.

PART 2

Items considered whilst the public were excluded from the meeting

None

Chairman
20th December 2005