



## COUNTY COUNCIL

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE ON 24 FEBRUARY 2009

**PRESENT:** Brigadier Hall (Chairman), Mr ML Baker, Mrs EA Chettleburgh, Mr TP Chivers, Mr E Clark, Mr PCB Coleman, Mr M Connolly, Mr BE Dalton, Mr A Davis, Mr PR Davis, Mr AN Deane, Miss MF de Rhe Philipe, Mrs HM Dixon, Mrs SK Doubell, Mrs MJ Douglas, Dr JM English, Mr P Fuller, Mrs MEM Groom, Mrs EM Hannaford-Dobson, Mr M Hewson, Mr CP Humphries, Mr A Molland, Mr WR Moss, Mr CS Newbury, Mr JC Noeken, Mr SJ Oldrieve, Mr JB Osborn, Mrs JH Rooke, Mrs P Rugg, Mrs JA Scott, Mrs JH Seager, Mr TR Sturgis, Mrs J Swabey, Mrs MSN Taylor, Mr JP Thomson, Mr AJ Trotman, Mrs B Wayman, Mr IC West, Mr RS While, Mr CS Winchcombe

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#### 1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Soden, Mr Batchelor, Mrs White, Mr Johnson, Mr Wren, Mr Willmott, Mr Rogers and Mr Henning.

#### 2. **Members' Interests**

Mr Connolly declared a personal interest in the item recorded under minute number 7 – Budget 2009/10 in so far as it related to Wellington Academy.

Mr Dalton declared a personal interest in the minutes of the Implementation Executive dated 11 February 2009 in so far as they referred to the Housing Revenue Account as he rented a garage from Salisbury District Council.

Mr Clark declared a personal interest in the item Appointment of Independent and Town and Parish Representatives to the Standards Committee referred to at minute number 33. Mr Clark's interest was that he was a friend and neighbour of Mrs Pam Turner who was listed as being one of the people nominated to serve on the Standards Committee of which Mr Clark was also a member. Mr Clark and Mrs Turner also served on the same parish council.

#### 3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 November 2008 were presented.

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 November 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

4. **Announcements from the Chairman**

(a) **Deaths of Former County Councillors**

The Chairman reported on the recent deaths of former County Councillors, namely Mr William Snow and Mr John Archer. It was noted that the Chairman along with several other Members had attended the funeral of Mr Snow.

The Council stood for a moment of silence in recognition of the service and contribution given to the Council and Wiltshire generally by both Mr Snow and Mr Archer.

(b) **New Year Honours**

The Chairman was delighted to announce that a number of Wiltshire residents had received national recognition in the New Year Honours List. The list included Tom James who was made MBE for his services to Local Government in Wiltshire and Wiltshire's Chief Constable, Brian Moore who received the Queen's Police Medal.

(c) **BBC South West Sports Awards 2009**

The Chairman was delighted to announce that two Wiltshire residents had received recognition in this year's BBC South West Sports Awards.

Anne Dunham won two gold medals and one silver in the para-equestrian Dressage at the Paralympic Games in Beijing in September 2008. Anne was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List and became the BBC West Sports Personality of the Year. Anne had previously served on the Adult and Community Services Advisory Panel as a user representative.

Don Cannon from Marlborough had won the much coveted unsung hero accolade for his contribution to sport in his many years of both sailing and organisation at Bowmoor Sailing Club.

The Chairman had written to both offering the Council's congratulations.

(d) **Recent Bad Weather**

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of the many staff, farmers and contractors who had worked round the clock in an effort to keep traffic moving during the recent bad weather. The Council was also grateful to Devon and Hampshire County Councils for the additional salt they supplied during the national shortage.

The Chairman had been impressed with the strength of partnership working with a number of organisations including the Ambulance service and the Highways Agency.

(e) Trowbridge Town – Fairtrade Town Status

The Chairman was pleased to report that following a year of dedicated campaigning by Trowbridge Town Council, Trowbridge had achieved Fairtrade town Status. A number of events had been arranged to publicise Fairtrade in the Town, details of which were reported including a presentation of the Fairtrade Town Certificate at the Town Gathering in the Civic Hall on 7 April starting at 6.00pm.

(f) Commemorative Gift

The Chairman reminded Members that this would in fact be the last meeting of the full Council of Wiltshire County Council, prior to becoming a unitary authority on 1 April 2009. To mark the occasion, the Leader would be presenting each Member with a token gift to mark the end of their service with Wiltshire County Council. This would be especially poignant for those not standing for Wiltshire Council. The Chairman thanked those Members for the contribution they had made to Wiltshire. The presentation would be made immediately before lunch in the Members' Room.

5. Petition

No petitions were received.

6. Public Participation

No requests for public participation were been made.

7. Budget 2009/10

The Chairman explained how he intended to manage the debate on the budget. The Chairman reminded Members of the various budget papers which had been circulated. In particular, he referred to the Budget Booklet and Supplementary Pack which had first been considered by the Implementation Executive on 28 January, the report of the Implementation Executive Budget Working Group and the minutes of the Implementation Executive dated 11 February which included recommendations on the Budget estimates and 23 February which included recommendations on the formal Council Tax Resolution.

The Chairman invited the Leader to present her budget speech, a copy of which was tabled at the meeting. The Leader moved the recommendations of the Implementation Executive which was duly seconded by Mr Thomson.

Each Group Leader was invited to contribute to the debate on the Budget before opening the debate to other Members. At the Chairman's invitation, Mr Molland, Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board presented the report of his Board from its meeting held on 17 February. Mr Molland wished to record his

thanks to Members and officers for their attendance and participation at the Board meeting which he said had provided a good opportunity for Members to scrutinise the recommendations of the Implementation Executive.

A detailed discussion ensued on the various elements of the budget proposals with the Leader and her Cabinet responding to the points raised.

On being put to the vote, it was

**Resolved:**

**(A) To adopt the recommendations of the Implementation Executive dated 11 February 2009 as follows:**

**1. Projected Revenue Spending 2008/09**

- a) To note that the projected variation on the 2008-09 revenue budget for Wiltshire County Council and the four district councils combined is an underspend of £0.662 million.
- b) To note the estimated level of general balances for Wiltshire County Council and the four district councils combined are estimated to be £19.778 million at 31 March 2009.

**2. Fees and Charges**

To adopt the fees and charges increases presented within the report in setting the 2009-10 revenue budget.

**3. Salisbury Parish Precept**

- a) To approve the Salisbury Parish Council precept for 2009-10 equivalent to £80 at Band D as recommended by the Salisbury City Area (Community) Committee (SCACC).
- b) To approve the increase in fees and charges as recommended by the SCACC.

**4. Revenue Budget 2009/10**

- a) To note the current resource estimate.
- b) To approve the draft budget proposal set out in the Appendices to report V, including the revised Appendices B and E (attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to the minutes of the Implementation Executive) to reflect the following amendments:
  - i. An increase to the capital financing budget of £120,000 to reflect the amendments to the capital programme set out below.

- ii. **An increase in the provision for the Adult Social Care Housing PFI scheme of £300,000.**
  - iii. **An increase in security costs for unoccupied sites of £100,000.**
  - iv. **An increase in provision for Department for Children and Education staff restructuring costs of £115,000.**
  - v. **An increase in the Waste, Amenities and Leisure Budget of £216,000.**
  - vi. **A decrease £810,000 in services salaries budget to reflect a reduction in the pay award assumptions from 2% to 1.5%.**
  - vii. **An increase in provision for the staff welfare support of £100,000.**
  - viii. **To reflect the potential risks of reducing the pay award provision from 2% to 1.5 % add an additional £655,000 to general fund reserves.**
  - ix. **To propose the use of general reserves of £4.480 million less the £0.655 million resulting in a net use of general reserves of £3.825 million.**
  - x. **A decrease in the Public Protection Budget of £115,000 from additional staff savings off set by an increase in the Capital Financing budget of £115,000 to reflect amendments to the capital programme.**
- c) **After recognising the uncertainties regarding inflation over the next three years to adopt indicative council tax increases for planning purposes for Wiltshire Council for 2010/11 and 2011/12 of 3.5% in each year.**

#### **5. Capital Programme 2009/10 Through to 2011/12**

- a) **To approve the proposal for the Wiltshire Council Capital Programme for 2009/10 to 2011/12 as now shown in the revised Appendices B and F (attached as Appendices 3 and 4 to the minutes of the Implementation Executive) of £295.663 million amended to £304.133 million with the inclusion of an:**
  - i. **Additional LTP Maintenance in 2009/10 of £1.742 million and;**
  - ii. **Additional LTP integrated transport projects in 2009/10 of £2.773 million; and**
  - iii. **Additional provision for Corporate Disabled Facilities Grants in 2009/10 of £1.455 million;**

- iv. **Additional £1.5 million for the Salisbury Vision project on the clear understanding that this scheme will only progress with the generation of additional capital receipts in the City area.**
- v. **An increase in the provision for the maintenance of Principal and non principal roads of up to £1.0 million in 2009-10 to meet the cost of an additional 10 km of road maintenance. This will maintain the current service provision of repairing 107 km of principal and non principal roads (67km and 40km respectively) in 2009-10.**
- b) **To approve the use of additional borrowing of £32.161 million, an increase of £5.970 million over and above the £25.191 million in 2009/10 identified in the budget booklet and approve £74.609 million (£67.639 million plus £6.970 million) over three years.**
- c) **To approve a policy for discretionary capital receipts that 50% of such receipts will be used to repay debt and 50% to be reinvested into future discretionary schemes.**
- d) **To note the risk assessment and plans to manage the programme.**

#### **6. Treasury Management Strategy 2009-10)**

- a) **To adopt the Prudential Indicators (Appendix A to the report of the Implementation Executive) and note that the Appendix will be updated to reflect the final decision of the County Council on the size of the Capital Programme once that is known.**
- b) **To adopt the Annual Investment Strategy as now set out in the revised Appendix B (attached as Appendix 5 to the minutes of the Implementation Executive).**
- c) **To delegate to the Chief Financial Officer the authority to vary the amount of borrowing and other long term liabilities within both the Operational Boundary and the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicators.**
- d) **To authorise the Chief Financial Officer to agree the restructuring of existing long-term loans where savings are achievable.**
- e) **To agree that short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans and deposits.**
- f) **To agree that any long term surplus cash balances not required to cover borrowing are placed in authorised money-market funds, particularly where this is more cost effective than short term deposits and delegate to the Chief Financial Officer the authority to select such funds.**
- g) **To agree to amend the lower limits to 0% on the maturity structure of borrowing within Prudential Indicator 7.**

- h) To agree that for 2009/10 only and in relation to investments inherited by the unitary council, those investments will be allowed to reach maturity not withstanding the Treasury Management Strategy.
- i) To recommend that all five councils adopt the New Council Investment Strategy immediately.

#### **7. Housing Revenue Account Budget and Rent-Setting 2009/2010**

- a) To approve the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2009/10 as approved by Salisbury District Council (SDC).
- b) To approve the rent levels as approved by Salisbury District Council for the Salisbury District Council Housing tenants.

#### **8. Report on Robustness of Estimates 2009-2010**

- a) To note the assessment of the robustness of estimates which have been used in preparing the budget proposals presented to date.
  - b) To recognise the total level of general balances and earmarked reserves.
  - c) To note that the recommended level of general balances should be around £15 million.
- (B) To adopt the recommendations of the Implementation Executive dated 23 February 2009 as follows:
- a) To note that on 10 December 2008 the Implementation Executive had calculated the following amounts for the year 2009-10 in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the Act"):
    - i. 177,085.7 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) Regulations 2003, as its council tax base for the year.
    - ii. Part of the Council's area\_(Council Tax Base for each parish) as shown in the table at Appendix A to the report.
  - b) To note the Wiltshire Council revenue and capital budget proposals for 2009-10 had been approved by the Implementation Executive on 11 February 2009 and were subject to a separate resolution to County Council.
  - c) To calculate the following amounts for the year 2009-10 in accordance with sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:

- i. **£844,651,759 (Gross Revenue Expenditure including parish precepts) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.**
- ii. **£519,864,691 (Revenue Income) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act.**
- iii. **£324,787,068 (Net Revenue Expenditure including parish precepts) being the amount by which the aggregate at c) (i) above exceeds the aggregate at c) (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.**
- iv. **£101,315,787 (Total of Revenue Support Grant, share of National Non Domestic Rating Pool and Estimated Balance on the Collection Fund to be refunded to council tax payers) being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) (England) Directions 1994 under section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.**
- v. **£1,261.94 (Wiltshire Council Band D tax plus average parish councils Band D Tax) being the amount at c) (iii) above less the amount at c) (iv) above, all divided by the amount at a) (i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.**
- vi. **£11,882,043.51 (Aggregate of parish and town council precepts) being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 34(1) of the Act.**
- vii. **£1,194.84 (Band D tax for Wiltshire Council purposes only) being the amount at c) (v) above less the result given by dividing the amount at c) (vi) above by the amount at a) (i) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.**

**The amount at c) (vii) above was as shown in Appendix B to report number V of the Budget Pack (Revenue Budget 2009-10). Part 4 paragraph 12 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Finance) Regulations 2008 SI No. 3022 allowed single-tier councils to set lower rates of council tax for predecessor areas other than the principal area; the amounts to be charged to households are therefore:**

**£1,200.88 (Band D tax for Wiltshire Council purposes only for the principal area of Wiltshire Council as defined by paragraph 12 (1) (a) of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Finance) Regulations 2008 SI No. 3022).**

**£1,192.61 (Band D tax for Wiltshire Council purposes only for the predecessor areas other than the principal area of Wiltshire Council as defined by paragraph 12 (1) of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Finance) Regulations 2008 SI No. 3022).**

**viii. Part of the Council's area (List of each Parish's Council Band D tax):**

To note that the table at Appendix B to the report showed the amounts being the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at a) (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

**ix. Part of the Council's area (List of Wiltshire Council and Parish Council taxes in Bands A to H for each parish):**

To note that the table at Appendix C showed the amounts being the amounts given by multiplying the aggregate of the amounts at c) (vii) and c) (viii) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

**d) To note that for the year 2009-10 the Wiltshire Police Authority had stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:**

<b>Band A</b>	<b>£101.73</b>	<b>Band E</b>	<b>£186.50</b>
<b>Band B</b>	<b>£118.68</b>	<b>Band F</b>	<b>£220.41</b>
<b>Band C</b>	<b>£135.64</b>	<b>Band G</b>	<b>£254.32</b>
<b>Band D</b>	<b>£152.59</b>	<b>Band H</b>	<b>£305.18</b>

**e) To note that for the year 2009-10 the Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority had stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2003, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:**

<b>Band A</b>	<b>£40.38</b>	<b>Band E</b>	<b>£74.03</b>
<b>Band B</b>	<b>£47.11</b>	<b>Band F</b>	<b>£87.49</b>
<b>Band C</b>	<b>£53.84</b>	<b>Band G</b>	<b>£100.95</b>

<b>Band D</b>	<b>£60.57</b>	<b>Band H</b>	<b>£121.14</b>
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f) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at c) (ix), d) and e) above, the Council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby set the amounts shown in the table at Appendix D to the report as the amounts of council tax for the year 2009-10 for each of the categories of dwellings shown in the table:

**Part of the Council's Area (List of total tax figures for all bands of property for all parishes within Wiltshire – including Parish, Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Police Authority and Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority elements).**

Recorded Vote

Mr Clark requested that his vote against the above decisions be recorded.

**8. Local Area Agreement (LAA) Annual Refresh and Review 2008/09**

The Leader presented the recommendation of the Implementation Executive dated 11 February 2009 concerning approval of the latest position on the refreshed LAA targets. For Members' information, the report considered by the Implementation Executive was presented.

**Resolved:**

- (a) That the recommendation of the Implementation Executive dated 11 February 2009 be adopted in that Council approve the latest position on the refreshed Local Area Agreement targets and to delegate the Leader of the Council to finalise the refreshed Local Area Agreement.
- (b) That a written reply be given to Mr Osborne giving clarification of the sliding scale referred to in paragraph 16 (ii) of report presented.

**9. Revised Draft Corporate Plan 2009/10**

The Leader presented the recommendation of the Implementation Executive dated 11 February 2009 concerning approval of a Corporate Plan for the first year of Wiltshire Council leaving the new Council to determine its longer term priorities. The report considered by the Implementation Executive was presented for Members' information.

Members made a number of comments on the Corporate Plan. In order to ensure that a Plan was in place for the new Council, it was suggested that the Leader of the Council be given delegated authority to finalise the Corporate Plan taking on board the comments made by Members. The Performance Scrutiny Task Group would be asked to scrutinise the Plan.

**Resolved:**

**That the Leader of the Council be requested to finalise the Corporate Plan for the first year of Wiltshire Council 2009/10 taking on board comments made by Members at this meeting.**

10. **Executive Business**

The Chairman explained that he understood that items that would normally have been raised under this item had already been covered by items on the agenda for this meeting.

11. **Members' Questions**

The Chairman reported receipt of 4 questions from Mr Clark and 3 questions from Mr West.

Mr Clark submitted questions in respect of the following areas:

- The cost of holding a convention for prospective election candidates to which the Leader of the Council replied.
- Use of Member IT facilities at the hub offices to which Mr Noeken replied.
- Payment of parish precepts to which the Leader of the Council replied. It was agreed to provide a written reply to Mr Clark giving information broken down into the 4 district council areas on the response rate from parish councils.
- Method of circulation of planning application details to parish councils to which Mr Sturgis replied.

Mr West submitted questions in respect of the following areas:

- Salt stocks and gritting policy to which Miss de Rhe-Philipe replied.
- Number of accidents along the A360 Newcutt crossroads to which Miss de Rhe-Philipe replied.
- Expenditure on the former Middle School site at Wilton to which Miss de Rhe-Philipe replied. The Leader gave an assurance that officers dealing with the future of this site would be asked to work with Mr West and keep him informed.

Details of the questions and responses were tabled at the meeting with the exception of the response to the question from Mr Clark on the cost of holding a convention to which the Leader of the Council gave a verbal reply.

12. **Reports of Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council presented the minutes of Cabinet dated 16 December 2008 which were received and noted.

13. **Questions: Cabinet**

No questions were raised.

14. **Implementation Executive**

The Leader of the Council presented the minutes of the Implementation Executive dated 13 November, 26 November and 10 December 2008, 13 January, 28 January 11 February and 23 February 2009 which were received and noted.

15. **Questions: Implementation Executive**

Minute number 125 dated 13 November 2008 – Minutes. The Leader of the Council updated Council on the situation with regards the swimming pool site adjacent to the Bourne Hill offices in Salisbury. The Leader reported that Salisbury District Council had agreed a proposal which included the sale of the swimming pool site to make the Bourne Hill project affordable.

Minute number 131 dated 13 November 2008 – Membership of Area Planning Committees. Mrs Doubell asked when information would be provided to members co-opted to serve on the Area Planning Committees. The Leader of the Council referred to the report on 'Role and support for Councillors in the pre-election period' which would be considered by the Implementation Executive on 26 February 2009. She also gave an assurance that Mr Sturgis would ensure that officers made contact with the relevant Members.

Minute number 130 dated 13 November 2008 – Developing the Development Control Service. Mrs Dixon sought information on how Members would be able to 'call in' planning applications to ensure they were considered at committee level rather than delegated to officers and how this would be communicated to the public. Mr Sturgis also referred to the Implementation Executive report 'Role and support for Councillors in the pre-election period'.

Minute number 158 dated 10 December 2008 – Implementation of Corporate Branding. Mr Dalton expressed concern at the cost of corporate branding and sought an explanation for the increased costs. The Leader of the Council undertook to provide Mr Dalton with a written answer.

Minute number 192 dated 28 January 2009 – Area Planning Committees in the Pre-Election Period. In response to a question from Mr Newbury, Mr Sturgis confirmed that requests made by Members prior to 1 April 2009 for the call-in of planning applications would be honoured.

16. **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board**

Mr Molland, Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board presented the minutes of the Board dated 21 November, 19 December 2008, 23 January and 17 February 2009 which were received and noted.

17. **Questions Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board**

No questions were raised.

18. **Report of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

Mr Osborn, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee presented the minutes of the Committee dated 6 November 2008 and 15 January 2009 which were received and noted.

19. **Questions: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

No questions were raised.

20. **Reports of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Mr While, Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the minutes of the Committee dated 20 November 2008 which were received and noted.

21. **Questions: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

No questions were raised.

22. **Reports of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

Mr Coleman, Vice-Chairman of the Children's Services Committee presented the minutes of the Committee dated 13 November 2008 and 29 January 2009 which were received and noted.

23. **Questions: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

No questions were raised.

24. **Reports of Regulatory Committee**

Mr Davis, Chairman of the Regulatory Committee presented the minutes of the Committee dated 19 November, 17 December 2008 and 11 February 2009 which were received and noted.

25. **Questions: Regulatory Committee**

No questions were raised.

26. **Report of Final Accounts and Audit Committee**

Mrs Scott as Chairman of the Final Accounts and Audit Committee presented the minutes of the Committee dated 15 December 2008 which were received and noted.

27. **Questions: Final Accounts and Audit Committee**

No questions were raised.

28. **Report of Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee**

Mr Deane, Chairman of the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee presented the minutes of the Committee dated 18 November 2008 which were received and noted.

29. **Questions: Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee**

Minute number 44 – Investment Issues. Mr Coleman sought an update on the pension fund. Mr Deane, Chairman of the Committee updated Members on the state of the Wiltshire Pension Fund in light of the current financial climate.

30. **Report of the Staffing Policy Committee**

Mr Baker, Chairman of the Staffing Policy Committee presented the minutes of the Committee dated 5 November 2008 which were received and noted.

31. **Questions: Staffing Policy Committee**

No questions were raised.

32. **Report of the Standards Committee**

The Chairman of Council presented the minutes of the Standards Committee dated 10 November 2008 and 21 January 2009 which were received and noted.

33. **Appointment of Independent and Town and Parish Representatives to the Standards Committee**

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer which sought Council approval to increase the size of the Standards Committee and to make appointments to it following the recommendations of an interview panel.

**Resolved:**

(a) **To increase the total membership of the Standards Committee to 22, consisting of 6 elected members of Wiltshire Council, 8 independent members and 8 town and parish representatives who are not members of Wiltshire Council.**

(b) **To approve the appointment of the following as independent members of the Standards Committee:**

**Jane Bayley, Michael Cronin, Philip Gill, Ian McGill, Stuart Middleton and Gerry Robson.**

(c) **To approve the appointment of the following as town and parish representatives of the Standards Committee:**

<b>Bill Bailey</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Limpley Stoke PC</b>
<b>Alexander McCallum</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Hankerton PC</b>

David McLaran-Webster	-	East Knoyle PC
Paul Neale	-	Wootton Rivers PC
Robert Oglesby	-	Semington PC
John Scragg	-	Chippenham TC
Pamela Turner	-	Hilperton PC
Keith Wallace	-	Ogbourne St George

34. **Draft Constitution for Wiltshire Council**

Council considered the report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer which requested Council to consider the draft constitution with a view to adopting it as the constitution for Wiltshire Council from 1 April 2009. It was noted that the constitution was still a work in progress in some areas as there was ongoing work in developing arrangements for Area Boards and overview and scrutiny arrangements and that these areas would be presented to the new Council for approval.

The Leader explained that the remit to provide a new constitution had been to build on the County Council's existing constitution to ensure the new constitution was fit for purpose for Wiltshire Council, with its added functions and responsibilities as a unitary authority.

In considering the draft constitution, the Implementation Executive at its meeting on 28 January 2009 resolved to recommend that Council adopt the revised constitution on the basis that Wiltshire Council be asked to review the effectiveness of the constitution.

The Leader thanked the Focus Group on the Constitution for its work in helping to develop the constitution.

**Resolved:**

**That Council**

- (a) **adopts the revised constitution on the basis that Wiltshire Council will review the effectiveness of the constitution in the light of experience after six months of operation.**
- (b) **notes the ongoing work in respect of Area Boards and Overview and Scrutiny, which upon completion will be reflected in the constitution for approval by the new council.**
- (c) **agrees that the Regulatory Committee remains in place with its existing terms of reference during the pre-election period from 1 April to 4 June 2009 to deal with any matters that do not fall within the remit of the interim licensing and planning committees.**
- (d) **authorise the Monitoring Officer to make such amendments as are necessary to give effect to decisions of the Implementation**

**Executive, Council or its committees and to ensure that the constitution is clearly presented and legally fit for the purpose in the new Council.**

35. **Members' Allowances in the Pre-election Period**

Council considered the report of the Head of Democratic Services and the report of the Members' Allowances Panel with the Panel's recommendations regarding the payment of allowances to co-opted members during the pre-election period.

**Resolved:**

**That Council agree the addition of the following Co-opted Allowances to the current scheme of Members' Allowances for the pre-election period:-**

- **District Council Members of the Implementation Executive £1,400**
- **District Council Members of JOSTB £525**
- **District Council Members of the Area Planning Committees £380**  
(NB Not payable to members who also happen to ongoing county councillors)
- **Chairman of Area Planning Committees £570**
- **District Council Members of the Licensing Sub Committees £70 per meeting**
- **Parish and Town Council representatives on the Standards Committee £70 per meeting**
- **District Council Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee £70 per meeting**  
(NB Subject to the Health O&S Committee agreeing to co-opt existing district council members)

36. **Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority**

The minutes of the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority meeting held on 18 December 2008 were received and noted.

37. **Wiltshire Police Authority**

The minutes of the Wiltshire Police Authority meeting held on 4 December 2008 and the report of the Wiltshire Police Authority from Mrs Soden and presented by Mrs Groom were received and noted.

Duration of meeting: 10.30 am – 2.30pm (adjournment from 1.00pm – 1.45pm)

The officer who has produced these minutes is Yamina Rhouati, Democratic and Members' Services, direct line 01225 718024,  
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