

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 the 19th December 2006 at 2:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor J.J. Kunkler - Chairman

Councillor B Ashley	Councillor C P G Hoddinott
Councillor K Beard	Councillor C P Humphries
Councillor J Booth	Councillor D Hunter
Councillor G Brewer	Councillor A Molland
Councillor P A Brown	Councillor R T Parsons
Councillor Mrs K Callow	Councillor Mrs N G Rawlins
Councillor D D Campbell	Councillor Dr. J P M Reid
Councillor Mrs T Carr	Councillor P W Richardson
Councillor N D Carter	Councillor A Skittrall
Councillor W B Cavill	Councillor A H Still
Councillor P L Colling	Councillor C R W Stone
Councillor Mrs J K Combe	Councillor Mrs M S N Taylor
Councillor A Connolly	Councillor B J Twigger
Councillor A P J Duck	Councillor P N Veasey
Councillor P Evans	Councillor D J Willmott
Councillor Mrs S M Findlay	Councillor Mrs P M Winchcombe
Councillor L H Grundy	Councillor A S Wood
Councillor Mrs E M Hannaford-Dobson	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor N Fogg
Councillor Mrs J M Giles
Councillor Mrs A Hayhoe
Councillor J D Pearcy-Caldwell

PART 1

Items considered whilst the public were entitled to be present

71. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on the 24th of October 2006, were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

72. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs MSN Taylor, Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford-Dobson, Councillor C. P. Humphries, Councillor A. Molland and Councillor D.J. Willmott all declared a personal interest in agenda item number 8 as they

would be considering the government White Paper as members of Wiltshire County Council.

Councillor J. J. Kunkler declared a personal interest in the minutes of the Licensing Committee reported in the council agenda in that he was the licensee of a public house.

73. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

Death of Captain Kenneth Cummins

The Chairman informed the Council that Captain Kenneth Cummins had died at the age of 106 on the 10th of December and offered the condolences of the Council to Captain Cummins' widow, Councillor Mrs Rosemary Cummins.

Chairman's Christmas Party

The Chairman reported that he had hosted the Council Christmas party at the Corn Exchange on the evening of Friday the 15th of December and was joined by 150 members of staff and councillors.

The event was expected to raise in excess of £665.50 for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

The Leader of the Council made the following announcement:-

Diana Ralls

The Leader of the Council welcomed Diana Ralls to the meeting and reminded the council that she was retiring after 27 years service as the Public Relations Officer. The Leader thanked her for her service to the council and presented her with a leaving present contributed to by all members of the council.

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive.

74. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none.

75. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 14TH OF NOVEMBER 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Development Executive Committee held on the 14th of November 2006, were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

76. PLANNING POLICIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 7TH OF DECEMBER 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Policies Executive Committee held on the 7th of December 2006, were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

77. RESOURCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 28TH OF NOVEMBER 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Resources Executive Committee held on the 28th of November 2006, were submitted by way of report. Arising therefrom:-

Minute number 56 - New Park Street, Devizes

On consideration of the recommendation contained in this minute it was

RESOLVED

THAT the council approve recommendation " b".

78. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD - 5TH OF DECEMBER 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on the 5th of December 2006, were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

79. REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory Committee held on the 12th of October 2006, 2nd of November 2006 and 23rd of November 2006 were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

80. LICENSING COMMITTEE - 7TH OF NOVEMBER 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 7th of November 2006, were submitted by way of report. Arising therefrom:-

Minute number 4 - the Gambling Act 2005

On consideration of the recommendation contained in this minute it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Council:

- (1) Appoint the Licensing Committee to undertake the functions of the licensing authority in respect of the Gambling Act 2005
- (2) Adopt the draft Statement of Principles
- (3) Adopt the scheme of delegation contained in the Statement of Principles.

Minute number 5 - Bylaws for the Regulation of Hackney Carriages

On consideration of the recommendation contained in this minute it was

RESOLVED

THAT

- (1) The Council adopt bylaws as attached at Appendix A and that the common seal of the council be affixed to those bylaws, and that they be signed and dated.
- (2) The Environmental Health and Protection Services Manager be authorised to carry out the necessary procedure to make the bylaws as outlined in Appendix B and to apply to the Secretary of State at the Department of Transport for confirmation of the bylaws.

81. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 16TH OF NOVEMBER 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on the 16th of November 2006 were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

82. NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NUMBER 11

In accordance with Council procedure rule number 11, Councillor B. Twigger supported by Councillor G. Brewer submitted the following notice of motion:-

"That Kennet District Council will, through influence, example and action, assist Kennet residents to minimise their waste, by

- Calling on Government to enforce existing packaging regulations
- Calling on retailers to reduce packaging to essential requirements only
- Promoting the wider use of reusable packing.

The notice of motion was moved and seconded and in accordance with Council procedure rule number 11 stood referred without debate to the Community Development Executive Committee for consideration and report.

83. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER - STRONG AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

In introducing this item the Leader of the Council drew members attention to the report submitted by the Chief Executive and in particular to paragraphs 2 and 3 which set out the financial implications and the options available to councils respectively.

Should the council choose to pursue the question of becoming a unitary authority in some form or another it would need to bear in mind the enormous possible costs of such a move and that it would be necessary to ensure that the change represented value for money and could be met from the council's existing resources. It would also need to be supported by a broad cross-section of partners and stakeholders.

The estimated cost of any such change would be about £30 million although it was clear from previous experience that the actual cost would be in excess of this. In addition transitional costs had to be offset over a period of not more than five years and would thus impose a further tax burden on the residents of Kennet for that period for no material gain.

Various members of the council supported the Leader in his contention that to pursue unitary status would not be in the interests of Kennet District Council or its residents and that such a move would be unlikely to find favour with the district's residents.

RESOLVED

THAT

- (1) This Council believes that a unitary council would be cumbersome and bureaucratic, involving disruption and substantial capital costs and loss of local democracy which would not best serve the people of Kennet. Therefore this council will not support it.
- (2) This Council believes that existing and emerging partnership arrangements demonstrate that services can be delivered cost effectively in the existing two tier structure. It believes that continuing partnership working within the existing and evolving two tier arrangement is in the best interests of the people of Kennet.
- (3) This Council authorises its leader and chief executive to respond to the Secretary of State, the County Council and other Wiltshire district councils in accordance with these resolutions and to represent the case in any relevant forum.

(Note: Councillor Mrs MSN Taylor requested that her abstention from voting in favour of these resolutions be recorded.)

84. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The Council received the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on members allowances for the period 2007/2008.

The Director of Resources indicated that the report of the Panel was recommending that there should be no change to the allowances paid to members for 2007/2008 except in two areas.

The Panel was recommending that the special allowance paid to members of the Licensing Committee should be withdrawn and that the extra allowance paid to the Chairman of the Licensing Committee should be reduced to 15% of the basic allowance i.e. £615.

In addition the Panel had considered the question of paying an allowance to the co-opted independent and parish council members of the Standards Committee. In this instance it was recommending that the Co-optees should be paid an allowance of £500 per annum. It was also recommending that in the event that one of the Co-optees was elected as chairman of the Standards Committee, then the allowance for that individual should be increased to £600.

Some members of the Council voiced concern that no allowance had been made for an increase in line with inflation and that no proposals had been made for paying responsibility allowances to the various champions appointed by the Council.

A proposal was put before the council that the panel should be requested to look at the question of responsibility allowances being paid to the various champions and that consideration should be given to increases in line with the rate of inflation in future years.

An amendment was proposed that the reference to increases in line with a rate of inflation should be deleted from the resolution but on being put to the vote this was defeated.

RESOLVED

THAT the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel be adopted but that the Panel be requested next year to give consideration to the paying of special responsibility allowances to the councils appointed champions and that it be requested in future years to give proper consideration to the question of increasing allowances in line with inflation.

85. COUNCIL TAX BASE AT 2007/2008

The Council received report FSM/30/2006 by the Financial Services Manager.

The Council was reminded that it was required by statute to calculate its Council Tax Base every year and the formula involved.

The report set out the calculations involved.

RESOLVED

THAT:-

- (1) The report of the Finance Services Manager (NSM/30/2006) for the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2007/2008 be approved.
- (2) That pursuant to the Finance Services Manager's report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) Regulations 2003, the amount calculated by the Kennet district council as its council tax base for the year 2007/2008 shall be 30,827.3

On the question of the estimated collection fund balance it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Finance Services Manager be given delegated authority to determine the Council's estimated Collection Fund balance has at 31st of March 2007 on the 15th of January 2007.

PART 2

Items considered was the meeting was closed to the public

NONE

Chairman
27th of February 2007