

## **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 27th of February 2007 at 2:15 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor J.J. Kunkler - Chairman

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

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor Mrs T Carr  
Councillor A Connolly  
Councillor N Fogg  
Councillor P W Richardson  
Councillor A Skittrall  
Councillor D J Willmott

### **PART 1**

#### **Items considered whilst the public were entitled to be present**

#### **1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 19th of December 2006, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

The Director of Resources, Solicitor to the Council, Head of Legal Services and the Head of Democratic Services all declared an interest in the minutes of the Human Resources committee and left the meeting during their discussion.

## **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

- 1) The Chairman requested all members to return their copy of the Constitution of the Democratic Services section. This would enable the updating and checking of all copies ready for re-issue to the new Council after the 3rd of May 2007.
- 2) The Council was informed that Sue Evans would be retiring at the end of March 2007. Sue had been the face of Kennet on the council's main reception since 1985. A collection was being made to buy a retirement gift for Sue and the Chairman indicated that he would be grateful if members would make a contribution.
- 3) Also Michele Ward-Davies, secretary to the Chief Executive, would be leaving the Council on the 15th of March.

Michele had joined Kennet in 1987 and worked for the then Chief Executive. She then moved to Lincolnshire with her husband in 1997 and rejoined the council as Secretary to the new Chief Executive, in 2002. The chairman wished her well in her new appointment.

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

## **4. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

## **5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 16TH OF JANUARY 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Development Executive committee held on the 16th of January 2007, were submitted by way of report. Arising therefrom: --

### Minute Number 4 - Packaging Motion

On consideration of the recommendation contained in this minute it was

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Council approve the recommendations contained in the minute.

**6. PLANNING POLICIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 1ST OF FEBRUARY 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Policies Executive committee held on the 1st of February 2007, were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

**7. JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES - 1ST OF FEBRUARY 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Executive committees held on the 1st of February 2007 were submitted by way of report. Arising therefrom:

Minute number 3 - Budget Strategy 2007-2008

The Chairman of the committee indicated that the recommendation in this minute would be taken with Council agenda item number 9 following.

**8. RESOURCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 6TH OF FEBRUARY 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the Resources Executive committee held on the 6th of February 2007, were submitted by way of report. Arising therefrom:

Minute number 4 - Unreasonable and Persistent Complainant Policy

On consideration of the recommendation contained in this minute it was

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the council approve and adopt the unreasonable and persistent complainant policy subject to the following addition: --  
"that the policy be amended to ensure a complainant's ward member(s) is/are informed when action is initiated in accordance with the policy."

**9. REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory committee held on the 4th of January 2007 and the 25th of January 2007 were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

**10. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 8TH FEBRUARY 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources committee held on the 8th of February 2007 were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

**11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD - 13TH OF FEBRUARY 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on the 13th of February 2007, were submitted by way of report. There were no matters arising.

**12. NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NUMBER 11**

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

“That Kennet District Council

(i) notes that

- University College London research predicts that one-person household numbers are rising and are likely to reach 38% of all households by 2026.
- One-person households are the biggest consumers of land and household goods per capita consuming 38% more products, 42% more packaging, 55% more electricity and 61% more gas per capita than four-person households.
- One solution to this that has been developed elsewhere is the use of co-housing schemes, where people live together in a more communal lifestyle, sharing facilities between them.

(ii) supports measures across the Council to address this predicted change in housing demand/preference in a sustainable manner by asking officers to investigate:

- the promotion of permissive policies for co-housing in the emerging local development framework and future housing policy documents
- if co-housing can fall within the Government's definition of affordable 'intermediate' housing for the purposes of forward planning and development control.
- If so, the possibility of permitting co-housing on affordable 'exception sites' and/or as part of a developer's affordable housing contribution on windfall or allocated sites.

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.

**13. NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NUMBER 11**

In accordance with Council procedure rule number 11, Councillor J. Ody supported by Councillor A Duck submitted the following notice of motion:-

“ That Kennet District Council :

( i ) notes that :

- the Regional Spatial Strategy is likely to generate fresh demands for housing allocations in Kennet
- these allocations are likely to impact mainly on Devizes
- at the meeting of the Planning Policy Executive Committee of 7 December 2006 it was emphasised that the Devizes infrastructure capacity is considered to be overloaded and incapable of accommodating further significant growth
- one policy could be to take the initiative with Region, and make the strong case that Kennet may want to make a fresh start with a purpose designed growth centre around Tidworth/Ludgershall, to which all possible housing and employment allocations would be orientated

( ii ) supports measures to address this predicted imbalance in housing allocations within the District in a sustainable manner by asking officers to explore an option within the Core Strategy, which explicitly shifts the main thrust of future housing development towards Tidworth/Ludgershall area, and which would thereby :

- give the Council the advantage of a dramatically positive policy
- offer the chance of a deliberately planned community instead of making do with inadequate sites
- make use of relatively easily developed land forms
- compensate for our unique lack of an identified Strategically Significant Town or City ( SSCT )
- facilitate a social and financial accommodation with MOD
- offer superior access to the national trunk road network via the A303 and A34, plus the A338 Primary Route
- link into the local economies of Andover and Salisbury
- potentially exploit the military rail link, which has retained its alignment :  
and
- have the potential to give the Council a positive image in the community “

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

#### **14. COUNCIL TAX 2007-2008**

The Council gave consideration to the setting of the council tax, revenue budget and capital programme for the Kennet district for the financial year 2007/2008. In so doing, members had regard to the recommendations of the Joint Executive committees as set out in minute number 3 of the minutes of their meeting held on the 1st of February 2007.

The Leader of the Council explained the reasons behind the proposed budget and stated that in all the circumstances facing the council, he felt that there was no option other than to set a council tax with no more than a 4.9% increase compared to last year.

The full text of the Leader of the Council's speech is attached as appendix A. to these minutes.

The Leader of the Council then moved the proposed council tax resolutions as set out in the appendix to the agenda and was seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council.

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor A Wood and seconded by Councillor A Still that:-

" The increase in the council tax should be restricted to a rate of inflation of 2.9%".

A recorded vote was requisitioned having regard to Council procedure rule number 5.05 and the proposal was defeated by 33 votes against with 3 votes in favour of the proposal with no abstentions.

The result of the recorded vote was as follows:-

**RECORDED VOTES UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 5.05**  
**Date: 27/2/2007 Setting of Council Tax**

| <b>Councillors voting for the amendment</b> | <b>Councillors voting against the amendment</b> |
|---|---|
| Cavill W                                    | Beard K   |
| Still A                                     | Booth J   |
| Wood A                                      | Brewer G  |
|   | Brown P   |
|   | Callow Mrs K                                    |
|   | Campbell D                                      |
|   | Carter N  |
|   | Colling P                                       |
|   | Combe Mrs J                                     |
|   | Cummins Mrs J                                   |
|   | Duck A  |
|   | Evans P   |
|   | Findlay Mrs S                                   |
|   | Giles Mrs J                                     |
|   | Grundy L  |
|   | Hannaford-Dobson Mrs E                          |
|   | Hayhoe Mrs A                                    |
|   | Hoddinnott C                                    |
|   | Humphries C                                     |
|   | Hunter D  |

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
|  | Kunkler J         |
|  | Miles S           |
|  | Molland A         |
|  | Ody J             |
|  | Parsons R         |
|  | Pearcy-Caldwell J |
|  | Rawlins Mrs N     |
|  | Reid Dr J         |
|  | Stone C           |
|  | Taylor Mrs M      |
|  | Twigger B         |
|  | Veasey P          |
|  | Winchcombe Mrs P  |

The chairman of the council then put to the meeting the resolution set out in the appendix to the agenda and it was:-

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the proposed resolutions concerning the council tax, expenditure levels for 2007/2008 and related matters as set out in appendix B to these minutes, be confirmed and adopted and hence the recommendations contained in minute number 3 of the minutes of the Joint Executive Committees held on the 1st of February 2006 be adopted.

(Note: -- Councillors A Still and A Wood requested that their vote against the above decision be recorded)

**15. SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

In accordance with the Council's selection procedure the Council gave consideration to the selection of the Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2007/2008 for nomination for election at the annual meeting of the Council on the 15th of May 2007.

Councillor Mrs P M Winchcombe was proposed and seconded for nomination for election and there were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** Councillor Mrs P M Winchcombe be nominated for election as Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council on the 15th of May 2007.

**16. SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

in accordance with the council selection procedure the Council gave consideration to the selection of the vice-chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2007/2008 for nomination for election at the annual meeting of the Council on the 15th of May 2007.

Councillor D. J. Wilmot was proposed and seconded for nomination for election and there were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** Councillor D J Willmott be nominated for election as Vice-Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting of the Council on the 15th of May 2007.

**17. COUNCIL WIDE WORK PLAN 2007/2008**

the Council considered the report of the director of resources on the Council wide work plan for 2007/2008. The annual work plan is adopted each year in line with best practice for corporate governance. It had prove useful in ensuring that the main business of the Council for the year ahead was clearly set out to the benefit of officers and elected members alike.

The suggested work plan for the coming municipal was set out as an annex to the report.

The Council was reminded that there would always be matters arose during the year that were not contained within the work plan. The plan could therefore only include the structure of business that would definitely be executed and it was framed in the expectation that there would indeed be other matters requiring attention during the year.

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT** the Council-wide work plan for 2007/2008 be adopted.

**18. WILTS LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

The Council considered the report of the Director of Community Services on the Wiltshire Local Area Agreement (LAA). The report sought members agreement to sign up to the principles set out in the draft local area agreement produced by the Wiltshire Strategic Board and support selective outcomes than contained therein, where these aligned with the council's own corporate strategy and priorities and where sufficient resources were available.

In response to questions from members it was stressed that officers would endeavour to avoid and limit any financial, legal or resource implications arising from the LAA and that the council would not be contractually bound to undertake any work or expenditure which conflicted with the stated aims and policies of Kennet District Council.

**RESOLVED:**



**THAT**

- 1) The Council agrees to sign up to the principles set out in the Local Area Agreement and commits to help deliver certain activities.
- 2) The decision on which activities to be delegated to the Chief Executive and Directors, taking account of the Council's own corporate strategy, priorities and available resources.

**Part 2**

**items considered was the meeting was close to the public**

**None**

Chairman  
24th of April 2007