

*North
Wiltshire
District
Council*

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COUNCIL

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THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2006 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present:

Chairman.....Councillor P.R. Davis

Councillors D.B. Allen, P.G. Allnatt, A.R. Baines, H.R. Barton, T.A.P. Briggs, N.S. Bryant, A.M. Bucknell, C. R. Coleman, C. Crisp, A.L. Davis, H.M. Dixon, K.A. Dixon, S.K. Doubell, D.J.E. Evans, P.G. Green, V.H. Greenman, G.R. Greenaway, M.E.M. Groom, M.P. Hatton, I.J. Henderson, R.J. Henning, H.T. Jones, R.B. MacGregor, S.D. Meadows, D.M. Moore, T.J.A. Northey, C. O’Gorman, G. Offord, N.M. Phillips, J.M. Read, C. Reid, P.S. Roberts, J.H. Rooke, M. Rousell, S. L. Scruton, T.R. Sturgis, O.J. Thomas, J.P.S.S. Thomson, R.L. Tonge, A.J. Trotman, S.R. Walls, J. Webb and

Officers Present: D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), A. Inkpen (Principal Environmental Health Officer), P. Jeremiah (Team Leader Legal Services), W. Oulton (Policy & Democratic Services Officer), S. Parker (Partnerships Officer) and C. Pescod (Team Leader Development Control).

C34. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.R. Ireland, A.S.R. Jackson, N.T. Maidment and J.M. Wood.

C35. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 27th June 2006 were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 27th June 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

C36. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:



Name	Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
J.H. Rooke	Item 7 - Wiltshire Police Structures	Personal	Member of the Police Authority	Remained in Chamber
S.K. Doubell	Item 7 - Wiltshire Police Structures	Personal	Member of the Police Authority	Remained in Chamber

C37. Chairman's Announcements

- (A) The Chairman encouraged Members to attend the Policy Day on the 7th September 2006.
- (B) The Chairman stated that Group Leaders had agreed to hold a reception for ex-Councillor D. Darby and would be contacting Members once arrangements had been made.
- (C) The Chairman asked members to join him in sending their best wishes to Councillor N.T. Maidment and A.S.R. Jackson and ex-Councillors L. Barber and L. Manns.

C38. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

C39. Question Time

- (A) Councillor R.J. Henning – E27 – Pg 204

Can the Lead Member assure me that now Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement has been introduced that this Council, working alongside the County Council, will endeavour to introduce Resident Parking Schemes with all speed, especially in those urban areas in most need?

Councillor D. Evans as Lead Member responded that decriminalisation is being successfully implemented. He stated that Residents Parking Schemes were not a panacea. They are helpful in specific urban locations and would be considered as part of the Car Parking Strategy.

- (B) Councillor A.M. Bucknell – O36 – Pg 214

Could the appropriate Lead Member explain what the Parish & Town Council Liaison Meeting is, who is involved and how often do they meet?

Councillor S.Doubell as Lead Member stated that the Liaison meetings no longer took place and that consideration would be given to using the Area Committees to disseminate information.

- (C) Councillor R.L. Tonge – C32 – Pg 187

Could Councillor Doubell comment on the response from DEFRA to the letter sent following the last Council meeting.

Councillor S. Doubell stated that the response had not adequately addressed the Council's concerns.

Councillor R. Tonge asked as a supplementary question whether a robust response should be given by Council to the letter from DEFRA.

Councillor S. Doubell agreed that this should be done.

(D) Councillor A.M. Bucknell – C32 – Pg 187

Could Councillor Doubell comment on the recent news about EU legislation and recycling targets.

Councillor S. Doubell responded that the issue was more of concern for Wiltshire County Council as the waste disposal authority and felt sure that they would be considering implications.

(E) Councillor T.R. Sturgis – E7 – Pg 191

Could the Lead Member for Housing confirm what the correct figure for the Number of Affordable Homes Delivered was as the figure stated in the published BVPP appeared to be incorrect.

Councillor O.J. Thomas stated that she did not have the correct figure to hand and would be able to let the Councillor have it in a written answer.

(F) Councillor G. Offord – C20 – Pg 182

Does the Lead Member for Equalities & Diversity support the view that those who have undertaken the awareness training and completed the tests should be recognised?

Councillor D. Evans as Lead Member congratulated those Members who has passed the test and stated that certificates would be delivered to those Members shortly.

Councillor G. Offord asked as a supplementary question whether training will be mandatory for employees and Councillors.

Councillor D. Evans stated that a small number of Councillors had not completed the training and the Group Leaders would be asked to pursue this. He also state that equalities training would be included in induction training.

Councillor T.J.A. Northey raised as a point of order whether the training could be mandatory and whether Members could be obliged to attend it.

The Team Leader Legal Services responded that Members could not be compelled to attend the training.

C40. Wiltshire Police Structures

Council received a presentation from Mark Milton and Chief Superintendent Jerry Wickham regarding the Optimus Project. Members had an opportunity to ask questions on the item.

Resolved that the Police Officers be thanked for the presentation and the information given in response to the queries.

Admin Note: Any additional questions should be emailed to the Policy & Democratic Services which will ensure that they are relayed to the appropriate officers.

C41. Refuse Rounds Review

Council received a presentation from Nick Fenwick the Strategic Manager for Customer Services regarding the Refuse Rounds Review. Members had an opportunity to ask questions on the item.

C42. Local Government and Housing Act 1989 – Allocation of Seats

Consideration was given to Report No. 9, circulated with the agenda, advising the Council regarding the allocation of seats to political groups following the Colerne by-election.

Resolved that the allocation of seats be as follows:

	Lib/Dem	Cons	Lab	Ind	Total
Overview and Scrutiny	4	5	1	1	11
Development Control	7	7	0	1	15
Personnel, Licensing & Administration	4	4	0	0	8
Appointments	3	3	0	0	6
Appeals	3	3	0	0	6
Final Accounts & Audit	2	2	0	0	4
	23	24	1	2	50

C43. Appointment to the Council's Standing Committees

Consideration was given to Report No. 10, circulated with the agenda, enabling the Council to amend as necessary the membership of the Council's Committees.

Resolved that Councillor S. Meadowcroft be appointed to the Corsham Area (4) Committee and that Councillor S. Meadowcroft replace Councillor M.J. West on the Final Accounts & Audit Committee.

C44. Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles

Consideration was given to Report No. 11, circulated with the agenda, considering a draft Statement of Principles to be applied under the Gambling Act 2005.

Resolved that the Council approves the issue of the draft Statement of Principles attached to these minutes for consultation and that following consultation, the Statement of Principles be the subject of a report for approval by Council.

C45. Review of Area Committees

Consideration was given to Report No. 12, circulated with the agenda, that was considered by the Executive at their meeting on the 31st August 2006.

Resolved

- 1) That the Area Committees be retained;
- 2) That the short term recommendations for improvement be implemented;
- 3) That Area Committees and Community Partnerships be given the opportunity to meet in a multi-tiered meeting as referred to in paragraphs 6.3.2, 7.3.3, 7.3.4, 8.7 and 8.9 of the Report;
- 4) That Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Community Safety groups be invited to use the new Area Committee Structure as referred to in paragraph 8.13 of the Report;
- 5) That Area Committees develop multi-agenda and plenary meetings;
- 6) That Area Committees be given the option to adopt these enhanced recommendations; and
- 7) That an officer and member task group is formed to consider any legal and constitutional changes necessary to progress these proposals and report back to Council.

C46. Ombudsman Report – Enforcement Complaint

Consideration was given to Report No. 13, circulated with the agenda, that was considered by the Executive at their meeting on the 31st August 2006.

Resolved

- (1) **A payment of £500.00 be made to the complainant.**
- (2) **That Planning Officers:**
 - (i) **Continue to consult specialist Conservation / Urban Design Staff on planning applications to be funded through the Planning Services Appeals Budget.**
 - (ii) **Record officer site visits.**
 - (iii) **Record the effects of development in conservation areas on decision notices and delegated / committee reports.**
 - (iv) **Ensure that the description of any applications includes reference to the demolition of walls and similar structures.**

- (v) **Communicate decisions on enforcement cases to third parties, at the earliest opportunity.**

C47. Questions from Councillors – Council Procedure Rule 14

- (a) Councillor P.S. Roberts – Energy Saving Week

A question was received in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. The question and response were circulated at the meeting.

Councillor P.S. Roberts asked the following supplementary questions:

What organisations will be invited to the event?;

What happened to the Carbon Trust Report and what action is being taken?;

Would the Council be signing the Nottingham Declaration?; and

Wasn't it advisable for the Council to implement actions internally before promoting the issues to the public?

Councillor S.K. Doubell responded that various partners would be invited to the event including Friends of the Earth, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Warmer Homes. A working group led by Councillor Webb would be considering how best to implement the recommendations in the Carbon Trust Report for the financial year 2007/8. It was also noted that the Energy Reduction Day would be on Friday 27th October 2006.

C48. Notices of Motion – Council Procedure Rule 15

Consideration was given to Report No. 15 a), circulated with the agenda, which recommended actions in response to the following notice of motion from Councillor R.L. Tonge:

“I move that all representation on outside bodies be analysed to ensure that no such risk exists and that in future any new arrangements are analysed in the same way. I further move that any risk to the nominated Members be put in writing to the Member before appointment.”

Resolved

- (1) that all appointments to outside bodies (past and future) be analysed to assess the risk of personal liability attaching to Members and that this risk assessment be repeated on an annual basis;
- (2) that all members be advised of the risk attaching to any appointment and that general advice be given to Members as part of induction training; and
- (3) that the Council indemnifies Members appointed to outside bodies against personal liabilities arising from

such appointments only where such indemnities are insurable and where the outside body itself does not carry its own insurance.

C49. Report on Special Urgency Decisions

Consideration was given to Report No. 14, circulated with the agenda, informing the Council of Key decisions taken by the Executive in circumstances of special urgency since the last report was prepared on 15th June 2006.

Resolved that the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 9.35pm

There were 4 members of the public present.