

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING ON 30TH JANUARY 2007

Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2006 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing at 7.10pm.

Admin Note – *Due to the volume of public interest in minute C63 the Chairman agreed to delay the start of the meeting to allow sufficient time for the maximum number of members of the public to be present at the start of the meeting.*

Present:

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

Councillors D.B. Allen, P.G. Allnatt, A.R. Baines, N.S. Bryant, A.M. Bucknell, C. R. Coleman, C. Crisp, H.M. Dixon, K.A. Dixon, S.K. Doubell, D.J.E. Evans, P.J. Goldstone, P.G. Green, G.R. Greenaway, V.H. Greenman, M.E.M. Groom, M.P. Hatton, I.J. Henderson, R.J. Henning, J.R. Ireland, A.S.R. Jackson, H.T. Jones, R.B. MacGregor, N.T. Maidment, S.B. Meadowcroft, 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, J.A. Scott, T.R. Sturgis, O.J. Thomas, J.P.S.S. Thomson, A.J. Trotman, S.R. Walls, C. Wannell, J. Webb, and J.M. Wood.

Officers Present:

D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), A. Davies (Strategic Manger - Planning Services) M. Doran (Environmental Health Team Leader), W. Gubbins (Corporate Administration and Member Support Team Leader), P. Jeremiah (Legal Team Leader), P. Lancaster (Press and Media Officer), L. May (Policy and Democratic Services Assistant), S. Pangbourne (Strategic Manager - Corporate Services), L. Robertson (Spatial Planning Team Leader) J. Whittleton (Policy and Democratic Services Assistant), and G. Wilson (Customer and Business Support Team Leader)

C59. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H.R. Barton, T.A.P. Briggs, S.L. Scruton and R.L. Tonge.

C60. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th October 2006 were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th October 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.



C61. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

Name	Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
Councillor P.G. Allnatt	7 - Adoption of the Secretary of States' Cosmetic Piercing and Skin Colouring Byelaws	Prejudicial	N/A	Left the Chamber during consideration of this item
Councillor P.G. Allnatt	9 - Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Principles	Personal	N/A	Did not take part in the consideration of this item
Councillor P.R. Davis	14 - Notices of Motion	Personal	County Councillor	Remained in Chamber during consideration of this item
Councillor H.M. Dixon	14 - Notices of Motion	Personal	County Councillor	Remained in Chamber during consideration of this item
Councillor S.K. Doubell	14 - Notices of Motion	Personal	County Councillor	Remained in Chamber during consideration of this item
Councillor J.H. Rooke	14 - Notices of Motion	Personal	County Councillor	Remained in Chamber during consideration of this item
Councillor T.R. Sturgis	14 - Notices of Motion	Personal	County Councillor	Remained in Chamber during consideration of this item

C62. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. Royal Visit to the Citizen's Advice Bureau

HRH Princess Anne visited the Citizen's Advice Bureau in Chippenham on 18th October 2006. The Chairman had the pleasure of meeting her.

2. Civic Carol Service

The Civic Carol Service would be held on Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm at St Cyriac's Church, Lacock with drinks afterwards at the Fox Talbot Museum. Anyone wishing to attend should notify Jo Smith on 01249 706608.

3. Member Policy Day

A Member Policy Day event has been scheduled for Thursday 11th January 2007 (from 12.30pm to 6.00pm at Monkton Park) to progress work on developing the new Corporate Plan for the Council. The event will focus on identifying both priority and non-priority services which will then be reflected in the Corporate Plan and will inform the budget decisions for 2007/08 and beyond. Members will be sent an invitation later this week.

4. North Wiltshire Leisure Limited Position Statement

The Executive at its meeting on 23rd November 2006 reluctantly agreed, after taking independent leisure advice, to North Wiltshire Leisure Limited's recommendation to vary their contract to enable them to close the centres at Calne, Wootton Bassett and Cricklade. This was necessary to enable North Wiltshire Leisure Limited to continue to trade beyond March 2007.

As Chairman of the Council I would like to thank all of you who are here tonight, in addition to those who have written in to the Council and attended public meetings expressing their concern.

The three centres will remain open until the end of March 2007 to enable North Wiltshire Leisure Limited to undertake consultation with staff. During this period the Council will also consider any viable rescue plans, which are currently being explored within your communities.

Councillors have received many questions relating to the decision, asking that details be released showing the exact financial situation for each centre.

In response to this request the Council will be publishing in its website the following information:-

- North Wiltshire Leisure Limited's report, which sets out the findings of an investigation undertaken on their behalf, which was submitted to the Council with North Wiltshire Leisure Limited's request to vary the contract.
- The Audited accounts for North Wiltshire Leisure Limited up to March 2006.
- The report from Strategic Leisure, the Council's independent consultant, setting out their recommendations to the Council regarding leisure provision across North Wiltshire.
- The financial breakdown for each of the centres closing, showing the cost of running the centres, and income received.
- The confidential report considered by the Executive on 23rd November 2006.

This information will be available from Friday evening.

5. Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Area Committee - 6th December 2006

Please note that the venue for the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Area 2 Committee (for tomorrow evening, Wednesday 6th December) has been moved from the Bowls Pavilion in Purton to the Purton Village Hall.

Notices will be placed at the Bowls Pavilion. All the parishes will be contacted on 6th December 2006 and the Chairman has agreed that the meeting will start at 7.10pm to allow time for people to make their way from one venue to the other.

6. Public Question Time

Due to the large amount of members of the public who wished to ask a public question, the Chairman proposed, with the consent of the Members, to extend the Public Question Time to hear 3 questions each from the Wootton Bassett, Calne and Cricklade areas.

C63. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

A Petition was received containing 5202 signatures supporting the following statement:

‘As you may now be aware, the Lime Kiln Leisure Centre is closing. Please join us in signing this Petition to try and stop the closure of this much needed facility.’

A large number of formal complaints relating to the closure of the Leisure Centres were also handed in at the meeting.

A Public Question was received from Ms J. Moran:

She asked given the fact that the Government places great importance on participation in physical activities, especially amongst young people as a means of reducing anti-social behaviour and the billions due to be spent on the Olympics, how does the Council propose to fulfil its role of providing leisure facilities following the decision to close the Cricklade Leisure Centre?

Councillor D.M. Moore responded by stating that leisure facilities are provided in a number of ways, not just through North Wiltshire Leisure Limited. She added that she did not wish to see the closure of the three centres but that it had been necessitated by the financial position of North Wiltshire Leisure Limited.

A Public Question was received from Miss P. Whinfrey:

I walk or go on my scooter to the Cricklade Leisure Centre 5 or 6 days a week. Please could the Councillors tell me how I will get to my swimming, tennis and other lessons when the Leisure Centre closes? Other leisure centres are too far away and my Mum can't drive me.

Councillor D.M. Moore responded by stating that she hoped Miss Whinfrey would encourage her Mum to work with the Council, with the community and with the County Council to keep the leisure centres open.

A Public Question was received from Mr N. Carter:

He stated that last year North Wiltshire District Council contributed £800,000 to North Wiltshire Leisure Limited. He asked for an assurance that North Wiltshire Leisure Limited won't receive a similar sum next year for running just 3 Leisure Centres.

Councillor D.M. Moore responded by stating that any questions on the future financing of facilities would depend on the Business Plan to be submitted by North Wiltshire Leisure Limited.

A Public Question was received from Mr M. Thomas:

What other options did the Executive consider apart from closure of the Leisure Centres?

Councillor D.M. Moore responded by stating that a Leisure Provision Working Group was set up to look into ways of keeping the leisure centres open. She emphasised that the decision from the Executive allowed North Wiltshire Leisure Limited to vary the level of provision they supply and that the decision will not be final until the Executive consider any recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee who would be meeting on 11th December 2006.

Mr M. Thomas asked a supplementary question:

Why weren't the community involved earlier; the Council must have known of the situation years ago?

Councillor D.M. Moore responded by stating that the detailed financial information from North Wiltshire Leisure Limited was received late and it was not reasonable to consult in the time available. It was the Working Groups' intention to consult with the community, but the late receipt of the information prevented it.

A Public Question was received from Ms H. Scott:

Given that North Wiltshire District Council saw fit to replace the management of North Wiltshire Leisure Limited because things were going badly, and given that they commissioned two reports that told them they could not carry on running these centres as part of North Wiltshire District Council, why were they not actively seeking other solutions such as private investors and partnerships?

Councillor D.M. Moore responded by stating that the Council have no control over North Wiltshire Leisure Limited and that North Wiltshire Leisure Limited chose to replace their management. The Board of North Wiltshire Leisure Limited chose to commission a report into the viability of the centres, the Council then carried out its own report which reached broadly the same conclusions. The financial information from North Wiltshire Leisure Limited was received late and prevented work being undertaken to look at alternatives.

A Public Question was received from Mr R. Ward:

What structure was put in place to ensure the effective financial stewardship of the 6 local Leisure Centres once North Wiltshire Leisure Limited was put in charge of their operation? In particular: What financial targets and service level agreements were agreed? How was performance against these targets monitored? As the "asset"

owner, why was there no formal/proactive management of the contract by North Wiltshire District Council, on behalf of the residents they serve, to address the poor financial performance of North Wiltshire Leisure Limited?"

Councillor D.M. Moore referred Mr Ward to the Frequently Asked Questions sheet, published on the Council's website, and stated that questions could be asked by emailing leisure@northwilts.gov.uk or by contacting herself or the Leader of the Council.

A Public Question was received from Councillor C. Viner of Calne Town Council:

He stated that Calne Town Council was fully committed to working with the local community to ensure leisure provision in Calne. He added that before this evening's meeting, only Councillor C. O'Gorman seemed prepared to help the local community in Calne to save the centre and that he sought assurances from all the District Councillors to help.

Councillor Viner went on to express his disappointment that Councillor P.G. Allnatt's Motion under procedural rule 15 had been published with the Agenda. He expressed his amazement that a clause was not present in the Council's Standing Orders to prevent such a motion and that Calne Town Council has such a clause. He stated that any disciplinary action is for the Conservative Party to take.

Councillor C. O'Gorman responded by stating that the whole of the District Council has been trying to find a way forward.

The Chairman added that not only Councillors, but Officers such as the Chief Executive and the Strategic Manager – Community & Environment had been working hard to find a solution to this difficult set of circumstances.

A Public Question was received from Councillor Wilce of Cricklade Town Council:

He asked why has the District Council not looked at securing a new service provider? Why has the Council taken what are seemingly panic measures? The contract was signed six years ago, could the problems not have been foreseen?

Councillor D.M. Moore responded by stating that the District Council established the Working Group when it was apparent problems existed. She added that an alternative provider was difficult as the Council has a contract with North Wiltshire Leisure Limited. She stated that the Council acted to ensure the company did not go into liquidation, as all the leisure centres may have closed.

A Public Question was received from Mr G. Walker:

Will the Overview & Scrutiny Committee next Monday, be open to the public? He added that the Council had been aware of problems for 18 months, yet expected communities to mount rescue efforts in just four months. What assurances can the Council give to support communities?

Councillor D.M. Moore responded by stating that if a viable solution is prepared the Council would do its utmost to support local communities.

Councillor T.R. Sturgis added that as Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, he had requested that papers be prepared so as to be able to hold the meeting in public. However, should Members wish to discuss the financial affairs of

North Wiltshire Leisure Limited, the press and public would have to be excluded. It was the intention though for the meeting to be open to the public.

A Public Question was received from Councillor B. Atfield of Cricklade Town Council:

Why had the decision been taken to close 3 Centres in the same area? Was there more than one proposal put before the Executive last Thursday? Will the money in the budget for leisure now be spread equitably across the District? Item 12 on tonight's Agenda states that no key decisions were taken; is the Executive decision on leisure a key decision?

Councillor D.M. Moore responded by stating that no figure for leisure centres had been finalised yet, but that the three centres were the least supported and costing the most to maintain.

A Public Question was received on behalf of Mrs W. Thomas: How does the Council's decision fit in with its commitment to equality and diversity? How will schools in Wootton Bassett hold assemblies as they currently use the Lime Kiln centre for assemblies.

Councillor D.M. Moore responded by stating that the issue of school assemblies was a County Council matter.

Councillor A.M. Bucknell asked what would happen to the Petition and forms of complaint that were handed in at the meeting.

P. Jeremiah (Legal Team Leader) responded by stating that the Petition would be filed with the Minutes of the meeting and that the complaints received would be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Complaints Procedure.

C64. Question Time

The following question was tabled by Councillor P.S. Roberts:

Minute C55 (c) page 425 Council Minutes

Would the Leader agree to an Admin Note being inserted to show that the answer to my question was incorrect?

The Leader, Councillor C. O'Gorman agreed.

The following questions were tabled by Councillor P.G. Allnatt:

Minute 072 page 483 Overview & Scrutiny Work Plan.

Now that the work plan has been altered to allow for a special meeting (Monday next week) to hear the called in item regarding the closure of three leisure centres agreed between North Wilts Leisure Limited and the Executive of this Council;

Can the Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny please answer the following points:

1. As a nominal share-holder in North Wilts Leisure Limited will he be able, with integrity, to chair the special meeting or even participate in the meeting?

2. Will Councillor Dick Tonge or Councillor Christine Reid, who among others, recommended that the Executive agree to the closures, be able to attend and vote at the meeting?
3. Will County Councillors such as John Thomson, Tony Trotman and Judy Rooke be able to attend and vote at the meeting, bearing in mind that two of the closing Leisure Centre sites are owned by the County Council and that provision of swimming and other facilities for school curriculum is part of a legal agreement between Wiltshire County Council and North Wiltshire District Council?
4. How many other Councillors are nominal share holders in NWLL?
5. What does he hope to achieve by the call in to Overview and Scrutiny?

Councillor T.R. Sturgis responded by stating the answer to question one is yes, the answer to question 2 is yes, on question three legal advice has been taken and County Councillors will be able to attend and vote, provided there is no discussion of covenants. He suggested that Councillor Allnatt contact the Secretary of North Wiltshire Leisure Limited for the answer to question 4. In response to question 5, he stated that the objective was to allow people to voice their opinions as they were not at the Executive meeting.

Councillor P.G. Allnatt asked a supplementary question.

Does Councillor Sturgis believe that the shareholders of North Wiltshire Leisure Limited have the right to convene a meeting of the Board and replace the management and would it be a good idea to do so?

Councillor T.R. Sturgis responded by stating that he was unaware of the rules and constitution of North Wiltshire Leisure Limited.

Councillor J.H. Rooke stated that she would not be attending as she had taken legal advice and believed that she would have a prejudicial interest.

Councillor J.P.S.S. Thomson stated that he would be unable to attend the meeting.

Councillor A.J. Trotman stated that he would be attending the meeting.

Minute CR25 (D) page 508 Question from Councillor C Wilce.

What answer did he receive from the Lead Member?

Councillor M. P. Hatton responded that he had not received a response yet. He understood that an Officer was going to put the question to the Lead Member, but that this had not happened yet.

Minute CR29 Area 2 page 509 Community Funding.

Does the Chairman agree that one possibility for future Area grant funding over say, the next three years, would be to dedicate it to the Leisure Centres and why are they worth saving anyway?

Councillor M.P. Hatton stated that the Area Committees provided match funding of £48,000 per year to local organisations. He stated that in his view leisure centres should be funded from the centre.

Minute CA31 Area 5 page 528 Community Funding.

Does the Chairman agree that one possibility for future Area grant funding over say, the next three years, would be to dedicate it to the Leisure Centres and why are they worth saving anyway?

Councillor N.S. Bryant stated that the centres were definitely worth saving and that she agreed with Councillor Hatton on the issue of funding, adding that it was important not to deprive small groups.

Councillor P.G. Allnatt asked the following supplementary question:

Given that the leisure centre provided a venue for lots of small groups, would it be a good idea to divert funding for one or two years in order to save them?

Councillor N.S. Bryant responded by stating that in Calne a group had already formed to help keep the leisure centre open and that it would look at every opportunity to keep it open. She went on to say that the community will have to pull together in order to achieve goals and that it would be up to Members of the Calne Area (5) Committee what they spent their money on.

Minute CA32 page 528 Community Planning Update

Does the Chairman agree that with their inevitable emphasis upon inclusiveness, equalities, hard to reach groups, youth and community groups, voluntary groups, school children, the elderly and infirm, prenatal and anti natal therapy and healthy living generally, to say nothing of sport and modest refreshment, that small focused leisure centres sit squarely with much of the purpose for community planning?

Does he also agree with me, however reluctantly, that perhaps now is the right time to reduce the number of committees, liaison groups, working and task groups perhaps even the number of councils and councillors so that we may devote more resources to preserving and enhancing our precious public services rather than just talking about them and reading about them in splendid free newspapers?

Councillor N.S. Bryant expressed her support for the work of the Calne Community Area Partnership. She hoped that the Partnership would address the issue of the leisure centre. She stated that comments relating to other parts of Councillor Allnatt's Question could be aired later in the meeting in relation to the Local Government White Paper.

C65. Adoption of Cosmetic Piercing and Skin Colouring Model Byelaws

Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Personnel, Licensing and Administration Committee made on 6th November 2006 following their consideration of the adoption of Cosmetic Piercing and Skin Colouring Model Byelaws.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The tattooing and body-piercing of minors;
- That the Byelaws are a means of controlling hygiene; and
- The facility operating in Redland on land owned by the District Council.

Resolved that the model byelaws relating to cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin colouring **as set out in Appendix 1** to these Minutes be made.

Admin Note – *It was requested that the response to Councillor Bucknells' Letter to James Gray MP be circulated to the Council.*

C66. Calculation of Council Tax Base 2007/08

Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Executive made on 16th November 2006 following their consideration of the Council Tax Base 2007/08.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The absence of Appendix 2 in the Report;
- Implications for MOD personnel;
- The current rate of collection; and
- The implications for Town and Parish Councils when figures alter.

Resolved that subject to the Section 151 Officer being satisfied of the accuracy of the information in the Report:

- (1) In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by North Wiltshire District Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2007/08 shall be as set out in Column 12 of Appendix 1 to the Agenda;
- (2) The amounts calculated as the Council Tax Bases of the various parish areas for 2007/08 shall be as set out in Appendix 1 to the Agenda; and
- (3) For the purposes of Section 35 (1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, with the exception of special items (Parish Council Precepts), all expenses falling on the Council's

General Fund be declared general expenses chargeable on the District as a whole.

C67. Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles

Consideration was given to Report No. 9 (circulated with the Agenda) which asked Council to adopt a Statement of Principles to be applied under the Gambling Act 2005.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- That the date stated in the Risk Analysis should read 2006 not 2007; and
- Consultation undertaken since September.

Resolved that Council adopts the Statement of Principles as set out in **Appendix 2 to these Minutes**.

C68. A Local Development Scheme for North Wiltshire – Second Revision 2007-10

Consideration was given to Report No. 10 (circulated with the Agenda with some papers circulated later) which sought the approval of a Second Revised Local Development Scheme 2007 – 2010 for submission to the Secretary of State.

Issues discussed included:

- Funding in place to carry forward the work; and
- The hard work carried out by Officers to produce spatial planning documents.

Resolved that

- 1) The Council approve the Second Revised Local Development Scheme 2007 – 2010 as attached in Appendix 3 to these Minutes (The replacement version circulated on 4th December 2006) for submission to the Secretary of State, contingent upon funding.
- 2) Authority be delegated to the Team Leader – Spatial Plans to correct any minor errors within the document.

C69. Scheme of Delegation to Officers

Consideration was given to Report No. 11 (circulated with the Agenda) seeking Council's approval to amend the Scheme of Delegation to Officers within the Council's Constitution.

Issues discussed included:

- The merits and demerits of delegating authority to Officers.

Resolved that the Council approves the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.

C70. Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

Consideration was given to Report No. 12 (circulated with the Agenda) informing Council of Key Decisions taken by the Executive in circumstances of special urgency since the last quarterly report was prepared on 17th November 2006.

Resolved that the report be noted.

C71. Questions from Councillors – Council Procedure Rules 14

Pledge 22 of the 25 pledges announced by the Leader just a month or so ago states that the Council is working to promote healthy lifestyles for all ages through a range of facilities. As people's lifestyles have changed so have their aspirations for leisure time. Work is taking place to encourage more participation involving sport and physical activities, especially involving the disadvantaged.

Can the Leader explain to the people of Wootton Bassett, Cricklade and Calne, so short a time after announcing these pledges, how the decision to allow the closure of the three centres there will contribute to this pledge?

Councillor C. O'Gorman responded by stating that: the Council invests approximately £1million each year in leisure provision and as well as the leisure centres also supports projects such as cycle-ways, canals and arts centres. She stated that the Council's aim was to maximise choice of leisure facilities. She added that she believed there was a group looking into providing an arts centre for Wootton Bassett and that the Leisure Provision Working Group may be able to produce opportunities for better facilities in the District.

C72. Notices of Motion – Council Procedure Rule 15

Consideration was given to Report No. 14, (circulated with the Agenda), that included the following Notices of Motion from Councillor P.G. Allnatt:

1. Racist Email
 - a. Council congratulates the Conservative Party for suspending Councillor Mrs Ellenor Bland from its list of approved candidates pending an investigation.
 - b. Council believes that such actions by councillors undermine the credibility of all councils and their efforts to implement equalities policies.
 - c. Council notes Mrs Bland's reported defence is that the email was not racist but that her husband David, also a councillor, sent it anyway.
 - d. Council notes the reported opinion of Dominic Grieve MP, Shadow Solicitor General: "Members of the *Conservative* party shouldn't be sending racist emails

of any kind. *It was suggested that it's lightheated, but it seems to me it has an underlying unpleasantness. I consider it offensive.*"

- e. Council urges the Conservative Party to move swiftly to hold an inquiry in public and if it agrees with Dominic Grieve and finds that David Bland did send the email then both he and Mrs Bland should be expelled from the Conservative Party.
- f. Council also urges Calne Town Council to take whatever legal steps open to it to censor councillors E and D Bland including reference to the Standards Board process.

The Notice of Motion was moved and seconded. However Councillor A.J. Trotman moved a procedural motion to proceed to next business. The procedural motion was seconded and on the Chairman deciding that the substantive motion had been sufficiently discussed, the procedural motion was put to the vote and carried. **Resolved** to proceed to the next business.

2 Local Government White Paper

- a. Council welcomes the recent Local Government White Paper, particularly those parts which promise real local autonomy, the virtual abolition of nationally imposed targets, greater financial freedom, genuine local responsibility for bylaws and that more "unitary authorities" will assume greater powers.
- b. Council regrets the continued emphasis on executive Mayors, especially the proposal to deny local people the right to a referendum on having a mayoral system.

The Notice of Motion was moved and seconded. Councillor P.G. Allnatt accepted a number of amendments to the motion and on the motion being put to vote it was **Resolved** that

- 1) Council welcomes the recent Local Government White Paper, particularly those parts which promise real local autonomy, the virtual abolition of nationally imposed targets, greater financial freedom, genuine local responsibility for bylaws and that more 'unitary authorities' will assume greater powers.
- 2) Council regrets the continued emphasis on Executive Mayors, especially the proposal to deny local people the right to a referendum on having a mayoral system.
- 3) This Council supports a unitary authority across the county of Wiltshire if the work being carried out at present and audited by Price Waterhouse delivers a business case with supporting financial breakdown, a full description of the proposed new local government structure, which is

affordable and will deliver more resources for service provision and will build better community cohesion and a one Council service with a stronger local member leadership role and closer links and support for parish and town councils to develop and represent their communities.

- 4) The County paper on a unitary authority is debated at an extraordinary District Council meeting to be arranged for January 2007.
- 5) The above motion be communicated to Ruth Kelly MP, to Michael Ancram MP and James Gray MP.

3. VAT and Healthy Living

- a. Council notes the current difficulty vis a vis VAT exemption and preparation for the London Olympics.
- b. While noting that for the Olympics the outcome will be cost neutral for the British tax payer Council urges the government to change the law in order that Council run sports centres, particularly those heavily subsidising school aged children, should be VAT exempt in all respects.

Councillor P.G. Allnatt withdrew this motion at the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.55pm.

There were 90 members of the public present.