

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on TUESDAY, 11th JULY, 2000.

**PRESENT:** Lt. Col. D.B.W. Jarvis (Chairman), Mr. P.G. Allnatt, Mr. B.E. Atfield, Mr. R.J. Baddeley, Mrs. L.C.S. Bennett, Mrs. N.S. Bryant, Mr. R.G. Catton, Mr. P.F. Chalke, Mr. T.P. Chivers, Mr. P.C.B. Coleman, Mr. M. Connolly, Mrs. C. Crisp, Mr. P.R. Davis, Miss M.F. de Rhé-Philipe, Mr. G.J.M. Downes, Mrs. M.E. Groom, Mrs. G. Hill, Mr. C.P. Humphries, Mr. J.N.B. Irving, Mr. T.R. James, Mrs. B.M. Jay, Mr. J.P. Johnson, Mrs. V.C.S. Landell Mills, Mrs. D.J. Main, Mrs. L.P. Morris, Mr. C. Newbury, Mr. A.G. Peach, Mr. R.T. Rogers, Mrs. P. Rugg, Mrs. M.E. Salisbury, Mr. P.W.L. Sample, Mrs. J.B.P. Savage, Mrs. Jane Scott, Mrs. J.H. Seager, Mrs. C.A. Soden, Mr. W.A. Spiers, Mr. T.R. Sturgis, Mr. J.E. Syme, Mrs. M.S.N. Taylor, Mrs. I. Throp, Mr. I.C. West, Mr. N.S.E. Westbrook, Mr. D.J. Willmott, Mr. K.C. Wren.

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54. **Apologies** Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Mrs. M. Boulton and Mrs. J.M. Wood.

55. **Minutes of Last Meeting** On motion by Col. Jarvis, seconded by Mr. Johnson,

*Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2000.*

56. **Communications by the Chairman**

(1) **Mrs. Jenny Scott** The Chairman informed Council that Mrs. Jenny Scott tendered her resignation in a letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2000, and, accordingly, arrangements had been made for a by-election for the Bedwyn and Pewsey County Council Electoral Division to be held on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Members joined him in wishing her well for the future and recalled the tributes made to her during her last Council meeting in May.

(2) **Local Government Association Appointments** The Chairman congratulated Mr. Chalke on being elected Vice-Chairman of the LGA's Education Committee and Mr. Newbury on being elected Deputy Chairman of the European International Executive of the LGA.

(3) **Two New Assistant Directors of Social Services** Annie Hudson and Jeanette Longhurst were welcomed to the Council as the two new Assistant Directors

of Social Services, having arrived from Bristol City Council and Blackpool Council, respectively.

**57. Questions from the Public**

- (1) Local Transport Plan A question had been asked in writing by Mr. J. Jackson of Devizes, to which the Chairman said that a written reply would be given.
- (2) Council Tax A question was asked by Mr. S. McBrine of Semington, to which the chairman said that a written reply would be given.

**58. Finding of Maladministration by the Local Government Ombudsman** Council considered a report which had also been submitted to the Education Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2000. On motion by Mr. P.F. Chalke, seconded by Mrs. J.H. Seager,

*Resolved: To endorse the actions taken by the Chief Education Officer in relation to this finding.*

**59. Report of Policy & Resources Committee** (9<sup>th</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2000) Received.

**60. Proposed New Scheme of Members' Allowances** To change the Scheme of Members' Allowances required the approval of County Council. This matter was considered by Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2000.

On motion by Mr. P.F. Chalke, seconded by Mrs. J.H. Seager,

*Resolved:*

- (1) *To revoke the current scheme of Members' Allowances with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2001.*
- (2) *To approve the basic scheme of Members' Allowances as recommended by the Independent Panel for implementation on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2001.*
- (3) *To agree to continue the existing scheme for travel and subsistence allowances.*
- (4) *To agree to continue the existing scheme of carer's allowance.*
- (5) *To identify the following as major Sub-Committees:-*
  - *Corporate Services Sub-Committee*
  - *Environmental Services Sub-Committee*
  - *Community Services Sub-Committee*
  - *Scrutiny Sub-Committees*

(6) *To identify the following as minor Sub-Committees:-*

- *Awards Sub-Committee*
- *Registration & Inspection Sub-Committee*
- *Investment Sub-Committee*

(7) *To ask officers to consider and report on the payment of allowances to the Chairman of the Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority, bearing in mind that on occasions the post may be filled by a member of the Swindon Borough Council.*

(8) *To thank the Members of the Independent Panel for their work and efforts in preparing their report.*

61. **Questions : Policy & Resources Committee** The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee responded to a question from Mr. J.N.B. Irving, asked under Standing Order 15.1, concerning police checks on members (Min. No. 84).

62. **Report of Education Committee** (9<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2000) Received.

63. **The South West Grid for Learning** This matter required the approval of Council as it related to the discharge of its functions by another Authority. The Education Committee considered a report at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2000.

On motion by Mrs. C.A. Soden, seconded by Mrs. J. Scott,

*Resolved: Under the provisions of S101 of the Local Government Act, 1972, Wiltshire County Council ("the Council") hereby arranges until further resolution and if necessary with retrospective effect, for the discharge of the following of its functions by Somerset County Council, namely,*

- (1) *To negotiate and conclude a funding agreement with the DfEE in relation to a National Grid for Learning Regional Broadband Consortium covering (or which may cover) the Council's area ("the Project").*
- (2) *To provide appropriate quality assurance, accounting and administrative support and advice in order to further development of the project.*

64. **Questions : Education Committee** The Chairman of the Education Committee responded to questions from members asked under Standing Order 15.1 concerning the following:-

<u>Member</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Mr. P.C.B. Coleman	40-42	Education Development	Potential abolition of LEAs
Mrs. L.C.S. Bennett	60	PFI Project	LEA involvement
Mr. P.G. Allnatt	39(6)	Beacon Schools	Kings Lodge accommodation

65. **Report of the Social Services Committee** (9<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2000) Received.

66. **Questions : Social Services Committee** The Chairman of the Social Services Committee responded to questions from members asked under Standing Order 15.1 concerning the following:-

<u>Member</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Mrs. C. Crisp	37	Charter for Long Term Care	Consultation with users and carers
Mrs. B.M. Jay	43	Community Health Councils	Report back from representatives.

67. **Report of the Environment & Transport Committee** (10<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2000) Received.

68. **Notice of Motion by Mrs. M.E.M. Groom : Park and Ride at Junction 16 of the M4** Mrs. Groom submitted the following motion which she intended to move at this Council meeting:

*"In view of:*

- (1) the statutory consultation taking place on the Local Transport Plan;*
- (2) the enormous amount of ratepayers' money which would be used in an Appeal by one Planning Authority against another;*
- (3) the recent election results in Swindon;*

*May I propose that Wiltshire County Council, as strategic planning authority, should take the lead in brokering discussions with Swindon Borough Council and North Wilts. District Council to find a better way forward, e.g.*

*The re-opening of local rail stations, improving bus services, and identifying alternative Park and Ride sites where there are opportunities for integrated transport.*

*I strongly believe that public money should be used positively."*

Under the accelerated procedure (Standing Order 13.5 of Par 1, this motion was considered by the Environment & Transport Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2000. Mrs. Groom supported the recommendation of the committee.

On motion by Mr. J.P. Johnson, seconded by Miss M.F. de Rhé Philipe.

Resolved:

- (1) *To approve that the County Council should act as a strategic planning authority and investigate the alternative site of Blagrove as a strong contender and, alternatively, Lydiard Fields for a park and ride site.*
- (2) *To request Swindon Borough Council to put its appeal to the Local Public Inquiry in abeyance whilst further discussions take place.*
- (3) *To agree that the County Council should use its best endeavours to accelerate the re-opening of Wootton Bassett and Purton Railway Stations.*
- (4) *To undertake the postal survey described in the report in July so as to enhance the information available at the forthcoming public inquiry.*

69. **Notice of Motion by Mr. R.G. Catton : Closure of Public Conveniences on Highway Agency Trunk Roads** In accordance with the notice of motion by him, Mr. R.G. Catton moved and Mrs. N.S. Bryant seconded the following:-

*“This Council strongly objects to the Highway Agency’s new policy to close public toilets on the roads they control.*

*The Little Chef toilets are for customers only, and they ban lorries. Do we want lorry drivers to bring their vehicles into the town centre to use public toilets?*

*The Highway Agency put up notices saying “Tiredness Kills – Take a Break”, so the obvious policy is for more parking, picnic areas and toilets; not to have a cost cutting policy to remove these public conveniences.*

Under the accelerated procedure (Standing Order 13.5 Part 1), this motion was considered by the Environment & Transport Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2000.

On motion by Mr. J.P. Johnson, seconded by Miss. M.F. de Rhé Philipe,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note with regret the closure of toilet facilities at Willoughby Hedge and the lack of prior consultation.*
- (2) *To continue to support measures to provide facilities on Trunk Roads by the Highway Agency.*
- (3) *To request the Highways Agency to reconsider its decision to close the toilet facilities at Willoughby Hedge.*

- (4) *To write to the Minister of Transport seeking clarification of the Government's current policy for the provision of public toilets on Trunk Roads.*

70. **Questions : Environment & Transport Committee** The Chairman of the Environment Committee & Transport Committee responded to questions from members asked under Standing Order 15.1 concerning the following:-

<u>Member</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Mr. N.S.E. Westbrook	51	Departmental Targets	Public Safety – new constructions
Mr NSE. Westbrook*	56	Land at the east of Melksham	Report from consultants
Mr. M. Connolly	74	Local Transport Plan	East of the County
Mrs. B.M. Jay	74	Local Transport Plan	Representation on Emergency Sub-Committee
Mr. J.N.B. Irving	68	Salisbury Area of Search	Public response
Mr. P.C.B. Coleman	60	Regional Planning Guidance	Economic development

(\* written reply to be given)

71. **Report of the Salisbury Transportation Plan Joint Committee** (19<sup>th</sup> June 2000) Received.
72. **Exceptions Report of the Policy & Resources and Environment & Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee** (8<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2000) Received.
73. **Exceptions Report of the Education & Social Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee** (1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2000) Received.
74. **Questions : Wiltshire Police Authority** None received.
75. **Questions : Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority** None received.
76. **Notice of Motion by Mr. C. Newbury : Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees** Mr. Newbury had given notice for the inclusion of the following motion in the summons:

*“To review the sizes of and allocation of seats on the ordinary committees of the Council.”*

The motion was not moved and therefore was treated as abandoned under Standing Order 13.3

(Duration of meeting : 10.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Paul Kelly, of the Committee Services Unit, direct line 713049.

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