

Minutes

Special Meeting of : The Council
Meeting held in : The Auditorium, City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury
Date : Tuesday 7th August 2007 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillor Mrs E A Chettleburgh - *Chairman*
Councillor I D McLennan - *Vice-Chairman*

Councillors:

R A Beattie, R Britton, Ms J V Broom, D W Brown, K A Cardy, P M Clegg, R J Clewer, I C Curr, B E Dalton, Mrs S L Dennis, E R Draper, P D Edge, J M English, Mrs M I Evans, S R Fear, M G Fowler, Mrs J A Green, M A Hewitt, Mrs C R Hill, J Holt, S J Howarth, G E Jeans, J P King, Ms J F Launchbury, M D Lee, D J Luther, Mrs H McKeown, C G Mills, Ms C J M Morrison, W R Moss, J C Noeken, D O Parker, L Randall, A C Roberts, P W L Sample, J F Smale, Mrs C A Spencer, J R G Spencer, I R Tomes, C R Vincent, J M Walsh, I C West, F Westmoreland, and G Wright

Apologies were received from Councillors J A Cole-Morgan, I M Mitchell, and B M Rycroft, Miss M A Tomlinson and K C Wren

Officers:

David Crook (Acting Chief Executive), Steve Milton (Principal Democratic Services Manager), Tom Bray and Paul Trenell (Democratic Services), Alan Osborne (Head of Financial Services), John Crawford (Head of Legal and Property Services).

48. Declarations of Interest:

There were none.

49. Public Questions/Statement Time:

Mr Chris Cochrane of Lower Road, Salisbury asked the following question:

A Liberal Democrat Focus Pamphlet issued in St. Martin & Milford Ward during April 2007 promised:

"The level of salaries / allowances received by cabinet members would therefore be too high. Accordingly, Liberal Democrats will reduce the salary of the Leader of the Council and the members of the Cabinet by 25%. This will generate a saving of £20,000 per annum."

The motion to be put to the Full Council on 7th Aug confirms only that Portfolio holders have undertaken to forego £2,217 of their allowances but it is not clear whether the Deputy Portfolio Holders have first been given the higher rate for a full Portfolio Holder, viz stepped up from £8,711 to £10,850 pa.



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What matters to Council Tax payers is:

1. Has the promised 25% saving been effected?
2. Does it add up to the promised £20,000 pa?
3. Will this be backdated to the election of 5th May 2007?"

The Chairman asked Councillor Sample to respond which he did as follows:

"I would like to thank Dr Cochrane for his question. First, I would like to make the point that this is in fact a coalition administration pursuing a coalition agenda. However, I remain committed to a full review of members' allowances and I have asked the Independent Remuneration Panel to sit in September to consider allowances paid to all councillors including cabinet members. I do not wish to pre-judge the outcome of that independent review, but I look forward to receiving the recommendations later in the Autumn."

In a follow up question, Dr Cochrane indicated he did not consider that the answer had addressed the points raised.

Councillor Fear replied indicating that there was not full agreement between the LibDem and Labour Groups on the question of allowances for councillors. He believed allowances should reflect the time commitment placed on members, particularly working councillors who had to take time-off work to attend meetings. He hoped the Independent Remuneration Panel would come up with proposals that reflected the need to recruit and retain working as well as retired councillors.

50. Minutes:

Resolved - that minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 July 2007 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman, asked members to note that there would be a Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting on Wednesday 29 August at the City Hall and that, following consultation with all group leaders, the next Council meeting would now be held on the 24 September and not the 17 September 2007.

52. Office Project - Contractual Situation:

The Council considered the report of the Acting Chief Executive circulated prior to the meeting.

A recorded vote was requisitioned and the voting was as follows: -

FOR

Councillors Ms J V Broom, Mrs E A Chettleburgh, P M Clegg, I C Curr, B E Dalton, Mrs S L Dennis, P D Edge, J M English, Mrs M I Evans, S R Fear, Mrs J A Green, Mrs C R Hill, J Holt, S J Howarth, M D Lee, Mrs H McKeown, C G Mills, I D McLennan, D O Parker, A C Roberts, P W L Sample, J R G Spencer, I R Tomes, C R Vincent, J M Walsh, I C West and G Wright. **(27)**

AGAINST

Councillors R A Beattie, R Britton, D W Brown, K A Cardy, R J Clewer, E R Draper, M G Fowler, M A Hewitt, G E Jeans, J P King, Ms J F Launchbury, D J Luther, Mrs C J M Morrison, W R Moss, J C Noeken, L Randall, J F Smale, Mrs C A Spencer and F Westmoreland. **(19)**

Resolved – that the council notes the progress made on negotiating the retention of the existing contract, and the process for proceeding with a modified design, and

- (1) instructs the Acting Chief Executive to sign the draft agreement attached to the report;
- (2) authorises the Acting Chief Executive to continue the process of negotiation on the details required to complete a Deed of Variation and in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader to enter into it by 14 September 2007;
- (3) if Morgan Ashurst seeks to terminate the existing contract after 14 September 2007, this matter be reported back to Full Council within 10 days of notice of termination;

- (4) in the event of (3) above, officers submit proposals to that Council meeting to appoint an alternative contractor to complete the process of constructing the modified design; and
- (5) also in this event, officers present a robust financial strategy in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader to deal with the consequences of the termination of the existing contract.

The meeting finished at 8.10 pm
Members of the public: 20