

# Minutes

**Meeting of** : The Council  
**Meeting held in** : The Auditorium, City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury  
**Date** : Monday 10 December 2007

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## Present

Councillor I D McLennan - **Vice-Chairman – In the Chair**

## Councillors:

R A Beattie, R Britton, Mrs J V Broom, D W Brown, K A Cardy, P M Clegg, R J Clewer, J A Cole-Morgan, I C Curr, B E Dalton, Mrs S L Dennis, C Devine, 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, 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, I M Mitchell, Ms C J M Morrison, W R Moss, J C Noeken, M J Osment, D O Parker, L Randall, A C Roberts, J C Robertson, B M Rycroft, P W L Sample, J F Smale, J R G Spencer, A A P Thorpe, I R Tomes, Miss M A Tomlinson, C R Vincent, J M Walsh, I C West, F Westmoreland and G Wright

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs E A Chettleburgh (Chairman) Mrs C A Spencer and K C Wren

## Officers:

Stewart Agland (Head of Democratic Services), James Chamberlain (Democratic Services), John Crawford (Head of Legal and Property Services).

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## 67. Awards:

The Chairman presented a retirement gift to Roland Batton, Deputy News Editor of the Salisbury Journal, in recognition of his outstanding service to the community as a local journalist.

## Smart Ideas:

The Chairman also presented WH Smith Tokens to Penny-Ann Gray, (Volunteer Helper at the Bemerton Neighbourhood Centre) who had been nominated for her outstanding work and contribution to the community.

## 68. Election of the Vice-Chairman for the duration of the meeting

**Resolved** - that Councillor Tomlinson be appointed Vice-Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

## 69. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Tomes declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7(b) (Salisbury Vision: Approval of Capital funding for the Implementation of the Market Place Project) in that he is a market trader. Councillor Tomes left the meeting during consideration of this matter.



Awarded in:  
Housing Services  
Waste and Recycling Services



**70. Public Questions/Statement Time:**

Mr Duller made a statement regarding the Salisbury Vision (The statement is included in **Annex A** to the minutes). The Chairman responded that Mr Duller's question did not take account of the fact that the Market Place included not only the Market Square, but also Queen Street, Minster Street, Oatmeal Row, Blue Boar Row, Fish Row and Butchers Row.

Mrs Janet Davies and Mrs Mary Stephens made statements regarding the height of the proposed extension to the Bourne Hill offices.

**71. Minutes:**

**Resolved** - that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 24 September 2007 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**72. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman informed Members that Tony Beer, who had been the Council's Best Value officer until three years ago, was very poorly. Members' thoughts were with Mr Beer and his family.

The Chairman informed Members that this would be the last Council meeting for David Crook, Acting Chief Executive, and noted their disappointment that he was unable to attend. Members of all groups expressed their gratitude to Mr Crook for his long and dedicated service to Salisbury District Council, and noted that Members and officers alike would sorely miss him.

The Mayor informed Members that the Rifles Regiment would return to Salisbury on Tuesday 11 December after their tour of duty in Iraq, and invited Members to attend the ceremony being held at the Guildhall.

The Chairman also invited Members to make donations to the Trussel Trust, for which there was a collection box in the foyer.

**73. Appointment of the Interim Chief Executive**

The Council considered the previously circulated unanimous recommendation of the Appointments Sub-Committee meeting on 20 November 2007.

**Resolved** – to appoint Manjeet Gill as the Interim Chief Executive.

**74. Cabinet Recommendations:**

**a. Review of Political Priorities: Councillor Sample**

The Council considered the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 10 October 2007 (Minute 078) together with the previously circulated report of the Acting Chief Executive.

**Resolved** – that the recommendation from Cabinet be adopted.

**b. Salisbury Vision: Approval of Capital Funding for the Market Place Project: Councillor Edge**

The Council considered the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 07 November 2007 (Minute 093) together with the previously circulated report of the Project Director, Salisbury Vision.

**Resolved** – that the recommendations from Cabinet be adopted.

**c. Review of Licensing Policy: Councillor Robertson**

The Council considered the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 5 December 2007 (Minute 110) together with the previously circulated report of the Head of Environmental Services.

Councillor Westmoreland tabled an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Brown, to delete the last four paragraphs on page 13 of the proposed Licensing Policy, and replace them with the following text:

“Every application will be granted where no relevant representations are received subject to any conditions consistent with the operating schedule and mandatory conditions required under the Licensing Act 2003. Whilst every application where

relevant representations are received will be determined on its merits there will be a presumption against any premises selling alcohol for consumption on the premises between 12.00 am and 8.00 am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and between 2.00 am and 8.00 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Applicants wishing to operate outside these hours will need to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority that the proposals comply with the licensing objectives with particular regard to any likely adverse affect on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the vicinity of the premises concerned.”

**Resolved** – that the licensing policy be approved subject to incorporating the above amendment.

**d. Office Project – Stage D Sign Off: Councillor Roberts**

The Council considered the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 5 December 2007 (Minute 112) together with the previously circulated report of the Acting Chief Executive.

**Resolved** – that the recommendation from Cabinet be adopted.

**e. Fair Trade: Councillor Sample**

The Council considered the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 10 October 2007 (Minute 85) as set out at agenda item 7(e).

**Resolved** – that the recommendations from Cabinet be adopted.

**75. Council Tax Base: Councillor Roberts**

To Council considered the previously circulated report from the Head of Financial Services.

**Resolved** – that

- (1) the report of the Head of Financial Services for the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the year 2008/2009 be approved.
- (2) pursuant to the report by the Head of Financial Services and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by the Salisbury District Council as its Council Tax Base for the various parts of its area are as shown in **Annex A** of the report.
- (3) the decision upon the Council Tax Collection Fund surplus/deficit be delegated to the Head of Financial Services.

**76. Questions on Cabinet Decisions taken since the last Council Meeting:**

Members raised a number of questions in connection with those matters that had been considered by the Cabinet on 10 October 2007, 07 November 2007 and 5 December 2007.

**77. Project and Policy Progress Reports:**

There were no project or policy progress reports to consider.

**78. Reports of other Committees/Panels on which questions were asked:**

Councillor F Westmoreland asked the Chair of City Area Committee (Planning), Councillor Miss M Tomlinson for clarification as to why the committee had approved an application for listed building consent at the Milford Hall Hotel and Restaurant, 206 Castle Street, Salisbury, but refused the application for planning consent (Minutes 35 and 36). Councillor Miss M Tomlinson agreed to provide Councillor Westmoreland with a full response following the meeting.

Councillor B Rycroft asked the Chairman of the City Area Committee (Community), Councillor M Osment about the report on the technical aspects of assessing, funding and delivering a West Harnham to Cattle Market shared footway/cycleway from Local Transport Plan sources. He particularly mentioned the fact that Southern Area Committee should have been consulted as the end of the footway is in the region of the Southern Area Committee. Councillor M Osment will respond in writing within 10 working days.

**79. Call In Matters:**

There were none.

**80. Questions to the Council Chairman, Cabinet Member, Chairman of any Committee - on any matters not on the agenda in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the District:**

Councillor J Cole-Morgan Question to Cabinet Member for Community Initiatives:

"Is the Portfolio Holder for Housing confident that in deferring many of the savings in housing management and maintenance which we were advised would be necessary if stock transfer did not take place in order to achieve a balanced 30 year HRA Business Plan this administration is not storing up much greater problems for tenants at some future date and, if so, on what grounds does he base such confidence?"

The Portfolio Holder for Housing thanked Councillor John Cole -Morgan for his question.

"I would start by asking what decisions about savings in housing management and maintenance have been deferred, none to my knowledge.

Decisions have been made to increase some charges (garages and some service charges) and to change the management structure of the Housing Department (move Supporting People across to Housing Management) as Cllr John Cole-Morgan is aware of as a member of the HRA Business Project Board. Other decisions to charge (such as for the cleaning of the blocks of flats in the Friary or to reduce the quality of the modernisation of homes) have been dropped on the grounds that the new administration wants to put fairness at the heart of it's decision about tenants lives. So no decisions deferred.

As my dear friend is aware the 30 year business plan will have to be submitted to the Government for the South West for their approval.

My confidence in the 30 year plan is based upon the fact that it will receive scrutiny from the GOSW and if they are happy then that is fine by me. If they are not, then we will look again at the situation. I suspect that I would share their robust approach to the 30 year plan.

I think it is a good question "why did the previous administration put so much store on balancing their 30 year HRA business plan" but one I cannot answer."

**81. Matter of Urgency:**

Although this item was not on the previously circulated agenda the Chairman declared that it be taken as a matter of urgency since a decision needed to be taken before the date of the next meeting.

**Programme of Council Meetings for the Next Municipal Year**

The Chairman proposed that for the 2008-09 Municipal Year council meetings will be held as follows:

23 June 2008

08 September 2008 (this avoids all party conferences)

06 October 2008 for the State of the District Debate (this avoids the half term)

08 December 2008

16 February 2009

30 March 2009

**Resolved** – that the above schedule of meetings for the Period June 2008 – March 2009 be approved:

**82. Extension of Meeting:**

In compliance with Council Policy, as the Council could not conclude its business within 3 hours, it resolved to extend the meeting by one hour and fifteen minutes (during which time the matters recorded under minutes 74 (d and e) – 80 were considered).

**83. Exempt Business:**

Since there were no questions arising it was not necessary to move into exempt business.

*The meeting finished at: 10:10 pm  
Members of the public: 19*

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07/12/07

## **Statement Full Council - Monday 10 December 2007**

Chairman and Members of the Council

### **The Salisbury Vision – Market Square Project**

I wish to address and correct inaccuracies put forward **in the report**.

As a Councillor between 1995 – 1997, I feel I was an eyewitness and partaker in the last reconstruction of the Market Place and its adjoining Guildhall Square. This included Queen Street and High Street being pedestrianised and paved with high quality quarry stone or brick cobbles.

The city centre councillors were then myself and Councillor Tomes for St Martins and Councillor Chettleburgh/English for St Edmunds.

Part of this was to resurface the east, west and south sides of the square to enable a café culture to be set up. Which despite opposition from traders and market traders has proved a huge success.

As it took months of work and disruption to achieve there can be few Councillors of the 1995-1999 vintage not aware of what happened.

So why did the newly installed cabinet type council seek a change in 2005 a scant six or seven years later backed by a county council who had funded the 1<sup>st</sup> change in the 1990s?

Now I am old, so are many councillors, but my memory is still sound.

### **I take issue with matters set out in the report.**

Example 2.0 – 2.1 where **the report** states it is not an attractive area and that it is a hotch potch of tarmac and other surfaces. “WRONG” these surfaces were purpose laid except for those areas used by vehicles. “IF” all vehicles had been removed that to could have been repaved with cobbles etc.

**The report** also confuses the Market Square with the Guildhall Square as one entity. Apart from market day and some disabled parking that ground supports an old and dignified court and guildhall.

So the previous administration has set up an unneeded review/report.

As a member of the civic society and Salisbury trades union council I deplore this. The public will pay dearly for this revamp which Conservative councillors have instituted and this administration supported.

PS Councillor Edge was also a councillor in 1995 - 1999