

# Minutes

**Meeting of** : The Annual Council  
**Meeting held in** : The Auditorium, City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury  
**Date** : Monday 19 May 2008  
**Commencing at** : 6.00pm

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**Present:**

**Councillors:**

R A Beattie, R Britton, Ms J V Broom, D W Brown, K A Cardy, E A Chettleburgh, P M Clegg, R J Clewer, 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, J Holt, S J Howarth, G E Jeans, J P King, Ms J F Launchbury, M D Lee, Mrs H McKeown, C G Mills, I D McLennan, 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, Mrs C A Spencer, 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:** Councillors J A Cole-Morgan, D J Luther and K C Wren

**Officers:**

Manjeet Gill (Chief Executive), Stewart Agland (Head of Democratic Services), John Crawford (Head of Legal and Property Services) and Paul Trenell (Democratic Services).

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**CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR MRS CHETTLEBURGH – IN THE CHAIR**

**120. Awards:**

The Chairman presented a retirement gift to Alan Corkhill of Salisbury Playhouse, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Playhouse and the city.

**121. Prayer:**

The Reverend David Linaker, Rector to the Church of St Thomas, Salisbury opened the proceedings with prayer.

**122. Outgoing Chairman's Report:**

Prior to the formal business of the Council, the outgoing Chairman addressed the meeting and highlighted some of the achievements of the Council throughout her year in office. These are set out in Annex A (attached).



Awarded in:  
Housing Services  
Waste and Recycling Services



**123. Election of Chairman of the Council:**

**Resolved:** that Councillor Ian McLennan be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor McLennan made his declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair.

**COUNCILLOR I D MCLENNAN – IN THE CHAIR**

**124. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council:**

**Resolved:** that Councillor Colin Mills be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Mills made his declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair.

**125. Declarations of Interest:**

All Councillors declared a personal interest in matters relating to Agenda Item 18a Register of Members Interest on the Internet.

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

There were none.

**127. Minutes:** Councillors Britton and Moss asked for the statement made by the Leader of the Council at the meeting of 24 April 2008 to be included in the minutes. Councillor Sample agreed that his statement be attached in full to the minutes (attached at annexe B).

**Resolved:**

- 1) that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 31 March 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman;
- 2) that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 23 April 2008 as amended above be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**128. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman informed members that former councillor Kenneth Edwards was unwell, and that he intended to send a card on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman asked members to abide by the General Rules of Procedure and demonstrate decorum and restraint at meetings throughout his year in office.

The Chairman informed the Council that Councillor James Spencer had left the Liberal Democrat group and would become a non-aligned member of the council.

The Chairman said that his theme for the coming year would be the small community groups which make a contribution to life across the district.

The Chairman alerted members to a possible Extraordinary Council meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, following on from a meeting of Wiltshire County Council's Implementation Executive at which the future of Bourne Hill would be discussed.

Finally, all councillors and officers were warmly invited to join the Chairman for a drink in the bar after the meeting that evening.

**129. Establishment, Size, Composition and Terms of Reference of the Bodies forming the political management structure:**

The Council considered the previously circulated report of the Head Democratic Services, set out under Agenda Item 9.

**Resolved:** that the establishment, size, composition and terms of reference of the bodies forming the political management structure as set out at Agenda Item 9 of the Council Agenda be agreed.

**130. Political Balance/Group Membership on Committees:**

The Council considered the previously circulated report of the Head Democratic Services, set out under Agenda Item 10. The Head of Democratic Services informed members that Councillor

Spencer's departure from the Liberal Democrat group to become a non-aligned member did not affect the political balance of committees.

**Resolved:** that the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the Planning and Regulatory Panel comprise as follows:-

**Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee**

Conservatives	5
Liberal Democrats	4
Labour	2
Independents	1

**Planning and Regulatory Panel**

Conservatives	5
Liberal Democrats	4
Labour	2
Non Aligned	1

**131. Leader of the Cabinet/Council:**

**Resolved:** That Councillor P W L Sample be elected as Leader of the Cabinet and Council for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

**132. Deputy Leader of the Cabinet/Council:**

**Resolved:** that Councillor S R Fear be elected as Deputy Leader of the Cabinet and Council for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

**133. Cabinet Members:**

**Resolved:** that Councillors P M Clegg, B E Dalton, P D Edge, Mrs H McKeown, A C R Roberts, J C Robertson, A A P Thorpe and I R Tomes be elected as the eight other Cabinet members for the 2008/9 Municipal Year.

Once elected, the Leader named the Portfolio Holders as follows:

**Finance**

Councillor A C R Roberts

**Resources**

Councillor A A P Thorpe

**Environment**

Councillor J C Robertson

**Transport**

Councillor Mrs H McKeown

**Community Initiatives**

Councillor B E Dalton

**Housing**

Councillor I R Tomes

**Economic Development and Tourism**

Councillor P D Edge

**Planning**

Councillor P M Clegg

**134. Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Panels:**

**Resolved:** that the Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels be as indicated in Annex C (attached).

**135. Membership of Standards Committee:**

**Resolved:** that Councillors C G Mills, A C R Roberts and R Britton be appointed to the Standards Committee and that the deputies be Councillors Mrs J Broom, E R Draper and B M Rycroft.

**136. Re-establishment of the Salisbury District Transportation Joint Committee, its Terms of Reference and Membership:**

Members of the Council considered the matter as set out under Agenda Item 16 (previously circulated).

**Resolved:** that:

- (a) subject to Wiltshire County Council doing the same, the re-establishment of a Salisbury District Transportation Joint Committee consisting of 12 members be approved;
- (b) the Terms of Reference as shown in the agenda item (previously circulated) be approved;
- (c) the political proportionality provisions under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in respect of the Joint Committee be set aside and six members be appointed not necessarily with political balance;
- (d) the District Council's composition be 2 Conservatives, 2 Labour and 2 Liberal Democrats;
- (e) that four Members drawn from the Administration (and Deputies) be appointed to serve on the Joint Committee as follows:-

Liberal Democrats: Councillors Mrs McKeown and M D Lee

Liberal Democrat deputies: Councillors Mrs C R Hill and J Holt

Labour: Councillors J M Walsh and I D McLennan

Labour deputies: Councillors I M Evans and second deputy to be confirmed

- (f) Further to (e) above, the remaining non Administration Members (and named Deputies) be appointed in accordance with the agreed allocation as follows:-

Conservative: Councillors D W Brown and M Fowler

Conservative deputies: Councillors R J Clewer and J Launchbury

**137. Cabinet Recommendations:**

**(a) The New Wiltshire Local Agreement: Councillor Clegg**

Members considered the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 28 April 2008 (Minute 182) together with the previously circulated report of the Partnership Team Manager.

**Resolved:** that:

- (1) the Council endorses the draft LAA which has been negotiated to date and agrees to be a signatory;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to agree any outstanding matters and to sign off the final LAA once it has been agreed by Government; and
- (3) the Implementation Executive be advised that the Agreement should place greater emphasis on sustainable rural communities and have regard to the findings of the District Council's Scrutiny Review undertaken on this matter; it should also be asked to consider the possibility of including an additional indicator relating to reduction in road deaths.

**(b) Scrutiny Review on Sustainable Rural Communities together with response to Rural Services Network Document: Councillor Edge**

Members considered the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 28 April 2008 (Minute 183) together with the previously circulated Scrutiny Review and the Executive Summary containing the recommendations.

**Resolved:** that:

- (1) the recommendations set out in the summary be approved for recommendation to the Implementation Executive;
- (2) the Scrutiny findings be taken into account during the new stage of consultation for the local development framework as agreed by Full Council on 23 April; and
- (3) a copy of the Review be sent to the Primary Care Trust and the Joint Director of Public Health as the recommendations address a number of important health issues;

- (4) a letter be sent to the Implementation Executive offering to work with Wiltshire County Council to implement the recommendations in the review and requesting notice of the Implementation Executive's resolutions.

**138. Recommendations from the Standards Committee:**

The Council considered the recommendations from the Standards Committee on matters outside its power. During discussion of item a below members expressed their wish that signatures featuring on the Register of Members' Interests not be uploaded onto the web site.

**(a) Register of Members' Interest - Publication on the Internet:**

**Resolved:** that

- (1) the Register of Members' Interests for district councillors be made available for inspection via the council's website; and
- (2) the Register of Members' Interests for parish and town councillors be not published on the council's website unless the individual parishes so request.

**(b) Application for works to trees that are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO):**

**Resolved:** that the scheme of delegation to the Head of Development Services be amended by the addition of the following:

14.32 *To deal with applications to carry out works on trees that are subject of Preservation Orders, and to determine the applications under delegated authority, unless they are referred to an area committee by a ward member.*

**(c) Preparations for Local Assessment of Complaints Against Members:**

**Resolved:** that in the light of the regulations now received and notwithstanding previous decisions:

- (1) no additional Independent member be recruited;
- (2) that only one additional parish representative be recruited through Wiltshire Association of Local Councils; and as a consequence;
- (3) Membership of the Standards Committee be set at 7 members.

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

Regarding Agenda Item 19 (3) 185 (28 04 08) Christmas in 2008:

- Councillor Westmoreland asked: "What will be the ongoing costs of maintaining and erecting the Christmas lights to be purchased this year?";
- Councillor Fear asked: "How much tax do Salisbury businesses contribute to the council in the form of business rates, and aren't they entitled to a good lights show?";
- Councillor McKeown asked: "How much does Winchester spend on its Christmas lights display?".

Councillor Edge, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development & Tourism undertook to respond to the above questions within 10 working days.

Regarding Agenda Item 19 (9) 191 (28 04 08) Update on Petersfinger Park & Ride:

- Councillor Britton asked: "Does the Portfolio Holder consider that the determination of the Petersfinger Park & Ride site should now be regarded as unacceptable, and will she holt work until further consultation has taken place". When prompted for further detail Councillor Britton referred to the Highway's Agency response to the Core Strategy consultation.

Councillor McKeown, Portfolio Holder for Transport undertook to respond to the above questions within 10 working days.

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

There were no project or policy progress reports to consider.

**141. Notice of Motion 149:**

The Council considered Notice of Motion 149 proposed by Councillor Westmoreland and seconded by Councillor Brown (as set out at Agenda Item 21). Councillor Westmoreland informed the council

that Councillor Cole-Morgan was expected to be home from hospital in early June. Members thanked Councillor Fowler for his diligence in covering for Councillor Cole-Morgan during his absence.

**Resolved:** that the motion be adopted by this Council.

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

Regarding Item 22 (1) City Area (Plan) 095 – 103 (20 03 08) Councillor Rycroft commented that a large amount of Netherhampton Road lies within the Southern Area boundary.

**143. Call In Matters:**

There were none.

**144. 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 R Clewer asked a question to Councillor P Sample as set out in Agenda Item 24. Councillor Sample provided a written response which is attached to the minutes as Annex D.

*The meeting finished at 8:31 pm  
Members of the public: 11*

**Chairman's Report 2007/2008:**

"What an eventful year for our Council this has been.

As chairman I have been able to acknowledge 2 of our finest venues in our City that serve the whole district. This I have done by presenting leaving or retirement gifts to Jill Lowe at our Arts Centre and Alan Corkhill of our Playhouse, as well as 3 other notable presentations for service to the district to show our appreciation which were made to Peter Saunders of the Museum and David Vallis and Roland Batten of the Journal.

In December I managed to visit all our offices throughout the district which gave me an opportunity to have informal chats with staff and deliver cards and chocolates. If you are in any doubt of the size of the district, it took most of the day!

My theme for this year has been the community work that our faith groups carry out. I tried to get together as many of the faiths in the district to attend a seminar and tell us what they did in their community, then we decided to hold a faith market in the Guildhall and put our wares on show to the public. The different faith groups, plus officers from the council, were very interested in what they saw the others had been achieving and there was a lot of networking. For example, we talked about the hopes of a new cemetery because it was the concern of the leaders of the Muslim faith that they have a space for their dead because of the new government ruling about not being able to take your family home for burial? This project radiated so much enthusiasm I am sure it will go forward with support from this Council.

As for events, I feel Salisbury Cathedral generously supports our district and I have received many invitations from all the different charities and societies that hold their events there plus the schools at Christmas. The Cathedral is involved with lots of musical productions, choral and instrumental, and has itself hosted many of the festival events and generally has had a great tourism record for us. But also importantly on top of all of this it is a place for regular worship for so many.

Maybe as a council we do not appreciate the wealth of working in partnership that can be done with the cathedral. One event where this partnership was utilised was the Holocaust Memorial Day service which was so moving and I would like to thank our officers for the way they conducted that event for SDC. The other service we share with the cathedral is in December followed by the switching on of the lights.

I enjoyed judging the best decorated Lounge in the sheltered housing schemes, but the most colourful event I attended was the Thai festival at Godolphin school. The AGM at Guides and Scouts give the Chairman a chance to say a big thank you for all the hard work the Scouts and Guides carry out voluntary for our children.

The Army chose our City Hall for their presentation and the Royal Navy chose our Guildhall for their presentation, so well done to all our excellent staff at both those venues.

You all know there is so much to mention and that I could continue forever. I have chosen a few but that does not detract from all the others.

I would like to thank all the staff for their support with cheery smiles through my year as your chairman as I have got to know even more members of staff including so many through the long service awards. I will be asking all group leaders to support me in forming a member officer group to help us decide how we mark the end of the District Council particularly thanking our staff, partners in our community and councillors."

**Extraordinary Council meeting 23rd April 2008  
Statement for Leader of the Council**

1) By today the Council had received responses from well over 900 individual people and organisations to the Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation.

2) This is an excellent and impressive result that compares favourably with the experience in other local authority areas where the response has generally been much lower.

3) Some of the comments we have received have been positive about the ideas put forward in the Preferred Options document, but many have not. There has been particular concern about some of the options put forward for accommodating growth, especially new housing.

4) I am very sympathetic to the people who have expressed these views. No one wants to see their community or the countryside around them swamped by new housing estates. Areas of particular concern have included Porton Down, Firsdawn, Alderbury and Laverstock.

5) The first priority of the current administration is always to listen to the concerns of local people and to respond appropriately. The consultation exercise is still open and we must allow it to end and then carry out a proper evaluation of the results. But from what I have seen so far I am able to reassure local residents that, in the light of the comments that we have received, it is highly unlikely that the proposals for Porton Down, Firsdawn, Alderbury and Laverstock village will be pursued.

6) Our intention is to get it right, not just for the places I have mentioned, but for the District as a whole. We therefore intend to analyse the consultation responses, take stock of what has been said and then produce a further consultation document. We will take the time to agree with the opposition parties how the consultation should be carried out and will seek the maximum possible engagement with local people. As a first step in this process, we will write to every household in the District informing of the new arrangements.

7) We will not be bound by the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme approved by the previous administration and will not submit the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State at the end of June as they had planned.

8) The amount of new housing and employment development proposed in the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy has caused much of the current disquiet. So we will look again at the responses to that document made by the previous administration and we will make our own representations to the Secretary of State about the high levels of growth currently proposed.

9) We will take the time needed to understand what people have been telling us and to agree the best possible planning solutions for South Wiltshire. The well-being of local people and the quality of the local environment are too important for us to do otherwise. It is, as I am sure we will agree, better for Salisbury District Council to address these issues, rather than allowing decisions to be taken by the new Wiltshire Council, or worse, by Inspectors at planning appeals.



## Revised Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel Membership (wef 19 May 2008)

Resources (14 Members)	Environment & Transport (14 Members)
R Britton Mrs E A Chettleburgh R J Clewer <b>repl</b> J Cole-Morgan E R Draper M A Hewitt J P King D J Luther I D McLennan C G Mills W R Moss Miss M A Tomlinson C R Vincent G Wright <b>repl</b> Mrs C R Hill F Westmoreland	D W Brown R J Clewer I C Curr C Devine E R Draper J M English Mrs I M Evans M G Fowler Mrs C R Hill S J Howarth M D Lee I D McLennan D O Parker J F Smale
Community & Housing (14 Members)	Planning & Economic Development (14 Members)
R Britton <b>repl</b> J Cole-Morgan Ms J V Broom R J Clewer Mrs S L Dennis J M English Mrs I M Evans Mrs J A Green M A Hewitt D J Luther C G Mills Ms C J M Morrison I M Mitchell M J Osment B M Rycroft	R Beattie Mrs E A Chettleburgh J Holt G E Jeans J P King Ms J F Launchbury J C Noeken L Randall Mrs C A Spencer J R G Spencer C R Vincent J M Walsh G Wright F Westmoreland <b>repl</b> R Britton

## Other Panels/Committees

Planning/Regulatory Panel (12 Members)	Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (12 Members)
R Britton <b>repl</b> K C Wren Mrs E A Chettleburgh <b>repl</b> J R G Spencer J M English M G Fowler Mrs C R Hill <b>repl</b> G Wright J Holt I D McLennan D O Parker L Randall Mrs C A Spencer J M Walsh F Westmoreland	Ms J V Broom J M English Mrs I M Evans M G Fowler Mrs J A Green Mrs C R Hill <b>repl</b> J R G Spencer S J Howarth M A Hewitt Ms J F Launchbury Mrs C J M Morrison Miss M A Tomlinson F Westmoreland

Response by the Leader to the question raised by Councillor Clewer

I am grateful to Councillor Clewer for raising this important question, as it gives me the opportunity to give some insight into the complex considerations surrounding the annual car parking price review.

In recommending car parking prices, the Cabinet must seek to balance a number of competing objectives, including;

- Supporting the Salisbury Transportation Plan – using the price mechanism to reduce car use in and around the city centre;
- Supporting local economic activity – ensuring that price increases do not impact adversely on economic viability and vitality; and
- Supporting SDC's revenue requirements – securing an agreed level of income with which to contribute to the Council's General Fund.

Maintaining an appropriate balance between these competing objectives is difficult, as a move too far in one direction could prejudice the achievement of other goals. The proposals recommended by Cabinet this year therefore sought to minimise the extent of any changes and concentrated in the main on areas where it was anticipated there was some scope for additional income generation. This in itself was difficult, given the acknowledged inelasticity of demand for car parking generally in Salisbury and the likelihood that, in the majority of cases, price rises would result in no net increases in revenue or, at worst, a reduction in income. The Cabinet did, however, recommend that long-stay prices in the city centre should rise by 10% (from £5 to £5.50) in pursuance of transportation plan objectives, whilst acknowledging that this was likely to result in a probable net loss of income of about £10,000.

As was appropriate, the Cabinet gave due regard to the recommendations of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, but was unable to accept the majority of them, in the main for financial reasons. The details are as set out below:

- (a) *the long-stay charge for Central car park and College Street car park should be increased to £6, and the long-stay charge for the premium spaces in the Central short-stay car park should be increased to £7.*

It was anticipated that these levels of increase would have been unaffordable, resulting in an annual net loss of income approaching £30,000. It was also thought likely that there would have been increased pressure on residential on-street parking spaces caused by the displacement of vehicles from city centre off-street car parks.

- (b) *charges for parking on the Market Square should be increased to £1.50 for half an hour, £3 for an hour, £4.50 for an hour and a half and £6 for two hours.*

Whilst the calculation was difficult, given the number of disabled motorists who park free of charge in the Market Place, it was projected that these price changes would have had little impact financially, possibly increasing income by little more than £10,000 in a full year. Given that cars were likely to be removed from the Market Place shortly to enable a major enhancement scheme to go ahead, it was not thought appropriate to accede to the Scrutiny Panel's recommendation.

- (c) *all Sunday charges should be removed, including for on-street.*

Sunday charges are an important component in overall car parking income and the removal of charges would have resulted in a total loss of income (in 2008/2009) of around £205,000.

- (d) *the charge for on-street parking should be reduced to 10p for fifteen minutes, but increased to £1 for fifteen to thirty minutes, £2 for thirty to forty-five minutes, and £3 for forty-five minutes to an hour.*

This proposal would have resulted in an annual loss of income in the region of £40,000. A 10p price band could also have resulted in a greatly increased demand for short-term on-street car parking, leading to increased congestion and worsening air quality. It should be noted that because these are on-street charges, the income derived cannot be used as a contribution to the General Fund.

- (e) *The charge for use of Park and Ride should be reduced to £1.50 and decremental cards should offer some incentive such as “pay for 5 days and get an additional day free”.*

Park and ride already requires a substantial subsidy. This proposal would have worsened the financial position by about £100,000 to £150,000.

- (f) *Parking should continue to be free after 6pm.*

This recommendation was accepted by Cabinet.

- (g) *Culver Street Car Park is very under-utilised, contains approximately the same number of parking spaces as planned for Petersfinger, is directly accessible from the ring (so cars using it will not need to enter the city central core) and it would require significantly lower revenue costs to operate than a Park and Ride site. This car park should therefore be converted to a ‘Park and Walk’ site for use by drivers approaching Salisbury from the south along the A36, with the same charges for all day parking as at the Park and Ride sites.*

Pricing the Culver Street car park at the same rate as park and ride would undercut all other car parks within the city centre, with none of the environmental benefits associated with keeping cars outside the city centre. The net annual loss of income was estimated to be in excess of £100,000.

- (h) *The number of residents’ parking zones in the city should be increased. This could be funded by the revenue savings (approximately £650,000 per annum) achieved by abandoning the Petersfinger Park and Ride project and changing the operation of the Culver Street car park.*

There is already an on-going programme of new residents’ parking zones. Decisions about the future operation of the Petersfinger site will be for the new unitary council to make.

2. *To recommend to Cabinet that it make a recommendation to Wiltshire County Council not to pursue the Petersfinger Park and Ride site project.*

The Cabinet declined to make this recommendation as it supports the early introduction of the Petersfinger park and ride service on environmental grounds and because it recognises the need for additional park and ride spaces in the context of the Salisbury Vision’s proposals.