

# Minutes

**Meeting of** : The Council  
**Meeting held in** : The Auditorium, City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury  
**Date** : Monday 09 February 2009

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## Present

Councillor I D McLennan - **Chairman**  
Councillor C G Mills - **Vice-Chairman**

**Councillors:** R A Beattie, R Britton, Ms J V Broom, D W Brown, K A Cardy, Mrs E A Chettleburgh, 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, M G Fowler, Mrs J A Green, M A Hewitt, Mrs C R Hill, J Holt, G E Jeans, J P King, M D Lee, D J Luther, Mrs H McKeown, I M Mitchell, Mrs 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, A A P Thorpe, I R Tomes, I C West, G Wright, J M Walsh and F Westmoreland

**Apologies:** were received from Councillors S R Fear, J A Cole-Morgan, Ms J F Launchbury, Miss M A Tomlinson, K C Wren

## Officers:

Manjeet Gill (Chief Executive) apologies, Tim Revell and Tom Bray (Democratic Services), Alan Osborne (Head of Financial Services), Deborah Holmes (Legal and Property Services)

## 187. Declarations of Interest:

Councillors Dalton and Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 part 3 (HRA Rent Setting for New Authorities) as they both rent garages from the Council. They did not speak or vote, and left the meeting for the duration of the item.

## 188. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were none

## 189. Minutes:

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 08 December 2008 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 190. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman presented Jacqui Roff, a volunteer at the Bemerton Heath Neighbourhood Centre, with a certificate awarded through the Smart Ideas Recognition Scheme for her valued contribution to the neighbourhood centre.



Awarded in:  
Housing Services  
Waste and Recycling Services



The Chairman also announced:

- that he had taken part in the Fairtrade Trolley Dash at the Market Square and attended the staff Christmas party along with a number of carol services before Christmas;
- that he had visited community groups and attended coffee mornings;
- that he had attended a Holocaust Day service in January;
- that his Burns Night themed Chairman's reception, held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009, went very well and he thanked all those that attended and assisted in the organisation of the event;
- that a plaque was being unveiled at the Guildhall on February 12 to commemorate the men and women who were put on trial in the court room during the swing riots;
- that the Business Excellence Awards, organised and run by Salisbury and District Chamber of Commerce & Industry, will be handed out to the area's best businesses at a ceremony on February 13 at the Salisbury Art Centre;
- that Salisbury District Sports Awards are due to be held this month.

Further to these announcements the Chairman allowed Councillor Evans to address the meeting to thank all those who had contacted her and her family or sent flowers following the death of her husband.

The Chairman also permitted the Leader of the Council to make three announcements.

- He commended council staff for continuing to deliver most services despite the period of heavy snow and in cases where services were affected clear and prompt communication was made to the residents.
- He also drew Council's attention to the direction of travel report issued by the Audit Commission based on the annual assessment carried out in November/December 2008. He reported that the outcome was generally positive and in particular the Council's financial arrangements were commended in paragraph 93. The Leader thanked staff, in particular the Head of Financial Services and his staff, for their continued effort.
- On behalf of the Council he wished Joan Smith, Business Support Officer, a speedy recovery after she recently suffered a broken leg.

**191. HRA Rents Settings for New Authorities: Councillor Tomes**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting held on 28 January 2009 previously circulated report of the Head of Housing Management.

**Resolved** – that

- (1) the HRA Budget for revised 2008/2009 (revised) and 2009/2010 (original) be approved;
- (2) the increase for dwelling rents in accordance with rent restructuring be approved;
- (3) the level of increase for garage rents at £2 per week be approved; and
- (4) the level of increase for service charges at a maximum of RPI and utility recharges as a maximum of utility inflation plus £1 per week be approved.

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

There were none.

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

There were no project or policy progress reports to consider.

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

Councillor Britton informed the Council of an inaccuracy contained in the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny minutes of the meeting on 21 January 2009. At minute 108 it should have read:

'Councillor Britton requested that his dissent be recorded.'

This amendment was accepted by the Chairman of the panel and would be changed.

It was also noted that were some inaccuracies regarding the numbering on the agenda. These inaccuracies would be rectified outside of the meeting.

**195. Call In Matters:**

There were none.

**196. 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:**

The Chairman allowed Members to raise questions at the meeting without 7 days written notice due to the speed at which items on the agenda had been covered.

Members debated the issue of area boards and the transition to the unitary authority. Councillor Parker asked why a report on the progress of pilot area boards had not come before Full Council. Various updates were given on developments on the pilot area boards in south Wiltshire and the 100-Day Plan set out by Wiltshire County Council's Transition Team. The Leader confirmed that he would write to Councillor Scott, Leader of Wiltshire County Council, to draw her attention to the issues raised at the meeting.

**Resolved** – that the Leader writes to Councillor Scott, Leader of Wiltshire County Council, to draw her attention to the issues raised at the meeting regarding the transition arrangements.

**197. Appointments:**

The Chairman informed Council that nominations had to be made for the interim Licensing Committee for the new unitary council.

**Resolved** – that Councillors Holt (Liberal Democrat), Moss (Conservative) and Tomes (Labour) serve on the interim Licensing Committee.

**198. Staffing Implications of Local Government Reorganisation:**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Cabinet meeting held on 28 January 2009 of the previously circulated report of the Interim Head of Legal and Property Services.

**Resolved** – that:

1. Council notes the arrangements to make appropriate decisions on the three groups of officers described in the report;
2. Council notes that a further report in March will be required to approve the final recommendations;
3. Council notes that Wiltshire County Council will be approached so that the proper officer(s) can agree the proposed course of action, including its funding;
4. Council notes that the trade unions have and will be consulted and the relevant policies will be applied throughout the process;
5. Council confirms its approval of the Security of Employment and Redundancy Procedure (the policy) previously circulated;
6. The Appointments Sub-Committee be authorised to approve voluntary redundancy arrangements in accordance with the policy;
7. The Appointments Sub-Committee consider any issues relating to the appointment of the Monitoring Officer and make recommendations to the Council if appropriate.

**199. Exempt Business:**

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

The Chairman closed the meeting and as it was the last Full Council meeting to be held in the City Hall he thanked the staff for making it a high quality venue. He reminded Members that the final meeting of Full Council would be held in the Guildhall on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 6.00 pm.

*The meeting finished at: 7.05 pm  
Members of the public: 3*