

Minutes

Meeting of : The Annual Council
Meeting held in : The Auditorium, City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury
Date : Monday 21 May 2007
Commencing at : 6.00pm

Present

Councillors:

R A Beattie, R Britton, Ms J V Broom, D W Brown, K A Cardy, Mrs E A Chettleburgh, 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, J Holt, S J Howarth, G E Jeans, J P King, Ms J F Launchbury, M D Lee, D J Luther, Mrs H McKeown, I D McLennan, 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, 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, K C Wren and G Wright

Officers:

David Crook (Acting Chief Executive), Stewart Agland (Head of Democratic Services), Steve Milton, Lindsay Mertens and James Chamberlain (Democratic Services), Alan Osborne (Head of Financial Services), John Crawford (Head of Legal and Property Services)

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR MRS SPENCER – IN THE CHAIR

1. **Prayer** - Reverend Chris Moorsom, Rector to Upper Stour Parish, opened the proceedings with prayer.
2. **Outgoing Chairman's Report:**

Prior to the formal business of the Council the outgoing Chairman addressed the meeting, highlighting some of the main achievements of the Council throughout her year as Chairman, as set out below. The Chairman also congratulated all Members on their election, 16 of whom were completely new to the Council, a further 5 had returned after a period of absence.

 - The opening of the fourth park and ride site at London Road in July 2006, with the council's 1,000,000th park and ride customer anticipated during 2007.
 - The successful completion of the planning process for the complex planning application relating to the Stonehenge Visitors Centre.
 - Securing 151 affordable homes during 2006/07 and receiving grant allocation of £7.1m (the highest grant allocation in Wiltshire) to build 300 homes over the coming two years.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



- Salisbury's Tourist Information Centre receiving the accolade of best TIC and best customer service by South West Tourism.
- The launch of a public consultation exercise asking how Salisbury's residents want to use the city's precious open spaces.
- Further successes in the Britain in Bloom awards.
- Continuing work on the vision for Salisbury, culminating in a master plan for guiding change and development over the coming decades, including a published set of proposals containing 24 potential improvements to the city for those who work, live and shop in it.
- Continuing improvements to the council's website, resulting in the council performing amongst the best in the country in a recent national survey.
- Hosting a housing workshop in January 2007 called "A Place to Call Home". The workshop was a huge success with hundreds of people dropping in for advice.
- Scoring amongst the top performing councils in the country in a residents' satisfaction survey, with the council's rate increasing by 5% to 68%. Similarly, a survey of council house tenants revealed 82% satisfaction with the overall service received.
- The City Hall's Preview Guide winning a national award for its quality of information, format and clarity of design.

The Chairman added that it had been an honour and privilege to hold the position, for which she was deeply appreciative for the opportunity. The Chairman had attended numerous facilities and events throughout the year, including various community activities; charity fund-raising days; youth, sports, music and arts events; schools; nursery schools; youth groups and facilities for the elderly and disabled throughout the district, together with civic services, awards presentations, receptions and royal visits.

Further to this, the Chairman paid particular congratulations to the Salisbury City Football Club for their recent success and promotion to the Conference League. The Chairman then went on to thank all those working throughout the district, both volunteers and others, who continue to give of their time and energies to enrich the lives of others in the community. Thanks were given to council staff for their dedication, hard work and notable achievements throughout a most challenging year, with special thanks dedicated to Mrs Jo King, Personal Assistant to the Chairman throughout the year, and Councillor Kevin Wren for his backing as Vice - Chairman. In addition, the Chairman thanked members of all council groups for their support and encouragement during the year, and particularly to the Chairman's husband and family for their constant support and particularly for the provision of musical entertainment at the Chairman's end of year reception at Stourhead.

The Chairman asked those present to join her in remembering with sadness, affection and gratitude, Margaret Peach, ward councillor for Downton; and Catherine Walsh, wife of Councillor John Walsh and much loved local teacher; both of whom passed away in 2006.

The Chairman also expressed her best wishes to former Councillor Mr A P Peach, who had recently had to go back into hospital.

Tributes were paid to the outgoing Chairman.

3. Election of Chairman of the Council:

RESOLVED - that Councillor Mrs E A Chettleburgh be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Mrs Chettleburgh made her declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair.

COUNCILLOR MRS E A CHETTLEBURGH – IN THE CHAIR

4. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council:

RESOLVED - that Councillor I D McLennan be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

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

5. Declarations of Interest:

There were none.

6. Public Questions/Statement Time:

Mr C H Duller made a statement regarding the council's Cabinet structure. This is attached at Annex A to the minutes.

7. Minutes:

Resolved - that the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 26 March 2007 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed the new and returning Members of the council and gave some brief advice on speaking procedures during Full Council meetings for those who were less familiar with council formalities.

The Chairman informed councillors that concerns from another Member had been brought to her attention regarding the council's ICT policy for officers and Members, the terms of which stipulated that the use of external email accounts were not allowed. The Chairman explained that, pending reconsideration of the policy, the council would not seek to impose this requirement in the policy on Members as it would currently inhibit them from being able to perform their Councillor role.

The Chairman also reported that concerns had been communicated by another Member in relation to the government's proposals to close Post Offices on a national scale, and that she hoped the council's new Leader would address this matter later in the meeting.

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

9. District Council Elections – 3 May 2007:

The Council received the Returning Officer's report (previously circulated) as to the persons elected as District Councillors for the Salisbury District.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

10. 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 10.

Resolved – that the establishment, size, composition and terms of reference of the bodies forming the political management structure as set out at Agenda Item 10 of the Council Agenda be agreed.

11. Political Balance / Group Membership on Committees:

The Council considered the previously circulated report of the Head Democratic Services, set out under Agenda Item 11.

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 |

12. Leader of the Cabinet/Council:

Resolved – That Councillor P W L Sample be elected as Leader of the Cabinet and Council for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

Following his election, Councillor Sample raised a few matters not on the agenda that he felt were worthy of early consideration by Cabinet and where applicable, other relevant Council bodies. These included:

- Early consideration of national proposals to close Post Offices, as mentioned earlier in the meeting by the Chairman.
- Possibilities of devolving further powers to Area Committees.
- A review of the Cabinet Portfolio structure.
- Enhancement of the council's scrutiny function.
- Recognition of the recent success of Salisbury City Football Club.

13. Deputy Leader of the Cabinet/Council:

Resolved – that Councillor S R Fear be elected as Deputy Leader of the Cabinet and Council for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

14. Cabinet Members:

Resolved – that the eight other Cabinet Members be elected as follows:-

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.

Note: Once elected, the Leader named the Portfolio Holders and Deputies as follows:-

Resources

Portfolio Holder - Councillor A C R Roberts
Deputy Portfolio – Councillor A A P Thorpe

Environment and Transport

Portfolio Holder - Councillor J C Robertson
Deputy Portfolio - Councillor Mrs H McKeown

Community and Housing

Portfolio Holder - Councillor B E Dalton
Deputy Portfolio - Councillor I R Tomes

Planning and Economic Development

Portfolio Holder – Councillor P D Edge
Deputy Portfolio - Councillor P M Clegg

15. Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Panels:

Resolved – that the Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels be as indicated in Annex B attached to these minutes.

16. Membership of Standards Committee:

Resolved – that Councillors C G Mills and A C R Roberts be appointed to the Standards Committee and that one of the deputies be Councillor J Holt, with the determination of the other deputy deferred until such time as a nomination comes forward.

17. 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 17 (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) that 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 M D Lee and I C Curr

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

Labour: Councillors I M Evans and I D McLennan

Labour deputies: Councillors S Howarth and J M Walsh

- (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

Members asked that Officers look to organise and early meeting of the Salisbury District Transportation Joint Committee, as they felt that there was much important business to address.

18. Membership of the New Forest National Park Authority:

Resolved – that

- (1) Councillor L Randall be elected to represent Salisbury District Council on the New Forest National Park Authority, and that this decision be subject to ratification by the Southern Area Committee.
- (2) in future this election be within the gift of the Southern Area Committee.

19. Notice of Motion 141: Office Project:

The Chairman read a joint statement aloud from the Head of Legal and Property Services and the Head of Financial Services in relation to the above motion (attached as Annex C).

The Council then considered Notice of Motion 141 proposed by Councillor P W L Sample and seconded by Councillor S R Fear (as set out at Agenda Item 19).

Resolved – that the motion be adopted.

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

There were none.

21. Project and Policy Progress Reports:

There were no project or policy progress reports to consider.

- 22. Reports of other Committees/Panels on which questions were asked:**
With reference to the Western Area Licensing Sub – Committee meeting of 13 March 2007, Councillor E R Draper informed the Council that Councillor P D Edge was the Chairman for the meeting, and not Councillor Draper as stated in the minutes.
- 23. Call In Matters:**
There were none.
- 24. 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:**
There were none.
- 25. Exempt Business:**
Since there were no questions arising it was not necessary to move into exempt business.

*The meeting finished at 7:42 pm
Members of the public: 61*

Annex A

Mr Colin H Duller
59 Essex Square
West Harnham
Salisbury
Wilts SP2 8JA

01722 507009

Statement/Question Full Council - Monday 21 May 2007

Chairman and Members of the Council

City and Town Management

As a resident of an old and noted city, which houses forty one thousand people out of a total of some one hundred and twenty two thousand five hundred and ninety people in south Wiltshire district.

I find myself questioning the running and operation of the district council by a cabinet structure.

After six long years of this operation is it not time to review what the cabinet can and cannot do to our city, towns and villages?

Our churches village, town and city halls are symbols of the community put in place by our forefathers. Do we not have the right to preserve and defend them?

If area committees, town and city councils are to be ignored, why have them?

Bodies such as the Civic Society and Water Meadow Trusts are charities not advisory bodies or authorities of any sort.

Comments on city affairs by rich local landowners are not required and are seen as an unwelcome intrusion by residents.

Ignorance of city charters and rights is no excuse to misuse cabinet power.

Colin Duller

Overview & Scrutiny Panel Membership (wef 21 May 2007)

| Resources (14 Members) | Environment & Transport (14 Members) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| R Britton Mrs E A Chettleburgh J A Cole-Morgan E R Draper M A Hewitt Mrs C R Hill J P King D J Luther I D McLennan C G Mills W R Moss Miss M A Tomlinson C R Vincent 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) |
| Ms J V Broom R J Clewer J A Cole-Morgan 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 R Britton 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 |

Annex C

Statement by the Head of Financial Services and Head of Legal and Property Services

If Council choose to support this motion, we must draw your attention to the following. In accordance with the Full Council decision in December 2006 the Council is in contract with Bluestone to carry out the construction of the new offices in accordance with the agreed design and timetable.

Whilst construction on site can be put on hold pending the special cabinet meeting, it must be understood that Bluestone will continue to mobilise resources within the terms of their contract. These activities will incur significant amounts of contractual liability. Whilst not quantifiable in exact terms the amounts will be of material financial consideration should a subsequent Full Council wish to end the existing contract.