

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 21 February 2007.

PRESENT: Councillor P A Swales – Chairman.

Councillors J D Ablewhite, R W D Bailey, M G Baker, K M Baker, Mrs M Banerjee, I C Bates, J T Bell, Mrs B E Boddington, P L E Bucknell, Mrs J Chandler, K J Churchill, Mrs D E Collins, S J Criswell, J W Davies, D B Dew, P J Downes, J J Dutton, R W J Eaton, R S Farrer, J E Garner, D A Giles, P M Godfrey, Mrs C A Godley, J A Gray, N J Guyatt, A Hansard, D Harty, C R Hyams, Mrs P J Longford, Mrs S A Menczer, P G Mitchell, I R Muir, M F Newman, R Powell, D J Priestman, Mrs D C Reynolds, K Reynolds, T V Rogers, T D Sanderson, L M Simpson, G S E Thorpe, R G Tuplin, P R Ward, J S Watt, R J West and Ms M Wheeler.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors E R Butler, J D Fell, A N Gilbert, J M Sadler and C J Stephens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D H Bristow.

49. PRAYER

The Bishop of Ely, Bishop A. Russell, opened the meeting with Prayer.

50. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) **New District Councillor**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor P R Ward to his first meeting of the Council following a by-election in the Warboys and Bury Ward.

(b) **Awards and Acknowledgements**

The Chairman indicated that he was pleased to announce that the District Council had received awards from the Association of Town Centre Management for their contribution towards the St. Benedicts Court Environmental Improvements Scheme, a Project of the Year Award in the

Eastern Region for its retail training courses and from the Royal Town Planning Institute for the regeneration project for the Oxmoor area of Huntingdon.

51. PETITION

The Chairman invited Ms N Tinn from the Offords Action Group to present a petition containing 128 signatures which called upon the Council to express a "preference for the 'brown route' as the route which has the least harmful overall impact for all communities concerned" in terms of the proposed improvements of the A14 from Ellington to Fen Ditton. The petitioners submitted the following reasons for their position -

- “♦ the number of properties which would suffer an increased noise nuisance by 2029 is less than for any other route, whereas the number who will benefit from less noise is greatest;
- ♦ the shorted viaduct over the Great Ouse and the railway on the brown route significantly reduces the environmental and visual impact;
- ♦ although initially more expensive, when viewed over the 60 year lifetime of the road, the differences are minimal and therefore costs should not influence the decision".

Following questions from Members, it was

RESOLVED

that the content of the petition be noted and taken into account during consideration of Minute No. 56 post.

52. MINUTES

Subject to the deletion of the name of Councillor K Reynolds from Minute No. 41, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 6th December 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillors I C Bates, Mrs B E Boddington, S J Criswell, P J Downes, J J Dutton, R S Farrer, D Harty, C R Hyams and K Reynolds declared a personal interest in Minute No. 59(a) (Item Nos. 89 and 90) by virtue of their membership of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillor J A Gray declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 59 (f) (Item No. 31) by virtue of his family relationship with a land owner who might be affected by the proposals contained therein.

54. BY ELECTION - 15TH FEBRUARY 2007

The Chief Executive reported that Mr P R Ward had been elected to the office of District Councillor at the by-election held on 15th

February 2007 in the Warboys and Bury Ward. In so doing, he extended his appreciation to candidates and their agents for their co-operation during the election and his gratitude for the contribution made by staff employed during the day.

55. FINANCIAL PLAN, MEDIUM TERM PLAN AND 2007/08 BUDGET: UPDATE AND ADJUSTMENTS

In conjunction with a report by the Head of Financial Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) and Item Nos. 85 and 86 of the Report of the Cabinet, the Executive Councillor for Finance, Councillor T V Rogers addressed the Council on the financial strategy, medium term plan for 2008/2012, 2007/08 budget, and related Prudential Indicators contained in the Treasury Management Strategy. In accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council also considered draft resolutions as to the levels of Council Tax in 2007/08 for the various parts of Huntingdonshire District.

Councillor Rogers commenced his presentation by thanking Officers, the Overview and Scrutiny Panels, individual Members and the Liberal Democrat Group for their contributions to the budgetary process and the identification of savings. He reminded Members that the challenges to which the Council had to respond included pressures for increased service spending, above average inflation, falling reserves and the threat of capping by the Government. He added that the existing programme of efficiencies and other savings would be required to continue.

Councillor Rogers drew attention to specific changes which had taken place since the Council had considered the budget and Medium Term Plan 2007 – 2012 in December (Minute No. 45 (a) refers) and to several late adjustments relating to electricity and gas costs and the re-phasing of the Pathfinder House/Operations Centre project. Turning specifically to the recommendations of the Cabinet for an increase in Council Tax of £5.22 in 2007/08 for a Band D property, Councillor Rogers explained that, in the Cabinet's view, this figure met the need to balance the demand for improved services against the desire to retain an affordable Council Tax for those households on fixed incomes.

In response, Councillor P J Downes, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group reiterated his disappointment that not all of the savings proposals submitted by his Group had been accepted but he acknowledged that other savings would need to be identified in subsequent years. He indicated his desire to see greater flexibility in the budget to enable the Council to respond to unforeseen expenditure such as the action plan arising from the Environment Strategy and suggested that consideration should be given to the possibility of shared services with other authorities which presented opportunities to secure cost savings.

In the ensuing discussion, the Leader, Councillor I C Bates, assured the Council that all opportunities for savings to enable the continued provision of good quality services and a low council tax would be

considered and this process would allow for new initiatives, such as the Environment Strategy to proceed as appropriate. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the proposed budget, Medium Term Plan and financial strategy, as set out in Annexes A4, A5 and A7 to the report now submitted be approved;
- (b) that the revised Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators as described in Annex B to the report now submitted be approved;
- (c) that a Council Tax increase of 4.99% representing a Council Tax of £109.91 for a Band D property in 2007/08 be approved;
- (d) that the following amounts be calculated by the Council for 2007/08 in accordance with Sections 32 and 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (the Act):-

	£
(i) the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act <i>Gross revenue expenditure including benefits and Parish Precepts</i>	66,700,085
(ii) the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act <i>Gross revenue income including reimbursement of benefits and use of reserves</i>	45,176,156
(iii) the amount by which the aggregate at (b) (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) (ii) above in accordance with Section 32 (4) of the Act <i>Budget requirement (item i minus item ii)</i>	21,523,929
(iv) the aggregate of the amounts payable into the General Fund for the items set out in Section 33 (1) of the Act. <i>Government support</i>	11,649,631
(v) the aggregate of the amounts	6,718

payable from the General Fund
for the items set out in Section
33 (3) of the Act

Collection Fund surplus

- | | | |
|--------|---|---|
| (vi) | the basic amount of Council Tax for 2007/08 in accordance with Section 33 (1) | 171.81
<i>per band D property</i> |
| | District plus average Town/Parish Council Tax | |
| (vii) | the aggregate of special items referred to in Section 34 (1) | 3,554,747 |
| | Total Town and Parish Council precepts | |
| (viii) | the basic amount of Council Tax for 2007/08 for those parts of the District to which no special item relates | 109.91 |
| | District Council Tax per band D property | |
| (ix) | the basic amounts of Council Tax for 2007/08 for those parts of the District to which one or more special items relate in accordance with Section 34 (3) of the Act are shown by adding the Huntingdonshire District Council amount to the appropriate Parish Council amount in column "band D" set out in table 1 hereto; | |
| (x) | the amounts to be taken into account for 2007/08 in respect of categories of dwellings listed in the different valuation bands in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act are shown by adding the Huntingdonshire District Council amount to the appropriate Parish Council amount for each of the valuation bands in the columns "bands A to H" set out in table 1 hereto; | |
- (e) that the amounts of precept issued to the Council by Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Police Authority and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority for each of the categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands in accordance with Section 40 of the Act shown in table 1 hereto; and
- (f) that, having regard to the calculations above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for 2007/08 for each of the categories of dwelling shown in table 2 hereto.

56. A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON - FURTHER PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Further to Minute No. 51 ante, the Executive Councillor for Environment and Transport presented a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) in response to the latest public consultation by the Highways Agency regarding the proposed improvement of the A14 between Ellington and Fen Ditton.

In the light of the petition presented by Ms N Tinn from the Offords Action Group under Minute No. 51 ante and in conjunction with Item No. 103 of the Report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15th February 2007, Councillor N J Guyatt, invited Members to consider the Council's response to the latest consultation proposals published by the Highways Agency. Councillor Guyatt referred to the contribution made by the A14 to the economic strength of the District and also to the problems this created for local communities. He acknowledged that the proposals could not resolve all of the difficulties created by the A14 and that, inevitably, a balance would have to be drawn taking into account economic, engineering and environmental factors. Councillor Guyatt considered that a new three-lane A14 with the existing A14 becoming a local road was essential if the District was to maintain its economic viability. He concluded that the proposed 'Orange route' with modifications around Brampton to achieve the best possible environmental solution, should be the Council's preferred option. He therefore moved, and it was duly seconded, the recommendations contained in the report now submitted.

As a Ward Councillor affected by the proposals, Councillor Mrs B Boddington, moved and it was duly seconded –

- “(i) that the word 'Orange' in the fifth line of recommendation (a) (i) be deleted and replaced by the word 'Brown';
- (ii) that the word 'Brown' in the first line of recommendation (a) (iii) be deleted and replaced by the word 'Orange';
- (iii) that after the word 'rejected' in recommendation (c) the words 'on the grounds of the potential impacts on the Buckden North and South landfill and associated issues that may arise from the adoption of that element of the route' be deleted and replaced by the words –

'for the following reasons –

- ◆ the number of properties which will suffer an increase in noise nuisance by 2029 is less than for any other route, whereas the number who will benefit from less noise is greatest;
- ◆ the shorter route over the Great Ouse and the

- railway on the Brown route significantly reduces the environmental and visual impact; and
- ◆ although initially more expensive, when viewed over the 60 year lifetime of the road, the differences are minimal and therefore costs should not influence the decision.’ “

Councillor R J West also indicated his support of the Motion.

Following debate and upon being put to the vote, the amendment was declared to be LOST.

In the ensuing discussion on the substantive Motion, Councillor Downes indicated his support for the ‘Orange’ route but, in light of other proposals to widen the A1, he suggested that the ‘Brown’ route would be preferable in the vicinity of Brampton and that mitigation measures also should be implemented to the A1. Whilst accepting that detailed work still was required, Councillor Downes suggested that an alternative traffic link from the Cardinal Distribution Park might benefit Brampton, Godmanchester and Huntingdon in the event of the removal of the Huntingdon viaduct.

In terms of the effect of the proposed improvements on the A428, Councillor A Hansard suggested that the Council should continue to champion improvements to the A428 between Caxton Gibbet and the Black Cat roundabout. Councillor Mrs B E Boddington concurred with this view and that of Councillor T V Rogers who had made similar comments about the effect of construction on local traffic and the A1123. In the light of further support for this view from Councillor D A Giles, the Leader, Councillor I C Bates, reiterated the importance of the East/West rail link and the carriage of freight by rail and considered that the Council’s response should make reference to the issues relating to the A428. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the ‘Orange’ route be supported as part of the current A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Further Public Consultation, subject to the Highways Agency’s consideration of the best alignment and environmental solution for Brampton between the Orange and Brown routes to the west of the A1, as outlined in the report now submitted;
- (b) that the Blue route, including Variation 2, be rejected on the grounds of the detrimental, unacceptable impacts on both Brampton and Fenstanton;
- (c) that the Brown route be rejected on the grounds of the potential impacts on the Buckden North and South landfill and associated issues that may arise from the adoption of that element of the route;
- (d) that the Director of Operational Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for

Environment and Transport, to submit a formal response to this consultation to the Highways Agency; and

- (e) that the Director of Operational Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Environment and Transport to agree a Statement of Principles with other Cambridgeshire stakeholders as a joint position statement for submission to the Highways Agency.

57. ADJOURNMENT

At 3.45 pm, it was

RESOLVED

that the meeting stand adjourned.

Upon resumption at 4.04pm.

58. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

A report by the Head of Administration was presented (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) summarising the outcome of the fifth review of Members' Allowances by the Independent Advisory Panel. A copy of the report of the Advisory Panel had been circulated separately to Members.

Members were reminded that the Panel had been convened principally to –

- ◆ respond to a Motion moved by Councillor M G Baker referred to it by the Council on 28th September 2005 in respect of car travel allowances;
- ◆ to consider Members' representations in respect of the special responsibility allowance for Members of the Development Control Panel;
- ◆ to reaffirm the retail price index as the automatic index mechanism for the annual adjustment to the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances for a further four year period; and
- ◆ to review allowances to ensure that the current Huntingdonshire scheme is comparable with similar types/sizes of authority.

Thereupon the recommendations contained in the report were moved by Councillor J E Garner and it was duly seconded.

Councillor M G Baker moved the following amendment which was duly seconded -

“that in recommendation (c) of the report now submitted the words "travelling and" and "casual users mileage and" be deleted and the following words added to the

recommendations listed in paragraph 3.1 -

- "(i) that the three-tier system of Members' car travel allowance be scrapped and replaced with a single mileage payment rate of 37.0p per mile irrespective of car engine size. This rate should be paid, as at present, up to 8,500 miles per annum and the rate above that mileage should be at 10.8p per mile."

Following debate and on being put to the vote, the amendment declared to be LOST.

Subsequently, Councillor P J Downes moved and it was duly seconded –

“that the words in recommendation (a) be deleted and replaced by the words “the level of basic allowance for all District Councillors be aligned to the median of the CIPFA comparative authorities as indicated on page 3 of the report of the Independent Panel”; and

“that the words in recommendation (f) be deleted and replaced by the words “(f) the formula to be adopted for the SRA of the Leader of the principal opposition group be aligned to the Chairman of an Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the fixed component and £120 per Member for the variable element”.

Following debate and upon being put to a vote, the amendment was declared to be LOST. On the original Motion being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Chief Executive be authorised to prepare a new scheme of Members Allowances to come into effect on 16th May 2007 and to implement the following –
- ◆ the level of basic allowance for all District Councillors as outlined in the Appendix to the report now submitted;
 - ◆ the levels of special responsibility allowance as outlined in the Appendix to the report now submitted;
 - ◆ the continuation of the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances in line with National Joint Council – casual users’ mileage and subsistence rates for local government employees;
 - ◆ the payment of a co-optee's allowance of £2,690 per annum to an independent Chairman of the Standards Committee which is the sum equivalent to that which would be payable were that position held by an elected Member;

- ◆ the continuation of the use of the retail price index (RPI) as an automatic index mechanism to enable the Members' Allowances Scheme to be adjusted, as necessary, to reflect inflation until 30th April 2011;
- ◆ the adoption of a formula for calculating the standard and variable elements of the special responsibility allowance for the Leader of the principal opposition group;
- ◆ the remuneration of the Leader of other opposition groups should that group comprise more than two Members and be registered as a political group on the Council; and
- ◆ the Head of Human Resources and Payroll be authorised to invite Members to consider whether they wish to join the Local Government Pension Scheme in terms of their receipt of basic and special responsibility allowances; and

(b) that, upon the coming into effect of the revised Members' Allowances Scheme with effect from 16th May 2007, the existing scheme be revoked.

59. REPORTS OF THE CABINET, PANELS AND COMMITTEES

(a) **Cabinet**

Councillor I C Bates, Leader and Chairman of the Cabinet presented the Report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 21st December 2006, 11th January, 1st and 15th February 2007.

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In connection with Item Nos. 85 and 86, it was noted that the recommendations had been considered previously under Minute No. 55 ante.

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In connection with Item No. 90 and in response to a question from Councillor G S E Thorpe, the Executive Councillor for Operations, Councillor Mrs P J Longford replied that the proposed private finance initiative between Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire principal authorities would not effect the District Council's waste collection service.

.....

In connection with Item No. 99 and in response to concern expressed by Councillor P J Downes at the timescale for progressing the programme of work on the Environment Strategy, the Executive Councillor for Environment and Transport, Councillor N J Guyatt replied that three Working Groups had been established to progress elements of the strategy which would be issued for public consultation in April with a view to the production of a fully costed Action Plan by October.

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In connection with Item No. 103, it was noted that the recommendations had been considered previously under Minute No. 56 ante.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that, subject to the foregoing paragraphs, the Report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 21st December 2006, 11th January 2007, 1st and 15th February 2007 be received and adopted.

(b) **Standards Committee**

Mr D H Bristow presented the Report of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 7th December 2006 and 17th January 2007.

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In connection with Item No. 8, Mr Bristow reiterated that the training offered to Little Paxton Parish Council was intended to be an opportunity to avoid problems in the future and not as any indication of failure on their part.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 7th December 2006 and 17th January 2007 be received and adopted.

(c) **Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery)**

Councillor S J Criswell presented the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) held on 5th December 2006, 2nd January and 6th February 2007.

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In connection with Item No. 24 and in response to a question from Councillor R W J Eaton, Councillor Criswell replied that he also looked forward to the outcome of the study on small scale environmental improvements being undertaken by a Working Group appointed by the Panel.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny

Panel (Service Delivery) held on 5th December 2006 and 2nd January and 6th February 2007 be received and adopted.

(d) **Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support)**

Councillor J A Gray presented the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) held on 12th December 2006 and 9th January 2007.

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In connection with Item No. 25 and in response to a question from Councillor T D Sanderson, Councillor Gray concurred with the questioner's view that although there had been an improvement, the Section 106 funding still unexpended remained at a high level and that he would forward to him a copy of the revised position statement.

.....

In connection with Item No. 30 and in response to a question from Councillor P J Downes regarding the undertaking by Cambridgeshire County Council of a speed limit implementation review, Councillor Gray assured the questioner that the Panel would seek to influence the content of the Department of Transport Guidance to the benefit of villages in Huntingdonshire.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) held on 12th December 2006 and 9th January 2007 be received and adopted.

(e) **Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework)**

Councillor J A Gray presented the Report of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework) held on 30th January 2007.

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In connection with Item No. 8 and in response to questions from Councillor P J Downes, Councillor Gray undertook to ensure that appropriate publicity would be issued on the progress and impact upon immediate neighbours of the project to redevelop Pathfinder House. Councillor T D Sanderson added that as Ward Councillor for St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon he and his colleague Ward Councillor would keep residents informed of the progress of the scheme.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework) held on 30th January 2007 be received and adopted.

(f) **Development Control Panel**

Councillor P G Mitchell presented the Report of the meetings of the Development Control Panel held on 18th December 2006, 15th January and 5th February 2007.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Development Control Panel held on 18th December 2006, 15th January and 5th February 2007 be received and adopted.

(g) **Employment Panel**

Councillor K Reynolds presented the Report of the meeting of the Employment Panel held on 7th February 2007.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Employment Panel held on 7th February 2007 be received and adopted.

(h) **Corporate Governance Panel**

Councillor K J Churchill presented the Report of the meeting of the Corporate Governance Panel held on 13th December 2006.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Corporate Governance Panel held on 13th December 2006 be received and adopted.

(i) **Elections Panel**

Councillor D Harty presented the Report of the meeting of the Elections Panel held on 15th December 2006.

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In connection with Item No. 3 and in response to a question from Councillor M G Baker, Councillor Harty assured the Council that

the Panel would take into account all submissions made by Parishes and in particular as part of the current Parish Review he had offered to visit Ellington Ward to look at the proposals individually.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Elections Panel held on 15th December 2006 be received and adopted.

60. ORAL QUESTIONS

In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules (Section 8.3 of the Council's Constitution), the Chairman proceeded to conduct a period of oral questions addressed to Executive Councillors and Panel Chairmen as follows:-

Question from Councillor Mrs C A Godley to the Executive Councillor for Headquarters and Information Technology, Councillor L M Simpson

In response to a question regarding the adequacy of the IT systems allocated to Members for Council work, Councillor Simpson replied that as part of the flexible working project he was hopeful that a programme for connecting Councillors to broadband could be progressed as soon as possible.

Question from Councillor D A Giles to the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, Councillor P L E Bucknell

In response to a question regarding the possible imposition of charges for car parking at the Riverside and Lid's car parks, St. Neots, Councillor Bucknell replied that the car parking strategy was in the course of preparation and that this would incorporate a review of car parking charges across the District.

Question from Councillor J J Dutton to the Executive Councillor for Leisure Strategy, Councillor Mrs J Chandler

In response to a question regarding the resources available to ensure that the Council's leisure centres were able to continue to promote healthy lifestyles, Councillor Mrs Chandler replied that leisure centre staff continued to work hard to encourage all sectors of the community to participate in recreational activities and that the Cabinet had commissioned a review of leisure service provision in the District.

Question from Councillor P J Downes to the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, Councillor P L E Bucknell

In response to a question regarding the timescale for the publication of the car parking strategy, Councillor Bucknell confirmed that proposals would be published shortly.

Question from Councillor T D Sanderson to the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, Councillor P L E Bucknell

In response to a question regarding the progress of the proposed establishment of a cycle/pedestrian link and review of the HGV weight limit on St. Peter's Road, Huntingdon, Councillor Bucknell reported that both issues were still being discussed with Cambridgeshire County Council.

Question from Councillor J S Watt to the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, Councillor P L E Bucknell

In response to a question regarding the extent of the District Council's support for the Sustainable Communities Bill, Councillor Bucknell advised that he would prefer to await the third reading of the Bill in Parliament before giving any consideration to its application within communities in Huntingdonshire and that he would write to the questioner when in receipt of any further information.

Question from Councillor G S E Thorpe to the Leader of the Council, Councillor I C Bates

In response to a question in respect of the District Council's plans to sell or redevelop Council owned land and property in St. Neots, Councillor Bates undertook to respond to the questioner in writing given the complex nature of the information which needed to be conveyed.

61. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET, COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED

- (a) that Councillor P R Ward be appointed to the Development Control Panel to replace Councillor P J Downes;
- (b) that Councillor G S E Thorpe be appointed to the Standards Committee;
- (c) that Councillor R W J Eaton be appointed to the Licensing and Protection Panel and Licensing Committee; and
- (d) that Councillor P J Downes be appointed to the Elections Panel.

62. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: SECTION 85

The Chief Executive reported that there were no absences of Members from meetings for consideration in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The meeting concluded at 5.16 pm.

Chairman

