

## 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, 16 May 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, P L E Bucknell, E R Butler,  
K J Churchill, Cooper, S J Criswell,  
P H Dakers, J W Davies, D B Dew,  
P J Downes, J J Dutton, R W J Eaton,  
R S Farrer, J D Fell, J E Garner,  
P M D Godfrey, Mrs C A Godley, A Hansard,  
D Harty, C R Hyams, Jordan, Ms S Kemp,  
L W McGuire, P G Mitchell, I R Muir,  
M F Newman, R Powell, D J Priestman,  
Mrs D C Reynolds, T V Rogers,  
T D Sanderson, L M Simpson, C J Stephens,  
G S E Thorpe, R G Tuplin, P K Ursell,  
P R Ward, J S Watt and R J West.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J T Bell, Mrs B E Boddington, A N Gilbert, D A Giles, J A Gray, K Reynolds and J M Sadler.

### 1. PRAYER

The Bishop of Huntingdon, Dr J Inge, opened the meeting with Prayer.

### 2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### (a) Council Membership

The Chairman congratulated those Members of the Council who had been returned for a further term of office at the District Council elections held on 3rd May 2007 and extended a warm welcome to the following newly elected Members –

Mrs K E Cooper (St. Neots – Priory Park);  
P H Dakers (Fenstanton);  
Mrs P A Jordan (Brampton);  
Ms S Kemp (Huntingdon North);  
L W McGuire (Elton and Folksworth); and  
P K Ursell (St. Neots – Eynesbury).

Tributes also were paid to former Members, Mrs P J Longford and Ms M Wheeler, who had stood unsuccessfully for re-election.

### **3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor P L E Bucknell, seconded by Councillor J J Dutton and

RESOLVED

that Councillor P A Swales be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Swales made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and thanked Members for the honour conferred in electing him as Chairman of the District Council for a further term of office.

**Councillor P A Swales in the Chair.**

### **4. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18th April 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **5. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None were received.

### **6. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor P A Swales, seconded by Councillor D B Dew and

RESOLVED

that Councillor J W Davies be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Davies made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and expressed appreciation to Members for their confidence and for the honour which they had conferred on him.

### **7. LOCAL ELECTIONS: 3RD MAY 2007**

The report of the Returning Officer with regard to the County, District and Parish Council elections held on 3rd May 2007 was received and noted (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book).

The Returning Officer extended his appreciation to the candidates and their supporters for their co-operation and courtesy during the elections and paid particular tribute to the Elections Team for the contribution they had made to meeting the new challenges posed locally and nationally by recent changes in electoral practice. Having commended the decision to defer the counting of votes to the day after the elections and indicated their desire for this practice to continue in future years, Members placed on record their appreciation to the Elections Team and to those that had been engaged in election duties over the period.

**8. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Councillor C R Hyams, seconded by Councillor P L E Bucknell and

RESOLVED

that Councillor I C Bates be elected Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Cabinet for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**9. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Councillor J J Dutton, seconded by Councillor A Hansard and

RESOLVED

that Councillor L M Simpson be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council and Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**10. APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET**

Members were informed by the Leader that the filling of a vacancy in the Membership of the Cabinet would be considered at a future meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED

that, (in addition to the Leader and Deputy Leader), Councillors P L E Bucknell, A Hansard, C R Hyams, Mrs D C Reynolds and T V Rogers be appointed as Members of the Cabinet for the ensuing year.

**11. REPRESENTATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON DISTRICT COUNCIL PANELS, ETC**

A report was submitted by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) relating to the principles of proportionality to be applied to the appointment of Panels in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Part II of the Local Government Act 2000. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the allocation of seats on Panels to political groups and non-aligned Members be determined as set out in the report now submitted.

**12. STANDARDS COMMITTEE: INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

Further to Minute No. 69 (b) of the meeting of the Council held on 18th April 2007, Councillor G S E Thorpe presented the report of the Panel appointed by the Council to consider candidates for appointment as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for a four year term commencing on 16th May 2007 (a copy of which

is appended in the Minute Book).

In accordance with The Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001, vacancies in Membership of the Committee had been advertised in the local press and following interviews, the Panel had recommended that Mr D L Hall be re-appointed and that two other applicants be invited to serve as Independent Members. On the recommendation of the Panel, the Council

RESOLVED

that Mr D L Hall be re-appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee and that Messrs P L Boothman of Buckley House, Thicket Road, Houghton and M Lynch of Bury Way, St. Ives also be invited to serve as Independent Members for a four year term commencing on 16th May 2007.

**13. STANDARDS COMMITTEE: TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

It was noted that Messrs G Watkins and D Macpherson, representing Town and Parish Councils in Huntingdonshire, had been nominated by the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils to serve on the Standards Committee until May 2011.

**14. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS**

RESOLVED

(a) that the following Members be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels for the ensuing Municipal Year –

<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery)</b>	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel (Service Support)</b>	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel (Corporate &amp; Strategic Framework)</b>
J D Ablewhite	K M Baker	M G Baker
Mrs M Banerjee	M G Baker	Mrs M Banerjee
E R Butler	J T Bell	K Churchill
K Churchill	P H Dakers	S J Criswell
Mrs K E Cooper	J W Davies	J W Davies
S J Criswell	D B Dew	D B Dew
J E Garner	P J Downes	P J Downes
D A Giles	A N Gilbert	J A Gray
Mrs C A Godley	P M D Godfrey	D Harty
D Harty	J A Gray	M F Newman
Mrs P A Jordan	Ms S Kemp	
P G Mitchell	L W McGuire	
J M Sadler	M F Newman	
P K Ursell	R G Tuplin	
J S Watt	R J West	

(b) that in the case of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel

(Corporate and Strategic Framework) the remaining five Members of the Panel be appointed from amongst the membership of the remaining Overview and Scrutiny Panels on an ad-hoc basis by the Head of Administration after consultation with the Panel Chairmen, in accordance with the rules of proportionality and in the light of the subject matter to be discussed.

## 15. COMMITTEES AND PANELS

### RESOLVED

- (a) that Members be appointed to serve on the Standards and Licensing Committees and Employment, Development Control, Licensing & Protection, Corporate Governance, Elections and Appointment Panels for the ensuing Municipal Year as follows:-

#### **Standards Committee (7)**

J D Ablewhite, Mrs B E Boddington, P J Downes, R S Farrer, I R Muir, T D Sanderson and G S E Thorpe;

#### **Employment Panel (8)**

Mrs B E Boddington, J J Dutton, Mrs P A Jordan, I R Muir, R Powell, K Reynolds and T D Sanderson and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate portfolio responsibility;

#### **Development Control Panel (16)**

Mrs M Banerjee, Mrs B E Boddington, E R Butler, D B Dew, J J Dutton, J D Fell, P G Mitchell, D J Priestman, C J Stephens, P A Swales, G S E Thorpe, R G Tuplin, P K Ursell, P R Ward, R J West and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate portfolio responsibility;

#### **Licensing and Protection Panel (12)**

K M Baker, J T Bell, J J Dutton, R W J Eaton, R S Farrer, J D Fell, I R Muir, R Powell, J M Sadler, T D Sanderson, J S Watt and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate portfolio responsibility;

#### **Licensing Committee (12)**

K M Baker, J T Bell, J J Dutton, R W J Eaton, R S Farrer, J D Fell, I R Muir, R Powell, J M Sadler, T D Sanderson, J S Watt and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate portfolio responsibility;

#### **Corporate Governance Panel (7)**

K Churchill, P J Downes, J A Gray, T V Rogers, L M Simpson, C J Stephens and G S E Thorpe.

#### **Appointments Panel (4)**

M G Baker, K Reynolds, T V Rogers and L M Simpson

together with the relevant Executive Councillor in relation to the post to be filled; and

**Elections Panel (7)**

P J Downes, J E Garner, A N Gilbert, D Harty, M F Newman, K Reynolds and G S E Thorpe;

- (b) that the following Members be nominated from which number the Director of Central Services be authorised when necessary to convene a meeting of the Appeal Sub-Group to include up to five Members (excluding Members of the Employment Panel) to determine appeals under the Council's Disciplinary and Appeals Procedures –

J T Bell, Mrs B E Boddington, J W Davies, C R Hyams, L W McGuire, P G Mitchell, M F Newman, Mrs D C Reynolds, T V Rogers, G S E Thorpe, R G Tuplin and J S Watt.

**16. 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 3pm.

Chairman