

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL meeting of the COUNCIL held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 18 May 2011.

PRESENT: Councillor J J Dutton – Chairman.

Councillors J D Ablewhite, S Akthar, K M Baker
M G Baker, Mrs M Banerjee, I C Bates,
Mrs B E Boddington, P L E Bucknell, G J Bull,
S Cawley, B S Chapman, K J Churchill,
S J Criswell, I J Curtis, J W Davies, Mrs J A Dew,
D B Dew, P J Downes, R S Farrer,
P M D Godfrey, P Godley, J A Gray, S Greenall,
N J Guyatt, A Hansard, G J Harlock, R Harrison,
D Harty, R B Howe, C R Hyams, A R Jennings,
S M Van De Kerkhove, P G Mitchell, P D Reeve,
Mrs D C Reynolds, T V Rogers, T D Sanderson,
M F Shellens, P A Swales, R G Tuplin,
D M Tysoe, P K Ursell, P R Ward, J S Watt,
R J West and A H Williams.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors E R Butler, W T Clough, Mrs P A Jordan, Mrs P J Longford and A J Mackender-Lawrence.

1. PRAYER

Reverend A Milton, Team Rector of Huntingdon 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 5th May 2011 and extended a warm welcome to the following newly elected Members –

S Akthar – Huntingdon East
G J Bull – Somersham
I J Curtis – Ramsey
G J Harlock – Fenstanton
R Harrison – St. Neots (Eaton Socon)
R B Howe – Upwood and the Raveleys
A R Jennings – St. Neots (Eaton Socon)
A J Mackender-Lawrence – Huntingdon North; and
A H Williams – The Hemingfords

The Council also welcomed Councillor Mrs P J Longford who had been re-elected to represent St. Neots (Priory Park). Tributes also were paid to former Members Mrs K E Cooper,

C M Saunderson, Mrs P E Shrapnell, and G S E Thorpe who had stood unsuccessfully for re-election.

The Council extended their best wishes to the former Members and placed on record their appreciation to them for their service and contribution to the District Council.

(b) Award

The Chairman announced that the Customer Services Centres at Huntingdon and St. Neots had been awarded a Customer Service Excellence Award, a national accreditation which indicated that the District Council had demonstrated excellent customer service and continuous improvement in service delivery.

(c) Chairman's Events – Past and Future

The Council noted that the various activities held to mark St. George's Day on 23rd April 2011 had raised £135 for the Chairman's Charities. A further £660 raised at the Chairman's Summer Reception in April also had contributed to the total sum of £2,700 generated thus far towards the charity account. The Chairman encouraged Members to attend both the Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony on 20th June and a charity hot buffet lunch at the Darjeeling Restaurant in Huntingdon on 10th July.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor J W Davies, seconded by Councillor N J Guyatt and

RESOLVED

that Councillor J J Dutton be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Dutton 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 Dutton expressed the pleasure that serving the District Council had given him over the past year and paid tribute to the help and support offered to him by Councillor Mrs B E Boddington as Vice-Chairman of the Council over this period. The Chairman further announced that he had again decided to appoint a Chairman's Cadet from St. John's Ambulance to support him on Council Civic engagements and had invited the Reverend Milton to become the Chairman's Chaplain for the forthcoming year.

Councillor J J Dutton in the Chair.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20th April 2011 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 Councillor R J West, seconded by Councillor Mrs M Banerjee and

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs B E Boddington be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Mrs Boddington made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office, expressed appreciation to Members for their confidence and for the honour which they had conferred on her.

7. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was proposed by Councillor N J Guyatt, seconded by Councillor I C Bates and

RESOLVED

that Councillor J D Ablewhite be elected Executive Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Cabinet for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Ablewhite thanked Members for their support and wished to place on record his appreciation for the work of his predecessor, Councillor I C Bates and the former Deputy Leader, L M Simpson in leading the Council to a position where it was highly respected by other authorities.

In terms of his new position, Councillor Ablewhite expressed his pride in being elected as the first Executive Leader and whilst acknowledging the challenges that lay ahead undertook to devote both energy and passion to protect, enhance and maintain the quality of life, growth and prosperity of the District to ensure it continued to be a good place to live and work.

8. APPOINTMENT OF CABINET

The Executive Leader announced that he had appointed Councillors B S Chapman, J A Gray, N J Guyatt, T V Rogers and T D Sanderson to join him as Members of the Cabinet for the ensuing Municipal Year. He also announced that Councillor N J Guyatt would be Deputy Executive Leader and Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet.

Councillor P J Downes, Leader of the Principal Opposition Group wished to place on record his appreciation and that of his Group for the work of the former Leader, Councillor I C Bates and he offered his congratulations to Councillor Bates on his appointment to the Cabinet at Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillor Downes also congratulated Councillors Ablewhite and

Guyatt on their positions as Executive Leader and Deputy Executive Leader respectively and commended their decision to reduce the size of the membership of the Cabinet. However, Councillor Downes wished to pay tribute to the particular contributions made to the Council by Councillors D B Dew and K J Churchill, former Members of the Cabinet in view of their involvement in planning issues and the review of the Democratic Structure.

9. LOCAL ELECTIONS: 5TH MAY 2011

The report of the Returning Officer with regard to the District Council elections held on 5th May 2011 was received and noted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book). The Returning Officer extended his appreciation to candidates and their agents for their co-operation and courtesy during the complex series of elections and paid tribute to the Elections Team and other staff for the efficient manner in which they had conducted the elections.

As the recent election would be the last for which the Chief Executive, as Returning Officer, would be responsible, Councillor I C Bates extended the Council's appreciation to Mr Monks for his contribution to the elections process over his period of office and requested that he, in turn, convey the Council's appreciation to those who had been engaged in election duties recently.

10. REPRESENTATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON DISTRICT COUNCIL PANELS, ETC

A report was submitted by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (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.

11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS

RESOLVED

that the following Members be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels for the ensuing Municipal Year:-

Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being)	Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being)	Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being)
S Akthar	M G Baker	G J Bull
K M Baker	Mrs M Banerjee	E R Butler
I C Bates	I J Curtis	S Greenall
S J Criswell	J W Davies	R Harrison
Mrs J A Dew	P M D Godfrey	R B Howe

J J Dutton
Mrs P A Jordan
Mrs D C Reynolds
S M Van De
Kerkhove
R J West

P Godley
G J Harlock
D Harty
C R Hyams
J S Watt

A J Mackender-
Lawrence
P G Mitchell
M F Shellens
D M Tysoe
A H Williams

12. COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED

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

Standards Committee (7)

Councillors Mrs B E Boddington, K J Churchill, P J Downes, R S Farrer, A Hansard, P G Mitchell and T D Sanderson

Licensing Committee (12)

Councillors K M Baker, K J Churchill, I J Curtis, J W Davies, J J Dutton, R S Farrer, G J Harlock, A R Jennings, Mrs P A Jordan, A J Mackender-Lawrence, T D Sanderson and S M Van De Kerkhove and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate responsibilities.

Employment Panel (8)

Councillors J D Ablewhite, S Akthar, S Cawley, P J Downes, R S Farrer, G J Harlock, T V Rogers and P A Swales and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate portfolio responsibility.

Development Management Panel (16)

Councillors Mrs B E Boddington, P L E Bucknell, G J Bull, E R Butler, W T Clough, D B Dew, J J Dutton, N J Guyatt, R B Howe, Mrs P J Longford, P D Reeve, P A Swales, R G Tuplin, P K Ursell, P D Ward and R J West and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate portfolio responsibility.

Licensing and Protection Panel (12)

Councillors K M Baker, K J Churchill, I J Curtis, J W Davies, J J Dutton, R S Farrer, G J Harlock, A R Jennings, Mrs P A Jordan, A J Mackender-Lawrence, T D Sanderson, S M Van De Kerkhove and one member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate portfolio responsibilities.

Corporate Governance Panel (7)

Councillors M G Baker, E R Butler, R S Farrer, G J Harlock, A R Jennings, P G Mitchell and T V Rogers; and

Senior Officers' Panel

Councillors M G Baker, S Cawley, N J Guyatt and P A Swales together with the relevant Executive Councillor in relation to the post to be filled.

- (b) that the following Members be nominated from which the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised, when necessary, to convene a meeting of the Appeals 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 –

Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, I C Bates, Mrs B E Boddington, K J Churchill, J W Davies, D B Dew, Mrs J A Dew, P J Downes, P Godley, C R Hyams, P G Mitchell, Mrs D C Reynolds, M F Shellens, J S Watt and A H Williams.

- (c) that the following Members be appointed to the Elections Working Group to undertake reviews of the polling district and polling places and the membership of the District Council –

Mrs M Banerjee, G J Bull, K J Churchill, P J Downes, J Gray together with either the Executive Leader or Deputy Executive Leader.

The meeting concluded at 6.30pm

Chairman

Chairman