

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 28 September 2011.

PRESENT: Councillor J J Dutton – Chairman.

Councillors J D Ablewhite, S Akthar,  
M G Baker, K M Baker, Mrs M Banerjee,  
I C Bates, Mrs B E Boddington,  
P L E Bucknell, G J Bull, E R Butler,  
S Cawley, B S Chapman, K J Churchill,  
W T Clough, 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,  
Mrs P A Jordan, S M Van De Kerkhove,  
Mrs P J Longford, A J Mackender-Lawrence,  
P G Mitchell, P D Reeve, Mrs D C Reynolds,  
T V Rogers, T D Sanderson, M F Shellens,  
R G Tuplin, D M Tysoe, P K Ursell,  
P R Ward, J S Watt, R J West and  
A H Williams.

APOLOGY: An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor P A Swales.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D L Hall.

### 22. PRAYER

The Bishop of Ely, the Right Reverend S Conway opened the meeting with prayer.

### 23. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### (a) Charter for Elected Member Development

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting, Ms C Tredget, Director of Improvement East, who was in attendance to formally present to the Council the East of England Local Government Association Charter for Elected Member Development. The current Chairman of the Member Development Group, Councillor R G Tuplin accepted the Charter on behalf of the Council and thanked former and current Members and Officers who had contributed to the success of the Member Development Programme.

#### (b) Merchant Navy Day

Having advised the Council of the success of the event which had been arranged to commemorate Merchant Navy Day on 4th September 2011, the Chairman remarked that the relocation of the flagpole into Samian Court would help to facilitate this and other future events.

(c) **Anglia In Bloom**

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated the various towns and groups in Huntingdonshire on their success in the recent Anglia in Bloom Awards. Particular mention was made to Huntingdon who had received a Gold Award in the 2011 RSH Britain in Bloom National Awards. The Chairman urged his colleague Members to encourage residents and businesses in their respective Wards to take part or sponsor the event in future years.

(d) **Events**

The Chairman was pleased to announce that he had raised £700 for his charities since the last Council meeting. The Chairman also gave notice that he would be hosting a cabaret evening at Wood Green Animal Shelter on 7th October and that his Christmas Carol Service would be held at St. Mary's Church, Huntingdon on 13th December 2011.

**24. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th June 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**25. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillors I C Bates, K J Churchill, S J Criswell, J J Dutton, P J Downes, R S Farrer, N J Guyatt, D Harty, P D Reeve and R J West declared a personal interest in Minute No. 29 post by virtue of their membership of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillor R B Howe, declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 29 post as a former Governor of Upwood Primary School and given his family relationship with an employee of the School and left the room during discussion and voting thereon.

**26. COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

The Chairman reminded Members of the decision by the Council to suspend Council Procedure Rule 11 (Rules of Debate) to enable headline debates and "white paper" proposals to be discussed by Members in an open manner. The Council therefore

**RESOLVED**

that Council Procedure Rule 11 (Rules of Debate) be suspended for the duration of the discussion on Minute No. 27 during which time the common law rules of debate be observed by Members and applied by the Chairman.

## 27. COUNCIL DEBATE

The Chairman invited the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, Mr S Parr to address Members on the "Future Structure of the Constabulary and Changes Taken Place within the Force".

The Chief Constable opened his address by reminding the Council that some 15/20 years ago, it was considered that the performance and profile of police forces was such that indicators/targets were introduced against which performance was measured. Police forces also were encouraged to work within their communities.

More recently, the Government has encouraged greater control of funding by authorising Chief Constables to administer their force as self contained business units responsible to local communities. This ethos has led to reviews of the infrastructure which existed within every county constabulary.

Mr Parr described how he had, on his appointment, faced a scenario whereby the Government had announced a £20m reduction in the Cambridgeshire budget and the force had achieved less successful results in detecting crime than it had previously. Mr Parr suggested that he had to consider how to work differently to ensure no further loss in performance. Freedom from numerical measures and performance management meant he could look differently at policing in Cambridgeshire and the challenges in particular in Huntingdonshire as opposed to those in Cambridge and Peterborough. Mr Parr explained how he had approached communities to discuss what, realistically, the Police could continue to offer and what communities considered to be the most important aspect of police work.

As a first step, he described the changes to the management structure which were being put in place and which would result in the appointment of a Chief Inspector responsible for policing in Huntingdonshire. A more senior Chief Superintendent would hold to account those officers who were responsible for district areas. He referred to the various crimes which had most impact locally and the new ways by which the police would respond to them. For example, a greater use of community speed watch schemes to monitor speeding in villages and increased liaison with schools over parking and speeding issues. Mr Parr also indicated his wish to work in a different way with young offenders and outlined his belief in "restorative justice" and his willingness to seek to engage with difficult families to solve difficult issues in partnership with other agencies.

As re-structuring also offered the opportunity to create a centre of expertise to respond to more serious crime, Mr Parr added that he was working with partner forces in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire to seek to deliver more specialist services. He anticipated delays in answering telephone calls because operators had been asked to establish how the police could best respond to any incidents that were being reported.

Lastly Mr Parr concluded by stating that the force had already identified £9m savings from rationalisation of the infrastructure and back office support, that next year's budget had been balanced and that plans had been made for the next 3 to 4 years with the ultimate

objective to retain as many operational Police Constables in the community as possible.

A lengthy period of questions followed from Members and Councillor R J West opened this session by asking whether additional funding was granted to the Cambridgeshire Force to meet the cost of interpretation services required to respond to the number of different dialects used by residents in Peterborough. Mr Parr explained that, whilst careful in their use of interpreters, the service was still a loss to bear. On a similar theme and in response to a question from Councillor J W Davies, Mr Parr advised the Council that irrespective of language or integration difficulties, the Cambridgeshire force would not change their approach to policing.

Councillor C R Hyams urged Mr Parr to consider offering support for the District Council's CCTV facilities given the use made of the service by the police over the last 10 years. Mr Parr made it clear that allocating funds towards CCTV could mean less police constables but he would continue to consider whether there were any alternative solutions to secure funding for this service. He accepted that loss of the service could mean an increased risk of crime, that perhaps there should be greater responsibility placed on the community for surveillance and that the circumstances discussed were just one of the many difficult choices imposed by the current financial situation. Following a further question on the same subject from the Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite, Mr Parr gave an assurance that he remained open to further discussions with the District Council to seek to achieve a solution.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs M Banerjee regarding the limited powers available to PCSO's, Mr Parr confirmed that those in the Cambridgeshire force had access to the maximum powers available and that whilst only able to restrain individuals for 30 minutes, he considered that this period should be sufficient to allow a police constable to attend the scene.

Councillor P J Downes thanked Mr Parr for his comments on "restorative justice initiatives" and questioned how the election of a Police Commissioner in November 2012 could affect democratic accountability given the demise of the Cambridgeshire Police Authority. Mr Parr suggested that it could be difficult for one individual to be aware of local circumstances in all the cities, towns and villages in Cambridgeshire. However, the success of the appointment would depend upon the relationship between the Chief Constable and Commissioner and willingness by both to deliver and respond to the needs of the public.

Councillor M F Shellens invited the views of Mr Parr on the A14. He replied by stating that the road was unique in terms of the volume of traffic it carried on only two lanes, the length of its slip roads and given it was the only major road link from the east coast ports to the M1. He added that further enforcement would be difficult although the imposition of a maximum speed limit had helped reduce accidents but not volumes of traffic. It might be possible to influence the Highways Agency to vary speed limits at peak times but this could have an impact on economic prosperity and criminality.

Councillor A MacKender Lawrence asked how the collaboration programme would impact on neighbourhood forums, policing panels and the level of operations in Huntingdon and further questioned how effective the Magistrate's Courts would be without the support of CCTV evidence. Mr Parr assured the Council that he had not given instructions to change the way in which the force was currently working towards the Neighbourhood Forums and Police Panels. He had just demanded that the force work differently and more coherently and that it was his intention to augment the work of the Neighbourhood Panels and not dissolve them. In terms of CCTV, Mr Parr reiterated that he would look at ways to help retain the service.

In terms of levels of support, Councillor T V Rogers commended the previous practice whereby a local PC attended Parish Council meetings and asked whether this might be reinstated. Although there had not been a decision to withdraw their attendance, Mr Parr undertook to encourage the presence of a police constable on a more regular basis and if this was not possible he would urge officers to speak to the Clerk/Chairman of the Parish Council soon after their meetings.

Regarding low level anti-social behaviour, Mr Parr confirmed, in response to a question from Councillor P M D Godfrey, that the local Police Neighbourhood Team would prefer to talk to individuals to offer help and support to avoid the escalation of problems. Councillor D B Dew welcomed the "restorative justice initiative" and commended the practice whereby a Police Constable operated within a local community. Mr Parr advised the Council that it was his intention to recruit up to 50 police constables by the end of the year, to train them to operate effectively within a neighbourhood team and to communicate with people in a tactful and considerate manner.

Attention was drawn to the use of Cambridgeshire Police in the "Cops Squad" television series and Councillor A Jennings asked whether there were plans for a second series and whether the Force had benefited financially from their involvement. Mr Parr confirmed that there were no plans for a second series and whilst the force received no remuneration, their participation raised the profile of the force and highlighted the good work being undertaken in Cambridgeshire.

Contrasting the level of resources devoted to rural rather urban crime, Mr Parr reported, in response to a question from Councillor R J West, that it was his intention to increase the number of special constables to work in rural areas and to engage with rural communities. It was not possible to harmonise support for both areas but he was hopeful that the recent census findings might illustrate the need for additional funds to enable the Cambridgeshire force to better contribute to rural areas.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked the Chief Constable for his attendance and his interesting presentation and contribution to the meeting.

## **28. FINANCIAL FORECAST**

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Financial Services (a

copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) and referring to Minute No. 30, Item No. 21 post, the Executive Councillor for Resources and Customer Services updated Members on issues which would impact upon the process leading to approval of the 2012/2013 budget and medium term plan at the Council meeting in February 2012. The Executive Councillor also invited the views of the Council on the basis on which the Minimum Revenue Provision should be calculated.

Against a background of continued uncertainty, the Council was reminded that there was still a shortfall of savings equivalent to £2m and that for a variety of reasons the 2010/2011 outturn was £1m below that forecast. Councillor Rogers drew Members' attention to savings which had been identified already, those areas where potentially savings could be made and others where work to achieve savings was still in progress.

The Council was informed of the Government's intention to replace the rate support, Council tax reward and the new homes reward grants with a formula grant which also was intended to fund any additional tasks that had been transferred to local authorities over time. This, in turn, was to be replaced by an alternative scheme which would permit a local authority to retain a proportion of business rates from April 2013. The Council noted the potential for this latest initiative to be beneficial to the authority and, in the short term, for the new homes bonus to be higher than originally forecast.

However, given the difficulty in forecasting the impact of the economic downturn of several significant issues and the outcome in terms of net spending or funding, Councillor Rogers presented two options to the Council in terms of the level of council tax which might be recommended later in the budget process.

Having commended to Council the annuity basis as the means of calculating the Minimum Revenue Provision, Councillor Rogers invited the Council to debate the financial forecast.

Before doing so and on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor P J Downes thanked Councillor Rogers for his contribution as Executive Councillor for Resources & Customer Services and for the manner in which he had presented reports to the Council on financial matters. Councillor Downes reminded Members that, in his view, the Council's financial position was largely related to the decisions taken, in the past, to support the sale of council houses and not to raise council tax and that he was hopeful that the Council would take advantage of the opportunity presented to use maximum flexibility in setting future council tax levels to protect reductions in service and minimise the impact upon the most vulnerable in society. In support of his colleague, Councillor M F Shellens expressed his appreciation to Councillor Rogers for his thoughtfulness and careful presentations to Council and welcomed the various council tax options which had been proposed for consideration. These sentiments also were endorsed by Councillors I C Bates, S Greenall and P D Reeve.

Councillor S M Van De Kerkhove questioned whether the new homes reward grant could be used to benefit the residents of St. Neots given

the extent of housing development in the town. On the same subject, Councillor Mrs M Banerjee considered that any reward grant received should be directed towards community infrastructure.

In thanking Councillor Rogers and the Head of Financial Services for their work on the budgetary process to-date, the Executive Leader, Councillor Ablewhite acknowledged that the current budget process would be difficult, that there was little point dwelling on the past and that the Council had to respond to current challenges and seek to protect key services considered most important to local residents.

In response to the issues raised, Councillor Rogers thanked Members for their kind words and Officers for their assistance to him during his time as Executive Councillor for Resources & Customer Services. In terms of the decision to sell the Council's housing stock, Councillor Rogers asserted that, in his view, the funds received following that decision had been used wisely over the years, that he would continue to support a strategy whereby council tax was increased by a small percentage each year and for the new homes reward grant to be contributed to the overall council budget rather than directed towards a specific area. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the contents of the report be noted and the annuity basis for the calculation of Minimum Revenue Provision as described in Annex E of the report now submitted approved.

**29. ERECTION OF 6 BAY MODULAR BUILDING FOR USE AS PRE-SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB - UPWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL, RAMSEY ROAD, UPWOOD**

In conjunction with the Report of the Development Management Panel (Minute No. 30 (f) refers), the Planning Service Manager (Development Management) introduced a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) regarding an application for the erection of a six bay modular classroom on part of the grass playing field to the rear of the main complex of Upwood Primary School, Ramsey Road, Upwood. It was explained that the unit was required to provide additional accommodation for use by the pre-school and out of school groups and that the application had been placed before the Council because Sports England had raised an objection to it having expressed the view that the loss of approximately 230 metres of school playing field would have a negative impact on sport contrary to policy E3 of the Sport England Playing Fields policy.

In response to Members' comments on the application, Councillor D B Dew, as Chair of the Development Management Panel, undertook to write on behalf of the Council to the Secretary of State to question the grounds upon which Sport England had made their recommendation and to contend that such decisions should be made locally by the Planning Authority and not by the Secretary of State. It having been proposed and seconded, the Council

RESOLVED

that the application be approved for a temporary period of five

years only, after which the classroom is to be removed and the land reinstated to its former condition and use as a playing field and the application referred to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Directive 2009.

**30. REPORTS OF THE CABINET, PANELS AND COMMITTEES**

(a) Cabinet

Councillor J D Ablewhite, Executive Leader and Chairman of the Cabinet presented the Report of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 21st July and 22nd September 2011.

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Upon being put to the vote, the recommendation contained in Item No. 14 was declared to be CARRIED.

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In connection with Item No. 21, it was noted that the Financial Forecast had previously been considered by the Council under Minute No. 28.

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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 July and 22nd September 2011 be received and adopted.

(b) Standards Committee

Councillor D L Hall presented the Report of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 7th July and 8th September 2011.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 7th July and 8th September 2011 be received and adopted.

(c) Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being)

Councillor D M Tysoe presented the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) held on 7th July and 8th September 2011.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) held on 7th July and 8th September 2011 be received and adopted.

(d) Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being)

Councillor P M D Godfrey presented the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 12th July and 13th September 2011.

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Councillor Godfrey reminded the Council that the date for the next meeting of the Panel had been changed to 12th October 2011.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 12th July and 13th September 2011 be received and adopted.

(e) Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being)

Councillor S J Criswell presented the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) held on 5th July and 6th September 2011.

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Councillor Criswell drew the Council's attention to Item No. 13 and reported that Town and Parish Councils had been invited by letter to express their views on the operation of the Neighbourhood Forums. He also encouraged Members of the Council to respond to a request for comments on the present arrangements and to attend a seminar on the pilot GP Commissioning consortia in Huntingdonshire which was to take place on 4th October 2011 as referred to in Item No. 17 of the Report.

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In connection with Item No. 15 and in response to a question from Councillor P J Downes regarding the composition of a new county wide health and well-being board, Councillor Criswell was of the view that in order for the Board to be effective it needed to be manageable in terms of the number of Councillors appointed to its membership. Councillor Ablewhite added that he was confident that the Group of Cambridgeshire District Council representatives which had been established could effectively monitor the work of the Board.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) held on 5th July and 6th September 2011 be received and adopted.

(f) Development Management Panel

Councillor D B Dew presented the Report of the meetings of the Development Management Panel held on 18th July, 15th August and 19th September 2011.

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In connection with Item No. 4, it was noted that the development application at Upwood Primary School, Upwood had been considered by the Council under Minute No. 29.

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that, subject to the foregoing paragraph, the Report of the meetings of the Development Management Panel held on 18th July, 15th August and 19th September 2011 be received and adopted.

(g) Corporate Governance Panel

Councillor E R Butler presented the Report of the meeting of the Corporate Governance Panel held on 28th June 2011.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Corporate Governance Panel held on 28th June 2011 be received and adopted.

(h) Senior Officers' Panel

Councillor N J Guyatt presented the Report of the meetings of the Senior Officers' Panel held on 11th July, 1st August and 5th September 2011.

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Whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meetings of the Senior Officers' Panel held on 11th July, 1st August and 5th September 2011 be received and adopted.

(i) Employment Panel

Councillor S Cawley presented the Report of the meeting of the Employment Panel held on 21st September 2011.

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In connection with Item No. 8, Councillor Cawley invited the Council to endorse the sentiments of the Panel with regard to the five employees who had retired from the Local Government Service.

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Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the Report of the meeting of the Employment Panel held on 21st September 2011 be received and adopted.

**31. ORAL QUESTIONS**

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules (Paragraph 8.3 of the Rules), the Chairman proceeded to adopt a period of Oral Questions addressed to Executive Councillors and Panel Chairmen as follows:-

**Question from Councillor P D Reeve to the Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite**

In response to questions regarding the use of stickers on the Council's wheeled bins to promote the speed watch operation, Councillor Ablewhite replied that "speed watch" was an essential deterrent in seeking to prevent speeding, as anti-social behaviour, particularly in the rural areas of the District. As relevant Executive Councillor, Councillor J A Gray added, in response to a suggestion from Councillor Reeve, that there was no evidence that speed watch stickers on the Council's wheeled bins had influenced the speed at which cars travelled through the rural towns and villages. However, he added that, in his view, the placing of stickers on wheeled bins was inappropriate, distracting to motorists and not conducive to a harmonious street scene and he encouraged Speed Watch representatives to discuss more appropriate means of influencing traffic speed with the Head of Operations.

**Question from Councillor R S Farrer to the Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite**

In response to a question regarding the scheme of car parking charges at St. Neots Riverside Park and the suggestion that current arrangements were a cost to the Council, Councillor Ablewhite responded that it was his intention to review car parking charges and that he would welcome the views of the Councillors in St. Neots on this subject at the appropriate time.

**Question from Councillor Mrs M Banerjee to the Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning and Housing, Councillor N J Guyatt**

In response to a question regarding alleged social issues at the Loves Farm development in St. Neots, Councillor Guyatt replied that although he had spoken to Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association, as landowners, at Loves Farm about the appearance of the development, the Council had no control over the management of the housing scheme.

**Question from Councillor P D Ward to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being), Councillor S J Criswell**

In response to a question regarding the ability of Circle Health, recommended bidder for Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, to be able to meet the financial demands arising from the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Agreement undertaken to provide for the construction of the hospital's treatment centre, Councillor Criswell replied that he had no knowledge of the arrangements but he undertook to raise the matter at a future Panel meeting and inform the questioner of the outcome.

**Question from Councillor S Greenall to the Executive Councillor for Resources and Customer Services, Councillor T V Rogers**

In response to a question regarding the use of mobile telephones and the level of expenditure in 2011/2012 given the budget suggested that only £11,000 of an estimated outturn of £49,000 currently had been spent, Councillor Rogers requested his successor, Councillor J A Gray to respond to the questioner in writing.

**Question from Councillor P J Downes to the Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite**

In response to a question regarding the decision making process for the remainder of the LPSA Reward Grant, Councillor Ablewhite explained that whilst the Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council as responsible authority, had taken a decision to use the grant to enhance access to super fast broad band in Cambridgeshire, those voluntary and other organisations who had incurred expenditure in supporting projects under the LPSA arrangements would be reimbursed. He added that he endorsed any action to help business interests in the District.

**Question from Councillor P Godley to the Executive Leader, J D Ablewhite**

In response to a question regarding the potential effect of the

development at Bearscroft Farm, Godmanchester on the local road infrastructure, Councillor Ablewhite indicated that, whilst he did not wish to comment on quasi judicial matters, he accepted that the A14 was an issue and would continue to be so until it was upgraded and that the Council would continue to do its utmost to lobby support for proposed improvements to the A14 and road infrastructure locally.

**Question from Councillor M F Shellens to the Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning and Housing, Councillor N J Guyatt**

In response to a question regarding a series of large housing schemes proposed locally, Councillor Guyatt agreed that there were significant infrastructure issues to overcome if development at Alconbury and Bearscroft Farm, Godmanchester were to proceed and that the District Council would welcome discussions with developers and other partners to seek solutions to the problems envisaged.

**Question from Councillor A Jennings to the Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite**

In response to a further question regarding car parking at the Riverside Car Park in St. Neots, Councillor Ablewhite assured the questioner that the environmental impact of additional congestion in St. Neots by increased use of the town centre car parks would be taken into consideration during the review of car parking charges.

**Question from Councillor P G Mitchell to the Executive Councillor for the Environment, Councillor J A Gray**

In response to a question regarding the introduction of kerb side glass recycling and the effect this decision had had on income received by the Council from glass recyclables, Councillor Gray undertook to respond to the questioner in writing

**Question from Councillor S M Van DeKerkhove to the Executive Councillor for the Environment, Councillor J A Gray**

In response to a question regarding the use of mobile telephony and blackberrys by employees, Councillor Gray explained that a review of such use had been undertaken and that Heads of Service would continue to assess whether or not it was appropriate for staff to be issued with these devices.

**Question from Councillor C R Hyams to the Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite**

Regarding the Godmanchester Flood Prevention Scheme, Councillor Ablewhite thanked Councillor Hyams for his past contribution, on behalf of the Council, to discussion on the scheme and indicated that he was content to endorse the nomination of Councillor P Godley as the District Council's new representative in these matters.

**Question from Councillor R J West to the Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite**

Councillor Ablewhite endorsed the sentiments of the questioner in

terms of the appreciation he had expressed for the support and assistance offered to all Members by the Democratic Services Team.

### **32. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET, COMMITTEES AND PANELS**

In the light of the resignation of Councillor T V Rogers from the Cabinet, the Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite confirmed the following variations in the membership of the Cabinet.

Councillor D M Tysoe appointed as Portfolio Holder for the Environment; and  
Councillor J A Gray appointed as Portfolio Holder for Resources.

Regarding the consequential and other changes to Panels and Committees, it was

#### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that Councillor J A Gray be appointed to the Employment and Corporate Governance Panels in the place of Councillor T V Rogers;
- (b) that Councillor T V Rogers be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) in the place of Councillor D M Tysoe;
- (c) that Councillor G J Harlock be appointed to the Standards Committee in the place of Councillor K J Churchill;
- (d) that Councillor C R Hyams be appointed to the Licensing and Protection Panel/Licensing Committee in the place of Councillor K J Churchill; and
- (e) that Councillor K J Churchill be appointed to the Corporate Governance Panel in the place of Councillor G J Harlock.

The meeting ended at 9.41pm

Chairman