

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 16 May 2012.

PRESENT: Mr J J Dutton – Chairman.

Councillors J D Ablewhite, S Akthar,
K M Baker, Mrs M Banerjee, I C Bates,
Mrs B E Boddington, P L E Bucknell,
E R Butler, S Cawley, B S Chapman,
W T Clough, S J Criswell, I J Curtis,
J W Davies, D B Dew, P J Downes,
Mrs L A Duffy, R Fuller, D A Giles, J A Gray,
S Greenall, N J Guyatt, A Hansard,
G J Harlock, R Harrison, D Harty, R B Howe,
C R Hyams, Mrs P A Jordan, P Kadewere,
Ms L Kadic, Mrs P J Longford, P G Mitchell,
M C Oliver, J W G Pethard, P D Reeve,
T D Sanderson, M F Shellens, R G Tuplin,
D M Tysoe, P K Ursell, R J West and
A H Williams.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M G Baker, G J Bull, K J Churchill, R S Farrer, S M Van De Kerkhove, A J Mackender-Lawrence and Mrs D C Reynolds.

1. PRAYER

Reverend A Milton, Team Rector for the Huntingdon Ministry opened the meeting with Prayer.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor R J West, seconded by Councillor D Harty and

RESOLVED

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

Councillor Mrs Boddington made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Members for their support and the honour which the Council had bestowed upon her. Councillor Mrs Boddington added that it was her intention to be an ambassador for the Council, that she would work together with the Vice-Chairman to promote the civic role and the work of the District Council and encourage links with schools and businesses within the District. Councillor Mrs Boddington indicated that her preferred charities would be Cancer Research, Natural High, St John's Ambulance and The Samaritans.

Councillor Mrs B E Boddington in the Chair.

3. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

The Chairman paid tribute to the way in which former Councillor J J Dutton had performed his duties as Chairman of the District Council and having proposed a vote of thanks to him, presented Mr Dutton with his past Chairman's badge.

The Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite paid tribute to the enthusiastic manner in which former Councillor Dutton had undertaken his role as Chairman and the way in which he had represented the Council over the last two years and on behalf of Members, Councillor Ablewhite thanked him for all he had contributed to Council life.

As Leader of the Principal Opposition, Councillor P J Downes expressed his thanks to former Councillor Dutton for his energetic commitment to good causes and charities in Huntingdon town and the District.

In response, former Councillor Dutton wished Councillor Mrs Boddington every success in her new role and whilst disappointed that he had not been re-elected stated that he had enjoyed eight years representing Huntingdon North Ward. He thanked Reverend Milton, Members past and present and Officers for their friendship and support and concluded by referring to the many happy memories he would take with him.

Following a round of applause, it was

RESOLVED

that the Council's appreciation to former Councillor J J Dutton be placed on record for his contribution as Chairman of the Council during the past two years.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Election Results

The Chairman congratulated those Members of the Council who had been returned for a further term of office at the District Council's elections held on 3rd May 2012 and extended a warm welcome to the following newly elected Members –

Ms L Duffy	- Ramsey Ward
R Fuller	- St. Ives West Ward
P Kadewere	- Huntingdon North Ward
Mrs L Kadic	- Godmanchester Ward
J W G Pethard	- Warboys and Bury Ward
M Oliver	- Yaxley and Farcet Ward.

The Chairman welcomed back to the Council, Councillor D A Giles who had been re-elected to represent St. Neots, Eaton Socon Ward.

A tribute also was paid to former Member, Mr A Jennings who had stood un-successfully for re-election.

(b) **Chairman's Events**

In recognition of the 60th Anniversary of her accession to the throne, the Chairman invited all Members to join her at a flag raising ceremony at Pathfinder House on 1st June 2012 followed by the unveiling of the newly mounted picture of the Queen in the Civic Suite. The Chairman also announced that she would be making arrangements later in the year for the planting of a Royal Oak Tree in the town parks in Huntingdon, St. Ives and St. Neots and was hopeful that local schools would become involved in the project.

Details of arrangements for Armed Forces Day on 25th June and the Chairman's Reception on 14th September would be sent to Members shortly.

(c) **Royal Town Planning Association**

The Council congratulated Mr M Sharp, Managing Director (Communities, Partnerships and Projects) on his election as president of the Royal Town Planning Association.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th April 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by the Members present.

7. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor D B Dew, seconded by Councillor R Harrison and

RESOLVED

that Councillor K M Baker be appointed Vice-Chairman of the District Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Baker made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and expressed his appreciation to his proposer, Councillor Dew for his kind words. Councillor Baker announced that it was his intention to support the Chairman and promote the District as best as he could in the year ahead.

8. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was proposed by Councillor J A Gray, seconded by Councillor D B Dew and

RESOLVED

that Councillor J D Ablewhite be elected Executive Leader of the Council for the period to the Annual Meeting in May 2016.

9. APPOINTMENT OF CABINET

The Executive Leader announced that he had appointed Councillors B S Chapman, J A Gray, N J Guyatt, T D Sanderson and D M Tysoe 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.

10. LOCAL ELECTIONS: 3RD MAY 2012

The report of the Returning Officer with regard to the District Council elections held on 3rd May 2012 was received and noted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book).

The Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite and Councillor P J Downes extended their appreciation to the Returning Officer and those who had been engaged in election duties over the period.

11. 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 the 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. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS

RESOLVED

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

Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being)	Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being)	Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being)
G J Bull	M G Baker	S Akthar
E R Butler	Mrs M Banerjee	K M Baker
Ms L A Duffy	I C Bates	S J Criswell
S Greenall	I J Curtis	Mrs P A Jordan
R Harrison	J W Davies	Mrs L Kadic
R B Howe	D A Giles	P Kadewere
P G Mitchell	G J Harlock	M Oliver
T V Rogers	D Harty	J W G Pethard
M F Shellens	C R Hyams	R J West

13. COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED

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

Standards Committee (7)

Councillors Mrs B E Boddington, P J Downes, Ms L A Duffy, R S Farrer, G J Harlock, A Hansard and T D Sanderson.

Licensing Committee (12)

Councillors K M Baker, I J Curtis, J W Davies, R S Farrer, R Fuller, G J Harlock, C R Hyams, Mrs P A Jordan, A J MacKender-Lawrence, M Oliver, S M Van De Kerkhove and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate portfolio responsibilities.

Employment Panel (8)

Councillors S Akthar, S Cawley, P J Downes, R S Farrer, J A Gray, R B Howe and R G Tuplin and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate portfolio responsibilities.

Senior Officers' Panel

Councillors M G Baker, S Cawley, N J Guyatt and R B Howe together, when appropriate, with the relevant Executive Councillor in relation to the post to be filled.

Development Management Panel (16)

Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, Mrs B E Boddington, P L E Bucknell, G J Bull, E R Butler, W T Clough, D B Dew, R B Howe, Mrs P J Longford, A J MacKender-Lawrence, P D Reeve, R G Tuplin, S M Van De Kerkhove, P K Ursell and R J West and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with appropriate portfolio responsibilities.

Licensing & Protection Panel (12)

Councillors K M Baker, I J Curtis, J W Davies, R S Farrer, R Fuller, G J Harlock, C R Hyams, Mrs P A Jordan, A J MacKender-Lawrence, M Oliver, 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, K Churchill, G J

Harlock, P G Mitchell, R J West and one vacancy.

- (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 Appeal Sub-Committee 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 Churchill, J A Davies, D B Dew, R Fuller, C R Hyams, P G Mitchell, M Oliver, J W G Pethard, Mrs D C Reynolds and A H Williams.

- (c) that Councillors J D Ablewhite (or Councillor N J Guyatt), Mrs M Banerjee, G J Bull, K Churchill, P J Downes and J A Gray be appointed to serve on the Elections Working Group.

The meeting concluded at 6.40pm.

Chairman