

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the COUNCIL held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 11 November 2015.

PRESENT: Councillor P L E Bucknell – Chairman.

Councillors J D Ablewhite, T D Alban, K M Baker, Mrs B E Boddington, D Brown, G J Bull, R C Carter, Mrs S Conboy, S J Criswell, Mrs A D Curtis, D B Dew, Mrs A Dickinson, Mrs L A Duffy, R S Farrer, M Francis, R Fuller, I D Gardener, L George, D A Giles, J A Gray, A Hansard, R Harrison, T Hayward, Mrs P A Jordan, P Kadewere, Ms L Kadic, Mrs R E Mathews, D J Mead, P D Reeve, Mrs D C Reynolds, T D Sanderson, M F Shellens, D M Tysoe, K D Wainwright, R J West and J E White.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors I C Bates, E R Butler, S Cawley, B S Chapman, K J Churchill, J W Davies, D Harty, R B Howe, B Hyland, S M Van De Kerkhove, J P Morris, M C Oliver, J M Palmer and R G Tuplin.

35. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

36. RESOLUTION TO EXTEND 6 MONTH RULE - SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Managing Director presented a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) detailing a request to consider the extension of the six month rule of non-attendance at meetings in relation to Councillor S M Van De Kerkhove in the light of his continuous ill-health.

Councillor M F Shellens and Councillor D A Giles provided updates to the Council on the health of Councillor Van De Kerkhove and Councillor Shellens reported that he had hoped to resume some of his ward duties early in the New Year.

The Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite commented that given the circumstances party politics should not play a part in taking this decision and this was fully supported by the opposition Group Leaders. In these circumstances, the Council

RESOLVED

(a) that Councillor S M Van De Kerkhove's non-attendance at

meetings be extended until the end of the Municipal Year in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972; and

- (b) that the Council's best wishes be conveyed to Councillor S M Van De Kerkhove for continued improvement to his health.

37. ELECTION FREQUENCY

Further to Item No. 30 of the meeting of the Council held on 30th September 2015 and in accordance with a report by the Managing Director (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Council received an update in relation to the review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) of the Council's electoral arrangements.

In accordance with their decision to retain a Council size of 52 Members, the LGBCE had informed the Council of a requirement to consult on the election cycle and proposals to move to whole Council elections. The consultation had commenced on 23rd October and would conclude on 4th December 2015, whereby the Council noted that the outcome of the consultation would be reported to their meeting on 16th December 2015.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm.

Chairman