

MINUTES of the meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 14 May 2003.

PRESENT: Councillor J D Fell - Chairman

Councillors M G Baker, Mrs M Banjeree, A Barnes, R E Barnes, I C Bates, Mrs B E Boddington, P J Brant, E R Butler, Mrs J Chandler, R L Clarke, W T Clough, J W Davies, D B Dew, P J Downes, J A P Eddy, Miss N C Elliot, J E Garner, Mrs S A Giles, D A Giles, Mrs C A Godley, N J Guyatt, A Hansard, D Harty, D P Holley, Mrs P J Longford, C W Looker, Mrs S A Menczer, P G Mitchell, J C Mugglestone, M F Newman, R Powell, M G Rainer, Mrs D C Reynolds, K Reynolds, R P Rhodes, T V Rogers, J M Sadler, T D Sanderson, L M Simpson, J M Souter, P A Swales, J Taylor, R G Tuplin, P K Ursell, Mrs S J Vanbergen, Mrs N F Wagstaffe, B F C Wallis and J S Watt.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors A H Duberly, Mrs K P Gregory, A B Hulme and J G Rignall.

**1. PRAYER**

The Reverend Canon R Arguile, Vicar and Rural Dean of St Neots 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 1st May 2003 and extended a warm welcome to the following newly elected Members –

Mrs B E Boddington (Gransden);  
D B Dew (St Ives South);  
D Harty (St Neots – Eaton Ford);  
Mrs P J Longford (St Neots – Priory Park);  
P G Mitchell (Stilton); and  
J M Souter (Upwood and the Raveleys).

Tribute also was paid to former Councillor J T Bell who had stood unsuccessfully for re-election. The Council placed on record their acknowledgement of his past service and extended to him best wishes for the future.

**(b) Leadership of the Liberal Democrat Group**

The Chairman congratulated Councillors P J Downes and W

T Clough on their recent election as Leader and Deputy Leader respectively of the Liberal Democrat Group on the District Council.

On the proposal of Councillor D P Holley, the Council agreed to place on record their appreciation for the work undertaken by the previous Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor M G Baker and his Deputy, Councillor J Taylor.

(c) **Civic Ball**

The Council were reminded that the Civic Ball would be held at the Burgess Hall, St Ivo Leisure Centre on Friday 18th July 2003 and that invitations would be sent to Members shortly.

(d) **Annual Cricket Match**

The Chairman announced that the annual cricket match between staff and the Chairman's eleven would take place at the St Ivo Outdoor Centre, California Road, St Ives on the evening of the 30th July 2003. Members were invited to advise the Leader of the Council of their availability for selection.

(e) **Council Photograph**

Members were advised that a photograph of District Councillors would be taken prior to the next full Council meeting on 23rd July 2003.

**3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor J W Davies, seconded by Councillor Mrs M Banerjee and

RESOLVED

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

Councillor Fell made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office, thanked Members for their confidence in him and for the honour they had conferred in electing him Chairman of the District Council for a second term of office. Councillor Fell expressed his appreciation for the support and assistance offered to him during the past year and in his office of Vice-Chairman by the Chairman's Secretary and other Officers of the District Council.

**4. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th April 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs N F Wagstaffe, seconded by Councillor N J Guyatt and

RESOLVED

that Councillor J A P Eddy be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Eddy made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and expressed his appreciation to Members for the honour which they had conferred upon him.

The Council expressed their appreciation to Councillor R E Barnes for his service as Vice-Chairman of the District Council during the past year.

**6. LOCAL ELECTIONS: 1ST MAY 2003**

The report of the Returning Officer with regard to District and Parish Council elections held on 1st May 2003 was received and noted. Particular appreciation was extended by the Returning Officer to candidates and their agents for their co-operation and courtesy during the election and the counting of votes and thanks were expressed to those staff who had been engaged in election duties on that day.

The Chief Executive also advised the Council that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had recently announced that the elections to the European Parliament and to local Councils would take place concurrently on Thursday 10th June 2004 which would involve some adjustment to arrangements for the commencement of the new Municipal Year and the schedule of meetings. Members were informed that further information would be circulated as soon as this became available.

**7. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Councillor I C Bates, seconded by Councillor L M Simpson and

RESOLVED

that Councillor D P Holley be elected Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Cabinet for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Holley thanked the Council for the confidence which they had shown by electing him as Leader for a further term of office and undertook to ensure that the programme of improvements, which he believed was amongst the largest of shire districts in the country would be achieved within the timescales envisaged.

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

It was proposed by Councillor T V Rogers, seconded by Councillor J C Mugglestone and

RESOLVED

that Councillor I C Bates be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council and Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**9. REPRESENTATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON DISTRICT COUNCIL PANELS**

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 etc. in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Part II of the Local Government Act 2000.

The Council noted that the recent establishment of an Elections Panel had increased the aggregate number of seats (excluding the Cabinet) from 60 to 67 to which Members could be appointed. 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.

**10. APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET**

RESOLVED

that Councillors Mrs J Chandler, R L Clarke, Mrs K P Gregory, N J Guyatt, T V Rogers and L M Simpson be appointed as Members of the Cabinet for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**11. STANDARDS COMMITTEE: INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

Further to Minute No.89 of the meeting of the Council held on 9th April 2003, Councillor P J Brant presented the report of the Panel appointed by the Council to consider candidates for appointment as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year commencing 14th May 2003 (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book).

In accordance with the Relevant Authorities (Standards Committee) Regulations 2001 vacancies to the Committee had been advertised in the local press and following interviews, the Panel had recommended that Mr D Pattison, Chief Executive of Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust 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 Pattison be reappointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee and that Messrs D H Bristow of 16 Glebe Road, Brampton and D L Hall of 4 Park

Way, Offord Cluny be invited to serve as Independent Members for the ensuing Municipal Year.

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

RESOLVED

that two representatives, to be nominated by the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils, be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**13. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

With the assistance of a report by the Executive Director of Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Leader, Councillor Holley advised the Council of the publication of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and the resultant need to review again the scheme of Members Allowances approved by the Council at their meeting held on 19th February 2003 (Minute No. 66 refers) which came into effect from the Annual Meeting.

Having regard to the short period of time that had elapsed since the previous review, Councillor Holley suggested that no further change to the allowances should be introduced in the current Municipal Year. However, having regard to the need to approve a new scheme by no later than the end of September 2003 to comply with the new Regulations, the Council

RESOLVED

that the Chief Executive be authorised to arrange for the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel to be convened for the purposes of making recommendations on allowances and other related matters as provided for in the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

**14. REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES (PREPARATIONS) BILL: ELECTED REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES: SOUNDINGS**

The Council was invited by the Cabinet (a copy of their report and an accompanying report by the Executive Director of Central Services is appended in the Minute Book) to review their response to a soundings exercise commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on proposals for the establishment of elected Regional Assemblies.

Members were reminded that they had considered the potential implications for the District Council of the Regional Assemblies (Preparations) Bill and the holding of a referendum for the establishment of an assembly in the Eastern Region at the meeting of the Council held on 19th February 2003 (Minute No. 71 refers). Subsequently, the Bill had been amended to ensure that the Boundary Committee presented two options for unitary local

government in each County area where a referendum had been commissioned.

Having been advised by the Leader, Councillor Holley that the changes proposed by the Government had strengthened the Council's previous response to the ODPM, Members

RESOLVED

that the conclusions expressed in Minute No 71 of the meeting of the Council held on 19th February 2003 be affirmed.

## 15. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS

RESOLVED

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

<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery and Resources)</b>	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Panel (Planning and Finance)</b>
Mrs M Banerjee	M G Baker
E R Butler	A Barnes
J E Garner	J W Davies
D A Giles	D B Dew
A Hansard	Miss N C Elliot
D Harty	C W Looker
Mrs P J Longford	P G Mitchell
M G Rainer	M F Newman
K Reynolds	P A Swales
J M Souter	R G Tuplin
Mrs N F Wagstaffe	Mrs S J Vanbergen
J S Watt	B F C Wallis

## 16. COMMITTEE AND PANELS

It was

RESOLVED

that Members be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee and Employment, Development Control, Licensing and Protection and Elections Panels for the ensuing Municipal Year as follows:-

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

Mrs B E Boddington, P J Brant, J A P Eddy, J D Fell, A Hansard, C W Looker and J Taylor;

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

J W Davies, Mrs S A Menczer, M G Rainer, R Rhodes, T D Sanderson, P K Ursell and Mrs S J Vanbergen and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with portfolio responsibility for those related non-executive functions within the terms of reference of the Panel;

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

Mrs M Banerjee, A Barnes, Mrs B E Boddington, W T Clough, D B Dew, A H Duberly, J A P Eddy, P G Mitchell, J C Mugglestone, R Powell, J G Rignall, J Souter, P A Swales, P K Ursell and B F C Wallis and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with portfolio responsibility for those related non-executive functions within the terms of reference of the Panel;

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

R E Barnes, Mrs C A Godley, D Harty, A B Hulme, R Powell, Mrs D C Reynolds, J M Sadler, J Taylor, R G Tuplin, Mrs N F Wagstaffe and J S Watt and one Member of the Cabinet in an ex-officio capacity with portfolio responsibility for those related non-executive functions within the terms of reference of the Panel; and

### **Elections Panel (7)**

I C Bates, P J Downes, D Harty, M F Newman, K Reynolds, T D Sanderson and J Taylor.

## **17. 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 3.00 pm.

Councillor J D Fell  
Chairman