

Minutes of a Meeting of the Resources and Policy Committee held in the Council Offices, Kennelwood, Town Centre, Hatfield on Wednesday 7 February 2007 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR G. WILTSHIRE (CHAIRMAN)

COUNCILLORS: M.K CLARK, MRS L MENDEZ,  
P.O'BRIEN, R.SMITH AND MRS M WHITE

ALSO PRESENT FOR MINUTES 59-62: COUNCILLORS MRS S JONES, M LONG  
AND H.MORGAN

OFFICERS PRESENT: P. CLARK (TOWN CLERK)  
P. WIDDICOMBE (DEPUTY TOWN CLERK)

59. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Appleby  
and J.M Hawkins

60. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2006 were approved and signed  
by the Chairman as a correct record.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

62 BUDGET 2007/2008

The Committee considered the Draft Budget together with the fees and charges,  
noting that the Leisure Committee recommended that the Leisure items be  
approved.

RESOLVED

That the Budget before the Committee be approved and that the Council be  
recommended to levy a Precept of £746,443.00.

**The meeting adjourned at 7.38pm to allow a Special Meeting of the Council to  
take place and reconvened at 7.47pm.**

63 TWINNING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Twinning Advisory Sub-Committee held on 24  
January 2007 were received.

64. BEST VALUE PANEL

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Best Value Panel held on 15 January 2007 were received. The Chairman of the Committee expressed the Committee's thanks to the Policy and Projects Officer for her work.

65. GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

That the General Purposes Committee be abolished with effect from May and that the business of the Committee be allocated in the ways set out in the report before the Committee.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that he would provide a Schedule of Meetings for 2007/2008 for consideration at the next Council Meeting.

66. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WELWYN HATFIELD

The Committee considered the recommendations of the Boundary Commission together with a map showing the proposed new ward boundaries.

RESOLVED

That the Council respond saying that it has no comment to make.

67. CIVIC SERVICE / ST GEORGE'S DAY

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk..

RESOLVED

That the Scouts be left to arrange their own service on St George's Day and that the next Civic Service be left until the new Town mayor has been elected.

68. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Committee considered the consultation paper issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government on a revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority members.

RESOLVED

That the Council respond supporting the proposals, in particular the inclusion of a provision specifically proscribing bullying.

69. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEATH BILL

The Committee received and noted the information circulated by the Town Clerk.

70. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND DATA PROTECTION - FEES

The Committee considered the consultation paper circulated by the Department of Constitutional Affairs

RESOLVED

That the Council respond supporting the proposals.

71. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED

That the schedules circulated with the Agenda be approved.

72. DISTRICT, PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS MEETING 7 MARCH 2007

The Chairman agreed to take this as an urgent item as notice of the meeting had just been received.

RESOLVED

That items regarding clashes of meetings and notification of planning decisions be submitted for inclusion on the Agenda.

73. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL

The Chairman agreed to take this as an urgent item as information regarding the Sustainable Communities Bill had just been received. The Town Clerk advised the Committee that the Bill had passed its 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on 19<sup>th</sup> January by 175 to 17 votes.

The Council was asked to write to the MP asking for him to seek the support of Phil Woolas MP and Ruth Kelly MP and to sign Early Day Motion No.468 in support of the Bill.

RESOLVED

That such a letter be sent.

74 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the following item as their presence would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

75. HATFIELD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Town Clerk advised the Committee of the nominations received.

RESOLVED

That Mary Birkett be awarded Hatfield Citizen of the Year, to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

It was also

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk make appropriate arrangements for the Annual Town meeting in consultation with Councillors Clark and Mrs White.

76. KENNELWOOD HOUSE

The Committee noted that Firemaster Alarms Ltd would be vacating its offices on 28 February 2007.

77. ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 5 February 2007 were received.

On behalf of the Committee the Chairman congratulated the Town Clerk on being President-elect of the Society of Local Council Clerks.