

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEVENOAKS

Minutes of the Meeting of the Sevenoaks District Council held on 24 April 2012 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. Orridge (Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. Morris (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs. Abraham, Mrs. Ayres, Ayres, Mrs. Bayley, Ball, Bosley, Mrs. Bosley, Brookbank, Brown, Butler, Ms. Chetram, Clark, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Davison, Davison, Dickins, Edwards-Winser, Eyre, Firth, Fittock, Fleming, Gaywood, Mrs. George, Grint, Hogarth, Horwood, London, Ms. Lowe, Maskell, Mrs. Parkin, Pett, Piper, Raikes, Ramsay, Mrs. Sargeant, Scholey, Searles, Miss. Stack, Miss. Thornton, Towell, Underwood, Walshe, Williamson, Mrs. Bracken, Dibsall and Neal.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Cooke, Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Hunter, McGarvey and Mrs. Purves.

58. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2012

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 February 2012 be approved as a correct record.

59. TO RECEIVE ANY ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS OF BUSINESS INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING.

The declarations of interest made by Members at meetings held between 9 February 2012 and 10 April 2012 were received. No additional declarations were made.

60. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to two new Councillors. Councillor Mrs Jenny Dibsall representing Crockenhill and Well hill and Councillor Christopher Neil representing Cowden and Hever.

The Chairman also reported that a past member, Frank Shubert, had died of cancer on 3 March after a long illness. He had been the member for Fawkham and Hartley from 1975 until 1995 and Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 1987/88.

61. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

No petitions were received.

62. MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE CABINET AND/OR OTHER COMMITTEES:

(a) The Developing Vision

Cllr Fleming moved and Cllr Mrs. Davison seconded that the Developing Vision for the District Council be adopted.

The report outlined the developing Vision of the District Council which could be summarised as "Pride in the District of Sevenoaks by working with the Community as a whole, to sustain and develop a fair, safe and thriving local economy." The following three core values would guide and define the District Council's policies for the District and the local area: Fairness, Integrity and Quality. These three Core Values develop the Vision with the resulting five promises:

- i) We will provide value for money;
- ii) We will work in partnership to keep the District of Sevenoaks safe;
- iii) We will continue to collect rubbish efficiently and effectively,
- iv) We will protect the Green Belt;
- v) We will support and develop the local economy.

Members held a debate on the motion which was put to the vote and CARRIED.

Resolved: That the developing Vision for the District Council be adopted.

63. PARTNERSHIP WORKING BETWEEN DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC) AND SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL (SDC) IN RELATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Cllr Fleming moved and Cllr Bracken seconded that:

- (a) the Managing Director being the Head of Paid Service at Dartford Borough Council be authorised to exercise the powers and functions as set out in the Appendix to the report and the necessary amendments to the Constitution.
- (b) the Scheme of Delegations be amended so as to authorise the Chief Executive being the Head of Paid Service at Sevenoaks District Council to exercise the powers and functions delegated by Dartford Borough Council as set out in the Appendix to the report and the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

The report outlined the scheme of delegations for the joint working arrangements between Sevenoaks District Council and Dartford Borough Council in relation to Environmental Health Services.

It was agreed by Cabinet on 13 October 2011 that the proposed operating model for the joint provision of Environmental Health Services with Dartford Borough Council be agreed, this was confirmed by Full Council on 29 November 2011.

It is necessary for the Councils to delegate and empower each other to discharge certain Agreed Functions via their Heads of Paid Service and these are to be set out within the Partnership Working Arrangements. Such arrangements do not prevent each authority making the delegation from exercising the functions itself.

The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

Resolved: That

- (c) the Managing Director being the Head of Paid Service at Dartford Borough Council be authorised to exercise the powers and functions as set out in the Appendix to the report and the necessary amendments to the Constitution; and
- (d) the Scheme of Delegations be amended so as to authorise the Chief Executive being the Head of Paid Service at Sevenoaks District Council to exercise the powers and functions delegated by Dartford Borough Council as set out in the Appendix to the report and the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

64. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR OTHER DIRECTORS ON MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF COUNCIL:

65. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2012/2013

Cllr Fleming moved and Cllr Mrs. Bracken seconded that the Calendar of Meetings for 2012/2013 be approved, subject to the confirmation of the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2012.

The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

Resolved: That the Calendar of Meetings for 2012/2013 be approved, subject to confirmation by the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2012.

66. TO CONSIDER ANY QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER PARAGRAPH 19.3 OF PART 2 (THE COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS) OF THE CONSTITUTION, NOTICE OF WHICH HAVE BEEN DULY GIVEN.

There were no questions.

67. TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER PARAGRAPH 17 OF PART 2 (THE COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS) OF THE CONSTITUTION.

There were no questions.

68. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON THE WORK OF THE CABINET SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING.

The Leader of the Council reported on the work that he and the Cabinet had undertaken in the period 22 February 2012 to 10 April 2012. A significant amount of time had been spent reviewing the implications of the Government's welfare reform proposals which would have a significant impact. The Leader reported that the Services Select Committee had also been undertaking an in-depth review of the proposals.

The Leader also highlighted that there had been a briefing surrounding preparations for the Paralympics, a part of which would be hosted at Brands Hatch. The Leader acknowledged that there would be disruption to the Northern Parishes resulting from road closures but reiterated that the event represented a huge opportunity for the District. The District Council was working to minimise the impact of the road closures. A number of local events had been organised around the Paralympics and the torch relay. In addition to this, a significant number of local residents had volunteered to be stewards for the events.

In response to a question relating to the meeting regarding the future use of Fort Halsted, the Leader reported that the meeting had been with Qinetiq following rumours that the company would be moving off the site. Assurances were given by Qinetiq that the rumours were unfounded and that they were looking to remain on the site.

In response to a question concerning the outcome of the Ambition Board meeting, the Leader reported that issues surrounding welfare reform and the future of Council Tax Benefit had been high on the agenda. The Ambition Board had been considering the impact of the reforms across the whole of Kent.

Following a question regarding rumours that UPS would not be making any deliveries within 1 mile of Olympic venues and the potential impact that this would have on the residents of West Kingsdown, the Leader reported that he would investigate the rumours and provide assurances to the residents of West Kingsdown that any impact would be minimised.

69. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEES ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEES SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING.

The Council received the reports from the Chairmen of the Select Committees as follows:

- Environment Select Committee – 20 March 2012
- Social Affairs Select Committee – 27 March 2012
- Services Select Committee – 3 April 2012

70. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

The Council received the report from the Chairman of the Performance and Governance Committee on the work undertaken by the Committee at its meeting on 13 March 2012.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 7.29 pm

Chairman