



Notice is hereby given that a **MEETING** of the **COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GOSPORT** will be held in the **TOWN HALL, GOSPORT** on **WEDNESDAY** the **TWENTY SECOND DAY** of **JULY 2009** at **6.00pm** AND **ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS –**

1. To receive apologies from Members for their inability to attend the Meeting.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual, Adjourned Annual and Extraordinary Meetings of the Council held on 13, 14 and 21 May 2009 (copies herewith).
3. To consider any Mayor's Communications.
4. To receive Deputations in accordance with Standing Order No 3.5 and to answer Public Questions pursuant to Standing Order No 3.6, such questions to be answered orally during a time not exceeding 15 minutes.

(NOTE: Standing Order No 3.5 requires that notice of a Deputation should be received by the Borough Solicitor NOT LATER THAN 12 O'CLOCK NOON ON MONDAY, 20 JULY 2009 and likewise Standing Order No 3.6 requires that notice of a Public Question should be received by the Borough Solicitor NOT LATER THAN 12 O'CLOCK NOON ON MONDAY, 20 JULY 2009).

5. Questions (if any) pursuant to Standing Order No 3.4.

(NOTE: Members are reminded that Standing Order No 3.4 requires that Notice of Question pursuant to that Standing Order must be received by the Borough Solicitor NOT LATER THAN 12 O'CLOCK NOON ON TUESDAY, 21 JULY 2009).

6. To receive the following Part II minutes of the Boards of the Council:
 - Policy and Organisation Board: 14 May and 24 June 2009
 - Community and Environment Board: 14 May and 15 June 2009
 - Housing Board: 14 May and 17 June 2009

7. To receive the report of the Returning Officer on the By-Election held on 9 July 2009 (copy herewith).

8. Outside Bodies

(i) Council's Health Spokesperson

To agree the Community and Environment Board's recommendation of 15 June 2009 to appoint Councillor Edgar as the Borough Council's Health Spokesperson and Councillor Allen as the Borough Council's Deputy Health Spokesperson.

(ii) Relate

There is currently a vacancy for a Council representative on Relate. Councillor Mrs Forder has volunteered herself for nomination to this body. Therefore Council is recommended to approve Councillor Mrs Forder's nomination to Relate for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

**IAN LYCETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**TOWN HALL
GOSPORT**

14 July 2009

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

(To be read from the Chair if members of the public are present)

In the event of the fire alarm (single continuous sound) being activated, please leave the Council Chamber and Public Gallery immediately.

Proceed downstairs by way of the main stairs or as directed by GBC staff, follow any of the emergency exit signs. People with disability or mobility issues please identify yourself to GBC staff who will assist in your evacuation of the building.

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT:

(1) IF THE COUNCIL WISHES TO CONTINUE ITS BUSINESS BEYOND 9.30PM THEN THE MAYOR MUST MOVE SUCH A PROPOSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 4.11.18

(2) MOBILE PHONES SHOULD BE SWITCHED OFF FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING

**A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD
WAS HELD ON 14 MAY 2009**

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (ex-officio); Councillors Burgess (P), Carter (P), Chegwyn (P), Cully (P), Gill (P), Hicks (P), Hook (Chairman)(P), Langdon (P), Philpott (P) and Wright (P).

PART II

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Burgess be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board for the Municipal Year 2009-10.

Under Standing Order 6.10 (Minority Order), two Members requested that the matter be referred to full Council.

**6. TENDERS FOR THE COUNCIL'S INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS
FROM JUNE 2009**

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager which considered the tenders received for the Council's insurance requirements.

The Chairman thanked officers for the work they had carried out in connection with the receipt of the tenders.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Council renew its insurances (with the exception of personal accident and work travel insurance) with Zurich Municipal for a period of four years from 24 June 2009 with the option to extend for a further two years at the Council's discretion;
- b) the Council accept the quotation from Chubb Insurance Company for the provision of personal accident and work travel insurance for a period of four years from 24 June 2009 with the option to extend for a further two years at the Council's discretion; and
- c) the quotation received from Jardine Lloyd Thompson to provide ongoing insurance support and advice to this Council be accepted.

The meeting ended at 7.34 p.m.

A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD

WAS HELD ON 24 JUNE 2009

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (ex-officio); Councillors Burgess (P), Carter (P), Chegwyn (P), Cully (P), Gill (P), Hicks (P), Hook (Chairman) (P), Langdon (P), Philpott (P), and Wright (P).

PART II

12. PUSH BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW 2009

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which advised Members that the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) was required to produce a Business Plan each year to set out its proposed actions and priorities. In turn the Business Plan must be individually approved by the eleven Local Authority partners, to provide the mandate for the PUSH Joint Committee to take the necessary decisions and actions to implement the Business Plan. The report presented the PUSH Business Plan, as approved by the Joint Committee in March, for approval by this Board.

Members were advised that the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) would be reducing its operations and it was felt that the development of the Daedalus site, being a priority for SEEDA, should also be a priority for PUSH.

Members were assured that proposals for the Daedalus site would be worked up and would be included as a PUSH priority.

RESOLVED: That the PUSH Business Plan 2009-11 be approved as a basis for the operations of the PUSH Joint Committee.

13. A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO COMMUNITY COHESION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought Board approval for the development of a partnership approach toward community cohesion through the Gosport Partnership.

RESOLVED: That the development of a community cohesion strategy through the Gosport Partnership be approved to enable the Council and its partners to identify and address areas of local community tensions and promote good relations between local people.

14. BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL UPDATE AND ANNUAL REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Building Control Partnership Manager which updated the Board on the progress and financial outturn of the Building Control Partnership in the financial year ending March 2009.

The report also requested confirmation of the continuation of the Partnership under the terms of the current legal agreement.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the contents of the Annual Update and Review Report be noted; and
- b) support for the continuation of the Building Control Partnership under the terms of the existing Legal Agreement be confirmed.

15. APPROVAL OF THE 2008/09 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which set out the background to the requirement for members to approve the 2008/09 Statement of Accounts, which was shortly to be made available for public inspection and audit, together with some brief notes on the Statement and outturn position.

Members were advised that the accounts appeared in a new statutory format and would be produced in a more digestible form on the Council's website before auditing took place. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had also included work on the outturn budget in its future work programme.

Concerns were raised regarding the high level of write offs the Board was being asked to approve. It was explained that these were debts which had accumulated over last five or six years and could justifiably have been written off earlier. Officers had worked on recovering the debts and, despite their being written off, they could be reinstated if necessary.

Members' attention was drawn to an area of debt relating to new homelessness measures. The backlog had been dealt with and there had been no direct impact on the budget.

Members were advised that new controls had been introduced in Housing Services which were working well to ensure that individuals did not accumulate debts in different properties and then move away.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2009 be approved;
- b) the revenue variances detailed in Appendix C of the report be noted;

- c) the capital programme slippage detailed in Appendix D of the report be noted; and
- d) the write offs approved under delegated authority at Appendix G of the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.12 p.m.

A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD

WAS HELD ON 14 MAY 2009

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (ex-officio), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (ex-officio) (P), Councillors Beavis (P), Bradley (P), Burgess (P), Cully (P), Edgar (P), Mrs Forder (P), Forder (P), Kimber (P), Murphy (P), and Wright (P).

PART II

5. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Burgess be appointed as Chairman of the Community and Environment Board for the Municipal Year 2009-2010.

Under Standing Order 6.10 (Minority Order), two Members requested that the matter be referred to full Council.

6. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Kimber be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Community and Environment Board for the Municipal Year 2009-2010.

Under Standing Order 6.10 (Minority Order), two Members requested that the matter be referred to full Council.

The meeting ended at 7.37 p.m.

A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD WAS HELD ON 15 JUNE 2009

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (P); Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (ex-officio); Councillors Beavis (P), Bradley (P), Burgess (Chairman) (P), Cully, Edgar (P), Mrs Forder (P), Forder (P), Kimber (P), Murphy (P) and Wright (P).

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, notice had been received that the Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) would replace Councillor Cully for this meeting.

PART II

12. PRESENTATION – ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

A presentation 'Adapting to Climate Change' was given by the Environmental Services Manager.

Members appreciated that the presentation was particularly relevant to Gosport as a peninsula due to the projected rise in sea levels.

Members were advised that the Council was represented on a number of Local Government Association special interest groups on coastal issues and had close links to the Havant and Portsmouth Coastal Partnership.

It was requested that a report previously presented to the Community and Environment Board identifying areas of the Borough at risk from flooding, be re-examined for any increase in the level of risk.

RESOLVED: That the findings of reports presented to Community and Environment Board on 1 November 2004 and 10 January 2005 be re-examined.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (COMMERCIAL) SERVICE PLAN REVIEW 2009/2010

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Health Manager which sought approval of the Environmental Health (Commercial) Service Plan Review 2009/2010.

Members were advised that both the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Health and Safety Executive required their enforcing Authorities to produce an Annual Service Plan to be approved by Members.

Clarification was sought as to the definition of 'Risk Categories' in paragraph 4.3.7 of the report. It was advised that National Risk Categories were defined by the FSA and each premises was categorised as a result of an inspection. The category of the premises would then determine how frequently subsequent inspections took place.

Members queried the definition of 'Food Alerts' as detailed in 4.7.6. and were advised that they were issued to enforcing authorities in the event of a recall and subsequent withdrawal of a product from sale. It was advised that no action needed to be taken by the enforcing authorities as a result of the alert in the majority of cases which were for issued for information purposes but that occasionally Environmental Health staff were required to contact businesses for action.

Members expressed thanks to Officers for the report.

It was proposed and agreed that Council be requested to nominate Councillor Edgar for the role of Health Spokesman and that Councillor Allen be nominated for the role of deputy.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Environmental Health (Commercial) Service Plan Review 2009/2010 be approved; and
- b) Council be requested to nominate Councillor Edgar for the role of Gosport Borough Council's Health Spokesperson with Councillor Allen as deputy.

14. LEESLAND AND TUKES AVENUE ALLOTMENTS PROVISION OF CAR PARKING AND PERIMETER RAILINGS

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought approval for the provision of additional car parking facilities at Leesland Allotments and perimeter railings at Tukes Avenue Allotments, and the use of £10000 in funding received from the sale of land at Camden Allotments to finance the project.

Members supported the improvements to the parking facilities at Leesland Allotment.

It was requested that the improvements to the fencing at the Tukes Avenue Allotments be reconsidered and that close-boarded fencing be used rather than open fencing.

The Board were advised that open fencing could lead to bricks being thrown into the allotments damaging the plots and produce.

Members queried as to why there seemed to be a large number of plots unavailable when waiting lists were so large. The Board were advised that some of the plots were unavailable due to badgers' setts occupying them and others were unavailable as a result of extensive growth of brambles. The cost of removing the brambles exceeded the funds available for the maintenance of sites.

The Board were advised that the waiting list was frequently updated and was available to view on the Gosport Borough Council Website.

It was hoped that the figure for allotment plots not available could be removed

from the waiting list to indicate more clearly the number of plots available.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) improvements to the parking facilities, as contained in the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager's Report, at Leesland Allotments be approved, and
- b) investigations be made into providing close-boarded fencing for the Tukes Avenue Allotment site.

15. WALPOLE PARK COCKLE POND - PERIMETER PATHWAY RECONSTRUCTION

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought approval for the required reconstruction of the existing perimeter concrete pathways surrounding the Cocklepond at Walpole Park and the use of £80,000 in developer's contributions in conjunction with £80,000 local capital funding resources to finance the reconstruction.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £80,000 developer contributions in conjunction with £80,000 local capital funding resources to fund the Walpole Park Cocklepond perimeter pathway reconstruction be approved.

16. USE OF DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PLAY AREA FACILITIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought approval for the use of £18,000 Developer Contributions for proposed improvements to:

- Walpole Park Skate Park
- Pirates Cove Play Area

and the use of £35,000 local capital funding resources for proposed improvements to :

- Privett Park Play Area

Members welcomed the improvements to the play areas and that Privett Park was to be included in the works.

It was advised that the tennis courts at Privett Park were also scheduled for improvement within the current year.

Members reiterated the importance of the Privett Park facility and it was hoped that funding options could be explored to allow the replacement of the changing facilities on the site.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for:

- a) the use of £18,000 in Developer Contributions to be used for Walpole Park Skate Park and Pirates Cove Play Area; and

b) the use of £35,000 local capital funding resources to be used for improvements to Privett Park Play Area.

17. EVENTS ON COUNCIL LEISURE LAND IN GOSPORT AND LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT

Members queried that Gosport charities and community groups, as well as Gosport Borough Council were currently being charged to use Council Leisure Land for events.

Members felt that the fees were discouraging to those wanting to hold events on Council Leisure Land and that it could reduce the number of spectator attracting events run in the Borough.

It was also noted that a large number of charities relied on holding these events for fundraising and that the current charges made this a harder task.

It was proposed that the fees be abolished for events held by charities and community groups and that the organisers of such events held since May 2009 be fee refunded the hire fee.

A Member advised that he had visited some of the attractions at Gosport's Big Day Out and was keen for the Community and Environment Board to be involved.

The event had been started by Gosport Partnership to encourage residents of Gosport to use and enjoy facilities local to them. The Economic Prosperity and Development team were responsible for staffing and coordinating the event.

Members requested that thanks be passed to those involved in organising the event and that a report be presented to the Community and Environment Board following the wash up meeting for this year's event.

RESOLVED: That

a) The following applications to hold events on Council land be approved:

- 1) Lee-on-the-Solent Promenade Charity Walk, 5th July, Limes Downe Petanque Club
- 2) Elson Recreation Ground Fun Fair Style Day, 27th July, GBC Community Safety
- 3) Elson Recreation Ground Fun Day, 28th July, GBC Community Safety
- 4) Elson Recreation Ground Fun Day, 29th July, GBC Community Safety
- 5) Privett Park Fun Day, 30th July, GBC Community Safety
- 6) BMX Track, Grange Road, BMX Fun Day, 31st July, GBC Community Safety
- 7) Stokes Bay Open Space, Friends of Stoke Bay Open Day, 1st August, Friends of Stokes Bay
- 8) Grove Road Recreation Ground Fun Day, 3 August, GBC Community Safety

- 9) Grove Road Recreation Ground Fun Day, 4 August, GBC Community Safety
- 10) Leesland Park BMX Fun Day, 5 August, GBC Community Safety,
- 11) Leesland Park Fun Day, 6 August, GBC Community Safety
- 12) Holbrook Recreation Ground Fun Day, 10th August, GBC Community Safety
- 13) Holbrook Recreation Ground Fun Day, 11th August, GBC Community Safety
- 14) Gosport Park Fun Day, 13th August, GBC Community Safety
- 15) Stokes Bay Beach Party, 14th August, GBC Community Safety
- 16) Walpole Park, Youth Festival, 22nd August, GBC
- 17) Alverstoke Michaelmas Fayre, 26th September, Mr A Edgar;

- b) fees be waived for any application for use of Council Leisure Land for an event to be run by a Gosport charity or community group;
- c) a refund be made to all Gosport charity and community groups charged for use of Council Leisure Land for events since May 2009; and
- d) a report be presented to the Community and Environment Board following the wash up meeting for Gosport's Big Day Out.

18. PETITION – REROUTING OF REFUSE COLLECTION RICHARD GROVE, CEDAR CLOSE AND FRATER LANE

Note: Councillor Ms Ballard requested and was granted permission to address the Board following the receipt of the above petition.

Councillor Ballard addressed the Board on behalf of the residents of Richard Grove, Cedar Close and Frater Lane.

A petition had been received and presented to the Environmental Services Manager with regard to a recent change in the collection point of domestic waste and recycling bins from the rear of properties to the front.

The Board was advised that the residents now had to walk their bins at least 100 yards to the front of their properties, the two other alternatives being to store their bins in their front gardens or take them through their houses.

Councillor Ms Ballard advised that she had spoken to the Environmental Services Unit and it had been agreed that the change to collection would be suspended pending consultation with residents; this had subsequently been over ruled.

Residents were concerned about the change as it was reported that the rear access way was wider than the highway.

It was requested that Members agree to postpone the change in collection point until consultation with residents had taken place.

Members were advised that the policy was now to collect from the fronts of the

properties. Collections from the rear of the properties had been observed by Officers and were considered to be unsafe.

The Chairman advised the Board that as this item did not appear on the agenda of the meeting, it could not be debated.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 7.20 pm

A MEETING OF THE HOUSING BOARD

WAS HELD ON 14 MAY 2009

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (ex-officio), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (ex-officio) (P), Councillors Allen (P), Beavis (P), Bradley (P), Mrs Cully (P), Edwards (P), Mrs Forder (P), Geddes (P), Gill (P), Mrs Mudie (P) and Philpott (P).

PART II

5. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Philpott be appointed as Chairman of the Housing Board for the Municipal Year 2009-10.

Under Standing Order 6.10 (Minority Order), two Members requested that the matter be referred to full Council.

6. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Beavis be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Housing Board for the Municipal Year 2009-10.

Under Standing Order 6.10 (Minority Order), two Members requested that the matter be referred to full Council.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

A MEETING OF THE HOUSING BOARD WAS HELD ON 17 JUNE 2009

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (ex-officio), Chairman of Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (ex-officio) (P), Councillors Allen (P), Beavis (P), Bradley, Mrs Cully, Edwards (P), Mrs Forder (P), Geddes (P), Gill (P), Mrs Mudie and Philpott (Chairman) (P).

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, notice had been received that Councillor Wright would replace Councillor Mrs Cully for this meeting.

Also in attendance: Tenant Representative – Mrs Jan Carter

PART II

12 PROPERTY DESIGNATIONS

Consideration was given to the report of the Housing Services Manager which sought to:

- a) Rationalise the classification of elderly designated properties in the Councils ownership;
- b) Create a 'mature let' category and recommend where this is applied;
- c) Comply with Government guidance on the criteria for elderly designation and Right to Buy exemptions;
- d) Correct previous anomalies of property designation; and
- e) Bring property designations in line with current letting practice.

Members were advised of amendments to the Appendices of the report.

In answer to Members' questions and concerns, the designations of properties were clarified. Members were advised that not enough properties had been available for young people due to their previous designation for over 40s or elderly residents. Ground floor flats would be designated for the elderly, with first floor flats being designated for the over 40s.

Concern was expressed that some properties had insufficient noise insulation between the floors as Members had received complaints of noise nuisance. However, it was felt that issues of noise nuisance were not confined to specific age groups, so the fact that residents of over 40 years of age were living above elderly residents would not necessarily lead to this type of problem.

Government guidance was specific that properties designated for the elderly had to be within 800 metres of a shop selling bread and milk. There was concern that this would not be a significant factor to the active elderly and that sufficient properties should be available to these residents.

It was recognised that property designation was a complex issue and the recommendation of the report that a further review be carried out in 2011 was welcomed by Members. The flexibility to be able to let properties and not have them

remain empty was considered of primary importance.

In answer to a Member's question concerning the age difference between men and women indicated in Appendix 5 of the report, the Borough Solicitor advised that this planning condition would have been put in place prior to the European Court's ruling on age equality. Any change to this condition was a matter for the Regulatory Board to consider.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for:-

- a) the removal of the elderly designated status from dwellings which are far from local amenities and which do not comply with Right to Buy exemptions (listed at Appendix 1) of the report;
- b) the incorporation of Appendix 2 of the report into the existing Allocations Policy defining elderly designated lettings in Section 2(4)(c) of the current Policy, and mature lets in Section 2(4)(e) of the current Policy;
- c) a further review of elderly designated properties to be conducted in 2011 and a further report to be brought to this Board; and
- d) the Housing Services Manager to identify a way forward for these properties in conjunction with the Development Services Manager.

13 LOCALITY HOUSING OFFICER UPDATE AND LPSA2 (LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES AGREEMENT) REWARD MONEY

Consideration was given to the report of the Housing Services Manager which updated the Housing Board on the successful LPSA pilot scheme involving partnership between Hampshire districts and Hampshire County Council. The report also made spending proposals for reward money due from the successful pilot.

Members were advised of the background to this scheme. The scheme had been devised to provide a more comprehensive housing and support service for 16/17 year olds and care leavers. In the past there had been a lack of engagement between children's services and housing services and this liaison would be undertaken by the Locality Housing Officer.

The flowchart shown at Appendix A to the report was explained to Members in more detail. Members fully supported the scheme and the increased co-operation between agencies which would lead to swifter intervention with families encountering difficulties and, therefore, a better outcome for potentially homeless young people. Concern was expressed that a lack of funding in the future could jeopardise its continuation. It was noted that the reward money had been distributed evenly to the Districts without consideration to areas, such as Gosport, with greater instances of deprivation compared with other parts of Hampshire.

Members were advised that the performance of the scheme would be under continuous review and a further report would be brought to the Board in a year's time.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- (a) Note the contents of this report;
- (b) Approve the following items of expenditure:
 - I. £4,000 per year, over three years (£12,000 total), to be applied to Lettings Team staffing budgets to cover the Locality Housing Officer existing on-costs;
 - II. £5,865 per year, over three years (£17,595 total), to be applied to Lettings Team staffing budgets to cover the Visiting Officer existing costs of work associated with customers with assessed housing and care needs;
 - III. £4,000 per year, over three years (£12,000 total), grant payable to Hampshire County Council, to enable variation of Locality Housing Officer contract for the purpose of work with Gosport Children's Services and associated agencies;
 - IV. £60,000 to be held on account for the purpose of future funding of a Family Support Service, subject to further Housing Board approval before any draw-down of finance; and
 - V. £6,942 to be held on account for the purpose of improving the existing Gosport and Fareham Supported Housing Panel scheme, subject to further Housing Board approval before any draw down of finance.

14 GARAGE REVIEW

Note: Councillors Allen, Geddes and Wright declared non prejudicial interests in this item and remained in the meeting room for the discussion and voting thereon.

Consideration was given to a report of the Housing Services Manager which provided a further overview on the condition of Housing Services owned garages and proposed an action plan for investment and development of garage sites.

Members were advised that the final sentence of paragraph 5.2 should read as follows:-

"This virement is feasible as a consequence of £300,000 of the MRA being brought forward by the Department of Communities and Local Government to be funding brought forward from 2010-11."

Members commended the consultation process that had taken place with Ward Councillors which had resulted in a comprehensive review of Council owned garages. Some concern was expressed about the development of sites following the demolition of garages. Members were assured that the decision making process on future development still had some way to go and that reports would be brought to the Policy and Organisation Board and the Regulatory Board before final decisions on individual sites were made.

Members stated that many Council owned garages were in such a poor state of repair that residents could not use them and so had rented garages from the private sector. Therefore, the figures for Council owned garages currently rented out did not reflect possible future demand should the garages be repaired or rebuilt. It was noted that garage rents were a significant source of revenue for the Council.

RESOLVED: That:

- a. the contents of the report be noted;
- b. the Garage Action Plan as detailed in Appendix B of the report be agreed;
- c. the rent framework (subject to Full Council approval in 2010) as described in paragraph 2.9.4 of the report be agreed.

15 REVISED COUNCIL DWELLING RENTS 2009/10 UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Housing Services Manager which updated the Board on the outcome of the consultations undertaken by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy Determination and of any impact on the HRA.

RESOLVED: That it be noted that there were no adverse impacts on HRA balances following the publication by DCLG of the actual HRA Subsidy Determination.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 7.20 pm.

GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT ON THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

BY-ELECTION IN THE BROCKHURST WARD HELD ON

9 JULY 2009

1. I have to report that two vacancies arose for the office of Councillor for the Brockhurst Ward of the Borough by reason of the resignation of Councillors Mrs Salter and Salter.
2. Seven candidates were validly nominated in the election of Councillors for the Brockhurst Ward to fill the resulting vacancies. A Poll was taken on 9 July 2009 and the votes cast for the respective candidates were as follows:

<u>Names of Candidates</u>	<u>Votes Given for Each Candidate</u>
Justin HENSHAW	364
Robert Leonard HYLANDS	562
Siobhan Ann MITCHELL-SMITH	523
Joseph William O'GORMAN	60
Michael Anthony O'GORMAN	56
Andrea Claire Harte SMITH	131
Brian TAYLOR	339

3. Accordingly, I duly declared elected the candidates who received the greatest number of votes, namely Robert Leonard HYLANDS and Siobhan Ann MITCHELL-SMITH who will serve respectively until May 2012 and May 2010.

**LINDA EDWARDS
RETURNING OFFICER**

**TOWN HALL
GOSPORT**

14 July 2009