

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2007

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Gill) (P) (in the Chair);

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kimber);

Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard (P), Burgess, Carr (P), Carter (P), Mrs Champion, Champion (P), Chegwyn (P), Clinton (P), Mrs Cully (P), Cully (P), Davis (P), Dickson, Edgar (P), Farr (P), Foster (P), Foster-Reed, Hicks (P), Hook (P), Jacobs (P), Langdon (P), Mrs Mudie (P), Philpott (P), Rigg (P), Mrs Salter (P), Mrs Searle (P), Smith (P), Taylor (P), Train (P), Ward (P), Mrs Wright (P) and Wright (P).

Also in attendance: Honorary Alderman O'Neill.

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

In order to express their sympathy regarding the recent death of Mr Ron Wilson, former Chief Officer of the Borough Council, Members of the Council stood in silent tribute for one minute.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Burgess, Mrs Champion, Foster-Reed and Kimber, Honorary Freeman Ashby and Honorary Aldermen Mrs Bailey, Foster and Hayward.

MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 3 October 2007 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

(A) SOUTH EAST TOURISM EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2007

The Mayor was pleased to report that the Council had won a 'Highly Commended Tourism Website of the Year' Award at the recent South East Tourism Excellence Awards 2007 Evening.

The Mayor and Councillors accordingly congratulated the two principal officers responsible for the Gosport Tourism website, namely Marcus Goodwin and Mike Glavin. Mike Glavin unfortunately was away but the Mayor brought Marcus Goodwin forward to receive the framed certificate for the Award.

(B) HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY DISTRICT COMMANDERS CONGRATULATIONS CERTIFICATES

The Mayor once again was pleased to report to the Council the excellent partnership work of Sam Mitchell, Carly Northcott and Zoe Richardson. The Mayor and Councillors congratulated all three ladies, Sam and Carly being seated at the back of the Council Chamber.

Sam Mitchell and Carly Northcott had received Hampshire Constabulary District Commanders Congratulations Certificates for their outstanding commitment and hard work in assisting The Safer Neighbourhood Teams in delivering a number of youth engagement projects over the summer and in spending time with young people in the Gosport area to combat anti-social behaviour.

Zoe Richardson had received a Hampshire Constabulary District Commanders Congratulations Certificate for her outstanding commitment and hard work in assisting The Bridge Team in securing a Crackhouse Closure in the Bridgemary area; supporting the Police by obtaining a Search Warrant and chairing multi-agency meetings.

(C) 'GOSPORT TOWERS' PICTURE

The Mayor showed the Council the 'Gosport Towers' picture he had recently received on behalf of the Council from Mullaley's, Kelsey's Maintenance Contractors. The picture had in the foreground an Isle of Wight ferry in front of the Tower blocks.

(D) LAUNCH OF THE 'FINDING A WAY FORWARD' DOCUMENT HASLAR

The Mayor invited Councillor Edgar to advise Members of the launch of the 'Finding A Way Forward' document for Haslar on 30 November 2007.

Councillor Edgar explained that this launch had been planned for senior clinicians to be in attendance and to bring it to the attention of the media. The document would be distributed to residents in the Borough and parts of Fareham with an opportunity for members of the public to give their views by the end of the year on the enclosed return slip. These would then be forwarded to the appropriate Government Minister.

Councillor Edgar drew attention to the work he had been doing in recent months. Consultations and tours of the Haslar site had included senior directors of the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), Ministry of Defence, the Leader of Hampshire County Council (HCC), Portsmouth and Hampshire Primary Care Trusts and the Portsmouth Hospitals Trust with mention being made of the interest by a company in the field of care of the elderly. Other recent commitments had included giving evidence at the West Sussex hospitals enquiry; scrutinising developments at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham and working with Hampshire County Councillor Wright on the county's health role.

In conclusion Councillor Edgar thanked the three Group Leaders and all the Members of the Council for their continued support.

(E) MOTION – PHOTOGRAPH TAKING MOBILE PHONES IN GOSPORT SCHOOLS

The Mayor invited Councillor Smith to update Councillors on the above Motion, which had been approved at the Council's last meeting.

Councillor Smith advised that following the Council meeting on 3 October 2007 a letter detailing the approved Motion had been sent by the Borough Council to the County Council. He had recently spoken to County Councillor David Kirk, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services (Education). County Councillor Kirk stated that the Motion had not been taken to full Council as the County Council had no authority to enforce such issues with schools. He therefore advised that the Borough Council should write directly to Gosport's Secondary Schools drawing their attention to the Motion. Councillor Smith therefore moved this latter course of action in accordance with Standing Order 4.5.1(d), which was duly seconded by Councillor Chegwyn.

Council accordingly agreed to Councillor Smith moving the above Motion in accordance with Standing Order 4.5.1 (d).

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Motion be approved and adopted.

QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4

- (A) Prior to Question No 1 standing in the name of Councillor Chegwyn on the initiation of appropriate procedures for making Mrs Dorothy Simpson an Honorary Freeman of the Borough being put to the Mayor. The Mayor advised that although the subject matter of this Question was not on the agenda and strictly in line with Standing Orders he should not be answering it (Standing Orders 4.8.1 and 4.8.2 refer); he would however, in the circumstances, like to make an exception and answer it.

The Mayor stated that he had much pleasure in supporting and referring such a nomination to the Council's Civic and Commemorative Events Sub-Board.

- (B) Question No 2 standing in the name of Councillor Chegwyn on the payment of a special responsibility allowance to Councillor Edgar for his work as Haslar Task Force Spokesman was answered by the Leader of the Council.
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CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BOARDS

ADOPTION OF A REVISED STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

At its meeting on 14 November 2007, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that:

- a) the revised Statement of Licensing Policy, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be adopted; and
- b) the scheme of delegation set out in the original Statement of Licensing Policy, and repeated in the revised policy at Appendix A of the report, continue to be incorporated into the Council's Constitution and authority be delegated to the Borough Solicitor to make any necessary and any consequential amendments to the Constitution.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2006

At its meeting on 5 November 2007, the Community and Environment Board recommended that:

- a) the proposed delegation of the enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to the Environmental Services Manager be recommended to Council for approval; and
- b) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make all necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution to give effect to the above.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

PART II MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following Part II Minutes be received:

Policy and Organisation Board: 14 November 2007 (Minute Nos. 42 – 51)
Community and Environment Board: 5 November 2007 (Minute Nos. 31 – 32)
Housing Board: 7 November 2007 (Minute Nos. 30 – 32)

STANDING ORDER 4.15.1

The Mayor reported that notice had been received requesting that Standing Order 4.15.1 be moved to enable the Chief Executive and Environmental Services Manager to introduce their respective reports related to Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy and Working Group - Procurement.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Standing Order 4.15.1 be moved to enable the Chief Executive and Environmental Services Manager to introduce their respective reports related to Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy and Working Group - Procurement.

GOSPORT'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Chief Executive introduced his report on the above. The purpose of the report was to seek Council adoption of Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy.

As a policy framework document the Strategy had been subject to scrutiny. Overview and Scrutiny Committee had scrutinised the approach and process for

reviewing and revising the Community Strategy in October 2006. The LSP had reviewed and revised Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy using the approach approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The outcome of the review was a concise Community Strategy which reflected the latest Government guidance and set out:

- The role of the LSP and its sub-groups
- The purpose of the Sustainable Community Strategy and how it had been produced
- Gosport's 2026 Vision (the long term Vision for the Borough)
- How Gosport's 2026 Vision would be achieved

Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy and the findings from the review process would be used by the LSP Board to develop an accompanying Action Plan.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee concluded its scrutiny of Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy at its meeting on 27 September 2007. Members of the Committee requested that progress on the Action Plan be presented to the Committee twice a year and this had been included in the work programme.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Gosport's Sustainable Community Strategy be adopted.

WORKING GROUP- PROCUREMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager on the above.

It was reported that the Council was being requested to consider the setting up of a Working Group to advise the Community and Environment Board on options for the provision and procurement of grounds maintenance, street cleansing and refuse collection.

The contracts for the provision of grounds maintenance, street cleansing and refuse collection all end in March 2009. The procurement of these contracts represented a significant financial risk to the Council for the years 2009 onwards.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That-

- a) the Council sets up a Working Group reporting to the Community and Environment Board to consider the Council's Waste Management Strategy, the services to be provided and the**

**appropriate procurement vehicle for the delivery of these services;
and**

- b) the Working Group comprises 6 members on a 2:2:2 basis, the six members to be Councillors Carr, Cully, Hicks, Hook, Taylor and Wright.**

The meeting ended at 6.35pm