

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 03 OCTOBER 2007

Attendance:

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

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kimber) (P);

Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard (P), Burgess (P), Carr (P), Carter (P), Mrs Champion, Champion, Chegwyn (P), Clinton (P), Mrs Cully (P), Cully (P), Davis (P), Dickson, Edgar (P), Farr (P), Foster, Foster-Reed, Hicks (P), Hook (P), Jacobs, 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 Freeman Ashby and Honorary Aldermen Mrs Bailey, Hayward, O'Neill and Mrs Snaith.

INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLOR

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Mrs Searle, the newly elected Councillor for the Town Ward, to the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Searle replied briefly.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Champion, Champion, Dickson, Foster, Foster-Reed and Jacobs and Honorary Aldermen Flory, Hewitt and Rushton.

MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11 July 2007 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

(A) MRS CATHERINE MCDONALD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

The Mayor reported that Mrs McDonald's son, currently working in Iraq with a private security company, had received shrapnel injuries from a bomb explosion recently. The Mayor understood thankfully that the injuries were not life threatening and that he was being cared for in an American Military Hospital in Germany.

Members accordingly requested the Mayor to write to Mrs McDonald in order to convey their sympathies to her at this time and wish her son a speedy recovery to full health from his injuries.

(B) FAIRTRADE

The Mayor was pleased to report that the Council had achieved success in being awarded the Fairtrade Runner-Up Award for 'The Best Contribution by a Local Council'. He wished to extend his thanks to Councillor Mrs June Cully who had enthusiastically supported Fairtrade in her period of office as Mayor and who had picked up the Award on his behalf at the ceremony in London with Sarah Hirom, Caryn Vaux and Carly Pringle of Gosport Fairtrade Action Group on Saturday, 29 September 2007.

Councillor Mrs Cully accordingly presented the Mayor with the Award and thanked everyone who had been involved with the local Fairtrade campaign.

(C) PHOTOGRAPH TAKING MOBILE PHONE IN GOSPORT SCHOOLS

Note: Councillor Clinton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and withdrew from the Council meeting for the duration of its discussion.

The Mayor brought to Members' attention an item related to school children using photograph taking mobile phones in and around school. In this context he requested Councillor Smith to address the Council meeting.

Councillor Smith introduced this item and concluded with a request to move the following Motion in accordance with Standing Order 4.5.1(d), which was duly seconded by Councillor Chegwyn.

"Gosport Borough Council wishes to request Hampshire County Council as the Local Education Authority to ban imaging equipment in schools in a bid to stop images of fights and 'happy slapping' attacks from being filmed on mobiles in or around school."

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

AMENDMENT: That the Motion be approved and adopted subject to the addition of the words “that”..... “write to the Governors of all Gosport Schools, requesting them to ban photograph taking mobile phones”..... “telephones on their school premises.”

The amended Motion would therefore read as follows:

“Gosport Borough Council wishes to request that Hampshire County Council as the Local Education Authority, write to the Governors of all Gosport Schools, requesting them to ban photograph taking mobile phones in a bid to stop images of fights and ‘happy slapping’ attacks from being filmed on mobile telephones on their school premises.”

The Mayor informed Council that Councillors Smith and Chegwyn were happy for the Amended Motion to replace their Original Motion.

COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That the Substantive Motion as amended be approved and adopted.

Prior to the Deputation being heard the Mayor moved in accordance with Standing Order 4.5.1 (j) that item 10 on the agenda (Regeneration of Rowner) be taken after the Deputation on the same subject.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That in accordance with Standing Order 4.5.1(j) item 10 (Regeneration of Rowner) on the agenda be taken after the Deputation.

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, Deputy Chief-Executive and Borough Treasurer and Borough Solicitor to introduce their respective reports related to:

- **Chief Executive**
Items 10 (Regeneration of Rowner) and 13 (Holbrook Recreation Centre)
- **Deputy Chief Executive and Borough Treasurer**
Item 11 (Designated Public Places Order (DPPO))

- **Borough Solicitor**

Items 9 (Review of Council Boards, Sub-Boards and Committees and Determination of Allocation of Seats), 12 (Local Government Act 1972 – Section 85) and 14 (Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places For the Parliamentary Constituency).

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Standing Order 4.15.1 be moved to enable the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and Borough Treasurer and Borough Solicitor to introduce their respective reports as detailed above.

DEPUTATION

Mr M Latham had requested permission to address the Council on behalf of the Village Residents Association concerning the Regeneration of Rowner.

Mr Mark Latham, as Vice Chairman, spoke on behalf of the Village Residents Association (VRA), a democratically elected group acting in the interests of all the people living in Rowner village and explained that he was an ex-resident and ex-leaseholder of Rowner Village. He spoke in response to the Chief Executive's report 'Regeneration of Rowner' and thanked the Councillors for allowing him to speak.

Mr Latham felt that the standard of the Rowner housing stock should be improved; his group was making improvements to a value of £3M and felt that the Council's proposal was expensive, disruptive and risky with a political risk to the Council. Mr Latham considered that the VRA and the Council were seeking the same objective which was to achieve a thriving and prosperous Rowner village with housing stock reflecting well on the Borough of Gosport.

Mr Latham explained that the VRA were a group of capitalists who had been actively involved in Rowner village for the last 18 months, had acquired and refurbished in excess of 30 flats on the estate which they considered had contributed, without public funds, to their security, quality and value. Copies of photographs of alleged improvements to flat roofs had previously been distributed to Members of the Council.

Mr Latham gave an account of a Rowner family who had transferred from mortgage to rental and were subsequently forced into debt. This had resulted in the family being split up with the father transferred to a hostel and the mother and two young children housed in single women's accommodation. The family were both surprised and angry at this decision and Mr Latham commented that it was not necessarily the case that people would be given a new property if their circumstances deteriorated.

In response to Members' questions Mr Latham stated that there was no guarantee for the flat roof repairs carried out although a surveyor had made an inspection; that the VRA held regular minuted meetings and that he had purchased a Rowner flat in mid 2006, renovated it and moved on to another project in Bridgemary in February 2007. Members quoted facts and figures from

the Johnson report together with local youth workers' opinions of there being major issues at Rowner. Mr Latham did not recall that the cost of refurbishment could be as much as £50M, as quoted in the report, and felt that the work required would be less radical as the properties were sturdily built and capable of refurbishment.

The VRA were in the process of taking on the freehold and were intent on continuing to substantially improve the estate's physical condition including lifts, asbestos removal, paintwork and installing security cameras and doors. He requested that the Council give his group the time and breathing space to continue their programme at no cost to the Council.

The Mayor thanked Mr Latham for his presentation.

REGENERATION OF ROWNER

The Chief Executive introduced his report on the above.

The Chief Executive reported that the Rowner Renewal Consortium was officially launched on 20 March 2007. The launch brought together publicly the five key agents for the change in Rowner; Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, English Partnership, Taylor Wimpey Developments Limited and Portsmouth Housing Association.

The partners in the Rowner Regeneration Consortium had pledged millions of pounds of investment to make the redevelopment of the Rowner Estate a possibility. If the Project is to proceed, a full and extensive consultation with local residents would be undertaken. This process would identify the exact numbers and tenure of those who are resident in the Village and their requirements for future housing. It would also allow the local residents to comment upon and shape the regeneration.

To cost the Project it was necessary to make some assumptions and these are outlined below. However, these remain assumptions and are subject to the results of the public consultation.

Number of residential units proposed – maximum 845

Number of residential units to be demolished – 501

Affordable homes – 30% (rent and shared ownership) 252

It was proposed to include a retail provision within the scheme. A community square was envisaged around the schools, Nimrod Centre and SureStart, with a suitable space so that the carnival, for example, and other existing community events may continue and also provide new opportunities for community activities.

The residential units would all be built to English Partnership construction standards. These exceed those usually asked for under Building Regulations or for affordable homes by the Housing Corporation/Registered Social Landlords.

The value of the whole Regeneration Project was estimated to be in the region of £140M.

Hampshire County Council had provided finance for the employment of a Project Officer, Mr Michael Lane; the Chief Executive extended his personal thanks to Mr Lane for his support and hard work over the last two years. Success had been achieved in bringing to visit the site and securing subsequent support for the regeneration proposals of Ministers, Senior Civil Servants and Chief Executives and Senior Officers of all the relevant Government Agencies.

In conclusion the Chief Executive stated that if the proposals were approved tonight Portsmouth Housing Association would be delivering to residents tomorrow morning letters initiating the consultation process. He would also ensure that Councillors received copies of such letters.

MOTION: That the Council resolve to:

- a) **enter into agreements with Taylor Wimpey Development Limited (formerly Taylor Woodrow Development Limited), English Partnership, Portsmouth Housing Association and Hampshire County Council to secure the regeneration of Rowner as outlined in the Chief Executive's report;**
- b) **agree to the sale of Gosport Borough Council land shown on the plan (Appendix A) at an undervalue and delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Borough Solicitor and Borough Treasurer to conclude negotiations with Portsmouth Housing Association subject to the relevant statutory procedures and consents;**
- c) **agree in order to secure the comprehensive redevelopment and regeneration of the Rowner area to the principle of exercising their power to compulsory acquire land and interests in land;**
- d) **authorise the Borough Solicitor to enter into agreements to facilitate the Rowner Regeneration Project and to undertake preparatory work for the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order;**
- e) **approve the use of Home Heath as a cemetery; and**
- f) **agree to any "further profit" as defined under Clause 4.12 of the Chief Executive's report to be retained for future regeneration projects within Gosport.**

Upon the Motion being put to the meeting, in accordance with Standing Order 4.12.4, it was requisitioned that the voting on the Motion be recorded. A recorded vote was thereupon taken and the names of the Members voting for the Motion were read to the Council as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Allen, Ms Ballard, Burgess, Carr, Carter, Chegwyn, Clinton, Mrs Cully, Cully, Davis, Edgar, Farr, Hicks, Hook, Langdon, Philpott, Rigg, Mrs Salter, Mrs Searle, Smith, Taylor, Train, Ward, Mrs Wright and Wright (27)

(NOTE: Councillor Mrs Mudie was not present when the recorded vote was taken).

The Motion was accordingly declared CARRIED.

COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That the Motion be approved and adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned from 7.43 – 7.50pm.

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4

- (A) Question No 1 standing in the name of Councillor Edgar on the fitting of a new lock for a council property resident at St Vincent Road was answered by the Chairman of the Housing Board.

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM COUNCIL BOARD

PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE – ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE AND JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At its meeting on 19 September 2007, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that Council be advised that the Board gives approval for:

- a) the establishment of a formal joint committee (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)) to replace the existing voluntary informal arrangements, based on the terms of reference and broad structure described in the Chief Executive's report, with approval of the detailed Memorandum of Understanding and other documents to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council; and
- b) the establishment of a joint overview and scrutiny committee to scrutinise the activities of the PUSH joint committee.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted together with an additional recommendation c) that Councillor Hook be the Council's representative on the joint overview and scrutiny committee with a standing deputy being drawn from any member of the opposition.

PART II MINUTES

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

Policy and Organisation Board: 19 September 2007 (Minute Nos 29 – 35)

Community and Environment Board: 10 September 2007 (Minute Nos 20 – 24)

Housing Board: 12 September 2007 (Minute Nos 19 – 24)

REPORT OF RETURNING OFFICER ON THE BY-ELECTION HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2007

The following report of the Returning Officer on the By-Election held on 2 August 2007 was received:

GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT ON THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

BY-ELECTION IN THE TOWN WARD HELD ON

2 AUGUST 2007

1. I have to report that a vacancy arose in the office of Councillor for the Town Ward of the Borough by reason of the resignation of Councillor Redrup.
2. Six candidates were validly nominated in the election of a Councillor for the Town Ward to fill the resulting vacancy. A Poll was taken on 2 August 2007 and the votes cast for the respective candidates were as follows:

Names of Candidates

Votes Given for Each Candidate

Adam Dickson Ewens BURNS
Heather Gillian CARR

320
200

Brian HART	71
Diane SEARLE	480
Robert Henry SHAW	50
Jane STAFFIERI	31

3. The under-mentioned candidate who received the greatest number of votes was therefore elected Councillor for the Town Ward.

Diane SEARLE

REVIEW OF COUNCIL BOARDS, SUB-BOARDS AND COMMITTEES AND DETERMINATION OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor on the above.

It was reported that the Council had previously reviewed the allocation of seats and made a determination as to the allocation between the political groups on the Council in November last year. Following the recent by-election a further review had been undertaken by the Borough Solicitor and her recommendations were now before the Council for approval.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following recommendations in the Borough Solicitor's report be approved and adopted:

- a) the allocation of seats on the Boards and Committees be as set out in paragraph 3.1;
- b) Councillor Farr be the Labour Group's member on the Regulatory Board with his name being deleted from the Regulatory Board Nominated Deputies list for 2007/08;
- c) the allocation of seats on the Sub-Boards remain unchanged as set out in paragraph 4.2; and
- d) the allocation of seats on the Standards and Governance Committee remain unchanged as set out in paragraph 5.2.

COUNCIL ALSO RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Searle be added to the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Councillor Farr being deleted from the Committee's membership for the remainder of the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER (DPPO)

The Deputy Chief Executive and Borough Treasurer introduced his report on the Designated Public Places Order (DPPO).

He recommended Councillors to consider the results of the statutory consultation and agree to the making of a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO).

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following recommendations in the Deputy Chief Executive and Borough Treasurer's report be approved and adopted:

- a) **note the results of consultation;**
- b) **make the Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) as set out in Appendix 1; and**
- c) **undertake the necessary statutory advertisement with the start date for the DPPO as 1 November 2007 and that the signage referred to in Appendix 1 is placed around the Borough informing residents of the implications of the DPPO.**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – SECTION 85

The Borough Solicitor introduced her report on the above.

She outlined in her report the reasons provided by Councillor Mrs Champion for her inability to attend meetings of the Council and the provisions of Section 85 of the 1972 Act.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Leader of the Conservative Group wished to put forward the reasons in paragraph 2.2 of the report as the Motion in pursuance of Section 85 of the 1972 Act in order to keep Councillor Mrs Champion in office as a Councillor.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the reasons outlined in paragraph 2.2 of the Borough Solicitor's report be approved and adopted in pursuance of Section 85 of the 1972 Act in order to keep Councillor Mrs Champion in office as a Councillor.

HOLBROOK RECREATION CENTRE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive on the Holbrook Recreation Centre.

The report requested the Council to consider the appointment of a Consultant in respect of the proposed redevelopment of Holbrook Recreation Centre.

MOTION: That Council is recommended to approve the appointment of Strategic Leisure Limited to assist the Council with the redevelopment of the Holbrook Recreation Centre.

AMENDMENT: That the Motion be approved and adopted subject to the addition of the words “.... and that the football pitches be retained on the site.”

The Amendment was accordingly put to the Council meeting and declared **CARRIED.**

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Substantive Motion as amended be approved and adopted.

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor on the above.

It was reported that the Council is required by statute to divide its area into polling districts and polling places for the purpose of Parliamentary elections and to keep them under review. The Council has to complete a review by 31 December 2007 and thereafter on a four year basis.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Council sets up a Sub-Board of 3 members on a 1:1:1 basis to prepare proposals for consultation only; the three members to be Councillors Carter and Chegwyn, with one Labour Group vacancy.

HCC TRANSPORT FOR SOUTH HAMPSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Councillor Langdon be appointed to attend and observe at the County Council Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee meetings along with the Development Services Manager for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

The meeting ended at 8.51pm