

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2008

Attendance:

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

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (P);

Councillors Allen, Mrs Bailey (P), Ms Ballard (P), Beavis (P), Bradley (P), Burgess, Carr (P), Carter (P), Champion, Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Cully (P), Dickson, Edgar (P), Edwards (P), Mrs Forder (P), Forder (P), Foster-Reed (P), Geddes, Gill (P), Hicks (P), Hook (P), Langdon (P), Mrs Mudie (P), Murphy (P), Philpott (P), Mrs Salter (P), Salter (P), Smith (P), Ward (P), Miss West (P) and Wright (P).

Also in attendance: Honorary Freeman Ashby and Honorary Aldermen Foster, O'Neill, Rushton and Mrs Snaith.

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

In order to express their sympathy regarding the recent death of former Councillor Ivor Foster, 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 Allen, Burgess, Champion, Dickson and Geddes and Honorary Freeman Mrs Simpson and Honorary Aldermen Flory, Hayward and Lucas.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14 July 2008 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- (A) CHAIRMAN'S URGENT ITEMS:**
NEW CONSTITUTION FOR GOSPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Mayor reported that he had two Chairman's urgent items on the above matters. He recommended that the Council take these items as the last items on the agenda.

In the above light the Mayor also wished to suspend Standing Order 3.3.2 so that he could move Standing Order 4.15.1 in order to allow the Deputy Chief Executive and Borough Treasurer and Chief Executive to present their respective reports.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That:

- a) **the Chairman's urgent items on the 'New Constitution for Gosport Community Safety Partnership' and 'Appointment of Independent Member of the Standards and Governance Committee' be taken as the last items on the agenda;**
- b) **Standing Order 3.3.2 be suspended in order to allow Standing Order 4.15.1 to be put to the Council meeting; and**
- c) **Standing Order 4.15.1 be moved to enable the Deputy Chief Executive and Borough Treasurer and Chief Executive to present their respective reports on the 'New Constitution for Gosport Community Safety Partnership' and 'Appointment of Independent Member of the Standards and Governance Committee'.**

(B) POTENTIAL EXEMPT ITEM – LAND AT FORT ROAD, GOSPORT

The Mayor advised that the supporting report for agenda item 6 (iii) (Land at Fort Road, Gosport) would have to be taken in exempt session. In such circumstances he wished to move Standing Order 4.5.1 (j) so that this item could be considered as the last item on the agenda.

In response to this statement the Leader of the Council proposed that this item be taken in open session with the public present. This proposal was accordingly seconded and supported by the Council. It was also noted that the Chief Executive had been requested to arrange a meeting with the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders on the alleged leaking of confidential information by Members in exempt reports.

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4

- (A) Question No 1 standing in the name of Councillor Mrs Bailey on the leaking of confidential council reports to the media was answered by the Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board.
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CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BOARDS

TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW 2007/08. PROGRESS REPORT 2008/09 AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

At its meeting on 17 September 2008, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that:

- a) the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Borough Treasurer be noted and the 2007/08 prudential indicators approved; and
- b) approval be given to the revised 2008/09 limits at 3.3 of the report – i.e. to increase the current year limits for fixed interest rate investments from £10.5 to £15.0 million and for fixed interest rate borrowing from £8.0 to £12.0 million.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

STOKES BAY FESTIVAL

At its meeting on 17 September 2008, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that a report relating to the council's involvement with the Stokes Bay Festival be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

NOTE: Prior to this recommendation being put to the meeting Councillors Chegwyn, Hicks, Forder, Mrs Forder, Mrs Salter, Bradley, Salter and Foster-Reed declared personal and prejudicial interests in this item, left the Council Chamber and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendation be approved and adopted.

LAND AT FORT ROAD, GOSPORT

At its meeting on 17 September 2008, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that the Board approve:

- a) the marketing of the site for sale for residential development;
- b) access by the Public to the seafront across the site to be retained (paragraph 2.4 of the report); and
- c) any sale of the land to be the subject of a further report to the Policy & Organisation Board.

Following consideration of the above recommendations and supporting report the Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board, with the support of the Council, amended recommendation a) by deleting the word "residential".

MOTION: That the Policy and Organisation Board's (17 September 2008) recommendations, as amended by the deletion of the word "residential" from recommendation a), be approved and adopted.

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 and against the Motion and those abstaining were read to the Council as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councillors Mrs Bailey, Ms Ballard, Bradley, Carr, Chegwyn, Mrs Cully, Cully, Mrs Forder, Forder, Foster-Reed, Hicks, Mrs Mudie, Mrs Salter, Salter, Smith and Wright (16).

AGAINST THE MOTION: Councillors Beavis, Carter, Edgar, Edwards, Hook, Langdon, Murphy, Philpott, Ward and Miss West (10).

ABSTENTIONS: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Gill (3).

The Motion was accordingly declared **CARRIED**.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Motion be approved and adopted.

PART II MINUTES

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

Policy and Organisation Board: 17 September 2008 (Minute Nos. 33 – 36)

(NOTE: The Leader of the Conservative Group advised on Minute No. 35 (Appointment Panel for new Post of Director of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts) that he would let the officers know in due course his Group's nomination to the Appointment Panel.)

Community and Environment Board: 8 September 2008 (Minute Nos. 29 – 35)

(NOTES:

(i) In moving page 26 of the Community and Environment Board Minutes (8 September 2008) the Chairman updated the meeting regarding the Gun Club.

(ii) When reference was made to Minute No. 35 (Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing Contract) Councillor Chegwyn declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the Council Chamber and took no part in the discussion thereon. The Vice-Chairman accordingly moved page 27 of the Community and Environment Board Minutes.)

Housing Board: 10 September 2008 (Minute Nos. 17 – 21)

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 Development Services Manager to introduce his report related to 'South East Plan – Secretary of State's Proposed Changes'.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Standing Order 4.15.1 be moved to enable the Development Services Manager to introduce his report related to 'South East Plan – Secretary of State's Proposed Changes'.

SOUTH EAST PLAN – SECRETARY OF STATE'S PROPOSED CHANGES

The Development Services Manager introduced his report on the above.

It was reported that SEERA had submitted a draft SE Plan to the Government in March 2006. At this stage it was made available for consultation. The Transportation and Planning Sub Board considered this plan at its meeting on 26 June 2006 and made representations. All representations made on the draft SE Plan were then considered by a Panel of Inspectors at an Examination in Public (EIP) between November 2006 and March 2007. The Panel published its report of recommended changes in August 2007.

The Government had now considered the Panel's report and had published Proposed Changes that it intended to make to the Plan. These changes are subject to consultation until 24 October 2008. Representations could only be made on the Proposed Changes. Those parts of the SE Plan not changed by the Government could not be challenged. The Government would consider any representations and then publish the final version of the SE Plan.

In the region as a whole the Secretary of State proposed to increase the amount of house building from 578,000 to 662,500 net additional dwellings between 2006 and 2026. However, in South Hampshire the Secretary of State had supported the EIP Panel's endorsement of the development strategy including the housing figures (80,000 between 2006 and 2026), the two Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) to the north of Fareham and to the North East of Eastleigh and the employment floorspace figures set out in the draft SE Plan. The main consequence is that the housing allocation for Gosport remained at 2,500.

The key areas of interest for Gosport related to the section on the South Hampshire sub region. However there were some regionwide policies where it is important for Gosport to comment. A summary of the key changes and a suggested response to the Government's Proposed Changes to the draft SE Plan were set out in Appendix A to the report.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Council makes representations on the Government's Proposed Changes to the South East Plan as set out in Appendix A of the report.

CHAIRMAN'S URGENT ITEM – NEW CONSTITUTION FOR GOSPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

By reason of special circumstances, the Mayor determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

The special circumstances were that the Community Safety Partnership at its meeting on 16 October 2008 wished to have this meeting in line with the proposed new Partnership Constitution.

The Deputy Chief Executive and Borough Treasurer introduced the report on the above. The report outlined Gosport Community Safety Partnership's new Constitution and proposed in response, a revision of the Council appointments to the Community Safety Partnership and the establishment of a new Community Safety Panel which would perform a scrutiny role.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That in the light of the new statutory requirements the Council:

- a) notes the Constitution of the Community Safety Partnership;**
- b) appoints a representative and standing deputy to the Gosport Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board for the rest of this civic year;**
- c) appoints a Crime and Disorder Committee to be known as the Community Safety Panel to discharge the scrutiny functions set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006; and**
- d) makes appointments to the Community Safety Panel in the first instance, of those elected Members referred to in paragraph 2.1.1 and considers any further appointments, associated Terms of Reference and forward plan in a report to be brought before the next meeting of the Council.**

CHAIRMAN'S URGENT ITEM – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

By reason of special circumstances, the Mayor determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

The special circumstances were that the appointment of a second Independent Member on the Standards and Governance Committee would ensure the Council complied with the regulations related to Review Sub-Committees as currently it could not comply with only one Independent Member.

The Chief Executive introduced his report on the above. The report advised Members of the recruitment process for the Independent Member vacancy and recommended an appointment to the Standards and Governance Committee.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Council approves the appointment of Mr Gerard Lidgey as an Independent Member of the Standards and Governance Committee for the period of 4 years ending on 30 September 2012.

The meeting ended at 7.51pm