

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 22 JULY 2009

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (P) (In the Chair);

The Deputy May (Councillor Carr) (P);

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

Also in attendance: Honorary Aldermen Mrs Bailey, Foster, O'Neill, Rushton and Searle.

FORMER COUNCILLOR BRUCE RIGG

The Mayor's Chaplain in his prayers before the Council meeting paid tribute to former Councillor Bruce Rigg who had died on 9 June 2009 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Champion, Cully and Ward and Honorary Aldermen Hayward and Lucas.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual, Adjourned Annual and Extraordinary meetings of the Council held on 13, 14 and 21 May 2009 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

(A) MAYOR'S CRICKET TEAM

The Mayor was pleased to inform the Council that the Mayor's Cricket Team had performed very well, played four and won four.

(B) SNAP DISCO

The Mayor advised that after further discussions with Inspector Patterson, Gosport Police with regard to bringing back the Snap Disco to Thorngate Halls for the youth of the town; it looked as though that the Disco would not only be coming back but would be more frequent. This would be a significant improvement on the previous twice a year events. The Mayor thanked the management of Thorngate Halls for their help in making the Halls available.

(C) MURDER MYSTERY CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

The Mayor reported that she was in the process of finalising something a bit different to raise money for her charities. There would be a Murder Mystery Cheese and Wine evening, with The Murder being performed by the actors from the famous Station Theatre, Hayling Island. The wines would be matched with the cheeses and she was hoping that Members would support the event.

(D) HASLAR SITE

With the Mayor's permission Councillor Edgar addressed Council regarding the future of the Haslar site.

On 20 July 2009 the Ministry of Defence had announced its preferred bidder for development of the site. The process for disposing of the 60 acre site was likely to be long and difficult but the announcement had been made surprisingly quickly. The preferred bidder was due to sign up in the autumn of 2009.

Councillor Edgar expressed his thanks to the Haslar Task Force and all Members of the Council for their support during the process, particularly Councillors Cully, Smith and Wright.

The work of the Haslar Task Force was completed now although it may be necessary to call one further meeting in the Autumn. All members of the Haslar Task Force had shown great commitment to try to ensure a successful future for the site. Massive commitment would have to be shown by the preferred bidder and hopefully they would work within the Local Plan. It may be that in the future we will have veterans wearing a Haslar Pensioner Blue Uniform on the site.

Councillor Edgar thanked the Task Force for its hard work over the past ten and a half years. Gosport Borough Council's future role is now as the planning authority and it has established a good record in the past when working with developers. The new development would contain a care and community element which would be popular with local people.

The Mayor in conclusion congratulated Councillor Edgar and the Haslar Task Force for the work they had done and advised that a way would be sought to honour the Task Force.

**(E) GOSPORT/ROYAN TWINNING 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
(21 – 26 MAY 2009)**

The Mayor stated that she had enjoyed the visit of the Royan Delegation for the Twinning's 50th Anniversary Celebrations. She understood that they had been impressed by the programme of events that had been arranged. The Mayor referred to Councillor Philpott's hard work with the young people of the Borough for this visit and requested that he address Council on the detail of the visit.

Councillor Philpott thanked the Mayor for the excellent way she had conducted herself throughout the Twinning Celebrations. He thanked the large number of volunteers and Town Hall staff for the organisation of the visit which had been a success. He made special mention of Honorary Alderman Graham Hewitt who had chaired Twinning meetings and committed himself personally to ensuring the events ran smoothly. Councillor Philpott referred to the loss of the Twinning Exchange Secretary weeks before the start of the Anniversary Celebrations and the inexplicable decision not to award EU funding for these celebrations. He thanked Honorary Alderman Angela Whitbread for the work she had done as Twinning Exchange Secretary over many years.

The celebrations had provided a good deal of press coverage for the Borough. The Sporting Delegations had once again come up to the mark with Rugby, Judo and Golf featuring. He was proud to report that this year's Twinning had been special as it had the involvement of young people. He paid particular thanks to the Gosport Youth Council and their involvement with the 'It's a Knockout' competition which had been a resounding success.

Councillor Philpott concluded that the French guests had written to express how much they had enjoyed coming to Gosport and were particularly impressed by the generosity of the Gosport people.

QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4

(A) Question No 1 standing in the name of Councillor Ms Ballard on Gosport meeting its recycling targets this year was answered by the Chairman of the Community and Environment Board.

(B) Question No 2 standing in the name of Councillor Ms Ballard on the matter of the authorisation of green waste sacks being sold only in batches of 5 or 10's was answered by the Chairman of the Community and Environment Board.

(C) In the light of Councillor Edgar's earlier presentation on the Haslar site Councillor Forder withdrew Question No 3 on negotiations concerning the disposal of the Haslar Hospital site addressed to the Leader of the Council.

(D) Question No 4 standing in the name of Councillor Mrs Bailey on the introduction of multi-purpose dual bins for both poop scoop and refuse waste was answered by the Chairman of the Community and Environment Board.

(E) Question No 5 standing in the name of Councillor Hylands on the current position of the new pontoon on the Gosport side of the ferry was answered by the Leader of the Council.

PART II MINUTES

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

Policy and Organisation Board: 14 May 2009 (Minute Nos. 5 – 6) and 24 June 2009 (Minute Nos. 12 – 15).

Community and Environment Board: 14 May 2009 (Minute Nos. 5 – 6) and 15 June 2009 (Minute Nos. 12 – 18).

Housing Board: 14 May 2009 (Minute Nos. 5 – 6) and 17 June 2009 (Minute Nos. 12 – 15).

REPORT OF RETURNING OFFICER ON THE BY-ELECTION HELD ON 9 JULY 2009

The following report of the Returning Officer on the By-Election held on 9 July 2009 was received:

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. The under-mentioned candidates who received the greatest number of votes were therefore elected Councillors for the Brockhurst Ward to serve respectively until May 2012 and May 2010.

Robert Leonard HYLANDS
Siobhan Ann MITCHELL-SMITH

COUNCIL'S HEALTH SPOKESPERSON

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That 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 be agreed.

RELATE

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Forder be appointed as the Council's representative on Relate for the 2009/2010 Municipal Year.

The meeting ended at 7.00pm