

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on
Thursday, 28 September 2006 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs CAED Murfitt – Chairman
Councillor JH Stewart – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: Dr DR Bard, RE Barrett, JD Batchelor, Mrs PM Bear, AN Berent, NCF Bolitho, RF Bryant, EW Bullman, BR Burling, NN Cathcart, JP Chatfield, NS Davies, SM Edwards, Mrs SM Ellington, Mrs A Elsby, Mrs VG Ford, Mrs JM Guest, Dr SA Harangozo, Mrs SA Hatton, Mrs EM Heazell, JA Hockney, MP Howell, Mrs CA Hunt, Mrs HF Kember, SGM Kindersley, Mrs JE Lockwood, RMA Manning, RB Martlew, MJ Mason, RM Matthews, DC McCraith, DH Morgan, CR Nightingale, EJ Pateman, JA Quinlan, A Riley, Mrs DP Roberts, NJ Scarr, Mrs HM Smith, Mrs DSK Spink MBE, RT Summerfield, Mrs VM Trueman, Dr SEK van de Ven, Mrs BE Waters, JF Williams and NIC Wright

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor TD Bygott, Mrs PS Corney, Mrs SJO Doggett, R Hall, PT Johnson, R Page, RJ Turner and TJ Wotherspoon.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2006 were confirmed as a correct record to be signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

Formal Recognition of an Opposition (Minute 7c)

Councillors CR Nightingale and NIC Wright had voted in favour of the proposal.

Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2004/05 (Minute 11)

“...the auditors could charge up to +/- **30%** of the mid-range. The Council’s *external* audit fees were 3% above the mid-range figure...”

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors JD Batchelor, SGM Kindersley and DC McCraith declared personal interests as elected Cambridgeshire County Councillors.

Councillor Dr DR Bard declared a personal interest in item 6(d), Climate Change Group, as the courses he taught through the Open University included modules on climate change.

Councillor Dr SA Harangozo declared a personal interest in item 6(d), Climate Change Group, as a scientist employed by the government to do work on climate change.

Councillor Mrs SA Hatton declared a personal interest in item 6(d), Climate Change Group, as her son was employed in climate change research.

Councillor SGM Kindersley declared a personal interest in item 11(a), Notice of Motion standing in the name of Councillor NJ Scarr, as his clients included branch operators of banks and building societies.

Councillor Mrs DP Roberts declared a personal interest in item 11(b), Notice of motion standing in the names of Councillors Mrs DSK Spink and Dr DR Bard, as her brother-in-

law was a doctor at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.

Councillor Mrs DSK Spink declared a personal interest item 11(b), Notice of motion standing in the names of Councillors Mrs DSK Spink and Dr DR Bard, as her husband had been the first Chairman of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chartered Institute of Public Relations PRide Awards East Anglia

The Council's PR team had been the only candidate shortlisted for the best small PR team award, the Environmental Health section's "Scores on the Doors" had been one of three candidates shortlisted for the award for best low budget campaign, and Communications Officer Kelly Quigley was one of two finalists for the best young communicator of the year award.

Chariots of Fire

The SCDC team had finished 32nd out of 385 entries, the highest placement of any local authority team. Runners could still receive sponsorship money, which was being raised for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Health and Safety

The Chairman congratulated Health and Safety Advisor Lawrence Green for the 97% pass rate for attendees from all departments who had taken their Level 1 Health and Safety at Work certification.

South Cambs Golf Society

The member/officer golf society had finished its 2006 season with David Hill, Accountant, as Society Champion and Councillor SM Edwards winning the last event.

Service First

The customer service standards would be launched on Monday 2 October 2006. The Executive Director had organised a briefing for members in the Monkfield Room at 2 pm on Monday 23 October.

Corporate Governance Inspection

Members were reminded of the briefing at 2 pm on Friday 29 September in the Council Chamber.

4. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND THE PUBLIC

4 (a) From Councillor Mrs A Elsby to the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs A Elsby asked, "Does the arrangement for free bus transport for the elderly relate from Gamlingay into Bedfordshire?"

Councillor Mrs DSK Spink, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, explained that there had to be a curb on how far the arrangements could be extended and that the service could not reach as far as Bedford. The partnership between authorities had done the best work possible within the financial restrictions, but a nation-wide, rather than county-wide, scheme was needed. The authorities were investigating the government proposals for free travel from 2008. She thanked Claire Spencer, Senior Planning Officer (Transport Policy), and the Planning Policy team for their work to include peripheral towns such as Newmarket, Royston, Haverhill, Saffron Walden and

Biggleswade.

Councillor Mrs Elsby urged authorities to continue to work towards the inclusion of Bedford in the scheme.

4 (b) From Councillor SGM Kindersley to the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

Councillor SGM Kindersley asked, "What plans are in place to mitigate against the consequences of the loss of the Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) and what actions are being taken to prepare a clear exit strategy from reliance upon PDG?"

Councillor Mrs DSK Spink, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, outlined the background to the PDG and the posts it funded. She confirmed that the Council had sufficient revenue to meet costs until a point in the 2007/08 financial year, and, with judicious financial planning, would be able to meet costs to the end of the 2009/10 financial year. A government consultation paper had said that the PDG probably would end this year and that if this were the case there may be an increase in fees for planning applications, charges for services and fewer site visits made. The worst-case scenario would be a government increase in planning fees to cover the actual costs: there would be difficult decisions in the future and officers already were examining ways to replace the PDG. She agreed to discuss specific details with Councillor Kindersley after the meeting.

4 (c) From Councillor JP Chatfield to the Environmental Health Portfolio Holder

Councillor JP Chatfield asked, "Are there any plans to increase the collection of plastics?" He explained that his question arose due to the lack of facilities in Histon and Impington.

Councillor RMA Manning, Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, explained that, whilst he supported increasing the number of locations for plastics recycling collection, realistically it was unlikely that the Council would have the resources to do so. Informal discussions had been undertaken with neighbouring authorities, but the necessary funding might not be available even through partnership.

4 (d) From Councillor Mrs A Elsby to the Environmental Health Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs A Elsby asked, "With reference to the plastics collection contract, how is the contractor's performance monitored and what steps are taken if the contract is not fulfilled?" She added that plastics recycling facilities, particularly those in Gamlingay and Swavesey, were not being emptied regularly.

Councillor RMA Manning, Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, explained that the Contracts Officer currently had responsibility for monitoring the collections and relied on updates from the street cleaning team and councillors. He confirmed that the Council had been disappointed with the recent performance of the contractors, and had mentioned this in discussions with the contractors, but although the contract was renewable annually the Council had not yet found another contractor interested in tendering.

4 (e) From Councillor Dr SA Harangozo to the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder

Councillor Dr SA Harangozo asked, "When will SCDC be signing the Nottingham

Declaration 2?" He added that his question arose from discussions at the July Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting.

Councillor JA Hockney, Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder, explained that a report to Cabinet would be forthcoming once the Strategic Sustainability Officer post had been filled. He reminded members that the Council had signed the first Nottingham Declaration.

4 (f) From Councillor Mrs HM Smith to the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs HM Smith asked, "I would like to congratulate the Conservation and Sustainability sections on the Climate Plan and the small brochure which came out this month. Could the Portfolio Holder please tell me what progress has been made towards replacing the Strategic Development Officer who has done such a sterling job on this aspect of the Council's policies?"

Councillor JA Hockney, Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder, confirmed that the brochure would be made available to parish councils upon request to the Head of Policy and Communication. The Strategic Sustainability Officer post had been advertised in various publications, including the Councillors' Bulletin, and interviews would be held during October. In the interim, other officers were covering the duties of this post as best they could within limited resources.

4 (g) From Ms D Bryce to the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder

Ms D Bryce asked, "Can there be a specific reference in the biodiversity strategy to the need to protect traditional old orchards, especially to recognise them in the evidence base for the LDF?"

Councillor JA Hockney, Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder, confirmed that there were already two specific references in the strategy.

4 (h) From Councillor CR Nightingale to the Chairman of Council

Councillor CR Nightingale asked, "Can the Chairman of Council call on the Liberal Group Leader to retract the incorrect statement which appears in the latest Focus leaflet which has recently been delivered in the Shelford and Stapleford areas which reads as follows: 'Against the advice of all local District Councillors, and Great Shelford and Stapleford Parish Councils, that the July meeting of the Conservative led planning committee rejected the proposed new Hotel in Hinton Way. This Hotel should be a major new source of jobs in the area, and valuable to the whole community. We hope that the planning committee will see sense when the developers submit revised plans.' This is inferring that Planning Committee is politically led and should be retracted."

Councillor JD Batchelor, leader of the Liberal Democrat group, withdrew the statement unreservedly and apologised for the insinuation.

4 (i) From Mr D Willingham to the Leader of Council

Mr D Willingham, "In item 11 of the Council Meeting of 23rd March 2006, South Cambridgeshire District Council resolved that it would 'research, develop and support a strategy to facilitate the promotion and purchase of goods with the Fairtrade mark, as part of its commitment to the pursuit of sustainable development and to give producers a

fair deal. This will involve a commitment to serving Fairtrade tea and coffee at all council meetings and making Fairtrade products as widely available as possible. The Council will commit to working towards achieving Fairtrade status.' Could the Leader of the Council please detail what progress has been made in the six months since this resolution was passed?"

The Leader thanked Mr Willingham for attending the meeting and confirmed that Fairtrade products would be served during the afternoon tea break and that Fairtrade products were now available in the Council's vending machines. Also, Fairtrade advertisements had been included in *South Cambs Magazine*. He noted that provision of these products cost approximately an additional £2,000 per year and proposed installing a voluntary donation box in the Members' Lounge to help to defray the cost to the taxpayer.

In response to a request from Mr Willingham, the Leader undertook to have officers investigate running an event to promote Fairtrade fortnight from 26 February – 11 March 2007.

5. PETITIONS

None received.

6. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

6 (a) Adoption of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 - Sex Establishments (Cabinet 14 September 2006)

Council **RESOLVED**

- (a) that Part 2, Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in respect of the licensing of Sex Establishments be adopted;
- (b) that, subject to the following amendments, the standard conditions of licensing as stated in Appendix A of the covering report to the Licensing Committee be approved:
 - (i) the opening hours for premises should be Monday to Saturday 9am to 7pm (paragraph 11 of the licence conditions relate); and
 - (ii) paragraph 12 of the licence conditions be amended to read: The premises shall not, without the written consent of the Council, be opened and used for the purposes for which the licence is granted on Sundays, Good Friday or Christmas Day;
- (c) that the agreement of the policy for the setting of the fee for the application, renewal or transfer of a licence for a sex establishment be set at £3,500;
- (d) that the applications for sex establishment licences be put before a 5-Member Sub-Committee to be named 'Licensing Sub-Committee (Sex Establishments)'; and
- (e) that there be no restrictions on the numbers considered relevant for the district at this time.

6 (b) Treatment of Receipts from Repaid Capital Grants (Cabinet, 14 September 2006)

Council **RESOLVED**:

- (a) the existing treatment of repaid historic building grants, whereby income from this source is returned to the historic building grant reserve for reuse, be ratified;
- (b) income from the repayment of disabled facilities loans and from renovation grants and loans be made available to fund these grants and loans if, and only if,

- additional funds, over and above those in the budget, were needed in the year the repayment was received; and
- (c) income from repaid discretionary disabled facilities loans and from renovation grants and loans not required in the year, rather than being earmarked for any particular purpose, be returned to balances and thereby made available to support service expenditure in general in future years.

6 (c) South Cambs DC Biodiversity Strategy (Cabinet, 14 September 2006)

The Biodiversity Strategy would form part of the Council's overall area-wide green strategy and would feed into the Local Development Framework.

Council **RESOLVED** that the Biodiversity Strategy be adopted as Council policy.

Council thanked Rob Mungovan, Ecology Officer, and the Conservation and Design Advisory Group for their work on the strategy.

6 (d) Climate Change Group (Scrutiny and Overview Committee 20 July 2006)

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee, at its meeting of 20 July 2006, had reviewed Cabinet's decision not to establish a Climate Change Advisory Group and to disband the informal Climate Change Group. Following debate, it had referred the matter to Council with a recommendation that Council, rather than Cabinet, establish a Climate Change Meeting, with costs split proportionally amongst all portfolios to reflect the cross-cutting nature of climate change issues.

The recommendation was discussed at length:

- a Climate Change task force operating across departments and parties could work with community representatives to respond to climate change issues and progress the Council's Climate Change plan;
- the Council had responsibilities to educate residents on energy-saving measures and to include sustainability principles in all planning policies;
- it was important to consider the global picture, and some products which claimed to benefit the environment were produced overseas in factories which were not efficient; and
- a Climate Change Advisory Group could answer to the Leader rather than to an individual Portfolio Holder.

Councillor SGM Kindersley proposed that the Leader of Council be Climate Change Champion. There was no seconder and Councillor Kindersley **WITHDREW** his proposal.

Councillor JA Hockney explained that his original decision had arisen from concern about increasing the workload of individual officers when resources were already stretched. His offer to include a climate change meeting as part of his Portfolio Holder meetings would ensure that debate would be minuted, with briefing notes and minutes made available to all members. He proposed, seconded by Councillor Dr DR Bard, that:

- (a) Council should establish a Climate Change Meeting to be held on the same day as another meeting with a large attendance, within the Sustainability Portfolio Holder's meetings. This might assist in adhering to sustainability principles regarding transport costs and member and officer time; and
- (b) because of the important impact of climate change on all portfolios, a Green Think Tank that brings in speakers from related organisations to brief Councillors be set-up.

The Green Think Tank would expand the debate to include related issues such as waste management, recycling and water usage, and would be established in addition to the Climate Change Meeting. It was not intended that external speakers be paid.

Council considered the proposal:

- the Green Think Tank could dilute the intention of the original proposal, which would have established a strategic group with power and status;
- the existing climate change agenda was already large and there were neither resources nor time to expand it further;
- there had not been any support at the Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting for inclusion of the Climate Change Group within the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder's meetings; and
- in light of the considerable financial pressures on the Council and the time and emphasis being placed on this particular issue, there were concerns that more important issues where the Council had a direct impact could be overlooked.

On a show of hands more than six members requested that a recorded vote be taken. The amendment was put to the vote and **LOST**.

The voting was as follows:

For the amendment:

Dr DR Bard	Mrs JM Guest	CR Nightingale	
RE Barrett	JA Hockney	EJ Pateman	
NCF Bolitho	Mrs CA Hunt	Mrs DP Roberts	
EW Bullman	RMA Manning	Mrs DSK Spink	
BR Burling	RM Matthews	Mrs BE Waters	
Mrs SM Ellington	DC McCraith	NIC Wright	
Mrs VG Ford	DH Morgan		20

Against the amendment:

JD Batchelor	Mrs A Elsby	MJ Mason	
Mrs PM Bear	Dr SA Harangozo	JA Quinlan	
AN Berent	Mrs SA Hatton	NJ Scarr	
RF Bryant	Mrs EM Heazell	Mrs HM Smith	
NN Cathcart	Mrs HF Kember	JH Stewart	
JP Chatfield	SGM Kindersley	RT Summerfield	
NS Davies	Mrs JE Lockwood	Dr SEK van de Ven	
SM Edwards	RB Martlew	JF Williams	
			24

Abstained:

MP Howell			1
-----------	--	--	----------

Not voted:

Mrs CAED Murfitt			
A Riley			2

The original recommendation from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee was put to the vote and Council **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) a Climate Change Group be established, meetings to be held on a set day at a set time, preferably on the same day as another meeting with a large attendance, as this might assist in adhering to sustainability principles regarding transport

costs and member and officer time; and

- (b) costs be split proportionally between all portfolios or borne by Council as a whole because of the important impact of climate change on all portfolios.

The voting was as follows:

For the recommendations:

JD Batchelor	Dr SA Harangozo	EJ Pateman	
Mrs PM Bear	Mrs SA Hatton	JA Quinlan	
AN Berent	Mrs EM Heazell	NJ Scarr	
RF Bryant	MP Howell	Mrs HM Smith	
BR Burling	Mrs CA Hunt	JH Stewart	
NN Cathcart	Mrs HF Kember	RT Summerfield	
JP Chatfield	SGM Kindersley	Dr SEK van de Ven	
NS Davies	Mrs JE Lockwood	Mrs BE Waters	
SM Edwards	RB Martlew	JF Williams	
Mrs SM Ellington	MJ Mason	NIC Wright	
Mrs A Elsby	DC McCraith		32

Against the recommendations:

RE Barrett	JA Hockney	CR Nightingale	
NCF Bolitho	RMA Manning	Mrs DP Roberts	
Mrs JM Guest	RM Matthews	Mrs DSK Spink	
			9

Abstained:

Mrs VG Ford			1
-------------	--	--	----------

Not Voted:

Dr DR Bard	Mrs CAED Murfitt		
DH Morgan	A Riley		4

6 (e) Appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee (Standards Committee Appointments Panel 13 September 2006)

In response to a query from Councillor Mrs EM Heazell, the Deputy Monitoring Officer clarified that the application form had asked candidates to state whether they had any party or political affiliation, and that all three candidates had stated on their application forms that they did not have any such affiliation. Independent members of the Council's Standards Committee were expected to be independent both of party politics and of local government.

Council **RATIFIED** the appointment of Ms Georgina Butcher, Ms Melissa Good and Mr Eric Revell as Independent Members of the Standards Committee, to serve four-year terms to 2010 and to remain eligible for re-appointment thereafter.

7. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (GTDPD): ISSUES AND OPTIONS REPORT - GENERAL APPROACH

The first Issues and Options report, which would form the basis of the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document (GTDPD), was presented and a revised recommendation (a) was tabled. The GTDPD would form part of the Local Development Framework LDF and set out policies and proposals as they related to Gypsies and Travellers in the District up to 2021.

Members supported the report, but concerns were expressed that the figures used as examples in Appendix 1 of the Issues and Options report (Example of Tier 3 Approach Scoring Sheet) could be misinterpreted by the public as the final scorings allocated to each criterion.

The definition of Gypsies and Travellers given in the glossary was the current government definition from Circular 01/2006, expanded to include Travelling showmen.

Members were urged to ensure that parish councils in their wards considered the consultation document carefully, as it set out a criteria-based policy which would inform site selection, and to attend the presentation at the Council offices on 5 October 2006. The deadline for responses was 24 November 2006.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- (a) approve the Issues and Options Report 1: General Approach, as set out in Appendix 1, including:
 - (i) the amendments made by the Member Reference Group contained in Appendix 4;
 - (ii) the recommendations set out in the paper "Additional information for the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document Issues and Options Report 1: General Approach"; and
 - (iii) the inclusion of the words "and caravan count" to the conclusion of the definition of Gypsy and Traveller in the glossary;
- (b) approve the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal, a summary of which is appended to the Issues and Options report at Appendix 1;
- (c) approve that the Issues and Options Report 1: General Approach along with the Sustainability Appraisal can be taken forward for public consultation as set out in the timetable at paragraph 10; and
- (d) delegate to the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder any editing changes to the above consultation documents.

Councillor DH Morgan recorded his vote against the resolution.

8. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

The Chairman explained that the 3 July 2006 minutes of the Licensing Committee had been removed from the agenda as they referred to a hearing panel and not to a committee meeting, and thus were not presented to Council.

The minutes of the following meetings were **RECEIVED**, subject to matters outlined in minutes 8(a) – 8(d) below.

Cabinet	14 September 2006
Development and Conservation Control Committee	5 July 2006
Development and Conservation Control Committee	2 August 2006
Licensing Committee	10 August 2006
Standards Committee	9 August 2006
Scrutiny and Overview Committee	20 July 2006

8 (a) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 14th September 2006 of Cabinet

Councillor Mrs VG Ford commended the State of the Nation report and encouraged members to read it carefully, especially the important points about finances and cost controls.

8 (b) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 5th July 2006 of Development and Conservation Control Committee *

Item 3, S/2494/04/F – West Wrattling, had been amended to remove the final paragraph, which duplicated wording from the first paragraph.

8 (c) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 9th August 2006 of Standards Committee

A date for all councillors to receive mandatory Code of Conduct and ethical standards training had not yet been set.

8 (d) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 20th July 2006 of Scrutiny and Overview Committee

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee had approved these minutes at its meeting on 21 September 2006, subject to amendments which were available on the Council's website.

Minutes of Previous Meeting (Minute 2)

The Housing Portfolio Holder undertook to respond in writing to Councillor Mrs SA Hatton's concerns about the eleven bungalows at The Green Road, Sawston.

Bus services (Minute 5, Draft Agenda Programme and Programme of Key Decisions)
Councillor Mrs EM Heazell queried the apparent discrimination between provision of free bus travel at any time for blind or partially sighted people, and restrictions on free travel times for the profoundly deaf or epileptic, who were unable to use their pass to get to work using buses running before 9.30 in the morning. She intended to write to County Councillor John Reynolds and asked that any members who supported her letter speak to her after the meeting.

Councillor Mrs DSK Spink explained that this issue had been raised at a recent meeting at Cambridgeshire County Council, which she had not been able to attend, but that the County Council partially funded the free travel for the blind or partially sighted, up to a maximum of £61,000, as it had under the previous scheme. Councillor SGM Kindersley confirmed that this was done through a discretionary County Council fund.

Councillor Mrs Hatton reported that there were continuing concerns amongst parishioners about the lack of clear advice on which tickets were needed for the new concessionary fares scheme.

9. QUESTIONS ON JOINT MEETINGS

Councillor MJ Mason reminded members that the North West Fringe consultation documents were in the Members' Lounge for collection, but regretted that comments made by South Cambridgeshire members at the 23 June 2006 joint Member Reference Group regarding traveller site provision and drainage issues had not been included in these documents. Councillor Mrs DSK Spink noted that he had not raised these concerns at the 20 September meeting, but that he could make representations through the public consultation. Councillor NIC Wright stated that he had asked the City Council to proportion the traveller sites within the affordable housing provision, but had been advised that the affordable housing would be for key workers associated with the University.

Councillor CR Nightingale reported that the Southern Fringe Member Reference Group had considered five options, but that a sixth option had been presented for public consultation without having been seen by the Group.

10. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor DH Morgan explained that Inland Revenue would allow members to offset tax expenses when attending functions on behalf of an outside body; however, members could claim travelling costs.

Councillor RB Martlew reported that the Cambridge Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB), which was one of the leading CABs in the country, would shortly be opening a new advice hub in partnership with other advisory services, to bring together a wider range of services in one location. The CAB was ahead of its set targets for outreach work, which had a positive effect on the Council as it affected benefits and consequently increased the Council's income.

Councillor Mrs VG Ford had attended a meeting of the Children and Young People's Partnership, which focussed on the health and safety of young people and at which lines of communication amongst groups had been opened. She updated members on the September 2006 South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership meeting, at which there had been a report on the success of the Connexions bus project, and the positive response to the recent Fire Service initiative in Linton teaching fire safety and prevention to young persons. The Partnership would be funding two further such initiatives in other villages.

Councillor Mrs EM Heazell had been asked to light a candle on behalf of the Council at the twentieth birthday ceremony of the Cambridge Women and Homelessness Group which, during its history, had helped over 240 women. She would convey the Council's congratulations to the next Group meeting.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11 (a) Standing in the names of Councillor NJ Scarr and RMA Manning

Councillor NJ Scarr explained that he sought to draw attention to the unjust impact the £50,000 licence arising from a new EU directive would have on smaller businesses like local credit unions, upon which many residents relied.

Council **RESOLVED** to write to local Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament for the East of England seeking their support and that of Her Majesty's Government to ensure the survival of credit unions in Britain.

11 (b) Standing in the name of Councillors Mrs DSK Spink and Dr DR Bard

Members expressed concern about the impact that the possible closure of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital would have on residents, and the increased demand on services at other nearby hospitals.

Council **RESOLVED** that the Leader and Chairman write to the Strategic Health Authority on behalf of the Council, deploring the possible downgrading of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital to the detriment of the present population, in view of the pressures brought by the large increase in housing in the Cambridge sub-region, and in view of the impact the downgrading would have on Addenbrooke's, Papworth and Peterborough Hospitals.

12. RENT SERVICE BOUNDARY CHANGES

Urgent item with permission of the Chairman.

Councillor NCF Bolitho drew Council's attention to recent changes in the boundaries set by The Rent Service, excluding villages such as Bar Hill and Cottenham from the Cambridge City region, resulting in an 8% cut to housing benefit. The Council had an emergency fund to help make up the difference, but this fund was not unlimited. The Housing Portfolio Holder undertook to contact The Rent Service about the change and to respond to all members with the outcome.

13. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Chairman's Engagements since the last meeting were **NOTED**.

The Meeting ended at 5.26 p.m.
