

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on
Thursday, 24 May 2007 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, D Bird, NCF Bolitho, EW Bullman, FWM Burkitt, BR Burling, TD Bygott, NN Cathcart, JP Chatfield, Mrs PS Corney, NS Davies, Miss JA Dipple, Mrs SJO Doggett, SM Edwards, Mrs SM Ellington, Mrs A Elsby, Mrs VG Ford, Mrs JM Guest, R Hall, Dr SA Harangozo, Mrs SA Hatton, Mrs EM Heazell, MP Howell, Mrs CA Hunt, SGM Kindersley, Mrs JE Lockwood, RMA Manning, RB Martlew, MJ Mason, RM Matthews, DC McCraith, DH Morgan, Mrs LA Morgan, CR Nightingale, AG Orgee, JA Quinlan, A Riley, Mrs DP Roberts, NJ Scarr, Mrs HM Smith, Mrs DSK Spink MBE, RT Summerfield, Mrs VM Trueman, RJ Turner, Dr SEK van de Ven, Mrs BE Waters, JF Williams, TJ Wotherspoon and NIC Wright

Officers:	Steve Hampson	Executive Director
	Greg Harlock	Chief Executive
	Richard May	Democratic Services Manager
	Catriona Dunnett	Principal Solicitor

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor JA Hockney and PT Johnson.

PRESENTATION

The Chairman presented a cheque to Sally Hassells of the Milton Children's Hospice, the designated Chairman's Charity for 2006-2007.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Mrs CAED Murfitt gave an overview of her two years as Chairman of the Council, drawing attention not only to the many challenges which had faced the Council during this period but also to its successes. She gave special thanks to the dedicated group of helpers who had assisted in fund raising for her designated charities, and to former Councillor Bob Bryant and her own family for their support.

On the nomination of Councillor JD Batchelor, seconded by Councillor RMA Manning, and there being no further nomination, Council

RESOLVED that Councillor JH Stewart be elected Chairman of the Council for the coming year.

Councillor Stewart accepted the office and signed the declaration of acceptance. He thanked Council for electing him as Chairman and advised that he considered it to be a great privilege. Councillor Stewart thanked Councillor Mrs Murfitt for her work as Chairman during the past two years.

Councillors RMA Manning, JD Batchelor and NN Cathcart paid further tribute to Councillor Mrs Murfitt, who was subsequently presented with flowers and champagne as a mark of the Council's appreciation for her work.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

On the nomination of Councillor RMA Manning, seconded by Councillor JD Batchelor, and there being no further nomination, Council

RESOLVED that Councillor RE Barrett be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the coming year.

Councillor Barrett accepted the office and signed the declaration of acceptance. He thanked Council for appointing him to the office of Vice-Chairman and advised that he looked forward to serving the Council and supporting the Chairman.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors JD Batchelor, SGM Kindersley, DC McCraith, AG Orgee and RJ Turner declared personal non-prejudicial interests as elected Cambridgeshire County Councillors.

4. **MINUTES**

Council **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. **REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER**

The Report of the Returning Officer was **RECEIVED**. New members were welcomed to the Council and returning members congratulated on their re-election.

6. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- The Member Toolkit had been distributed to all Members along with two copies of the Member Undertaking, one of which should be signed and returned to Democratic Services;
- Diary pages for 2007-2008 had been placed in Members' pigeonholes for collection;
- The Chairman's nominated charity for 2007-2008 was the Cambridge Society for the blind (CamSight), an organisation undertaking voluntary work with blind and handicapped people in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

7. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND THE PUBLIC**

7 (a) **From Councillor RB Martlew to the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder**

Councillor RB Martlew asked the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder the following question:

"The response (to my previous question on the subject) from Cllr. Mrs. Spink as Planning Portfolio Holder included the statement that she considered that the present status of the metal conveyor belt was 'unlawful development'.

1. What steps are being taken to bring this into a 'lawful' status?
2. Is it possible at this stage to place an enforcement order on this development?
3. Can I assume that had an enforcement order been placed on the conveyor belt development when it was first drawn to the attention of the Planning or

Environmental Health Services; a normal planning application would have had to be submitted, or that legal proceedings could have been taken against TKA?

“If such a planning application had been made, can I assume that it would have involved

1. Notification and consultation with the Parish Council, the residents, and the local member?
2. The PC and the local member and the residents having the opportunity to bring to the committee's attention the extent of the local problems?
3. A decision would have been made by the Planning Committee, taking into account those objections and any recommendations of the planning officers?
4. A decision, which could have included conditions on structure and materials; sighting and orientation; as well as restrictions on the timing of the use of that facility?
5. TKA having the right to have taken any decision to appeal?

“Failing to serve an enforcement order on TKA at the appropriate time prevented those parties from having an input into the decision.

- Please can you confirm the above?
- What measures are in place to ensure that such a failure does not occur again?
- Can we offer the residents any hope of improved conditions related to the noise they are subject to at present?”

Councillor Dr DR Bard, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, referred to the following letter by the Corporate Manager (Planning and Sustainable Communities) which had been received by Councillor Martlew and would be circulated to all Members.

“I apologise for the delay in replying formally to your further questions of the 6th February 2007, to Cllr Bard.

First, can I just update you with the current situation regarding the second (LDC) Lawful Development Certificate application for the scrap metal conveyor and the planning application for its hood. The LDC has recently been issued and the planning permission can now be granted for the hood. The Area Environmental Health Officer, Brian Heffernan, will be writing to the complainants in the next few days to update them on the progress since the agreement between the Company and this Council was agreed last year, and he will copy you in. It may be that more evening monitoring will be required in the summer months to assess the worst-case conditions for the complainants. Once planning permission is granted for the conveyor housing he will encourage the company to carry out the modification works.

I know you remain concerned that the decision was made at an early stage to tackle the noise problems at the site through the noise abatement legislation rather than enforcement action, but as I have already said this is normally a more effective way of dealing with industrial noise issues when statutory nuisance can be proven. The process has taken much longer than I would have wished, but I still consider trying to work with the Company as much as possible on the broad range of noise issues affecting local residents rather than enforcement action, with its built in rights of appeal and consequent delays was the correct decision.

Picking up on the detailed points you raise:

1. A lawful Development Certificate has now been issued i.e. the conveyor now has “lawful status”.
2. It is no longer appropriate to serve an enforcement notice on the conveyor, an

LDC having been issued.

3. If an enforcement notice had been served in the early stages of the complaint, it would almost certainly have been appealed by the Company. In determining the appeal the Inspector would have considered the “deemed application” for the conveyor and would either have upheld the notice or granted deemed planning permission. The Company could have submitted a separate planning application but nothing would have been gained by so doing. If the enforcement notice had been upheld by the Inspector and the company failed to comply with its requirements (it is often the case that Inspectors modify a notice on appeal, particularly the period of compliance) legal proceedings could have been instigated by the Council.
4. If Enforcement action had been authorised by the Planning Committee, the agenda item would have set out the nature of the complaint and comments received from the Parish Council and the local Member. Members could have asked the enforcement notice to seek the removal of the conveyor or preferred a “positive” enforcement notice requiring re-siting and reorientation, hours of use etc. Either way, the likelihood is the Company would have appealed.
5. Although the enforcement route would have enabled the local community to have an input into the decision, ultimately it is highly likely the decision itself concerning the fate of the conveyor would have rested with a DOE Inspector. The Environmental Health Officer has been fully aware of local concerns in his negotiations with the Company, visiting local residents properties and monitoring the site.
6. Despite the unfortunate delays in resolving the matter, I consider the noise abatement legislation was the correct route to follow in addressing complaints which specifically related to noise disturbance. It was essential to attempt to establish a dialogue with the Company to look in detail at their entire operation.
7. As I have said the Environmental Health Officer is continuing to monitor the site and is in discussions with the company in an attempt to reduce noise disturbance to local residents. More details will be forthcoming shortly in his letter to local complainants.

To conclude, your officers have to make difficult decisions on a daily basis as to where our resources are used. In this case I remain of the opinion that the Environmental Health Legislation was the correct approach, and that a planning enforcement notice would have not achieved anything extra or quicker.”

Councillor Martlew thanked Dr Bard for his response which had provided an explanation of the situation. He reiterated his concerns that the matter had not been dealt with properly, that there had been a lack of consultation with the Local Ward member, parish council and residents, and that it was important that lessons were learnt to ensure that such a situation was not repeated.

Councillor Dr Bard accepted Councillor Martlew’s comments, advising that lessons would be learnt for the future and that, in hindsight, the issue of enforcement action should have been considered by the Planning Committee in this case.

7 (b) From Councillor NCF Bolitho to the Environmental Health Portfolio Holder

Councillor NCF Bolitho asked the Environmental Health Portfolio Holder the following

question:

“The Smoking Ban comes into force on July 1st. What pro-active action is being or is going to be taken by SCDC to ensure that the Smoking Ban is enforced? And what action is or will be taken to ensure that pavements and streets outside pubs and clubs in South Cambridgeshire are kept clean following the introduction of the Smoking Ban? The latest edition of Local Government First forecasts that up to 25 tonnes of extra cigarette rubbish could be dumped on Britain’s streets every day as a result of the new smoke-free laws. Has SCDC considered selling special fire-proof butt bins to pub and club owners to fix to their properties? Will the provision of butt bins be a mandatory requirement for any changes to an establishment’s licensing requirements?”

Councillor MP Howell, Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, advised that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 8 March 2007, had approved the appointment of two employees over a 12-month period to work on implementation of the smoking ban. Priorities for the Council in implementing the ban would be education rather than self-policing, and acting to ensure pavements and other public areas remained clean. Fixed penalty notices and prosecution would be used to deal with serious breaches, however the intention was to work with residents and businesses. Councillor Howell advised that the full text of his response would be forwarded to all Members by e-mail.

7 (c) From Councillor NCF Bolitho to the Planning and Economic Development and Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holders

Councillor NCF Bolitho asked the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder the following question:

“The Cabinet is to be congratulated in helping to convince the Government that Northstowe should be built as one of the five new eco-towns in Britain. What action, however, is the appropriate portfolio holder or holders taking to ensure that the houses (including a large number of affordable properties) that will be built there will be powered entirely by solar and wind power to ensure they have a zero carbon footprint? In other words conventional forms of heating and lighting should not be installed. It would also be eco-friendly and eco-efficient if the roofs of all the properties could be grassed over or planted with wild flowers.”

Councillor Dr DR Bard, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, welcomed the recent endorsement by the government of a vision for a sustainable green settlement at Northstowe. It was necessary now for the government to support its words with adequate funding to make this vision a reality, as Section 106 developer contributions would not be sufficient to cover the amounts required. Dr Bard went on to advise that the Council currently lacked legislative control over methods of heating and lighting new houses; however, detailed negotiations would take place with Gallahers and English Partnerships to ensure satisfactory development.

7 (d) From Councillor NJ Scarr to the Housing Portfolio Holder

Councillor NJ Scarr asked the Housing Portfolio Holder the following question:

“Will the Housing Portfolio Holder please confirm that tenants' representative for the purpose of Housing Stock Options Appraisals will be elected by and from all the Council's tenants in a process overseen by Electoral Reform Ballot Services as an independent and credible organisation outside the Council?”

Councillor Mrs DSK Spink, Housing Portfolio Holder, advised that Cabinet had decided,

at its meeting on 12 April 2007, to establish a joint working group of councillors and tenant representatives to look at future options for the Council's housing stock. That work would take place in two phases – firstly an examination and evaluation of the options, so that the Council could determine by the end of this year whether it wished to retain its landlord role or whether it wished to explore transferring its housing to a new or existing housing association. If the Council decided to explore stock transfer further it would commence the project's second phase early next year. This would involve detailed preparations and tenant consultation including a tenant ballot run by an independent body. At the earliest such a ballot would take place late in 2008.

For many years the Council had enjoyed a positive relationship with the district wide Tenant Participation Group (TPG) which comprised 20 volunteer tenants; however, in recognition of the need to ensure that the TPG was fully representative of tenants' views, the Council had been working over the last few months with the TPG to revise the 'Tenant Compact' which provided the framework within which the Council promoted tenant involvement and participation in its housing services. That work was programmed to complete in September of this year.

It would be premature to bring agreement of the new Tenant Compact forward to June and its implementation would need to be programmed and managed within available resources taking account of other priorities but as a key element of the housing stock options project. In view of the urgent need to address the problem of funding the Council's housing service it would be irresponsible to delay work on the housing options project. A course of action was required which took the Council towards more robust tenant representation but which also recognised the important work of the TPG to date.

Councillor Mrs Spink advised that she proposed to write to all tenants next month inviting them to get involved in the project through a variety of different ways. One of those ways will be to join the TPG. Tenants who also wanted to get involved in the joint working group would be invited to put their names forward for this project at the same time. If as a result more expressions of interest to get involved from respondents or current members of the TPG were received than the five available places then the TPG would be offered the services of the Council's own elections team to organise a ballot of tenants to select their representatives.

This proposal would ensure that, if there were more tenants wishing to be considered for membership of the joint working group than there were places available, then all of the Council's tenants would have the opportunity to elect them; however, it would also pave the way for more substantive changes in tenant representation that Mrs Spink was keen to see the Council adopt later this year.

Councillor Scarr thanked the Portfolio Holder for her response and hoped that lessons had been learnt which would overcome the consultation problems which had been experienced when the process was last undertaken. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that such lessons had been learnt.

8. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received since the last meeting.

9. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

On the nomination of Councillor Dr DR Bard, seconded by Councillor MP Howell, and there being no further nomination, Council

RESOLVED that Councillor RMA Manning be elected Leader of the Council for the coming year.

Councillor Manning announced the appointment of Members to the Cabinet and the allocation of Portfolio responsibilities as follows:

Councillor SM Edwards	Deputy Leader and Housing Options
Councillor Dr DR Bard	Growth and Sustainable Communities
Councillor Mrs DSK Spink MBE	Housing and Environmental Services
Councillor VG Ford	Resources
Councillor Mrs SM Ellington	Staffing and Communications
Councillor MP Howell	Community Services
Councillor NIC Wright	Planning Services

10. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

10 (a) Joint Planning Services Arrangement (Cabinet, 10 May 2007)

Councillor Dr DR Bard proposed and Councillor RMA Manning seconded the following recommendations of the Cabinet;

“That:

- (a) Delegated authority be given to the Leader and the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Executive Director, to continue to work with Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridge City Council to develop a structure and scheme of delegation to Officers of the three authorities to provide development control advice to the Joint Committees, such scheme to be approved by the relevant Joint Development Control Committee at its first meeting;
- (b) The joint development control committees be authorised to exercise their delegated powers from 1 September 2007 but may meet prior to that date in preparation for the discharge of their duties;
- (c) The Leader and Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder be authorised to agree changes to the terms of reference and appendices governing the working of the joint committees (but not the extent of the powers delegated) following consultation with the Executive Director; and
- (d) Delegated authority be given to the Leader and Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Executive Director to resolve issues in relation to the proposed joint policy-making arrangements for consideration by Cabinet and Council at a later date. “

Councillor MJ Mason proposed and Councillor NJ Scarr seconded an amendment in the following terms:

“That

- (a) Delegated authority be given to the Leader and the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Executive Director, to continue to work with Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridge City Council to develop a structure and scheme of delegation to Officers of the three authorities to provide development control advice to the Joint Committees, such

scheme to be approved by the **Constitution Review Working Party and confirmed by Council before the first meeting of the relevant joint committee:**

- (b) The joint development control committees be authorised to exercise their delegated powers from 1 September 2007 but may meet prior to that date in preparation for the discharge of their duties;
- (c) The Leader and Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder be authorised to agree changes to the terms of reference and appendices governing the working of the joint committees (but not the extent of the powers delegated) following consultation with the Executive Director; and
- (d) Delegated authority be given to the Leader and Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Executive Director to resolve issues in relation to the proposed joint policy-making arrangements for consideration by Cabinet and Council at a later date. “

The amendment, on being put, was declared lost.

Council **RESOLVED** that the recommendations of the Cabinet be agreed as set out above.

10 (b) Appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee 2007/08-2011/12

Council **RESOLVED** that, in this instance only and due to the extraordinary circumstances, authority be delegated to the Standards Committee Appointments Panel to appoint at least three independent members to the Standards Committee for four-year terms from 2007/08 to 2011/12.

10 (c) Size and Membership of Committees (Constitution Review Working Party, 10 May 2007)

Having regard to the recommendations of the Constitution Review Working Party, Councillor RMA Manning proposed and Councillor SM Edwards seconded a Motion in the following terms:

- (1) “That a Policy Development Committee be established, its Terms of Reference to be considered by the Constitution Review Working Party for agreement by Council and inclusion in the Constitution.
- (2) That every non-Executive Member of the Council shall be afforded the opportunity to sit on at least one of the following Council bodies:
 - (a) Planning Committee;
 - (b) Licensing Committee, Licensing Committee (2003 Act), Licensing Committee (2005 Gambling Act);
 - (c) Scrutiny and Overview Committee;
 - (d) Policy Development Committee (subject to approval of (1) above);
 - (e) Employment Committee;
 - (f) Electoral Arrangements Committee;
 - (g) Audit Panel.
- (3) That Executive (Cabinet) Members shall not sit on the above bodies, excepting the Employment Committee which shall continue to be subject to the provisions of Table One of Part 3 of the Constitution (Portfolio Holder with responsibility for staffing to be an *ex officio* Member of this Committee);

- (4) That any Member with suitable experience be invited by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to serve as an additional member of Task and Finish groups as appropriate;
- (5) That the size of the above bodies be agreed as follows:
 - (a) Planning Committee - 14 Members;
 - (b) Licensing Committee and Licensing Committee (2003 Act) – 12 Members;
 - (c) Scrutiny and Overview Committee – 12 Members;
 - (d) Policy Development Committee (subject to approval of (1) above) – 5 Members;
 - (e) Employment Committee – 7 Members;
 - (f) Electoral Arrangements Committee – 7 Members;
 - (g) Audit Panel – 7 Members.
- (6) That the requirement in Article 6.01 for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to comprise between 14 and 16 Members be deleted.
- (7) That the Audit Panel be renamed the Corporate Governance Committee.”

The Motion, on being put, was declared carried, the voting being recorded as follows:

FOR: (28)

Dr DR Bard	RE Barrett	D Bird
NCF Bolitho	EW Bullman	FWM Burkitt
BR Burling	TD Bygott	Mrs PS Corney
Ms JA Dipple	SM Edwards	Mrs SM Ellington
Mrs VG Ford	Mrs JM Guest	R Hall
MP Howell	Mrs CA Hunt	RMA Manning
RM Matthews	DC McCraith	DH Morgan
Mrs LA Morgan	CR Nightingale	AG Orgee
Mrs DSK Spink MBE	RJ Turner	Mrs BE Waters
NIC Wright		

AGAINST: (26)

JD Batchelor	Mrs PM Bear	AN Berent
NN Cathcart	JP Chatfield	NS Davies
Mrs SJO Doggett	Mrs A Elsby	Dr SA Harangozo
Mrs SA Hatton	Mrs EM Hezell	SGM Kindersley
Mrs JE Lockwood	RB Martlew	MJ Mason
Mrs CAED Murfitt	JA Quinlan	A Riley
Mrs DP Roberts	NJ Scarr	Mrs HM Smith
JH Stewart	RT Summerfield	Dr SEK van de Ven
JF Williams	TJ Wotherspoon	

TJ Wotherspoon advised that he had voted against the Motion in error.

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Motion moved by Councillor RMA Manning and seconded by Councillor SM Edwards, as set out in Minute 10c above.

11. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Council **RESOLVED**

- (1) That appointments to Committees and Joint Committees be made for the 2007-2008 civic year (as set out below).
- (2) That Councillor AG Orgee be appointed to the Standards Committee in place of Councillor EW Bullman.

Licensing Committee, Licensing Committee (2003 Act), Licensing Committee

(2005 Gambling Act)**12 Members****Conservative (6)**

RE Barrett
 EW Bullman
 Mrs JM Guest
 R Hall
 RM Matthews
 DC McCraith

Lib Dem (3)

Mrs PM Bear
 Mrs A Elsby
 RB Martlew

Ind (2)

A Riley
 NJ Scarr

Non-group (1)

Mrs CAED Murfitt

Planning Committee**14 Members****Conservative (8)**

RE Barrett
 BR Burling
 TD Bygott
 Mrs PS Corney
 Mrs JM Guest
 Mrs CA Hunt
 CR Nightingale
 RJ Turner

Lib Dem (4)

Mrs PM Bear
 SGM Kindersley
 Mrs HM Smith
 JF Williams

Ind (2)

Mrs SA Hatton
 Mrs DP Roberts

Scrutiny and Overview Committee**12 Members****Conservative (7)**

Miss JA Dipple
 R Hall
 JA Hockney
 DH Morgan
 CR Nightingale
 AG Orgee
 Mrs BE Waters

Lib Dem (3)

AN Berent
 Mrs EM Heazell
 RB Martlew

Ind (2)

MJ Mason
 JA Quinlan

Policy Development Committee**5 Members****Conservative (3)**

TD Bygott
 R Hall
 TJ Wotherspoon

Lib Dem (1)

JD Batchelor

Ind (1)

NJ Scarr

Employment Committee**7 Members****Conservative (4)***

RE Barrett
 RM Matthews
 RJ Turner

Lib Dem (2)

JD Batchelor
 RT Summerfield

Ind (1)

Mrs SJO Doggett

*Plus the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for staffing matters

Electoral Arrangements Committee

7 Members

Conservative (4)	Lib Dem (2)	Ind (1)
NCF Bolitho	RT Summerfield	NJ Scarr
EW Bullman	JF Williams	
DH Morgan		
Mrs BE Waters		

Corporate Governance Committee**7 Members**

Conservative (4)	Lib Dem (2)	Ind (1)
NCF Bolitho	SGM Kindersley	NS Davies
EW Bullman	RT Summerfield	
JA Hockney		
TJ Wotherspoon		

Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee**6 Members**

Conservative (3)	Lib Dem (2)	Ind (1)
Mrs PS Corney	JD Batchelor	A Riley
SM Edwards	SGM Kindersley	
TJ Wotherspoon		

Fringe Sites Joint Development Control Committee**6 Members**

Conservative (3)	Lib Dem (2)	Ind (1)
TD Bygott	Dr SA Harangozo	MJ Mason
Mrs CA Hunt	SGM Kindersley	
CR Nightingale		

Standards Committee**6 District Councillors**

Conservative	Lib Dem	Ind	Others
Mrs CA Hunt	Mrs VM Trueman	A Riley	NN Cathcart
AG Orgee	Dr SEK van de Ven		

12. APPOINTMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING PARTY

Council **RESOLVED** that the following appointments be made to the Constitution Review Working Party for the 2007-2008 Civic Year:

(In addition to appointments by office*)

Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
R Hall	RT Summerfield	NJ Scarr

****Appointments by Office:***

Councillor JH Stewart, Chairman of the Council
Councillor RMA Manning, Leader of the Council
Councillor SM Edwards, Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor Mrs EM Heazell, Chairman of the Scrutiny and Committee

13. APPOINTMENTS TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

Council **RESOLVED** that the following appointments be made to the Climate Change Working Group for the 2007-2008 Civic Year:

9 Members

Conservative (4)	Lib Dem (3)	Ind (1)	Other (1)
Dr DR Bard	AN Berent	Mrs SA Hatton	NN Cathcart
R Hall	Dr SA Harangozo		
JA Hockney	Dr SEK van de Ven		
CR Nightingale			

14. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE AND JOINT BODIES

Council **RESOLVED** that the Group Leaders be authorised to agree and publish nominations to outside and joint bodies by no later than 31 May 2007.

Appointments subsequently agreed by the Group Leaders are attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

15. NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Council **RESOLVED** that no representative be nominated to attend the Annual Conference of the Local Government Association.

16. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEES 2007-2008

Council **RESOLVED**

- (1) That no changes be made to the Terms of Reference of the following committees:
 - Licensing Committee, Licensing Committee (2003 Act), Licensing Committee (2005 Gambling Act);
 - Employment Committee;
 - Electoral Arrangements Committee;
 - Corporate Governance Committee (formerly the Audit Panel)
- (2) That the Chief Executive be authorised to amend the Terms of Reference of the Planning Committee to reflect the joint working arrangements, subject to the agreement of the recommendations in Agenda Item 11a above;
- (3) That any amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee which may be required following the establishment of the Policy Development Committee, be considered by the Constitution Review Working Party and submitted to the next meeting of Council for agreement.

17. PERFORMANCE PLAN 2007

Council considered a report recommending approval of a process for the approval of the Performance Plan 2007. A number of areas of concern were identified during the course of debate on the plan. The Deputy Leader undertook that these matters would be taken into account as part of the process of approving the plan by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2007.

Council **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the 2007 Performance Plan be prepared on the basis of:

- (i) The previously approved priorities for 2007/08 (customer service, affordable housing and successful, sustainable communities at Northstowe and other growth areas);
 - (ii) The proposals to achieve those priorities in 2007/08, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
 - (iii) The performance indicator targets set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
 - (iv) The CGI Improvement Plan approved by Council on 26 April 2007;
 - (v) The structure given in paragraph 9 of the report;
 - (vi) Comments and concerns raised by Members at the Annual Council Meeting.
- (2) The authority be delegated to the Cabinet to approve the Performance Plan by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2007.

18. PUBLIC SPEAKING AT THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council **RESOLVED** that public speaking at Planning Committee be introduced with effect from 1 July 2007, based on the scheme attached to the Agenda, that the Planning Committee be authorised to review and amend the scheme at its discretion, and that Part 4 of the Constitution be amended accordingly.

19. WRITE-OFF OF OUTSTANDING DEBTS 2006/07

Council considered and **NOTED** a report setting out details of debts written off under powers delegated to the Resources, Staffing, Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder and the Chief Finance Officer.

20. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor TJ Wotherspoon reviewed the 'Pride not Prejudice' conference to celebrate gypsy and traveller youth, which he had recently attended. The event had included talks by the Commissioner of the Campaign for Racial Equality and the Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Police, covering key issues such as the provision of home education and the problems of racial abuse through name-calling.

Councillor Dr DR Bard commended a consultation document from the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) on Gypsy and Traveller sites, discussed at a recent meeting at Robinson College. Councillor Bard advised that it was crucial for Members and parish councils to engage with the consultation process.

Councillor MJ Mason provided an update from the Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) for Old West, Waterbeach Level and Swaffham Internal Drainage Boards, focussing on changes being introduced by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The Council currently made payments by way of annual special levy to six Internal Drainage Boards :- Old West, Waterbeach, Swaffham, Bedfordshire, Over and Willingham and Swavesey. The total Special Levy payments for 06/07 was £113,909.95.

Councillor Mason advised that DEFRA had written to all IDBs with a request to consider further re-organisation by amalgamation of small boards into larger groups. The three IDBs were currently looking at a range of proposed options and scenarios. Whilst it was unlikely that further re-organisation was imminent one option to create a new district by amalgamation of the three existing IDBs would result in an increase of £40,600 in special levy to District Councils. Furthermore in Waterbeach District a major pumping station capital replacement programme might also have long term implications for District

Council levies.

Councillor Mason reminded Members that the Council needed to be aware of changes in IDB structures and the implications for future budgets. The Chairman noted that these matters had been raised with the Chief Executive.

21. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Chairman's engagements since the last meeting were noted.

Councillor Mrs CAED Murfitt thanked Members for attending the recent Charity Concern which had raised £1,200. Mrs Murfitt went on to advise that she had written letters responding to schoolchildren regarding the future of Milton County Park. She asked the Chairman to write to Nuttalls thanking them for the exemplary manner in which they had undertaken the A428 improvement project. The Chairman agreed that he would be happy to do so.

The Meeting ended at 5.58 p.m.
