

**CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING PARTY
13TH JANUARY 2004**

MINUTE EXTRACT

5. RECORDED VOTING SYSTEM

At a meeting of the NOW Group held on 15th December 2003, a report to recommend the purchase of individually recorded voting systems was discussed. The Group decided not to endorse the proposal but to pass the issue to the Constitution Working Party. The following points were raised in discussion:

- A recorded voting system would mean that constituents could see how their local member voted on any one issue and could encourage constituent interest in the democratic process.
- Cabinet meetings already have the number of votes recorded.
- Concern was expressed that recorded votes should not take place relating to appointments. This is already covered within the existing constitution, voting on appointments cannot be recorded.
- Recorded voting encourages openness, transparency and accountability within the democratic process.
- Any decision that could result in crime or disorder, for example outcomes of planning decisions, would not be subject to a recorded vote to safeguard the Members from illegal acts.
- If Council agree the system can be implemented during the build phase, this will yield significant savings (approximately 50%) compared to the Council agreeing the system after the move to Cambourne.
- The intention was not that names should be recorded in the minutes by default unless a recorded vote was agreed but that they should be available on request.

The Working Party, with six in favour and one abstention,

AGREED to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that a recorded voting system is desirable and should be purchased in advance for the Cambourne office. The NOW group should be given the authority to incur the additional expenditure of £15,400 for the smart card readers and £5,154 for the software.