

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on
Thursday, 27 May 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Charles Nightingale – Chairman
Councillor Tony Orgee – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: Frances Amrani, David Bard, Richard Barrett, Val Barrett, John Batchelor, Trisha Bear, David Bird, Francis Burkitt, Brian Burling, Tom Bygott, Nigel Cathcart, Jonathan Chatfield, Pippa Corney, Douglas de Lacey, Jaime Dipple, Simon Edwards, Sue Ellington, Jose Hales, Roger Hall, Steve Harangozo, Lynda Harford, Sally Hatton, Tumi Hawkins, Liz Heazell, Mark Hersom, James Hockney, Mark Howell, Mrs PE Jarvis, Peter Johnson, Sebastian Kindersley, Janet Lockwood, Mervyn Loynes, Ray Manning, Mike Mason, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, David Morgan, Lorraine Morgan, Cicely Murfitt, Alex Riley, Deborah Roberts, Neil Scarr, Ben Shelton, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Jim Stewart, Edd Stonham, Peter Topping, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters, John F Williams, John G Williams, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright

Officers:	Holly Adams	Democratic Services Team Leader
	Alex Colyer	Executive Director, Corporate Services
	Steve Hampson	Executive Director, Operational Services
	Greg Harlock	Chief Executive
	Fiona McMillan	Acting Legal & Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Surinder Soond.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2010-2011 CIVIC YEAR

On the nomination of Councillor Ray Manning, seconded by Councillor Sebastian Kindersley, and there being no further nominations, Council

RESOLVED that Councillor Charlie Nightingale be re-elected Chairman of the Council for the 2010/11 Civic Year.

Councillor Nightingale took the Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2010-11 CIVIC YEAR

On the proposal of Councillor Ray Manning, seconded by Councillor Sebastian Kindersley and, there being no other nominations, Council

RESOLVED that Councillor Tony Orgee be re-appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2010/11 Civic Year.

Councillor Orgee accepted the role and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors John Batchelor, Sebastian Kindersley and Tony Orgee, all elected County Councillors, all declared personal non-prejudicial interests in any matters on the agenda

relating to Cambridgeshire County Council.

4. MINUTES

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

Council **RECEIVED** the Report of the Returning Officer and new members were introduced and welcomed. All new and returning members were congratulated on their election and Council paid tribute to the hard work of the Elections team, particularly the Electoral Services Manager, Laura Lock, for the successful administration of the general and local elections.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Charlie Nightingale paid tribute to late former Councillor Eustace Bullman, who had served as member for Girton Ward from 1983 to 2008, and as Chairman of the Council from 1992 to 1994.

Councillor Nightingale confirmed that Help for Heroes and the East Anglian Air Ambulance would continue as the Chairman's Charities for 2010/11, and invited Members to attend his Proms-style fundraiser on 3 July 2010.

The Executive Director (Operational Services) updated Members on the progress of the clean-up works at the former Bayer CropScience site at Hauxton, for which the Council was working in partnership with the Environment Agency and the Health Protection Agency. Members were encouraged to use the Council's website for up-to-date information from all three statutory authorities.

The Leader stated that there had not been any changes made to the current Cabinet.

7. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND THE PUBLIC

7 (a) From Councillor Bridget Smith to the Leader

Councillor Bridget Smith asked the Leader: "Cambridgeshire County Council have just informed users of the Home Meadow Day Care Centre in Toft that they are ceasing day care provision in a few months time. In the light of the well publicised cuts that County are going to make to adult social care, what are we in South Cambridgeshire District Council going to do to ensure that we do not take the brunt of these cuts and what actions may we take to mitigate their effects on our elderly residents suffering from dementia and their long suffering carers?" She added that she had asked the same question at a meeting of Cambridgeshire County Council and had received a written response.

Councillor Ray Manning, Leader of the Council, sympathised with families affected by the cuts, and offered to express this Council's concerns to Cambridgeshire County Council, but was reluctant to suggest to the County Council that the District Council should be involved in matters which were the direct responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Councillor Smith, in her supplementary question, expressed concern that the District Council seemed about to bear the brunt of any Cambridgeshire County Council cuts.

7 (b) From Councillor Mike Mason to the New Communities Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mike Mason asked the New Communities Portfolio Holder, "Members have noted the recent decision by Marshall of Cambridge to remain on their present site, together with ever increasing delays and doubts about new development on other Local Development Framework sites around the City and at the new town of Northstowe. In acknowledgement that the policies and house building targets defined in the LDF are now no longer practical or financially feasible within the plan period and noting the recent statement from the new Cabinet member and MP for South Cambridgeshire, will he now seek urgent talks with the government in order to facilitate an urgent and radical review of the LDF and other development plans for the Sub Region?"

Councillor David Bard, New Communities Portfolio Holder, noted that the recently-published Programme for Government raised a number of issues relating to planning policy and advised that the Council and neighbouring authorities were already in contact with central government, seeking more detailed information. In response to Councillor Mason's supplementary question of when more details would be known, Councillor Bard replied that a meeting was already being set up.

8. MAJOR OPPOSITION GROUP LEADER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL 2010

Councillor Sebastian Kindersley, Major Opposition Group Leader, delivered his Annual Report to the Council, noting specifically the need for the administration to engage with all Members, for all Members to work together, and the effect of budget cuts on service provision and public perception of the authority.

Council **RECEIVED** the Major Opposition Group Leader's Annual Report to Council.

9. ANNUAL SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL 2010

Councillor John Batchelor, Scrutiny and Overview Committee Chairman, presented the Annual report to the Council, highlighting the Committee's growing reputation as a body delivering robust and detailed work, specifically its receipt of a national award for its 2008 review of Arbury Park (now Orchard Park). He paid tribute to Councillors James Hockney and Bridget Smith for their chairmanship of, respectively, the Finance and the Children and Young People Task and Finish Groups, and to former Councillor Richard Summerfield for his significant commitment to the review of the Council's budget-setting process. He also thanked Jackie Sayers, Scrutiny Development Officer, for her work, describing her as a great ambassador for the Committee.

Councillor James Hockney, Scrutiny and Overview Committee Vice-Chairman, echoed Councillor Batchelor's comments and thanked Councillor Batchelor for his hard work as Chairman over the past two years.

Council **RECEIVED** the Scrutiny and Overview Committee's Annual Report to Council.

10. ANNUAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL 2010

Mrs Kathy English, Chairman and Independent Member of the Standards Committee, presented the Annual Report to Council and highlighted some of the Committee's significant achievements in 2009/10: completing the initial assessment of allegations in an average of just over ten working days compared to the national indicator of twenty working days; being named as a finalist in the Local Government Chronicle's Standards and Ethics award; conducting training sessions on the day of each committee meeting;

and the Committee's additional work with parish councils through the Standards Committee Newsletter and establishment of the Parish Liaison Working Group.

Referring to the recent announcement in the Queen's Speech of the Government's plans to "abolish the Standards Board regime", Mrs English noted that there were no further details yet available, but that the Standards Committee would be fully involved in any consultation. She added her personal view that, as a member of the public, she welcomed retention of some system to address allegations of member misconduct.

Council **RECEIVED** the Standards Committee's Annual Report to Council.

11. PETITIONS

Council **NOTED** that one petition had been received and had been considered by the Housing Portfolio Holder at his 19 May 2010 meeting.

12. COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS 1.2(B) AND 4.1(B) (RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING PARTY, 27 APRIL 2010)

All three recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Party were proposed by Councillor Charlie Nightingale and seconded by Councillor Ray Manning. Any Executive Members serving as ex officio members on a committee would be appointed to seats from within their party's allocation, and that ex officio members would have full voting rights.

A vote was taken and, with thirty votes in favour, twenty-two against and four abstentions, Council **RESOLVED** that Council Standing Order 1.2(b) in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution be amended as follows (new wording in ***bold italics***):

1.2 Selection of Councillors on Committees and Outside Bodies

(b) ***Executive Members shall be entitled to sit on the following committees as ex officio members:***

- ***Employment Committee: Executive Member with responsibility for staffing matters;***
- ***Licensing Committee, Licensing Committee (2003 Act), Licensing Committee (2005 Gambling Act): Executive Member with responsibility for licensing matters;***
- ***Planning Committee: Executive Member with responsibility for development control matters.***

A vote was taken and, with forty-five votes in favour, eight against, one abstention, and two Members not voting, Council **RESOLVED** that Council Standing Order 1.2(c) in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution be amended as follows:

(c) Executive Members shall not be entitled to sit upon the following committees:

- Corporate Governance Committee;
- Electoral Arrangements Committee;
- Scrutiny and Overview Committee;
- any other scrutiny and overview committee.

In response to questions it was confirmed that the Constitution Review Working Party had considered the issue of Executive Members serving as substitute members of the Corporate Governance Committee, but had recommended to Council, with one voting against, that Executive Members could serve as substitutes on all bodies except the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or any other scrutiny and overview committees. Members debated whether it was appropriate to have Executive Members serving as substitutes on the Corporate Governance Committee, which monitored areas of

Executive responsibility, and the importance of ensuring that meetings could not be rendered inquorate if non-Executive substitutes could not be found when full committee Members were unable to attend. Members were advised that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance stated that Executive Members could serve on audit committees, but not as Chairmen. Substitute members on any Council bodies would have full voting rights.

A vote was taken and, with thirty votes in favour, twenty-five against and one Member not voting, Council **RESOLVED** that Council Standing Order 4.1(b) in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution be amended as follows:

- (b) *Executive Members shall be allowed to substitute on all committees other than the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or any other scrutiny and overview committee.***

Members noted that the proposal to have substitutes appointed by the full Council was a good management principle, and that all substitutes would be required to undertake the same training as full Committee members before being eligible to serve.

A vote was taken and, with fifty-one votes in favour, two against and two abstentions, Council **RESOLVED** that Council Standing Order 1(b) and 4.1(a) in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution be amended as follows:

1(b) The annual meeting will...

- (viii) *appoint up to four substitutes per committee from each political group in a hierarchical list to all committees and sub-committees other than the Standards Committee;***

[subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered accordingly]

4.1 Allocation

- (a) Substitutes will be allowed on committees and sub-committees, and Council may allocate seats for substitute members on outside or joint bodies, where those bodies allow. The substitute must be a member of the same political group as the member for whom they are substituting. ***Substitute members will be appointed in a hierarchical list by Council at its Annual Meeting.***

13. ESTABLISHMENT, SIZE OF, AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR, COMMITTEES FOR THE 2010-2011 CIVIC YEAR

Councillor Pippa Corney, Planning Committee Chairman, proposed that the Planning Committee size remain at 14 Members for the 2010/11 municipal year, as this size had worked well in previous years; Councillor Robert Turner, Planning Committee Vice-Chairman, seconded the proposal. Members queried whether having an even number on Committees should be avoided on principle, as it increased the opportunity to have decisions made on the Chairman's casting vote.

Councillor Alex Riley proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Douglas de Lacey, that the Planning Committee comprise 15 Members for the 2010/11 municipal year. In accordance with Council Standing Order 14.6(b), a vote was taken on the amendment and, with thirty votes in favour and twenty-six against, the amendment was **CARRIED**.

A vote was held and, with thirty in favour, twenty-two against and two Members not voting, Council **RESOLVED** that the Planning Committee comprise 15 Members for the 2010/11 municipal year.

Councillor Liz Heazell proposed an amendment to the text in the agenda, seconded by

Councillor Deborah Roberts, that the Scrutiny and Overview Committee be increased to 13 Members for the 2010/11 municipal year. In accordance with Council Standing Order 14.6(b), a vote was taken on the amendment and, with thirty votes in favour and twenty-five against, the amendment was **CARRIED**.

A vote was held and, with forty in favour, ten against, one abstention and three Members not voting, Council **RESOLVED** that the following committees be established for the 2010/11 municipal year, comprising the number of Members stated in brackets:

- Corporate Governance Committee (7 Members)
- Electoral Arrangements Committee (7 Members)
- Employment Committee (7 Members)
- Planning Committee (15 Members)
- Licensing Committee (15 Members)
- Scrutiny and Overview Committee (13 Members)

Council further **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference for the above committees be as set out in Article 6 and Part 3, Table One of the Council's Constitution, including the amendments made by Council's resolution at Agenda Item 13 (Council Standing Orders 1.2(b) and 4.1(b)).

14. **APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERS AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, 2010-2011**

Council **RESOLVED**

- (1) That seats be allocated on committees in accordance with the table below:

Committee / Panel	Seats	Cons	Lib Dems	Ind	Non-Group
Corporate Governance Committee	7	4	2	1	0
Electoral Arrangements Committee	7	4	2	1	0
Employment Committee	7	4	2	1	0
Licensing Committee Licensing Committee (2003 Act) Licensing Committee (2005 Gambling Act)	15	7	4	2	2
Planning Committee	15	8	5	2	0
Scrutiny and Overview Committee	13	7	5	1	0
TOTAL	64	34	20	8	2

and;

- (2) That, based on the allocations at (1) above, and the requirement for political proportionality, the following appointments to Committees be made for the 2010/11 civic year:

Corporate Governance Committee

7 Members:

Conservative (4)	Lib Dems (2)	Ind (1)
Francis Burkitt	John Batchelor	Douglas de Lacey
Mervyn Loynes	John G Williams	
David McCraith		
Peter Topping		

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Order	Conservative	Lib Dems	Ind
1	Richard Barrett	Jim Stewart	Alex Riley
2	Ben Shelton	Liz Heazell	
3	David Bird		
4	Charlie Nightingale		

Electoral Arrangements Committee

7 Members:

Conservative (4)	Lib Dems (2)	Ind (1)
Roger Hall	Frances Amrani	Mike Mason
Raymond Matthews	John F Williams	
Robert Turner		
Bunty Waters		

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Order	Conservative	Lib Dems	Ind
1	Charlie Nightingale	Hazel Smith	Neil Scarr
2	Tony Orgee	Surinder Soond	
3	Val Barrett		
4	James Hockney		

Employment Committee

7 Members:

Conservative (4)	Lib Dems (2)	Ind (1)
Pippa Corney	Liz Heazell	Alex Riley
Simon Edwards*	Sebastian Kindersley	
Raymond Matthews		
Tony Orgee		

* as Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Order	Conservative	Lib Dems	Ind
1	Val Barrett	Jim Stewart	Douglas de Lacey
2	Brian Burling	John Batchelor	
3	Charlie Nightingale		

Licensing Committee, Licensing Committee (2003 Act), Licensing Committee (2005 Gambling Act)

15 Members:

Conservative (7)	Lib Dems (4)	Ind (2)	Non-Group (2)
Richard Barrett	Trisha Bear	Sally Hatton	Nigel Cathcart
Val Barrett	Liz Heazell	Alex Riley	Cicely Murfitt
Roger Hall	Janet Lockwood		
Mervyn Loynes	John F Williams		
Raymond Matthews			
David McCraith			
Charlie Nightingale			

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Order	Conservative	Lib Dems	Ind	Non-Group
1		Hazel Smith	Neil Scarr	
2		Jose Hales		

Planning Committee

15 Members:

Conservative (8)	Lib Dems (5)	Ind (2)
Val Barrett	Trisha Bear	Sally Hatton
Brian Burling	Lynda Harford	Deborah Roberts
Pippa Corney	Sebastian Kindersley	
Mervyn Loynes	Hazel Smith	
Charlie Nightingale	John F Williams	
Peter Topping		
Robert Turner		
Nick Wright*		

* as Planning Portfolio Holder

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Order	Conservative	Lib Dems	Ind
1	David McCraith	Tumi Hawkins	Neil Scarr
2	Richard Barrett	Jose Hales	Mike Mason
3	Raymond Matthews	John Batchelor	Alex Riley
4	David Bard	Mark Hersom	

Scrutiny and Overview Committee

13 Members:

Conservative (7)	Lib Dems (5)	Ind (1)
Roger Hall	Jose Hales	Mike Mason
James Hockney	Tumi Hawkins	
Peter Johnson	Liz Heazell	
David Morgan	Mark Hersom	
Tony Orgee	Bridget Smith	
Ben Shelton		
Bunty Waters		

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Order	Conservative	Lib Dems	Ind
1	Richard Barrett	John Batchelor	Deborah Roberts
2	Charlie Nightingale	Edd Stonham	Sally Hatton
3	David Bird	Lynda Harford	
4	Val Barrett		

15. APPOINTMENTS TO JOINT COMMITTEES FOR 2010-2011

Council considered the appointment of Members to joint committees for the 2010/11 municipal year. Councillor Douglas de Lacey raised an objection to the allocation of seats and he and Councillor Alex Riley submitted that the three joint committees were not bodies of the Council and therefore not subject to the requirement for proportional allocation of seats between the recognised political groups. Councillor Riley proposed that the allocation of seats on the Joint Development Control Committees be amended to 3 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent. The Chief Executive confirmed that the joint committees were not bodies of this Council exclusively, and explained that the principles of proportionality were established in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and could not be amended by the Council, although it was within the power of any of the political groups to offer to relinquish any of their allocated seats to other Members if they so wished.

Members noted the number of villages affected by the development areas and that local Members were able to attend and make representations at joint committee meetings.

Council, with nine votes against, **RESOLVED** that seats be allocated, and appointments

made, to the following Joint Committees:

Cambridge City Fringes Joint Committee

3 seats

Conservatives (2)

David Bard (substitute Nick Wright)

Ray Manning (substitute Simon Edwards)

Lib Dems (1)

Sebastian Kindersley (substitute Liz Heazell)

Joint Development Control Committee: Cambridge Fringes

6 seats

Conservatives (4)

David Bard

Tom Bygott

Charlie Nightingale

Ben Shelton

Lib Dems (2)

Liz Heazell

John F Williams

Substitutes

David McCraith

Mark Hersom

Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee

6 seats

Conservatives (4)

Brian Burling

Simon Edwards

David McCraith

Tim Wotherspoon

Lib Dems (2)

Lynda Harford

Hazel Smith

Substitutes

Nick Wright

Mark Hersom

16. APPOINTMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING PARTY 2010-2011

In response to queries about the reference to “Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee”, Councillor Mark Howell explained that, when he was Scrutiny and Overview Committee Chairman, he had not been able to serve on the Constitution Review Working Party and so the appointment wording was amended to allow the Vice-Chairman to serve in his place. Members noted that the Constitution Review Working Party did not have any decision-making powers and that all its recommendations must be approved by full Council.

Council, with eight votes against, **RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Council, Leader, Deputy Leader and Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee be appointed to the Constitution Review Working Party for the 2010/11 Civic Year, along with the following representatives from the political groups:

Conservatives (1)

Roger Hall

Lib Dems (1)

Jim Stewart

Ind (1)

Mike Mason

Substitutes

Conservatives

Lib Dems

John Batchelor

Ind

Alex Riley

17. APPOINTMENTS TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP 2010-2011

Council **RESOLVED** that the following Members be appointed to the Climate Change

Working Group for the 2010/11 civic year in accordance with the requirements of political proportionality:

Conservatives (5)

David Bard
Tom Bygott
Pippa Corney
Roger Hall
Peter Topping

Lib Dems (3)

Jose Hales
Stephen Harangozo
Bridget Smith

Ind (1)

Douglas de Lacey

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Order	Conservatives	Lib Dems	Ind
1	Ben Shelton	Janet Lockwood	Sally Hatton
2	Richard Barrett	Trisha Bear	
3	David Morgan	John F Williams	
4	Tony Orgee		

18. **DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENTS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2010-2014**

Council **RESOLVED** that Councillors Alex Riley and Jim Stewart be appointed District Council Members of the Standards Committee for four-year terms from 2010 to 2014.

19. **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

Council adjourned to allow its Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups to elect their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for the 2010/11 Civic Year. Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen were elected as follows:

Body	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Climate Change Working Group	Peter Topping	Stephen Harangozo
Constitution Review Working Party	Charlie Nightingale	Jim Stewart
Corporate Governance Committee	Peter Topping	Francis Burkitt
Electoral Arrangements Committee	Robert Turner	Raymond Matthews
Employment Committee	Tony Orgee	Simon Edwards
Licensing Committee, Licensing Committee (2003 Act) and Licensing Committee (2005 Gambling Act)	Cicely Murfitt	John F Williams
Planning Committee	Pippa Corney	Robert Turner
Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee	Mervyn Loynes	Val Barrett
Scrutiny and Overview Committee	James Hockney	Bridget Smith

20. **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE, JOINT AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2010-2011**

Councillor David Morgan was proposed by Councillor Ray Manning and Councillor Bridget Smith was proposed by Council Sebastian Kindersley as the representative on the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection. A vote was held and,

with twenty-nine votes in favour and twenty-four votes against, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor David Morgan serve as the authority's representative on the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection.

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Members to joint and other Member bodies as follows:

Body	Members	Seats	Politically-balanced?
Joint Cambridgeshire Regional Spatial Strategy Review Panel (CReSSP)	David Bard (substitute Nick Wright) Sebastian Kindersley (substitute John Batchelor) Ray Manning (substitute Simon Edwards)	3	Yes
Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee (JSIC)	David Bart (substitute Nick Wright) Sebastian Kindersley (substitute John Batchelor) Ray Manning (substitute Simon Edwards)	3	Yes
Joint Transport Forum	David Bard (substitute Nick Wright) Ray Manning (substitute Simon Edwards) John G Williams (substitute John Batchelor)	3	Yes

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Members to outside bodies for four years or until the end of the individual Member's term of office as follows:

Body	Members
Age Concern	Roger Hall
Cambridge University Joint Councils Forum (Addenbrooke's)	Janet Lockwood
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC): South Cambs District	David McCraith
Cambridgeshire County Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	Roger Hall (substitute Bridget Smith)
Cambridgeshire Museums Advisory Partnership	David McCraith
Farmland Museum Trustees	Peter Johnson
GVC (Gamlingay Village College) Leisure Limited	Bridget Smith
Linton Community Sports Centre (Linton Village College)	Trisha Bear
Local Area Agreement (LAA) Joint Accountability Committee (JAC)	Liz Heazell
Melbourn Community Sports Ltd (MCSPLIM) – 2 members	Val Barrett and Jose Hales

Mepal Outdoor Centre	David Morgan
National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection	David Morgan
North Hertfordshire and District Citizens' Advice Bureau	Surinder Soond
Sawston Village College Sports Users' Committee	Raymond Matthews and Ben Shelton
Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee	Sue Ellington
Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board	Peter Johnson
West Anglia Crossroads for Carers	vacancy

21. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

21 (a) Amendment to Executive Procedure Rules (Constitution Review Working Party, 27 April 2010)

Councillor Ray Manning proposed and Councillor Simon Edwards seconded that the quorum for Cabinet be amended from "4 **plus** Leader or Deputy Leader" to "4 **including the** Leader or Deputy Leader", stating that a possible future reduction in the Cabinet size could render the body inquorate if only one Member were absent. Councillor Alex Riley proposed and Councillor Douglas de Lacey seconded an amendment from "4 **plus** Leader or Deputy Leader" to "**the majority of the Cabinet including the** Leader or Deputy Leader", which could address any changes to the Cabinet size without having to return to Council to review the quorum.

In accordance with Council Standing Order 14.6(b), a vote was taken on the amendment and, with forty-four votes in favour, nine against, two abstentions and one Member not voting, the amendment was **CARRIED**.

Council, with no Members voting against, **RESOLVED** that Executive Procedure Rule 1.4 (Quorum for Cabinet meetings) be amended from "4 **plus** Leader or Deputy Leader" to "**the majority of the Cabinet including the** Leader or Deputy Leader".

21 (b) Model Petition Scheme (Policy and Performance Portfolio Holder's Meeting, 13 May 2010)

Councillor Tom Bygott, Policy and Performance Portfolio Holder, introduced the revised Petitions Scheme, which met the requirements of the Local Government, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and would replace the Council's existing Petition Scheme, and moved the recommendation, seconded by Councillor Tim Wotherspoon.

Councillor Sebastian Kindersley, feeling that the suggested thresholds were too demanding and could stifle opportunities for the public to raise issues with the Council, proposed, seconded by Councillor Alex Riley, that the following thresholds be amended:

- Minimum number of signatures required for an Ordinary Petition: from 100 to 50;
- Minimum number of signatures required for a Petition for Debate: from 500 to 100; and
- Minimum number of signatures required for a Petition to Hold an Officer to Account: from 500 to 300.

Members debated the requirements of the Petition Scheme and raised the following points:

- There was a danger of abuse of e-Petitions and no requirement for petitioners to

- be residents of South Cambridgeshire;
- Smaller villages might have an important local issue but not enough residents to reach the 100-signature threshold;
- The Scheme and the thresholds were to be reviewed annually;
- The Scheme must be adopted by 15 June 2010 and the Council would be in breach of its statutory obligations if it did not replace the previous Petition Scheme;
- There was no way to verify that electronic signatures were genuine;
- Members present at the Policy and Performance Portfolio Holder's meeting on 13 May 2010 had already debated the Scheme at length; and
- It was unreasonable to allow members of the public to call officers to account at public meetings and that the legislation did not set out how this was to be done without breaching employment law.

Councillors Kindersley and Riley withdrew the proposal to amend the number of signatures required for a Petition to Hold an Officer to Account, but kept the amendments to the number of signatures required for Ordinary Petitions and Petitions for Debate. In accordance with Council Standing Order 14.6(b), a vote was taken on the amendment and, with thirty-one votes in favour and twenty-one against, the amendment was **CARRIED**.

Council, with three votes against, **RESOLVED** that the Petition Scheme be adopted in respect of non-executive functions, replacing the existing Petition Scheme at Part 5, Section L of the Constitution, subject to the following amendments:

- Minimum number of signatures required for an Ordinary Petition: 50; and
- Minimum number of signatures required for a Petition for Debate: 100

21 (c) Government Review of Council Housing Finance: Proposals to Replace Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy System (Housing Portfolio Holder, 19 May 2010)

Councillor Mark Howell, Housing Portfolio Holder, reminded Council that, although the authority was debt-free, it had been asked to take on £197 million of debt incurred by other authorities and, as of his 19 May 2010 meeting, he had believed that the best possible solution was to accept in principle the proposal but to urge the Government to consider further the authority's circumstances. In light of the Programme For Government, published the day after the Housing Portfolio Holder's meeting, and the Queen's Speech, both of which referred to a forthcoming review of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Councillor Howell expressed concern that, if Council resolved to accept the offer, it would be given the full £197 million debt and become unable to negotiate for a lower settlement. He asked all Members for their support in lobbying Government ministers.

In response to Councillor Howell's proposal, seconded by Councillor Sebastian Kindersley, and in accordance with Council Standing Order 14.11, Council **ADJOURNED** further debate on this item and **DEFERRED** a decision on the response to the consultation prospectus for the Government Review of Council Housing Finance: Proposals to Replace Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy System.

21 (d) Continuation of the Meeting

In accordance with Council Standing Order 13(d), Council **RESOLVED** that the meeting continue beyond four hours in duration.

21 (e) RAMPTON DRIFT: Retro-Fit Project

Councillor Tim Wotherspoon, Northstowe Portfolio Holder, clarified that Council's approval was not being sought for the purchase of properties, but for the addition to the Council's Capital Programme of £920,000 grant funding from Communities and Local Government (CLG), which could be spent only on the Rampton Drift Retro-Fit project. He presented an overview of the retro-fit project, which would be used to gather data for application district- and nation-wide to identify viable improvements to existing housing at a reasonable outlay. He clarified that the Sustainable Energy Parish Partnership funds would not be used for this project, and that the CLG grant money was specific to potential eco-towns and could be used only within the eco-town footprint: the houses at Rampton Drift were the only properties currently within the Northstowe boundary. There was strong local support for the project, although concerns were expressed that the retro-fit adaptations would be on 1970s housing only and not the 1950s houses also on site. Members were encouraged to attend the Northstowe Portfolio Holder's meeting on 9 June 2010 at which the options would be discussed in detail.

On the proposal of Councillor Tim Wotherspoon, seconded by Councillor David Bard, Council, with no Members voting against, **RESOLVED** to approve the addition of £920,000 to the Council's Capital Programme for the Rampton Drift Retro-Fit project, funded by Communities and Local Government grant and match funding.

22. **POLICY FOR CHARGING FEES FOR STREET NAMING**

It was confirmed that adoption of the provisions of Section 64 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847 would enable to Council to charge developers for street naming and numbering for new developments, a service which currently was being undertaken free of charge, yet which involved a significant amount of work for Council officers.

Council **RESOLVED** to give notice of an intent to adopt the provisions of Section 64 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847, subject to the advertisement requirements.

23. **WRITE-OFFS: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL 2010**

Councillor Simon Edwards, Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder, presented the annual report of debts written-off, explaining that debts would only be written-off once officers had exhausted every opportunity to collect the outstanding amount, and that it was a good accounting practise not to carry bad debts in the long term. The Executive Director (Corporate Services) confirmed his intention, during the current year, to involve local members before debts reached the write-off stage, particularly with respect to the collection of National Non-Domestic Rates.

In response to questions about debts incurred at Smithy Fen, Cottenham, Councillor Edwards confirmed that none of the debts had been written off, but the Council had Local Land Charges on all 37 plots, which would remain with the land even if it were sold on, until the debt had been paid.

Council **NOTED** the amounts written off under delegated powers.

24. **QUESTIONS ON JOINT MEETINGS**

Councillor Ray Manning confirmed that he had been appointed the lead member for the Road Safety Partnership, but that the limited budget available was insufficient for extensive road repairs. He confirmed that the establishment of the South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership was a statutory obligation and, unlike the Local Strategic Partnership, could not be merged with Cambridge City's

Partnership even though both bodies comprised most of the same representatives.

25. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

25 (a) Children and Young People's South Cambridgeshire and City Area Partnership - Cllr Bridget Smith

Councillor **RECEIVED** the report of Councillor Bridget Smith on the Children and Young People's South Cambridgeshire and City Area Partnership, and **NOTED** that it had already been considered by the Cabinet. Councillor Smith asked Members to bring her information of any residents who had experienced difficulty accessing mental health services after turning sixteen.

25 (b) Cambridgeshire Children's Trust Board - Cllr Bridget Smith

Council **RECEIVED** the report of Councillor Bridget Smith on the Cambridgeshire Children's Trust Board and **NOTED** the issues relating to South Cambridgeshire.

25 (c) Marshall Airport Cambridge Consultative Committee - Cllr Frances Amrani

Council **RECEIVED** the draft minutes of the Marshall Airport Cambridge Consultative Committee meeting of 19 May 2010, as provided by Councillor Frances Amrani, the Council's representative on that Committee.

26. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

Council **NOTED** the Chairman's Engagements since the last Council meeting.

The Meeting ended at 6.57 p.m.
