

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on  
Thursday, 24 May 2012 at 2.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** David Bard, Richard Barrett, Val Barrett, Trisha Bear, Francis Burkitt, Tom Bygott, Nigel Cathcart, Jonathan Chatfield, Pippa Corney, Neil Davies, Simon Edwards, Alison Elcox, Sue Ellington, Jose Hales, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Sally Hatton, Tumi Hawkins, Mark Hersom, Roger Hickford, James Hockney, Mark Howell, Clayton Hudson, Caroline Hunt, Pauline Jarvis, Peter Johnson, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Mervyn Loynes, Ray Manning, Mick Martin, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Cicely Murfitt, Tony Orgee, Ted Ridgway Watt, Alex Riley, Deborah Roberts, Neil Scarr, Ben Shelton, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Surinder Soond, Jim Stewart, Edd Stonham, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters, David Whiteman-Downes, John Williams, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright

<b>Officers:</b>	Holly Adams	Democratic Services Team Leader
	Alex Colyer	Executive Director, Corporate Services
	Jean Hunter	Chief Executive
	Fiona McMillan	Legal & Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Burling, Steve Harangozo, Charles Nightingale, Robin Page and Peter Topping.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

The Chairman presented £500 cheques to Lucy Day, Arthur Rank Hospice; Beccy Turner, East Anglia Children's Hospice (EACH); and Jo Hill, Help for Heroes, his three chosen charities for 2011/12. The charities' representatives addressed the Council about the work of their organisations, and thanked councillors and officers for their support.

The Chairman also presented to the Housing Portfolio Holder the Municipal Journal 2012 Achievement Award for Most Transformed Property Portfolio, for which the District Council had been commended.

#### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2012/13**

On the nomination of Councillor Ray Manning, seconded by Councillor Cicely Murfitt, and there being no further nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Tony Orgee be re-elected Chairman of the Council for the 2012/13 civic year.

Councillor Orgee signed the acceptance of office. He said that he was honoured to continue to represent the Council as Chairman and that it was his privilege to see so much good work in many different areas of the District. He confirmed that he would continue to support Arthur Rank Hospice, East Anglia Children's Hospice (EACH) and Help for Heroes as his charities in 2012/13.

#### **2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL 2012/13**

On the nomination of Councillor Ray Manning, seconded by Councillor Simon Edwards, and there being no further nominations, Council **RESOLVED** that Councillor David Bard be re-appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2012/13 civic year.

Councillor Bard signed the acceptance of office and thanked Council. He said that he

looked forward to supporting the Chairman during 2012/13, particularly at the special Council meetings relating to the Local Plan.

### 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were declared.

### 4. **MINUTES**

The Chairman signed the 26 April 2012 Council meeting minutes as a correct record.

### 5. **REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER**

The Returning Officer's report was **NOTED** and Councillors Neil Davies, Roger Hickford and Robin Page were welcomed to the Council. The Chairman congratulated all returning councillors who were re-elected.

### 6. **ELECTION OF LEADER OF COUNCIL 2012-2016**

On the nomination of Councillor Robert Turner, seconded by Councillor Francis Burkitt, and there being no further nominations, Council **RESOLVED** that Councillor Ray Manning be re-elected Leader of the Council, to serve a term of office ending on the date of the Annual Council Meeting following the date of his normal retirement as a Councillor, the relevant date of retirement to follow the Local Elections in 2016.

Councillor Manning thanked Council for his re-election and signed the acceptance of office. He also thanked all former members of Cabinet who had served in the past year, and announced his new Cabinet:

Councillor Simon Edwards, Deputy Leader and Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder

Councillor Pippa Corney, Planning Policy and Localism Portfolio Holder

Councillor James Hockney, Corporate and Customer Services Portfolio Holder

Councillor Sue Ellington, Environmental Services Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mark Howell, Housing Portfolio Holder

Councillor Tim Wotherspoon, Northstowe Portfolio Holder

Councillor Nick Wright, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

Councillors Corney and Hockney then joined the Cabinet at the front of the Chamber.

Council **NOTED** the names of the members appointed by the Leader to the Cabinet, their names and their Portfolios, along with the Leader of the Council's Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions.

### 7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Sebastian Kindersley, Major Opposition Group Leader, at the invitation of the Chairman, paid tribute to former Councillor John Batchelor for his years of service to South Cambridgeshire residents. The Chairman confirmed that he had written a letter of thanks to Mr Batchelor on behalf of the authority, noting that former Councillors Heazell and Mason had received tributes from fellow councillors at their final meeting prior to their retirement.

## 8. SIZE, TERMS OF REFERENCE & APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS 2012/13

Councillor, at its 22 September 2011 meeting, had agreed a procedure for annual appointments on the recommendation of the political group leaders. The group leaders had met on 14 May 2012 and their recommendations were presented to Council.

Councillor Ray Manning proposed, seconded by Councillor Simon Edwards, that Standing Order 1.1(a)(viii) be amended to allow each political group to nominate up to five, rather than four, substitute members in a hierarchical list. Names of additional substitutes would be confirmed by Council at its 26 July 2012 meeting.

On the proposal of Councillor Ray Manning, seconded by Councillor Simon Edwards, Council **RESOLVED**

- (a) to revoke its decision of 22 May 2008 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 [since disbanded];
  - (e) Employment Committee;
  - (f) Electoral Arrangements Committee;
  - (g) Audit Panel [now Corporate Governance Committee].”
- (b) that Standing Order 1.1(a)(viii) be amended to read: “appoint up to **five** substitute members per committee from each political group in a hierarchical list to all committees and sub-committees other than the Standards Committee”;
- (c) to establish the following committees for the 2012/13 municipal year:
- Corporate Governance Committee (8 members)
  - Electoral Arrangements Committee (8 members)
  - Employment Committee (8 members)
  - Licensing Committee, Licensing Committee (2003 Act), Licensing Committee (2005 Gambling Act) (15 members)
  - Planning Committee (13 members)
  - Scrutiny and Overview Committee (13 members);
- (d) that the Terms of Reference for the above committees remain as set out in Article 6 and Part 3, Table One of the Council’s Constitution;
- (e) to establish a Climate Change Working Group (8 members);
- (f) that the allocation of seats on the above committees and working group be as follows:

Body	Size	Conservatives	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Climate Change Working Group	8	5	2	1
Corporate Governance	8	5	2	1
Electoral	8	5	2	1

Arrangements				
Employment	8	5	2	1
Licensing	15	9	4	2
Planning	13	8	4	1
Scrutiny and Overview	13	7	5	1
Total Seats	73	44	21	8

(g) to establish a Constitution Review Working Group comprised of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council, Leader of Council, Deputy Leader of Council and Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, along with one representative from each of the recognised political groups;

(h) to appoint to the above committees and working groups the following members and substitute members as nominated by the political groups:

**Climate Change Working Group**

**Conservatives**

David Bard  
Roger Hickford  
Mick Martin  
Ted Ridgway Watt  
Ben Shelton

**Liberal Democrats**

Stephen Harangozo  
Bridget Smith

**Independent Group**

Douglas de Lacey

*Substitutes in hierarchical list:*

**Conservatives**

1) Tony Orgee  
2) Peter Topping  
3)  
4)  
5)

**Liberal Democrats**

1) Jose Hales  
2) Trisha Bear  
3) Janet Lockwood  
4) Hazel Smith  
5)

**Independent Group**

1) Sally Hatton  
2) Neil Davies  
3) Neil Scarr  
4) Deborah Roberts  
5)

**Constitution Review Working Group**

**Ex-Officio**

Chairman of Council  
Leader of Council  
Deputy Leader of Council  
Scrutiny and Overview Committee Chairman

**Conservatives**

Roger Hall

**Liberal Democrats**

Jim Stewart

**Independent Group**

Douglas de Lacey

*Substitutes in hierarchical list:*

**Ex-Officio**

Vice-Chairman of Council (substitute for Chairman of Council)

**Conservatives**

1) Alex Riley  
2) Robert Turner  
3)  
4)  
5)

**Liberal Democrats**

1) Janet Lockwood  
2)  
3)  
4)  
5)

**Independent Group**

1) Neil Scarr  
2) Neil Davies  
3) Sally Hatton  
4) Deborah Roberts  
5)

**Corporate Governance Committee****Conservatives**

Richard Barrett  
Francis Burkitt  
David McCraith  
Ted Ridgway Watt  
Peter Topping

**Liberal Democrats**

Mark Hersom  
John Williams

**Independent Group**

Douglas de Lacey

*Substitutes in hierarchical list:***Conservatives**

1) Charlie Nightingale  
2) David Whiteman-Downes  
3)  
4)  
5)

**Liberal Democrats**

1) Bridget Smith  
2) Lynda Harford  
3)  
4)  
5)

**Independent Group**

1) Neil Davies  
2) Neil Scarr  
3) Deborah Roberts  
4) Sally Hatton  
5)

**Electoral Arrangements Committee****Conservatives**

Alison Elcox  
Mick Martin  
Raymond Matthews  
Robert Turner  
Bunty Waters

**Liberal Democrats**

Hazel Smith  
Edd Stonham

**Independent Group**

Neil Davies

*Substitutes in hierarchical list:***Conservatives**

1) Richard Barrett  
2) Charlie Nightingale  
3)  
4)  
5)

**Liberal Democrats**

1) Sebastian Kindersley  
2)  
3)  
4)  
5)

**Independent Group**

1) Neil Scarr  
2) Deborah Roberts  
3) Sally Hatton  
4) Douglas de Lacey  
5)

**Employment Committee****Conservatives**

Val Barrett  
Simon Edwards (as Finance  
and Staffing Portfolio Holder)  
Caroline Hunt  
Alex Riley  
David Whiteman-Downes

**Liberal Democrats**

Lynda Harford  
Sebastian Kindersley

**Independent Group**

Sally Hatton

*Substitutes in hierarchical list:***Conservatives**

1) Mick Martin  
2) Brian Burling  
3) Richard Barrett  
4)  
5)

**Liberal Democrats**

1) Jim Stewart  
2)  
3)  
4)  
5)

**Independent Group**

1) Douglas de Lacey  
2) Neil Davies  
3) Neil Scarr  
4) Deborah Roberts  
5)

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

Richard Barrett  
Val Barrett

**Liberal  
Democrats**  
Trisha Bear  
Jose Hales

**Independent  
Group**  
Sally Hatton  
Neil Scarr

**Non-Group**

Nigel Cathcart  
[seat offered by

Alison Elcox  
 Roger Hall  
 Mervyn Loynes  
 Raymond Matthews  
 Charlie Nightingale  
 Alex Riley  
 [offered to Nigel  
 Cathcart]

Janet Lockwood  
 [offered to Cicely  
 Murfitt]

Conservative  
 Group]

Cicely Murfitt [seat  
 offered by Liberal  
 Democrat Group]

*Substitutes in hierarchical list:*

<b>Conservatives</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>	<b>Non-Group</b>
1)	1) Hazel Smith	1) Douglas de Lacey	
2)	2)	2) Deborah Roberts	
3)	3)	3) Neil Davies	
4)	4)	4)	
5)	5)	5)	

**Planning Committee**

**Conservatives**

David Bard  
 Val Barrett  
 Brian Burling  
 Mervyn Loynes  
 David McCraith  
 Charlie Nightingale  
 Robert Turner  
 Nick Wright

**Liberal Democrats**

Lynda Harford  
 Tumi Hawkins  
 Sebastian Kindersley  
 Hazel Smith

**Independent Group**

Deborah Roberts

*Substitutes in hierarchical list:*

<b>Conservatives</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>
1) Caroline Hunt	1) Trisha Bear	1) Sally Hatton
2) Raymond Matthews	2) Jose Hales	2) Douglas de Lacey
3) Ben Shelton	3) Jim Stewart	3) Neil Scarr
4) Alex Riley	4)	4) Robin Page
5) Richard Barrett	5)	5)

**Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

**Conservatives**

Alison Elcox  
 Roger Hall  
 Roger Hickford  
 Ted Ridgway Watt  
 Ben Shelton  
 Buntly Waters  
 David Whiteman-Downes

**Liberal Democrats**

Jose Hales  
 Lynda Harford  
 Mark Hersom  
 Janet Lockwood  
 Bridget Smith

**Independent Group**

Douglas de Lacey

*Substitutes in hierarchical list:*

<b>Conservatives</b>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>
1) Tony Orgee	1) Tumi Hawkins	1) Sally Hatton
2) Richard Barrett	2) Edd Stonham	2) Neil Davies
3) Charlie Nightingale	3) Hazel Smith	3) Neil Scarr
4) David Bard	4)	4) Deborah Roberts
5)	5)	5)

- (i) to appoint to the joint committees and working groups the following members and substitute members as nominated by the political groups:

***Joint Development Control Committee: Cambridge Fringes***

**Conservatives**

David Bard  
Pippa Corney  
Charlie Nightingale  
Ben Shelton

**Liberal Democrats**

Lynda Harford  
Sebastian Kindersley

**SCDC Spokesperson**

Pippa Corney

Substitute: Tim Wotherspoon

Substitute: Janet  
Lockwood

***Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee***

**Conservatives**

Brian Burling  
Simon Edwards  
Alex Riley  
Tim Wotherspoon

**Liberal Democrats**

Trisha Bear  
Hazel Smith

**SCDC Spokesperson**

Tim Wotherspoon

Substitute: Ray Manning

Substitute: Lynda  
Harford

- (j) that Councillors Nigel Cathcart, Janet Lockwood, Cicely Murfitt and Alex Riley be re-appointed to the Standards Committee from 24 May 2012 until the commencement of the new standards regime;
- (k) that the Standards Committee continue to operate under its existing arrangements until Council has adopted a new regime in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act and the forthcoming regulations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government;
- (l) that the Constitution Review Working Group be tasked with preparing the terms of reference for the establishment of a new Civic Affairs Committee of 13 members, which would discharge the functions currently discharged by the Constitution Review Working Group, Electoral Arrangements Committee and the Standards Committee; and
- (m) to appoint the Chairman of Council as the Constitution Review Working Group Chairman.

The Chairman put to the vote the appointments of Chairmen and Vice-Chairman to all Council bodies other than the Constitution Review Working Group. Councillor Sebastian Kindersley announced that the Liberal Democrat group would abstain from voting on Chairman and Vice-Chairman, as they felt that this was a decision which should be left to individual committees. Councillor Douglas de Lacey endorsed this action on behalf of the Independent Group.

In response to queries, the Legal and Democratic Services Manager confirmed that there was no legal requirement that the Scrutiny and Overview Committee be chaired by an opposition group member.

***Climate Change Working Group***

Nominees: Councillor Ted Ridgway Watt as Chairman and Councillor Roger Hickford as Vice-Chairman. No further nominees.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Not Voted</b>
32	5	12	3

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Ted Ridgway Watt be elected Chairman and Councillor Roger Hickford be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Climate Change Working Group for 2012/13.

#### ***Corporate Governance Committee***

Nominees: Councillor Francis Burkitt as Chairman and Councillor David McCraith as Vice-Chairman. No further nominees.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Not Voted</b>
31	2	13	6

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Francis Burkitt be elected Chairman and Councillor David McCraith be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee for 2012/13.

#### ***Electoral Arrangements Committee***

Nominees: Councillor Alison Elcox as Chairman and Councillor Raymond Matthews as Vice-Chairman. No further nominees.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Not Voted</b>
28	11	3	10

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Alison Elcox be elected Chairman and Councillor Raymond Matthews be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Electoral Arrangements Committee for 2012/13.

#### ***Employment Committee***

Nominees: Councillor David Whiteman-Downes as Chairman and Councillor Simon Edwards as Vice-Chairman. No further nominees.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Not Voted</b>
28	5	6	13

**RESOLVED** that Councillor David Whiteman-Downes be elected Chairman and Councillor Simon Edwards be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Employment Committee for 2012/13.

#### ***Licensing Committee***

Nominees: Councillor Alex Riley as Chairman and Councillor Raymond Matthews as Vice-Chairman. No further nominees.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Not Voted</b>
32	5	2	13

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Alex Riley be elected Chairman and Councillor Raymond Matthews be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee for 2012/13.

#### ***Planning Committee***

Nominees: Councillor Robert Turner as Chairman and Councillor Mervyn Loynes as Vice-Chairman. No further nominees.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Not Voted</b>
30	3	5	14

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Robert Turner be elected Chairman and Councillor Mervyn Loynes be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee for 2012/13.

#### ***Scrutiny and Overview Committee***

Nominees: Councillor Ben Shelton as Chairman and Councillor David Whiteman-Downes as Vice-Chairman. No further nominees.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Not Voted</b>
27	9	4	12

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Ben Shelton be elected Chairman and Councillor David



Whiteman-Downes be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee for 2012/13.

## 9. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE, JOINT & OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2012/13

Council **RESOLVED** to make the following appointments to outside, joint and other member bodies:

***Outside Bodies – unless stated otherwise, appointments are for four years or until the end of the member's term of office, whichever is sooner***

<b>Body</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>	<b>Nomination(s)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Age Concern	1 member	Charlie Nightingale	
Bassingbourn Village College Centre Management Committee	1 member	Nigel Cathcart	
Cambridge Marriage Guidance Council (Relate)	1 member	Val Barrett	
Cambridge University Joint Councils Forum (Addenbrooke's)	3 members	1. Sue Ellington 2. Janet Lockwood 3. Mark Howell	Proportional
Cambridge Women and Homelessness Group	1 member	Sue Ellington	
Cottenham Village College Sports Centre Management Group	1 member	Simon Edwards	
Francis John Clear Almshouses, Melbourn	1 member	Val Barrett	
Magog Trust	1 member	Charlie Nightingale	
Melbourn Community Sports Ltd (MCSPLIM)	2 members	Val Barrett	Other appointee is Jose Hales (to 2014)
Mepal Outdoor Centre	1 member	Simon Edwards	
Old West Internal Drainage Board	4 members	Simon Edwards Ray Manning Tim Wotherspoon	Other appointee is Brian Burling (to 2015).

Over and Willingham Internal Drainage Board	1 member	Ray Manning	Appointment is for 3 years or until end of member's term of office, whichever is soonest.
Responsive Repairs Partnership Management Board	2 members	Richard Barrett Neil Scarr	New body. Responsible for overseeing the partnership with Mears, who provide the Council's responsive repairs service, reviewing performance indicators and any issues which arise, and to maintain the high satisfaction levels with the service. Meets quarterly.
Sawston Village College Sports Users' Committee	Up to 6 members, extended to all members representing villages within Sawston VC catchment area.	Sally Hatton Charlie Nightingale	Other appointees are David Bard, Raymond Matthews, Ben Shelton and David Whiteman-Downes
SOFA (Shifting Offered Furniture Around)	1 member	Janet Lockwood	
Swaffham Internal Drainage Board	1 member	Robert Turner	
Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee	2 members	Robert Turner	Other appointee is Sue Ellington (to 2014)
Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board	2 members	James Hockney	Other appointee is Peter Johnson (to 2014)
West Anglia Crossroads for Carers	1 member	Sue Ellington	
Young Lives	1 member	Caroline Hunt	

**10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Council **NOTED** that no questions had been received.

**11. PETITIONS**

Council **NOTED** that no petitions had been received.

**12. MAJOR OPPOSITION GROUP LEADER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Councillor Sebastian Kindersley, Major Opposition Group Leader, addressed the Council, stating that he felt that the administration and opposition had worked well together when the opportunity arose, but that he felt more generosity ought to have been afforded to opposition groups to chair committees. He expressed his hope that the 2012/13 year would be better.

The Major Opposition Group Leader's Annual Report 2011/12 was **NOTED**.

**13. ANNUAL SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councillor James Hockney, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Chairman during 2011/12, presented the committee's annual report. He thanked the chairmen of the task and finish groups, and drew attention to the committee's recommendation to bring the contact centre back in-house, saving £250,000, as an example of how scrutiny added value to the authority. He noted that there had not been any call-ins during the previous year, and paid tribute to former Councillors Heazell and Mason for their active participation in scrutiny. He led Council in applauding Jackie Sayers, Scrutiny Development Officer, for her support of the committee, and wished the new committee all the best.

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee Annual Report 2011/12 was **NOTED**.

**14. ANNUAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mrs Kathleen English, Standards Committee Chairman, presented that committee's annual report, noting that all councils in the country were still in limbo awaiting the final regulations with the new definitions of interests. She outlined what was known about the new system and the work underway by the Cambridgeshire Heads of Legal to adopt a joint framework across the county to support those who sit on different tiers of local government. She thanked all committee members, and the Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Team Leader who supported the committee.

Councillors Cicely Murfitt and Tony Orgee led Council in thanking Mrs English for her hard work as Chairman, and the fair, honest and calm manner in which she led meetings and hearings.

The Standards Committee Annual Report 2011/12 was **NOTED**.

**15. AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE CONSTITUTION 2011/12**

The amendments made by the Chief Executive to the Constitution during 2011/12 were **NOTED**.

**16. WRITE OFFS**

Councillor Simon Edwards, Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder, presented the annual report asking Council to note the amount of debt written off during the previous year, explaining that it was good accounting practice to do so. Debts below £25,000 could be written off by officers; debts above that amount require Portfolio Holder approval. There were no debts requiring Portfolio Holder approval in 2011/12. Councillor Edwards commended the work of the Council's revenues team, with collection rates of 99.3% for council tax, 99.5% for national non-domestic rates, and 99.0% for housing rents.

In response to questions, Councillor Edwards explained that the settled and travelling communities were treated equally, therefore it was likely that some of the debts relating to sewerage at Smithy Fen would be written off, and that charges had been placed on the land but some of the plots had been unoccupied for several years.

It was confirmed that comparator information from previous years would be included in future annual reports.

The amount of debt written-off during 2011/12 was **NOTED**.

**17. QUESTIONS ON JOINT MEETINGS**

Councillor David Bard reported that the recent Joint Development Control Committee: Cambridge Fringes meeting had seen approval of the design statement preparation protocol and the 2012/13 member development programme. He reminded members that the number of development applications would begin to increase in the latter half of 2012, and that the Northwest Cambridge sites were likely to come to the August 2012 meeting.

**18. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES****18 (a) Emmaus Cambridge Trustee Board**

Councillor Hazel Smith's report was **NOTED**.

**18 (b) Gamlingay Leisure**

Councillor Bridget Smith's report was **NOTED**. The Chairman noted that he had attended the openings of both the fitness centre and the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and been delighted with the facilities.

**18 (c) Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board**

Councillor Peter Johnson's report was **NOTED**.

**19. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS****19 (a) From Cllr Francis Burkitt to the Leader of Council**

Councillor Francis Burkitt circulated copies of the Joint Vision for Cambridge's Quarter-to-Six Quadrant and paid tribute to the parish councils of Barton, Coton, Grantchester and Madingley, and to Keith Miles, Planning Policy Manager, for their work consulting on and producing the document. He asked, "May I ask the Northstowe & New Communities Portfolio Holder kindly to acknowledge receipt of the 'Joint Vision for Cambridge's

Quarter-to-Six Quadrant [QTSQ]', prepared by the Parish Councils of Barton, Coton, Grantchester and Madingley after an extensive public consultation exercise, and to confirm that it will henceforth have the status of a Material Planning Consideration for the relevant area?". As a supplementary question, he asked, "Can I also ask the Northstowe & New Communities Portfolio Holder to note the amount of hard work and commitment shown by the authors of the QTSQ joint vision document, and to commend it as an excellent example of localism in action?"

Tim Wotherspoon, Northstowe Portfolio Holder, expressed his delight at the final document, and confirmed that, as it concerned itself with planning issues and had been subject to widespread public consultation, it would serve as a material planning consideration in many circumstances, noting that as long as all material planning considerations had been taken into account, it was up to the decision-maker to determine what weight to give any consideration as long as the decision fell within the bounds of being logical and rational. He praised the quality of work, depth of research, congratulated the residents who had produced it, and commended it to councillors. He encouraged other villages to contact officers to ensure that their development aspirations could be incorporated into the emerging Local Plan.

**19 (b) From Cllr Deborah Roberts to the Leader of Council**

Councillor Deborah Roberts asked, "The recent Conservative election leaflets talked much about the controlling groups plans to start a large program of building new council housing , can the PH please inform the council where exactly these are going to be built ."

Councillor Mark Howell, Housing Portfolio Holder, replied that work on the draft strategy was underway and should be coming to him for a decision in November 2012. He encouraged members to come forward with proposals for sites in their wards. In response to Councillor Roberts' supplementary question, Councillor Howell confirmed that council houses were being built, but due to the demand for social housing, registered social landlords and housing associations would also be needed to help provide dwellings.

**19 (c) From Cllr Sally Hatton to the Leader of Council**

Councillor Sally Hatton asked, "I am pleased to note that our new Housing Revenue Account Business Plan includes provision for a much-needed new-build council housing programme. Please will the Leader inform Council:

- when the process of deciding how the details (locations, size profile, energy performance standards, inclusion of renewable micro-generation, etc.) of the new-build programme will be matched to housing and environmental needs will begin;
- what opportunities councillors and the general public will have to be involved in this process; and
- how this authority will proceed if, as a result of the housing needs assessment, we conclude that the size of new-build programme we need is such that to implement it fully requires a relaxation of the finance cap that has been set by the Secretary of State under section 171 of the Localism Act 2011?"

Councillor Mark Howell, Housing Portfolio Holder, replied that Northstowe was a likely location, but the Council would be looking at all villages and exploring options for exception sites. The design specifics would be considered in the usual manner through consultation and the planning process, through which local members and parish councils would be able to respond. There was no immediate prospect of the financial cap being lifted, and the Council would ensure that resources were being used as efficiently as

possible.

Councillor Howell undertook to provide the above response in writing and, in response to Councillor Hatton's supplementary question that a special committee be established, explained that this suggestion had not previously been contemplated but that he would consider options for wider member engagement in this area in due course.

The Chairman reminded members that standing orders allowed one question on notice per member, not a multi-part question.

## **20. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Chairman's engagements, with the addition of the attendance of the Vice-Chairman at the St Ives Mayor-Making ceremony on 16 May 2012, were **NOTED**.

The Chairman led a round of applause to thank Holly Adams, Democratic Services Team Leader, who would be leaving the District Council in June 2012, for her support over the past decade.

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**The Meeting ended at 3.42 p.m.**

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