

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth on Thursday, 21 September 2006 at 7.00pm**

PRESENT: *Councillors Mrs C.P.A. Strong (Chairman), A. Bardett (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A.G. Ashley, D.J. Barnard, Liz Beardwell, David Billing, Judi Billing, John Bishop, Monica Bloxham, Simon Bloxham, Tom Brindley, P.C.W. Burt, Paul Clark, J.M. Cunningham, Melissa Davey, Tricia Gibbs, Jane Gray, Gary Grindal, Fiona Hill, T.W. Hone, A.F. Hunter, R.E. Inwood, Sal Jarvis, Steve Jarvis, David Kearns, Joan Kirby, Marilyn Kirkland, I.J. Knighton, David Levett, Bernard Lovewell, M.R.M Muir, Elliot Needham, Lawrence Oliver, M. Paterson, Diane Proudlove, Deepak Sangha, R.L. Shakespeare-Smith, F.J. Smith, Martin Stears, R.A.C. Thake, M.E. Weeks, Sarah Wren and A.D. Young*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Chief Executive, Strategic Director of Financial & Regulatory Services, Strategic Director of Customer Services, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Democratic Services Manager and Senior Committee and Member Services Officer.*

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lorna Kercher, Lawrence McNamara, H.M. Marshall, D. Miller, Mrs L.A. Needham and D. Sheard.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

40. ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET – 25 JULY 2006 – THE ELECTION CYCLE IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

The Council considered the minute of the meeting of Cabinet held on 25 July 2006, in respect of the Election Cycle in North Hertfordshire (Minute 47 refers). A copy of the report considered by Cabinet was included with the agenda.

The Chairman announced that there had been no referral from the Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Election Cycle in North Hertfordshire. However, the Scrutiny Committee had raised a number of questions on the matter. These questions had been answered by the Portfolio Holder for Policy, and the full list of questions and answers had been circulated to Members in order to assist them in the debate upon the matter.

The Chairman advised that, under the Local Government Act 1972, a change to the election cycle required a resolution to be passed by the Council. Two-thirds of the Membership voting on the motion must vote in favour of the motion for it to be agreed. The requirement was that the total amount of votes upon which the two-thirds would be calculated meant votes for and against the motion only, and not abstentions.

The following motion was moved by Councillor A.D. Young and seconded by Councillor T.W. Hone:

“That under the provision of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council requests the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to provide for a system of whole Council elections, and to amend the electoral cycle so that elections are held every four years.”

During the ensuing debate, a number of Members participated, some speaking in favour of the motion and others against it. In summing up the motion, Councillor A.D. Young thanked all those who had taken part in the debate.

In accordance with Standing Order 16.5, Councillor F.J. Smith asked for a recorded vote to be taken on the motion.

(Voting:

For: Councillors A. Bardett, Liz Beardwell, Judi Billing, John Bishop, Tricia Gibbs, Jane Gray, T.W. Hone, R.E. Inwood, Sal Jarvis, S.K. Jarvis, Marilyn Kirkland, I.J. Knighton, M.R.M. Muir, Lawrence Oliver, Diane Proudlove, Deepak Sangha, R.A.C. Thake, M.E. Weeks & A.D. Young – 19.

Against: Councillors Mrs A.G. Ashley, D.J. Barnard, David Billing, Monica Bloxham, Simon Bloxham, Tom Brindley, P.C.W. Burt, Paul Clark, J.M. Cunningham, Melissa Davey, Gary Grindal, Fiona Hill, A.F. Hunter, David Kearns, Joan Kirby, David Levett, Bernard Lovewell, Elliot Needham, M. Paterson, R. Shakespeare-Smith, F.J. Smith, Martin Stears, Mrs C.P.A. Strong & Sarah Wren – 24.

The amendment was lost.)

REASON FOR DECISION: To determine that the election cycle in North Hertfordshire remains unchanged.

41. ANY REFERENCES FROM THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2006 CONCERNING THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

There had been no references from the Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Electoral Cycle in North Hertfordshire.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm.

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Chairman