

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City on Thursday, 20 April 2006 at 7.30p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs L.A. Needham (Chairman), Mrs C.P.A. Strong (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. A.G. Ashley, A. Bardett, D.J. Barnard, J.F. Barry, David Billing, Judi Billing, S. Bloxham, Paul Clark, J.M. Cunningham, Tricia Gibbs, Gary Grindal, A.R. Hartley, Fiona Hill, T.W. Hone, A.F. Hunter, Sal Jarvis, S.K. Jarvis, David Kearns, Lorna Kercher, Mrs A. Kingman, Mrs J.I. Kirby, Marilyn Kirkland, I.J. Knighton, Lawrence McNamara, Ian Mantle, H.M. Marshall, D.Miller, M.R.M. Muir, Lawrence Oliver, M. Paterson, Derek Sheard, F.J. Smith, Martin Stears, R.A.C. Thake and M.E. Weeks.

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

98. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P.C.W. Burt, D.J. Horrell, R.E. Inwood, D. Miller, Deepak Sangha, Ms S.J. Wren and A.D. Young.

99. MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor F.J. Smith, seconded by Councillor Tricia Gibbs, and

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 March 2006 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment to the resolution contained in Minute 95 – Item referred from Cabinet – 28 February 2006 – Implementation of ‘Alcohol Free’ Zone for Royston:-

After the word “That”, insertion of the words “, subject to the use of a map which provides a more clearly definable boundary to the zone,.....”.

100. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No additional items were presented for consideration by the Council.

101. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

102. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Former District Councillors Roger McFall & Tim Doyle and County Councillor Robert Ellis

The Chairman had the sad duty to report that former District Councillors Roger McFall & Tim Doyle and County Councillor Robert Ellis had all passed away recently. Members of the Council stood and observed a minute’s silence.

(2) Councillors standing down at May 2006 District Council Elections

The Chairman announced that Councillors J.F. Barry, D.J. Horrell, Sandra Lunn and Karry Omer were all standing down at the forthcoming District Council Elections and that Councillor F.R.B. Wordsworth had recently resigned his seat.

On behalf of the Council, she thanked them all for their many years' service to the Council and their electorate.

(3) Barbara Oakes – Long Service Award

The Chairman informed the Council that Barbara Oakes had joined North Hertfordshire District Council in April 1981 as a Repairs Programmer in the Housing Department. She progressed through the Department and became the Repairs Administration Manager in April 1991 and, since March 2000, had been the Facilities Manager in Property Services. During her time at NHDC Barbara had been involved in a variety of projects and had worked with many different sections of the Authority, making her both a well known and well respected member of staff.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor F.J. Smith, and

RESOLVED: That the Council place on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Barbara Oakes for her long and valuable service to Local Government in North Hertfordshire.

(4) Hitchin – Fairtrade status

The Chairman was pleased to report that Hitchin had been awarded the status of a Fair Trade town. It was the first town in Hertfordshire to have been awarded such status, and it was noted that Letchworth Garden City was working towards achieving the award.

(5) Cabinet Meeting – 25 April 2006

The Chairman asked all Cabinet Members to note that, due to the Council Chamber being used for Elections work, the meeting of the Cabinet to be held on Tuesday, 25 April 2006 would now take place in Committee Room 1.

103. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No items were presented for consideration by the Council under public participation.

104. ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET - 28 MARCH 2006 – SPORTS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Council considered the draft Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28 March 2006 in respect of the proposed new Sports Development Strategy (Minute 197 refers). The report considered by the Cabinet was attached, together with the following appendix:

Appendix 1 – Sports Development Strategy: Executive Summary

It was moved by Councillor Tricia Gibbs, seconded by Councillor F.J. Smith, and

RESOLVED: That the Sports Development Strategy 2006-2009 be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISION: The Sports Development Strategy helps the Council meet its strategic objectives to promote first class leisure and cultural facilities to contribute to healthy living for all our citizens; and to target resources at areas of disadvantage in the District to reduce social exclusion and improve the quality of life for everyone.

105. ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET – 28 MARCH 2006 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT

The Council considered the draft Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28 March 2006 in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy 2006/07 (Minute 197 refers). The report considered by the Cabinet was attached, together with the following appendices:-

Appendix A – Treasury Management Policy Statement
Appendix B – Treasury Management Practices
Appendix C – Treasury Strategy Statement

It was moved by Councillor T.W. Hone, seconded by Councillor F.J. Smith, and

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Strategy Statement for 2006/07, as at Appendix C to the report, be adopted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management.

106. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

107. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Due notice having been given in accordance with Standing Order 11.1., it was moved by Councillor Martin Stears, seconded by Councillor Judi Billing and, following debate, was

RESOLVED: That North Hertfordshire District Council expresses its concern at

- the decline of local services and facilities which affects local communities and in particular the elderly and people on the lowest incomes;
- the resulting decline of local jobs and local economies and the resulting extra traffic and pollution caused by the need to travel further.

It supports the concept of local sustainability as envisaged in the Sustainable Communities Bill, namely;

- the promotion of local economies
- the promotion of local services and facilities
- the protection of the environment
- the reduction of social exclusion and
- measures to increase involvement in the democratic process

It therefore welcomes the Sustainable Communities Bill which, if passed, could have an extremely positive impact on the communities of North Hertfordshire by:

- requiring the government to assist councils and communities in promoting local sustainability in ways decided by those councils and communities; and
- setting up a participative process whereby councils and communities can drive the way in which government uses its power and influence to assist with the promotion of local sustainability; and
- taking an approach which does not impose any new duties on councils but instead enables them to influence how government uses its resources and influence to help councils and communities.

The Leader of the Council is therefore requested to write to the three local MPs asking them to support the Bill and to sign EDM (Early Day Motion) No. 641 if they have not already done so."

The meeting closed at 8.12p.m.

Chairman