

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL**17 July 2003
6.00pm – 9.40pm

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor White), Deputy Mayor (Councillor Callaghan), Councillors Adey, Adigun-Harris, Bagnall, Bailey, Baker, Bell, Benstead, Blencowe, Boyce, Bradnack, Coleman, Dixon, Downham, Dryden, Durrant, Ellis-Miller, Harrison, Hart, Hipkin, Howarth, Howell, Hughes, James, Liddle, Nimmo-Smith, Reid, Rosenstiel C, Rosenstiel J, Schofield, Smart, Smith J, Smith R, Stebbings, Stuart, Taylor, Todd-Jones and Ward.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

03/44 MINUTES

The minutes of the annual meeting and a special meeting of the Council held on 22 May of the Council were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

03/45 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pinnington, Slatter and Wright.

Midsummer Fair

The declaration of Midsummer Fair on the 18 June had been well attended by visiting Mayors and chairmen from across the county and by city councillors. On the Friday the Mayor attended the free rides for the disabled children.

Freedom of the City

On Tuesday 8 July, the Mayor had been joined by many members and former members of the Council at a ceremony to present the Freedom of the City to former Councillor Peter Cowell who had also served as Mayor on four occasions during thirty years of service to Cambridge. It had been a very moving occasion.

Summer Celebrations on Parker's Piece

The events held over the weekend of 12/13 July had been blessed with wonderful summer sunshine. The Mayor had met the many French stallholders with their traditional fare, the staff from the Council's Arts and Entertainments Services and he had enjoyed the music of the various pop groups.

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival Civic Service was to take place at Great St. Mary's Church on Sunday, 12 October at 9.30 a.m.

Charity Event

The first of the fund-raising events being organised on behalf of the Mayor's charities would take place on Friday, 24 October at the Guildhall. It would take the form of a concert and reception.

Declarations of interest

Cllr C Rosenstiel- Motion C : Current Voting System - as a member of the council of an organisation associated with the Electoral Reform Society

Cllr R Smith – 03/47 (Medium Term Strategy): as a Governor of Manor Community School

03/46 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr R Fox addressed the Council in relation to Tree Works Application 124/03, an application to fell 43 trees and replace them with shrubs, at St Collette's Preparatory School. The main points made by Mr Fox were:

- The applicant proposed to replace the native poplars with non-indigenous species.
- There were implications of the tree work for future development in the area and it would mean the loss of a significant green area.
- The reasons for carrying out the work appeared insufficient.
- As the work had already been approved he suggested that the felling could be phased so as to have less impact.

Cllr Baker, the Chair of Planning Committee, responded to Mr Fox and undertook to meet him to try to resolve his concerns.

03/47 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE WHICH ARE FOR ADOPTION

General Fund Revenue And Capital Final Outturn For 2002/03 And Budget Carry Forward Requests (The Leader)

Resolved (by 23 votes to 0)

To use £230,493 of reserves required to fully fund the carry forwards shown in Appendix A of the report to Strategy Scrutiny Committee on 7 July 2003

To fund capital scheme overspends in 2002/03 of £4,000 and to carry forward resources to fund rephrased capital spending of £256,000 from 2002/03 into 2003/04 as detailed in Appendix B of the report to Strategy Scrutiny Committee on 7 July 2003

The Medium Term Strategy (The Leader)

Councillor Howarth proposed, and Councillor Nimmo-Smith seconded, the following amendment:

‘Add under recommendation 6)

f) The Executive Councillor for Housing and Health for the following amendments to the capital programme:

- use of £1,683,042 of additional available capital receipts to extend the programme of repairs to Council owned stock,
- use of additional capital receipts to fund agreed revisions to the design for the refurbishment and extension of Rawlyn Court sheltered accommodation scheme, resulting in a total approved scheme cost of £1,763,092. As part of the scheme approve the acquisition of land at the rear of 50 Elfeda Road, subject to successful negotiations. ‘

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 25 votes to 0.

Resolved (by 24 votes to 0):

To agree the budget strategy and process for the 2004/05 budget cycle as outlined in section 13 [paragraphs 13.1 to 13.24 refer] and Appendix O of the MTS document.

In particular:

- a) that the net General Fund budget (after use of reserves) be limited to £15,841,120 at this stage [paragraph 13.19 refers];
- b) that the adjusted gross expenditure, for the purpose of calculating committee cash limits, should exclude in-term contractual / agreement obligations (IT and the Pools Management contracts); as identified in paragraphs 13.15.

To agree the revised General Fund revenue, funding and reserves projections as shown in Appendix G, and the associated decisions in section 8, of the MTS document. Specifically:-

Priority Policy Fund

- a) To agree to funding of £500,000 per annum commencing in 2004/05. Paragraphs 8.39 to 8.42 refer.

New Revenue Bids and requests from Committees

- a) Approve the recommendation from the Executive Councillor for Housing

and Health, for the continuation of the Home Safety Initiative, as detailed in the report to be considered at their meeting on 9 July 2003.

To authorise the Director of Finance to calculate final cash limits for committees based on the decisions taken in this report, based on the method shown in Appendix P.

Revenue - HRA

To express support for the HRA budget process and strategy as outlined in Section 13 [paragraphs 13.22 to 13.23 refer] and Appendix H.

Capital

Agree the revised Capital Plan as shown in Appendix K [paragraphs 12.9 to 12.10 also refer], and the funding as shown in Appendix J [paragraphs 12.5 to 12.8 also refer] of the MTS document.

Approve the new capital bids and changes received from spending committees in the current cycle, as shown in Table 16 [paragraphs 11.4 to 11.13 also refer] and profiling changes since last reported [Appendix M refers].

In particular, to approve recommendations from:

- a) The Executive Councillors for Commercial and Human Resources and Strategy for:
 - the advance purchase of a refuse vehicle, already included in the Capital Plan, at a cost of £95,000 funded from existing repair and renewals funds, and
 - the installation of audio conferencing equipment in the Guildhall at a cost of £28,000 funded from existing repair and renewal funds.
- b) The Executive Councillor for Environment to transfer £20,000 of capital funding to revenue for a recycling pilot project.
- c) The Executive Councillor for Community Development & Leisure for new schemes, mainly funded from S106 contributions, including the following:
 - Coleridge & Kings Hedges Recreation Grounds Skateboard areas, at a cost of £100,000, funded wholly from S106
 - King George V Playing Field – football, basketball and all weather area at a cost of £29,000 with £21,000 funded from S106 contributions and £8,000 from repair and renewal funds
 - King George V Playing Field – refurbishment of play area at a cost of £78,000 funded from S106 contributions.
- d) The Leader regarding the computerisation of land charges project, where the project appraisal reflects changes in requirements which have become

apparent as more detailed work has been undertaken on the project. The costs for this scheme are being recovered through fee increases relating to land charges and building control, hence there is no net effect on funding.

- e) The Capital Plan includes a scheme for improvements to Queen Anne Terrace Car Park (SC161). Preparatory works included structural testing which has identified the need for immediate remedial works. Initial estimates suggest that this could be in the region of £900,000. Once the costs have been finalised approval for the works may be required over the summer period, under urgency powers. If this is the case it is proposed that funding initially be allocated from uncommitted capital funding remaining, where it cannot be met from existing repair and renewal provisions.

- f) The Executive Councillor for Housing and Health for the following amendments to the capital programme:

- use of £1,683,042 of additional available capital receipts to extend the programme of repairs to Council owned stock,
- use of additional capital receipts to fund agreed revisions to the design for the refurbishment and extension of Rawlyn Court sheltered accommodation scheme, resulting in a total approved scheme cost of £1,763,092. As part of the scheme approve the acquisition of land at the rear of 50 Elfeda Road, subject to successful negotiations. ‘

Approve the changes to the Counterparty List [paragraph 6.12 and 6.13 and Appendix C refer].

03/48 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES WHICH ARE FOR ADOPTION

03/CIV/36 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MEMBERS ALLOWANCES) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2003

Councillor C Rosenstiel, under procedure Rule 27, with the support of Councillor Strebbings, sought the Council's permission to withdraw the motion as the Government has put back the date for Councils to approve new allowances schemes from 30 September to 31 December 2003.

On a show of hands the Council signified its consent.

Resolved that the recommendations by the Civic Affairs Committee be withdrawn as the Government had put back the date for Councils to approve new allowances schemes from 30 September to 31 December 2003.

03/49 ORAL QUESTIONS**Question**

1 Is the City Council planning to invest significant amounts of money on improvements in Cherry Hinton High Street, if so how much and on what?

Question by

Councillor Howell

Answer by

Councillor Howarth

2 What was the outcome of consultation with local residents about using space under the Elizabeth Way bridge for a project to support the City's Homeless and rough sleepers Strategy

Councillor Howell

Councillor Nimmo-Smith

03/50 MOTION A: REPLACEMENT OF LEADER

Councillor Howarth proposed and Councillor C Rosenstiel seconded the following motion:

'This Council resolves that Councillor Nimmo-Smith replaces Councillor Howarth as Leader of the Council.'

Under paragraph 13.7.1 of the Council Procedure Rules it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Resolved (by 24 votes to 10) to agree the motion as above.

03/50 MOTION B: PORTFOLIO AND COMMITTEE CHANGES

Councillor Nimmo-Smith proposed and Councillor Baker seconded the following motion:

'This Council resolves that:

- (a) Councillor Smart replaces Councillor Nimmo-Smith as Executive Councillor for Housing and Health
- (b) Councillor Schofield replaces Councillor Smart as Chair of Strategy Scrutiny Committee
- (c) Councillor Adey replaces Councillor Taylor as Vice-Chair of Civic Affairs Committee
- (d) The following changes are made to membership of the Council's committees and other bodies:

- (i) Strategy Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Coleman replaces Councillor Smart
- (ii) Housing and Health Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Pinnington replaces Councillor Smart

- (iii) Civic Affairs Committee. Councillor Adey replaces Councillor Taylor as a full member. Councillor Reid replaces Councillor Adey as the Liberal Democrat alternate member.
- (iv) Cambridge Environment & Transport Area Joint Committee. Councillor Reid replaces Councillor Howarth as a full member. Councillor Schofield replaces Councillor Reid as the Liberal Democrat alternate member.
- (v) Chief Officer Performance Review Working Party. Councillor Nimmo-Smith becomes Chair and Councillor Howarth becomes Vice-Chair.
- (vi) Equalities Panel. Councillor Schofield replaces Councillor Smart.
- (vii) Housing Performance Monitoring Panel. Councillor Ellis-Miller replaces Councillor Smart as a member of the Panel. Councillor Pinnington replaces Councillor Smart as its Vice-Chair.
- (viii) Housing Management Board. Councillor James replaces Councillor Smart.

Under paragraph 13.7.1 of the Council Procedure Rules it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Councillor Bradnack proposed and Councillor Durrant seconded the following amendment:

‘(a) Councillor Bagnall replaces Councillor Nimmo-Smith as Executive Councillor for Housing and Health.’

On a show of hands, 23 members voted in favour of Councillor Smart and 12 in favour of Councillor Bagnall as Executive Councillor for Housing and Health.

Resolved (by 24 votes to 0) to agree the motion as above.

Councillor Ward declared a personal interest as a landlord of a property in Romsey.

03/51 **MOTION C: SYSTEM OF VOTING**

Councillor C Rosenstiel proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded the following motion:

‘This Council believes that the current voting system acts as a barrier to participation in local democracy. Unjustified outcomes, such as:

- * entrenched one-party dominance
- * greatly exaggerated majorities
- * parties winning over-all control with fewer votes than their opponents
- * safe seats with no credible electoral competition
- * feed the belief that voting doesn't make a difference.

In contrast, more representative councils would be more involving of and more

accountable to local communities.

The Council notes the Scottish Executive's proposal to introduce voting reform for local government and the Assembly's consideration of similar reforms in Wales.

It therefore calls on the government to take steps to introduce a more representative voting system for local government in England.'

Under paragraph 13.7.1 of the Council Procedure Rules it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Resolved (by 25 votes to 10) to agree the motion as above.

(Councillor James declared an interest as a member of the 'Make Local Votes Count' campaign.)

03/52 **MOTION D: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Councillor Bagnall proposed and Councillor Bradnack seconded the following motion:

'This Council believes that efforts to combat anti-social behaviour by its own officers and in partnership with other agencies are making an important contribution to the well-being of the people of Cambridge. It welcomes the support given to those efforts by the Labour Government in its legislation on anti-social behaviour, and regrets that the Liberal Democrat party has voted against this legislation.'

Under paragraph 13.7.1 of the Council Procedure Rules it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Councillor Howarth proposed and Councillor Hipkin seconded the following amendment:

To delete all after 'the people of Cambridge.' and insert:

'It welcomes some of the measures contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill, including those relating to the closing down of crack houses, parenting contracts, firearms, noise, graffiti, fly-posting, and fly-tipping. It expresses reservations, however, about placing extra responsibilities on teachers, especially without guaranteeing extra resources to schools, and about the lack of any connection in the demoted tenancies scheme between eviction and the occurrence of further anti-social behaviour.

Furthermore, noting the report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights and the views of the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Council opposes the Bill's proposals for dispersal orders.'

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 25 votes to 11.

Resolved (by 26 votes to 0) that this Council believes that efforts to combat anti-social behaviour by its own officers and in partnership with other agencies are making an important contribution to the well-being of the people of Cambridge. It welcomes some of the measures contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill, including those relating to

the closing down of crack houses, parenting contracts, firearms, noise, graffiti, fly-posting, and fly-tipping. It expresses reservations, however, about placing extra responsibilities on teachers, especially without guaranteeing extra resources to schools, and about the lack of any connection in the demoted tenancies scheme between eviction and the occurrence of further anti-social behaviour.

Furthermore, noting the report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights and the views of the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Council opposes the Bill's proposals for dispersal orders.

03/53 MOTION E: COUNCILLOR PINNINGTON

Councillor Adigun-Harris proposed and Councillor Callaghan seconded the following motion:

'This Council:

- (1) notes that Councillor Pinnington is at present unable to attend Council and committee meetings by reason of her ill-health;
- (2) formally approves, for the purposes of section 85, Local Government Act, 1972, Councillor Pinnington's ill-health as the reason she is unable to attend meetings; and
- (3) sends its best wishes to Councillor Pinnington for an early and full recovery

Resolved (unopposed) to agree the motion as above.

03/54 TO RECEIVE RECORDS OF DECISIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEES WHICH ARE FOR INFORMATION

The Council received the records of decisions made by Executive Councillors and information minutes.

03/55 TO NOTE THE RECORD OF MEMBERS' ATTENDANCES AT COMMITTEE, SUB-COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS DURING 2002/2003

The Council noted the information circulated.

The Council concluded its business at 9.40pm.

Mayor