

COUNCIL

22 April 2010

18:00 – 22:50

Present: Councillors McPherson (Chair), Stuart (Vice-Chair), Baker, Al Bander, Benstead, Bick, Blackhurst, Blair, Blencowe, Boyce, Cantrill, Dixon, Dryden, Ellis-Miller, Hart, Herbert, Howell, Kerr, Kightley, Levy, McGovern, Newbold, Nimmo-Smith, Pitt, Reid, Rosenstiel, Sanders, Shah, Smart, Taylor, Todd-Jones, Upstone, Walker, Ward, Wright and Zmura

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**1 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2010**

It was noted that Councillor Armstrong had been missed of the list of apologies for the meeting of 25 February 2010.

With this minor correction, the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 February 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

2 Mayors Announcements**1. APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from Councillors Hipkin, Lynn and Smith.

2. CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

On 6th April, the Mayor attended the Citizenship Ceremony held at Shire Hall. He had been invited by the Chairman of the County Council to observe the Ceremony and also had the opportunity to meet the new citizens and their families afterwards.

3. REACH FAIR

Members had received invitations to attend the annual Proclamation of Reach Fair which this year takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, 3rd May.

4. ELECTIONS

Councillors Ben Bradnack, Jennifer Liddle and Diane Armstrong had tendered their resignations from the Council. The Mayor paid tribute to Councillor Bradnack who was first elected in 1992 and had given eighteen years of service including leading the Labour group for a period. Councillor Liddle first became a councillor in 2000 and she would be remembered for the time and commitment she gave to the Mayorality when she served as Mayoress to Jenny Bailey as well as her work on council committees. The Mayor also extended the Council's appreciation for the contribution of Councillor Armstrong who became a councillor in 2004 for West Chesterton Ward.

The Mayor reported that Councillors Miriam Lynn, Neale Upstone, Alan Baker and Sarah Ellis-Miller had decided not to stand for re-election and he thanked them for the service that they had given to the Council. He commended Councillor Baker for his knowledge and commitment as Chair of the Planning Committee and said that his expertise would be missed.

The Mayor wished those Councillors standing for re-election well. Several Members spoke to express their appreciation and gratitude to these Councillors for all their hard work and dedication.

5. BRIDGE FAIR, CITY OF SZEGED

The annual Bridge Fair in Cambridge's twin City of Szeged would take place during the weekend of 21/23 May and the City Council would be represented by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sheila Stuart, her husband, Bruce, and an employee from the City's Tourist Information Centre.

6. CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The Council's annual meeting would take place on Thursday, 27th May.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
Hart	7	Personal Interest: Works on the NIAB site.
Kightley	7	Personal Interest: Employed by NIAB
McGovern	6	Personal Interest: Work colleague is a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
Ward	8a 8c	Personal Interest: As a user of Cambridge Airport
Shah	8a 8c	Personal Interest: As a member of the Airport Consultative Committee
Hart	8a 8c	Personal Interest: As a member of the Airport Consultative Committee
Dryden	8a 8c	Personal Interest: As a member of the Airport Consultative Committee

3 Public Questions Time - see at the foot of the agenda for details of the scheme

Mr Paul Harvey addressed the Council and asked the following questions to the Leader:

- What were the distribution costs on 'Cambridge Matters' for issues 1,7,10 and 12?
- Why are there no costs for print subsidy on issues on 16 and 17?
- Why does public sector advertising increase when private sector ads decrease?
- Why was the Council told that the contracts of Manning and Bright were the same when they are radically different?
- Why has the Council not given a total budget for advertising in 'Cambridge Matters' as the figure of £755 is clearly meaningless?
- Will you unreservedly condemn the spending of £200,000 in 2009 by the County Council on their magazine, 'Your Cambridgeshire Magazine'?
- You were invited to a meeting with the CEO, Herbert and Howell last year to discuss 'Cambridge Matters'. Do you accept or decline that offer?
- Why do you think 'Cambridge Matters' has contributed to a negligible increase in recycling since 2004?
- Last year the budget for marketing was £650,000. What is it this year?

In response the Leader stated that, as Mr Harvey had not supplied his questions in advance, it would be very difficult to address them in detail without further consultation with Council officers.

He agreed to look into any information put forward by Mr Harvey and would be willing to meet him to discuss these issues in more detail.

The Leader said that the purpose of 'Cambridge Matters' was to inform and educate the people of Cambridge. The magazine could not be judged in purely commercial terms.

Mr Harvey stated that he would be willing to meet the Leader and hoped that Councillors Herbert, Howell and the Chief Executive would also be able to attend.

He again emphasised that he felt that 'Cambridge Matters' was a failure, and that there was no evidence that it had any positive affect on recycling rates in Cambridge.

The Leader confirmed that there had been a rising trend in recycling and he felt that 'Cambridge Matters', along with other measures, had had a positive impact.

4 Future Senior Management Structure of the Council

Member's attention was drawn to a slight amendment regarding financial implications on page 40 of the agenda pack. A revised version was circulated around the Chamber.

Councillors Blencowe, Benstead and Dryden raised concern that the Chief Executive and not an elected Member of the Council was presenting the report and the recommendations contained within it.

In response the Chief Executive said that, as the Council's Head of Paid Service, it was appropriate for her to make recommendations direct to the Council on its senior management staffing structure.

Advice from the Head of Legal Services supported this.

The Leader thanked the officers and the Chief Executive for their work on this issue. The Liberal Democrat Group wholeheartedly supported the Chief Executive in her suggested approach.

Councillor Herbert welcomed the report and agreed with the need for the restructure. He felt that a leaner management structure would result in more efficient use of taxpayer's money. He did however state the need for sport to remain high on the council's agenda, especially with the 2012 Olympics and the health benefits associated with sport.

Councillor Wright emphasised the need for equality and a 'level playing field' in the recruitment process. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Directors posts would be appointed by the Appointments Sub-Committee, and assured Councillor Wright that a fair approach would be taken.

In response to a question from Councillor Bick, it was confirmed that the Chief Executive and Directors would appoint the Heads of Service posts.

Councillor Shah welcomed the report and supported the recommendations. He stated that, on the appointment of the new Chief Executive, Members had acknowledged that staffing structures would need to be streamlined, and all had shown support for this approach.

Resolved (by 25 votes to 0) that:

That the Council approves the restructuring proposals set out in the report including:

a) the deletion of the following posts at Director level: Director of City Services, Director of Community Services, Director of Customer and Democratic Services, Director of Environment and Planning, Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer); and

b) the creation of the following new posts at Director level: Director of Customer and Community Services, Director of Environment and Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer).

c) the deletion of the following posts at head of service level:

- Head of Active Communities
- Head of Arts and Entertainment
- Head of Development Services
- Head of Policy and Projects
- Head of Parking

Head of Streetscene
Head of Waste and Fleet
Head of Environmental Services
Head of Building Services
Head of Technical Services
Head of Customer & Business Support

d) the creation of the following new posts at head of service level:

Head of Arts and Recreation
Head of Planning
Head of Specialist Services
Head of Streets and Open Spaces
Head of Refuse and Environment
Head of Repairs and Maintenance
Head of Corporate Strategy

- That the Head of Legal Services is appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer.
- That the Chief Executive is given delegated powers to take all steps necessary to implement the new structure (other than those delegated to the Appointments Panel) including final determination of the Council's staffing structure below Director level.

5 To consider Recommendations of the Executive for adoption:

Terms of Reference for the Joint Development Control Committee (Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth)

RESOLVED (by 33 votes to 0)

- To approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Joint Development Control Committee as included in Appendix A of the officer's report.
- To agree that the Terms of Reference for the Joint Development Control Committee are kept under review and any proposals for revision brought back to Environment Scrutiny Committee when appropriate.

Economic Policy Grants (Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health)

Councillor Herbert highlighted the need for a single grants process with associated integrated administration.

The Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health agreed that there were benefits to a common approach and most grants were currently being administered under a single process. She did however stress the need for local grants to still be administered by Area Committees.

In response to a question from Councillor Blencowe, the Executive Councillor confirmed that there had been a loss of 0.5 of a post, but this had been fully covered in the Tranche 5 Report, which had been considered through the Scrutiny process.

RESOLVED (25 votes to 0)

- To transfer the budget for the Economic Policy Grant programme from the Director of Environment & Planning to the Director of Community Services, together with a staffing budget equivalent to half of a full time post to help to administer the programme.

6 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES FOR ADOPTION:

Civic Affairs (7 April)

Councillor Herbert stated that, according to the 2000 LGA survey, Executive Councillors at Cambridge City Council received higher allowances than many in the region. He said that the Council needed to respect the recommendations of the independent panel in setting the Members Allowances Scheme, as in too many cases they had been ignored.

Councillor Wright felt that a higher level of basic allowance would encourage a greater diversity of prospective Councillors, whilst Councillor Howell confirmed that he would like to see a reduction in Members allowances.

The Chair of the Civic Affairs Committee said that the reason for the recommendation was that the IRP had been unable to meet in time to make recommendations for adoption at this meeting, owing to difficulty in recruiting members. It would meet after the election to recommend a scheme for 2010/11.

RESOLVED (by 24 votes to 0)

- That the 2009/10 Members' Allowance Scheme be carried over into 2010/11, and that the Independent Remuneration Panel should meet following the election.

7 To deal with Oral Questions

1. Cllr Blencowe to the Executive Councillor for Waste and Environmental Services

What progress has been made in introducing recycling facilities onto our larger parks and open spaces?

2. Cllr Blair to the Leader of the Council

Does the Leader consider that the failure of the Labour Government to take forward the ideas developed with residents and put forward under the Sustainable Communities Act yet another disappointment for the residents of Cambridge?

3. Cllr Dryden to the Leader of the Council

Further to my efforts to persuade the council to restore the Trinity Church War Memorial and agreed at full council last year, has this now been completed?

4. Cllr Wright to the Leader of the Council

What costs have been incurred by the council as a result of taking advice on the council's possible liability to pay Stamp Duty Land Tax arising from the transactions relating to the Grand Arcade car park?

5. Cllr Walker to the Leader of the Council

Can the Leader make a statement tonight sharing what the Council knows about the causes and consequences of the fire at CB1?

6. Cllr Herbert to the Leader of the Council

What are the policies that his Group has agreed regarding the level and payment of Councillor allowances?

7. Cllr Herbert to the Leader of the Council

When will the repayment start of the Council's £5 million in the Iceland part of Landsbankii bank, what will be the first instalment, and how much of the city's £5 million is projected to be recovered?

8. Cllr Walker to the Leader of the Council

Have there been any problems in delivering polling cards this year?

9. Cllr Blencowe to the Executive Councillor for Housing

Would Councillor Smart agree that the national HRA subsidy system that councils across the country presently work within essentially derives from the 1989 Housing Act?

8 To consider the following Notices of Motions, notice of which has been given by:

Motion A

Councillor Dryden proposed and Councillor Newbold seconded the following motion:

Following news that Cambridge Airport is not available for the foreseeable future for housing, the City Council asks the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth to work with neighbouring authorities, the County Council and others to agree site selection criteria and consider alternative, additional sites in the city and the sub-region that will meet demanding standards for high quality transport and access, and deliver badly needed affordable housing and

sustainable communities. The Council also commits to building Sustainability Appraisal and deliverability analysis into future processes.

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

Councillor Nimmo-Smith proposed and Councillor Reid seconded the following amendment:

Delete all and replace with:

The Council believes that the collapse of negotiations between Marshall and the Labour government are a matter for dismay rather than celebration.

- It is bad news for the thousands on housing waiting lists that the major local source of additional housing post 2016 is now in question;*
- It is bad news for the Green Belt and the landscape setting of Cambridge if developers are now encouraged to seek new developments there;*
- It is bad news for those who have long commutes to Cambridge if alternative proposals for settlements far from the city's jobs would put more traffic on the roads;*
- It is bad news for the local Cambridge economy if house prices are driven up so that fewer workers can afford to live in or near Cambridge.*

Cambridge has been let down by the Labour government which has with the one hand firmly supported the Cambridge East plans and with the other failed to deliver the airport move.

The Council will therefore initiate a fresh strategic analysis of where and how housing might be delivered to satisfy the needs of residents and of the economy of the city, building upon work in hand.

As a first step, the Council instructs officers to seek urgent clarification from the Homes and Communities Agency, the Department for Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government as to their continuing commitment to addressing the housing needs of Cambridge.

RESOLVED: On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 22 votes to 9.

RESOLVED (by 22 votes to 8) that

The Council believes that the collapse of negotiations between Marshall and the Labour government are a matter for dismay rather than celebration.

- It is bad news for the thousands on housing waiting lists that the major local source of additional housing post 2016 is now in question;
- It is bad news for the Green Belt and the landscape setting of Cambridge if developers are now encouraged to seek new developments there;
- It is bad news for those who have long commutes to Cambridge if alternative proposals for settlements far from the city's jobs would put more traffic on the roads;
- It is bad news for the local Cambridge economy if house prices are driven up so that fewer workers can afford to live in or near Cambridge.

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Motion B

Councillor Blencowe proposed and Councillor Walker seconded the following motion:

The Council is concerned at the increasing number of Cambridge families with young children living in flats, including in parts of the city with inadequate open space.

The Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth is therefore asked to co-ordinate a clear strategy to improve open space and access for Cambridge residents, including

- targeting open space improvement in parts of city with major space deficits, including adding new smaller open spaces
- ending the practice where the Council allows developers nil contribution or commuted sums rather than deliver suitable open spaces
- investigating the conversion of derelict land to short or medium term open spaces
- restating its opposition to new transport routes being created over open spaces, including precious commons and meadows
- making the most of existing as well as new Strategic Open Spaces, including improving public transport and wider access to them, given that it is unlikely that all Strategic Open Spaces in council policy documents will ever be delivered.

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

Councillor Reid proposed and Councillor McGovern seconded the following amendment:

Delete all and replace with:

The City Council values the open spaces within Cambridge and their contribution to the setting, character, amenity and biodiversity of the city as well as to the quality of life of its residents. It is committed to improving existing open space as well to providing new areas of open space.

The City Council endorses the 2006 Local Plan policies, which seek to protect, enhance and provide open spaces.

The City Council further welcomes the forthcoming survey both of existing protected open spaces and of a number of open spaces, which have not previously been surveyed. This will be used as an evidence base for progressing Local Development Framework documents and to inform the reworking of the Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

The City Council will take the specification of this survey to its Development Plan Steering Group for approval.

RESOLVED: On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 22 votes to 8.

RESOLVED (by 22 votes to 0) that

The City Council values the open spaces within Cambridge and their contribution to the setting, character, amenity and biodiversity of the city as well as to the quality of life of its residents. It is committed to improving existing open space as well to providing new areas of open space.

The City Council endorses the 2006 Local Plan policies, which seek to protect, enhance and provide open spaces.

The City Council further welcomes the forthcoming survey both of existing protected open spaces and of a number of open spaces, which have not previously been surveyed. This will be used as an evidence base for progressing Local Development Framework documents and to inform the reworking of the Council's Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

The City Council will take the specification of this survey to its Development Plan Steering Group for approval.

Motion C

This Motion was withdrawn as it was to the same effect as the amendment to Motion A moved by Councillor Nimmo-Smith, which had been adopted by the Council.

9 To receive records of Urgent Decisions made by Members of the Executive (February - April)

The Council received the records of urgent decisions made by Executive Councillors as set out in the agenda.

10 To receive the records of Decisions and Minutes - these will be circulated at the Council meeting

Members noted the written questions and answers circulated around the Chamber and received the minutes of committees, which were for information.

The meeting ended at 22:50

CHAIR