

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

held in the Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough

14th May 2012

commencing at 6.30p.m.

Present:

Councillor Beaty (outgoing Chairman)
Councillor Everett (incoming Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs. Ackerley, Bannister, Beesley-Reynolds, Birch, Brodrick, Mrs. Burrell, Dann, Dewes, Dunton, Evans, Galton, Golding, Hall, Hallam, Dr. S. Hill, Holyoak, Johnson, King, Knowles, Liquorish, McHugo, Pain, Mrs. Robinson, Rook, Smith, Spendlove-Mason, Tomlin, Mrs. Tooley and Mrs. Wood.

Officer: A. Graves, B. Jolly, B. Murgatroyd, E. O'Neill, N. Proudfoot.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dr. Bremner, Mrs. Page and Mrs. Simpson.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2012/13

Nominations were invited for the election of the Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Everett was nominated by Councillor Pain and seconded by Councillor Spendlove-Mason. There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED that: Councillor Everett be elected Chairman of the Council for the year 2012/13.

2 INVESTITURE OF CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Everett was invested by the retiring Chairman with the Chain of Office. He then made and subscribed to the Statutory Declaration of Office and thanked Members for his appointment.

Councillor Everett took the Chair.

3 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING CHAIRMAN

Councillor Rook gave a vote of thanks to Councillor Beaty, the outgoing Chairman of the Council, for his work and service to the District during his year of Office. Councillor Rook stated that Councillor Beaty was an excellent advocate for the District and had conducted himself in a calm and approachable manner throughout his term.

Councillor Dann added words of thanks to the outgoing Chairman. Councillor Dann remarked on Councillor Beaty's tact and diplomacy during his year as Chairman.

The ex-Chairman's consort, Mrs. Beaty, was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

4 RESPONSE BY RETIRING CHAIRMAN

Councillor Beaty commented on the many enjoyable experiences he had had during his year as Chairman of the Council. He pointed out that the highlight of his year in Office had been the Visit of the Royal Anglian Regiment in March 2011.

Councillor Beaty thanked Officers for their help and support. He thanked the Council's Members for electing him to the position of Chairman.

5 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2012/13

Nominations were invited for the appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Mrs. Robinson was nominated by Councillor Mrs. Ackerley and seconded by Councillor Dewes. There being no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED that: Councillor Mrs. Robinson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the year 2012/13.

6 INVESTITURE OF VICE-CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF ACCPETANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Mrs. Robinson was invested by the Chairman with the Vice-Chairman's Chain of Office. She then made and subscribed to the Statutory Declaration of Office and thanked Members for her appointment.

7 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that:

- (i) the Chaplain for the 2012/13 year would be Rev. Jane Kennedy.
- (ii) a service for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be held at St. Dionysius Church, Market Harborough on 3rd June 2012.
- (iii) the Annual Civic Service will be held in St. Mary's Church, Lutterworth; there would be music from half past two and the service was due to begin at three o'clock.

8 ROTA OF MEETINGS FROM MAY 2012 TO MAY 2013

Members received and considered the draft rota of Meeting for the 2012/13 Council year.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Ackerley, seconded by Councillor Golding and

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the rota of Meetings for the 2012/13 Council year be adopted and implemented as set out at Appendix A to these Minutes.
- (ii) the start time of all Meetings be 6.30p.m, unless otherwise stated.

9 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None received.

10 ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS FOR THE YEAR 2012/13

Members received and noted Committee allocations made in line with the overall political balance of Harborough District Council for the 2012/13 year.

Members noted that the Council was composed of 27 Conservative Councillors, nine Liberal Democrat Councillors and one Independent Councillor.

The Political Balance document which was tabled at this meeting is attached at Appendix B to these Minutes.

11 APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 2012/13

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Ackerley, seconded by Councillor Spendlove-Mason and

RESOLVED: that the Scrutiny Commission be appointed and include the following Members:

Councillors Bannister, Beaty, Birch, Beesley-Reynolds, Dr. Bremner, Brodrick, Mrs. Burrell, Dewes, Evans, Graves, Hall, Hallam, Holyoak, Johnson, King, Knowles, McHugo, Mrs. Page, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Simpson, Smith, Mrs. Tooley and Mrs. Wood.

12 APPOINTMENT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEES/PANELS

Members received a document setting out appointments to Council Committees for the 2012/13 year. The Committee Allocations document which was tabled at this Meeting is attached at Appendix C to these Minutes.

Members noted that Councillor Birch's name appeared in the list of Members appointed to the Standards Committee. It was noted that this should be amended by Councillor Dunton's name appearing in place of Councillor Birch.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Ackerley, seconded by Councillor Spendlove-Mason and

RESOLVED: that the appointments to the Council Committees be adopted and implemented as set out at Appendix C to these Minutes, subject to the abovementioned amendment.

13 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor Rook, Leader of the Council, presented his report as set out below:

"How quickly times flies when you are enjoying yourself!

Looking back through the eyes of my Leader's Reports over the past 12 months has been a sobering experience. But the one over-riding thought I take from doing that is, that "*when times is hard, creative solutions are essential and that there is plenty of evidence that we are really quite good at doing that*".

In April last year we were just going into the Local Elections from which the Administration emerged with two extra Members. We had set ourselves a cracking pace of decision making in our new term.

An Interim Chief Executive had been recruited to investigate shared services, which later morphed into the Transformation Process. The prospect of moving to the St Luke's' site was unviable, and the costs of staying put at Adam & Eve Street first emerged, along with a community demand that the Council stayed put.

By May, Localism was all the watch-word and a General Power of Competence discussed. The LDF core strategy was moving towards completion, 106s changes, CiL and New Homes Bonus all began to cross our radar, for which we later began developing policies.

In July the Examination in Public of our LDF was found acceptable (although subject to a second round of consultation) and the Comprehensive Spending Review confirmed a further £620K worth of cuts to be added to the £800K odd of the previous year. In that report I had announced a complete review of the way the Council might collect waste in the future. We put in place consultant advice on the evaluation of the offices, we began talks with LCC about asset sharing, and we managed to embark upon the upgrade of the wet-side Leisure Centre. Acquisition of Land at Welham Lane was bogged down with valuations and negotiations.

Against a background of increasingly desperate financial crisis on the Continent, September saw us hard into the meat of the Transformation Reviews, and I began to talk here of efficiency and savings redesign, as well as Member comprehension of what was going on around us, of Scrutiny redesign, and the need for a mature knowledge-based community dialogue.

November's report bought Members back to the financial imperatives for the "Future Options" review, just in case through all the pressures of decision making, Members had forgotten. I

made mention too of the much improved working relationships with our Opposition on the strategic issues of the Transformation, which in spite of some later politicisation continues at senior levels at any rate, to hold respect. In this month too we finalised the Council's Vision, which has gone on to educate most of our subsequent thinking and management structures.

January 2012 put the budget gap in prospective which Transformation sought to address as well as the costs of doing it over 5 years, the Prize being; a protection for essential services delivery, much sought-after over strategic budget-based cuts of the previous year. Employment however could not be guaranteed at all levels. And so in February I reported the budget for 2012/13 and the "sweating of our assets" for the betterment of all our taxpayers.

Finally to this year-end Leader's report, in which the comments on April's report are perhaps still fresh enough in your mind, to pass over and lead onto tonight's, in the knowledge that the main issues of Waste, Land Acquisition, and Property are now diared for decision, completion and action. Tough decisions all from which I know this Administration will not flinch.

I pay particular attention to the opening of the HIC and its 24 commercial and business enterprises now in place, I would remark too on the huge issue of strategic realignment of the funding of Local Government towards local provision from Growth, which has come through increasingly strongly throughout the year, to the progress on the Rev and Bens shared service, to the progress made in so many areas of Planning, and to the professionalism and loyalty of all members of Staff in some very unsettling times. I welcoming our new Shared Heads of Service and I thank all the Members of my Group for their advice, loyalty and support, and very considerable hard work throughout the past year.

Cllr Michael Rook (Leader HDC)"

Councillor Rook stated that the Council's Executive would be composed of six Members with the following Portfolio responsibilities:

Portfolio	Portfolio Holder
Finance, Efficiency and Assets	Councillor Spendlove-Mason
Corporate Services	Councillor Dann
Health and Community	Councillor Pain
Regulatory and Safety	Councillor Golding
Planning, Environment and Conservation	Councillor Mrs. Ackerley
Business Growth	Councillor Rook

Members were advised by Councillor Rook that the following Councillors would be Champions for the following aspects of Council business:

Member	Role as Champion for
Councillor Beesley-Reynolds	Troubled Families
Councillor Bannister	Equality
Councillor Brodrick	Youth
Councillor Holyoak	Localism
Councillor King	Health
Councillor Rook	Broadband
Councillor Everett	Information and Communications Technology
Councillor Charlish	Climate Change

Councillor Rook announced Councillor Pain as the Deputy Leader of the Council.

14 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Ackerley, seconded by Councillor Spendlove-Mason and

RESOLVED that:

- (i) those representing the Council on outside bodies over the past year be thanked for their work on behalf of the Council;
- (ii) the Interim Chief Executive be given delegated authority to fill the vacancies, for the representatives on outside bodies, in consultation with the Group Whips.

Councillor Dunton referred to the Market Harborough and Bowdens Charity. Members noted that the Council's connection with this body was unclear. A. Graves, Chief Executive, stated that she would contact the body and report the results of her discussions to Members.

15 WRITTEN QUESTIONS OR PETITIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC

None submitted.

The Meeting ended at 7.15p.m.