

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2008

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Gill) (P) (in the Chair);

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Kimber) (P);

Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard (P), Burgess (P), Carr (P), Carter (P), Mrs Champion (P), Champion (P), Chegwyn (P), Clinton (P), Mrs Cully (P), Cully (P), Davis (P), Dickson (P), Edgar (P), Farr (P), Foster (P), Foster-Reed, Hicks (P), Hook (P), Jacobs (P), Langdon (P), Mrs Mudie (P), Philpott (P), Rigg (P), Mrs Salter, Mrs Searle (P), Smith (P), Taylor (P), Train (P), Ward (P), Mrs Wright (P) and Wright (P).

Also in attendance: Honorary Aldermen Mrs Bailey, Foster and O'Neill.

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

In order to express their sympathy regarding the recent death of Commander Ian Coulton, RN, Commanding Officer of Fort Blockhouse and Haslar Hospital, Members of the Council stood in silent tribute for one minute.

STANDING ORDERS 3.3.5 AND 4.15.1

The Mayor reported that Notices of Motion had been received under Standing Orders 3.3.5 and 4.15.1 by the Borough Solicitor.

The first Notice of Motion under Standing Order 3.3.5 requested that Standing Order 3.3.2 (Eight days' notice of Motion) be suspended to enable the following Notice of Motion to be considered by Council:

“Gosport Borough Council fully support the need for general aviation to continue from Daedalus airfield, so as to attract jobs and ensure the continued economic viability of the Daedalus site.”

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Standing Order 3.3.5 be moved to enable the suspension of Standing Order 3.3.2 so that the above Notice of Motion can be considered by Council.

The Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board moved under Standing Order 4.6.3 that this Motion be debated tonight as a matter of urgent need in the interests of the Borough prior to the last item on the agenda.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the above Motion be debated tonight as a matter of urgent need in the interests of the Borough prior to the last item on the agenda.

The second Notice of Motion under Standing Order 4.15.1 requested that the Chief Executive and the Environmental Services Manager be allowed to introduce their respective reports related to Corporate Equalities Policy, Race Equality Scheme 2007 – 2010 and Authorisation of Officers, Part 15 Gambling Act 2005.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Standing Order 4.15.1 be moved to enable the Chief Executive and Environmental Services Manager to introduce their respective reports related to Corporate Equalities Policy, Race Equality Scheme 2007 – 2010 and Authorisation of Officers, Part 15 Gambling Act 2005.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Salter and Honorary Alderman Hayward.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings of the Council held on 28 November and 12 December 2007 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

HASLAR "WAY FORWARD" DOCUMENT

The Mayor was pleased to announce that the Haslar Task Force "Way Forward" document had motivated an excellent response. This had not only been from local people but last week, the Town Hall had received 8 signatures of support

from Malta and one from Bermuda. This showed that the saving of Haslar Hospital was not just a local issue.

In view of the continuing widespread support for the contents of the document it had been decided to extend at least until March the final return date.

The Mayor thanked all those who had played a part in the production and distribution of the "Way Forward" document.

Members of the Council accordingly supported the action of the return date being extended until at least the end of March for responses to the Haslar Task Force "Way Forward" document.

QUESTION PURUSANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4

(A) Question No 1 standing in the name of Councillor Kimber on proposals for the Holbrook site was answered by the Leader of the Council.

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BOARDS

COUNCIL DWELLING RENTS 2008/2009

At its meeting on 23 January 2008, the Housing Board recommended:

That with effect from 7 April 2008:

- a) The average weekly Council Dwelling rents increase by 5.37%; and
- b) Garage, carports and parking lot rents increase by 5.00%.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2008 – 2009

At its meeting on 29 January 2008, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that:

The report be referred to Council for formal approval including the prudential indicators and limits within the report.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendation be approved and adopted.

COUNCIL BUDGET 2008/09

At its meeting on 29 January 2008, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that:

Council approve a revised 2007/08 budget totaling £12,302,210 and a budget for 2008/09 totalling £12,707,000.

MOTION: That the Policy and Organisation Board's (29 January 2008) recommendation for a revised 2007/08 budget and a budget for 2008/09 be approved and adopted.

AMENDMENT: That the Policy and Organisation Board's (29 January 2008) recommendation for a revised 2007/08 budget and a budget for 2008/09 be approved and adopted subject to a budget for 2008/09 totalling £12,608,000 representing a below inflation rise of 1.9%.

This to be made up as per the budget book with the following amendments

Re-instate parking charges in the short term town centre car parks	(300,000)
(To ensure parity with Lee-on-the-Solent)	
Reduce car parking charges to 50p per hour and £3 per day	62,000
Additional funding for one new Enforcement Officer	25,000
Revenue increase on Parking Fines	(25,000)
Introduce Voluntary kerbside collection of glass for recycling	65,000
Additional 25 dual litter/dog bins including installation	11,000
Additional funding for beach and foreshore cleaning	10,000
Replacement street name plates	15,000
50% increase to bus shelter repairs	6,000
Additional funding for ground maintenance for playgrounds	3,000
Educational and promotional material for Streetscene Enforcement	3,000

20 m.p.h. signs for all schools in Gosport (2 per school)	6,000
Implement next 10 Traffic Regulation Orders on safety grounds	10,000
Increase Travel Tokens by £1 (rate of inflation)	10,000
Reduce Tuesday market rent from £24.50 to £14.50 per stall	0

The balance of 99,000 being the difference from the original budget (£12,707,000) to the amended budget as set out above.

Upon the Amendment being put to the meeting, in accordance with Standing Order 4.12.4, it was requisitioned that the voting on the Amendment be recorded. A recorded vote was thereupon taken and the names of the Members voting for and against the Amendment and those abstaining were read to the Council as follows:

FOR THE AMENDMENT: The Deputy Mayor and Councillors Allen, Burgess, Carter, Mrs Champion, Champion, Clinton, Dickson, Edgar, Foster, Hook, Jacobs, Langdon, Philpott, Rigg, Taylor and Ward (17)

AGAINST THE AMENDMENT: Councillors Ms Ballard, Carr, Chegwyn, Mrs Cully, Cully, Davis, Farr, Hicks, Mrs Mudie, Mrs Searle, Smith, Train, Mrs Wright and Wright (14)

ABSTENTION: The Mayor

The Amendment was accordingly declared CARRIED.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Substantive Motion as amended be approved and adopted.

PART II MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following Part II Minutes be received:

Policy and Organisation Board: 29 January 2008 (Minute Nos. 59-66)

Community and Environment Board: 21 January 2008 (Minute Nos. 38 – 43)

Housing Board: 23 January 2008 (Minute Nos. 39 – 41)

CORPORATE EQUALITIES POLICY

The Chief Executive introduced his report on the above. The purpose of the report was to seek adoption of the Corporate Equalities Policy as the Council's framework equalities document replacing the previous Equality Plan 2003.

This policy ensured the Council met its legal obligations under relevant anti-discrimination legislation and Codes of Practice by setting out a more comprehensive approach to equality and diversity through explicit recognition of the Council's current statutory duties and commitments.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Corporate Equalities Policy be adopted.

RACE EQUALITY SCHEME 2007 – 2010

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive on the above.

The purpose of the report was to ensure Gosport Borough Council was addressing its legal duties and responsibilities under the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 by adopting a Race Equality Scheme which prohibits racial discrimination in the delivery of services and employment. Local Councils were required to produce a Race Equality Scheme and update that scheme every three years.

This Race Equality Scheme 2007 – 2010 updated the Council's previous scheme.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Race Equality Scheme 2007 – 2010 be adopted.

AUTHORISATION OF OFFICERS, PART 15 GAMBLING ACT 2005

The Environmental Services Manager introduced his report on the above. It was reported that the Gambling Act 2005 introduced control over premises used for gambling including a system of premises licences and permits issued by the Licensing Authority. The legislation provided for officers authorised under the Act to carry out a range of inspections to ensure compliance with the Act.

The recommendation to delegate the power to appoint authorised officers under the Gambling Act 2005 to the Environmental Services Manager was in

accordance with other similar powers delegated to that Manager under the Council's Constitution.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That -

- a) **an amendment to the delegations to the Environmental Services Manager to include the power to authorise officers as required by Section 304 (3) (b) Gambling Act 2005 be approved;**
- b) **an amendment to the Council's Constitution to identify the Head of Environmental Health as the appropriate person to initiate any enforcement action to be taken under the Gambling Act 2005 be approved; and**
- c) **the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make all necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution to give effect to Recommendations a) and b) above.**

NOTICE OF MOTION

It was reported that Councillor Burgess had given notice of the following Motion in accordance with Standing Order 3.3.5:

“Gosport Borough Council fully support the need for general aviation to continue from Daedalus airfield, so as to attract jobs and ensure the continued economic viability of the Daedalus site.”

The Motion was accordingly seconded by Councillor Hook.

COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That the Motion be approved.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2008-2009

The Council was informed that in accordance with Standing Order 2.4 the Borough Solicitor had written to Group Leaders and Members of the Council to invite Member nominations for the selection of Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for the next Municipal Year.

It was reported that one nomination each had been received by the Borough Solicitor; Councillor D R Kimber for Mayor-Elect and Councillor J Train for Deputy

Mayor-Elect for the 2008-2009 Municipal Year. The Council accordingly approved the nominations and Councillors Kimber and Train briefly returned thanks for their nominations.

The Council rose at 8.13pm