

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (P) (In the Chair);

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Carr) (P);

Councillors Allen (P), Mrs Bailey (P), Ms Ballard (P), Beavis (P), Bradley (P), Burgess (P), Carter (P), Champion (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Cully (P), Dickson (P), Edgar (P), Edwards (P), Mrs Forder (P), Forder (P), Foster-Reed (P), Geddes (P), Gill (P), Hicks (P), Hook (P), Hylands (P), Kimber (P), Langdon (P), Mrs Mitchell-Smith (P), Mrs Mudie (P), Murphy (P), Philpott (P), Smith, Ward (P), Miss West (P) and Wright (P).

Also in attendance: Honorary Aldermen O'Neill, and Searle.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Smith and Honorary Aldermen Foster, Hayward and Lucas.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings of the Council held on 22 July 2009 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

(A) FRANCES ALLAN, DIRECTOR, ROYAL HOSPITAL HASLAR

The Mayor reported that she had the pleasurable task of handing a Borough Council Plaque to Frances Allan, Director, Royal Hospital Haslar for her hard work and commitment to the future of the Royal Hospital Haslar site.

Before the Mayor handed the Plaque over she requested Councillor Edgar to give Councillors some background to the Director's work. Councillor Edgar stated that Frances Allan was the personification of the special relationship that the Borough Council had always had with the Royal Hospital Haslar. She had done a magnificent job following previous Commanding Officers of the calibre of Ian Jenkins, Guy Ratcliffe, Lionel Jarvis and James Campbell. She always behaved in a thoroughly professional manner through the necessary disposal of the site and the hundreds of staff which needed to be re-settled; she did the latter in a positive, helpful and compassionate manner. She had always been helpful and co-operative with all her dealings with the Borough Council.

The Mayor handed the Borough Council Plaque to Frances Allan who responded briefly.

(B) CARBON TRUST AWARD

Councillor Mrs Cully, the Council's Carbon Trust Programme Champion, presented to the Mayor a Cutting Carbon Emissions Award from the Carbon Trust. The Award was given in recognition and appreciation of the Council's effort in the field of carbon management, emission reduction and the mitigation of climate change during 2009. Councillor Mrs Cully concluded that the Council was trying to reduce carbon emissions by 30% over the next five years.

(C) ROUND THE WORLD CLIPPER YACHT RACE

The Mayor mentioned the successful co-hosting with Sir Robin Knox-Johnston of a farewell reception for the Round the World Clipper Yacht Race which departed from Royal Clarence Yard on August Bank Holiday Monday. The Event attracted world wide media coverage.

(D) CIVIC DAY (27 AUGUST)

The Mayor advised that her Civic Day on 27 August 2009 had gone down very well with positive feedback on how much Gosport had to offer visitors to the Borough. The Mayor wished to thank Councillor Edgar and her PA, Head of Central Services and Senior Town Hall Keeper for the hard work they had put into the day.

(E) 33 FIELD HOSPITAL

The Mayor reported on the visit that she and her Consort had made to 33 Field Hospital, meeting the officers and troops and their families as the unit prepared to leave for Afghanistan. She was impressed with their professionalism and the equipment they would be taking to a front line war zone.

The Mayor was pleased to report that the Civic and Commemorative Events Sub-Board on 17 September had approved a recommendation to the Policy and Organisation Board (11 November) that the Freedom of the Borough be bestowed on 33 Field Hospital. This was in recognition of the provision of outstanding medical support to HM Forces and the local populations of Iraq and Afghanistan. Once approved by the Board a special meeting of the Council would need to be arranged for this purpose in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Mayor then turned to Councillor Edgar, Chairman of the Civic and Commemorative Events Sub-Board, for him to add to the above statement. Councillor Edgar advised of the 33 Field Hospital's distinguished service since it was formed in 1915 as 33 Casualty Clearing Station, becoming 33 Field Hospital in 1943. They relocated from Aldershot to Gosport in 1996. He confirmed the Mayor's earlier comments of their excellent work in treating our troops, the enemy and civilians and mentioned their 200 bed hospital that they would be taking to the front line in Afghanistan. In the circumstances, with the permission of the Mayor, he wished to put before the Council meeting the following Motion under the Mayor's Communications.

"That Councillors fully support the process to offer the Freedom of the Borough to 33 Field Hospital."

The Motion was accordingly seconded by Councillor Mrs Cully.

The Motion was put to the meeting and unanimously RESOLVED.

(F) OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – OCTOBER MEETINGS

The Mayor advised Councillors of the following Overview and Scrutiny initiatives in October 2009:

- (i) The Conference on Loneliness and Isolation among Gosport's Older People on Thursday, 8 October 2009.
- (ii) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting with LSC and LEA representatives on Monday, 12 October 2009.

Councillor Forder, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, reported that the meeting on 12 October would be dealing with the significant topic of post 16 Vocational Education. He stated that 10% of Gosport's 16-18 year olds were unemployed and not in education in the Borough. Therefore any support from Councillors on 12 October would be most welcome.

QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4

(A) Question No 1 standing in the name of Councillor Kimber on the matter of purchasing 10 garden waste sacks at a time was answered by the Leader of the Council.

(B) Question No 2 standing in the name of Councillor Beavis on the matter of the Conservatives trying to get Councillor Smith removed from the Council by reporting him to the Standards Board was answered by the Leader of the Council.

(C) Question No 3 standing in the name of Councillor Murphy on the recent Leesland Focus leaflet on £300,000 of Town Hall Improvements was answered by the Leader of the Council.

(D) Question No 4 standing in the name of Councillor Hylands on the Gosport Ferry Pontoon was answered by the Chairman of the Community and Environment Board.

(E) Question No 5 standing in the name of Councillor Chegwyn on the Holbrook Recreation Centre was answered by the Chairman of the Community and Environment Board.

(F) Question No 6 standing in the name of Councillor Chegwyn on the number of outdoor football pitches on Council land was answered by the Chairman of the Community and Environment Board.

(G) Question No 7 standing in the name of Councillor Chegwyn on the Portsmouth Football Club's new Training Complex in the Alver Valley was answered by the Chairman of the Community and Environment Board.

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BOARDS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

At its meeting on 16 September 2009, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that:

- a) the delegations to officers set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report of the Borough Solicitor and Borough Treasurer be approved; and
- b) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make all necessary amendments to

the Constitution to give effect to the above.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW 2008/09, PROGRESS REPORT 2009/10 AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

At its meeting on 16 September 2009, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that:

- a) the report of the Borough Treasurer be noted and the 2008/09 prudential indicators approved; and
- b) the updated investment strategy at paragraph 3.3 of the report of the Borough Treasurer be approved.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

BUDGET STRATEGY 2010-2011

At its meeting on 16 September 2009, the Policy and Organisation Board recommended that:

The following budget strategy principles for 2010-2011, as set out in sections 2 and 3 of the Borough Treasurer's report be approved:

- a) budget preparation will incorporate, as far as possible, requirements resulting from Council priorities identified in Capital Strategies, the Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan;
- b) budget preparation will initially be in accordance with previous policy i.e. "zero-based" wherever possible and new bids will be minimised. Maintenance proposals will be in accordance with Asset Management Plan requirements;
- c) capital projects within the Capital Programme will be considered in terms of priority and affordability;
- d) fees & charges will therefore generally increase in line with previous practice and within any statutory parameters;
- e) as the Council has already externalised many areas of work, efficiency

- opportunities will be sought through the review of contract terms and specifications, either in partnership with existing contractors or when contracts fall due for renewal;
- f) future service reviews will attempt to assess the value for money achieved in delivering individual services (mainly through benchmarking) and seek to identify improvements;
 - g) the Council will continue to seek opportunities to deliver services more efficiently through outsourcing, partnership and joint working;
 - h) the Council will seek to identify areas of council business where savings can be made and additional income generated. In some cases it may be recommended that discretionary services are no longer provided or that a radically different approach to service delivery is adopted. Essential and statutory services will be protected as far as possible;
 - i) it is now appropriate that the balance of these grants available for revenue funding is credited to revenue accounts as received. Uncommitted surpluses will then be gathered in to the revenue financing reserve, primarily for use on spend-to-save initiatives to reduce future tax requirements; and
 - j) the Council will continue to monitor progress in achieving efficiencies through established budgetary control processes.

AMENDMENT: That the Policy and Organisation Board's (16 September 2009) recommendations be approved and adopted subject to the following words being deleted from paragraph (h):

"In some cases it may be recommended that discretionary services are no longer provided or that a radically different approach to service delivery is adopted."

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 were read to the Council as follows:

FOR THE AMENDMENT: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Mrs Bailey, Ms Ballard, Bradley, Chegwyn, Mrs Cully, Cully, Mrs Forder, Forder, Foster-Read, Gill, Hicks, Hylands, Mrs Mitchell-Smith, Mrs Mudie and Wright (17).

AGAINST THE AMENDMENT: Councillors Allen, Beavis, Burgess, Carter, Champion, Dickson, Edgar, Edwards, Geddes, Hook, Kimber, Langdon, Murphy, Philpott, Ward and Miss West (16)

The Amendment was accordingly declared **CARRIED**.

SECOND AMENDMENT: That the Policy and Organisation Board's (16 September 2009) recommendations be approved and adopted subject to the words "as far as possible" being deleted from lines 4 and 5 of paragraph (h). The amended sentence would therefore read as follows:

"Essential and statutory services will be protected."

The Leader of the Council advised of his agreement to the deletion of the words outlined in the Second Amendment.

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: 16 September 2009 (Minute Nos: 31 – 32)

Community and Environment Board: 7 September 2009 (Minute Nos: 24 – 28)

(NOTE: Councillors Edgar and Hook declared personal and prejudicial interests in Min No: 28 (Improvements to Privett Park Enclosure/Gosport Borough Football Club), left the Council Chamber and took no part in the discussion thereon.)

REGULATORY BOARD NOMINATED DEPUTIES 2009/10

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Mitchell-Smith be added to the Liberal Democrat Group's Regulatory Board Nominated Deputies for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

HOMESTART-GOSPORT AND FAREHAM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Mitchell-Smith be appointed as the Council's representative on Homestart for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

The meeting ended at 7.47pm