

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2011

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Carter, C R) (P) (in the Chair);

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Dickson) (P);

Councillors Allen (P), Mrs Bailey (P), Ms Ballard (P), Beavis (P), Bradley (P), Burgess (P), Carter C K, Chegwyn, Mrs Cully (P), Edgar (P), Edwards, Mrs Forder (P), Forder (P), Foster-Reed, Geddes (P), Henshaw (P), Mrs Hook (P), Hook (P), Hylands, Jacobs (P), Jessop (P), Kimber (P), Lane (P), Langdon (P), Murphy (P), Philpott, Ronayne (P), Scard (P), Mrs Searle (P), Smith, Miss West (P) and Wright (P).

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chegwyn, Foster-Reed and Philpott and Honorary Aldermen Mrs Bailey, Gill, Lucas and Train.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

(A) PETER CARROLL AND SARAH BRAZIER

The Mayor reported that he had attended Peter Carroll's funeral on 8 September 2011. Mr Carroll had been a very active member of the community as Vice-Chairman of Gosport Voluntary Action, Open Sight and Chairman of the Gosport Access and Disability Forum and Shopmobility. He started the latter service in Gosport with the help of volunteers. He was joint Citizen of the Year in 2009.

The Mayor in conclusion referred to the sad death on Friday night of Sarah Brazier who had provided numerous past Mayors in the Borough with a civic hospitality service in the Town Hall.

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

In order to express their sympathy regarding the deaths of Peter Carroll and Sarah Brazier, Members of the Council stood in silent tribute for one minute.

(B) VASCULAR SURGERY, QA HOSPITAL

The Mayor requested Councillor Edgar to give an update on this important area which affected the residents of Gosport. Councillor Edgar outlined that this potentially life saving service had been under consideration by the Portsmouth Health Scrutiny Panel as a recent public engagement had hinted that vascular surgeons at QA Hospital could be transferred to Southampton General Hospital as part of a reorganisation.

If this proposal went ahead QA could well find future operations in several clinical specialisms significantly affected as there would not be sufficient numbers of vascular surgeons to undertake a full programme of operations at the hospital. It was for this reason that the temporary PCT for Hants, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (SHIP) had embarked on an engagement exercise to respond to the furore in the area to such a proposal. This would have a devastating effect on QA hospital particularly in renal surgery where the hospital had established a high profile reputation. When Haslar Hospital closed the new hi-tech super hospital at QA was pledged to provide state of the art hospital services and so far they had been delivered. However if vascular surgery was transferred to Southampton General Hospital this could be a significant down grading of the service. Councillor Edgar was therefore looking for the Council's support in the forthcoming agreed consultation exercise to retain such services in the longer term at QA Hospital by the NHS.

(C) MAYORAL EVENTS

The Mayor advised Members of the Council of the following events:

- 14 October 2011 – Murder Mystery and Supper Evening at Bulson Hall, Lee on the Solent. Tickets were available for this event.
- 27 October 2011 – Mayor's Charity Golf Day at Lee on the Solent.
- 30 October 2011 – Sponsorship was available for the Mayor's Team which was challenging the Lord Mayor's Team in the Great South Run.
- 17 February 2012 – Royal Marine's Band Concert at St Mary's Church, Alverstoke.

REGENERATION OF ROWNER – IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPULSORY

PURCHASE POWERS – UPDATE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report from the Chief Executive on the above. The purpose of the report was to inform Council of the confirmation of the Gosport Borough Council (Howe Road, Nimrod Drive, Rowner) Compulsory Purchase Order 2010 (the “CPO”) by the Secretary of State on 28 July 2011 with a minor modification. The modification related to the numbering of a garage on the order plan. Details of the confirmation had been sent to all owners and occupiers set out in the CPO and details of the confirmation had also been advertised in the local press and notices attached to lamp posts in the area. This report dealt with the confirmation of the order, and next steps for the implementation of the order.

The report advised that First Wessex, on behalf of the Consortium, had given notice to the Council that they wished the Council to exercise its powers under the Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire the land and interests set out in the notice and transfer the land to First Wessex. This includes 32 flats, 22 of which were owner occupied, and of the remaining 10 properties 7 are tenanted. The terms of the CPO agreement provides for the land to be sold to First Wessex for £1 but for Taylor Wimpey to meet the costs of the compensation payable to the landowners and occupiers. The Council would then be indemnified in respect of the costs incurred in meeting the compensation payments up to the CPO costs cap.

The Chief Executive in introducing his report advised that it was now 31 flats under the Compulsory Purchase Order as one flat owner had settled and encouragingly there were more in the process of settling terms.

COUNCIL RESOLVED:

That the Council:

Having noted this report and the request from the Rowner Renewal Consortium (the ‘Consortium’) to proceed with the implementation of the CPO, resolves to:

- (i) execute a general vesting declaration (‘GVD’) to vest legal title in the Council in respect of the properties which the Consortium wish to acquire (as set out in Appendix 1 and subject to paragraph 2.6 of the Chief Executive’s report) and to transfer these properties to First Wessex in accordance with the terms of the CPO Agreement;**
- (ii) serve notices to treat and notices of entry on those tenants with interest of a year or less to secure vacant possession of the premises where the Consortium require vacant possession in accordance with the notice;**
- (iii) in conjunction with the Consortium to take all reasonable steps to**

assist owners and occupiers affected by the Rowner CPO including making advance payments of compensation on receipt of requests from owners and occupiers in accordance with Section 52 of the Land Compensation Act 1961;

- (iv) authorise officers through the Council's external consultants to take all necessary steps to settle all compensation claims arising under the CPO;**
- (v) acquire by negotiation any interest included within the GVD before the vesting date and to appoint First Wessex as the Council's agent to manage such properties; and**
- (vi) dispose of land at Howe Road identified on Plan 1 on the terms set out in paragraph 2.11 of the Chief Executive's report.**

The meeting ended at 5.46pm