

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11 JULY 2012**

Attendance:

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

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Beavis) (P);

Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard (P), Burgess (P), Carter C K, Carter CR (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Ms Diffey (P), Edgar (P), Farr (P) Forder (P), Foster-Reed, Geddes (P), Gill (P), Hazel (P), Henshaw (P), Mrs Hook (P), Hook (P), Hylands (P), Jacobs (P), Jessop (P), Kimber (P), Lane (P), Langdon (P), Mrs Morgan (P) Murphy (P), Philpott (P), Ronayne, Scard (P), Mrs Searle (P), Mrs Wright (P) and Wright (P).

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

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### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Carter CK and Ronayne and Honorary Alderman Lucas.

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### **MINUTES**

**COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual and Adjourned Annual and Extraordinary meetings of the Council held on 16 May and 26 June 2012 be confirmed and signed.**

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### **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **(A) SSAFA PRESENTATION**

The Mayor invited the immediate past Mayor, Councillor CR Carter, to present a cheque for £6000 to SSAFA from the money raised in his Mayoral Year.

**(B) GOSPORT BOROUGH AND ROYAN CRESTS**

The Mayor advised that the Gosport Borough and Royan crests now on display in the Council Chamber had been official gifts from the 2011 and 2012 Twinning exchanges.

**(C) FALKLANDS ISLANDS CONFLICT 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATION**

The Mayor reported that he had received a large amount of correspondence thanking Gosport for the Falklands Islands conflict 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

**(D) BIG GREEN COMMUTER CHALLENGE**

The Mayor advised that he had attended the presentation of awards for the Big Green Commuter Challenge and that Gosport had won the award for most miles saved. Alan Wheeler, Contracts Officer, won a special award for undertaking site visits by bicycle.

**(E) CHARITY GOLF DAY**

The Mayor reported that a Charity Golf Day had been organised at Lee-on-the-Solent Golf Club to take place on 25 October 2012.

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**QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 3.4**

- (A) Question No 1 standing in the name of Councillor Wright on grounds maintenance issues was answered by the Chairman of the Community Board.
- (B) Question No 2 standing in the name of Councillor Mrs Wright on the expectations of the grounds maintenance contracts was answered by the Chairman of the Community Board.

**PART II MINUTES**

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

Policy and Organisation Board: 16 May (Minute Nos. 5 – 6) and 27 June 2012 (Minute Nos. 12 – 17)

Community Board: 16 May 2012 (Minute Nos. 5-6), 11 June 2012 (Minutes Nos. 12-16) and 10 July 2012 (Minutes Nos. 21-23)

Economic Development Board: 16 May 2012 (Minute Nos. 5 –6) and 20 June 2012 (Minute Nos. 12 – 14)

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## **LOCALISM ACT 2011- CHANGES TO THE STANDARDS REGIME**

The report of the Monitoring Officer advised the Council of changes to the current standards regime and proposed a new Code of Conduct and arrangements for dealing with complaints.

The Standards and Governance Committee at its meeting on 21 June 2012 considered the report at Appendix A of the Monitoring Officer's report which detailed the new statutory requirements in relation to Conduct, Interests and Complaints.

The Standards and Governance Committee accepted all the recommendations in the report but recommended that 2 additional matters be included in the Code of Conduct.

Firstly they considered that a definition of bullying should be included and this had been included in paragraph 1.4 of the Code of Conduct attached to the report of the Monitoring Officer as Appendix B1.

Secondly there was concern that it was not clear that members were under an obligation to notify any changes to their disclosable pecuniary interests to the Monitoring Officer other than where they are disclosed at a meeting (paragraph 3.7). This issue had now been addressed in Section 3 of the Code of Conduct at Appendix B1. The Standards and Governance Committee accepted that the Council should continue to include in its standing orders the requirement to leave the room when an item they had a disclosable pecuniary interest in is discussed and Appendix B3 sets out the new wording.

The Council had a choice whether or not to have a Standards Committee and it was proposed that the Council should continue to have a committee dealing with standards, governance and audit matters. The terms of reference for this committee were set out at Appendix B2 of the Monitoring Officer's report.

This committee would now operate under the same provisions as all other Boards of the Council including the rules on political balance. The Council had previously agreed that the Leader of the Council should not be a member of the Standards and Governance Committee and this is reflected in Appendix B4.

The report to the Standards and Governance Committee had set out the role of the Independent Person as different to that of the previous Independent Members of the Committee. The Council expressed their thanks to Mr. Richard Perry for his Chairmanship of the previous Standards and Governance Committee.

Members were disappointed with the proposals but accepted that the Localism Act abolished the current standards regime governing the conduct of members.

It was requested that nominations from Political Groups for the new Standards and Governance Committee be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer.

**COUNCIL RESOLVED: That:**

- (i) the Code of Conduct for Members (which would apply to Co-opted Members), set out in Appendix B1 of the Monitoring Officer's report, be adopted;**
- (ii) the adoption of the Code be publicised via the Council's website;**
- (iii) the Standards and Governance Committee be replaced by a new Standards and Governance Committee, with terms of reference as set out in Appendix B2 of the Monitoring Officer's report;**
- (iv) Standing Order 7.1 be amended to require a Member who has a discloseable pecuniary interest, in an item of business being considered at a meeting of the Council, Board or Committee to withdraw from the room during the discussion of and vote on that item as set out in Appendix B3 of the Monitoring Officer's report;**
- (v) the arrangements for dealing with allegations of failure to comply with the Code set out in Appendix B4 of the Monitoring Officer's report be adopted;**
- (vi) authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to oversee the process of recruitment of an independent person, with the interview of candidates being undertaken by the Council's statutory officers who will make recommendations to Council; and**
- (vii) the Council appoints a Standards and Governance Committee comprising 8 members with seats allocated as set out in paragraph 2.8 of the Monitoring Officer's report.**

## **SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON GOSPORT MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND ACCIDENT SERVICES WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SOUTH EAST HAMPSHIRE RESOURCE CENTRE PROPOSALS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS IN GOSPORT**

Consideration was given to the supplementary report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in reference to the South East Hampshire Resource Centre and their implications for Gosport. The detailed Scrutiny of the proposals was in the form of a final report of the Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Scrutiny Working Group to the Committee.

The main findings of the report were that:

1. There were acute limitations to the current Gosport Ambulance Station. In particular, it is not large enough to accommodate modern style ambulances.
2. Provision based on static ambulance stations is no longer efficient. The Ambulance Service now employs a mobile “hub and spoke” model in which ambulances and crews have a shift commencement location and base but are then mobile across S.E. Hampshire utilising standby points strategically located. This would mean speedier response times with ambulances positioned appropriately to meet demand.
3. At the heart of the “hub and spoke” model would be a large central facility which would improve the garaging, maintenance and reequipping of ambulances. A favoured location for this would be at North Harbour. There would also be serviced and unserviced standby points.
4. Gosport would benefit from a minimum of one serviced standby point. When this is introduced (but not before) the current ambulance station would be disposed of.
5. There would be no diminution of the ambulance cover for Gosport as a result of the proposals and, in particular, rapid response cars would continue to be situated on the peninsular at all times of the day.

The report concluded that from the evidence available to the Committee that the proposals were supportive of the efficient deployment of resources. The Committee considered it wise to keep these developments under review. In the circumstances the Committee recommended that Council note the report.

Members were concerned about the impact on the ambulance service personnel and any potential adverse impact on the residents of Gosport but noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would keep the developments under review.

**COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the report from the Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services Scrutiny Working Group be noted.**

## **FAREHAM AND GOSPORT MIND**

Consideration was given to the vacancy for a Member representative for Fareham and Gosport Mind.

**COUNCIL RESOLVED:** That the position of a Member representative for Fareham and Gosport Mind remain vacant and that it be re-considered at a future meeting of the Council.

**The meeting ended at 7.08pm**