

# **COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2005**

**Councillors:** James Mole (*Chairman*) (P), Mrs Barbara Alexander (P), Peter Argyle (P), Trevor Banning (P), Phil Barnett (P), Brian Bedwell (P), J.C.G. Brooks (P), Paul Bryant (P), Mrs Val Bull (P), George Chandler (P), John Chapman (P), Keith Chopping (P), Billy Drummond (P), Sheila Ellison (P), Sue Farrant (P), John Farrin (P), Geoff Findlay (P), Marcus Franks (P), Mrs Kathleen French (P), Miss Denise Gaines (P), Manohar Gopal (P), Mrs Sally Hannon (P), Mrs Sandra Harding (P), Roger Hunneman (P), Owen Jeffery (P), Graham Jones (P), Mrs Susie Kemp (P), Andy Kilgour (P), Tony Linden (P), Keith Lock (P), Mrs Mollie Lock (P), Dr Royce Longton (P), Gordon Lundie (P), Alan Macro (P), Tim Metcalfe (P), Joe Mooney (P), Mrs Irene Neill (P), Graham Pask (P), Alexander Payton (P), Terry Port (P), Paul Pritchard (P), Mike Rodger (P), Andrew Rowles (P), Anthony Stansfeld (P), Ms Caroline Suggett (P), Julian Swift-Hook (P), Tony Vickers (P) (*Vice-Chairman*), Quentin Webb (P), Chris Webber (P), Emma Webster (P), Keith Woodhams (P), Laszlo Zverko (P)

### **PART I**

#### **1. PAUL McMAHON.**

Members held a minutes silence in memory of a former Chief Executive of Newbury District Council, Mr Paul McMahon following his recent death.

#### **2. APOLOGIES.**

There were no apologies for absence received.

#### **3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the annual meeting of Council especially Councillor Sheila Ellison who had won the recent by-election in the Thatcham North Ward. Councillor Mole reported that he had been proud and privileged to represent West Berkshire Council on 280 occasions during his year in office and highlighted the following memorable events:

- Various D-day celebrations including American Veterans;
- Various visits by the Royal Family; and a
- Successful Chairman's Civic Day.

The Chairman also made mention of a former Chairman of Council Anthony Steele who had recently died.

In concluding his remarks, the Chairman placed on record his thanks for the support he had received for his chosen charity the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Councillor Mole also thanked his wife, Lynda and Jo Watt, Members' Services Officer, for their help during his year as Chairman.

#### **4. PRESENTATIONS.**

The Chairman made a presentation of a certificate and paperweight to Councillor Mollie Lock in recognition of completing 10 years as a Councillor.

The Chairman also made presentations of certificates and paperweights, and on behalf of the Council, congratulated the following Council employees who had served in Local Government for 25 years or more:-

- Judy Bowsher, Home Care Assistant, Community Care and Housing
- Mike Brook, Team Leader, Lifelong Learning – Strategy and Commissioning

## ANNUAL COUNCIL – 10.05.05 – MINUTES

- Karen Gale, Support Services Officer – Amey, ICT and Business Support
- Davy Pearson, Youth Offending Team Manager, Children and Young People
- Maxine Slade, School Improvement Advisor, Children and Young People
- Lucy Record, Care Assistant, Community Care and Housing

### 4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2005/06.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Tim Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor Graham Pask that Councillor John Chapman be elected Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2005/06.

**RESOLVED that** Councillor John Chapman be elected as Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2005/06.

**(Councillor John Chapman in the Chair)**

The Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the retiring Chairman for his year of service. During his remarks Councillor Chapman requested permission from Council to write to Richard Benyon, John Redwood and Martin Salter to formally congratulate them on their success at the recent Parliamentary Election. Councillor Chapman also requested permission to write to David Rendel in order to express the Council's appreciation for everything he had done for Newbury during his time as the Constituency's Member of Parliament.

**RESOLVED that** Councillor John Chapman, in his role as Chairman of Council, write to Richard Benyon, John Redwood, Martin Salter and David Rendel along the lines referred to above.

### 5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2005/06.

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2005/06. In response to this request Councillor Brian Bedwell was nominated by Councillor Peter Argyle and Seconded by Councillor Joe Mooney.

**RESOLVED that** Councillor Brian Bedwell be appointed Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2005/06.

(The Vice-Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office).

### 6. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2004 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest received.

### 8. DISTRICT COUNCIL BY-ELECTION: THATCHAM NORTH – 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2005.

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 8) by the Returning Officer on the result of the District Council By-Election for Thatcham North Ward which was held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005 and resulted in Sheila Ellison being elected as the District Councillor for Thatcham North Ward.

#### MOTION

“That the Council agree to note the report of the Returning Officer in relation to the result of the District Council By-Election: Thatcham North – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

### 9. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE LEADER AND APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE.

**MOTION** proposed by Councillor Graham Pask and seconded by Councillor Joe Mooney:

## ANNUAL COUNCIL – 10.05.05 – MINUTES

“That Councillor Graham Jones be elected Executive Leader for the 2005/06 Municipal Year.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

Councillor Graham Jones the proceeded to announce the appointment of Members to the Executive for 2005/06 as follows:

**Graham Jones** - Leader of Council;

**Keith Chopping** - Deputy Leader of Council - also responsible for Planning and Highways;

**Geoff Findlay** – Environment and Public Protection;

**Marcus Franks** – Leisure and Culture;

**Joe Mooney** - Community Care;

**Graham Pask** - Children and Young People;

**Anthony Stansfeld** – Strategy and Performance;

**Emma Webster** - Community Safety, Housing and “The Visions”;

**Laszlo Zverko** – Finance.

### 10. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 10), proposing various amendments to the Council’s Constitution including recommendations from the Scrutiny Review Task Group.

**MOTION** proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Keith Chopping:

“That the Council agree to:

- (1) Approve the changes in numbers in Membership of the four Select Committees in line with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Task Group as set out in the report;
- (2) Appoint the Head of Highways and Transportation as the Council’s Traffic Manager in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004;
- (3) Approve the proposed amendments and additions to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to Paragraphs 3.14.6 and 3.14.7 of the Head of Planning and Transport Strategy as set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report;
- (4) Approve the proposed amendment to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to paragraph 3.5.21 and the insertion of a new paragraph 3.12.16 as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.”

**AMENDMENT** to Recommendation (1) proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Denise Gaines:

“That the Council agree to:

- (1) Approve the changes in numbers in Membership of the Strategy and Commissioning, Community Care and Housing and Environment and Public Protection Select Committees based on 6 Conservative and 5 Liberal Democrat Members on each.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **LOST**.

**AMENDMENT** proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Keith Chopping:

“That the Council approve the Motion subject to an additional Recommendation as follows:

- (2) A review of the Council’s democratic structures be undertaken by the Constitution Task Group, made up of 4 Conservative and 2 Liberal Democrat Members, and a report be brought back to either the July or September 2005 Council meeting.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

## ANNUAL COUNCIL – 10.05.05 – MINUTES

**SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Keith Chopping.

“That the Council agree to:

- (1) Approve the changes in numbers in Membership of the four Select Committees in line with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Task Group as set out in the report;
- (2) A review of the Council’s democratic structures be undertaken by the Constitution Task Group, made up of 4 Conservative and 2 Liberal Democrat Members, and a report be brought back to either the July or September 2005 Council meeting;
- (3) Appoint the Head of Highways and Transportation as the Council’s Traffic Manager in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004;
- (4) Approve the proposed amendments and additions to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to Paragraphs 3.14.6 and 3.14.7 of the Head of Planning and Transport Strategy as set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report;
- (5) Approve the proposed amendment to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to paragraph 3.5.21 and the insertion of a new paragraph 3.12.16 as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.”

The Substantive Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

### 11. **APPOINTMENT AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES.**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 11) concerning the appointment and allocation of seats on Committees and associated Bodies for the Municipal Year 2005/06.

During discussion of this item the Leader of the Opposition raised concerns regarding the fact that the Conservative Group were proposing to Chair the Strategy and Commissioning Select Committee which scrutinised the Council’s finances. The Leader of Council advised that it was proposed to invite the Liberal Democrat Group to Chair the Budget Scrutiny Group which was the main body that scrutinised the Council’s finances.

**MOTION** proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Keith Chopping:

“That the Council agree:

- (1) To note that under Paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice has been received that the Members set out in paragraph 1.1 of this report are to be regarded as Members of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively.
- (2) To the appointment of the various, Committees and Area Forums and to the number of places on each as set out in paragraph 2.1.
- (3) That under Regulation 20 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Proportionality Rules) not be applied to the appointment of Members to Area Forums.
- (4) To the reappointment of Mr James Rees and Mrs Margaret Hancock as the Independent Members on the Council’s Standards Committee until May 2007.
- (5) That Officers be authorised to “recruit” further Parish Councillors to the Standards Committee.
- (6) Agree to the allocation of seats to the Political Groups in accordance with Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Paragraph 3.4 refers).
- (7) To approve the appointment of Members’ to the Committees as set out in Appendix 11 and in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.”

**ANNUAL COUNCIL – 10.05.05 – MINUTES**

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

**12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.**

**RESOLVED** that the meeting of Council be adjourned to enable the various Committees and Area Forums to determine their Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and the determination of other business set out on each respective agenda.

**13. RE-COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING.**

The meeting re-commenced at 8.30pm.

**14. REPORT OF THE ACTING RETURNING OFFICER: PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION – 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2005.**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 14) by the Acting Returning Officer relating to the conduct and result of the Parliamentary Election held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005. Mr David Holling, the Acting Returning Officer, reported that the Council had recently received £63,390.64 from the Department of Constitutional Affairs and was due to receive money from Reading West and Wokingham constituencies to pay for the running of the Parliamentary Election.

Members reported that there were a number of issues that were still outstanding following the Parliamentary Election and it was agreed that a meeting would be set up between the two Group Leaders and the Acting Returning Officer in order to discuss these further.

Members wished to thank the Acting Returning Officer and all his staff for their hard work on the day of the election.

**MOTION**

“That the Council agree to note the Report of the Returning Officer in relation to the result of the Parliamentary Election – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

**15. AUDIT AND INSPECTION PLAN 2005/06.**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 15) concerning the Audit and Inspection Plan 2005/06.

During discussion of this item Members noted the contents of the report in particular those areas which had been reflected in the Council’s “good” CPA score.

**MOTION** proposed by Councillor Graham Jones and seconded by Councillor Keith Chopping:

“That the Council agree:

- (1) To note the Annual Audit and Inspection Plan for 2005/06
- (2) That future governance issues be the responsibility of the Constitution Task Group, to be renamed “Governance and Audit Task Group”, which would report direct to Council.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

*(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.40pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature:** .....