

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday 10 June 2014

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

- Present: The Mayor 2014/2015 , S Batson MBE DL CC and Councillors D Bainbridge, L Bell, P Bibby, R Broom, J Brown, H Burrell, M Cherney-Craw, L Chester, G Clark, E Connolly, D Cullen, J Gardner, M Gardner, L Harrington, R Henry CC, J Hollywell, PD Kissane, C Latif, Mrs J Lloyd, J Lloyd CC, A McGuinness, M McKay, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, M Notley, R Parker CC, R Raynor, C Saunders, G Snell, S Speller, P Stuart, S Taylor OBE CC, H Tessier, J Thomas, S Walker, V Warwick and A Webb.
- In Attendance: A Mboho (Youth Mayor 2013/14), S Field (Youth Mayor 2014/15) and J Barnes (Chair of Youth Council)
- Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.00 p.m.
End Time: 8.45 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

An apology for absence was received from Councillor L Briscoe.

Councillors A McGuinness, R Parker CC and G Snell declared a Personal Interest in Item 12 – Standards Committee Determination.

2. MINUTES – WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the following amendments, the Minutes of the Council meeting of 26 February 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

Minute 5 - the paragraph starting 'Leader of the Minority Group', the second sentence be amended to read - 'He raised a number of points that were critical of the proposed budget, the consultation process and some items of expenditure and he also mentioned some positives from recent government actions, but concluded that he

would support the proposals and thanked officers for their work in its preparation.'

Third paragraph of Minutes 8 – to read 'Parker Morris Standards' and not 'Peter Morris'.

3. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

The Deputy Mayor asked for nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2014/15.

Councillor S Taylor CC nominated Councillor S Batson MBE DL CC and this was seconded by Councillor J Gardner.

At this point, the Deputy Mayor indicated that as she had been nominated it was not appropriate for her to preside over the election of Mayor and she left the meeting.

The Chief Executive asked for nominations for a person to preside in the absence of a Mayor and the Deputy Mayor.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor D Kissane preside until a Mayor was appointed.

Councillor D Kissane took the Chair and asked for any further nominations for the office of Mayor for 2014/15. There were none.

At this juncture Councillor R Parker indicated that whilst he was not going to nominate an alternative Councillor as Mayor, the Liberal Democrat Group would be voting against the appointment of Councillor Batson as Mayor. He explained that this was not a reflection on Councillor Batson personally but in recent years the office had always been taken by a Member of the Labour Group. He said that there were Councillors on the Opposition Groups who had longer service than the individuals nominated and the appointment to the office of Mayor should not be on political lines.

There being no other nominations a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Sherma Batson MBE DL CC be elected as Mayor for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

NOTE: Councillors A McGuinness, R Parker and G Snell requested that their vote opposing the resolution above be recorded.

Councillor Batson returned to the meeting and made the statutory declaration of office.

The Mayor announced that her husband, Mr Howard Rooke would be her consort for 2014/15.

The Mayor gave her inaugural speech and stated that her charities for the year would be:

- Stevenage World Forum

- Stevenage Furniture Recycling Scheme
- Home Start Stevenage

She added that she would also be working in partnership on fund raising activities with LeJog, a group of SBC staff with interesting ideas for fund raising, and the Scouting family of Stevenage.

4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor J Hollywell be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.

Councillor Parker referred to the comments he had made under the previous item regarding the selection of individuals to serve as Mayor/Deputy Mayor.

There being no other nominations a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Jacqueline Hollywell be appointed Deputy Mayor for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.

NOTE: Councillors A McGuinness, R Parker and G Snell requested that their vote opposing the resolution above be recorded.

Councillor J Hollywell then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Deputy Mayor announced that her husband, Councillor Richard Henry CC would be her consort for 2014/15.

At this juncture the Mayor paid tribute to the outgoing Youth Mayor Abasiakara Mboho. She stated that he had been a brilliant representative of the youth of Stevenage and a great ambassador for the town and presented him with a gift. The 2013/14 Youth Mayor thanked the Council for the gift and stated that he had been very privileged and honoured to have served his year in office. It had been an amazing experience and he thanked the Youth Council and the SBC Councillors and Officers for all the support he had been given.

5. BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Council considered a report that detailed the results of the Borough Council Elections that were held on 22nd May 2014.

The Chief Executive corrected the typographical error of the spelling of 'Andy McGuinness' as shown in the results for Manor Ward.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the results of the Stevenage Borough Council Elections 2014 be noted.

6. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

The Chief Executive advised the meeting of two typographical errors in recommendation

2.1 in the report (these are corrected in the resolution below)

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Terms of Reference, as detailed in the appendices to this report; and the size and political composition, to be agreed under the alternative arrangements provisions for the following bodies that form the political management structure of the Council, be approved:
 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix A) – 13 Members (11 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
 - Community Select Committee (Appendix B) – 10 Members (8 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
 - Environment and Economy Select Committee (Appendix C) - 10 Members (8 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
 - Planning & Development Committee (Appendix D) – 13 Members (11 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
 - Licensing Committee (Appendix E) – 13 Members (11 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
 - General Purposes Committee (Appendix F) – 13 Members (11 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
 - Appointments Committee (Appendix G) - 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
 - Standards Committee (Appendix H) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
 - Audit Committee (Appendix I) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group) + 1 Co-opted non-elected member
 - Statement of Accounts Committee (Appendix J) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Conservative Opposition Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Opposition Group)
2. That the dates for Council meetings for the Municipal Year, as shown at paragraph 4.7 of the report, and the draft dates for other meetings as shown at Appendix K be noted.
3. That the appointment of the Executive by the Leader and the allocation of portfolios as set out in in paragraph 4.5 be noted.
4. That it be noted that the Leader had delegated a £2,500 Local Community Budget to each Councillor for projects or activities that benefited their Wards and a Youth Community Budget of £3,300 the spend of which was to be directed by the Youth Mayor.

7. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The Chief Executive advised the meeting that as standing orders were currently silent on the position of having two opposition groups of equal number, he had requested the Leaders of the Groups to agree a way forward for this year. It had been agreed that Councillor P Bibby serve as Leader of the Opposition with Councillor Margaret Notley as his Deputy for the period up to 30 November 2014 and Councillor R Parker CC would be the Leader of the Opposition for the remainder of the Municipal Year with Councillor Andy McGuinness as his Deputy.

8. APPOINTMENT OF LEADERS AND DEPUTY LEADERS OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL

The Chief Executive advised the Council that Councillors S Taylor OBE CC, P Bibby and R Parker CC had been appointed as Leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively.

It was noted that Councillors J Gardner, M Notley and A McGuinness would be Deputy Leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively.

9. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES/PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

Details of the individuals nominated to serve on each Committee had been circulated on the Supplementary Agenda.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Council's Committees for the Municipal Year 2014/15 be constituted under the alternative arrangements provisions as follows:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13 Members

Councillors L Bell, P Bibby, R Broom, J Brown, M Cherney-Craw, M Gardner, J Hollywell, L Harrington, C Latif, L Martin-Haugh, R Parker CC, P Stuart and S Walker

Community Select Committee – 10 Members

Councillors L Bell, R Broom, E Connolly, M Gardner, L Harrington, A McGuinness, J Mead, M Notley, P Stuart and S Walker

Environment and Economy Select Committee - 10 Members

Councillors D Bainbridge, L Bell, P Bibby, L Briscoe, J Brown, E Connolly, J Hollywell, C Saunders, G Snell and P Stuart

Planning & Development Committee – 13 Members

Councillors D Bainbridge, L Chester, G Clark, D Cullen, M Gardner, L Harrington, D Kissane, C Latif, J Lloyd CC, M McKay, J Mead, G Snell, and S Walker

Licensing Committee – 13 Members

Councillors D Bainbridge, E Connolly, L Chester, L Harrington, D Kissane, C Latif, J Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, A McGuinness, M Notley, C Saunders, H Tessier and V Warwick

General Purposes Committee – 13 Members

Councillors D Bainbridge, E Connolly, L Chester, L Harrington, D Kissane, C Latif, J Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, A McGuinness, M Notley, C Saunders, H Tessier and V Warwick

Appointments Committee - 7 Members

Councillors S Taylor OBE CC, 4 Labour Group (tbc), P Bibby and R Parker CC

Standards Committee – 7 Members

Councillors L Briscoe, M Cherney-Craw, J Hollywell, Mrs J Lloyd, L Martin-Haugh, M Notley and G Snell

Audit Committee – 7 Members + 1 Co-opted non-elected member

Councillors P Bibby, L Chester, D Cullen, J Gardner, J Hollywell, A McGuinness and M McKay and B Mitchell (non-elected member)

Statement of Accounts Committee – 7 Members

Councillors R Broom, G Clark, Mrs J Lloyd, J Lloyd CC, J Mead, R Parker CC and S Walker

It was then moved, seconded and **RESOLVED:**

1. That the following appointments of Chairs and Vice-Chairs be agreed –

Overview and Scrutiny Committee –
Chair - Councillor L Martin-Haugh
Vice-Chair – Councillor R Parker CC

Community Select Committee –
Chair – Councillor S Walker
Vice-Chair – Councillor M Notley

Environment & Economy Select Committee –
Chair - Councillor J Hollywell
Vice-Chair – Councillor P Bibby

Planning & Development Committee –
Chair – Councillor D Cullen

Licensing Committee –
Chair - Councillor D Kissane

General Purposes Committee –
Chair – Councillor D Kissane

Appointments Committee –
Chair - Councillor S Taylor OBE CC

Standards Committee –
Chairman – Councillor Mrs J Lloyd

Audit Committee –
Chair – Councillor L Chester

Statement of Accounts Committee –
Chairman - Councillor Mrs J Lloyd

2. That where a Vice-Chair has not been appointed, this appointment be made at the first meeting of the relevant Committee.

10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following individuals be appointed to represent the Council on the various bodies detailed below for one year, unless otherwise stated -

AGE CONCERN (STEVENAGE) - Councillor C Latif

BEDWELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Harrington

CHELLS MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor G Snell

COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND – HERTFORDSHIRE SOCIETY – Councillor J Gardner

DOUGLAS DRIVE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Lloyd CC

EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – Leader - By Position

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL – Portfolio Holder Environment and Regeneration – By Position

EAST OF ENGLAND LGA IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PANEL – Councillor R Henry CC

HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – Councillor R Henry CC

HCC JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP - By Position: Portfolio Holder for Environment & Regeneration.

HERTFORD ROAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (renamed - BRAGBURY CENTRE) - Councillor M Cherney-Craw

HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITIES LEADERS GROUP – By Position: Leader

HERTFORDSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND POLICY GROUP – By Position: Portfolio Holder for Environment & Regeneration

HERTFORDSHIRE SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING BODY MEMBERS OVERVIEW - By Position: Portfolio Holder for Housing

HERTFORDSHIRE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM STEERING GROUP – By Position: Portfolio Holder for Environment & Regeneration

HOME-START STEVENAGE - Councillor J Gardner

KADOMA LINK COMMITTEE - Councillors R Broom and G Snell

LIVING ROOM PROJECT - Councillor A Webb

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) - By Position: Leader

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT - Councillor H Tessier

LUTON AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (VIA HLGA) – Councillor Mrs J Lloyd

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE CORPORATION – Councillor S Taylor OBE CC

OLD STEVENAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Brown

OVAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor M McKay

PIN GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Martin-Haugh

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY GROUP (COMMUNITY SAFETY) - By Position: Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, Older People and Health

SoSTEVENAGE PARTNERSHIP – By Position: The Leader and the Deputy Leader

SHEPHALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Mead

ST. NICHOLAS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor R Henry CC

STEVENAGE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE – Councillor Mrs J Lloyd

STEVENAGE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - Councillors R Raynor

STEVENAGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - By Position: Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, Older People and Health

STEVENAGE CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES (FOUR YEAR PERIOD) - Councillors C Latif and R Raynor to 2016, Councillors M Cherney-Craw and C Saunders to 2017.

STEVENAGE CREDIT UNION LTD - Councillor L Chester

STEVENAGE FURNITURE RECYCLING SCHEME - Councillor L Bell

STEVENAGE HAVEN – Councillor D Kissane

STEVENAGE/AUTUN /INGELHEIM ASSOCIATION - Councillors, R Henry CC and J Hollywell

STEVENAGE LEISURE LIMITED (OBSERVER) – By Position: Leader and Portfolio Holder Culture, Sport and Leisure.

STEVENAGE SHOPMOBILITY – Councillor J Thomas

STEVENAGE WORLD FORUM FOR ETHNIC COMMUNITIES - Councillor D Cullen

SYMONDS GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Chester

TIMEBRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – Councillor H Burrell

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004- ADJUDICATION JOINT COMMITTEE – (PATROL AJC) – By Position: Portfolio Holder for Environment & Regeneration.

11. APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH MAYOR

Council was informed that following an election, the Youth Council had nominated Shae Field as the 2014/15 Youth Mayor.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Shae Field be appointed as Youth Mayor for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.

Shae Field came forward and signed the acceptance of office and was presented with the Youth Mayor's chain. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to represent her peers and also thanked the outgoing Youth Mayor for his support and encouragement.

12. STANDARDS COMMITTEE DETERMINATION

Councillors A McGuinness, R Parker CC and G Snell had each declared a Personal Interest in this item.

Council had before it a report detailing the outcome a complaint that was considered by the Standards Committee.

Councillor R Parker was critical of the report that had been considered by the Standards Committee and expressed the view that officers had taken too long to investigate and prepare the report but it had then been rushed to the Committee giving insufficient time for him to respond.

Councillor A McGuinness then referred to the incident that led to the complaint at which point Councillor S Taylor raised a Point of Order as the incident had been fully considered by the Standards Committee

The Mayor stated that it was not for Council to re-hear the case.

Councillor R Parker raised a Point of Order in so far as he considered that Councillor McGuinness should be given the opportunity to speak.

The Chief Executive reiterated the Mayor's previous comment that the report was before the Council to note the outcome, not to re-hear the case. He added that as Councillor McGuinness, Parker and Snell had declared an interest in the matter it was not appropriate for them to vote.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

Mayor