

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Agenda Item:

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**COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday 10 December 2014

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present: The Mayor, S Batson MBE DL CC and Councillors P Bibby, L Briscoe, J Brown, H Burrell, M Cherney-Craw, L Chester, E Connolly, J Gardner, M Gardner, L Harrington, R Henry CC, J Hollywell, D Kissane, C Latif, Mrs J Lloyd, J Lloyd CC, A McGuinness, M McKay, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, S Mead, M Notley, R Parker CC, R Raynor, C Saunders, S Speller, P Stuart, S Taylor OBE CC, H Tessier, J Thomas and A Webb.

Also present: Jochebel MacCarthy (Chair Youth Council) and J Klutse (Vice-Chair Youth Council), Chris Badger, Assistant Director – Health Integration Hertfordshire County Council and Jacqui Bunce – East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group – NHS.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.00 p.m.
End Time: 10.00 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bainbridge, L Bell, R Broom, G Clark, D Cullen, G Snell, V Warwick and Youth Mayor S Field.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the deletion of the name of Councillor C Saunders from the list of attendees, the Minutes of the Council meeting of 8 October 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

The Mayor provided Council with a brief update of events that she had attended since the last meeting.

The Mayor welcomed and congratulated Jochebel McCarthy as the newly elected Chair of Stevenage Youth Council and Junior Klutse, the new Vice-Chair. She also took the opportunity to express the Council's thanks to the out-going Chair, Joseph Barnes for his contributions at Council meetings.

She informed Council that she had met many staff during her visits to the various service delivery units of the Council and would like to thank all officers for their hard work.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Cherney-Craw on her significant birthday and wished her well.

She also announced the sad deaths of two stalwarts in the community, Spencer Thomas and Mary Griffith and expressed the Council's condolences.

Finally the Mayor proposed a motion of Council's congratulations to Lewis Hamilton on his Formula 1 World Title.

The Motion was seconded and put to vote and it was **RESOLVED**:

'That this Council formally records its best wishes and congratulations to Lewis Hamilton on his magnificent victory in the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix which resulted in him becoming only the fourth Briton to win two F1 World Titles. Everyone in Stevenage is so proud of this great achievement and we all hope that the 2014 World Championship will not be his last. We wish him all the very best for next season.'

Councillor Taylor requested that a letter with the details of the motion be sent to Lewis Hamilton.

4. MAIN DEBATE – 'SHARE THE CARE'- HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION – WHAT THIS MEANS FOR STEVENAGE'

Council received a presentation from Chris Badger, Assistant Director, Health Integration Hertfordshire County County (HCC) and Jacqui Bunce – East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Chris Badger informed Council that with changing demographics in the population and the present economic climate it was essential to have a responsive health and social care service which would meet individual patients' needs within the community. He also advised that the integration of both health and social care services would ensure cooperation between its respective professionals who would be appropriately skilled and able to work across organisational boundaries. He acknowledged that the integration of services would address the accessibility concerns expressed by users prior to or after hospital admissions. Mr Badger informed Council that both

Hertfordshire County Council and the National Health Service had agreed to pool their resources so as to effectively manage their care and support services thereby reducing any form of duplication in service provision and most importantly improve access to all users.

Jacqui Bunce advised Council that initiatives such as providing health checks for over 75's, promoting bowel cancer screening and providing enhanced care home services would hopefully result in the reduction of hospital admissions. She indicated that both HCC and the NHS were working in partnership with key stakeholders such as local GPs, pharmacies, ambulance services, patient groups etc. in identifying and managing high risk patients.

She also highlighted some of the key local priorities of 2014/15 such as improving dementia care and promoting healthy lifestyles.

In proposing the Motion Councillor R Henry welcomed the integration of the services as it would benefit service users but was concerned that funding cuts from Herts County Council would adversely impact Stevenage residents due to their particular needs. He acknowledged the need to look at more innovative and preventative measures so as to reduce pressures on hospitals.

Councillor S Mead in seconding the Motion welcomed the integration of the services but was concerned with the issues around privatisation and the outsourcing of the providers.

Councillor A McGuinness moved an amendment to the Motion which was seconded by Councillor R Parker. The amendment noted the need for the motion to acknowledge that the integration of health and social care activities had been feasible due to the Government's Better Health Care Fund. He also indicated that it was important that the available funds be used more effectively rather than requesting an increase in budgets.

At this juncture, the amendment was put to vote and declared lost.

A full debate ensued with both Councillors and members of the public taking part. Points raised included

- The reduction in social care funding would have an impact on the delivery of care services.
- Staff shortages in care and social services was related to low pay.
- The integrated service should not be centred on older people alone but also cater for people with mental health and learning disabilities
- Although the delivery of these services was under HCC remit, district councils had a vital role to play

- HCC's withdrawal of the supported housing funds for older people would have an adverse impact on older people's welfare
- Transitional funding should be provided in the interim before the integrated services were fully established
- Family carers played a key role and should be recognised in the integrated services
- Both employers and businesses had a key role to play as issues of unemployment cannot be overlooked with regard to people's well being.
- The NHS was not well suited for dealing with the causes of mental health and learning disabilities
- SBC was to consider promoting healthy lifestyles through the various agencies such as Stevenage Leisure Limited, Sport Stevenage, Housing and the use of open green spaces.

The Mayor thanked Chris Badger, Jacqui Bunce and the contributors to the debate.

The Motion was then put to vote and it was **RESOLVED:**

" That this Council supports the ongoing integration of Health and Social Care activities on the basis that it improves the quality of life of those living in Stevenage, fully supporting those with complex health needs, with a particular focus on the locally identified health improvement priorities (smoking cessation, healthy weight, mental health and emotional wellbeing) and that resources for core services including the Housing related support grant for older peoples services are maintained or where necessary increased to meet local needs now and in the future.

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

None

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

None.

8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE

The Mayor called upon Councillor R Parker, Leader of the Opposition, to raise one matter relevant to the Borough.

The Leader of the Opposition enquired if the Council would be reviewing its policy on fortnightly emptying of bins following concerns about overflowing litter and dog bins.

In response Councillor Taylor advised that a written response produced by the Services Manager - Street Scene & Amenities highlighting steps that Officers would be undertaking to address this issue would be made available to Councillor Parker.

Council received updates about the following:

- Stevenage First Task Force
- Housing Business Plan
- North Herts Local Plan
- Cuts in Bus Subsidies by HCC
- RTP (Royal Town Planning Institute Certificate)
- Small Business Saturday
- District Officer Public Health
- Domestic Abuse Conference
- Youth Conference
- Youth Enterprise Company Programme
- Community Volunteering Qualification
- LCB Update
- Community Centres
- Housing Enforcers TV Programme
- Tenants' Welfare Day
- Damp, Mould and Condensation Project

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The Motion included in the agenda was moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor McGuinness.

After a debate it was put to the vote and it was **RESOLVED:**

‘That this Council congratulates all the scientists, engineers and others, many of them Stevenage based, who worked for years on the Rosetta spacecraft including the Philae lander, and thereby contributed to the huge success of the mission in November 2014 in the first ever landing on a comet.’

10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS / PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Council had received four questions that were detailed in the order of business.

- A. In response to a question from Councillor P Bibby about the main debate, the Leader advised that previous topics that had been debated at Council were of public interest and relevant to the

residents in the town but the Council would undertake a review of the procedure for Main Debate after the elections in May 2015.

- B. The Portfolio Holder, Environment and Regeneration, replied to a question from Councillor R Parker concerning the wildlife and pond area near the Towers and explained what works were going to take place to tidy up this area.

In reply to a supplementary question, the Portfolio Holder advised that letters would be sent out to residents notifying them of the works being carried out. He also undertook to send a written reply to Councillor Parker regarding the Anti Social Behaviour issues in that area.

- C. The Portfolio Holder, Environment and Regeneration, replied to a question from Councillor A McGuinness concerning the impact of the HCC cuts in opening hours at the Stevenage Household Waste and Recycling Centre. He explained that Districts had opposed the cuts as they feared that this would lead to an increase in fly tipping but this would be monitored. He also outlined the communication plan to be put in place

- D. In response to a question from Councillor G Snell about parking Penalty Charge Notices (PCN), the Portfolio Holder, Environment and Regeneration, advised that a written reply would be provided explaining the different categories of PCN and the various amounts raised.

In reply to a supplementary question on whether a review on the parking schemes in Chells could be undertaken as it was two years since it had been introduced, the Portfolio Holder advised that a written response would be provided.

11. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 11 NOVEMBER 2014

The Council had before it the Minutes from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 11 November 2014.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Audit Committee of 11 November 2014 be noted

Mayor