

**STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL****ANNUAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES****Date: Tuesday 26 May 2015****Time: 7.00 pm****Place: Council Chamber**

- Present: The Mayor (2014/15), S Batson MBE DL CC, and Councillors D Bainbridge, L Bell, P Bibby, L Briscoe, R Broom, J Brown, L Chester, M Downing, J Fraser, J Gardner, M Gardner, L Harrington, S Hearn, R Henry CC, H Burrell, M Hurst, C Latif, G Lawrence, Mrs J Lloyd, J Lloyd CC, A McGuinness, M McKay, J Mead, S Mead, M Notley, R Parker CC, R Raynor, C Saunders, G Snell, S Speller, S Taylor OBE CC, J Thomas, V Warwick and A Webb.
- In Attendance: S Field (Youth Mayor 2014/15), J MacCarthy (Chair of Youth Council) and Y Tiako.
- Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.00 p.m.  
End Time: 8.50 p.m.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Connolly, D Cullen, L Martin-Haugh and P Stuart.

**2. MINUTES – WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2015**

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the following correction of a typographical error in Minute 8B the Minutes of the Council meeting of 25 February 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

The first sentence of Minute 8B should read 'In reply Councillor A Webb advised the meeting of the Council's plans to build 500 new homes in the next ten years'.

At this juncture the Mayor presented a slide show of her time in office and made a speech in which she spoke about the engagements she had undertaken and she thanked everybody that had supported her in particular her consort, Howard Rooke, Tracey Frost, Member Services and the Constitutional Services Team.

### 3. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

The Mayor asked for nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2015/16.

Councillor S Taylor OBE CC nominated Councillor H Burrell and this was seconded by Councillor V Warwick.

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 Burrell as Mayor. He explained that 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. He added that he also had personal reservations about the nomination.

There being no other nominations a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor H Burrell be elected as Mayor for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

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

Councillor Burrell then made the statutory declaration of office.

The Mayor announced that his partner, Jennifer Higgins, would be his Mayoress for 2015/16.

The Mayor gave his inaugural speech and stated that his charity for the year would be 'Riding for the Disabled' and that he intended to establish a fund for a young musician to be administered by the Stevenage Arts Foundation.

### 4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor J Lloyd CC be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Councillor Parker referred to the comments he had made under the previous item regarding the selection of individuals to serve as Deputy Mayor, however this was not a reflection on the individual nominated.

There being no other nominations a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor J Lloyd CC be appointed Deputy Mayor for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year.

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

Councillor J Lloyd CC then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Deputy Mayor announced that Councillor Mrs J Lloyd would be his Deputy Mayoress for 2015/16.

## 5. APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH MAYOR

At this juncture the Mayor thanked the outgoing Youth Mayor, Shae Field, for her work as a representative for the youth of Stevenage and as an Ambassador for the town.

Council was informed that following an election, the Youth Council had nominated Yvan Tiako as the 2015/16 Youth Mayor.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Yvan Tiako be appointed as Youth Mayor for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year.

Yvan Tiako came forward and signed the acceptance of office and was presented with the Youth Mayor's chain.

In his acceptance speech the Youth Mayor thanked his fellow members of the Youth Council and all of those who had voted for him. He then praised the outgoing Youth Mayor, Shae Field, for her contribution to the young people of the town.

Before moving to the next item on the agenda the Leader, Leader of the Opposition and Councillors R Parker CC, Mrs J Lloyd, J Gardner and S Speller took the opportunity to pay tribute to and thank the Chief Executive, Nick Parry, who would be retiring from the Council at the end of May.

## 6. BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Council considered a report that detailed the results of the Borough Council Elections that were held on 7th May 2015.

The Leader congratulated the Town's Member of Parliament, Stephen McPartland, on his success in the parliamentary election and welcomed new and re-elected Councillors to the Chamber.

She then bade farewell to each of those Members that had either stood down or been unsuccessful in the local elections. Former Councillors M Cherney-Craw, G Clark, J Hollywell, D Kissane and H Tessier were each thanked for their service to the Council, with special mentions made to G Clark for his contribution to the town, especially during his mayoral year, and to D Kissane for his hard work within the community and for his work with the charities in the town.

The Leader concluded by saying that given his length of service it was the intention to bring a motion to Council to bestow the Honour of Alderman on D Kissane.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor P Bibby, added to the tribute to former Councillor G Clark and expressed his thanks for his services to the town and the Conservative Party.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the results of the Stevenage Borough Council Elections 2015 be noted.

## **7. APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor S Taylor OBE CC be appointed Leader of the Council for 2015-2019.

NOTE: Councillors A McGuinness, R Parker CC and G Snell requested that their abstentions in the vote be recorded.

In her speech Councillor Taylor informed the Council that Councillor J Gardner would be the Deputy Leader and that he would also have the Portfolio for Regeneration and Environment.

The other Members of the Executive and their Portfolios would be as follows:

- Councillor Mrs J Lloyd – Resources
- Councillor A Webb – Housing
- Councillor R Henry CC – Children, Young People and Leisure
- Councillor S Speller – Neighbourhoods and Co-operative Council
- Councillor R Raynor – Economy, Enterprise and Transport
- Councillor S Batson MBE DL CC – Safer Communities and Equalities
- Councillor J Thomas – Community, Health and Older People

Council was also informed that all Members would be given delegated authority regarding the spend of their £2,500 Local Community Budget and for the Youth Mayor's £3,300 Youth Community Budget.

## **8. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

The Chief Executive advised the Council that the Leader of the Opposition would be Councillor P Bibby and that Councillor J Fraser would be his deputy.

## **9. 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, J Fraser and G Snell would be Deputy Leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively.

## **10. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES**

Council had before it a report relating to the Member level decision making structure of the Council and the Council's Constitution for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year which had been circulated on the Supplementary Agenda.

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

1. That the Terms of Reference, as detailed in the appendices to the report, be approved for the following bodies that form the non-Executive Member level decision making structure of the Council:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee\* (Appendix A) – 13 Members (10 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Community Select Committee\* (Appendix B) – 10 Members (7 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Environment and Economy Select Committee\* (Appendix C) - 10 Members (7 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Planning & Development Committee\* (Appendix D) – 13 Members (10 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Licensing Committee (Appendix E) – 13 Members (10 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- General Purposes Committee\* (Appendix F) – 13 Members (10 Labour Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Appointments Committee\* (Appendix G) - 8 Members (6 Labour Group, 1 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Standards Committee\* (Appendix H) – 8 Members (6 Labour Group, 1 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
- Audit Committee\* (Appendix I) – 8 Members (6 Labour Group, 1 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group) + 1 Co-opted non-elected member
- Statement of Accounts Committee\* (Appendix J) – 7 Members (6 Labour Group, 1 Conservative Group)

\* Indicates where those bodies covered by the rules of proportionality for the purposes of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups), Regulations 1990.

2. That the dates for Council meetings for the Municipal Year, as shown at paragraph 4.3 of the report, be approved and the draft dates for other meetings as shown at Appendix K to the report be noted.
3. That 5 Members be appointed to the Housing Management Board (4 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Member).

## 11. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Details of the individuals nominated to serve on each Committee had been circulated at the meeting.

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

1. That the Committees, together with the Chairs, for the 2015/16 Municipal Year be appointed, as agreed at agenda item 10, resolution 1, as follows:

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 Members (10-2-1)

Councillors – L Martin-Haugh (Chair), L Bell, P Bibby, L Briscoe, J Brown, M Downing, M Gardner, E Harrington, M Hurst, C Latif, S Mead, R Parker CC and P Stuart

## COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

10 Members (7-2-1):

Councillors - S Mead (Chair), L Bell, E Connolly, E Harrington, S Hearn, J Mead, M Notley, C Saunders, G Snell and P Stuart

## ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE

10 Members (7-2-1):

Councillors - M Downing (Chair), D Bainbridge, L Briscoe, R Broom, J Brown, J Fraser, M Hurst, J Mead, A McGuinness and P Stuart

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

13 Members (10-2-1)

Councillors - D Cullen (Chair), D Bainbridge, R Broom, L Chester, M Downing, J Fraser, M Gardner, E Harrington, G Lawrence, J Lloyd CC, M McKay, G Snell and P Stuart

## LICENSING COMMITTEE

13 Members (10-2-1)

Councillors - L Chester (Chair), D Bainbridge, E Connolly, E Harrington, S Hearn, C Latif, J Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, A McGuinness, M McKay, M Notley, C Saunders and V Warwick

## GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

13 Members (10-2-1)

Councillors - L Chester (Chair), D Bainbridge, E Connolly, E Harrington, S Hearn, C Latif, J Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, A McGuinness, M McKay, M Notley, C Saunders and V Warwick

## APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

8 Members (6-1-1)

Councillors - S Taylor OBE CC (Chair), P Bibby, J Gardner, R Henry CC, Mrs J Lloyd, R Parker CC, S Speller and A Webb

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

8 Members (6-1-1)

Councillors - Mrs J Lloyd (Chairman), L Briscoe, M Notley, G Snell, V Warwick and 3 Majority Group Members (to be confirmed)

Independent Person who must be consulted on alleged breaches to the Code of Conduct - Mr Allen Holland

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

8 Elected Members (6 -1-1) + 1 Independent co-opted Member

Councillors – M McKay (Chair), R Broom, L Chester, D Cullen, J Gardner, G Lawrence, J Lloyd CC and A McGuinness

Mr. Brian Mitchell - Independent, non-elected Member

#### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

7 Members (6-1-0)

Councillors - Mrs J Lloyd (Chairman), P Bibby, E Connolly, J Mead, S Mead, R Raynor and J Thomas

2. That 5 Members be appointed to the Housing Management Board as agreed at Item 10, resolution 3, as follows:  
5 Members (4 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Member)  
Councillors – P Bibby, M Gardner, E Harrington, C Latif, S Mead.

## 12. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Council considered the list of individuals nominated to serve on Outside Bodies which had been circulated on the Supplementary Agenda.

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 E Harrington

BRAGBURY CENTRE – Councillor L Bell

CHELLS MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor G Snell

COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND – HERTFORDSHIRE SOCIETY – Executive Member by Portfolio

DOUGLAS DRIVE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Lloyd CC

EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – Leader - By Position

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL – Executive Member by Portfolio

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

HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – Councillor M Gardner

HCC JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP – Executive Member by Portfolio.

HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITIES LEADERS GROUP – By Position: Leader.

HERTFORDSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND POLICY GROUP – Executive Member by Portfolio.

HERTFORDSHIRE SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING BODY MEMBERS OVERVIEW – Executive Member by Portfolio.

HERTFORDSHIRE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM STEERING GROUP – Executive Member by Portfolio.

HOME-START STEVENAGE - Councillor J Gardner

KADOMA LINK ASSOCIATION - Councillors R Broom and G Snell

LIVING ROOM PROJECT - Councillor A Webb

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) - By Position: Leader

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT - Councillor M Downing

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

OLD STEVENAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Brown

OVAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor M McKay

PIN GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Thomas

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY GROUP (COMMUNITY SAFETY) – Executive Member by Portfolio.

SoSTEVENAGE PARTNERSHIP –The Leader and the Deputy Leader

SHEPHALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Lloyd CC

ST. NICHOLAS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor R Henry CC

STEVENAGE WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTRE – Councillor Mrs J Lloyd

STEVENAGE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – Councillor R Raynor

STEVENAGE COMMUNITY TRUST – Councillors R Henry CC and J Mead

STEVENAGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – Executive Member by Portfolio

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



STEVENAGE CREDIT UNION LTD - Councillor L Chester

STEVENAGE FURNITURE RECYCLING SCHEME - Councillor L Bell

STEVENAGE HAVEN – Councillor L Chester

STEVENAGE/AUTUN /INGELHEIM ASSOCIATION – Councillors R Henry CC and S Speller

STEVENAGE LEISURE LIMITED (OBSERVER) – The Leader and Executive Member by Portfolio

STEVENAGE WORLD FORUM FOR ETHNIC COMMUNITIES - Councillor D Cullen

SYMONDS GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Chester

TIMEBRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – Councillor P Stuart

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004- ADJUDICATION JOINT COMMITTEE – Executive Member by Portfolio

**Mayor**