

## STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2007

Time: 7.00pm

Place: The Barclay School, Walkern Road, Stevenage

**Present:** Members: Councillors G. Clark (Mayor), J. Lloyd, CC (Deputy Mayor), S. Batson, CC, H. Burrell, M. Cherney-Craw, M. Downing, CC, P.E.J. Gallagher, J. Gardner, L. Harrington, R.J. Henry, J. Hollywell, B. Jackson, P.D. Kissane, T. Kent, CC, L. Knight, JP, L.A. Lambert, C. Latif, Mrs J.E. Lloyd, M.A. Mason, S.M. Myson, M. Notley, M.P. Patston, J. Pickersgill, J.R. Raynor, G. Snell, S.K. Speller, Mrs L.G. Strange, P. Stuart, S. Taylor, H.C.L. Tessier, J. Thomas, and B.G. Underwood.

**Start/End Time:** Start Time: 7.00pm  
End Time: 9.00pm

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R.A. Clark , D.W. Cullen, CC, R.G. Parker, CC, R. Smith, MBE, DL and Mrs. A. Webb.

An apology for absence was also received from Phil Bishop, Chair of the Stevenage Youth Council.

An apology for lateness was submitted on behalf of Councillor T. Kent, CC who joined the meeting at 7.30pm.

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2 MINUTES – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2007

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2007, having been circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

That at Item 3, the wording be changed to read:  
“Stevenage Borough Football Club had won the FA Trophy”;

That at Item 12, “Councillor S.M. Mason” be changed to read:  
“Councillor S.M. Myson”.

### **3 MINUTES – EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL - Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2007**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2007, having been circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **4 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave details about a competition that would be running throughout his year of office for people to guess how many engagements he would complete. All proceeds raised would go to his charities.

He spoke about his activities since taking office, which ranged from entertaining guests from Autun and Ingelheim and dinner at Hatfield House to a painting workshop for the under fours and a "mini" Stevenage Arts Festival. He also spoke about the Talented Young Sports People Award ceremony where a number of the Town's youngsters were recognised. The Mayor's Award for Sporting Excellence this year was won by Neil McLellan, a javelin thrower currently ranked second in the UK.

On a sadder note, the Mayor spoke about the tragic death of Fire fighter Paul Mallaghan and sent the Council's deepest sympathy to his family.

The Mayor then gave his apologies as he had another engagement and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Lloyd, Chaired the remainder of the meeting.

### **5 MAIN DEBATE – STEVENAGE 2021 – OUR TOWN – OUR FUTURE**

The Deputy Mayor stated that as he expected the debate to be a lively one, he moved that Standing Order 17 (f) be waived to allow the debate to run over 40 minutes.

Councillor Sharon Taylor, Leader of the Council seconded the motion.

Upon being put to the vote, it was **RESOLVED** that Standing order 17 (f) be waived.

The Chief Executive gave a short presentation that set the background for the Main Debate. He emphasised the importance of working in partnership with both private and public sectors, as well as voluntary and community organisations to achieve the kind of town that people wanted.

The draft Stevenage 2021 Vision and Priorities document had been included in the agenda.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the Chief Executive for his presentation and called on Councillor Sharon Taylor, Leader of the Council, to open the debate.

Councillor Taylor opened the debate and moved a Motion that was seconded by Councillor John Gardiner.

Councillors and members of the public contributed to the debate and raised a number of opinions and issues that they considered should be addressed in the Vision. These included:

- Recognition of the Town's potential and aspirations;
- The need for the Town to be sustainable, where people could live, work and lead a full life;
- Recognition of the heritage of the Old town;
- Improved sporting and leisure facilities and all the benefits those could bring;
- That the reference to health inequalities in the draft document was welcomed, especially mental health issues;
- Recognition that whilst fear of crime may not be justified by crime levels, it remained a real concern for many people;
- The Railway Station was considered to be in urgent need of refurbishment and made fully DDA compliant;
- Care should be taken when the development of the West of Stevenage was planned so that it did not create a fragmented town;
- The need to consider the impact of climate change and to extend re-cycling;
- The Bedwell Environmental Action Day was a splendid example of community action and working in partnership;
- The need to find ways of engaging the public in the decision making processes for the community and encourage them to attend council meetings;
- The development of the arts;
- That opportunities for older people and those with disabilities should be addressed but not in isolation to younger people;
- Public transport, roads and traffic schemes needed to be considered;
- The need to address the skills gap;
- The Building Schools for the Future Programme;
- A sustainable infrastructure for the town, particularly with the new development taking place;
- The promotion of the Town and the need to address unfair and unjustified perceptions held by people outside the Town;
- The need for new homes in Stevenage that people from the Town could afford.

Additionally, Stevenage MP Barbara Follett was congratulated on her appointment as Minister for East of England and the view was expressed that she might be able to clarify the new planning policies that had caused much confusion.

In conclusion, Councillor Taylor thanked everyone for their contributions and paid tribute to Councillor John Gardner for his work as Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership over the previous three years.

Upon being put to the vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council welcomes the work carried out by the Stevenage Partnership in getting its priorities right for the

people of Stevenage and supports the public consultation so that the Partnership fully understands what local people want for their Town.

## **6 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

None received.

## **7 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None received.

## **8 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE**

In the absence of Councillor Robin Parker, the Deputy Mayor called upon the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to raise one matter relevant to the Borough that had arisen since the last meeting.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked what affect the smoking ban had had in Stevenage, particularly for Council staff and litter bins around community centres.

The Leader of the Council stated that she was pleased to see the ban, which was an important piece of legislation designed to improve the health of people and she was sure that any potential problems arising would be quickly addressed.

On this occasion, there was no update from the Leader of the Council.

## **9 NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

None received.

## **10 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

None received.

## **11 OFFICER REPORT – AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION – RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

Council considered a report that sought approval to revise the Council's Constitution to include specific responsibility for Risk Management within the Portfolio of the Executive Member (Resources).

It was **RESOLVED** that the Executive Portfolio Areas shown as Part 3 "Responsibility for Functions" of the Council's Constitution be amended by the addition of "Risk Management" to the specific list of responsibilities within the Resources Portfolio.

**12 OFFICER REPORT – REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT**

Council considered a report that sought adoption of the revised Code of Conduct for Members, as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

It was **RESOLVED** that the revised Code of Conduct as set out in the Appendix to the report be adopted with effect from 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2007.

**MAYOR**