

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 21 May 2008

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Place: Council Chamber

Present: Members Councillors Graham Clark (Mayor), Sherma Batson,CC, Howard Burrell, Monika Cherney-Craw, Dilya Clark, Bob Clark, David Cullen,CC, Michael Downing,CC, James Fraser, Pam Gallagher, John Gardner, Liz Harrington, Richard Henry, Matthew Hurst, David Kissane, Carol Latif, John Lloyd,CC, Mrs. Joan Lloyd, Lin Martin-Haugh, Marion Mason, Sue Myson, Margaret Notley, Robin Parker,CC, Mick Patston, Jack Pickersgill, Ralph Raynor, Reg Smith, Graham Snell, Simon Speller, Pam Stuart, Sharon Taylor,CC, Brian Underwood, Vickie Warwick and Ann Webb

Agenda Item:

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In Attendance: -

Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.00 p.m.
End Time: 8.30pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Laurie Chester, Lis Knight, Lilian Strange, Jackie Holywell and Jeannette Thomas.

2 MINUTES - Wednesday 27th February, 2008

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 27 February, 2008, having been circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR*

Before presenting his end of year address the Mayor paid tribute to former Mayor Alf Luhman and Tony Turner who had both recently passed away.

A number of Members spoke in tribute to both former councillors.

The meeting then observed a minute's silence in remembrance of Alf Luhman and Tony Turner

The Mayor, Councillor Graham Clark, then delivered his end of year speech in

which he reflected on his term of office. He spoke about how enjoyable and successful the year had been and mentioned how pleased he was to serve the council and the town of Stevenage.

He thanked all those who had supported him and the Mayoress in their year in office, particularly the Mayor and Mayoress Designate (Councillor Patston and Deborah Patston), the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor John Lloyd, CC and Councillor Mrs Joan Lloyd), the leader of the Council, Councillor Taylor, CC and the staff in Member's Services, particularly Tracey Frost.

Councillor Clark called for members' nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2008/09.

Councillor Taylor, CC, proposed Councillor Patston be nominated as Mayor for the 2008/09 Municipal Year and this was seconded by Councillor Speller. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Patston be elected as Mayor for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

Councillor Patston made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor announced that his wife Deborah Patston would be Mayoress for 2008/09.

In his inaugural speech, Councillor Patston stated how proud he was to be elected into the office of Mayor of Stevenage.

He stated that the Mayoral charities for the year would be :

- The Stevenage Sea Cadets
- The Air Training Corps
- Stevenage Army Cadets
- Tracks
- Stevenage Community Trust.

4 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR*

The Mayor then called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor.

It was duly proposed and seconded that Councillor John Lloyd, CC, be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor John Lloyd, CC, be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

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

The Deputy Mayor thanked his proposer and seconder and announced that his wife, Councillor Mrs Joan Lloyd would be the Deputy Mayoress for 2008/09.

5 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR DESIGNATE*

The Mayor announced that he was to appoint Councillor Myson to the office of Mayor Designate for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

The Mayor then announced that Councillor Myson's husband, Dave Myson, would be Consort to the Mayor Designate for 2008/09.

6 BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2008

The Mayor congratulated the Councillors who were elected on 27th March and 1st May and welcomed those who were new to the Chamber.

Council then considered the report that detailed the results of the By-Elections held on 27th March and of the Borough Council Elections that were held on 1st May 2008.

It was moved and seconded that the report be noted.

Upon being put to the vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the results of the Stevenage Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council By-Elections and Borough Council Elections 2008 be noted.

7 CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

This report had not been circulated five clear days before the meeting, nor had it been available for public inspection for this time. The Mayor determined however that given the reason for urgency set out in the report it be considered on this occasion.

Council considered the report that detailed various matters related to the political management structure of the Council.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

Upon being put to the vote, it was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the Executive Portfolios as set out at Appendix A to the report be approved:

2. That the Terms of Reference for the following bodies as detailed in the appendices to the report be approved –

- The Executive (Appendix B)
- Scrutiny Overview Committee (Appendix C)
- Planning & Development Committee (Appendix D)
- Licensing Committee (Appendix E)
- General Purposes Committee (Appendix F)
- Appointments Committee (Appendix G)
- Standards Committee (Appendix H)
- Audit Committee (Appendix I)
- Area Committees x 6 (Appendix J)

- Stevenage / Herts County Council Highways Joint Member Panel (Appendix K)

2.3. That it be noted that Stewart Gillies (Chair) and Ananda Hale are to continue to serve on the Standards Committee.

2.4. That Allen Holland be appointed additional independent, non-elected Member of the Standards Committee and Brian Mitchell be appointed independent, non-elected Co-opted Member of the Audit Committee.

2.5. That, subject to Council's approval of 2.1 and 2.2 above, the Council's Standing Orders and other relevant sections of the Constitution be amended accordingly.

2.6. That Council approves the dates for Council meetings for the Municipal Year 2008/09 as shown at paragraph 4.7 and note the draft dates for other meetings (as detailed in the appendix circulated around the Chamber).

8 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL*

It was duly proposed and seconded that Councillor Taylor, CC, be appointed as Leader of the Council for the 2008/09 Municipal year.

There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Taylor, CC, be appointed as Leader of the Council for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

9 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL*

It was duly proposed and seconded that Councillor Gardner be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Gardner be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

10 APPOINTMENT OF LEADERS AND DEPUTY LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION*

The Chief Executive advised the Council of the appointment of Councillor G. Clark as Leader of the Opposition and Councillor Notley as Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

11 APPOINTMENT OF LEADERS AND DEPUTY LEADERS OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL*

The Chief Executive advised the Council that Councillors Taylor CC, G. Clark and R.G. Parker had been appointed as Leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively. It was noted that Councillors Gardner, Notley and Snell would be Deputy Leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively.

12 APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNCIL*

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that for the 2008/09 Municipal year, the executive be constituted as follows:

9 members (8 Majority, 1 Opposition):

Leader Councillor S. Taylor, CC

Deputy Leader Councillor J. Gardner

Councillors H. Burrell ,G. Clark, R.J. Henry, Mrs J.E. Lloyd, S.M. Myson, S. Speller, Mrs P.A. Webb, with Members appointed to the Executive areas of responsibility as follows:

Councillor H. Burrell – Children and Young People, Culture, Sport and Leisure

Councillor J. Gardner – Environment and Regeneration

Councillor R.J. Henry – Safer and Stronger Communities

Councillor Mrs J.E. Lloyd – Resources

Councillor S.M. Myson – Community, Health and Older People

Councillor S. Speller – Economy, Enterprise and Transport

Councillor Mrs. P.A. Webb – Housing

Councillor G. Clark

Additionally, the Leader of the Council to have responsibility for Town Twinning, Media and Communications, Modernisation of Local Government – new political structures and the Constitution, Public Consultation, Partnerships, Members' Services, including the Modern Member Programme and the Civic Suite.

13 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES/PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

The Chief Executive advised that Council was asked to appoint its Committees and Panels by Alternative Arrangements for the purposes of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

The Chief Executive stated that once the Committees and Panels had been established, consideration should be given to the appointment of their Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

It was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that, by Alternative Arrangements for the purposes of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Regulation 20, the Committees for the 2008/09 Municipal Year be constituted as follows:

SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE – 12 Members (10 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative)

Councillors M. Cherney-Craw, L. Chester, R. A. Clark D.W. Cullen, M. Downing, CC, E. Harrington, P. Gallagher M, Hurst, P.D Kissane, L. Martin – Haugh, R.G. Parker, CC, and V. Warwick

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 13 Members (11 labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative)

Councillors S.Batson,CC, M.Cherney-Craw, L. Chester, D. Clark, M. Downing, CC, E. Harrington, J. Hollywell, John Lloyd, CC, R. Raynor, G. Snell, L. G. Strange,

J.Thomas and B.G. Underwood

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 13 Members (11 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative)

Councillors M Cherney-Craw, P.E.J. Gallagher, P.D. Kissane , L. Knight, C. Latif, John Lloyd, CC, L. Martin-Haugh, M. Notley, J. Pickersgill, L.G. Strange, P. Stuart, J.Thomas and B.Underwood

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - 13 Members (11 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative)

Councillors M. Cherney-Craw, P.E. J. Gallagher , P.D. Kissane, L. Knight, C. Latif, John Lloyd,CC, L. Martin-Haugh, M. Notley, J. Pickersgill, L.G. Strange, P. Stuart, J. Thomas and B. Underwood.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE – 6 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Opposition). Detailed membership to be determined when a meeting is convened.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 9 Members (1 Non-Elected Independent Chair, 2 Non-Elected Independent Members, 4 Labour, 2 Opposition)

Councillors M Downing,CC, P.D. Kissane, Mrs J.E. Lloyd, M. Notley, G. Snell and B.G. Underwood

Independent Non-Elected Members: Ms A. Hale, Mr A. Holland and Mr S. Gillies.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 6 Members (1Non-elected Independent Member, 4 Labour, 1 Conservative).

Councillors J. Gardner , R.A. Clark, J. Hollywell, M. Notley and R. Raynor

Independent Non-Elected Member: Mr B. Mitchell.

BEDWELL AREA COMMITTEE – 6 Members

Councillors D.W. Cullen,CC, E. Harrington, L. Martin-Haugh, R.J. Smith, MBE, DL, S.K. Speller and B.G. Underwood

BROADWATER AREA COMMITTEE – 6 Members

Councillors S. Batson, CC, M. Cherney-Craw, J.Gardner, M. Hurst, John Lloyd, CC , and Mrs. S.M. Myson

CHELLS & MANOR AREA COMMITTEE – 6 Members

Councillors H. Burrell, L. Knight, P.G.Parker,CC, G.Snell, P. Stuart and V.Warwick

OLD STEVENAGE – 9 Members

Councillors G. Clark, M. Downing CC, L.Chester, J. Fraser, P.E.J. Gallagher, P.D.

Kissane, M.A. Mason, M. Notley and S. Taylor,CC

ST. NICHOLAS AREA COMMITTEE – 6 Members

Councillors D. Clark, R.J. Henry, C. Latif, M.P. Patston, J.R. Raynor and J. Thomas

SHEPHALL, BANDLEY HILL & POPLARS – 6 Members

Councillors R.A. Clark, J. Hollywell, Mrs. J.E. Lloyd, J. Pickersgill, L.G. Strange and Mrs. P.A. Webb

It was moved and seconded that the nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Council's Committees, as detailed on a paper circulated at the meeting, be approved.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council's Committees and Panels be appointed for the 2008/09 Municipal year.

SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Chair – D.W. Cullen, CC
Vice-Chair – P. Gallagher

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair – J. Thomas
Vice-Chair – M. Downing, CC

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Chair – P.D. Kissane
Vice-Chair – C. Latif

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Chair – P.D. Kissane
Vice-Chair – C. Latif

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Chair – Mr S. Gillies

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair – R. Raynor
Vice-Chair – J. Gardner

BEDWELL AREA COMMITTEE

Chair – B.G. Underwood
Vice-Chair – E. Harrington

BROADWATER AREA COMMITTEE

Chair – S. Batson,CC
Vice-Chair – M.Cherney-Craw

CHELLS & MANOR AREA COMMITTEE

Chair – P.Stuart
Vice-Chair – V.Warwick

OLD STEVENAGE AREA COMMITTEE

Chair – P.D. Kissane
Vice-Chair – M. Downing,CC

ST. NICHOLAS AREA COMMITTEE

Chair – C. Latif
Vice-Chair – R.Raynor

SHEPHALL, BANDLEY HILL & POPLARS

Chair – J. Hollywell
Vice-Chair – J.A. Pickersgill

Note: Councillor Parker,CC, requested that his vote against the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs (as detailed above) be formally recorded in the Minutes.

14 APPOINTMENT OF JOINT PANEL WITH HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL*

It was RESOLVED that the following Member Panel be appointed jointly with Hertfordshire County Council

STEVENAGE HIGHWAYS JOINT MEMBER PANEL – 6 Stevenage Borough Council Members (4 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative) – one from each Area Committee, to be matched by 6 Hertfordshire County Council members (those representing the 6 HCC Divisions in Stevenage).

SBC COUNCILLORS – M. Cherney-Craw, J.Fraser, C. Latif, L. Strange, B.G. Underwood and V. Warwick.

HCC COUNCILLORS – S. Batson, D.W. Cullen, M.Downing, John Lloyd , R.G.Parker and S. Taylor.

15 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES*

A schedule of Representatives on Outside Bodies and other Council Appointments was appended to the agenda.

It was duly proposed, 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) - Councillors C.Latif and B. Underwood .

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND, EAST - Councillor H. Burrell

ARTS GUILD FOR STEVENAGE - Councillor H. Burrell.

BEDWELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L. Harrington

BROADWATER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor John Lloyd,CC

CANYON PLAY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J. Pickersgill

CHELLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor P. Stuart

CHELLS MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L. Knight

CPRE – HERTFORDSHIRE SOCIETY - Councillor J. Gardner

CROSSROADS - Councillors L. Strange and M. Cherney-Craw

DIGSWELL ARTS TRUST BOARD - Councillor S.Speller

DOUGLAS DRIVE DAY CENTRE - Councillor S.Speller

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY – Leader, Councillor S. Taylor,CC –
By Position

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL - Councillor J.Gardner

EAST OF ENGLAND TOURIST BOARD - Councillor R. A. Clark

EASTERN ARTS MUSIC - Councillor H. Burrell

FACE TO FACE - Councillor G. Snell

FEDERATION OF STEVENAGE TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS - Councillor L.
Harrington

GEMMS - Councillor D. Kissane

GORDON CRAIG THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY - Councillor L. Martin-Haugh

HCC Health Scrutiny Committee – Councillor M. Downing,CC

HCC INVESTMENT PANEL (VIA HERTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION) -
Councillor Mrs J.E. Lloyd

HCC JOINT WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP - By Position: Portfolio Holder for
Environment & Regeneration- Councillor J. Gardner , Substitute - Councillor R.
Henry.

HERTFORD ROAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor M. Cherney-Craw

HERTFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM STEERING GROUP - Councillor J.Gardner

HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - Two By Position: Leader And Deputy Leader - Councillors S. Taylor,CC and J. Gardner, One deputy to be appointed by the Leader on an ad hoc basis

HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE - By Position: Leader- Councillor S. Taylor,CC, Deputy: By Position: Deputy Leader- Councillor J. Gardner

HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT LEADERS BRIEFING - By Position: Leader- Councillor S. Taylor,CC

HERTFORDSHIRE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MUSEUMS - Councillor J. Gardner

HERTFORDSHIRE SUPPORTING PEOPLE COMMISSIONING BODY - By Position: Portfolio Holder for Housing - Councillor A. Webb

HOME-START STEVENAGE - Councillor J. Gardner

THE HYDE OUT - Councillor J. Hollywell

KADOMA LINK COMMITTEE - Councillors J. Gardner, D. Kissane, M. Notley, G.Snell P. Stuart, B. Underwood,

LIVING ROOM PROJECT - Councillor L. Strange

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) AND NEW TOWNS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) - By Position: Leader- Councillor S. Taylor,CC

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT - Councillor D.W Cullen,CC

LUTON AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (VIA HLGA) - Councillor M. Patston

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS: GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - Councillors G. Clark and Mrs J.E. Lloyd

NATIONAL PARKING ADJUDICATION SERVICE (NPAS) JOINT COMMITTEE - By Position: Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration- Councillor J. Gardner, Deputy by position: SBC Lead Member- Joint Member Panel- Councillor L. Strange

NORTH HERTS AREA PLAN JOINT MEMBER STEERING GROUP (HIGHWAYS) - Councillors G. Clark, R.A. Clark and C. Latif

OLD STEVENAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor P. Gallagher

OVAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J. Thomas

PIN GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L. Martin-Haugh

PIN GREEN PLAY ASSOCIATION - Councillor S. Speller

POPLARS AND BANDLEY HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J. Hollywell

RELATE - Councillors M. Downing,CC and M. Notley

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY GROUP (COMMUNITY SAFETY) - By Position: Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities - Councillor R.Henry

SHEPHALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor John.Lloyd,CC

SHL - Councillors L. Knight, C. Latif, John Lloyd CC, and B. Underwood

SLL (Observers) - Councillors Sue Myson and. S.Taylor, CC

SPORTS STEVENAGE - Councillors H. Burrell and S. Speller

ST. NICHOLAS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor C. Latif

STEVENAGE AND NORTH HERTS DRUGSLINE - Councillor B. Underwood

STEVENAGE AND NORTH HERTS GARDEN HOUSE HOSPICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Councillor S. Speller

STEVENAGE AND NORTH HERTS WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE - Councillor C.Latif

STEVENAGE ATS (CIVILIAN COMMITTEE) - Councillor D.W.Cullen,CC

STEVENAGE BRANCH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY - Councillor M. Mason

STEVENAGE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - Councillors M.Downing,CC and B. Underwood

STEVENAGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - By Position: Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities- Councillor R. Henry

STEVENAGE COMMUNITY TRUST - Councillors P.E.J Gallagher and J. Thomas

STEVENAGE CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES (FOUR YEAR PERIOD) - FOUR REPRESENTATIVES : Councillor L.G. Strange and Mr J.D. Cox to 2009, Councillors J.R. Raynor and C. Latif to 2012

STEVENAGE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE - Councillors P.E.J Gallagher and B. Underwood

STEVENAGE CREDIT UNION LTD - Councillor L. Strange

STEVENAGE FURNITURE RECYCLING SCHEME - Councillors S. Batson,CC and D. Kissane

STEVENAGE GOLF CENTRE, LIAISON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - Councillor R. Henry

STEVENAGE HAVEN - Councillor D. Kissane

STEVENAGE JOINT SHOPMOBILITY GROUP - Councillor M. Cherney-Craw

STEVENAGE DAY - Councillor John Lloyd,CC

AUTUN /INGELHEIM/ STEVENAGE ASSOCIATION - Councillors P.E.J Gallagher, R.J Henry and A. Webb

STEVENAGE WORLD FORUM FOR ETHNIC COMMUNITIES - Councillor S. Batson,CC

SYMONDS GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L. Chester

VOLUNTEER CENTRE STEVENAGE - Councillor L. Chester

MAYOR