

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 20 May 2009

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Place: Council Chamber

Present: The Mayor (Councillor M Patston), Deputy Mayor (Councillor John Lloyd CC) and Councillors S Batson MBE DL CC, H Burrell, M Cherney-Craw, L Chester, D Clark, G Clark, R Clark, D Cullen CC, M Downing CC, P Gallagher, J Gardner, E Harrington, R Henry, M Hurst, B Jackson, L Knight, C Latif, Mrs Joan Lloyd, L Martin-Haugh, M Mason, S Myson, M Notley, R Raynor, P Stuart, S Taylor CC, J Thomas, B Underwood, V Warwick and A Webb.

Agenda Item:

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In Attendance: Honorary Alderman B Hall, Freeman of the Borough

Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.00pm
End Time: 7.55pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Fraser, J Hollywell, D Kissane, R Parker CC, J Pickersgill, G Snell, S Speller, L Strange and from Nick Heslop, Chair of the Youth Council.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES - WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2009

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 8 April 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to the following amendment to the penultimate sentence of the second paragraph of Minute item number 3, Mayor's Communications to read:

'The scheme had been designed following consultation with residents and Councillor Webb welcomed the inclusion of a sprinkler system in the accommodation for people with disabilities

3 MINUTES - WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2009

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on Wednesday 22 April 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

At this juncture, the Mayor introduced Charlie Douglas who had recently won the England Ladies' Amateur Golf Championship. The Mayor congratulated Charlie on her marvellous achievement and presented her with the Winner's Cup. He added that Charlie was the first lady in Hertfordshire to win the title and said how proud the Council were of her and all the talented young people of Stevenage.

Charlie thanked the Council for their support and grant she had received, which, she said, had really helped her to pursue her sport.

4 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

The Mayor, Councillor M Patston, delivered his end of year speech in which he reflected on his term of office. He spoke about the many engagements that he and the Mayoress had attended and how quickly the year had passed.

He thanked all those who had supported him and the Mayoress in their year in office, particularly the staff in Members' Services for the help that they had given him.

Councillor Patston called for nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2009/10.

Councillor S Taylor CC proposed Councillor S Myson as Mayor for the 2009/10 Municipal Year and this was seconded by Councillor M Cherney-Craw. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor S Myson be elected as Mayor for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

Councillor Myson made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor announced that her husband, Dave Myson would be the Mayor's Consort for 2009/10.

In her inaugural speech, Councillor Myson stated how proud she was to be elected to the office of Mayor of Stevenage. She stated that her focus for the year would be people with disabilities and in choosing her Mayoral Charities she wished to concentrate on groups which really make a difference to those they help and which do not already have a high profile. She announced her charities to be:

- The Libra Support Group
- Leisure Direct
- Douglas Drive Day Centre
- Stevenage Community Trust.

5 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 2009/10 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 2009/10 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 2009/10.

6 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR DESIGNATE

The Mayor announced that she was to appoint Councillor M Downing CC to the office of Mayor Designate for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

The Mayor then announced that Councillor Downing's wife, Aideen Downing, would be Mayoress Designate for 2009/10.

7 CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

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

The Chief Executive drew Members' attention to the revised Appendix M, calendar of meetings that had been circulated around the Chamber.

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 new arrangements relating to Neighbourhood Forums and Neighbourhood Action Teams, as set out at paragraphs 4.1 – 4.4 of the report be approved.
2. That the Terms of Reference for the following bodies that form the political management structure of the Council, as detailed in the appendices to the report, be approved –
 - The Executive (Appendix A)
 - Scrutiny Overview Committee (Appendix B)
 - Planning & Development Committee (Appendix C)
 - Licensing Committee (Appendix D)
 - General Purposes Committee (Appendix E)
 - Appointments Committee (Appendix F)
 - Standards Committee (Appendix G)
 - Audit Committee (Appendix H)
 - Neighbourhood Action Teams (Appendix I)
 - Statement of Accounts (Appendix J)
 - Stevenage / HCC Highways Joint Member Panel (Appendix K)
3. That the Executive Portfolios, as set out at Appendix L to the report be approved.
- 4 That Stewart Gillies, Ananda Hale and Allen Holland be appointed as Independent Members of the Standards Committee and Brian Mitchell be appointed as the Independent Member of the Audit Committee.
5. That the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.

6. That the dates for Council meetings for the Municipal Year 2009/10, as shown at paragraph 4.6 of the report be approved and the draft dates for other meetings (as detailed in the revised appendix circulated around the Chamber) be noted.

8 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was duly proposed and seconded that Councillor S Taylor CC be appointed as Leader of the Council for the 2009/10 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 2009/10 Municipal Year.

Councillor Taylor thanked her colleagues for their support and stated that she never forgot what a privilege it is to serve as Leader of the Council.

9 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was duly proposed and seconded that Councillor J Gardner be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2009/10 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 2009/10 Municipal Year.

10 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The Chief Executive advised the Council of the appointment of Councillor G Clark as Leader of the Opposition and Councillor M Notley as Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

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

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

12 APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that for the 2009/10 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, M Downing, R Henry, Mrs Joan Lloyd, S Speller, 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 M Downing - Community, Health and Older People
Councillor J Gardner – Environment and Regeneration
Councillor R Henry – Safer and Stronger Communities
Councillor Mrs Joan Lloyd – Resources
Councillor S Speller – Economy, Enterprise and Transport
Councillor A Webb – Housing.

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, Vice-Chairs and Scrutiny Topic Group Chairs.

It was noted that some of the names of the Action Teams had been revised from those on the published agenda.

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 2009/10 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 Clark D Cullen CC, E Harrington, P Gallagher, M Hurst, D Kissane, L Martin – Haugh, R Parker CC, J Thomas and V Warwick.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 13 Members (11 labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative)
Councillors S Batson MBE DL CC, M Cherney-Craw, Chester, D Clark, E Harrington, J Hollywell, John Lloyd CC, M Patston, R Raynor, G Snell, L Strange, J Thomas and B Underwood.

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 13 Members (11 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative)
Councillors M Cherney-Craw, P Gallagher, D Kissane, L Knight, C Latif, John Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, M Notley, M Patston, J Pickersgill, L Strange, P Stuart and B Underwood.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - 13 Members (11 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative)
Councillors M Cherney-Craw, P Gallagher, D Kissane, L Knight, C Latif, John Lloyd

CC, L Martin-Haugh, M Notley, M Patston, J Pickersgill, L Strange, P Stuart and B Underwood.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE – 6 Members (5 Majority Group and 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)
Membership – Councillors: D Kissane, Mrs Joan Lloyd, M Notley, G Snell, L Strange and B Underwood.
Independent non-elected Members: S Gillies, A Hale and A Holland.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 6 Members (1 Non-elected Independent Member, 4 Labour, 1 Conservative).
Membership - Councillors J Gardner, R Clark, J Hollywell, M Notley and R Raynor
Independent Non-Elected Member - B Mitchell.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE – 6 Members, (4 Labour, 2 Opposition)
Councillors G Clark, Mrs Joan Lloyd, L Martin-Haugh, R Parker CC, M Patston and L Strange.

BEDWELL AND PIN GREEN ACTION TEAM – 6 Members
Councillors D Cullen CC, E Harrington, B Jackson, L Martin-Haugh, S Speller and B Underwood.

BROADWATER ACTION TEAM – 6 Members
Councillors S Batson MBE DL CC, M Cherney-Craw, J Gardner, M Hurst, John Lloyd CC and S Myson.

CHELLS & MANOR ACTION TEAM – 6 Members
Councillors H Burrell, L Knight, R Parker CC, G Snell, P Stuart and V Warwick.

OLD TOWN, SYMONDS GREEN AND WOODFIELD ACTION TEAM – 9 Members
Councillors L Chester, G Clark, M Downing CC, J Fraser, P Gallagher, D Kissane, M Mason, M Notley and S Taylor CC.

ST. NICHOLAS AND MARTINS WOOD ACTION TEAM – 6 Members
Councillors D Clark, R Henry, C Latif, M Patston, J Raynor and J Thomas.

SHEPHALL, BANDLEY HILL & POPLARS ACTION TEAM – 6 Members
Councillors R Clark, J Hollywell, Mrs Joan Lloyd, J Pickersgill, L Strange and A Webb.

It was then 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, Vice-Chairs and Scrutiny Topic Group Chairs of the Council's Committees and Panels be appointed for the 2009/10 Municipal year:

SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
Chair – D Cullen CC

Vice-Chair – P Gallagher
Scrutiny Topic Group Chairs – M Cherney-Craw, P Gallagher, R Clark and E Harrington.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair – J Thomas
Vice-Chair – L Chester.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Chair – D Kissane
Vice-Chair – C Latif.

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Chair – D Kissane
Vice-Chair – C Latif.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Chair – S Gillies.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair – R Raynor
Vice-Chair – J Gardner.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Chair - Mrs Joan Lloyd.

BEDWELL AND PIN GREEN ACTION TEAM

Chair – B Underwood
Vice-Chair – E Harrington.

BROADWATER ACTION TEAM

Chair – S Batson MBE DL CC
Vice-Chair – M Cherney-Craw.

CHELLS & MANOR ACTION TEAM

Chair – P Stuart
Vice-Chair – V Warwick.

OLD TOWN, SYMONDS GREEN AND WOODFIELD ACTION TEAM

Chair – D Kissane
Vice-Chair – P Gallagher.

ST. NICHOLAS AND MARTINS WOOD ACTION TEAM

Chair – C Latif
Vice-Chair – R Raynor.

SHEPHALL, BANDLEY HILL & POPLARS ACTION TEAM

Chair – J Hollywell
Vice-Chair – J Pickersgill.

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 (5 Majority and 1 Opposition) – one from each Action Team and 6 Hertfordshire County Council Members (those representing the 6 HCC Divisions in Stevenage).

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

HCC COUNCILLORS – S Batson MBE DL CC, D Cullen CC, M Downing CC (HCC Lead Member), John Lloyd CC, R Parker CC and S Taylor CC.

It was noted that the County Councillors names' may be subject to change following the results of the County Elections on 4 June 2009.

It was also noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair would be appointed at the first meeting of the Panel, with the Chair for 2009/2010 to come from the SBC representation

15 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

A schedule of Council representation on Outside Bodies and other Council Appointments was appended to the agenda. Details of those Members nominated to serve on each body was circulated around the Chamber.

It was noted that those organisations marked with an asterisk had changed their name.

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 E Harrington

CANYON PLAY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Pickersgill

TIMEBRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION* – Councillors H Burrell, (Deputy P Stuart) and R Parker CC

CHELLS MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Knight

COUNCIL FOR PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND – 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 - By Position

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL - Councillor J Gardner

EASTERN ARTS MUSIC - Councillor H Burrell

FACE TO FACE - Councillor G Snell

FEDERATION OF STEVENAGE TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS - Councillor John Lloyd CC

GEMMS - Councillor D Kissane

GORDON CRAIG THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY - Councillor L Martin-Haugh

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

HERTFORD ROAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor M Cherney-Craw

HERTFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM STEERING GROUP - Councillor J Gardner

HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITIES LEADERS GROUP – By Position: Leader. One deputy to be appointed by the Leader on an ad hoc basis

HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUM PARTNERSHIP - Councillor J Gardner

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

HOME-START STEVENAGE - Councillor J Gardner

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

LIVING ROOM PROJECT - Councillor L Strange

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) - By Position: Leader

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT - Councillor D Cullen CC

LUTON AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (VIA HLGA) - Councillor D Cullen CC

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS: GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - Councillors R Clark and J Gardner

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 – ADJUDICATION JOINT COMMITTEE (PATROL AJC) – By Position: Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and Transport. Deputy by Position: SBC Lead Member – Joint Member Panel

NORTH HERTS AREA PLAN JOINT MEMBER STEERING GROUP (HIGHWAYS) - Councillors G Clark, R 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

RELATE - Councillors M Downing CC and M Notley

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

SHEPHALL CENTRE* - Councillor John Lloyd CC

SHL – Councillors D Clark, C Latif, John Lloyd CC and B Underwood

SLL (Observer) – By Position – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Culture, Sports and Leisure

SPORTS STEVENAGE - Councillors H Burrell and S Speller

ST. NICHOLAS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor C Latif

STEVENAGE AND NORTH HERTS WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE - Councillor L Strange

GARDEN HOUSE HOSPICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE* - Councillor S Speller

STEVENAGE ATS (CIVILIAN COMMITTEE) - Councillor M Patston

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

STEVENAGE COMMUNITY TRUST - Councillors P Gallagher and J Thomas

STEVENAGE CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES (FOUR YEAR PERIOD) - FOUR REPRESENTATIVES - Councillors C Latif and R Raynor to 2012. Councillors P Gallagher and L Strange to 2013

STEVENAGE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE - Councillors P Gallagher

and B Underwood

STEVENAGE CREDIT UNION LTD - Councillor L Strange

STEVENAGE FURNITURE RECYCLING SCHEME - Councillors S Batson MBE, DL, 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

SO STEVENAGE PARTNERSHIP – Councillors J Gardner and S Taylor CC

STEVENAGE DAY - Councillor John Lloyd CC

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

STEVENAGE WORLD FORUM FOR ETHNIC COMMUNITIES - Councillor B Underwood

SYMONDS GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Chester

VOLUNTEER CENTRE STEVENAGE – No appointment made

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL APPOINTMENT:

HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY – To be appointed by Scrutiny Overview Committee

16 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

As no Members indicated that they wished to raise any matters of accuracy on the Part II Minutes (item 17), the exclusion motion was not put to the meeting.

17 MINUTES - WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2009

It was **RESOLVED** that the Part II Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on Wednesday 22 April 2009, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.