

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 26 May 2010

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present: The Mayor (Sue Myson), Deputy Mayor (Councillor J Lloyd CC) and Councillors S Batson MBE DL, P Bibby CC, H Burrell, M Cherney-Craw, L Chester, B Clark, D Clark, G Clark, D Cullen, M Downing, J Fraser CC, J Gardner, M Hearn, R Henry, C Hurst, M Hurst CC, B Jackson, PD Kissane, C Latif, Mrs J Lloyd, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, M Notley, R Parker CC, J Pickersgill, R Raynor, G Snell, S Speller, L Strange, P Stuart, S Taylor CC, B Underwood, V Warwick, A Webb and M Yarnold-Forrester

In Attendance: S Gillies (Independent Chair Standards Committee 2009/2010)
E Mensah (Independent Member Standards Committee)

Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.00 p.m.
End Time: 8.35 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Harrington, J Hollywell and M Patston.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2010

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 24 February 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

3. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

The Mayor, Sue Myson, delivered her end of year speech in which she said that it had been a pleasure to serve the people of Stevenage and acknowledged the work that was carried out in the town by volunteers and community groups.

She thanked all those who had supported her and the Mayor's Consort in their year in office, particularly the Mayoral Team, her secretary, her drivers and the staff in Members' Services for the help that they had given her.

The Mayor advised that about £7,000 had been raised for her charities and reminded the Council that bids would be accepted for the signed football from Stevenage Football Club which was being auctioned to raise money for those charities.

The Mayor then called for nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2010/11.

Councillor S Taylor CC proposed Councillor M Downing as Mayor for the 2010/11 Municipal Year and this was seconded by Councillor PD Kissane.

There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor M Downing be elected as Mayor for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

Councillor Downing made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor announced that his wife, Aideen Downing, would be the Mayoress for 2010/11.

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

He stated that his focus would be peace and justice during his Mayoral Year. He also expressed the belief that the current turbulent times were a result of a wider crisis in the economic system rather than any particular profligacy in the public sector.

He announced his charities to be:

- MIND
- Peace Child International
- 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 C Latif be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

In expressing disappointment that the post of Deputy Mayor was no longer an all party nomination in alternate years Cllr Parker CC further proposed that Councillor G Snell be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

Following the seconding of this nomination and there being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor C Latif be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

Councillor Latif then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Deputy Mayor thanked her proposer and seconder and announced that her husband, Quazi Latif, would be the Deputy Mayor's Consort for 2010/11.

5. BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Council considered a report that detailed the results of the Borough Council Elections that were held on 6th May 2010.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the results of the Stevenage Borough Council Elections 2010 be noted.

6. 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 B, Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee that had been circulated around the Chamber.

The recommendations in the report were moved and seconded.

A Member expressed the view that no longer appointing an opposition member to the Executive would remove the opportunity for items to face scrutiny before the Executive vote. In reply Council was advised that proposals for pre-scrutiny would be examined early in the new Municipal Year.

It was moved and seconded that an amendment to the recommendation contained in the report at Appendix A to allow for the reinstatement of the opposition place on the Executive be approved.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment fell.

The recommendations contained in the report were put to the vote and it was **RESOLVED**:

1. 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)
 - Action Teams (Area Committees of the Council) (Appendix I)
 - Statement of Accounts Committee (Appendix J)
 - Stevenage / HCC Highways Joint Member Panel (Appendix K)
2. That the Executive Portfolios, as set out at Appendix L to the report be approved.
 3. That the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.
 4. That it be noted that Ananda Hale and Allen Holland will continue to serve as Independent Members of the Standards Committee.
 5. That the dates for Council meetings for the Municipal Year 2010/11 as shown at paragraph 4.5 of the report be approved and the draft dates for other meetings as detailed in appendix M to the report be noted.
 6. That it be noted that a review was being undertaken of the Council's representation on the various outside bodies shown at item 14 of this agenda which may result in some of the appointments made to be terminated.

7. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was duly proposed and seconded that Councillor S Taylor be appointed as Leader of the Council for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor S Taylor be appointed as Leader of the Council for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

8. 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 2010/11 Municipal Year.

There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor J Gardner be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

9. 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 2010/11 Municipal Year.

10. 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 CC 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.

11. APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNCIL

The Chief Executive advised the Council that there was a typographical error on the yellow nominations paper as circulated and that the Portfolio for Councillor R Raynor should read 'Economy, Enterprise and Transport'.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that for the 2010/11 Municipal year, the Executive be constituted as follows:

8 Members:

Leader – Councillor S Taylor CC

Deputy Leader – Councillor J Gardner – Environment and Regeneration

Councillors: with Members appointed to the Executive areas of responsibility as follows:

Councillor S Batson MBE DL - Community, Health and Older People
Councillor H Burrell – Children and Young People, Culture, Sport and Leisure

Councillor R Henry – Safer and Stronger Communities

Councillor Mrs J Lloyd – Resources

Councillor R Raynor CC – Economy, Enterprise and Transport

Councillor P 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.

12. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES/PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

The Chief Executive advised that Council was asked to appoint its Committees and for the Municipal Year 2010/11 in accordance with the rules of proportionality.

A Member expressed concern that there was an apparent inconsistency in the allocation of Chairs to the various political groups compared to previous years. He also objected to the appointment of all but one Chair being allocated to the majority group.

The Leader advised that the membership of the Audit Committee had been revised to allow for minority opposition representation.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committees, together with their Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Scrutiny Topic Group Chairs, for the 2010/11 Municipal year be constituted as follows:

SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE – 13 Members (9 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 3 Conservative)

Councillors D Cullen (Chair), G Clark (Vice Chair and Topic Group Chair), M Cherney-Craw (Topic Group Chair), L Harrington (Topic Group Chair), R Clark, M Hurst CC, D Kissane, L Martin-Haugh, R Parker CC, S Speller, L Strange, V Warwick and M Yarnold-Forrester.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 13 Members (9 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 3 Conservative)

Councillors S Speller (Chair), M Patston (Vice Chair), P Bibby CC, L Chester, D Clark, J Fraser CC, L Harrington, B Jackson, J Lloyd CC, J Pickersgill, G Snell, L Strange and B Underwood.

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 13 Members (9 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 3 Conservative)

Councillors D Kissane (Chair), C Latif (Vice Chair), R Clarke, L Harrington, M Hearn, C Hurst, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, M Notley, M Patston, J Pickersgill, P Stuart and B Underwood.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - 13 Members (9 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 3 Conservative)

Councillors D Kissane (Chair), C Latif (Vice Chair), R Clarke, L Harrington, M Hearn, C Hurst, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, M Notley, M Patston, J Pickersgill, P Stuart and B Underwood.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE – 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Liberal, 1 Conservative).

Councillors S Taylor CC (Chair), J Gardner, G Clark, R Parker CC and 2 Majority Group Members to be advised when meeting arranged.

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

Membership – Councillors: D Kissane, Mrs J Lloyd, M Notley, G Snell, L Strange and B Underwood.

Independent non-elected Members: A Holland (Chair), A Hale and E Mensah.

See also item 15, Appointment of Independent Member of Standards Committee.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 Members (1 Non-elected Independent Member, 4 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative). See item 6, Constitutional Issues

Membership - Councillors L Chester (Chair), P Bibby CC, R Clark, D Cullen, J Gardner and R Parker CC.

Independent Non-Elected Member – B Mitchell

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE – 6 Members, (4 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative)

Councillors Mrs J Lloyd (Chair), G Clark, R Henry, J Hollywell, J Mead and R Raynor.

SHEPHALL, BANDLEY HILL & POPLARS ACTION TEAM – 6 Members

Councillors J Hollywell (Chair), J Pickersgill (Vice Chair), R Clark, Mrs Joan Lloyd, L Strange and A Webb

BEDWELL AND PIN GREEN ACTION TEAM – 6 Members

Councillors B Underwood (Chair), E Harrington (Vice Chair), D Cullen CC, B Jackson, L Martin-Haugh and S Speller

CHELLS & MANOR ACTION TEAM – 6 Members

Councillors P Stuart (Chair), R Parker CC (Vice Chair), H Burrell, J Mead, G Snell, and V Warwick

BROADWATER ACTION TEAM – 6 Members

Councillors John Lloyd CC (Chair), M Cherney-Craw (Vice Chair), S Batson MBE DL CC, J Gardner, Mrs C Hurst and M Hurst

ST. NICHOLAS AND MARTINS WOOD ACTION TEAM – 6 Members

Councillors C Latif (Chair), M Patston (Vice Chair), D Clark, M Hearn, R Henry and J Raynor

OLD TOWN, SYMONDS GREEN AND WOODFIELD ACTION TEAM – 9 Members

Councillors M Notley (Chair), D Kissane (Vice Chair), P Bibby CC, L Chester, G Clark, M Downing CC, J Fraser, S Taylor CC and M Yarnold-Forrester

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

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

HCC COUNCILLORS – P Bibby, J Fraser, M Hurst, J Lloyd, R Parker, S Taylor

It was also noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair would be appointed at the first meeting of the Panel, with the Chair for 2010/11 to come from the HCC representation.

14. 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 were circulated around the Chamber.

A Member referred to the nomination to serve on the Chells Manor Community Association (CMCA). The previous representation on this body had been from the minority opposition group as the Ward Members for Manor Wood, on this occasion a majority group Councillor had been nominated.

The Leader requested that a letter be written to the CMCA to ask if they would support a second representative.

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 B Underwood and C Latif

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND, EAST - Councillor H Burrell

ARTS GUILD FOR STEVENAGE - Councillor H Burrell

AUTUN /INGELHEIM/ STEVENAGE ASSOCIATION - Councillors J Hollywell, R Henry and A Webb

BEDWELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Harrington

CANYON PLAY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Pickersgill

CHELLS MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor H Burrell

COUNCIL FOR PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND –
HERTFORDSHIRE SOCIETY – Councillor J Gardner

CROSSROADS - Councillors L Strange and L Martin-Haugh

DIGSWELL ARTS TRUST BOARD - Councillor S Speller

DOUGLAS DRIVE DAY CENTRE - Councillor L Martin-Haugh

EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – Leader -
By Position

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL – Portfolio Holder
Environment and Regeneration – By Position

EASTERN ARTS MUSIC - Councillor H Burrell

FEDERATION OF STEVENAGE TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS - Councillor
John Lloyd CC

GEMMS - Councillor D Kissane

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 GOVERNMENT 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 P Stuart

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) - By Position: Leader

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT - Councillor S Speller

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

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

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 – ADJUDICATION JOINT
COMMITTEE (PATROL AJC) – By Position: Portfolio Holder for
Environment and Regeneration. Deputy by Position: SBC Lead Member –
Highways Joint Member Panel

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

OLD STEVENAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor M Cherney-
Craw

OVAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor M Patston

PIN GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Martin-Haugh

PIN GREEN PLAY ASSOCIATION - Councillor S Speller

RELATE - Councillors V Warwick and M Notley

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

SHEPHALL CENTRE - Councillor M Patston

SPORTS STEVENAGE - Councillors H Burrell and S Speller (Deputy – L
Strange

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

ST. NICHOLAS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor C Latif

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

STEVENAGE ATS (CIVILIAN COMMITTEE) - Councillor M Patston

STEVENAGE BRANCH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY – Councillor
M Cherney-Craw

STEVENAGE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - Councillors R Raynor and B
Underwood

STEVENAGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - By Position:
Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities

STEVENAGE COMMUNITY TRUST - Councillors S Batson MBE DL and
R Henry

(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 D
Cullen and B Underwood

STEVENAGE CREDIT UNION LTD - Councillor L Strange

STEVENAGE FURNITURE RECYCLING SCHEME - Councillors S Batson
MBE DL and D Kissane

STEVENAGE HAVEN – Councillor D Kissane

SO STEVENAGE PARTNERSHIP – Leader / Deputy Leader – By position

STEVENAGE WORLD FORUM FOR ETHNIC COMMUNITIES -
Councillor B Underwood

SYMONDS GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Chester

TIMEBRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – Councillors H Burrell and V Warwick (Deputy: P Stuart)

VOLUNTEER CENTRE STEVENAGE – L Chester

15. THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Council received a report seeking agreement to the appointment of an Independent Member to the Standards Committee.

The Leader took this opportunity to thank Stewart Gillies, the outgoing Chair of the Standards Committee, for the work he had undertaken since his appointment.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Emmanuel Mensah be appointed as the third Independent Member of the Standards Committee with immediate effect, for a period of four years.

16. PETITIONS SCHEME

Council received a report to consider details of a new Petitions Scheme for the Council in accordance with the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

In reply to a question the Chief Executive advised Council that he would be the final arbiter as to the ‘appropriateness’, or otherwise, of a petition being accepted under the scheme.

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

1. That the Petitions Scheme, as appended to the report, be adopted and published on the Council’s website.
2. That the Council’s Standing Orders (Part 4 of the Constitution) in relation to Petitions (Standing Order 11a) be amended to reflect the Scheme in relation to the presentations and debate on a Petition at a Council meeting.

17. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF): CORE STRATEGY SUBMISSION TO GOVERNMENT

The Council had before it an officer report which had been considered by the Executive on 10 April that detailed progress made to date in preparing the Council’s new Local Development Framework (LDF) and the proposed arrangements for the submission and examination of the Core Strategy.

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

1. That the work undertaken to prepare the Core Strategy be endorsed and noted.
2. To note the findings of the pre-submission consultation and approve the Regulation 27 Statement of Consultation.
3. To approve the Core Strategy (subject to the minor changes requested under Recommendation 2.4 of the original report) and note the findings of the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal, Appropriate Assessment and Regulation 25 Statement of Consultation.
4. To approve the Core Strategy Schedule of Proposed Minor Changes.
5. To authorise officers to submit the Core Strategy and ancillary documents to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
6. That delegated powers be granted to the Head of Planning, Regeneration and transport to take all such steps necessary to support the submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State and the subsequent examination.

Mayor