

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 25 May 2011

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present: The Mayor (Michael Downing) and Councillors
S Batson MBE DL, P Bibby CC, H Burrell,
M Cherney-Craw, L Chester, B Clark, D Clark, G Clark,
D Cullen, J Fraser CC, J Gardner, L Harrington,
M Hearn, R Henry, J Hollywell, C Hurst, M Hurst CC,
PD Kissane, C Latif, Mrs J Lloyd, J Lloyd CC,
J Mead, M Notley, R Parker CC, J Pickersgill,
R Raynor, G Snell, S Speller, P Stuart,
S Taylor CC, H Tessier, J Thomas, B Underwood,
S Walker, A Webb and M Yarnold-Forrester.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.00 p.m.
End Time: 8.20 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Martin-Haugh, L Strange and V Warwick.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2011

Councillor Parker raised a concern that his comments on issues such as Budget Savings, Councillor Allowances, Town Twinning were not reflected within Minutes of the Main Debate item. The Mayor indicated that Council would note Councillor Parker's comments regarding the minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 23 February 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor subject to an amendment to the second paragraph on page 3; The words 'Tory Group' should be replaced by 'Conservative Group'; the 'T' at the end of the paragraph should be deleted; and that the comments of Councillor Parker regarding the Minutes be noted.

3. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

The Mayor, Michael Downing, delivered his end of year speech. He spoke about the many engagements that he and the Mayoress had

attended and how quickly the year had passed. He mentioned a number of highlights during his tenure, especially meeting many local school children and raising a sum of £3,700 for his charities. He had met the fiancée and family of late Dr Karen Woo who died in Afghanistan which had been a moving experience. A meeting with Lech Walesa had also been very special and probably the most exciting moment was Stevenage beating Newcastle United in the F.A Cup.

Other Members congratulated him upon his year as Mayor and the service he had given to the Council as a serving Member.

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.

As the Mayor had also stood down as a Councillor he took the opportunity to reflect upon the last 27 years and commented that the Council had faced very changing and challenging times. He ended by praising the work carried out by Council Officers who he considered were too often unjustly maligned.

The Mayor then called for nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2011/12.

Councillor S Taylor CC proposed Councillor C Latif as Mayor for the 2011/12 Municipal Year and this was seconded by Councillor R Henry.

There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor C Latif be elected as Mayor for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

Councillor J Mead, R Parker CC and G Snell requested that their vote in opposition to the above resolution be recorded in the Minutes as they considered that the Mayor should not be limited to members of the Majority Group.

Councillor Latif made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor announced that her husband, Quazi Latif, would be the Mayor's consort for 2011/12.

In her inaugural speech, Councillor Latif stated how proud she was to be elected to the office of Mayor of Stevenage and paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor and Mayoress.

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

- Age Concern
- Cancer Hair Care
- Stevenage Scouts
- 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 2011/12 Municipal Year.

Following the seconding of this nomination and 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 2011/12 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, Mrs Joan Lloyd would be Deputy Mayoress for 2011/12.

5. BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Council considered a report that detailed the results of the Borough Council Elections that were held on 5th May 2011.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the results of the Stevenage Borough Council Elections 2011 be noted.

6. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER

The Mayor then called for nominations for the Leader of the Council.

Councillor J Gardner proposed Councillor S Taylor and this was seconded by Councillor L Chester.

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 period 2011-2015.

The Leader thanked both the proposer and seconder for their kind words. She welcomed the Chair and Vice Chair of the Youth Council to the meeting and welcomed the recommendation to amend provisions in the Constitution which would allow questions from them to be submitted to Council. She informed the meeting that Councillor J Gardner would be the Deputy Leader for her term of office.

The Leader informed the meeting that the Executive was to comprise of the following Councillors with their portfolio responsibilities as stated.

Deputy Leader – Councillor J Gardner – Environment and Regeneration

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 – 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.

The Leader stated that she did not propose to change the existing delegations to take executive decisions which are set out in the constitution; these would remain unchanged until further notice.

She explained that Section 236 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 permitted the Executive Leader to make arrangements for the discharge of executive functions by a Member in relation to that Member's ward. She stated that she was making arrangements for every member to control and spend a local community budget of £3,300 per annum – the spending of money in this context being an executive function. This sum may be used at the discretion of each individual member subject to the requirements of the law and the Council's Constitution and also to such procedures as may be devised by the Chief Executive and circulated to all Members. These budgets may be used only for the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the Members' respective Wards.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

The Chief Executive advised the Council of a typographical error with recommendation 1 in the report relating to the composition of the Audit and Statement of Accounts Committees - it should read 6 for each Committee comprising 4 Majority Group and 2 Opposition Group.

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

The recommendations in the report were moved and seconded with the amendment that the political composition of the Development and Scrutiny Committees was to be as set out on the yellow paper circulated around the chamber.

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 –
 - Children, Young People, Culture, Sport and Leisure Development and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix A) – 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)
 - Community, Health and Older People Development and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix B) – 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)
 - Economy, Enterprise and Transport Development and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix C) – 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)
 - Environment and Regeneration Development and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix D) – 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)
 - Housing Development and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix E) – 6 Members (4 Labour, 2 Conservative)
 - Resources Development and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix F) – 6 Members (4 Labour, 2 Conservative)
 - Safer and Stronger Communities Development and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix G) – 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)
 - Planning & Development Committee (Appendix H) – 13 Members (9 Labour, 3 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)
 - Licensing Committee (Appendix I) –13 Members (9 Labour, 3 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)
 - General Purposes Committee (Appendix J) -- 13 Members (9 Labour, 3 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)
 - Appointments Committee (Appendix K) – 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)
 - Standards Committee (Appendix L) – 9 Members (4 Labour, 1 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat) and 3 Independent Non-Elected)
 - Audit Committee (Appendix M) – 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)

- Statement of Accounts Committee (Appendix N) — 6 Members (4 Labour, 2 Conservative)
 - Stevenage / HCC Highways Joint Member Panel (Appendix O) – 12 Members (6 SBC and 6 HCC Councillors)
2. That following the decisions taken at 1 above, the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly, particularly in relation to the new Scrutiny arrangements and call-in.
 3. That Council approve the variation in the budget to transfer £97,500 from the budget head 'Neighbourhood Action Teams' and a balancing sum of £31,200 from the New Homes Bonus reserve to a new 'Locality' Budget.
 4. That it be noted that Ananda Hale, Allen Holland (Chair) and Emmanuel Mensah will continue to serve as Independent Members of the Standards Committee and Brian Mitchell as the Independent Non-Elected Member of the Audit Committee.
 5. That the dates for Council meetings for the Municipal Year 2011/12 as shown at paragraph 4.19 of the report be approved and the draft dates for other meetings as detailed in appendix P to the report be noted.
 6. That the Constitution be amended to include provisions for the Youth Council to submit questions to Council.

8. 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 2011/12 Municipal Year.

9. 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.

10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE/PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committees together with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the 2011/12 Municipal Year be constituted as follows:

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, CULTURE, SPORT AND LEISURE DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 6 Members (4 Labour, Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)

Councillors H Tessier (Chair), D Clark (Vice-Chair), J Mead, J Pickersgill, L Strange and S Walker

COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND OLDER PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 6 Members (4 Labour, Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)

Councillors J Hollywell (Chair), R Parker CC (Vice Chair), C Hurst, L Martin-Haugh, S Speller and J Thomas.

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE AND TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 Members (4 Labour, Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat)

Councillors P Stuart (Chair), P Bibby CC (Vice-Chair), L Harrington, J Mead, H Tessier and S Walker

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat)

Councillors V Warwick (Chair), M Notley (Vice-Chair), J Hollywell, J Pickersgill, G Snell and B Underwood

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 Members (4 Labour, 2 Conservative)

Councillors M Cherney-Craw (Chair), J Fraser CC (Vice-Chair), D Kissane, J Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh and M Yarnold-Forrester

RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 Members (4 Labour, 2 Conservative)

Councillors J Thomas (Chair), G Clark (Vice-Chair), M Cherney-Craw, M Hearn, D Kissane and S Speller

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat)

Councillors L Harrington (Chair), M Hurst CC (Vice-Chair), R Clark, G Snell, L Strange and V Warwick

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

Councillors D Cullen (Chair), J Thomas (Vice-Chair), P Bibby CC, L Chester, G Clark, J Fraser CC, L Harrington, J Hollywell, J Lloyd CC, J Pickersgill, G Snell, L Strange and B Underwood

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

Councillors D Kissane (Chair), B Underwood (Vice-Chair), R Clark, L Harrington, M Hearn, C Hurst, J Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, M Notley, J Pickersgill, P Stuart and 1 Labour Group vacancy

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

Councillors D Kissane (Chair), B Underwood (Vice-Chair), R Clark, L Harrington, M Hearn, C Hurst, J Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, M Notley, J Pickersgill, P Stuart and 1 Majority Group vacancy

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE - 6 Members

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

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 9 Members (6 Councillors, 3 Independent non-elected Members)

Membership - Councillors D Kissane, Mrs J Lloyd, M Notley, R Parker L Strange and B Underwood

Independent, Non-Elected Member Allen Holland (Chair), Ananda Hale and Emmanuel Mensah

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 7 Members (6 Councillors, 1 Independent co-opted Member)

Councillors L Chester (Chair), J Gardner (Vice-Chair), P Bibby CC, D Cullen, S Walker and M Yarnold-Forrester
Independent non-elected Member, B Mitchell

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE – 6 Members

Councillors Mrs J Lloyd (Chairman), D Clark, G Clark, R Henry, J Hollywell and R Raynor

11. 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 former Action Team and 6 Hertfordshire County Council Members (those representing the 6 HCC Divisions in Stevenage).

SBC Councillors: M Cherney-Craw, L Strange, B Underwood (SBC Lead Member), S Walker, V Warwick , M Yarnold-Forrester

HCC Councillors P Bibby CC, J Fraser CC, M Hurst CC, John Lloyd CC R Parker CC and S Taylor CC

It was also noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair would be appointed at the first meeting of the Panel, with the Chair for 2011/12 to come from the SBC representation.

12. 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.

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 GUILD FOR STEVENAGE - Councillor H Burrell

AUTUN /INGELHEIM/ STEVENAGE ASSOCIATION - Councillors, R Henry, J Hollywell and S Batston MBE DL

BEDWELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Harrington

CANYON PLAY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Pickersgill

CHELLS MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Mead and H Burrell

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

CROSSROADS - Councillors M Cherney-Craw and R Clark

DIGSWELL ARTS TRUST BOARD - Councillor J Gardner

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

FEDERATION OF STEVENAGE TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS - Councillor
John Lloyd CC

HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – Councillor D Cullen

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,
B Underwood, M Notley, G Snell, and P Stuart

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

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE CORPORATION – Councillor S
Taylor CC

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS: GENERAL
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - Councillors H Tessier and 1 Opposition
Member

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

OLD STEVENAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor M Cherney-Craw

OVAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor S Walker

PIN GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Martin-Haugh

PIN GREEN PLAY ASSOCIATION - Councillor S Speller

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

SHEPHALL CENTRE - Councillor J Lloyd CC

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

SHL – Councillors John Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, B Underwood and 1 Opposition Member

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 R Henry

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

STEVENAGE ATS (CIVILIAN COMMITTEE) - Councillor J Lloyd CC

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. P Gallagher and Councillor L Strange to 2013)

STEVENAGE CVS - Councillors D Cullen and B Underwood

STEVENAGE CREDIT UNION LTD - Councillor L Strange

STEVENAGE FURNITURE RECYCLING SCHEME - Councillors J Lloyd
CC 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

Mayor