

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

MEETING: Council – Wednesday 12 October 2011 – 19.00 hrs.
Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Councillors with the exception of those listed at item 1 below.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Chester, L Harrington, M Hearn, G Snell, S Speller, L Strange and J Thomas.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
2. MINUTES – COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2011
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 20 July 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.</p>
3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION
<p>The Mayor informed the Council that she had agreed to vary the order of business as the question submitted by Mr Howard, shown at item 7 on the agenda, related to the topic of the Main Debate at item 4 it would be considered during that debate.</p> <p>The Mayor reported on various activities and engagements she had attended since the last meeting.</p>

4. MAIN DEBATE – ‘ON THE BEAT’ – CHALLENGES FACING POLICING IN STEVENAGE

Richard Liversidge of Hertfordshire Constabulary gave a presentation

The Motion was moved and seconded. A Member proposed an amendment to the Motion, that the last 3 paragraphs be deleted.

On being put to vote the amendment was defeated.

There ensued a lengthy debate which included a response to the question shown at item 7 on the agenda. It was suggested that Council consider a Motion at its next meeting concerning the Herts County Council’s proposals regarding reduction in street lighting hours

It was then **RESOLVED**:

‘That this Council has confidence in Hertfordshire Constabulary for keeping our town safe in these challenging times. Crime in Stevenage has fallen in the last three years by 29%. SoSafe, the Stevenage Community Safety Partnership plays a significant part in making an even safer Stevenage for all those who live, shop, work in and visit the town.

In particular, we commend Hertfordshire Constabulary for their successful efforts in keeping the peace in Stevenage during the period of national unrest surrounding the riots in August this year. It is through their dedication, vigilance, visibility and community engagement that any potential riot incidents were avoided.

We will ensure that we continue to work in close partnership with the Constabulary to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in the community. We commit through our new SoSafe Community Safety Plan 2011-2014 to achieving our vision for empowered, involved and supported communities that are safer, feel safer, and work with local agencies to improve community safety in their neighbourhoods.

We view with concern the Home Secretary’s plans for introduction in this country of 41 directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners, at a reported annual salary of £122,000 each, at an elections cost of £50 million every 4 years ; with

annual running costs of salaries and administration of £80 million per year, in addition to £5 million for pay and benefits of Commissioners. This at a time when Government is to cut its spending on policing by 20% or more over the next four years, inevitably leading to huge cuts in officer numbers, seriously threatening front-line policing and the fight against crime. We believe there is also a significant danger that the introduction of Police Commissioners could confuse real policing priorities with political priorities.

We fail to see how the Home Secretary believes these expensive and complex proposals ‘ will replace bureaucratic accountability with democratic accountability ‘, when one Police and Crime Commissioner is elected and responsible to over 1 million people in the whole of Hertfordshire.

We therefore continue to oppose these confusing, conflicting and costly proposals – and urge our local MP to have urgent discussions with the Home Secretary to ask her to reconsider whether the introduction of Police Commissioners is in the best interest of policing and the best interest of our communities.’

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None received.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH

None received.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

This item was taken with item 4 above.

8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE

The Leader of the Opposition asked if the Council would be re introducing the weekly refuse collection in light of the

additional funding recently announced by the Secretary of State. In reply the Leader of the Council informed the meeting that Council would prefer funds to be directed at improving the environment such as recycling schemes

The Leader of the Council's update included :

- Govmetric Award
- Local Community Budgets
- Reduction in staff sickness levels
- The Government's withdrawal of the concessionary coach fare scheme
- Meetings with Local Business
- The Judicial Review regarding the draft Core Strategy
- An invitation to attend the Windband Concert to be held on 22 October 2011.

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None received.

10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

None received.

11. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE – ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2010/11

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the 2010/11 Treasury Management Review be agreed.

12. OFFICER REPORT – REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS AND POLLING DISTRICTS

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

1. That a new Polling Districts and Polling Places Schedule be made, to come into operation on 1 December 2011 the new Schedule based on the existing Order with the following revisions -

2. Chells Ward

That the Polling Districts CHA and CHB be divided into three new Districts, CHA, CHB and CHC (see Appendix C for street index).

3. Martins Wood

3.1. That Polling Districts CEA and CED be amalgamated to become known as CEA (see Appendix D for street index).

3.2. That Polling Districts CEB and CEC be amalgamated to become known as CEB (see Appendix E for street index).

4. St Nicholas

That Polling District CDA be divided into three new Districts, CDA, CDB and CDC (see Appendix F for street index).

5. Woodfield

- 5.1. That Polling Districts CCA and CCB be amalgamated to become known as CCA (see Appendix G for street index).
- 5.2. That Polling Districts CCC and CCD be amalgamated to become known as CCB (see Appendix H for street index)
- 5.3. That the 'Polling Place' for each identified Polling District be the Polling District itself and the Polling Districts adjoining, hence allowing, where necessary, polling stations to be located cross- border.
- 5.4. That the Polling Stations, as detailed in Appendix I, identified by the Returning Officer for each for the Polling Districts, be noted.

13. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS – DRAFT MINUTES – 19 SEPTEMBER 2011

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Statement of Accounts be agreed subject to the inclusion of apologies received from Councillors D Clark and G Clark in those Minutes.

14. AUDIT COMMITTEE – DRAFT MINUTES – 6 SEPTEMBER AND 19 SEPTEMBER 2011

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 6 September and 19 September be noted.