

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**ANNUAL COUNCIL
MINUTES****Date: Wednesday 22 May 2013****Time: 7.00 pm****Place: Council Chamber**

Present: The Mayor 2012/2013 (John Lloyd CC) and Councillors S Batson MBE DL CC, L Bell, P Bibby, J Brown, H Burrell, M Cherney-Craw, L Chester, G Clark, D Cullen, J Gardner, M Gardner, R Henry CC, J Hollywell, C Hurst, PD Kissane, C Latif, Mrs J Lloyd, M McKay, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, M Notley, R Parker CC, J Pickersgill MA, MSc, R Raynor, G Snell, S Speller, P Stuart, S Taylor OBE CC, H Tessier, J Thomas, S Walker, V Warwick, A Webb and M Yarnold-Forrester.

Also present: A Danaher (Youth Mayor 2012/2013), J Barnes (Youth Council) and A Mboho.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.00 p.m.
End Time: 7.50 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Clark, L Harrington, M Hearn and B Underwood, the Right Honourable Shirley Williams, Stephen McPartland MP, Hilda Lawrence and Major Tony Jones of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2013

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on Wednesday 27 February 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

3. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

Before his end of year speech, the Mayor made two presentations.

The first he made to the outgoing Youth Mayor, Amy Danaher. The Mayor presented a plaque to record her year as the first Youth Mayor of Stevenage. On being invited to

address the Chamber the outgoing Youth Mayor gave thanks to all those that had supported her in her year in office and paid tribute to the Leader for her faith in the youth of Stevenage. She said that it had been a privilege to attend many events and that her self confidence had increased as a result. She concluded by saying that she wished to continue working with the community.

The second presentation was to Paul Ryder for taking on the role of Mace Bearer and acting as a happy and supportive member of the mayoral team in addition to his normal Council duties.

The Mayor then made his end of year speech in which he informed Council of the numerous events that he had attended and the fact that during the year just over £6,000 had been raised for his charities which would be split evenly between the NSPCC, The Royal British Legion and Combat Stress.

The Mayor said that the most important decision for him during the year was the granting of the Right of Entry into the Borough to the Royal Anglian Regiment.

He concluded by expressing his thanks to his family, and in particular to his wife, the Mayoress, for their support and help during the year.

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

The Mayor then called for nominations for the Office of Mayor for the year 2013/2014.

Councillor S Taylor OBE CC proposed Councillor J Pickersgill MA, MSc as Mayor for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year and this was seconded by Councillor A Webb.

There being no other nominations a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor J Pickersgill MA, MSc be elected as Mayor for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

(Note: Councillors R Parker CC and G Snell requested that their abstention to the vote to the above resolution be recorded in the minutes.)

Councillor Pickersgill MA, MSc then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and stated that his wife, Margaret Davies-Pickersgill, would be his Mayoress.

In his inaugural speech, Councillor Pickersgill MA MSc gave thanks to his proposer and seconder and said that he would do his best to follow in the footsteps of the former Mayor. He said that his time as Deputy Mayor had given him an insight into the role of the Mayor and that he wished, during his time in office, to better get to know the town and its voluntary organisations.

The Mayor concluded by stating that the Mayoral charities for the year would be:

- Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- Alzheimer's Society

- British Red Cross
- Carers in Hertfordshire

The Mayor also announced that he would be personally supporting the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

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

Councillor J Gardner proposed that Councillor S Batson MBE DL CC be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year and this was seconded by Councillor J Lloyd CC.

Following the seconding of this nomination and there being no other nominations a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor S Batson MBE DL CC be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

(Note: Councillors R Parker CC and G Snell requested that their abstention in the vote to the above resolution be recorded in the minutes.)

Councillor Batson MBE DL CC then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The Deputy Mayor thanked her proposer and seconder and announced that her husband Mr Howard Rooke would be the Deputy Mayor's Consort for 2013/2014.

5. **CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES**

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

Council was advised that there had been a number of changes to the draft calendar of meetings, shown at Appendix L to the report, and the Constitutional Services Manager undertook to circulate a revised calendar of meetings to all Members.

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

1. That the Terms of Reference, as detailed in the appendices to the report; and the size and political composition, to be agreed under the alternative arrangements provisions, for the following bodies that form the political management structure of the Council, be approved:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix A) – 12 Members (9 Majority Group, 2 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)
- Community Select Committee (Appendix B) – 8 Members (6 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)
- Environment and Economy Select Committee (Appendix C) - 8 Members (6

- Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)
- Housing Select Committee (Appendix D) - 8 Members (6 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)
- Planning & Development Committee (Appendix E) – 13 Members (10 Majority Group, 2 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)
- Licensing Committee (Appendix F) – 13 Members (10 Majority Group, 2 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)
- General Purposes Committee (Appendix G) – 13 Members (10 Majority Group, 2 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)
- Appointments Committee (Appendix H) - 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)
- Standards Committee (Appendix I) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)
- Audit Committee (Appendix J) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group) + 1 Co-opted non-elected member
- Statement of Accounts Committee (Appendix K) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

2. That the dates for Council meetings for the Municipal Year, as shown at paragraph 4.14 of the report, be approved.

3. That the draft dates for other meetings, as shown at Appendix L to the report, be noted.

4. That it be noted that the Leader had indicated that she did not propose to change the Executive Portfolios and existing delegations to take executive decisions as set out in the Constitution.

5. That the Leader's appointments to the Executive and allocation of Portfolios as set out at paragraph 4.13 of the report be noted.

6. That the Rules of Procedure for Scrutiny in the Council's Constitution be amended as follows:

- to account for all changes as a result of the revised member level structure for Scrutiny
- to exclude Local Community Budget Decisions from Call-in
- that to initiate a Call-in at least 4 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee are required to notify the Proper Officer or if it is so decided by a simple majority of those Members voting at a meeting of that Committee
- that the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee must agree to a waiver to the call-in procedure.

7. That the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution be amended to identify the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be the person whose permission is sought for the Executive to consider a Key Decision and / or take a

decision in private when that decision has not been given 28 days notice in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

6. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The Chief Executive advised the Council of the appointment of Councillor Graham Clark as Leader of the Opposition and Councillor Margaret Notley as Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

7. APPOINTMENT OF LEADERS AND DEPUTY LEADERS OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL

The Chief Executive advised the Council that Councillors S Taylor OBE 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 were the Deputy Leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively.

8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES / PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

A schedule of Committees was appended to the agenda. Details of those Members nominated to serve on each Committee were circulated around the Chamber.

The Leader informed Council that Vice Chairs would be elected at the first meeting of each committee and that the Vice Chairs for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the three Scrutiny Select Committees would be from the Opposition Groups.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the Committees for the 2013/14 Municipal Year be constituted under the alternative arrangements provisions, each with the composition as set out at agenda item 5, recommendation 1, as follows:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix A) – 12 Members (9 Majority Group, 2 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

- J Brown, M Cherney-Craw, G Clark, M Hearn, J Hollywell, R Parker CC, S Speller, P Stuart, H Tessier, J Thomas, S Walker and B Underwood.

Community Select Committee (Appendix B) – 8 Members (6 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

- L Bell, L Harrington, C Latif, J Mead, M Notley, G Snell, P Stuart and S Walker

Environment and Economy Select Committee (Appendix C) - 8 Members (6 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

- L Bell, P Bibby, J Brown, J Hollywell, J Mead, R Parker CC, P Stuart and B Underwood

Housing Select Committee (Appendix D) - 8 Members (6 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

- M Cherney-Craw, M Gardner, M McKay, L Martin-Haugh, G Snell, B Underwood, V Warwick and M Yarnold-Forrester.

Planning & Development Committee (Appendix E) – 13 Members (10 Majority Group, 2 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

- J Brown, P Bibby, L Chester, D Cullen, M Gardner, D Kissane, J Lloyd CC, M McKay, J Mead, G Snell, H Tessier, J Thomas* and M Yarnold-Forrester.

Licensing Committee (Appendix F) – 13 Members (10 Majority Group, 2 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

- L Chester, M Gardner, L Harrington, J Hollywell**, C Hurst, D Kissane, C Latif, J Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, M Notley, G Snell, B Underwood and V Warwick.

General Purposes Committee (Appendix G) – 13 Members (10 Majority Group, 2 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

- L Chester, M Gardner, L Harrington, J Hollywell**, C Hurst, D Kissane, C Latif, J Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, M Notley, G Snell, B Underwood and V Warwick.

Appointments Committee (Appendix H) - 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

- 4 Labour Group (tbc), G Clark and R Parker CC.

Standards Committee (Appendix I) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

- M Cherney-Craw, L Martin-Haugh, Mrs J Lloyd, M Notley, G Snell, P Stuart and J Thomas

Audit Committee (Appendix J) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group) + 1 Co-opted non-elected member

- P Bibby, L Chester, D Cullen, J Gardner, J Hollywell, C Latif, R Parker CC and B Mitchell (Independent, non-elected member).

Statement of Accounts Committee (Appendix K) – 7 Members (5 Majority Group, 1 Opposition Group, 1 Minority Opposition Group)

- G Clark, Mrs J Lloyd, M McKay, G Snell. H Tessier and S Walker.

* - Corrected from Cllr J Hollywell as shown on the document circulated at the meeting.

** - Corrected from Cllr J Thomas as shown on the document circulated at the meeting.

2. That the Chairs for the Committees for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year be appointed as follows:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Cllr J Thomas

Community Select Committee: Cllr S Walker

Environment and Economy Select Committee: Cllr J Hollywell

Housing Select Committee: Cllr M Cherney-Craw

Planning and Development Committee: Cllr D Cullen

Licensing Committee: Cllr D Kissane

General Purposes Committee: Cllr D Kissane

Standards Committee: Cllr Mrs J Lloyd (Chairman)

Audit Committee: Cllr L Chester

Statement of Accounts Committee: Cllr Mrs J Lloyd (Chairman).

(Note: Councillors R Parker CC and G Snell requested that their abstention to the vote to the above resolution (2) be recorded in the Minutes.)

9. 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 CC, J Hollywell and S Batson MBE DL CC

BANDLEY HILL PLAY ASSOCIATION – Councillor M Gardner

BEDWELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Harrington

CANYON PLAY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Bell

CHELLS MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Mead and G Snell *

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

DIGSWELL ARTS TRUST BOARD - Councillor J Gardner

DOUGLAS DRIVE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION - Councillor S Taylor OBE CC

EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – Leader - By Position

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

EAST OF ENGLAND LGA IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PANEL – Councillor R
Henry CC

FEDERATION OF STEVENAGE TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS - Councillor John Lloyd
CC

GEMMS - Councillor D Kissane

GREAT ASHBY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – Councillor G Clark

HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – Councillor D Cullen

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

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.

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, H Burrell, M Notley, G Snell, and P Stuart

LIVING ROOM PROJECT - Councillor A Webb

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) - By Position: Leader

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT - Councillor R Raynor

LGA EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL BOARD – Councillor S Batson MBE DL CC

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

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS: GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - Councillor H Tessier

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE CORPORATION – Councillor S Taylor OBE CC

OLD STEVENAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor J Brown

OVAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor S Walker

PIN GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Martin-Haugh

PIN GREEN PLAY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Martin-Haugh

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 M McKay

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 CC

ST. NICHOLAS PLAY ASSOCIATION – Councillor M McKay

STEVENAGE WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTRE – Councillor S Taylor OBE CC

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 CC and R Henry CC

STEVENAGE CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES (FOUR YEAR PERIOD) - Councillors J Lloyd CC and M Cherney-Craw to 2017.

STEVENAGE CREDIT UNION LTD - Councillor L Chester

STEVENAGE DISTRICT CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTNERSHIP – Councillor H Burrell

STEVENAGE FURNITURE RECYCLING SCHEME - Councillors L Bell ** and D Kissane

STEVENAGE HAVEN – Councillor D Kissane

SO STEVENAGE PARTNERSHIP – Leader / Deputy Leader – By position

STEVENAGE SHOPMOBILITY – Councillor J Thomas

STEVENAGE WORLD FORUM FOR ETHNIC COMMUNITIES - Councillor B Underwood

SYMONDS GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Councillor L Chester

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

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 – ADJUDICATION JOINT COMMITTEE – By position, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration. Deputy – SBC Local Member – Joint Member Panel

* - Amended from Cllr H Burrell as shown on the document circulated at the meeting.

** - Amended from Cllr J Lloyd CC as shown on the document circulated at the meeting.

10. APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH MAYOR

Having been notified of the nomination made by the Youth Council it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Abasiakara Mboho be elected as Youth Mayor for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

Abasiakara Mboho then made a formal acceptance of office statement and in his speech he congratulated the former Youth Mayor and said that he hoped to build on the good work that she had started. He concluded that he saw his role as Youth Mayor to represent the views of the youth of the town to the adult Members of the Council.

MAYOR

