

# STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MINUTES

**Date: Tuesday 11 July 2017**

**Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage**

**Present:** Members: The Mayor (P Stuart), D Bainbridge, P Bibby CC, L Briscoe, R Broom, J Brown, H Burrell, L Chester, E Connolly, M Downing, A Farquharson, J Fraser, J Gardner, M Gardner, E Harrington, S Hearn, R Henry, J Hollywell, M Hurst, C Latif, G Lawrence, Mrs J Lloyd, J Lloyd, L Martin-Haugh, A McGuinness, M McKay, J Mead, S Mead, A Mitchell CC, M Notley, R Raynor, C Saunders, G Snell, S Speller, S Taylor OBE CC, J Thomas and A Webb

**In Attendance:** Santino de Freitas - Stevenage Youth Mayor  
Kevin Fiorelli – Chair Stevenage Youth Council

**Start/End Time:** Start Time: 7:00 pm  
End Time: 8:10 pm

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Parker.

There were no declarations of interest.

At this juncture, the Mayor advised that she would be taking an urgent motion at item 9 on the agenda concerning the NHS Consultation – A Healthier Future which had recently been published and for which the consultation period ended before the next Council meeting.

### 2. MINUTES – ANNUAL COUNCIL – 17 MAY 2017

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 17 May 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### 3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

The Mayor informed the Council of the sad death of former Councillor Peter Metcalfe. The Mayor called on the Leader of the Council to lead the tributes.

Councillor Taylor spoke about Peter Metcalf's wisdom, intelligence and sense of humour and paid tribute to the huge contribution he had made to the political life of the Town, helping the transition from the Development

Corporation to the Council.

Councillor Taylor then read a tribute from the Leader of the Minority Group Councillor Parker. Councillor Parker first met Peter Metcalfe, a former Chells Ward Councillor in 1966 and he spoke about his time working with him for the SDP between 1981 and 1988 and remembered his dedication, determination and great sense of humour. Councillor Parker said he had lost a wise mentor and had a great deal to thank him for.

Tributes were then taken from other Councillors and the Council's sincere condolences to Mrs Metcalfe and her family were recorded.

Council stood and observed a minute's silence in remembrance.

The Mayor then informed the meeting that since the last meeting, the Mayoral Team had undertaken a number of engagements in the town. The Mayor referred to a number of highlights including a visit to Ingelheim – one of Stevenage's Twin Towns, the Stevenage Festival and a number of garden parties and school fetes as well as attending sports day at Lonsdale School.

#### **4. MAIN DEBATE**

The Mayor advised that there would be no main debate for this meeting.

#### **5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

None.

#### **6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL**

None.

#### **7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

#### **8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE**

The Leader of the Opposition advised that he would forego his opportunity to raise matters relevant to the Borough at this meeting.

There was no update from the Leader of the Council at this meeting.

#### **9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

As stated at the beginning of the meeting this Motion had not been included on the agenda, however, given the reason for urgency the Mayor agreed that it be considered on this occasion.

Councillor Jeanette Thomas, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Older People proposed a motion in relation to the public consultation from the East & North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) "A Healthier Future".

In moving the motion, Councillor Thomas advised that it was essential for the Council to work with the CCG to ensure the residents of Stevenage received the care and treatment they needed close to their homes.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Hollywell advised that there would be a direct impact on Stevenage residents if local health services were reduced.

Councillor Taylor, stressed the importance of working with the CCG and urged the health service to work with the Council to benefit the health of all residents in the Town.

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

That this Council welcomes the opportunity to participate in the East & North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group "A Healthier Future" public consultation. This opportunity has been a long time coming though which has caused considerable concern to local people who wish to know how the impact of the Government's inability to fund NHS services appropriately will affect them.

It is recognised and evidenced that Stevenage has a number of specific public health challenges which are either directly or indirectly related to some of the proposals referenced within the consultation document. The funding of the NHS is of course a national matter but if / when it is reduced there will be significant local implications. This Council will oppose any proposals that may detrimentally impact upon local services and the people, a number of whom will be vulnerable, who receive and rely upon them.

Where it is clear that an area, like Stevenage, has particular health needs funding should be prioritised to provide the support and treatment that is necessary. The NHS and associated public services should invest properly in prevention activities so as to treat the causes as well as the symptoms of poor health. This requires long term strategic thinking, planning and joined up / genuine partnership working across the sectors, which has not been evident thus far.

**10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

None.

**11. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2016/2017**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the Annual Scrutiny Report and thanked the Council's Scrutiny Officer and those

officers and Councillors participating in the scrutiny process to ensure that the Scrutiny remained a valuable asset for the Council.

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

1. That the work undertaken by Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Select Committees during 2016/17 is noted.
2. That the Scrutiny Officer and those Members who had taken part in the scrutiny process throughout the past year be thanked for their outstanding work to ensure that the scrutiny function remained a valuable asset for the Council.

## **12. PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

It was moved seconded and **RESOLVED**:

1. That the Pay Policy Statement set out in accordance with the Localism Act, 2011 and the Data Transparency Code 2015, as attached at Appendix 1 to this report, is approved.
2. That the Pay Policy Statement be placed on the Council's website and that a notice of it be published in the next edition of Chronicle.

## **13. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 28 MARCH AND 15 JUNE 2017**

It was moved seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 28 March and 15 June are noted.

## **14. PRESENTATION OF FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH CERTIFICATE**

The Chamber was reminded that on 28 February the Council agreed a motion to posthumously award the Freedom of the Borough to the late Sherma Batson, MBE DL CC.

The Mayor welcomed to the meeting Members of Sherma's family including Howard Rooke, Ahisha Ferguson and Yvonne Batson.

The Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition and a number of other Members and a member of the public spoke in remembrance of Sherma.

Councillor Taylor advised that this was the highest honour that the Council could bestow, and spoke about Sherma's unique, special and sustained contribution to the Town. Councillor Fraser advised that it would be difficult for anyone to rise to the standards set by Sherma and that he had no hesitation in supporting the award. Councillor Michelle Gardner spoke of her loss of Sherma and was pleased to inform Council that the Together Centre had recently been renamed the Sherma Batson Centre.

The Mayor then presented Howard Rooke, and Ahisha Ferguson, with a scroll to mark the posthumous award of the Freedom of the Borough to Sherma.

Howard Rooke thanked the Council for the award which he and the family recognised was the highest honour the Council could have given to Sherma. Following Ahisha reading a letter of thanks she had received from an individual who had benefited from a kidney transplant, Howard then spoke in tribute to his late wife and stressed the importance to all those present to sign up to the Organ Donor Register.

## **CHAIR**