

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEVENOAKS

Minutes of the Meeting of the Sevenoaks District Council held on 26 April 2016 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. McGarvey (Chairman)

Cllr. Raikes (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs. Abraham, Mrs. Bayley, Ball, Barnes, Bosley, Mrs. Bosley, Brookbank, Brown, Dr. Canet, Clack, Clark, Dickins, Edwards-Winser, Esler, Eyre, Firth, Fleming, Gaywood, Grint, Halford, Hogarth, Hogg, Horwood, Mrs. Hunter, Kelly, Kitchener, Krogdahl, Lake, Layland, Lindsay, London, Lowe, Maskell, McArthur, McGregor, Mrs. Morris, Parkin, Pearsall, Pett, Piper, Reay, Scott, Searles, Ms. Tennessee, Thornton and Williamson

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Cooke, Dyball, Parson, Purves, Scholey and Miss. Stack

94. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 February 2016

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 February 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

95. To receive any declarations of interest not included in the register of interest from Members in respect of items of business included on the agenda for this meeting

No additional declarations of interest were received.

96. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported with great sadness, the passing of former Councillor and past Chairman, Michael Stevens. He had represented Halstead, Knockholt and Badgers Mount ward from 1985 to 1995; been the Chairman of the Planning & Transportation Committee from 1988 to 1993; Vice Chairman of the Council in 1993/94; and served as Chairman of the Council during 1994/95.

Cllr Raikes advised that he had not known him personally but as Vice Chairman had attended the celebration of his life that had been well attended. Mr Stevens had organised the event himself for his wife who had passed shortly before. Cllr Williamson, who had known him for many years had said a few words at the celebration.

All present paused for a moment's silence in memory.

97. To receive any questions from members of the public under paragraph 17 of Part 2 (The Council and District Council Members) of the Constitution.

No questions had been received.

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98. To receive any petitions submitted by members of the public under paragraph 18 of Part 2 (The Council and District Council Members) of the Constitution.

No petitions were received.

99. Matters considered by the Cabinet

- (a) Asset Maintenance – White Oak Leisure Centre, Swanley

Councillor Fleming proposed and Councillor Searles seconded, the recommendation from Cabinet. The report sought funding by supplementary estimate for maintenance works agreed by the Cabinet.

The Leader advised that it reflected the ongoing commitment to keep the facility open whilst continuing to pursue options for a new leisure facility in Swanley, whether on the existing site or an alternative one. In response to questions he reported that the leisure centre was included in the asset maintenance programme and monitored hence the report before Members. He also advised that no decisions had yet been taken, or alternative site decided, and Members would be the first to be notified of any options under consideration.

Resolved: That works identified to be carried out at White Oak Leisure Centre, at an estimated cost of £64,140, be funded by a supplementary estimate.

100. Matters considered by other standing committees

- (a) Appointment of Monitoring Officer

The Chairman clarified that the interim posting would be in addition to existing duties, and not instead of. Councillor Fleming proposed and Councillor Pett seconded the recommendations from the Governance Committee.

Councillor Fleming advised that the post of Head of Legal & Democratic Services had now been filled, with a start date of 1 July 2016.

Resolved: That

- a) in the absence of a Head of Legal & Democratic Services post holder, the Chief Officer Legal & Governance continue as Monitoring Officer until the end of May 2016 (or until such time as the Head of Legal & Democratic Services is in post, whichever is the sooner); and
- b) in the absence of a Head of Legal & Democratic Services post holder after the end of May 2016, the Chief Officer Corporate Services be appointed interim Monitoring Officer, until such time the Head of Legal & Democratic Services is in post.

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101. To consider any questions by Members under paragraph 19.3 of Part 2 (The Council and District Council Members) of the Constitution, notice of which have been duly given.

No questions had been received.

102. To consider any motions by Members under paragraph 20 of Part 2 (The Council and District Council Members) of the Constitution, notice of which have been duly given.

No motions had been received.

103. To receive the report of the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting.

The Leader of the Council reported on the work that he and the Cabinet had undertaken in the period 25 January to 14 April 2016. The Leader commented on the Commonwealth Flag raising ceremony, and in particular the moving World War One (WWI) Commemorative event with the added poignancy of the presence of a Dunkirk veteran. All present had also been particularly impressed by the attending Year 3 school children from St John's Primary School.

He also advised that the Council had entered three categories at the MJ Awards and had been shortlisted for two. Presentations had been given and the results were awaited.

104. To receive reports from the Chairmen of the Audit and Scrutiny Committees on the work of the Committees since the last Council meeting.

- (a) Annual report from the Audit Committee

The Chairman of Audit Committee commended his report to the Council, thanking Members and Officers for their work. There were no questions.

- (b) Annual report from the Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman of Scrutiny Committee commended his report to the Council, thanking Members and Officers for their work. There were no questions.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 7.17 PM

CHAIRMAN