

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEVENOAKS

Minutes of the Meeting of the Sevenoaks District Council held on 30 March 2010 commencing at 7 p.m.

Present: Cllr. Lankester (Chairman)
Cllr. Loney (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs. Abraham, Arnold, Bosley, Mrs. Bracken, Brigden, Brookbank, Mrs. Broomby, Bruce, Mrs. Clark, Coates, Mrs. Cook, Darrington, Davison, Mrs. Davison, Mrs. Dawson, Dibsdall, Fleming, Grint, Harrod, Mrs. Hunter, , Mrs. Lowe, McGarvey, McInnes, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Morris, Orridge, Mrs. Parkin, Pett, Piper, Mrs. Purves, Ramsay, Ryan, Mrs. Sargeant, Scholey, Miss Stack, Underwood, Waller, Walshe, Wigg and Williamson.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Bosley, Mrs. Bosley, Chard, Cooke, Dean and Gaywood.

PRAYERS

Reverend Canon Paul Francis led Members of the Council in prayers.

49. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A Member asked whether the figures quoted in the Minutes, which related to the approval of the Council Tax, could be simplified and made more easy to understand in future years. He also asked whether, in future years, the Minutes could have appended to them, for information, a complete single page table showing total Council Tax(es) due by Parish and by band.

The Leader of the Council replied that much of the information relating to Council Tax setting was prescribed and had a defined format which the Council had to adhere to. However, he recognised that the information needed to be clear and therefore requested that the Council's Finance and Democratic Services teams give consideration to the points raised, in liaison with the Finance Advisory Group, with a view to identifying improvements for the future.

Resolved: That, the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 12 May 2009, pages 27 to 36, be approved as a correct record.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The list of interests declared at meetings from 9th February 2010 to 17th March 2010 , including the correction made on the late information, was noted.

51. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed Members of the recent sad death of a former Councillor, Dr Wilfrid Harding CBE FRCP, who died on 5th March 2010. He had been a Member of the District Council for the Farningham Ward from 1979 to 1999 and was Chairman in 1997-98. A memorial celebration would be held in Farningham Village Hall on

Sunday, 25th April at 3pm. Members stood in silence, in respect of his memory.

52. PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No petitions were received from members of the public.

53. MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE CABINET AND/OR OTHER COMMITTEES

This was discussed under Minute Item 54(a).

54. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REPORTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR OTHER DIRECTORS ON MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF COUNCIL

(a) Community Plan – Sustainable Community Action Plan 2010-2013

Further to meetings of the Social Affairs Select Committee and of the Cabinet, Cllr. Fleming proposed and Cllr. Mrs Davison seconded that the Council adopt the Sustainable Community Action Plan 2010-13.

Resolved: That Sustainable Community Action Plan 2010-13 be adopted.

55. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER PARA. 19.3 OF PART 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION

No questions had been received from Members.

56. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER PARA. 17 OF PART 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION

No questions had been received from members of the public.

57. REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Report 9)

The Leader of the Council informed Members of a potential issue with the Disability Facilities Grant, which the Council was legally obliged to provide to disabled people to adapt their houses. He stated that the Government would normally tell the Council how much money it would receive to make payments under this scheme in January, but this year the Council was still waiting to be told this information, and the new financial year started on 1 April. He was therefore concerned that the Council would need to make payments under the scheme when it did not know how much money there would be to fund it.

The Leader of the Council also informed Members that he, Michael Fallon MP and the Council's Corporate Resources Director had met with Barbara Follett, a Minister at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), along with several of her officials. They had discussed the Council's grant funding and lobbied strongly for the Council's historically low funding to be reconsidered. She had commended the Council on its achievements but made no promise with regard to funding. He stated that the Council would follow the meeting up with a letter and he was hopeful that it had made an impact on the officials at the DCLG, who would be in place whoever won the general election.

Finally, the Leader of the Council congratulated the Council's Management Team for winning the Local Government Chronicle Award for Management Team of the Year. Council Members applauded the Council's Management Team in recognition of this achievement.

A Member asked the Leader of the Council to keep all Members informed on developments with the Disabled Facilities Grant funding. The Leader of The Council confirmed that he would continue to keep all Members informed and that he would write to all Members on Thursday, 1 April 2010 to let them know what was happening either way.

Another Member asked the Leader of the Council how successful the recent business breakfast events had been and how many businesses had attended. The Leader of the Council replied that 30 people had attended the event in Swanley and that 19 people had attended the event in Edenbridge. He stated that these events were greatly valued by businesses, not least for the informal networking opportunities that they presented.

58. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEES

No reports were prepared, as there had been no meetings of the Select Committees between the last Council meeting and the despatch of the Council agenda.

59. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

There had been no meeting of the Performance and Governance Committee since the last meeting of the Council.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 7.17 P.M.

CHAIRMAN

