

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

At an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Guildhall, Winchester on 16 April 2008.

Attendance:

Councillor Pines (The Mayor in the Chair) (P)

Councillors:

Allgood (P)	Huxstep (P)
Anthony (P)	Izard (P)
Barratt (P)	Jackson (P)
Baxter (P)	Jeffs (P)
Beckett (P)	Johnston (P)
Bell (P)	Learney (P)
Berry (P)	Lipscomb (P)
Beveridge (P)	Love (P)
Biggs (P)	Mather (P)
Busher (P)	Maynard (P)
Chamberlain (P)	Nelmes (P)
Chapman	Nunn (P)
Clear (P)	Pearce (P)
Coates (P)	Pearson (P)
Collin (P)	Read (P)
Cook	Ruffell (P)
Cooper (P)	Saunders (P)
Evans (P)	Spender (P)
Fall (P)	Stallard (P)
Godfrey (P)	Stephens (P)
Goodall	Sutton (P)
Hammerton (P)	Tait (P)
Hicks (P)	Verney (P)
Higgins (P)	Wagner (P)
Hiscock (P)	Weston (P)
Hollingbery	Wood (P)
Howell (P)	Worrall (P)
Humby (P)	Wright

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 21 February 2008 be approved and adopted.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor thanked all those Members who had supported the Bond of Friendship Parade for the Army Cadet Force on Saturday 5 April 2008. Letters had been received from the Lord Lieutenant and the Colonel of the Army Cadet Force thanking the City Council for arranging and hosting a very enjoyable and significant occasion.

The Mayor also thanked Chris Ashcroft and Frances Maloney from the Democratic Services Division for their efforts in organising the event.

The Mayor then congratulated Ms Julia Beckett from Compton, who had won a bronze medal in the 4 x 400 relay at the World Swimming Championships last weekend. Julia had since been selected to represent Great Britain in that event at the Beijing Olympics.

Finally, the Mayor announced that four Members had decided not to seek re-election on 1 May 2008. In accordance with the Council's usual practice, he presented certificates in recognition of their public service as follows:-

Cllr John Beveridge – who had served since May 1996

Cllr Ashley Goodall – who had served since May 2002

Cllr Ernie Nunn – who had served since May 2002

Cllr Cecily Sutton – who had served since May 1996 (and was Mayor in 2004/05).

The Leader reported that, firstly, the recent Annual Audit and Inspection Letter had concluded that the Council's performance over a range of services was improving. In some areas, those services were now in the same performance quartile as local authorities rated as good or excellent, which was a very pleasing result. Secondly, with regard to planning development control, the Government Office for the South East had formally acknowledged the Council's consistent improvement in dealing with planning applications. Thirdly, complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman had reduced last year from 24 to 7 on planning matters, and from 37 to 20 overall. The Leader concluded that all the above results demonstrated a significant, ongoing improvement in the work of the Council and he would be congratulating the staff on their recent performance.

3. **QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14**

1. Local Access Point for Wickham

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, answered a question from Councillor Clear.

2. Security Measures for Council Owned Bungalows

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, Councillor Coates, answered a question from Councillor Wagner.

3. Ecological Footprint of Winchester Residents

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Safety, Councillor Pearson, answered a question from Councillor Sutton.

4. Cost of Producing 'Perspectives'

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, answered a question from Councillor Learney.

5. Rejection of Micheldever Station Proposals as Eco-Town

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, answered a question from Councillor Lipscomb.

6. Criteria for Provision of Bus Shelters

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Tait.

7. Support for Post Offices Designated for Closure

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, answered a question from Councillor Jackson.

8. Understanding of 'Enforcement Concordat'

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Wagner.

9. Electoral Arrangements in Wickham

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, Councillor Allgood, answered a question from Councillor Clear.

10. District Household Recycling Rate

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Safety, Councillor Pearson, answered a question from Councillor Wagner.

4. **PETITION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15**

The Mayor informed the Council that the petition would be presented by Councillor Wagner, on behalf of residents of roads adjoining the Wessex Business Park in Colden Common.

Cllr Wagner explained that residents of Blackthorn Green, Elder Green and Willow Green had submitted a petition (with 34 signatures), drawing attention to the hazardous situation being created by cars parked on these narrow, residential roads. The cars were owned by employees of companies on the Business Park, who were using the roads as overflow parking. Having regard to the residential nature of the area where children played etc, together with concerns that emergency vehicles would not have sufficient space to access properties, the assistance of the City Council was requested to improve the situation. There was also a question about the public/private status of the roads, which the Council could usefully clarify at the same time.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Wagner for his statement.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15(6) the Council had a short discussion about the above, during which the Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee referred Members to the Councillor Call for Action initiative, which was currently being examined. She also reminded Council that use of the Scrutiny process generally could be productive in situations such as this. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that the matter be referred to Cabinet for decision.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES**

Cabinet – 26 March 2008

Community Safety Strategy Assessment Report and Partnership Plan

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Safety, Councillor Pearson, moved that Recommended Minute 979 be approved and adopted.

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Councillor. He remained in the Chamber and voted thereon.

RESOLVED:

That Recommended Minute 979 be approved and adopted.

Personnel Committee – 3 March 2008

Standards Committee – 7 April 2008

Information Management and Technology (IM&T) Security and Conduct Policy

It was noted that Personnel Committee, at its meeting held on 3 March 2008, had considered the matter and made a number of amendments to the draft Policy for Standards Committee to consider.

The Vice Chairman of Standards Committee, Councillor Read, moved that Recommended Minute 1034 from the Standards Committee be approved and adopted. It was noted that reference in the Minute to 'Government Direct' should read 'Government Connect'.

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 1034 from the Standards Committee, as amended above, be approved and adopted.
2. That Recommended Minute 909 from the Personnel Committee be received and noted.

Standards Committee – 7 April 2008

Proposed Amendment to the Standards Committee – Article 9 (The Standards Committee)

The Vice Chairman of Standards Committee, Councillor Read, moved that Recommended Minute 1037 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

That Recommended Minute 1037 be approved and adopted.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR

On behalf of the Council, Councillor Pearce thanked the Mayor for the impartial and efficient way he had chaired meetings of Council during the past year. The Mayor reciprocated suitably.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.40pm.

The Mayor