

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

At an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Guildhall, Winchester on 5 November 2008

Attendance:

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

Councillors:

Achwal (P)	Huxstep (P)
Allgood (P)	Izard (P)
Anthony (P)	Jackson (P)
Barratt (P)	Jeffs (P)
Baxter (P)	Johnston (P)
Beckett (P)	Learney (P)
Bell (P)	Lipscomb
Berry (P)	Love (P)
Biggs (P)	Mason (P)
Busher (P)	Mather (P)
Chamberlain	Maynard (P)
Clear (P)	Mitchell (P)
Coates (P)	Nelmes (P)
Collin (P)	Pearce (P)
Cook (P)	Pearson (P)
Cooper (P)	Pines (P)
Evans (P)	Ruffell (P)
Fall (P)	Sanders (P)
Gemmell (P)	Spender (P)
Godfrey (P)	Stallard (P)
Hammerton (P)	Stephens (P)
Henry (P)	Tait (P)
Hicks (P)	Thompson (P)
Higgins (P)	Verney (P)
Hiscock (P)	Weston (P)
Hollingbery (P)	Wood (P)
Howell (P)	Worrall (P)
Humby (P)	Wright (P)

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 25 June 2008 be approved and adopted.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor formally welcomed to the meeting Councillor Daryl Henry, who had been elected for the Colden Common and Twyford Ward, following a by election on 25 September 2008. Councillor Henry signed the Declaration of Acceptance, which was witnessed by the Chief Executive.

The Mayor then formally recorded the Council's sadness at the recent death of former Councillor Len Humpage, who was a member of the City Council from 1994 – 1996 and represented St Barnabas Ward.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader reported that the Council had recently gained re-accreditation for the Investors in People Award (IIP). He congratulated all those concerned for their hard work in achieving this important recognition of the Council's positive policies towards its staff and Members.

The Leader then made a statement regarding the Council's investment of £1m. in Heritable Bank Ltd (a UK subsidiary of the Icelandic bank Landsbanki), which went into administration on 7 October 2008.

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

1. Fareham Strategic Development Area

The Leader, Councillor Beckett, answered a question from Councillor Clear.

2. Discontinuance of 'WhizzGo' Car Club in Winchester

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Jackson.

3. Loft Conversions to increase Size of Council Dwellings

The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Coates, answered a question from Councillor Tait.

4. Homes Insulation

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Pearson, answered a question from Councillor Wright.

5. Improvements to Friarsgate Car Park, Winchester

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Lipscomb.

6. Drain Clearance

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Pearson, answered a question from Councillor Mason.

7. Water Penetration at Tower Street Car Park, Winchester

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Thompson.

8. Future of King Alfred Youth Club, Winchester

The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety, Councillor Cooper, answered a question from Councillor Berry.

9. Improvements in Planning Enforcement

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Cook.

10. Renewal of Leases on Council Commercial Property

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Allgood, answered a question from Councillor Tait.

11. Flexible Working – Ease of Contacting Staff

The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Organisational Development, Councillor Godfrey, answered a question from Councillor Lipscomb.

12. Housing Development – Pressure on School Places

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Barratt.

13. Improvement of Council Intranet Site

The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Organisational Development, Councillor Godfrey, answered a question from Councillor Lipscomb.

14. Industry and Business Development in the Countryside

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Bell.

15. Handling of Correspondence and Telephone Calls – Performance Standards

The Portfolio Holder for Performance and Organisational Development, Councillor Godfrey, answered a question from Councillor Lipscomb.

16. Grange Road/Grange Close, Winchester – Highway Improvements

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

17. Collection of Glass and Residual Waste

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Pearson, answered a question from Councillor Collin.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES**

Cabinet – 9 July 2008

Cabinet – 15 October 2008

Principal Scrutiny Committee – 20 October 2008

Capital Strategy and Programme 2008/9 – 2013/14

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Councillor. Councillors Collin and Godfrey declared personal (but not prejudicial) interests in respect of this item as County Council employees. All three Councillors remained in the Chamber and voted thereon.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 330 be approved and adopted.

Amendment (1) Councillor Learney (2) Councillor Evans

That Recommendation 2 be re-numbered as 3 and a new Recommendation 2 be inserted as follows:-

‘That Council recognises that the freezing of Council investment of £1m and the possibility of further market turbulence represent a serious potential risk to the Council’s capital spending programme. Council therefore creates a ‘task and finish’ scrutiny committee to urgently investigate the circumstances surrounding the freezing of the Council’s assets, the adequacy of Council treasury management strategy and practice and the quality of advice received from treasury advisors.’

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 32(1), one quarter of the Members present and voting required that a recorded vote be taken in respect of the amendment.

Division List

The following Members voted in favour of the amendment:-

Councillors Achwal, Barratt, Bell, Clear, Collin, Cook, Evans, Fall, Henry, Hicks, Higgins, Hiscock, Izzard, Jackson, Johnston, Learney, Love, Mason, Maynard, Mitchell, Nelmes, Pearce, Spender and Thompson (24)

The following Members voted against the amendment:-

Councillors Allgood, Anthony, Baxter, Beckett, Berry, Biggs, Busher, Chamberlain, Coates, Cooper, Gemmell, Godfrey, Hammerton, Hollingbery, Howell, Humby, Huxstep, Jeffs, Lipscomb, Mather, Pearson, Pines, Read, Ruffell, Sanders, Stallard, Stephens, Tait, Verney, Weston, Wood, Worrall and Wright (33).

Amendment Lost.

Original Motion carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 330 be approved and adopted.
2. That Recommended Minutes 133 from Cabinet and 357 from Principal Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

Cabinet – 17 September 2008

Principal Scrutiny Committee – 22 September 2008

Minor Amendments to the Constitution – Deputies on Principal Scrutiny Committee

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 257 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 257 be approved and adopted.
2. That Recommended Minute 300 from Principal Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

Council – 5 November 2008Flexible Working – City Offices

Councillor Maynard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this item, as he was a close associate of a Director of the company which had an interest in the future of Abbey Mill, the vacating of which was a key element in the next phase of the Council's flexible working strategy. He left the Chamber during consideration of this item.

Councillor Henry declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in the same item, because she was acquainted with a Director of the company concerned, but it was not a close association. Therefore, she remained in the Chamber and voted thereon.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that the Recommendations set out in Report CL53 be approved and adopted (less Exempt Appendix).

RESOLVED:

That the Recommendations set out in Report CL 53 be approved and adopted.

6. **APPOINTMENTS TO BODIES SET UP BY THE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Henry replace former Councillor Wagner as a full member of the Resources Scrutiny Panel.

2. That Councillors Bell, Hammerton and Sanders be appointed as additional deputies on the Principal Scrutiny Committee.

7. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
###	Flexible Working – City Offices (Exempt Appendix)	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Para 3 to Schedule 12A refers).
###	Abbey Mill, Winchester	
###	Avalon House, Chesil Street, Winchester	

8. **COUNCIL – 5 November 2008**

Flexible Working - City Offices

RESOLVED:

That the exempt appendix to Report CL53 be noted.

9. **CABINET – 15 October 2008**
PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 October 2008

Abbey Mill, Winchester

Councillor Maynard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this matter, as he was a close associate of the Director of the company which had an interest in the building. He left the Chamber during consideration of this item.

Councillor Henry declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in the same item, because she was acquainted with a Director of the company concerned, but it was not a close association. Therefore, she remained in the Chamber and voted thereon.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 346 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 346 be approved and adopted.

2. That Recommended Minute 363 from Principal Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

10. **CABINET – 17 September 2008**
PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22 September 2008

Avalon House, Chesil Street, Winchester

Councillor Love declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in this matter. He remained in the meeting and voted thereon.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 275 be approved and adopted.

The Leader gave an assurance that the proposed works to Avalon House would not commence until an Agreement for Lease had been signed with the proposed tenant.

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 275 be approved and adopted.
2. That Recommended Minute 306 from Principal Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 10.20pm

The Mayor