

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

At an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Guildhall, Winchester on 7 January 2009

Attendance:

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

Councillors:

Achwal (P)	Huxstep (P)
Allgood (P)	Izard (P)
Anthony (P)	Jackson (P)
Barratt	Jeffs (P)
Baxter (P)	Johnston (P)
Beckett (P)	Learney (P)
Bell (P)	Lipscomb (P)
Berry (P)	Love
Biggs (P)	Mason (P)
Busher (P)	Mather (P)
Chamberlain (P)	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 5 November 2008 be approved and adopted.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor formally recorded the Council's sadness at the recent death of former Councillor Jean Freeman, who was Mayor in 1985/6 and represented St Barnabas Ward from 1976 to 1986. Accordingly, Council stood for in silence as a mark of respect.

The Mayor then welcomed Colonel O'Connell from the Adjutant General Corps who presented a painting to the Council to commemorate their Freedom Parade held 30 June 2008. In accepting the painting, the Mayor expressed the Council's thanks and best wishes to the Adjutant General Corps.

The Mayor then announced that he had written, on behalf of the Council, to congratulate the following local people who had received awards in the New Years Honours List :-

Mr Bernard Ribeiro from Alresford – awarded a CBE for services to medicine.

Mr Iain Percy from Winchester – awarded an OBE for services to sailing.

Mr Ben Ainslie, who lives in Lymington but was educated at Peter Symonds College – awarded a CBE for services to sailing.

Mr John Coughlan, who lives in Romsey but is the Director of Childrens' Services at the County Council – awarded a CBE for services to local government.

The Mayor also asked for Members' nominations for the 2008 Mayor's Awards.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE LEADER

Councillor Wood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as he was a trustee of Hampshire Youth Options. He explained that he had taken no part in the discussions regarding KAYAC and remained in the Chamber during the announcement.

The Leader reported on the Alfies Awards which were held on 10 December 2008. He explained that the event was an opportunity to recognise the good work of staff and he congratulated its organiser, Mr Paul Wood (Head of Customer Services).

The Leader also reported on the demise of the South East Regional Assembly and that its work had effectively been taken on by a new body of Council Leaders from across the region. He explained that he had been appointed onto the new body's steering group and agreed to report regularly on its progress.

Finally, the Leader explained that he had endorsed the Chief Executive's use of emergency powers to award a £20,000 grant to the King Alfred Youth Activity Centre (KAYAC). He explained that he was confident that the grant would be used well to continue a valued service, following the transfer of KAYAC's management to Hampshire Youth Options.

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

1. Publication of Delegated Planning Decision Conditions

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

2. Out of Hours Flights into Southampton Airport

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

3. Government Housing Development numbers and future development numbers for New Alresford

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

Councillor Hollingbery declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as he knew the owner of a parcel of land which had been referred to in debate. He explained that he had not discussed this matter with the owner and Councillors Beckett and Wood also confirmed that they had had no contact with the land owner.

4. The Market for Recyclable Materials

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

5. Bus Shelters at Jewry Street, Winchester

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

6. Local Reserve Sites

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

7. Public Conveniences in Bishops Waltham, New Alresford and Wickham

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

Councillor Clear declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this question as she was Chairman of Wickham Parish Council and she remained in the Chamber and spoke thereon.

Councillor Evans declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect to this item as she was a member of Wickham Parish Council. She remained the Chamber and spoke on the question.

8. Elections in Whiteley

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

9. Traffic Regulation Orders

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

10. Weekly Collection Service for Residual Waste

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

11. Resignation of Senior Staff

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

12. Section 106 Agreements and Decent Homes Standard

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

13. Public Meetings for significant Planning Applications

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

14. Celebrity Big Brother

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

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

The Mayor informed the Council that there was one petition to be presented.

Mr G Blackman presented a petition submitted by the Save Barton Farm Group, which requested that the Council protect Barton Farm from significant

development by omitting Barton Farm from the sites in the 2009 Preferred Options proposals for housing.

Mr Blackman spoke in support of his request. He explained that the most prevalent concern of signatories had been the detrimental effect the development of Barton Farm would have on the character of Winchester. He explained that there were a number of reasons why it was premature to select Barton Farm as a preferred option and these included the housing requirement being met by windfall sites elsewhere; that the local road network was already at capacity and that after 2011, the site would revert to being protected by countryside policies. He suggested that the Council establish a working party of interested groups to debate the long-term future of Winchester and omit Barton Farm from the preferred options proposed sites.

During debate, Councillors noted the concerns raised by the Save Barton Farm Group and discussed the difficulty of the decisions the Council faced on this issue. Points raised that would need to be considered in due course included:

- the concerns of residents to protect the countryside, setting and compact nature of Winchester
- the need to control development in the District by submitting a Local Development Framework that conformed to the Government's criteria and the need to create new affordable homes
- the extent to which the housing completion numbers could include windfall sites
- sustainability, flood risk and infrastructure issues

However, the Leader declined Mr Blackman's offer of a working party as he explained that the Council had already undertaken very comprehensive public consultation on the Local Development Framework.

At the conclusion of debate, the Mayor thanked Mr Blackman for his submission which would be taken into consideration at Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee on 25 March 2009 and at Council on 22 April 2009, which would determine sites for the Council's preferred options.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES**

Cabinet – 10 December 2008

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Rent Setting

The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Coates, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 534 be approved and adopted.

Amendment (1) Councillor Learney (2) Councillor Evans

“That Recommended Minute 534 be deferred to the next meeting of Council to provide an opportunity for the Report to be considered by Principal Scrutiny Committee.”

Amendment Lost.

Original Motion carried.

RESOLVED:

That Recommended Minute 534 be approved and adopted.

Cabinet – 10 December 2008

Updated Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Business Plan

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Councillor and as the County’s representative on the Local Strategic Partnership Board. He remained in the Chamber and voted thereon.

Councillor Godfrey declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as he was an employee of Hampshire County Council and he remained in the Chamber and voted thereon.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 535 be approved and adopted.

Amendment (1) Councillor Learney (2) Councillor Evans

“Recommendation 2 be changed to:

2. That the Corporate Business Plan for 2009/10 be approved, as set out in appendix 2 with the following changes

Additional bullet point at end of Section 3

- Delivers significant ongoing efficiencies each year

Delete Section 5

Substitute

5.0 Additional Council priorities

In addition to contributing to the Sustainable Community Strategy and the delivery targets within the LAA Council also wishes to see:

- Additional measures taken to mitigate the effects on residents of the current economic climate,
- The Council’s own carbon footprint reduce by at least 20% over the plan period.”

Amendment Lost.

Original Motion carried.

RESOLVED:

That Recommended Minute 535 be approved and adopted.

Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee – 16 December 2008

Winchester District Local Plan Review – Extension of Saved Policies

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access, Councillor Wood, moved that the Recommendations set out in Report CAB1759(LDF) be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

That the Recommendations set out in Report CAB1759 (LDF) be approved and adopted.

Cabinet – 10 December 2008

Council Tax Base 2009/10

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor Allgood, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 536 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

That Recommended Minute 536 be approved and adopted.

Cabinet – 18 November 2008

Principal Scrutiny Committee – 4 December 2008

Revised Investment Strategy 2008/09

The Leader of Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 444 be approved and adopted, less exempt appendix.

Amendment (1) Councillor Beckett (2) Councillor Chamberlain

“That Cabinet Minute 444 be amended by the insertion of a new Recommendation 3, which repeats the wording from Recommendation 2 of Minute 524 of Principal Scrutiny Committee, as follows:

3. That the Strategy be kept under regular review to take account of any changes in the current global economic situation.”

Amendment carried.

Original motion, as amended, carried.

RESOLVED:

That Recommended Minute 444 be approved and adopted, subject to the above amendment, less exempt appendix.

6. **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>
###	Revised Investment Strategy 2008/09 (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).

7. **CABINET – 18 November 2008**

Revised Investment Strategy 2008/09 – Exempt Appendix

RESOLVED:

That the exempt appendix to Report CAB1754 be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 10.55pm

The Mayor