

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

At an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Guildhall, Winchester on 4 November 2009

Attendance:

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

Councillors:

Achwal (P)	Jackson (P)
Allgood (P)	Jeffs (P)
Anthony	Johnston (P)
Barratt	Learney (P)
Baxter (P)	Lipscomb (P)
Beckett (P)	Love (P)
Bell (P)	Mason (P)
Berry (P)	Mather (P)
Busher	Maynard (P)
Chamberlain (P)	Mitchell (P)
Clear (P)	Nelmes (P)
Coates (P)	Pearce (P)
Collin (P)	Pearson (P)
Cook (P)	Pines (P)
Cooper (P)	Read (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)	Thynne (P)
Hollingbery (P)	Verney (P)
Howell (P)	Weston (P)
Humby (P)	Wood (P)
Huxstep (P)	Worrall (P)
Izard (P)	Wright (P)

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 15 July 2009 and the Special Meeting of the Council held on 1 October 2009 be approved and adopted.

## 2. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor announced with great sadness that the conflict in Afghanistan had claimed the lives of more people who had a particular connection with the District. Staff Sgt Olaf Schmid of the Royal Logistics Corps was killed whilst attempting to defuse a bomb; he had lived in Harestock, Winchester. Also, a rogue Afghan policemen had killed five servicemen, two of whom were from the Military Police based at Southwick Park. Appropriate letters of condolence had been sent.

The Council stood for a few moments in silent tribute to the memory of those who had died.

## 3. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader reported that, with regard to the future letting of Avalon House, negotiations were at an advanced stage with a public body for a 15 year lease. Two other provisional enquiries had since been received about use of the building and they were being acted upon accordingly.

The Leader also reported upon the successful acquisition of a site at Bar End and that completion would take place next week.

## 4. **COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive explained the car parking arrangements for Members on Remembrance Sunday and also asked for Members co-operation regarding parking in the Guildhall Yard during office hours.

## 5. **QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14**

### 1. **Notification of Changes to Tenancy Conditions**

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

### 2. **Impact of Current Vacancy Management Arrangements**

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

### 3. **Wider Use of Section 106 Contributions**

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

4. Housing Trajectory for the District

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

5. Need for Council Meeting on 4 November 2009

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

6. Council Tax – Action on Missed Payments

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

7. LEADER Funding Project - Update

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

8. Aldi Site Planning Appeal – Award of Costs

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

9. Arrangements for Christmas Illuminations 2009

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

10. Decrease in Members Allowances 2009/10

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

11. Change to 'Thin Client' IT System

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

12. Playing Pitches in Alresford – Compulsory Purchase Order

The Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Sport, Councillor Stallard, answered a question from Councillor Cook.

13. Affordable Housing Projects – Available Finance

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

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

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

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr G Cole presented a petition in support of Animal Aid's Compassionate Charter, which set out eight achievable steps to help animals, people and the planet. The prayer of the petition read as follows:-

'We the undersigned call upon Winchester City Council to promote within its boundaries cruelty-free living by adopting in part or in whole the eight provisions of Animal Aid's Compassionate Charter, and the cage-free policy advocated by Compassion in World Farming, by either using barn or free-range systems where the Council is responsible for catering facilities.'

Mr Cole explained that there were nine relevant policies within the Charter for the Council to consider:-

1. Purchase only cruelty-free toiletries and cleaning products for Council use.
2. Ban circuses with animals from Council land.
3. Ban the giving of pets as prizes
4. Promote and subsidise spaying and neutering programmes.
5. Promote the City as foie-gras and veal free
6. Promote the City as fur-free
7. Adopt only humane non-lethal management of pigeons and other animals and birds.
8. Make the City a plastic bag free zone.
9. Stop the mass release of balloons for any purpose

Mr Cole concluded by stating that all of the above measures were achievable and would make a real difference to the quality of life of animals.

Members noted the prayer of the petition and the supporting remarks made by Mr Cole, but agreed that they would need to have further information before debating and deciding upon a response to the petition.

Therefore, the Mayor thanked Mr Cole for his petition and explained that it would be referred to a future meeting of Cabinet for consideration.

7. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTE**

Cabinet – 14 October 2009

Principal Scrutiny Committee – 19 October 2009

Councillor Call for Action – Changes to Constitution

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 377 be approved and adopted.

Amendment (1) Councillor Learney (2) Councillor Collin

'That an additional Recommendation be agreed as follows and the Constitution be amended accordingly:-

That should a Chairman of a scrutiny body refuse to place a Councillor Call for Action (CCA) on the agenda of that body, brief details of the CCA and the reason for refusal be set out in the agenda of its next meeting.'

Amendment carried

Substantive Motion carried

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 377, as amended, be approved and adopted.
2. That Recommended Minute 396 of Principal Scrutiny Committee be noted.

#### 8. **NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9**

The Mayor informed Council that there was one Notice of Motion, to be moved by Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor Learney, as follows:-

"This Council notes,

1. Climate change predictions show that without severe cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, increased temperatures will affect agriculture and water availability and bring more extreme weather events. These changes will affect all of us and poorest countries the worst.
2. That under current commitments the UK is due to cut emissions by 34% by 2020. It is hoped that negotiations at Copenhagen will lead to stricter commitments. Climate change scientists advise that cuts of 10% a year are needed to avert the worst consequences of climate change.
3. To ensure a breakthrough at the Copenhagen conference that may save our planet from the worst effects of climate change, Ministers need to know that people in their countries are behind them.
4. A number of Councils have signed up to the "10:10 campaign" which seeks to get individuals and organisations to make a firm commitment to reduce their carbon emissions by 10% during 2010.

This Council believes that it is possible to achieve this target with the right degree of political will, and that it is important to show its commitment to making these emission reductions.

This Council therefore resolves to sign up to the 10:10 campaign and make a firm commitment to reduce its emissions as measured for National Indicator 185 (minus outsourced emissions) by 10 percent between the end of 2009 and the end of 2010.”

It was noted that, to inform any debate, the Corporate Director (Policy) had produced a report which was set out in the Council Minute Book (Report CL 60 refers).

Having regard to the advance notice given and the prior circulation of Report CL60, the Mayor decided that it was convenient and conducive to the dispatch of business to determine the Motion at this meeting. Therefore, he invited Members to debate the matters raised therein and reach a conclusion accordingly.

Councillor Bell thanked the Corporate Director (Policy) for the very useful detail contained in Report CL60. She explained that over 1400 businesses, 600 schools/colleges, 700 organisations and 40,000 individuals had signed up to the 10:10 Challenge. The Council had a responsibility to manage its activities in the most energy efficient manner possible and the ongoing work with the Carbon Trust and WinAcc had already shown what could be achieved for the future. Signing up to the 10:10 Challenge was one way of assessing progress and encouraging greater efforts.

Councillor Bell concluded that the Council must not allow progress to slow down or slip back, nor to put off what should be done today. The Authority was already committed to reducing its emissions by 20% by 2012. Accepting the 10:10 Challenge would be one step towards keeping the Council on track to achieve that aim and help secure a sustainable future.

Following discussion, and with the leave of Council and the agreement of her seconder, Cllr Bell amended the final paragraph of the Motion and this was approved by the meeting, as set out in Resolution 1 below.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That, in the final paragraph of the Motion, the closing words ‘between the end of 2009 and the end of 2010’ be deleted and replaced by the words ‘of the levels of CO<sub>2</sub> as measured between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010’
2. That, subject to 1. above, the Notice of Motion be approved and adopted.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Sanders replace Councillor Baxter as a full Member of the Principal Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Gemmell becomes a Deputy on that Committee.
2. That Councillor Bell replace Councillor Barratt as a full Member of the Planning Development Control Committee.

The meeting commenced at 7.25pm and concluded at 8.45pm

The Mayor