

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

At an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Guildhall, Winchester on 21 April 2010

Attendance:

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

Councillors:

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

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That, subject to Councillor Hollingbery being shown as present at the meeting, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 18 February 2010 be approved and adopted.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor reported that he had written to the County Fire and Rescue Officer, expressing the Council's sadness at the death of two firemen, who died recently whilst attending an incident at a block of flats in Southampton.

The Mayor then announced that four Members had decided not to seek re-election on 6 May 2010. In accordance with the Council's usual practice, he presented certificates in recognition of their public service as follows:-

Cllr Frederick Allgood – who had served since May 1983 (and was Mayor in 1989/90)

Cllr Georgina Busher – who had served from 1976 – 1990 and again from 1992 (and was Mayor in 2000/01)

Cllr George Hollingbery – who had served since May 1999

Cllr James Stephens – who had served since May 2006

Finally, the Mayor explained that as a result of organisational changes, the Corporate Director (Policy), Mr Bob Merrett, would be leaving the Authority within the next few months. The Council thanked Mr Merrett for his excellent service over the past 10 years and wished him well for the future.

3. **COMMUNICATION FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader reported that last week he and a number of other Members had attended the funeral of Mr Alan Weeks, who was well known in the City through his role with the Winchester Residents Association. The Council agreed that Mr Weeks had made a significant contribution to the local community, being particularly supportive towards those in most need. Members agreed that their sadness at his passing be recorded in the minutes.

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

1. **The Winchester Observer – Circulation Area**

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

2. **Play Area near Erskine Road, Winchester and Open Space Funding**

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

3. **Completion Times for Housing Voids**

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

4. Network Rail Bridge Improvements – Andover Road, Winchester

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

5. Average Times for Planning Application Administration

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

6. Burial Fees

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

7. Floodlighting of King Alfred's Statue

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

8. Use of Working Parties to consider Planning Applications

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

9. Use of The Winchester Observer to publish Public Notices

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

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

The Mayor reminded the Council that, at its meeting held on 4 November 2009, a petition was presented in support of Animal Aid's Compassionate Charter. The petition was referred to Cabinet, who had made a recommendation to Council, to be considered later at this meeting.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mrs C Gregory addressed the Council, both in support of her original petition and in response to the Cabinet recommendation. The prayer of the petition was 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.'

Mrs Gregory explained that there were three particular areas of concern with the Cabinet recommendation. The first was that Animal Aid would wish to see clear support for the cage-free campaign now (which had already been

endorsed by Hampshire County Council) and not wait until 2012, when certain improvements to intensive egg production would be introduced. Secondly, they asked for the re-instatement of the policy not to sell foie-gras from Council in-house catering operations. Finally, the Council should be seen to positively support the use of British produced rose' veal only.

Members noted the additional representations made by Mrs Gregory and agreed that they would be taken into account when considering the relevant Recommended Minute of Cabinet later in the meeting.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Gregory for her contribution and hoped that she would remain at the meeting to hear the debate on her petition, which was next business.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES**

Cabinet – 7 April 2010

Animal Aid Compassionate Charter - Petition

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 862 be approved and adopted.

Amendment (1) Councillor Learney (2) Councillor Evans

'That Point 1 in the Charter be amended by the addition of the following underlined words, so that the complete Charter would read as follows:-

The Council will demonstrate its commitment to the principle by:

1. seeking to use products in its own activities which have a cruelty-free source and manufacturing process.

Within its own catering operations this will include:

- only using eggs produced in cage-free systems (free-range, barn and organic)
- not selling foie-gras
- only using high-welfare rosé veal

2. not permitting circuses which make use of wild animals on its own land.
3. not allowing animals to be given as prizes at any events on its own land or premises.
4. promoting the spaying and neutering of animals for their own welfare.
5. not hiring its own premises for commercial events which include the sale or display of natural furs.

6. dealing with all pest control requirements, including lethal control where necessary, in a humane and efficient manner.
7. promoting the minimisation of plastic and other non bio-degradable waste in the District.”

Amendment carried.

Substantive Motion carried.

RESOLVED:

That Recommended Minute 862, as amended, be approved and adopted.

Cabinet – 17 March 2010

Principal Scrutiny Committee – 22 March 2010

Honorary Aldermen – Member’s Report by Councillor Read

It was noted that both Cabinet and Principal Scrutiny Committee had decided not to make a firm recommendation and leave the matter for Council to determine (Minutes 787 and 823 respectively refer).

Amendment (1) Councillor Lipscomb (2) Councillor Cooper

‘1. That the principle of the introduction of the position of Honorary Alderman be agreed.

2. That a further report be made to Council to consider possible guidelines for the criteria for selection and the nature of the Honorary Alderman role.’

Amendment lost

RESOLVED:

1. That the position of Honorary Alderman be not introduced.
2. That Recommended Minutes 787 of Cabinet and 823 of Principal Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Cabinet – 7 April 2010

Minor Amendments to the Constitution – Annual Review

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 863 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

That Recommended Minute 863 be approved and adopted.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.45pm

The Mayor