

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

At an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Guildhall, Winchester on 18 April 2012.

Attendance:

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

Councillors:

Achwal (P)	Love
Banister (P)	Mason (P)
Beckett (P)	Mather (P)
Berry (P)	Maynard (P)
Bodtger (P)	McLean (P)
Chamberlain (P)	Mitchell (P)
Clear (P)	Nelmes
Coates (P)	Newman-McKie
Collin (P)	Pearce (P)
Cook (P)	Pearson (P)
Cooper (P)	Phillips (P)
Evans (P)	Pines (P)
Gemmell (P)	Power
Godfrey (P)	Prowse (P)
Gottlieb (P)	Read (P)
Hammerton (P)	Ruffell (P)
Henry (P)	Rutter (P)
Higgins (P)	Sanders (P)
Hiscock (P)	Scott (P)
Humby (P)	Stallard (P)
Hutchison (P)	Tait (P)
Huxstep (P)	Thompson (P)
Izard (P)	Verney (P)
Jackson (P)	Warwick (P)
Jeffs (P)	Weston (P)
Johnston (P)	Witt (P)
Laming	Wood (P)
Learney (P)	Wright (P)

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 23 February 2012 be approved and adopted.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor announced that five Members had decided not to seek re-election on 3 May 2012. In accordance with the Council's usual practice, he presented certificates in recognition of their public service as follows:-

Cllr George Beckett – who had served from 1992 – 1996 and again from 2004 (Leader of the Council in 2006 – 2010 and again from 2011).

Cllr Jean Hammerton – who had served since May 1994 (and was Mayor in 2003/04).

Cllr Jacey Jackson – who had served since May 2004.

Cllr Ray Love – who has served since May 1996.

Cllr Allan Mitchell – who had served with the former City Council from 1971 – 1974, the current City Council from 1974 – 1979, 1986 – 2006 and again from 2008 (Leader of the Council from 1994 – 1998 and Mayor in 1999/00).

The Mayor then reminded Members about the Showtime Concert, to be held on Wednesday 25 April 2012 at 7.30pm in the Great Hall, Winchester in aid of the Mayor's Charities.

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

1. Opening of Yew Tree Drive, Whiteley to all Traffic

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, Councillor Weston, answered a question from Councillor Achwal.

2. Pest Control

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, Councillor Weston, answered a question from Councillor Henry.

3. Young Unemployment

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

4. Street Cleaning Arrangements

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, Councillor Weston, answered a question from Councillor Hutchison.

5. National Cycle Route 23

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, Councillor Weston, answered a question from Councillor Gemmell.

6. Purchase of 'Blackberry' Mobile Devices

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Estates, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Learney.

7. Lifts at Winnall Flats

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing and Landlord Services, Councillor Coates, answered a question from Councillor Higgins.

8. Printing of City Council Tax Bills

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Estates, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Cook.

9. Derelict Land adjoining Lower Brook Street, Winchester

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Estates, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Maynard.

10. Stockbridge Road Railway Tunnel – Water Wastage

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, Councillor Weston, answered a question from Councillor Jackson.

4. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES**

Cabinet – 14 March 2012

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 19 March 2012

Disposal of Housing Revenue Account Land; 110 & 112 (and land to rear of 96 – 112) Cromwell Road, Stanmore (less Exempt Appendix)

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing and Landlord Services, Councillor Coates, moved that the recommendations contained in Report CL76 be approved and adopted (those recommendations being the updated version of the recommendations in Cabinet Minute 643).

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Beckett.

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 643 and the recommendations contained in Report CL76 be approved and adopted.

2. That Recommended Minute 661 of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Cabinet – 11 April 2012

Localism Act 2011 – Code of Conduct and Related Matters

The above minute was not made available for publication within the statutory period. Therefore, the Mayor decided to accept the item onto the agenda, as matters requiring urgent consideration, in view of the need to approve an interim Standards framework, pending a further report later in the year.

The Corporate Director (Governance) reported that a short form draft code had been recently issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government. However, as with the Local Government Association version, it also required to be supplemented by additional local provisions, which would also need to take account of Regulations yet to be made. This would be given further consideration later in the year and interim measures were still necessary.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Beckett, moved that the Recommended Minute attached to Report CL77 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

That the Recommended Minute attached to Report CL77 be approved and adopted.

5. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillors Collin and Stallard both declared personal (but not prejudicial) interest in the following Motion, as they were County Councillors and cycling routes and facilities were partly a County Council function.

The following Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Jackson:-

“This Council

- recognises that cycling is an extremely efficient form of transport for certain journeys, which is good for health, well-being and the environment;
- supports successive Governments’ commitment to encourage the use of bikes and reduce the number of cyclist-related road accidents;
- supports The Times’ “Cities fit for Cycling” campaign with its 8-point manifesto calling for Cities to be made fit for cyclists and

- calls on Hampshire County Council to give a much higher priority to the needs of cyclists - particularly as set out in the Winchester District Cycling Strategy. “

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hutchison.

Councillor Jackson explained that, following her submission of a formal Question about cycling to the last meeting of Council (Minute 620.6 refers) she was proposing this Motion to secure more commitment and action from the City Council.

Councillor Jackson highlighted that cycling was an activity which had been shown to improve personal fitness, reduce carbon emissions through fewer car journeys, improve highway safety and, generally, make sound economic sense. The 2001 Census confirmed that whilst 62% of people used cars for their journey to work, only 2% used cycles. A major factor in the reluctance of people to cycle was their fear of traffic and the attitude of some drivers to cyclists. A recent campaign promoted by The Times newspaper had sought to address some of those issues with an eight point plan which, whilst most relevant to London, set out an approach that could be adapted to suit districts such as Winchester (Cambridge was one area progressing cycling issues).

The Times plan stated:-

1. Lorries entering a city centre should be required by law to fit sensors, audible turning alarms, extra mirrors and safety bars to stop cyclists being thrown under the wheels.
2. The 500 most dangerous road junctions must be identified, redesigned or fitted with priority traffic lights for cyclists and Trixi mirrors that allow lorry drivers to see cyclists on their near-side.
3. A national audit of cycling to find out how many people cycle in Britain and how cyclists are killed or injured should be held to underpin effective cycle safety.
4. Two per cent of the Highways Agency budget should be earmarked for next generation cycle routes, providing £100 million a year towards world-class cycling infrastructure. Each year cities should be graded on the quality of cycling provision.
5. The training of cyclists and drivers must improve and cycle safety should become a core part of the driving test.
6. 20mph should become the default speed limit in residential areas where there are no cycle lanes.
7. Businesses should be invited to sponsor cycleways and cycling super-highways, mirroring the Barclays-backed bicycle hire scheme in London.

8. Every city, even those without an elected mayor, should appoint a cycling commissioner to push home reforms.

Councillor Jackson concluded by drawing attention to the excellent work of Sue Coles (Cycling Touring Club) and that an average spend on cycling related facilities of £10 per person per annum was required to make a real difference. Working closely with the County Council was also essential and it was noted that the Winchester Cycling Strategy was currently being reviewed.

During the debate which followed, some Members supported the general theme of the Motion and agreed that the high speed and volume of traffic, combined with driver attitudes, did indeed put many people off regular cycling. Therefore, designated cycle routes and reduced speed limits should be matters for consideration, where appropriate.

Other Members questioned whether cyclists should be subject to the same insurance and vehicle inspection controls of car drivers. It was also pointed out that walking had many of the positive benefits of cycling and, therefore, the condition of many pavements and footways should be improved, in order to make life more pleasant and less hazardous for pedestrians.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, Councillor Weston, commented that the Head of Access and Infrastructure continued to work hard to achieve positive outcomes for the cycling community.

At the conclusion of debate, the Council agreed that the matter should be referred for further consideration to Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion be referred to a future meeting of Cabinet for further consideration, with a request that it make recommendations back to Council.

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>
###	Disposal of Housing Revenue Account Land; 110 & 112 (and land to rear of 96 – 112) Cromwell Road, Stanmore (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. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES

Cabinet – 14 March 2012

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 19 March 2012

Disposal of Housing Revenue Account Land; 110 & 112 (and land to rear of 96 – 112) Cromwell Road, Stanmore (Exempt Appendix)

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing and Landlord Services, Councillor Coates, moved that the Exempt Appendix be noted.

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Appendix be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 9.25pm.

The Mayor