

**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

At an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Guildhall, Winchester on 27 September 2012

**Attendance:**

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

**Councillors:**

Achwal (P)	Mason (P)
Banister (P)	Mather (P)
Berry E (P)	Maynard (P)
Berry J (P)	McLean (P)
Bodtger (P)	Miller (P)
Byrnes (P)	Nelmes (P)
Chamberlain (P)	Newman-McKie (P)
Clear (P)	Pearce (P)
Coates	Phillips (P)
Collin	Pines (P)
Cook (P)	Power (P)
Cutler (P)	Prowse (P)
Evans (P)	Read (P)
Gemmell (P)	Ruffell (P)
Godfrey (P)	Rutter (P)
Gottlieb (P)	Sanders (P)
Green (P)	Scott (P)
Henry (P)	Southgate (P)
Hiscock (P)	Stallard (P)
Humby (P)	Tait (P)
Hutchison (P)	Tod (P)
Huxstep (P)	Verney (P)
Izard	Warwick (P)
Jeffs (P)	Weir (P)
Johnston (P)	Weston (P)
Laming (P)	Witt (P)
Learney (P)	Wood (P)
Lipscomb (P)	Wright (P)

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1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 18 July 2012 be approved and adopted.

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

The Mayor reported that the following people who either lived or studied in the District had been successful at the Olympic and Paralympic Games:-

Ben Ainslie – Gold Medal in sailing  
 Iain Percy – Silver Medal in sailing,  
 Aaron Phipps – Wheelchair Rugby  
 Adam and David Knott – Paralympian goalball team  
 Rob Moore – Hockey

The Council congratulated all the above, together with the Council officers who had produced an excellent programme of local activities in support of the Olympics, particularly Eloise Appleby, Mandy Ford and the Sports & Activity Team. Members also acknowledged with gratitude the work of the many volunteers who had made a major contribution to the success of the events.

Finally, the Mayor reminded Members that tickets were still available for the Mayor's Ball on Friday 12 October 2012 in the Guildhall, Winchester.

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

Following on from the Olympics announcement above, the Leader reported that the two large TV screens located on the Cathedral green had been watched by an estimated 35,000 people over the 28 day Games period. He congratulated all those involved with creating an excellent facility enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

The Leader then congratulated Ken Brown (Rural Development Programme Manager) on utilising all of the Council's LEADER funding grant, which had placed the Council's performance in the top 5% nationally and the top 10% in Europe. That level of activity had also created additional jobs and increased spending in the District.

## 4. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made in respect of items on the agenda.

Declarations of personal (but not prejudicial) interests were made by Councillor Godfrey as a Hampshire County Council employee, and Councillors Mason and Stallard as Hampshire County Councillors, in all matters coming before the meeting which had County Council involvement.

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

### 1. Affordable Housing – 'Pepper-potting'

The Portfolio Holder for New Homes Delivery, Councillor Tait, answered a question from Councillor Evans.

2. Affordable Housing – ‘Pepper-potting’

The Portfolio Holder for New Homes Delivery, Councillor Tait, answered a question from Councillor Scott.

3. Glass Recycling Sites

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Huxstep, answered a question from Councillor Hiscock.

4. Olympics Legacy

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture and Sport, Councillor Stallard, answered a question from Councillor Warwick.

5. Keeping Ward Members Informed

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

6. Grass Cutting Contract and Management of Shrubbery etc

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Huxstep, answered a question from Councillor McLean.

7. Council Objectives – Impact of Staff Reductions

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Wood, answered a question from Councillor Cook.

8. Affordable Homes – Itchen Valley

The Portfolio Holder for New Homes Delivery, Councillor Tait, answered a question from Councillor Gottlieb.

9. Estate Improvements - Stanmore

The Portfolio Holder for New Homes Delivery, Councillor Tait, answered a question from Councillor Pines.

10. New Homes Delivery – Public Communication

The Portfolio Holder for New Homes Delivery, Councillor Tait, answered a question from Councillor Tod.

11. The Park Mark Safer Parking Award

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, Councillor Weston, answered a question from Councillor Southgate.

12. Hampshire Savers Credit Union in City Offices

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Administration, Councillor Godfrey, answered a question from Councillor J Berry.

13. General Fund Spending – Forecast Accuracy

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Administration, Councillor Godfrey, answered a question from Councillor Bodtger.

14. Committee Systems – Comparative Costs

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Administration, Councillor Godfrey, answered a question from Councillor Cook.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES**

Cabinet – 12 September 2012

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 September 2012

Capital Strategy and Programme 2012/13 – 2015/16

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Wood, moved that Cabinet Recommended Minute 237 be approved and adopted, subject to deletion of the words, in Recommendation 2, line 2..... 'and subject to the matter not being called in by The Overview and Scrutiny Committee' .

The amended motion was seconded by Councillor Godfrey.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cabinet Recommended Minute 237, as amended, be approved and adopted.
2. That Recommended Minute 260 of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Cabinet – 12 September 2012

Cities Fit for Cycling

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Wood, moved that Recommended Minute 241 be approved and adopted. The item was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Administration, Councillor Godfrey.

The Council noted with appreciation the work of former Councillor Jackson, who was the Council's cycling champion before she retired from the Authority.

RESOLVED:

That Recommended Minute 241 be approved and adopted.

Standards Committee – 6 September 2012

Localism Act – New Code of Conduct

The Chairman of the Standards Committee, Councillor Read, moved that Recommended Minute 229 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

That Recommended Minute 229 be approved and adopted.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 September 2012

Project Integra and Recycling Informal Scrutiny Group - Recommendations

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Pines, moved that Recommended Minute 265 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 265 be approved and adopted.
2. That Councillors Hiscock and McLean be appointed to join Councillor Pines as the City Council's three representatives on the Joint Project Integra Scrutiny Panel.

7. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

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

"That additional guidance be prepared in the form of a Supplementary Planning Document to support the implementation of Local Plan Part 1 Policy CP12 (renewable and decentralised energy). This should ensure that planning decisions are taken based on the best available evidence, relevant government advice, case law and appeal decisions. The guidance should help to secure appropriate development, thereby safeguarding the District's residents and landscape."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Godfrey.

Councillor Wright explained that, following three recent energy development proposals in his Ward, he considered that the Council urgently needed to review its position regarding such development and update its planning guidance. Important decisions regarding wind farms etc were now being taken in various parts of the country and, if the City Council did not review its policy in

the light of those landmark cases, its planning decisions would become vulnerable to challenge and risk having them overturned on appeal.

After consideration, the Mayor ruled that the matter was not sufficiently urgent to require a decision at Council tonight. Instead, it would be more appropriate to refer it to the next meeting of the Cabinet (LDF) Committee where Members would have the benefit of a full report from the officers. The Corporate Director (Governance) added that, if Members wished to hasten the process to some extent, the LDF Committee could be authorised to determine the matter (including whether any additional planning guidance was required) without the need for it to come back to full Council.

The Mayor then invited the Council to discuss the Motion for up to 20 minutes.

During debate, some Members considered that the Council must agree tonight, at least in principle, the need for a Supplementary Planning Document and then request LDF Committee to settle the detail. They added that the Motion was not suggesting that all green energy systems should be refused, but simply that the Council must have the best policies and procedures in place as soon as possible, to protect the District. However, other Members considered that the Council's existing policies were sufficiently robust to deal with such applications. Therefore, they would prefer to see the whole matter (including relevant emerging case law) assessed and determined by LDF Committee, rather than take even a decision in principle at this stage.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Notice of Motion be referred to the next meeting of the Cabinet (LDF) Committee and it be authorised to determine the matter, taking into account the issues raised above.

**8. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

The Council congratulated Councillor Mason who had been appointed by the County Council as a member of the new Police and Crime Commissioner Panel.

**9. 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>
###	Appointment of Independent Persons to serve on the Standards Committee	) Information relating to a particular individual. (Para 1 to Schedule 12A refers). ) ) )

## **CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT MINUTE**

### **Standards Committee – 6 September 2012**

#### **Appointment of Independent Persons**

The Chairman of the Standards Committee, Councillor Read, moved that Recommended Minute 232 be approved and adopted.

#### RESOLVED:

1. That the following applicants be appointed to serve as Independent Persons for the 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 Municipal Years:

Mr P Bailey  
Ms R Blundell

2. That the following applicants (who were formerly Independent Members) be appointed to serve as Independent Persons until 30 June 2013, to provide continuity of experience and to assist in training the new Independent Persons appointed in 1. above.

Mr J Barnett  
Ms J Collins

3. That the thanks of the Council be extended to Mr Peter Smith (Independent Member and former Chairman of the Standards Committee) and Ms Cynthia Hicks (Independent Member) for their past work on the Committee.

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

The Mayor