

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

14TH MAY 2008 (6.00PM)

Present:

Councillor Mumshad Ahmed	Councillor Anne Hingley
Councillor Rachel Akathiotis	Councillor John Holden
Councillor John Aston,	Councillor Michael Kelly
Councillor Jeffrey Baker	Councillor Howard Martin
Councillor Graham Ballinger	Councillor Susan Meekings
Councillor Arthur Buckley	Councillor David Millis
Councillor John-Paul Campion	Councillor Christopher Nicholls
Councillor Stephen Clee	Councillor Fran Oborski
Councillor Nathan Desmond	Councillor Tracey Onslow
Councillor Helen Dyke	Councillor Michael Partridge
Councillor Paul Dyke	Councillor Julian Phillips
Councillor Howard Eeles	Councillor Mike Price
Councillor Jill Fairbrother-Millis	Councillor Ken Prosser
Councillor Brain Glass	Councillor Mike Salter
Councillor Douglas Godwin	Councillor Michael Shellie
Councillor Jenny Greener	Councillor Dixon Sheppard
Councillor Paul Harrison	Councillor Kenneth Stokes
Councillor Marcus Hart	Councillor John Thomas
Councillor Pauline Hayward	Councillor Nigel Thomas
Councillor Siriol Hayward	Councillor Stephen Williams
Councillor Malcolm Hazlewood	Councillor Gordon Yarranton

Councillor Baker, the outgoing Chairman of the Council opened the meeting and welcomed the newly elected Councillors to Wyre Forest District Council.

C. 1 Prayers

Prayers were said by the Reverend Derek Arnold of the Kidderminster West Team and Saint Peter's Birchen Coppice and included remembrance of Martin Fellowes a former employee of the Council.

C.2 Election Of Chairman

Councillor S J Williams was nominated as Chairman. This was moved by Councillor Campion. and seconded by Councillor Hart

Decision: That Councillor S J Williams be elected Chairman of the Council for the current Municipal Year.

C.3 Chairman – Investiture And Declaration Of Acceptance Of Office

After being invested with his Chain of Office, Councillor S J Williams took his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman.

C.4 Chairman's Response

The newly elected Chairman expressed his thanks for his election. He undertook to do his best to emulate the standard set by his predecessor and, together with his consort, to safeguard the interests of the Council to the best of his ability.

C.5 Retiring Chairman

Group Leaders thanked Councillor Baker for the excellent manner in which he had represented the Council and chaired Council meetings during his period of office and recognised the good work that he had carried out on behalf of the Council.

C.6 Retiring Chairman And Consort – Presentation Of Badges

The Chairman presented Councillor Baker with a Past Chairman's Badge of Office.

In response Councillor Baker said how much he had enjoyed being a District Councillor and Chairman of the Council. It had been very interesting to meet people from all walks of life in the role as Chairman and he expressed his thanks to all those involved during his year in office including the support given by John Simmons and his wife. Councillor Baker concluded that it had been an honour and pleasure to be Chairman.

C.7 Appointment Of Vice-Chairman

Councillor Mike Salter was nominated as Vice-Chairman. This was moved by Councillor Campion and seconded by Councillor Hart.

Decision: That Councillor M Salter be elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the current Municipal Year.

C.8 Vice-Chairman – Investiture And Declaration Of Acceptance Of Office

After being invested with his Badge of Office, Councillor Salter took his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chairman.

C.9 Vice-Chairman's Response

In response, Councillor Salter thanked Councillors for their confidence in him. He considered it an honour and privilege to be appointed as Vice-Chairman again and would support the Chairman to the best of his ability.

Councillor Campion thanked John Simmonds for over 30 years of public duty as a Councillor and acknowledged that John Simmonds had been a force for good in the District. Councillor Campion asked the Council to note that he had written to the Chief Executive to ask that John Simmons be considered as an Honorary Alderman and that a special meeting would be convened in September.

John Simmonds stated that this would be an honour and he thanked his colleagues for their consideration.

Flowers were presented to the outgoing consorts.

C.10 Apologies For Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

C.11 Declarations Of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C.12 Minutes

Decision: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C.13 Public Participation

No members of the public had requested to address the Council in accordance with the Council's scheme for public participation at meetings of Full Council.

The Council received a petition from Disability Action Group Wyre Forest.

C.14 Questions

No questions had been submitted by Members of the Council.

C.15 Chairman's Communications

The Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting.

C.16 Political Management And Committee Structure 2008/2009

The Council considered a package of the following documents, which had been circulated separately from the Council Book, relating to the proposed political and management structure for 2008/2009, as detailed below:

- Recommendations regarding the political and management structure for 2008/2009
- Proposed Wyre Forest District Council Political Structure 2008/09
- The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on proposed changes to the scrutiny function and consequential changes to the constitution.
- A revised call-in request form
- Political Representation and Proposed Allocation of seats on committees (Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Sections 15 and 16)

- Proposed Appointment of Members to serve on Committees 2008/09, including Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

It was proposed by Councillor Hart and seconded by Councillor Desmond that Councillor Campion be Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Campion and seconded by Councillor Desmond that Councillor Hart be Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor Campion recommended to Council the proposals relating to the proposed political and management structure as set out in the tabled papers and explained the rationale for the proposed Chairs and Vice Chairs for each Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Hart.

Councillor Kelly stated that he felt that this was not fair as the division of the Chair and Vice Chair posts did not reflect the balance of the political groups. Further he moved an amendment that Councillor Nicholls be appointed Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Nicholls addressed Council to express his concerns regarding the division of the Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Councillor Martin strongly expressed his disappointment with the proposals and the intransience of the Leadership regarding the proposals. He seconded the amendment made Councillor Kelly.

In response Councillor Campion advised Council, that with only 2 Labour Councillor's a post of Chair was not appropriate and therefore he could not support the amendment.

Upon a vote the amendment was lost.

Councillor Martin reiterated his discontent with the proposals and stated he felt that Health Concern should have been awarded 2 of the Scrutiny Chairs. He moved that the proposals that had been originally discussed amongst the Group Leaders be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor Nicholls.

Councillor Hart spoke against the remarks made by Councillor Martin, moreover that that the amendment that was proposed was inequitable.

In response to further comments made, Councillor Campion stated that Councillor Ballinger and Councillor Oborski had been good Chairs and he wished for them to continue in these roles.

Upon a vote the amendment was lost.

Councillor Kelly proposed that the Scrutiny Chairs should be voted for at the first meeting of each relevant Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Nicholls.

Upon a vote the amendment was lost.

Decision: That the political management structure for 2008/2009 be approved.

C.17 Calendar Of Meetings 2008/2009

The Council considered a proposed calendar of meetings for the 2008/2009 municipal year, copies of which were circulated at the meeting. This took account of the new political structure referred to in Minute C.17 above and was proposed by Councillor Campion and seconded by Councillor Hart.

Decision: That the calendar of meetings for the ensuing municipal year be approved.

C.18 Policy And Budget Framework – Matters Which Require A Decision By Council

Shared Services Strategy

Decision: That the final Shared Services Strategy, as contained in Appendix A to the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008, be adopted.

Environmental Health and Licensing Enforcement Policies

Decision: That the Enforcement Policies attached as appendices to the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008 be adopted.

Amendment to Pro-Active Enforcement Policy and Scheme of Delegation

Decision:

1. The following be adopted:

- a) **The amendments to the Scheme of Delegation, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008**
- b) **The amendments to the Pro-Active Enforcement Policy as set out in Appendix 2 of the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008**

- 2. Authority be given to the Head of Planning, Health and Environment to amend Development Control Practice Note 13 – Public Speaking at Development Control Committee in accordance with paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008**

Revision to Conformity Protocol Operating in the West Midlands

Decision: That the West Midlands Conformity Protocol, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet on 24th April 2008, be endorsed for use in the Local Development Framework and Development Control processes

Single Equality Scheme

Decision: That the draft Single Equality Scheme, as circulated to the Corporate Service and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 1st April 2008

Corporate Plan

Councillor Campion thanked the Head of the Chief Executives Office and his team for the work in compiling the Corporate Plan and proposed that the Plan be adopted. This was seconded by Councillor Oborski.

Decision: That the contents of the draft Corporate Plan, as circulated to the Corporate Service and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 1st April 2008, be approved.

C.18a Recommendations Of The Audit Committee 22nd April 2008

Councillor Campion proposed that the recommendations be adopted and this was seconded by Councillor Hart

Decision: That the recommendations of the Audit Committee of 22nd April be adopted.

C.19 Motions – Standing Order No. D1(7)

No motions were received in accordance with Standing Order No. D1 (7)

C.20 Urgent Motions Submitted Under Standing Order No. D1 (7)

None were received

C.21 Community Leadership Fund

Council were advised that this item had been withdrawn.

C.22 Members' Annual Activity Reports 2007/2008

These were noted

C.23 Member's Attendance 2007/2008

The Council considered details of Members' attendance at Council, Cabinet, committee and other meetings for the previous Municipal Year.

Decision: That Members' attendance record for 2007/2008 be noted.

C.24 Appointment Of Representatives On Outside Organisations 2008/2009

The Council received a table of the appointments to Outside Bodies. Councillor Campion moved that the appointments be agreed subject to amendment that Councillor Kelly was appointed to Community Housing Group.

Councillor Martin proposed that Doctor Howard Eeles be appointed to the Worcestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Shellie.

Councillor Ballinger proposed that Councillor Oborski be appointed and this was seconded by Councillor Clee.

Upon a vote Councillor Oborski was the nominated representative.

The Council noted several other amendments to the list of appointments.

Decision: That the Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies be approved subject to the following amendments;

- 1. the appointment of Councillor Kelly to the Community Housing Group**
- 2. the appointment of Councillor Oborski to the Worcestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 3. the appointment of Councillor Hart to the Bewdley Museum Management Committee instead of Councillor Desmond**
- 4. the appointment of Councillor Onslow to Worcestershire County Waste Forum instead of Councillor Hart**
- 5. the appointment of Councillor Hart to Wyre Forest District Youth Strategy Group instead of Councillor Desmond**

C.25 Exclusion Of The Press And Public

This was moved by Councillor Campion and seconded by Councillor Hart.

C.26 Summary Of Minutes

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items has been made as 'Exempt Information' would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

C.27 Minutes

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting ended at 7.20.pm

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