

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 22 April 2013

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Clive Wood (Chairman of the Council)
Pam Whiting (Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Steven North (Leader of the Council)
Glenn Harwood MBE (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Peter Baden
Tony Boto
Wendy Brackenbury
Derek Capp
John Farrar
Roger Glithero JP
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Marika Hillson
Dudley Hughes JP
Barbara Jenney
David Jenney

Richard Lewis
Andy Mercer
Gill Mercer
Bob Nightingale
Brian Northall
Ron Pinnock
David Read
Rupert Reichhold
Phillip Stearn
Jeremy Taylor
Robin Underwood

497. BARONESS THATCHER OF KESTEVEN

The Chairman invited Members, officers and other attendees to observe a moment of silent tribute to Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 until 1990, who had recently died.

498. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Brackenbury, Pauline Bradberry JP, Michael Finch, Richard Gell, Sylvia Hobbs, Sylvia Hughes, Sarah Peacock, Anna Sauntson, Jake Vowles, Peter Wathen and Colin Wright. A further apology for absence from David Oliver, Chief Executive, was noted.

499. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

500. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

501. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman's Volunteer Awards for 2013 were presented at the meeting. The Chairman and members of the council paid tribute to the winner of the overall award, Mrs Edna Wadsworth, and the runners-up, Mrs Betty Emerson and Mr Wayne Palmer.

502. LEADER'S ADDRESS

The Leader of the Council reported that members were aware of all of the major issues facing the authority at the present time and that he had nothing further to add.

503. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Development Control Committee – 28 February, 20 March and 10 April 2013

The reports of the above committee, presented by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Gill Mercer, were received.

(b) Licensing Committee – 4 March 2013

The report of the above committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE, was received.

In making his report, the Chairman referred to the impending retirement of Mr Tom Morrissey, the council's Licensing Enforcement Officer and invited all members to pay tribute to Mr Morrissey's service with the authority.

(c) Policy and Resources Committee – 11 March and 8 April 2013

The reports of the above committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Richard Lewis, were received

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations in the following minutes be approved:

439 Food Law Enforcement Service Plan and the Health and Safety Service Plans 2013/14

That the Food Safety and the Health and Safety Service Plan 2013/14 be recommended to Council for approval.

444 Public Health Funerals

That Part 3 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 be adopted and the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation to provide authorisation to officers in Environmental Services to undertake Public Health Funerals be approved.

(d) Scrutiny Committee – 3 April 2013

The report of the above committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Phillip Stearn, was received.

(e) Planning Policy Committee – 15 April 2013

The report of the above committee, presented by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Tony Boto, was received.

504. OTHER REPORTS

(a) From Representatives on Outside Bodies and Champions

There were no reports.

(b) Licensing Panels

(i) Liquor & Gambling – 20 March 2013

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing (Liquor & Gambling) Panel held on 20 March 2013 were received.

(ii) Taxi & Miscellaneous – 21 February 2013

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing (Taxi & Miscellaneous) Panel held on 21 February 2013 were received.

505. MOTIONS

There were no motions.

506. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

507. SPIRE HOMES UPDATE REPORT 2013

The Chairman of Spire Homes, Councillor John Farrar, presented a report detailing key areas of progress and information for councillors on the activities of the organisation. Notable achievements over the past year included:

- Accredited as an 'Outstanding Two Star Best Company To Work For'
- Ranked number 20 in the Sunday Times list of the 'Top 100 Companies To Work For'
- Appointed Apollo as the new repairs contractor to provide repairs services across all Spire Homes properties

- Launched a Money Guidance Service for tenants to assist in managing debt

The focus for the year ahead would include:

- ensuring that homes are well maintained, desirable and financially viable
- providing more homes and related services in the area to address housing demand
- delivering service excellence and nurturing a 'can do' culture
- reducing the environmental impact of the company
- ensuring that the company is financially sound and can effectively fulfil its social purpose
- supporting customers through welfare reforms, reducing the impact of them and the business

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

508. APPOINTMENT OF RESERVE INDEPENDENT PERSON

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report recommending the appointment of a Reserve Independent Person to deputise for the Independent Person when the latter is unavailable or has a conflict of interest in a specific standards matter.

In accordance with the provisions of Part 9 of the Constitution an advertisement attracted four applications for the role of Reserve Independent Person. Following interviews which were held with members of the Joint Standards Complaints Committee, the Panel agreed that Mr Andrew Sortwell should be recommended for appointment.

RESOLVED:

That Mr Andrew Sortwell be appointed as the Reserve Independent Person

(Reason: To enable the council to comply with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.)

509. DELEGATION OF LEGAL SERVICES FUNCTION

The Executive Director submitted a report seeking the transfer of delegated legal functions to a new shared service provider as part of the legal shared service contract, in the event of Northampton Borough Council transferring its legal service to LGSS.

It was reported to the meeting that Northampton Borough Council had deferred consideration of the matter until May. Consequently, members were asked to agree to delegate the authority's legal services functions to the provider chosen by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the authority's legal services functions (excepting those of Monitoring Officer) be delegated to the shared legal service providers chosen by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council (or Chairman of Policy and Resources

Committee, if the Leader of the Council is not available) under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, if Northampton Borough Council decides to enter into a shared legal agreement with LGSS.

Chairman