

# COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** 26 April 2010

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillors:- Sarah Peacock (Chairman)  
Sue Homer (Vice Chairman)  
Andy Mercer (Leader of the Council)

David Bateman	Peter MacGovern
Tony Boto	Gill Mercer
David Brackenbury	Steven North
Pauline Bradberry JP	Brian Northall
Albert Campbell	Ron Pinnock
Lisa Costello	Roger Powell
Richard Gell	Rupert Reichhold
Roger Glithero JP	John Richardson MBE
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Ron Silver
Philip Hardcastle	Phillip Stearn
Glenn Harwood MBE	Robin Underwood
Marian Hollomon	Pam Whiting
Richard Lewis	Clive Wood
Eloise Lucille	

**Also Present:** Graham Blagden (Chairman of the Standards Board)  
Peter Atchison – Council representative) Rockingham Forest  
Rosemarie Anderson – Chief Executive ) Housing Association  
) (for item 6 (a) )

## **467. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Peter Bedford, Wendy Brackenbury, Sylvia and Dudley Hughes, Barbara Jenney, Sean Lever, Duncan Reid, Anna Sauntson and Colin Wright sent their apologies.

## **468. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **469. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

All Councillors present and Graham Blagden declared a personal interest in minute 461 of the Policy & Resources Committee insofar it related to Part 6 of the Constitution (Members' Allowances – Travelling and Subsistence). A similar interest was declared by all Members in relation to item 11 (Members' Allowances 2010/11).

#### **470. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman thanked Members for their support for the recent "Boobs & Brass" Concert and reported that the proceeds (£5,000) now enabled the purchase of a Guide Dog.

Referring to the deferment of the planning application for the Manor Park Sports Centre, the Chairman announced that a presentation for Development Control Members would now take place before the start of the forthcoming Committee meeting on 28 April.

#### **471. LEADER'S ADDRESS**

There was no address from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Andy Mercer, on this occasion.

#### **472. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

##### **(a) Licensing Committee – 3 March 2010**

Councillor Glenn Harwood presented the report of the above Committee and commented on the Committee's work during the current meetings cycle.

##### **(b) Development Control Committee – 10 March, 31 March and 21 April 2010**

The reports of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Pauline Bradberry, were received.

##### **(c) Policy & Resources Committee – 15 March and 19 April 2010**

The reports of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Robin Underwood, were received.

There was considerable debate on some of the recommendations in minute 461 (Constitutional & Procedural Changes), particularly relating to the comments which had been made by the Scrutiny Committee (minute 446 refers). A number of amendments were proposed, seconded and voted upon.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (1)** That the recommendations in minute 417 of the meeting on 15 March 2010 (Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2010/11) be approved.
- (2)** That the recommendations in minute 461 of the meeting on 19 April 2010 (Constitutional & Procedural Changes) be approved subject to the following amendments:-

##### **Recommendation 1**

- The deletion of the words "3 to 8" in the second line of (a) and the substitution of the words "3 to 6 and 8"

- The deletion of the words “Part 4.4 (Scrutiny Procedure Rules)” in the sixth line of text in (a)
- the insertion of the words “in consultation with the members of the Constitution Review Group” after the words “Monitoring Officer” in (c), and the deletion of the words “3 to 9” at the end and their substitution with the words “3 to 6 and 8 and 9” .

### **Recommendation 3**

- The deletion of the first bullet point “Paragraph 26 of the Code of Practice for Planning Procedures (Part 5.4)”
- The addition of Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Call In Procedure) to the matters to be reconsidered by the Constitution Review Group.

### **Additional recommendation (4)**

Paragraph 26 of the Code of Practice for Planning Procedures (Part 5.4) be amended to read as follows:-

26. “Before an application is determined at a meeting of the Committee, members of the public (~~an applicant or agent; a local resident;~~ ***one speaking in favour of the application, one speaking against the application and a Parish/Town Council representative***) ***and any Member with an interest in the application*** may address the Committee for no longer than ~~2~~ **3** minutes, to outline points of concern or support, subject to compliance with the Council’s published procedures on public speaking. This right reflects Articles 6 and 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights (Right to be heard and Freedom of Expression). ***The Chairman may exercise discretion over the number of speakers and how long they can speak for in the event of exceptional public interest (providing a balance of speakers is maintained).***”

and pursuant changes be made to the Development Control Charter.

### **Appendix 7**

The deletion of this Appendix in view of the decision made under Recommendation (3) (reconsideration of the Scrutiny Committee Call In Procedure).

#### **(d) Audit & Risk Management Committee – 17 March 2010**

The report of the above Committee, presented by Councillor Steven North, was received. He commented on the Committee’s work during the current meetings cycle.

#### **(e) East Northamptonshire Standards Board – 7 April 2010**

The Chairman, Graham Blagden, presented the report of the above meeting and commented on the Board’s work during the current meetings cycle.

**(e) Scrutiny Committee – 14 April 2010**

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Phillip Stearn, was received. He commented on the Committee's work during the current meetings cycle.

**473. OTHER REPORTS**

**(a) Representation on Outside Bodies**

The meeting received the following reports:-

- Councillor Tony Boto – Community Legal Service
- Councillor Philip Hardcastle – Welland Partnership Board
- Peter Atchison – Rockingham Forest Housing Association (with a powerpoint presentation by Rosemarie Anderson, Chief Executive of RFHA).

Members made supportive comments on the RFHA presentation and the work undertaken by this body and asked questions.

The Chairman thanked Peter Atchison and Rosemarie Anderson for attending the meeting, providing a very helpful overview of the work of the RFHA and for the contribution it made in the local community.

The Chairman also thanked all Members serving on Outside Bodies for their time and effort.

**(b) Licensing (Liquor & Gambling) Panel**

The minutes of the Panel held on 17 March 2010 were received.

**474. MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

**475. AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE (A4E)**

The Chief Executive submitted the final report on the above Programme. Members acknowledged that

- 40 projects had been completed, with 8 continuing, 3 being revisited, and 14 to be considered for the future
- Building blocks had been put in place to help the Council achieve its vision of being an excellent Council in the eyes of the community, particularly in terms of understanding customers and their needs more thoroughly and giving staff and Councillors the knowledge, skills and behaviours to meet those needs more effectively
- The Programme had demonstrated what could be done by the Council (as a small authority) and had developed a sense of working together with almost 50% of staff and some Members getting involved with projects that would make a difference to staff and customers
- The Investors in People (IIP) assessor had praised the Programme.

The Chief Executive emphasised that the focus for the future would be:-

- to use the Council's customer insight to target services better and to use the most cost-effective means of delivering them;
- to reduce 'avoidable contact', which wasted both customers' and the Council's time; and
- to improve the Council's business processes.

Councillor Philip Hardcastle, the Council's Business Transformation Champion, thanked staff for their involvement in the Programme and the Chairman endorsed these remarks.

The achievements of the Programme and the plans to build on that success were noted.

#### **476. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2010/11**

The Chief Finance Officer presented a report on the requirement to adopt a Members' Allowances Scheme for the next Council Year. He made reference to the minor changes which had been proposed by the Constitution Review Group and adopted earlier in the evening under minute 461 of the Policy and Resources Committee (Appendix 8 on pages 909 to 911). It was also proposed that the freeze on the level of basic and special responsibility allowances be maintained for the second year running.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Council does not increase the basic and special responsibility allowances for 2010/11 and retains the sums set out in Schedule 1 to these minutes at page 944, and that this, together with the Summary, and Schedule 2, relating to Travel and Subsistence Allowances, as approved earlier in the meeting, comprise the whole Members' Allowances Scheme.

**Chairman**

Schedule 1 (minute 476)

**ALLOWANCES PAYABLE for 2010/11**

	Basic Allowance £	Special Responsibility £	Total £	SRA = Multiple of Basic or Chair
Leader of the Council	4,290	7,508	11,798	1.75
Deputy Leader of the Council	4,290	3,647	7,937	0.85
Policy and Resources, Development Control and Planning Policy Committee – Chairmen (Tier 1)	4,290	3,647	7,937	0.85
Scrutiny and Audit & Risk Management Committees – Chairmen (Tier 2)	4,290	3,218	7,508	0.75
Independent Chairman of Standards Board (Tier 2)	0	3,218	3,218	0.75
Licensing Committee, Finance Sub-Committee and Personnel Sub-Committee <b>Chairmen</b> (Tier 3)	4,290	1,216	5,506	1/3 of Chairman of Tier 1
Policy and Resources, Development Control and Planning Policy Committee – Vice Chairmen	4,290	1,216	5,506	1/3 of Chairman
Scrutiny & Audit & Risk Management Committees – Vice Chairmen	4,290	1,073	5,363	1/3 of Chairman
Licensing Committee, Finance Sub-Committee and Personnel Sub-Committee - Vice Chairmen	4,290	0	4,290	-
Standards Board – Non-Council Members	0	805	805	0.25 of Chairman
Leader of the Opposition	4,290	3,647	7,937	0.85
Licensing Panels – Chairman	4,290	0	4,290	-
Designated Council Champions/Lead Members	4,290	805	5,095	0.25 of Tier 2 Chairman
Other Members	4,290	0	4,290	None

Note: Where a Member holds more than one post, only one SRA can be claimed.