AGENDA ITEM

1.1

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

AT THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF LUTON HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, LUTON ON

TUESDAY, 18TH JANUARY 2005 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

THE MAYOR -	Councillor Hinkley.
THE DEPUTY MAYOR -	Councillor Abid.
COUNCILLORS -	Bashir, Boyle, Bullock, Campbell, D. Chapman, P. Chapman, J. Davies, R. Davies, R.J. Davis, Dolling, Farooq, Franks, Garrett, Harris, Howes, Hoyle, Q. Hussain, Iqbal, Ireland, Johnston, McGarvie, Mead, Pantling, Patten, Patterson, Pedersen, Riaz, Roden, Rutstein, Shaw, Siederer Simmons, Skepelhorn, Stewart, Strange, Timoney, Titmuss, Wates, Worlding and Yasin.

1 MINUTES (REF: 1.1 AND 1.2)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 9th November and 14th December 2004 be taken as read, approved as correct records and signed by the Chair.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Ashraf, Magill, McKenzie, Saleem and Singh.

3 DEATH OF FORMER COUNCILLOR HAROLD JAMES ALDRIDGE (REF: 3.1)

The Mayor announced the recent death of former Councillor Harold James Aldridge who served on the Council from 1964 to 1967 and represented Limbury Ward. The Council stood in silent tribute to his memory.

4 MAYOR'S CHARITY DINNER (REF: 3.2)

The Mayor reported that she would be holding a charity dinner at the Indian Ocean restaurant in Sundon Park on Monday, 24th January at 7.30 p.m. to which all Members had been invited.

5 CIVIC AWARDS CEREMONY (REF: 3.3)

The Mayor reminded Members that her Civic Awards Ceremony would be held on Wednesday, 26th January at 6.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

6 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE (REF: 3.4)

The Mayor reminded Members that the Holocaust Memorial Service would be held on Thursday, 27th January in the Council Chamber commencing at 7.00 p.m.

7 BY-ELECTION: LEWSEY WARD (REF: 3.5)

The Mayor informed the Council that notice had been received from two electors requisitioning a by-election in the Lewsey Ward to fill the vacancy left by the untimely dealth of Councillor Mick Hand. The by-election would be held on Thursday, 3rd March 2005.

8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992

The Chief Executive reminded the Council that a list of items before the Council which were within the ambit of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 had been circulated to all Members and that any Member to whom that Section applied should disclose the fact and refrain from voting on any question relating to those items.

(Note: No disclosures by Members were made.)

9 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1

The Mayor advised the Council that no notice had been given by Councillors of intention to ask a question under Standing Order 7.1

10 REPORT OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY (REF: 5)

Councillor Pantling, the Council's representative on the Bedfordshire Police Authority, presented a report on the proceedings of the meeting of the Authority held on 17th December 2004.

Resolved: That the report be received.

11 BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY: WRITTEN QUESTIONS (REF: 6)

The Mayor advised the Council that no written notice had been given by Councillors under Standing Order 15.1 of their intention to ask a question of the Bedfordshire Police Authority.

12 REPORT OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (REF: 7)

Councillor Q. Hussain, the Council's representative on the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority, presented a report on the proceedings of the meeting of the Authority held on 7th December 2004.

Resolved: That the report be received.

13 BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY: WRITTEN QUESTIONS (REF: 8)

The Mayor advised the Council that no written notice had been given by Councillors under Standing Order 15.1 of their intention to ask a question of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority.

14 LUTON FUTURES: HIGH LEVEL PREVENTION SERVICES (REF: 9.1)

Upon consideration of the report of the Executive (13th December 2004) on Luton Futures: High Level Prevention Services (Ref: 9.1) it was proposed by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor J. Davies and:

Resolved: That funding in the sum of £320,684 be approved by the utilisation of the Council's Invest to Save Reserve for the establishment of a designed intensive preventative support service for children at risk of being 'looked after'.

15 RESOURCING TRANSFORMATION (REF: 9.2)

Upon consideration of the report of the Executive (10th January 2005) on resourcing transformation (Ref: 9.2) it was proposed by Councillor Pedersen, seconded by Councillor Franks and:

Resolved: That funding from the Invest to Save Fund of a post of Business Transformation Manager estimated to cost up to £192,000 over the next three financial years (subject to job evaluation), be approved.

16 RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE (REF: 11(a))

It was proposed by Councillor Hoyle, seconded by Councillor Farooq and:

Resolved: That the recommendations arising out of the meeting of Development Control Committee held on 15th December 2004 in respect of 118 Talbot Road as set out on pages 28 and 29 of the Council agenda be approved.

(Note: Councillor Dolling disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item (he booked his holiday with the company) and left the meeting during consideration of the proposal.)

17 RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE (REF: 11(b))

It was proposed by Councillor Hoyle, seconded by Councillor Johnston and:

Resolved: That the recommendations arising out of the meeting of

Development Control Committee held on 12th January 2005 in respect of The Mall, Arndale Centre as set out on pages 29(a) 29(d) tabled at the meeting be approved.

(Note: Councillor Dolling disclosed a personal interest in the above item (as a friend of the Arndale Centre Manager) and took no part in voting on the application.)

18 RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE (REF: 11(b))

It was proposed by Councillor Hoyle, seconded by Councillor Boyle and:

Resolved: That the recommendations arising out of the meeting of Development Control Committee held on 12th January 2005 in respect of amenity land adjoining M1, Ravenhill Way as set out on pages 29(d) 29(h) tabled at the meeting be approved.

(Note: Councillors Shaw and Simmons disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item in their capacity as Secretary and Board Member respectively of Ravenhill Community Garden and left the room during consideration of the item.)

19 RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE (REF: 11(b))

It was proposed by Councillor Hoyle, seconded by Councillor Johnston and:

Resolved: That the recommendations arising out of the meeting of Development Control Committee held on 12th January 2005 in respect of Nos. 5-11 Union Street and 2-12 Oxford Road as set out on pages 29(h) 29(l) tabled at the meeting be approved.

(Note: Councillors R.J. Davis and Patten disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item (in connection with the ownership of an adjoining property) and left the room during consideration of the item.)

20 DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2005/06 (REF: 11.1)

Upon consideration of the report of the Chief Executive on the draft calendar of meetings 2005/06 (Ref: 11.1) it was proposed by Councillor Franks, seconded by Councillor J. Davies and:

Resolved: That the draft calendar of meetings for 2005/2006 (excepting meetings of the Executive), attached at Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive (Ref: 11.1) (set out at Appendix 1/05 to these Minutes), be commended for approval to the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 19th May 2005.

21 RESTRUCTURING OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S AND CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPARTMENTS (REF: 11.2)

Upon consideration of the report of the Chief Executive on restructuring of the Chief Executive’s and Corporate and Customer Services Departments (Ref: 11.2) it was proposed by Councillor Franks, seconded by Councillor J. Davies and:

Resolved: (i) That approval in principle be given to the restructuring of the Chief Executive’s and Corporate and Customer Services Departments as presented in Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive (Ref: 11.2), subject to consultation with the Trades Unions, and consequently to the deletion of the posts of Corporate Director of Corporate and Customer Services, Head of Information Management, Head of Customer Services, Head of Policy and Performance and Head of Equalities as being at risk, and the creation of the new posts of Corporate Director of Resources, (Corporate) Director of Business Transformation, Head of Corporate Planning, Equality and Policy, Customer Interface Manager, Business Transformation Manager, Major Projects Manager, Equality and Inclusion Manager and Corporate Planning and Performance Manager, including fixed term posts,

(ii) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any minor alterations to the proposed structures consequent upon the negotiations with the Trades Unions, subject to consultation with the Leaders of the three political groups represented on the Council.

22 FILLING OF VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES (REF: 11.3)

Upon consideration of the report of the Chief Executive on filling of vacancies on Committees and other bodies (Ref: 11.3) it was proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Harris and:

Resolved: That it be noted that Councillor Simmons replace former Councillor Hand on the Scrutiny Board with immediate effect for the remainder of the current Municipal Year.

(Note: The meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.)