

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

ON

TUESDAY 5TH APRIL 2011 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

THE MAYOR -
COUNCILLORS -

Councillor Shaw
Akbar, Ashraf, Bailey MBE,
Benard, Bullock, Burnett,
Campbell, Chapman, J.
Davies, R. Davies, R. J. Davis,
Dolling, Franks, Gale, Garrett,
Harris, Hinkley, M. Hussain,
Lord Q. Hussain, Khan, Malik,
Mead, Neale, Pantling,
Patterson, Raquib, Riaz,
Rutstein, Saleem, Scudder,
Simmons, Simons,
Skepelhorn, Stewart MBE,
Strange, Taylor, Timoney,
Titmuss and Worthing.

40 MINUTES (REF: 1)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 18th January 2011, Budget Council on 16th February 2011 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 1st March 2011 be taken as read, approved as correct records and signed by the Chair subject to an amendment to ensure the numbers of the Minutes have been corrected.

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Farooq, Foord, Roden, Pederson, Siederer, Singh and Smith.

42 MEMBERS' CONDUCT (REF: 2.1)

The Mayor reminded Members of the need to observe proper conduct, to show respect for each other and to observe his rulings at meetings of the Council.

43 DOG WARDEN SERVICE (REF: 2.2)

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated three representatives of the Council's Dog Warden Service present at the meeting, who had been chosen as the winner of this year's Kennel Club's Good Citizen's Dog Training Scheme Awards.

The award recognised the efforts of the Service in training dogs and educating their owners on the importance of responsible dog ownership. The Service impressed the judges with a number of initiatives including a free dog tagging service for all owners in the Town and 'Safety Squad' – an initiative that enabled children to test their awareness of dangers and skills of dealing with situations that they might encounter. The Service also received £3,000 to put towards future initiatives.

Councillor Taylor, Executive Member with Portfolio Holder responsibility for Environment added his congratulations and thanked the representatives of the Service for their efforts and hard work over recent years.

44 DECLARATION OF RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS FORM (REF: 2.3)

The Mayor reminded Members that they had recently been circulated with a copy of the 'Declaration of Related Party Transactions Form' for 2010/11 and that their completed forms should be returned to the Head of Corporate Finance as soon as possible.

45 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 (REF: 2.4)

The Chief Executive advised the Council that there were no items before the Council which were within the ambit of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

46 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST (REF: 2.5)

The Chief Executive invited Members to disclose any interests. No disclosures were made.

47 REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE – PETITION TO SECURE DEVELOPMENT ON THE OLD RECREATION CENTRE, OLD BEDFORD ROAD (REF: 12.1)

Owing to the number of people present in the public gallery for the item, the Mayor advised that he would bring forward agenda item 12.1 to this point in the meeting.

The organiser of the petition presented the petition in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme. It was proposed by The Mayor, Councillor Shaw and seconded by Councillor Simmons:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Board be requested to consider the Petition alongside the Review of Property Disposals requested by Executive at their meeting on 7th March 2011.

Members were then invited to speak to the motion in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme. No member wished to speak to the motion.

It was then

Resolved: That the Overview and Scrutiny Board be requested to consider the Petition alongside the Review of Property Disposals requested by Executive at their meeting on 7th March 2011"

48 PRESENTATION FROM THE CHAIR OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PANEL (REF: 3)

The Mayor called upon Councillor Khan, Executive member with Portfolio Holder responsibility for Children's Services and Vice-Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, to introduce the presentation on the 2010 Annual Corporate Parenting Board Report.

The Mayor then called upon Chantelle, a young care leaver and Chair of the Young People's Panel and Sam a young care leaver to give a presentation to the Council on understanding Corporate Parenting and the Council's role as a Corporate Parent. Sam and Chantelle also spoke about their experiences as young people in care.

Resolved: That Sam and Chantelle be thanked for their informative and interesting presentation on this issue.

49 RETIRING MEMBERS (REF 2.4)

Councillor Lord Qurban Hussain stated that this would be his last meeting of Luton Borough Council and wished to express his thanks to a number of people including his Liberal Democrat colleagues, officers of the Council and all Members who had worked in the best interests of Luton and the people of Luton.

Councillor Lord Hussain advised that he would continue to support the Town in whatever way he could and that he would be working towards and supporting Luton's City Status Bid in his new role.

Councillor Simmons also expressed her thanks to a number of Councillors who would not be standing for re-election this year including Councillor Lord Hussain, Raquib, Scudder, Siederer, Singh and Smith. In particular, Councillor Simmons highlighted Councillor Scudder who had been successful in gaining a degree in teaching and would soon be teaching in a Luton school.

50 REPORT OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY (REF: 6)

The Mayor advised that he would be bringing forward this item on the agenda as Councillor Malik was in attendance for this item only.

Councillor Malik, one of the Council's representative on the Bedfordshire Police Authority presented a report on the proceedings of the meeting of the Authority held on 18th February 2011.

In response to a question, Councillor Malik advised that she had been given assurances that the Neighbourhood Policing operation would not be reduced or scaled down following the merger of the main Policing Grant and the Neighbourhood Policing Grant.

A Member also commented that the Council's thanks should be recorded for the professional way in which the Police had dealt with the March in February on what had been a particularly difficult day.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 7) be noted.

51 BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY: QUESTIONS (REF: 7)

The Mayor advised 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.

52 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1 (REF: 5)

Councillor Garrett asked and Councillor Bailey responded to a question (Ref: Q/7/11) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1. In responding to the question Councillor Bailey indicated that she would send information to Councillor Garrett in relation to the detailed incentive payments made by the Council for consultation events.

Councillor Simons asked and Councillor Taylor responded to a question (Ref: Q/8/11) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor Benard asked and Councillor Simmons responded to a question (Ref: Q/9/11) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor Campbell asked and Councillor Harris responded to a question (Ref: Q/10/11) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor Garrett asked and Councillor R.J. Davis responded to a question (Ref: Q/11/11) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor Simons asked and Councillor Taylor responded to a question (Ref: Q/12/11) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor Garrett asked and Councillor R.J. Davis responded to a question (Ref: Q/13/11) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

53 REPORT OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (REF: 8)

Councillor Timoney, 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 10th February 2011.

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 8) be noted.

54 BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY: QUESTIONS (REF: 9)

The Mayor advised 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.

55 QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE LEADER (REF: 11)

In accordance with Standing Order 42, the Executive Leader reported on decisions taken by the Executive under the special urgency provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000. It was proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Harris and:

Resolved: That the report (Ref: 11) be noted.

56 DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2011/12 (REF: 12.2)

Upon consideration of the report of the Chief Executive regarding the Draft Calendar of Meetings 2011/12 it was proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Harris and:

Resolved: That subject to the amendments below, the draft Calendar of Meetings for 2011/12 (excepting meetings of the Executive) attached at Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive (Ref: 12.2) be commended to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 17th May 2011:

- Council (Budget) 21st February 2012
- Council (Reserve Budget) 22nd February 2012
- Bedfordshire & Luton Combined Fire Authority
(Dunstable Fire Station) 11th April 2012

(Note: The meeting ended at 7.30 pm.)