

## **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

### **AT THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF LUTON HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, LUTON**

**ON**

**MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009 AT 6.00 P.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

<b>THE MAYOR -</b>	Councillor Singh
<b>THE DEPUTY MAYOR -</b>	Councillor Malik
<b>COUNCILLORS -</b>	Akbar, Ashraf, Ayub, Bailey, Campbell, Chapman, J. Davies, R. Davies, R. J. Davis, Dolling, Farooq, Foord, Franks, Harris, M. Hussain, Q. Hussain, Ireland, Neale, Pantling, Patterson, Raquib, Riaz, Roden, Rutstein, Shaw, Siederer, Simmons, Simons, Smith, Stewart, Strange, Taylor, Timoney, Titmuss and Worlding.

#### **25 MINUTES (REF: 1)**

The Mayor advised the Council to disregard the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 printed with the agenda, as they had been approved by the Council at it's meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

#### **26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bullock, Burnett, Garrett, Hinkley, Khan, Kiansumba, Mead, Pedersen and Skepelhorn.

#### **27 MEMBERS' CONDUCT**

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.

## **28 HOMECOMING PARADE – ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT**

The Mayor made a statement about the Homecoming Parade held for the Royal Anglian Regiment on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009, as follows, which he asked the whole Council to endorse:

“On the day 4,000 citizens cheered and applauded the return of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment from their second six-month tour of Iraq in the past two years. These brave men and women have been serving their country and fulfilling their duty as members of the armed forces. The event was a great success and the activities of a few protesters should not detract from Luton and its people celebrating that success. I have been assured by the Regiment that the protest did nothing to spoil their day and they have written to the Council to say how much they appreciated the welcome they received from the people of Luton.

The Council welcomes the response to the protestors from the body representing Muslims living in Luton and the surrounding areas, the Luton Council of Mosques, strongly condemning and disassociating itself from:

“The behaviour of a few ego-centred individuals ... their actions were ill-advised and wholly misguided. We therefore entirely reject any message that causes discord and discomfort in community relations.”

The Luton Council of Mosques’ response to the protestors is fully supported by Luton Borough Council, the Luton Council of Faiths and the Police.

We are proud of Luton’s rich and diverse community and regularly celebrate it with a range of cultural and multi faith events. The majority of our citizens value this diversity and the town is united in its opposition to those 30 or so protestors with extreme views who are working to threaten our cohesion.

Our different communities will continue to work hard together to promote respect and understanding of different cultures, irrespective of their faith and beliefs, and to promote community cohesion.”

Councillors Hazel Simmons and David Franks both spoke in support of the Mayor’s statement.

## **29 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.)**

### **30 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1 (REF: 2)**

Councillor Strange asked and Councillor M. Hussain responded to a question (Ref: Q/10/09) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor J. Davies asked and Councillor M. Hussain responded to a question (Ref: Q/11/09) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor Neale asked and Councillor M. Hussain responded to a question (Ref: Q/12/09) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor Q. Hussain asked a question (Ref: Q/13/09) of Councillor Ayub of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1. Councillor Ayub indicated that he would provide a written reply to Councillor Q. Hussain.

Councillor Pantling asked a question (Ref: Q/14/09) of Councillor Harris of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1. Councillor Harris indicated that he would provide a written reply to Councillor Pantling.

Councillor Simons asked and Councillor Roden (on behalf of Councillor Khan) responded to a question (Ref: Q/15/09) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor Strange asked and Councillor M. Hussain responded to a question (Ref: Q/16/09) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor J. Davies asked and Councillor M. Hussain responded to a question (Ref: Q/17/09) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor Neale asked and Councillor Ashraf responded to a question (Ref: Q/18/09) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

Councillor Simons asked a question (Ref: Q/19/09) of Councillor Taylor of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1. In responding to the question, Councillor Taylor indicated that he would arrange for written confirmation to be sent to Councillor Simons that there was flexibility in waiving section 106 charges in certain circumstances. He would also provide a written reply to the supplementary question asking if the thresholds currently in place should be revised to require contributions above a limit of 15 dwellings.

Councillor Neale asked and Councillor Roden (on behalf of Councillor Khan) responded to a question (Ref: Q/20/09) of which written notice had been given under Standing Order 7.1.

**31 URGENT ITEM – REPRESENTATION ON THE BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND COMMITTEE (REF: 2.1)**

The Mayor advised the Council that, under section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, he was of the opinion that an item of business relating to the appointment of Members to the Bedfordshire Local Government Pension Scheme Committee, should be considered as a matter of urgency at this meeting, by reason of special circumstances, namely that in order to secure places on the Committee it was necessary to approve nominations before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

Upon consideration of the report of the Chief Executive (Head of Local Democracy) (circulated around the Council Chamber) it was proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Harris and:

**Resolved:** That Councillors Worthing and Titmuss be appointed as voting and non-voting Members respectively, on the Bedfordshire Local Government Pension Fund Committee and Panel.

**32 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – REFRESH (REF: 3)**

Upon consideration of the report of the Director of Scrutiny on the Local Area Agreement Refresh (Ref: 3) it was proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Harris and:

**Resolved:** (i) That the amendments to the Local Area Agreement as set out at Appendices A and B to the Director of Scrutiny's report (Ref: 3) and on the supplementary sheet circulated around the Council Chamber, be approved.

(ii) That the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Vice-Chair of the Luton Forum be authorised to make any further amendments that might be necessary to finalise the Local Area Agreement with the Government.

(iii) That Councillor Simmons arrange for a written reply to be sent to Councillor Pantling on the breakdown figures for target NI 039 (rate of hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm).

**(Note: The meeting ended at 7.40 pm.)**