

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2013**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor G Lawman) and Councillors Ainge, Allebone, Bailey, Bass, Beirne, Bell, Blackwell, Carr, Dholakia, Elliott, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hawkes, Henley, Hollyman, Maguire, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, B Patel, M Patel, Raymond, Scarborough, Simmons, Timms, Ward, Warwick, M Waters and V Waters.

Officers present: Mr J T Campbell, Chief Executive, Mr R Micklewright, Director of Resources, Mr T Wright, Director of Services, Mrs L Elliott, Head of Finance, Mrs B Lawrence, Head of Resources, Mr S Wood, Head of Planning and Local Development, Mr C Pittman, Head of Community and Monitoring Officer, Mrs S Lyons, Solicitor, District Law, Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer and Mr G Betts, Mayor's Sergeant.

The Mayor welcomed fellow councillors to the meeting along with his guests for the evening, representatives from voluntary organisations across the borough. He also wished the Muslim community a happy Kurban Bayram and the Hindu Community, happy Navratri.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Emerson, Higgins, L Lawman, Pursglove and Watts.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor reminded members of their obligations to verbally declare 'registerable' and 'other' interests in matters to be considered at the meeting, only if they did not appear on their official 'register of interests'. Members were also reminded that if they had a 'disclosable pecuniary interest' they would not be permitted to participate in the discussion or any vote on that item of business.

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council's code of conduct and the council's constitution, the under-mentioned councillor declared an interest in the following item:

Councillor	Committee date and minute number	Reason for declaration
Blackwell	Community 16/9/13 (mins. 4 and 6) 4 - Housing Service Performance Report 6 - Wellingborough Homes Governance Arrangements	Registerable – Board Member of Wellingborough Homes
Scarborough	Overview & Scrutiny 22/7/13 (min 4) Presentation – Victoria Centre	Registerable – Treasurer and Trustee of the Victoria Centre.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JULY 2013

Representation was made in relation to minute 11 of the minutes regarding the Health and Well-being Forum and membership thereof.

It was explained that the Health and Wellbeing Forum was not a decision making body of the council, but was a meeting of various experts from the local community hosted by the council. The Deputy Leader is the chairman of the forum. Other members were welcome to attend the forum, as observers, if they wished.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 30 July 2013 be confirmed and signed.

4. QUESTIONS, PETITIONS AND REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

RESOLVED to note that no questions or petitions had been received from the public. A request to address the meeting had been received from Mr T Banks in relation to the motion before council (minute number 20).

5. STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE – 27 MARCH 2013

Councillor Bass made reference to minute number 5 and asked that it be noted that he considered the decision to be unsafe and not sound.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Sub-Committee of 27 March 2013 be noted.

6. STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE – 28 MARCH 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Sub-Committee of 28 March 2013 be noted.

7. PLANNING COMMITTEE – 31 JULY 2013

Appreciation was passed to the committee for resolving to extend the meeting beyond 3 hours to deal with all items on the agenda.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee of 31 July 2013 be noted.

8. PLANNING COMMITTEE – 4 SEPTEMBER 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee of 4 September 2013 be noted.

9. LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 29 AUGUST 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee of 29 August 2013 be noted.

10. LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee of 16 September 2013 be noted.

11. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2013

The minutes of the Community Committee of 16 September 2013 were received.

The Chairman made reference to minute 6 - Wellingborough Homes Governance Arrangements and recommendation 1. He updated the meeting on Wellingborough Homes' response to the resolution in respect of the designation of Council Board Member posts and as a result of that response proposed that recommendation 1 be amended as follows:

“that provided Wellingborough Homes Limited makes the required change in its proposed new rules relating to the designation of Council Board Member posts, the Council vote in favour of adoption of the proposed new rules of Wellingborough Homes Limited at the special general meeting of Wellingborough Homes Limited called for the purpose of considering its proposed new rules”.

This was seconded by Councillor Patel and on being put to the vote was declared carried.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) provided Wellingborough Homes Limited makes the required change to its proposed new rules relating to the designation of Council Board Member posts, the council vote in favour of adoption of the proposed new rules of Wellingborough Homes Limited at the special general meeting of Wellingborough Homes Limited called for the purpose of considering its proposed new rules;
- (ii) the council appoint Councillor Higgins to attend and vote on its behalf at the meeting;
- (iii) the council instruct officers to develop, for approval by the Resources Committee, a formal arrangement for appointing and instructing the person charged with attending, speaking and voting on behalf of the council as a shareholder at annual general meetings and special general meetings of Wellingborough Homes Limited and any other company in which the council is a shareholder;
- (iv) the minutes of the Community Committee of 16 September 2013 be adopted.

12. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 17 SEPTEMBER 2013

The minutes of the Development Committee of 17 September 2013 were received.

Councillor Scarborough made reference to minute 5 – adoption of local list of heritage assets supplementary planning document and membership of the advisory panel. He asked that it be noted that he was going to replace Councillor Elliott on the panel. Councillor Bailey also referred to this item and welcomed, and fully supported, the local list.

The Chairman noted Councillor Scarborough's request and thanked Councillor Bailey for his comments. He also referred to Tresham College and informed the meeting that its bid for funding had been successful.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Chief Executive be authorised to sign the 2013 revision to the North Northamptonshire Memorandum of Intent;
- (ii) the Local List of Heritage Assets Supplementary Planning Document, incorporating the amendment that any member of the council could be appointed thereto, be adopted and that Councillors Bailey, Carr, Scarborough and Hawkes be appointed to serve on the working party to be known as the Local List Advisory Panel;
- (III) the minutes of the Development Committee of 17 September 2013 be adopted.

13. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 18 September 2013 were received.

Councillor Elliott made reference to minute 4 – consultation on local council tax support 2014/15 proposals. He asked for clarification and assurance over the steps the council was taking to consult with those who would be most affected by the scheme. He also raised an issue in relation to the location of the consultation on the website.

Councillor Bell stated that he would speak with the Principal Revenue and Benefits Manager and provide a written answer on these queries.

Councillor Gough and Blackwell made reference to minute 8 – North Wellingborough – council owned land and welcomed the decision of the committee, which would enhance the housing five year supply, thus potentially reducing the detrimental effect of development in villages.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Resources Committee of 18 September 2013 be adopted.

14. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22 JULY 2013

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 22 July 2013 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 22 July 2013 be adopted.

15. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23 SEPTEMBER 2013

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 23 September 2013 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 23 September 2013 be adopted.

16. AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2013

The minutes of the Audit Committee of 24 September 2013 were received.

Members expressed their gratitude to the Director of Resources, Head of Finance and officers for the time and effort that had been taken to ensure that the audit was completed and agreed before the 30 September deadline.

The Leader responded and thanked members for their comments, he also recorded his thanks to all the officers concerned for the time and effort made to meet with members and for concluding the Audit in good time.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee of 24 September 2013 be adopted.

17. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: COMMITTEE SEAT ALLOCATIONS

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received on the adjustments required to the distribution of seats on ordinary committees of the council following receipt of notice from Councillor Ainge that she wished to be an Independent Councillor.

The report detailed the proposed composition and membership of committees taking into account the principle of proportionality. Reference was also made to the allocation of councillors to each committee.

Councillor Bell moved the report with the following additional nominations to the committee membership; this was seconded by Councillor Graves:

Councillor G Lawman to Appointments Committee;
Councillor L Lawman to Community Committee;
Councillors Bass, Griffiths and B Patel to Licensing Committee.

Councillor Scarborough asked that it be noted that Councillor Blackwell was leaving the Community Committee after many years of continuous service to the committee and its predecessor committees. He would be joining the Development Committee. The Chairman of Community Committee reiterated Councillor Scarborough's sentiments and thanked Councillor Blackwell for his invaluable expertise during his time on the committee.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the composition and allocation of seats on its committees and on other bodies as detailed in the report be approved;
- (ii) Councillors Ainge and L Lawman be appointed to the Community Committee, Councillor G Lawman to the Appointments Committee and Councillors Bass, Griffiths and B Patel to the Licensing Committee;
- (iii) the allocation, to individual committees, by the political groups be approved.

18. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: APPOINTMENT TO THE WELLINGBOROUGH NORSE LIAISON BOARD

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received to nominate a replacement officer representative to the board of directors of Wellingborough Norse Ltd (Norse).

The current nominated officer was the Director of Services. With the imminent restructure of senior management it was necessary to nominate an officer to both the board of directors and the liaison board. It was proposed that the Chief Executive be nominated with immediate effect and until the consideration of council appointments at the Annual Council meeting in 2014.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be nominated as a member of the board of directors of Wellingborough Norse Ltd, and also as a member of the liaison board with immediate effect, and up to the further consideration of the council appointments at the Annual Council meeting in 2014.

19. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: NOTABLE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received on the notable activities relating to the Council's PRIDE objectives. Councillors made reference to the following:

- Down on the beach – congratulations were extended to the BID for a very successful event which had been enjoyed by many children; this had also increased footfall in the town centre.
- Visit from Wittlich Scouts – the Mayor had organised and accompanied the scouts on a visit to Silverstone. He and the Mayoress had also attended the pig roast in Wittlich in August.
- THI Bursaries – the council had teamed up with Moulton College to help with course fees to encourage people to undertake this training.

- Wilby Way Roundabout Improvements - delight was expressed that the long awaited improvements were being made to alleviate the congestion on this roundabout. It was also noted that Hardwater Road, Great Doddington would be closed for 20 weeks for bridge repairs.
- Stitch Up Cancer – the Mayor thanked members for their donations following the council meeting in July, and took the opportunity to show the certificate received, in recognition of their support, from Wrenn School and Cancer Research UK.
- Mental Health Awareness Day – the artwork by Northamptonshire Mental Health Stigma programme had been placed in the Council Chamber and councillors were pleased that recognition of mental health issues had been raised.
- Later Life Matters – this had been a very successful event which had been extremely well attended. Thanks were extended to Nene Valley Community Action, who had worked with the council, and the school children who had also attended.
- Remembrance Day Parade - the Mayor reminded members that their support would be appreciated on Sunday 10 November 2013 at the War Memorial, Broad Green.

RESOLVED that the report and comments made be noted.

20. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS/MOTIONS

The annexed circulated motion had been received in relation to 'zero hour contracts'.

The Mayor allowed Mr T Banks to address the meeting for three minutes in relation to this subject. He expressed particular concern regarding the effect that zero hour contracts had on employees, creating an insecure workforce. He believed that a low living wage had an effect on the local economy and considered that, should the council vote in favour of the motion, it would demonstrate support for families in the borough affected by zero hour contracts who he considered needed reliable incomes to support themselves.

Councillor Ainge presented the motion to the meeting, that no employees of Wellingborough Council, or Wellingborough Norse be employed on zero hour contracts.

She outlined the reasons for bringing the motion placing particular emphasis on the impact she considered zero hour contracts had on families in the borough, preventing them from renting property, paying their rent on time, obtaining a mortgage and presenting difficulties in buying food or paying utility bills.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Elliott.

The Leader of the council responded to the motion. He informed the meeting that whilst there were no employees of the council on zero hour contracts, eight employees of Wellingborough Norse were also employed by the council

on zero hour contracts for technical reasons to ensure that statutory duties were properly undertaken.

A lengthy debate ensued with views expressed both for and against the motion. At the conclusion of the debate Councillor Ainge thanked the Leader for his response and was grateful that borough council and Wellingborough Norse employees were not on zero hour contracts and expressed a desire that this remain the case.

It was proposed by Councillor Elliott and seconded by Councillor Maguire that a recorded vote be taken and this was supported by them and five other Councillors under Rule 4.1.16(d) of the Constitution.

The motion was put to the vote and the following votes were cast:

- For: Councillors Ainge, Beirne, Blackwell, Dholakia, Elliott, Henley, Maguire and Scarborough (8)
- Against: Councillors Allebone, Bailey, Bass, Bell, Carr, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hawkes, Hollyman, G Lawman, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, B Patel, M Patel, Simmons, Timms, Ward, Warwick, M Waters and V Waters (22).
- Abstained: Councillor Raymond (1).

RESOLVED that the motion be declared lost with 8 votes in favour, 22 votes against and 1 abstention.

21. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE MAYOR OR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

The Mayor extended the thanks and appreciation of the council to the Director of Resources and the Director of Services for all their hard work during their time with the council, working with the community and dealing with the financial pressures during the last few years. He, on behalf of all the members, wished them well for the future.

RESOLVED that the comments be noted.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.