

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2013**

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

Officers present: Mr J T Campbell, Chief Executive, 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 several organisations working with young people across the borough, including a representative from the newly formed Police Cadets.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beirne, Maguire, Pursglove and Raymond.

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 28/10/2013 – minute 5 Wellingborough Homes update.	Registerable – Board Member of Wellingborough Homes
Carr	Community 19/10/2013 – minute 9 Empty property update	Other – personally knows one of the owners of the properties mentioned

Henley	Council 19/11/2013 – minute 11 Financial Transaction Tax	Registerable – employee of bank directly affected.
Higgins	Community 28/10/2013 – minute 5 Wellingborough Homes update	Registerable – Board Member of Wellingborough Homes
Scarborough	Resources 30/10/2013 - minute 5 Time off for public duties policy	Registerable – chairman of the Wellingborough Bench
Scarborough	Resources 30/10/2013 – minute 9 Mid year report on treasury management	Registerable – wife is freelance financial services professional currently on contract with principal building society

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING – 15 OCTOBER 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 15 October 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.

5. PLANNING COMMITTEE – 9 OCTOBER 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee of 9 October 2013 be noted.

6. LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 28 OCTOBER 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee of 28 October 2013 be noted.

7. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 28 OCTOBER 2013

The minutes of the Community Committee of 28 October 2013 were received.

Reference was made to minute 5 – Wellingborough Homes Update report, with Councillor Emerson expressing his appreciation for the promise of a future report on the impact of benefits, and other cuts, and on the outcome of the Health and Wellbeing Forum's report.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Councillor Emerson for his comments and confirmed that a report would be presented to the Community Committee in December.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Committee of 28 October 2013 be adopted.

8. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 29 OCTOBER 2013

The minutes of the Development Committee of 29 October 2013 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Development Committee of 29 October 2013 be adopted.

9. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2013

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

Councillor Ward made reference to minute 5 – Review of Polling Stations, particularly in relation to the proposals for Finedon. He expressed his strong opposition to the decision of the Returning Officer to move the polling station from the infant school to Finedon Wesleyan Chapel. He asked that his opposition be recorded. Councillor Bailey supported Councillor Ward's comments and was also opposed to the change of venue for the polling station. Councillor Scarborough confirmed that he shared the views of Councillors Bailey and Ward, and supported their opposition to the change of polling station.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Returning Officer had a duty to investigate any complaints about the use of premises as polling stations, and to investigate alternative sites. The decision to move to suitable alternative premises had been made following feedback from the school and parents, but would be reviewed following the European Elections in 2014.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Sue Lyons, Head of Democratic & Legal Services at Kettering Borough Council, be designated as the Borough Council of Wellingborough's Monitoring Officer, for a 12 month period, commencing on 30 November 2013;
- (ii) a further report be submitted to Resources Committee and Council prior to the end of the 12 month period to review the operation of these arrangements;
- (iii) the minutes of the Resources Committee of 18 September 2013 be adopted.

10. 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 report, enquiring why the Later Life Matters item had been referred to again, and also why only Wellingborough's Remembrance Day Parade was mentioned in any detail. The Chief Executive

responded and informed members that there had been no intention to cause any offence. The Mayor reminded members that they could submit items to the report author for inclusion in the report.

Councillors then made particular reference to the following:

- Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Day Parade – a number of members referred to the services which had been held in their parishes, all had been well attended with support from uniform groups and the public. The Mayor thanked members for their comments and informed the meeting that whilst in Wittlich he visited the town's war memorial.
- Wellingborough Partnership Annual Conference – the Annual conference had been very successful with good ideas and interesting presentations taking place. Reference to the Health and Wellbeing Forum was also made, and the fact that the event was open to members.
- Young Enterprise Trade Fair – Councillor Hollyman, as a former judge, gave his backing to this excellent initiative for young people to encourage them to set up and run their own company over the course of a year.

RESOLVED that the report and comments made be noted.

(Councillor Henley left the meeting during discussion on the following item.)

11. MOTION – FINANCIAL TRANSACTION TAX (FTT)

The annexed circulated motion had been received in relation to the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT).

The motion was proposed by Councillor Scarborough, and had been brought to him as a suggestion from a local resident, and seconded by Councillor Dholakia.

Councillor Scarborough explained how the introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax was originally proposed in the early 1970's by economist James Tobin. The idea was to levy a small tax of 0.1% on currency exchanges. Following the worldwide financial crisis many European countries, such as France, Germany, Italy and Spain had introduced a similar tax, along with others throughout the world. The motion before council proposed that the UK government should extend the current FTT on shares to other asset classes such as bonds and derivatives and to write expressing support for the extension of FTT to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Chancellor and Shadow Chancellor, and to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, along with a copy to both local MPs.

A lengthy debate ensued with members expressing opinions for and against the motion.

Those who spoke against the motion made particular reference to the effect the implication of the Financial Transaction Tax could have on private investors, life insurance premiums, and job losses as they considered this to be a tax on jobs. The money from levying the tax would not remain the United Kingdom to benefit UK residents, but would go to Europe.

Members, who considered that the financial transaction tax should be extended, expressed their concern over the poverty that people were suffering following the worldwide financial problems and made reference to the food bank which had opened in Wellingborough. The tax levy would help those in poverty and could be used to keep libraries open, maintain the educational maintenance allowance, assist with child poverty or insulate homes to really benefit people in the United Kingdom, for instance.

The proposition was put to the vote and declared lost with 7 votes in favour and 22 against. The remaining members abstained from voting.

RESOLVED that the motion be declared lost.

(Councillor Henley rejoined the meeting.)

12. **MOTION - BREACH OF WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS BY HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES**

The annexed circulated motion had been received in relation to the issue of heavy goods vehicle drivers breaching weight restrictions on roads within the borough.

Councillor Bass proposed the motion that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State and the two local Members of Parliament, expressing frustration that HGV drivers continually ignore weight restriction signs and to request the government take action to ensure that all commercial vehicles have specialist satellite navigation systems which clearly indicate restricted roads. This was seconded by Councillor Carr.

Many members made reference to the number of occasions that HGV's had been witnessed on roads, which were not suitable for them to use, throughout the borough. This was not just an issue in the villages but in the town also.

Members also understood that satellite navigation systems for commercial use were very expensive and that this often prohibited firms or individual drivers from purchasing them. They were also aware that a number of companies dictated routes to their drivers to keep fuel costs to a minimum.

It was considered that all HGV drivers should ensure that they used the safest and most appropriate route for their journeys, taking into account the weight restrictions.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, and the two local Members of Parliament,

to express frustration that HGV drivers continually ignore weight restriction signs and to request the Government to take action to ensure that all commercial vehicles have specialist satellite navigation systems which clearly indicate restricted roads.

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

The Mayor had received notification that the Friends of Swanspool Gardens group was disbanding after a number of years. He would write and thank them for their hard work.

The Mayor announced that the following events would be held in aid of his mayoral charity:

Thursday 23 January 2014 – ‘Wellingborough’s Got Talent’ at The Castle. This would showcase the musical talent of under 30’s in the borough.

Saturday 15 February 2014 – Valentine Civic Ball.

Saturday 12 April 2014 – Supersonic 70’s show at The Castle.

A Christmas reception would be held on Thursday 19 December between 7pm and 9pm to which all former Mayors, Councillors, senior officers and partners would be invited to attend.

The Mayor also made reference to the Head of Community and Property Services/Monitoring Officer, who was leaving the council’s employment after a number of years service.

He personally thanked Mr Pittman for his hard work, particularly during the time that negotiations were taking place for the swimming pool in Cannon Street, and wished him well for the future.

The Leader of the Council also thanked Mr Pittman for this dedication and his invaluable advice and drive during the process of building the swimming pool and also during his time as Monitoring Officer; his words of wisdom would be greatly missed by all in the Conservative group.

Councillor Scarborough, on behalf of the Labour group, concurred with all the comments previously made and thanked Mr Pittman for the confident, efficient and effective way in which he gave advice to members. He considered that he was well liked and trusted by councillors. He thanked him and wished him well for the future.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.