

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH  
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH  
ON TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2014**

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

**Officers present:** Mr J T Campbell, Chief Executive, Mrs L Elliott, Head of Finance, Miss J Thomas, Interim Head of Planning and Local Development, Miss S Lyons, Solicitor/Monitoring Officer, District Law, Mrs G Chapman, Principal Community Support Manager, Mr G Betts, Mayor's Sergeant and Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer.

The Mayor welcomed his fellow councillors, members of the public, chaplain and guests for the evening who were visitors to the borough from Poland. He also welcomed Councillor Warwick's return to the chamber following his period of ill health. The Mayor's chaplain said prayers making particular reference to the passing of Councillor Emerson's Father-in-law.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ainge, Emerson, Higgins, Pursglove, Raymond and V Waters.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**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:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Reason for declaration</b>
Blackwell	Planning 9/7/2014 WP/14/00255/FUL 7 Wheelwrights Yard, Bozeat	Personal interest
Bailey	Services Committee 15/9/14 Minute number 6 – Proposed conservation area extension for Finedon	Personal - his home is within the conservation area.
Partridge- Underwood	Resources Committee 16/9/14 Minute number 4 – Glamis Hall	DPI - is a Director of Oakfield at Easton Maudit who provides a similar service to that at Glamis Hall.

Hawkes Council 7/10/2014 report 6  
Committee Changes

DPI – is current chairman of  
Licensing Committee and  
receives an allowance for this.

**3. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 22 JULY 2014 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF 2 SEPTEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 July 2014 and the Extraordinary Council meeting of 2 September 2014 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 July 2014 and Extraordinary Council meeting of 2 September 2014 be confirmed and signed.

**4. QUESTIONS/PETITONS/REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note that no questions or petitions had been received from the public. Five requests to address the meeting had been received from Mrs H Saunders, Mr G Campbell, Mrs B Ashton, Mr P Lord and Miss D Clayton who would be allowed to speak under minute 4 of the Resources Committee of 16 September 2014.

**5. MINUTES TO NOTE**

The minutes of the following meetings were received:

Planning Committee	9 July 2014
Planning Committee	6 August 2014
Planning	3 September 2014
Licensing Sub-Committee	11 July 2014
Licensing Sub-Committee	28 July 2014
Licensing Sub-Committee	28 July 2014
Licensing Sub-Committee	27 August 2014
Licensing Sub-Committee	12 September 2014

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the above meetings be noted:

**6. SERVICES COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the Services Committee of 15 September 2014 were received.

Reference was made to minute number 3, Market and Street trading regulations.

Councillor Elliott proposed an amendment to the resolution contained within the minute that this be referred back to Services Committee. The reason for his request was because he considered it to be inappropriate to approve the amendment to the Market and Street Trading Regulations without those regulations being considered by the working party. The chairman responded to this and considered that there needed to be a set of regulations in place

and that if the market working party was reconvened this could be discussed further.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Maguire.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost.

The chairman proposed that he, Councillor Morrall, and Councillors G Lawman, Simmons and Carr be appointed to the Market Working Party from the conservative members and Councillor Scarborough proposed that Councillor Maguire be appointed as the labour group member. On being put to the vote this was declared carried.

With regard to minute 5, Mobile Homes Act 2013 the recommendation was put to the meeting and on being put to the vote was declared carried.

(Councillor Bailey left the room during the next item.)

Reference was made to minute 6 conservation area extension for Finedon. The recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillor Bailey returned to the room.)

The chairman also reminded members that there was obligatory training for Service Committee members to be held on 10 November 2014.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (i) Councillors Carr, G Lawman, Maguire, Morrall and Simmons, be appointed to the Market Working Party;
- (ii) The powers under the Mobile Homes Act 2013 and the Mobile Homes Act 1983 be exercised and that the powers be delegated to the Head of Planning and Local Development;
- (iii) The fees detailed in the Northamptonshire Fees policy be approved as part of the council's fees policy.
- (iv) The Finedon conservation area extension as identified in the Finedon conservation area character appraisal and Finedon conservation area map be approved.
- (v) The minutes of the Services Committee of 15 September 2014 be adopted.

**7. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 16 September 2014 were received.

Reference was made to minute number 4 - Glamis Hall.

(Councillor Partridge-Underwood left the meeting during discussion on this item having declared an interest.)

The Mayor asked Mrs Saunders, Mr Campbell, Mrs Ashton, Mr Lord and Miss Clayton to address the meeting.

Mrs Saunders thanked Councillor Hollyman for the proposal he made at the Resources Committee which had allowed discussions with interested parties to commence. A group with a wealth of different experiences had come together and with the help of Age UK WACA, Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire, Care and Repair Northamptonshire, and the solid backing of community volunteers a first draft of the business plan had been submitted. She expressed concern over the timescale and asked if the council would consider an amendment to the recommendation to enable Glamis Hall to remain open until 31 March 2015 to help the most vulnerable in the community.

Mr Campbell spoke in relation to the NHS Arden Inspection report which had exposed a number of issues. He considered that some of the issues could be addressed quite easily. He offered, without prejudice, on behalf of the Save Glamis Hall for All Committee to assist with the de-cluttering, including the provision of a skip, to reduce any health and safety issues and fire hazards and a deep clean of the bathroom, to enable the bathing facilities to continue. He considered that Glamis Hall was not at the end of its life and could be updated quite easily. Work was required to the large windows in the roof but it had been found that the putty had considerably deteriorated and this had let in water, it was inexpensive to put right and could be easily rectified. The drainage pipes had been blocked with plastic bottles and had taken seconds to clear; this ongoing problem could be fixed with the addition of drain caps to the drainage pipes.

Mrs Ashton a user of the day care services appealed for the hall to remain open. She informed council that the proposed closure had caused a lot of worry and heartache to the users. For some it is the only contact with the outside world. Attending the day centre made users feel that they were still part of the community. Loneliness and isolation could lead to severe depression in the elderly. If the decision was to close Glamis Hall, she pleaded for council to transfer the building to the community group to enable the service to continue for the elderly and most vulnerable in society.

Mr Lord also called for Glamis Hall to remain open until 31 March 2015. He quoted from comments made by the Prime Minister in relation to his concerns over the provision of health and social care for the elderly and most vulnerable in society and the need to treat older people in the way we would wish to be treated.

The government had recently made £1.1bn available for projects to protect social care projects. The local MP, Peter Bone, had also presented the petition to parliament.

Miss Clayton referred to the research of the Head of Resources which had indicated that if the land was sold for housing this would give double the return than if it was sold as a community building and asked the council to consider the needs of vulnerable people rather than capital gain.

The county council had published in December 2013 a community research project relating to Queensway which recommended the establishment of a community hub to act as a focal point for the people of the Queensway Estate and other areas of the borough. This would not only act as a place for the elderly, vulnerable and disabled but would encourage young people to take part in youth activities. She considered that if Glamis Hall was passed over to one of the interested parties it could easily be made into this type of facility.

The subject matter was opened up for debate.

Councillor Scarborough addressed the meeting and spoke about the work that had been undertaken by the Save Glamis Hall for All Committee and the support given by the people of the borough. He considered that the short timescale for the closure of the hall was very tight and that more time was required for interested parties to prepare business plans to take over the running of Glamis Hall. He proposed an amendment to the recommendation as follows:

“that the Borough Council of Wellingborough sets aside, until at least November 2015, the decision to close the building and cease day care facilities at Glamis Hall and that recommendation (ii) (a) and (b) and recommendation (iii) be deleted.

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Dholakia who shared the concerns raised by Councillor Scarborough over the timing of the closure and spoke of the passion and support from the community to keep Glamis Hall open for the elderly and most vulnerable in our society.

A lengthy discussion ensued with Councillors Maguire, Elliott, Blackwell, Henley and Watts addressing the meeting to ask Council to reconsider the decision to close Glamis Hall on 31 December 2014 particularly for the sake of the elderly people from the whole borough who used the day care facility. The hall was vital not just for the elderly, but for local faith groups, the community and for those using the leisure facilities. They congratulated the campaigners and welcomed their proposals to create a community hub to provide for those living in Queensway and others across the borough. The NHS Arden Inspection report had raised issues that needed to be addressed and they considered that these could be resolved. They would be supporting the amendment to help the vulnerable, elderly and young of the community. Concern was also expressed that closing at the end of December would be very difficult for the elderly people to cope with and that this would cause unnecessary distress.

Councillor Harrington also addressed the meeting and considered that agreeing to this amendment would not help the users of Glamis Hall as the

building would need to close for some time for repairs to be carried out so the users would need to find alternative day care facilities.

Ahead of the vote on the amendment, as proposed by Councillor Scarborough, being taken Councillor Henley requested a recorded vote and this was supported by seven members under clause 4.1.16(d) of the constitution.

The following votes were cast:

For: Blackwell, Dholakia, Elliott, Henley, Maguire, Scarborough and Watts (7).

Against: Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Carr, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hollyman, L Lawman, G Lawman, Morrall, B Patel, M Patel, Simmons, Timms, Ward, Warwick and M Waters (20).

Abstention: Councillor Hawkes (1).

The amendment was declared lost with seven votes in favour and 20 votes against and 1 abstention.

Councillor Hawkes addressed the meeting and asked for clarification on whether the money from the sale of a capital asset would go into the capital budget and whether this would mean that it could not be used for revenue funding.

Councillor Bell confirmed that a capital receipt would go into the capital budget but that it could be used to create a revenue income stream should a care project be developed and agreed. Should he need further information in this regard the Head of Finance would speak with him following the meeting.

Councillor Hawkes expressed his concern over the timescale for the closure of the Hall at the end of December and considered that a period of an additional three months would give time for any interested parties to prepare their business plans and set up an incorporated charity. He also considered that to close the day care facilities at the end of the year was insensitive and was when users were at their most vulnerable.

He proposed the following amendment:

“that the Borough Council of Wellingborough closes the building and ceases day care facilities at Glamis Hall with effect from 31 March 2015.”

This was seconded by Councillor Scarborough.

A request was made for a recorded vote and this was supported by seven other members under clause 4.1.16(d) of the constitution ahead of the vote on the amendment, as proposed by Councillor Hawkes, being taken. The following votes were cast:

For: Blackwell, Dholakia, Elliott, Hawkes, Henley, Maguire, Scarborough and Watts (8)

Against: Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Carr, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hollyman L Lawman, Morrall, B Patel, M Patel, Simmons, Timms, Ward, Warwick and M Waters (19)

Abstention: Councillor G Lawman (1)

The vote was declared lost with 8 votes in favour, 19 against and 1 abstention.

Councillor Bell addressed the meeting and confirmed that the recommendation before council was to close Glamis Hall on 31 December 2014 and that officers of the council would continue to talk with interested parties about the future of Glamis Hall. Those interested parties would be invited to present their business plans at an informal workshop of members on 27 October 2014, where questions could be asked by members.

Councillor Hawkes asked for clarity over whether the recommendation that would be voted on meant that officers were being asked to close the building from 31 December 2014 and to also negotiate with interested parties.

Councillor Bell confirmed that the proposal would be for the Borough Council of Wellingborough to close Glamis Hall building and cease day care facilities with effect from 31 December 2014. Officers were instructed to enter into discussions with interested parties who wished to run day care services.

Members asked for legal advice and clarity on this.

The Chief Executive confirmed that officers would follow whatever decision was made by council and pointed out that there was more than one decision contained within the recommendation of the committee - firstly to close the building and cease day care facilities at Glamis Hall with effect from 31 December 2014 and secondly to continue with discussions and negotiations with interested parties. Officers were duty bound to do both, if that was the decision of council. Should further clarification be required by officers they would return to resources committee or council. He reassured members that whatever decision was made by council, officers would take the matter forward.

Councillor Scarborough raised concern over the timescale of the decision making process and when reports would be presented to members.

Councillor Bell confirmed that it was his intention to call an additional meeting of the resources committee, following the presentations by interested parties and this would be held during November. Any recommendation from the additional resources committee would then be presented to the council meeting on 9 December 2014.

Councillor Bell proposed the substantive recommendation that:

- (i) The Borough Council of Wellingborough closes the building and ceases day care facilities at Glamis Hall with effect from 31 December 2014.
- (ii) (a) clients be helped to find suitable alternative services when Glamis Hall closes permanently on 31 December or, if it closes temporarily whilst repairs are carried out.  
(b) officers enter into discussions with any interested parties who wish to run day care services, with immediate effect.
- (iii) the users of the sports/leisure and other facilities work with officers to find suitable alternative accommodation in the borough.

Councillor Bell requested a recorded vote and this was supported by a number of other members under clause 4.1.16(d) of the constitution ahead of the vote on the motion being taken. The following votes were cast:

For: Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Carr, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hollyman, L Lawman, G Lawman, Morrall, B Patel, M Patel, Simmons, Timms, Ward, Warwick and M Waters (20).

Against: Blackwell, Dholakia, Elliott, Henley, Maguire, Scarborough and Watts (7).

Abstention: Hawkes (1).

The vote was declared carried with 20 votes in favour, 7 against and 1 abstention.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The Borough Council of Wellingborough closes the building and ceases day care facilities at Glamis Hall with effect from 31 December 2014;
- (ii) (a) clients be helped to find suitable alternative services when Glamis Hall closes permanently on 31 December or, if it closes temporarily whilst repairs are carried out;  
(b) officers enter into discussions with any interested parties who wish to run day care services;
- (iii) the users of the sports/leisure and other facilities work with officers to find suitable alternative accommodation in the borough.

(Councillor Partridge-Underwood returned to the meeting.)

Councillor Bell referred to minute 7 Constitution Working Party and proposed that the membership of the working party be Councillors Bell, Graves, Bailey, Harrington and Hollyman with Councillor G Lawman as substitute from the conservative group. Councillor Scarborough added that he would sit on this working group along with Councillor Hawkes and that Councillor Maguire would be their substitute. The terms of reference were also agreed and it was confirmed that the working party would meet until March 2015.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (i) a Constitution Working party be established with the membership being Councillors Bailey, Bell, Graves, Harrington, Hawkes, Hollyman, Scarborough with Councillors G Lawman and Maguire acting as substitutes;
- (ii) the terms of reference for the Constitution Working Party be agreed;
- (iii) the Constitution Working party be in place until 31 March 2015.
- (iv) the minutes of the Resources Committee of 16 September 2014 be adopted.

**8. PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 22 SEPTEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the Partnerships and Performance Committee of 22 September 2014 were received.

Members made reference to the review of legal services and the review of ICT services and asked if a survey of service users opinions on each of the services could be included in future information provided to members.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Partnerships and Performance Committee be adopted.

**9. AUDIT COMMITTEE – 23 SEPTEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the Audit Committee of 23 September 2014 were received.

Councillor Harrington praised officers for their excellent work in producing the accounts correctly and on time. This was supported by Councillor Hollyman and Councillor Henley.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Audit Committee of 23 September 2014 be adopted.

**10. COMMITTEE CHANGES**

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received to notify council of the formation of an Independent political group and to consider the Conservative group's nomination for chairmanship of the Licensing Committee.

The Chief Executive had been informed that Councillors Ainge and Hawkes had formed a political group to be known as The Independent Group. This will have implications with regard to committee seat allocations and will be the subject of a report to council in December.

Councillor Hawkes made a request to address the meeting.

He thanked his fellow councillors for their support during his time as chairman of the Licensing Committee and referred to the difficult decisions that sometimes had to be taken by the licensing members which often affected the licence holder's livelihood. He also thanked the licensing officers, democratic service officers and legal officers for their support during his time as chairman.

(Councillor Hawkes then left the room having declared an interest on the following item.)

Following the resignation of Councillor Hawkes from the Conservative group the Leader proposed that the position of chairman of the Licensing Committee would be filled by Councillor Griffiths this was seconded by Councillor Graves.

It was requested that thanks be recorded and extended to Councillor Hawkes for his exemplary chairmanship of Licensing Committee. A few councillors considered that he should have remained as chairman regardless of him no longer being a member of the conservative group.

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the formation of an Independent political group be noted;
- (ii) Councillor Griffiths be appointed as chairman of the Licensing Committee.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.