

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH  
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH  
ON TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2014**

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor J Bass) and Councillors Ainge, Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Blackwell, Carr, Elliott, Emerson, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hawkes, Henley, Higgins, Maguire, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, B Patel, M Patel, Pursglove, Raymond, 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, Mr B Lawrence, Head of Resources, Miss J Thomas, Interim Head of Planning and Local Development, Mr G Hollands, Solicitor/District Law, Mrs G Chapman, Principal Community Support Manager, Mrs P Whitworth, Communications Officer, Miss S Gibson, Mayor's Sergeant and Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer.

The Mayor welcomed his fellow councillors, members of the public, his chaplain and his guests for the evening. He also informed those present that the meeting would be recorded and if anyone objected to this they could leave at any time during the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dholakia, Hollyman, G Lawman and L Lawman.

**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>
Henley	Additional Resources Committee 19/12/2014 – Min 3 Glamis Hall	Personal – has made a donation to the 'Go fund me' website towards Glamis Hall running.
Partridge-Underwood	Additional Resources Committee 19/12/2014 – Min 3 Glamis Hall.	DPI - is a Director of Oakfield at Easton Maudit who provides a similar service to that at Glamis Hall.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 7 OCTOBER 2014

The minutes of the council meeting held on 7 October 2014 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 7 October 2014 be confirmed and signed.

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

The annexed circulated report of the Interim Head of Planning and Local Development was received following the receipt of a petition entitled 'Save Wboro Council's badgers from culling'. As the petition contained more than 1510 signatures this had triggered a debate at council.

The Mayor allowed the petition organiser, Mr Smailes, to address the meeting. He explained that he had obtained 1,547 signatures against the proposed DEFRA culling of badger's policy 2014. The object of the petition was to ensure that the badger population on council owned land remained as safe as possible from slaughter. This was part of a national campaign across England to encourage councils to make a 'no cull statement'.

Councillor Bell thanked Mr Smailes and responded to the petition. He explained that the agricultural land owned by the council and leased to tenants was arable. He accepted the petition and proposed that this be referred to the Services Committee for further consideration. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Scarborough.

Councillor Allebone addressed the meeting, giving his thoughts and views on the issue of badgers, particularly for dairy farmers. Councillor Hawkes reminded the meeting that some years ago during the construction of Niort Way, an area of land had been set aside for badger conservation.

The Mayor put the motion to the vote and this was declared carried with one vote against.

**RESOLVED** to note that the petition be accepted and that it be referred to the Services Committee for further consideration.

### 5. MINUTES TO NOTE

The minutes of the following meetings were received:

Planning Committee	1 October 2014
Planning Committee	29 October 2014
Additional Planning Committee	19 November 2014
Licensing Sub-Committee	16 October 2014
Licensing Sub-Committee	14 November 2014

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

## **6. SERVICES COMMITTEE – 20 OCTOBER 2014**

The minutes of the Services Committee of 20 October 2014 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Services Committee of 20 October 2014 be adopted.

## **7. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 22 OCTOBER 2014**

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 22 October 2014 were received.

Reference was made to minute number 6 - Review of polling districts and polling places. Councillor Maguire expressed his thanks to officers in resolving issues with regard to the polling station for polling district IB.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) approval be given to the publication of the polling districts and polling places for the new wards in the borough;
- (ii) The minutes of the Resources Committee of 22 October 2014 be adopted.

## **8. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 19 NOVEMBER 2014**

The minutes of the additional Resources Committee of 19 November 2014 were received.

Reference was made to minute 3 – Glamis Hall.

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

Councillor Henley proposed an amendment to the recommendation to add a further recommendation as follows:

- (viii) a revenue grant, of £25,000 per annum, be provided until 2018/19 on delivery of a satisfactory service level agreement.

This was seconded by Councillor Elliott.

A debate ensued regarding this proposed amendment. Some members supported this suggestion and others considered that an application could be made for funding under the grants for voluntary and community organisation scheme; such application would be dealt with along with any other applications.

Before the Mayor put the amendment to the vote, Councillor Maguire and seven other councillors requested a recorded vote under clause 3.1.16(d) of the constitution.

The following votes were cast on the amendment:

For: Councillors Ainge, Blackwell, Elliott, Emerson, Hawkes, Henley, Maguire, Scarborough and Watts (9).

Against: Councillors Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Carr, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Higgins, Morrall, B Patel, M Patel, Pursglove, Raymond, Simmons, Timms, Ward, Warwick, M Waters and V Waters (21).

The amendment was declared lost.

Councillor Bell proposed that the motion be put and this was seconded by Councillor Graves.

Councillor Griffiths and a number of other councillors requested a recorded vote under 3.1.16(d) of the constitution.

The following votes were cast on the motion:

For: Councillors Ainge, Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Blackwell, Carr, Elliott, Emerson, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hawkes, Henley, Higgins, Maguire, Morrall, B Patel, M Patel, Pursglove, Raymond, Scarborough, Simmons, Timms, Ward, Warwick, M Waters, V Waters and Watts (30).

The motion was unanimously declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to:

- (i) the transfer of Glamis Hall and its contents, its car park and associated vehicles, to Glamis Hall for All on a date to be agreed once it has become a charitable incorporate organisation;
- (ii) the freehold be transferred at an undervalue;
- (iii) the negotiation of the actual terms of the transfer be delegated to the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Leader and Deputy Leader, taking into account the requirement to effect the transfer at a level significantly below market value;
- (iv) the capital programme be amended to include a grant of no more than £250,000 to Glamis Hall for All (once incorporated) specifically for the purpose of repairing and refurbishing the building and its car park;
- (v) reports for Glamis Hall for All, be received quarterly during the first year so that the council can satisfy itself that its investment continues to provide appropriate services for the local community, and that the organisation remains viable and therefore capable of delivering such services;
- (vi) Glamis Hall for all trustees, employees and contractors be given access to the building in order to start works (agreed in advance with the council) before the transfer is effected;

- (vii) Eligible employees based at Glamis Hall receive pension scheme benefits from their redundancy (and therefore their retirement) dates, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 26 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997.
- (viii) The adoption of the minutes of the additional Resources Committee of 19 November 2014.

The chairman extended the council's congratulations to Glamis Hall for All and wished them every success in the future with this new venture.

## **9. ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS**

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received in relation to the allocation of committee seats, on council committees and other bodies, to which proportionality rules apply, as a result of Councillor Hawkes becoming an independent member and the leader of a newly formed Independent political group.

Appended to the report was the calculation of the number of seats for each group on each committee, which were agreed.

Councillor Bell proposed the following changes to the membership of each committee for the Conservative group:

Councillor Higgins to transfer from Services Committee to the Partnerships and Performance Committee.

Councillor Hawkes to relinquish his seat on Partnerships and Performance Committee, Licensing Committee and Standards Committee.

Councillor Gough to relinquish his seat on the Appointments Committee.

Councillor Scarborough proposed the following changes to the membership of each committee for the Labour group:

Councillor Dholakia to transfer from Resources Committee to Services Committee.

Councillor Emerson to relinquish his seat on Partnerships and Performance Committee.

Councillor Blackwell to relinquish his seat on Standards Committee.

Councillor Hawkes proposed the following membership of each committee for the Independent group:

Councillor Ainge to remain on Services Committee.

Councillor Hawkes to sit on the Resources Committee, Partnerships and Performance Committee, Licensing Committee, Appointments Committee and Standards Committee.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to:

- (i) the composition and allocation of seats on committees, and on other bodies, as detailed in the appendix to the report;
- (ii) the allocation of members to each committee as detailed above.

## **10. MONITORING OFFICER**

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service was received on the review of monitoring officer arrangements put in place in October 2013.

The report reviewed the operation of the monitoring officer function during the last 12 months and recommended that the arrangement continue to the end of the next financial year – 30 April 2016 and that it be reviewed again at that time.

Councillor Scarborough made reference to the urgent action taken and asked if this would also be reported to the Resources Committee, as he wished to raise some points.

The Chief Executive responded and explained that there was a requirement to have a designated monitoring officer in place and that the urgent action had been approved to cover the period from 30/11/2014 to the 9/12/2014 and was therefore being reported to this council meeting. This would also be reported to the next Resources Committee.

**RESOLVED** to designate the role of the Borough Council of Wellingborough's Monitoring Officer to Sue Lyons, Head of Democratic and Legal Services at Kettering Borough Council for a further period of 15 months up to 30 April 2016.

## **11. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND/OR MOTIONS**

### **Question from Councillor Elliott**

The annexed circulated question, directed to the chairman of the resources committee had been received from Councillor Elliott as follows:

"At full council on the 22 July 2014, the partnership and performance committee of 8 July item 5, resolved that the " resources committee be asked to consider the extension of the brown bin collection service by one month, .....and to consider any alternative ways to increase recycling. I was pleased to hear the chairman of resources committee wished to aim for a 60% recycling from our current 35%.

"Can I ask when does the chairman expect resources committee to consider this, and also ask that the committee consider the recent report of the House of Commons environmental committee and the government's response, that in addition to separating recyclables, as planned at the Trafalgar House

facility to meet the 2015 government target, to also collect food waste separately so it does not go to landfill. This has the added advantage if the food waste is collected weekly, like in Northampton and Daventry; it reduces the risk of smell in the black bins in the summer.

“The resources committee may also wish to consider that the council’s 35% recycling rate puts us nationally in the bottom percentile for recycling, just above bottom 10, and we are the worst in the county. South Northants, an authority not noted for excessive expenditure, has a 56% recycling rate. I hope the council will acknowledge the seriousness of its problem and will bid for the government’s measly £5m recycling fund.

Councillor Bell thanked Councillor Elliott for his question and informed him that a report would be prepared for the Resources Committee on 4 February 2015.

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

The Mayor informed the meeting of the following events taking place in 2015:

27 February - Illegal Eagles

19 March - Wellingborough’s Got Talent – tickets were available to both of these events directly from The Castle.

21 March - Spring Ball at Wicksteed Park Pavilion, tickets available from the Mayor’s Secretary.

The Mayor also referred to the recent quiz night which had been very successful and thanked all those who had participated and assisted with the questions and catering.

He also made reference to the recent Christmas lights switch on, which had seen a large crowd of over 4,000 people in attendance, and thanked Discover Wellingborough, the BID, the Council’s Events Officer and Wellingborough Norse for organising it.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8pm.

