

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPOOL HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2016**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor B Graves) and Councillors Abram, Allebone, Anslow, Aslam, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Bone, Carr, Ekins, Emerson, Francis, Gough, Griffiths, Harrington, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Maguire, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Scanlon, Scarborough, Simmons, Walia, Ward, M Waters, V Waters, Watts and York.

Officers present: Mr J T Campbell (Chief Executive), Mrs L Elliott (Head of Finance), Mrs B Gamble (Head of Resources), Miss J Thomas (Head of Planning and Local Development), Miss S Lyons (Solicitor, District Law), Mr G Betts (Mayor's Sergeant) and Mrs C A Mundy, (Democratic Services Officer).

(The Mayor welcomed his guests for the evening, which included some of the representatives from organisations that he had met during his term of office).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hallam, Henley, Morrall, Skittrall and Stevenson.

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, no declarations were made.

3. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 1 DECEMBER 2015

The minutes of the council meeting held on 1 December 2015 were received.

Councillor Emerson made reference to minute 8 and asked if correspondence had been sent to the Members of Parliament for Wellingborough and Daventry. The Chief Executive clarified that letters had been sent and the MP's had replied and were seeking a meeting with the minister, as we had requested.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting, held on 1 December 2016, be confirmed and signed.

4. QUESTIONS/PETITIONS/REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

Requests to address the meeting had been received from Mr Elliott and Mr Banks.

Mr Elliott spoke in relation to Resources Committee of 9 December 2015 - minute 4 – Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2016/17.

Mr Banks spoke in relation to agenda item 7b – motion relating to the European Union.

The Mayor thanked both speakers and noted their comments.

5. LONG SERVICE AWARD FOR COUNCILLOR K HARRINGTON

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Resources was received in relation to the presentation to Councillor Harrington of a long service award and gift for 20 years of service to the community and local government.

RESOLVED that the long service award for Councillor Harrington be noted.

6. MINUTES TO NOTE

The minutes of the following meetings were received:

Licensing Committee 11 December 2015

Planning Committee 16 December 2015

The vice-chairman presented the minutes of the Planning Committee and asked that council note the following amendments thereto:

- (i) Minute number 13, Planning Application WP/15/00591/FUL, Councillor G Lawman had made a declaration of interest which had been omitted from the minutes, as a member of the council's services committee which had recently approved a report on village boundaries;
- (ii) Minute number 16, application WP/15/00621/FUL planning condition 2 had been corrected to show the closing time from 21:00 hours to 23:00 hours.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above be noted.

7. SERVICES COMMITTEE – 7 DECEMBER 2015

The minutes of the Services Committee of 7 December 2015 were received.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Gambling Act Statement of Licensing Principles be adopted;
- (ii) the Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan be formally made and that it would become part of the borough's statutory development plan;
- (iii) the minutes of the Services Committee of 7 December 2015 be adopted.

8. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9 DECEMBER 2015

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 9 December 2015 were received.

Reference was made to minute 4 – Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2016/17.

Councillor Scarborough spoke on this, expressing his concern that the financial benefits to the council, of approving the recommendation in the report, were negligible, but that the impact on the most vulnerable was considerable. He proposed the following amendment to the recommendation, which was seconded by Councillor Emerson:

“that option three be adopted, to increase the maximum amount of help working age people may receive from 80% to 85%, and that options four and five be omitted.”

The leader of the council responded to this referring to the comparable percentages of contributions paid in other districts in the county which in some cases was as much as 45%. The results of the consultation carried out in the borough indicated that most local people believed an increase in contributions to 25% was preferable. The council’s overall collection rate was approximately 96% and, as such, it was considered that the current 20% contribution rate remain in place.

Prior to the voting on the amendment being taken a recorded vote was requested.

The Mayor put the amendment to the vote as follows:

“that option three be adopted, to increase the maximum amount of help working age people may receive from 80% to 85%, and that options four and five be omitted”.

The amendment was declared lost with nine votes in favour and 21 against.

(Councillors Abram, Anslow, Aslam, Emerson, Francis, Maguire, Scarborough, Walia and Watts voted in favour of the amendment).

(Councillors Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Bone, Carr, Ekins, Gough, Griffiths, Harrington, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Scanlon, Simmons, Ward, M Waters, V Waters and York voted against the amendment).

The Mayor then put the substantive motion to the vote as follows:

“that option two be retained, to make no change to the maximum amount of help working age people may receive, and that the amendments in options four to eight be adopted”.

The substantive motion was declared carried with 21 votes in favour and nine abstentions.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) option two be retained, to make no change to the maximum amount of help working age people may receive, and that the amendment in options four to eight be adopted;
- (ii) the minutes of the Resources Committee of 9 December 2015 be adopted.

9. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR BAILEY TO THE CHAIRMAN OF SERVICES COMMITTEE – STREET LAMP, MACKWORTH GREEN, FINEDON

Councillor Bailey had submitted a question relating to a street lamp located at Mackworth Green, Finedon. He informed the meeting that he was withdrawing the question, as he had now received a letter from Wellingborough Homes accepting liability for the lamp and informing him that it would be repaired within three weeks. He would monitor the situation.

10. MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS HENLEY AND SCARBOROUGH - THE EUROPEAN UNION

Councillor Scarborough addressed the meeting regarding the motion; and then proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Emerson, in Councillor Henley's absence:

“this council believes that it is in the best interests of business, residents and the whole borough of Wellingborough for the United Kingdom to continue its membership of the European Union, while seeking reform on a number of key issues.”

Councillor Gough also addressed the meeting and proposed an amendment to the motion as follows:

“the council believes that it should respect the views of all residents within the borough, and take no official position on the issue of the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union”. This was seconded by Councillor Bone.

A lengthy debate ensued.

Many councillors believed this was something that the council should not consider doing as all individuals would have an opportunity to vote on whether they wished to stay in the European Union, should they wish to do so. Others supported the proposal and considered that it would be wise to remain in the European Union and that the council should give its support to doing so for the people of the borough, regardless of an individual's personal opinion.

The Mayor put the amendment to the vote, as follows:

“the council believes that it should respect the views of all residents within the borough, and take no official position on the issue of the United Kingdom’s membership of the European Union”.

The amendment was declared carried with 22 votes in favour and eight against.

This then became the substantive motion and on being put to the vote was declared carried with 22 votes in favour and eight against.

RESOLVED that the council believes it should respect the views of all residents within the borough, and take no official position on the issue of the United Kingdom’s membership of the European Union.

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

The Mayor had two further items which the leader presented to the meeting.

(i) Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) Liaison Group

The additional Planning Committee held on 22 December 2015 agreed that a liaison group be established to comment on reserved matters applications relating to Stanton Cross and Glenvale Park. The draft terms of reference for such group had been circulated.

Councillor Scarborough referred to the terms of reference and considered the objectives too restrictive as they only enabled comment on reserved matters applications; he suggested that the terms of reference be revisited to include such issues as traffic management. Councillor Bell confirmed that the terms of reference could be looked at further and the Head of Planning and Local Development would circulate a final copy in due course.

The membership of the group would include the chairman of the services committee (who would act as chairman), councillors representing wards closest to the two developments, along with senior council officers and representatives from parishes directly affected.

It was agreed that Councillors Carr (chairman), Bailey (Finedon), Bone (Harrowden & Sywell), Francis (Victoria), L Lawman (Rixon), Walia (Isebrook), and one representative of Redwell Ward be appointed to the liaison group.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) a Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) Liaison Group be established;
- (ii) Councillors Carr, Bailey, Bone, Francis, L Lawman, Walia and one representative of Redwell Ward be appointed thereto.

(ii) Grants Working Party

The leader made reference to the Grants Working Party and the need to update the terms of reference to increase the membership to include two additional members; one conservative and one labour.

It was proposed that Councillor Simmons be appointed as the conservative member and Councillor Anslow as the labour member.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Councillors Anslow and Simmons be appointed, as additional members, to the Grants Working Party;
- (ii) the terms of reference be amended accordingly.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.