

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPOOL HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON TUESDAY 20th JULY 2010**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor L Lawman), and Councillors Ainge, Allebone, Atkinson, Bailey, Bass, P Bell, R Bell, Blackwell, Callnon, Crofts, Dean, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Hawkes, Hollyman, G Lawman, Maguire, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Perkins, Pursglove, J Raymond, P Raymond, Saxby, Shram, Simmons, Timms, Warwick, Ward and Waters.

Officers present: Mr J Hubbard, (Chief Executive), Mr R Micklewright, Mr J Wilson and Mr T Wright (Corporate Directors), Mr C Pittman, Mr G Stoppani, and Mr S Wood,(Heads of Service), Mrs S Lyons, (Legal Adviser), Mr G Betts (Mayor's Sergeant), Mrs J Sawyer (PA to Chief Executive) and Mrs C Mundy (Democratic Services Officer).

1. PRAYERS

Reverend Catherine Lomas, Assistant-Curate, represented the Mayor's Chaplain. Prayers were said with special thoughts for Councillor Dholakia and his family on the sudden death of his sister.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beirne, Dholakia, Higgins and Morrall.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared an interest, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Councillor	Committee date and minute no.	Reason for declaration
Allebone	Community 21 6 10 Min 7	Personal – Board Member of The Castle.
	The Castle Performance Indicators. Resources 23 6 10 Min 10 and 19	Personal – User of Sywell Aerodrome.
Bass	Urgent Action: Sywell Aerodrome. Resources 23 6 10 Mins 10 and 19	Personal and prejudicial – Ward Councillor for Sywell.
R Bell	Urgent Action Sywell Aerodrome. Development 22 6 10 Min 6	Personal – lives near to High Street and the town centre.
Blackwell	High Street Car Parking and Min 9	Personal – Wellingborough Homes Board member.
	Town Centre redevelopment. Community 21 6 10 Min 5	
	Wellingborough Homes Progress Report. Community 21 6 10 Min 6	Personal – Close relative

Crofts	Centres Performance Indicators. Resources 23 6 10 Min 5 Allocations Policy for Voluntary and Community Sector Grants and Min 7 Lettings to Not For Profit Organisations.	with a disability Personal and prejudicial – treasurer of NREC and Welfare Rights Advice Group
Dean	Community 21 6 10 Min 5 Wellingborough Homes Progress Report. Development 22 6 10 Min 5 Northamptonshire Arc.	Personal – Wellingborough Homes Board member. Personal – is a County Councillor.
Graves	Resources 23 6 10 Min 7 Lettings for not for profit organisations.	Personal – he is employed by a not for profit organisation.
Harrington	Resources 23 6 10 Mins 10 and 19 Sywell Aerodrome.	Personal – serves on the Standards Board.
G Lawman	Planning 12 5 10 Min 13 WP/2007/0039 C. Development 22 6 10 Min 5 Northamptonshire Arc. Resources 23 6 10 Min 5 – Allocations Policy and Community Sector Grants. Min 7 – Lettings for not for profit organisations. Min 15 – Request for collaborative agreement to unlock urban extensions. Partnerships Review 28 6 10 Min 5 Annual Report 2009/10.	Personal – is a County Councillor. Personal – is a County Councillor. Personal – is a representative on the Victoria Centre. Personal is a County Council representative on the Wellingborough Volunteer Bureau who rent premises. Personal – aware of a previous objector to the scheme. Personal – is a County Councillor – NCC Highways Presentation.
Maguire	Planning Committee 12 5 10 WP/2010/0096(F).	Personal – he knew one of the speakers.
Partridge- Underwood	Community 21 6 10 Min 7 Performance Indicators Resources – 23 6 10 Min 7 Lettings to not for profit organisations.	Personal and prejudicial – Board Member of The Castle. Personal – Vice-President of District Scouts.
Patel	Community 21 6 10 Min 5 Wellingborough Homes Progress Report. Development 22 6 10 Min 5 Northamptonshire Arc. Resources 23 6 10 Min 5 Allocation Policy for Voluntary and Community Sector Grants.	Personal – Wellingborough Homes Board Member. Personal - is a County Councillor. Personal – is a County Council appointed member and trustee Victoria Centre.

	Resources 23 6 10 Min 10 and 19 Urgent Action Sywell Aerodrome.	NREC – Borough Council nominated Board Member. Personal and prejudicial – Standards Committee Member.
J Raymond	Development 22 6 10 Min 6 High Street Car Parking and Min 9 Town Centre redevelopment.	Personal – wife has a business and property in the town centre.
P Raymond	Development 22 6 10 Min 6 High Street Car Parking and Min 9 Town Centre redevelopment.	Personal – owns business and property in the town centre.
Saxby	Council 20 7 10 – Agenda Item 8 Presentation of Petition relating to Irchester.	Personal and prejudicial – a relative farms the land.
Shram	Resources 23 6 10 Min 5 Allocations Policy for Voluntary and Community Sector Grants and Min 7 Lettings to Not For Profit Organisations.	Personal - Member of the NREC.
Simmons	Resources 23 6 10 Min 7 Lettings to Not for Profit Organisations.	Personal – Treasurer of Wellingborough District Scout Council.
Warwick	Development 22 6 10 Min 6 High Street Car Parking and Min 9 Town Centre Redevelopment.	Personal and prejudicial – has business premises in the town centre.

The Mayor welcomed the new Member for Earls Barton Ward, Councillor Andrew Atkinson, following his recent successful election to the Borough Council of Wellingborough.

4. RETIREMENT AWARDS FOR PETER HOWARD BOULDEN AND GODFREY VAUGHAN BIGLEY

Mr Peter Boulden

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Organisational Development was received on the retirement, as team leader in the business support unit and as Waendel Walk Co-ordinator, of Mr Boulden, who had achieved 46 years service to the Council.

The Mayor congratulated Mr Boulden on his excellent achievement, wished him every happiness in his retirement and presented him with his retirement certificate. Mr Boulden had chosen a laptop computer as his retirement gift.

Mr Godfrey Bigley

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Organisational Development was received on the retirement of Senior Accountancy Assistant, Mr Bigley, after 35 years of service. Mr Bigley did not attend the meeting but had received John Lewis Vouchers as his gift.

RESOLVED that the retirement awards for Mr Boulden and Mr Bigley be noted.

5. NOTABLE ACTIVITIES

The annexed circulated report and verbal update was received on the notable activities that had taken place. The Chief Executive was asked to write to officers involved in the organisation of the various events and to pass on the thanks and appreciation of Members. He was also asked to ensure that at next year's Carnival and Party Weekend full recycling provision was available for the use of the public in the park. There had been some confusion with regard to who and how the first party weekend had been established. For clarity, this had been instigated as a Garden Party for the Community by the late Councillor Mike Prescod, during his Mayoral year of 1998-99. The Event Organiser would be informed of this for future publicity material.

The Mayor made reference to the delegation of Members and officers who had recently paid a very interesting visit to our twin town of Niort, France for its bio-diversity exhibition.

RESOLVED to note the report, verbal update and comments made on notable activities relating to the Council's PRIDE objectives.

6. APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2010-11

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received on the updated Calendar of Meetings following the establishment of the Audit Committee and Performance and Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Bailey and seconded by Councillor P Bell that the updated Calendar be approved. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the Calendar of Meetings from August 2010 to May 2011 be approved.

7. REVISED ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE.

The annexed circulated report of the Monitoring Officer was received on the allocation of Committee seats following the recent by-election and to appoint Members to vacant seats.

It was proposed by Councillor Bailey and seconded by Councillor P Bell that the following appointments be made:

- (i) Councillor Atkinson be appointed to Community Committee, Performance and Scrutiny Committee and Licensing Committee;
- (ii) Councillor L Lawman be taken off Community Committee and be appointed to Development Committee;

- (iii) Councillor Harrington be appointed to Planning Committee and
- (iv) the vacancy on Performance and Scrutiny Committee remain.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Councillor Atkinson be appointed to Community Committee, Performance and Scrutiny Committee and Licensing Committee;
- (ii) Councillor L Lawman be taken off Community Committee and be appointed to Development Committee;
- (iii) Councillor Harrington be appointed to Planning Committee;
- (iv) the vacancy on Performance and Scrutiny Committee remain.

8. PRESENTATION OF PETITION

(Councillor Saxby left the meeting during this item having declared a personal & prejudicial interest).

Mr T Skipper presented a petition to the Mayor in relation to the policy line to the south of the village of Irchester and the proposal for 100 additional homes to be built in Irchester. Mr Skipper addressed the meeting for 3 minutes on the reasons for the petition and the concern of residents living in Irchester.

The Mayor thanked Mr Skipper and received the petition and informed him that it would be checked by officers for compliance under the new regulations for petitions.

RESOLVED that the presentation of the Petition and the address by Mr Skipper be noted.

(Councillor Saxby returned to the meeting).

9. COUNCIL MEETING – 25th May 2010

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting of 25th May 2010 be confirmed and signed.

10. PLANNING COMMITTEE – 12th May 2010 and 9th June 2010

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee of 12th May 2010 and 9th June 2010 be noted.

11. PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES

Community	21 st June 2010
Partnerships Review	28 th June 2010
Audit	29 th June 2010

RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the above mentioned Committees.

12. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 22nd June 2010

The annexed circulated minutes of the Development Committee of 22nd June 2010 were received.

The Chairman referred to item 6, High Street Regeneration and the appointment of members to two working groups for the wider Car Parking Strategy for the town centre and proposals for the Drill Hall.

(Councillor Warwick left the room during discussion on this item having declared a personal and prejudicial interest).

It was proposed that Councillors G Lawman, Hawkes, Ward Warwick and Maguire be appointed to the two working groups. This was agreed.

(Councillor Warwick returned to the meeting).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Development Committee of 22nd June 2010 be adopted, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Maguire as the fifth member of the two working groups.

13. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23rd JUNE 2010

The annexed circulated minutes of the Resources Committee of 23rd June 2010 were received.

The Chairman made reference to item 5, Allocations policy for voluntary and community sector grants – for services provided under service level agreements. He proposed that Councillors Callnon, Dean, Dholakia, Morrall and Simmons be appointed to the Working Group to review current service level agreement grant arrangements. This was agreed.

Councillor Crofts made reference to item 16 Compulsory Purchase Order, Stanton Cross, Midland Road access. He proposed that this item be referred back to the Resources Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Shram. On being put to the vote the motion was declared to be lost.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Resources Committee of 23rd June 2010 be adopted subject to it being noted that Councillors Callnon, Dean, Dholakia, Morrall and Simmons had been appointed to the working group to review current service level agreement grant arrangements.

14. MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS

A. Councillor Crofts asked the following questions:

- 1. What is the current position in carrying out the various council resolutions in respect of the above scheme?*
- 2. What, if any, are the current barriers to implementing this scheme?*

3. *When is it expected that this scheme will be in place?*

The Chairman of Development Committee responded to Council Crofts questions as follows:

“1. What is the current position in carrying out the various council resolutions in respect of the above scheme?”

Members may recall that it was reported at the February 2010 Development Committee that the physical layout of the highways in the area prevented the originally worked up scheme being implemented. Following a meeting involving the Ward Councillors, CARSAG, NCC and others, the alternative option recommended was to implement a Controlled Parking Zone in the streets identified in the report, being Chace Road, Colwell Road, Chester Road, Dryden Road and parts of Senwick Road, Midland Road and Talbot Road.

This required the County Council to get approval for this particular type of scheme from the Department for Transport. This has now been given. The resolution also required that the Borough Council undertake a consultation on the revised project with residents in the affected streets and that a positive response from respondees of 50% plus 1 be achieved for it to go ahead. The consultation material, including an exhibition, is currently being worked up. Regrettably the workload, including Site Specific Plans and other works, is quite high in this department at present. This consultation could go ahead in the near future if the Council can identify the funding for the scheme.

2. What, if any, are the current barriers to implementing this scheme?

The scheme will cost approximately £15k, however, this is deemed to be revenue and not capital expenditure. A survey of the parked cars in these streets had to be carried out, both at night and then in the day to estimate how many cars were likely to be commuters' cars. This has been done and the evidence is to be used to demonstrate the need for the scheme and also help persuade East Midlands Trains to contribute financially, given the potential increase in parking fees generated for them by the scheme. Correspondence with East Midlands Trains is starting to establish what level of contribution they are prepared to make.

The main barrier to implementing the scheme and progressing with the consultation is identifying the funding, potentially from NCC Highways, the cost of permits and getting agreement from East Midlands Trains for a contribution from them. Final consultation with residents should not happen until the Council is confident that the scheme can actually be delivered.

The survey identified that approximately 164 cars were likely to be commuter vehicles in the streets surveyed where the scheme will operate. If approximately 10% of these vehicles were diverted into the station car parks as paying commuters on day tickets then the cost of the scheme could be paid for in a year. On this basis the Council has approached East Midlands

Trains to fund the full cost of the scheme in a one off payment. We await their answer. Additional ongoing revenue increases for parking after this would be East Midland Trains.

I would draw members' attention to Paragraph 10 of the original officer's report – Implications for Resources – as the administration and enforcement of the final scheme would be carried out by the County Council there are no direct implications arising from this report. This administration is determined that this project shall be cost-neutral to this Borough and the original recommendation was subject to financial resources being available.

3. When is it expected that this scheme will be in place?

If the funding issue can be resolved and the consultation can commence during the late summer and be successful in achieving 50% plus 1, it is expected that the County Council could set the scheme up and have it running by the end of the financial year."

B. Councillor Blackwell proposed the following motion:

"The Borough Council is mindful of the Government's proposals for fixed term parliaments and conscious of the vital importance of stability and continuity in Local Government. It urges all political parties and all candidates who aspire to become a Borough Councillor to recognise that being a Councillor is a serious responsibility which requires a minimum commitment of 4 years. Resigning in a shorter timescale causes unnecessary waste of public money and instability in governance. It also brings the role of a Councillor into disrespect and contempt. It also brings a potential threat to the whole democratic process. The cost of an additional election, the wastage of expertise and of professional development and it puts additional demands on staff time. We urge that basis 4 year commitment is given."

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Maguire.

A debate ensued. Whilst Councillors appreciated that there should be a strong commitment by those wishing to be elected it was felt that this would be unworkable as personal circumstances could not be predicted.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

C. Councillor Blackwell, on behalf of Councillor Dholakia, proposed the following motion:

"The Leader of the Council writes directly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer raising concerns about the impact of the proposed VAT increase on pensioners, other vulnerable groups and businesses in the Borough of Wellingborough. He should further call on Peter Bone and Chris Heaton-Harris, Members of Parliament, who represent the constituents who live in the Borough of Wellingborough, to stand up for the Borough's Pensioners,

businesses and wider community, to voice their opposition to this unfair increase in VAT and to vote against it in Parliament.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Shram.

A debate ensued with it being noted that the Bill had been passed by Parliament on 13th July therefore making it impossible to act upon the motion. A number of Councillors spoke in relation to this including Councillor Pursglove who asked that it be noted that he was employed by Chris Heaton-Harris MP who was referred to in the motion.

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

D. Councillor Bass proposed the following motion:

“The Borough Council of Wellingborough calls upon the owners and managers of Sywell Aerodrome to meet with the Council as a matter of urgency to re-write the Constitution of the Aerodrome Joint Consultative Committee. The current format, set out in the S.106 Agreement of 29th August 2006, is not fit for its intended purpose. The Constitution should encompass all aspects of the Department for Transport Guidelines and comply fully with Section 35 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982.”

The JCC is a requirement under the Planning Conditions and its satisfactory operation is therefore of paramount importance to the community of the West Ward and adjacent villages.”

The Mayor informed Councillor Bass that this motion would not be debated at Council but would be referred to a future Development Committee meeting for a response.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) that the response to the questions be noted;
- (ii) that the motion by Councillor Blackwell be declared lost;
- (iii) that the motion by Councillor Dholakia be declared lost;
- (iv) that the motion by Councillor Bass be referred to a future meeting of the Development Committee.

(Note: The Mayor suggested to Members that it would be prudent in future for questions to be raised of the Chairman of the relevant Committee).

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

The Mayor had no further business.

Mayor.....

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.