

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON TUESDAY, 02 JULY 2013**

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

Officers present: Mr R Micklewright and Mr T Wright (Corporate Directors), Mrs L Elliott, Mrs B Lawrence and Mr S Wood (Heads of Service), Mr C Pittman (Monitoring Officer), Ms S Lyons (Legal Adviser), Ms P Lawton (Principal Democratic Services Manager) and Mr G Betts (Mayor's Sergeant).

The meeting was preceded by a one minute silence, observed as a mark of respect for the late Councillor John Raymond. The Mayor read out a letter from Councillor P Raymond, paid his own tribute, and invited the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to say a few words of remembrance.

The Mayor welcomed fellow councillors to the first Council business meeting of the Municipal Year and also extended a welcome to his guests for the evening, representatives of various sports clubs in the borough, and representatives of Wrenn School whom it was noted were hoping to raise £30K for charity with their 'Stitch up Cancer' tapestry.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ainge, Bass, Beirne, Gough, Griffiths, Raymond, Warwick and Watts.

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 as follows:

Councillor	Committee date and minute no.	Reason for declaration
Bailey	Community 10/06/13 (min 4) – Wellingborough Homes: Progress and Monitoring Report.	Disclosable pecuniary interest – Council appointed director of Wellingborough Homes.

3. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 April 2013 be confirmed and signed.

4. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 16 MAY 2013

A correction to the minutes was noted at item 5 – ‘Admission of Councillor Geoffrey P Timms as an Honorary Freeman’ that the word ‘labour’ in the first sentence of paragraph two be capitalised to read ‘Labour’.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 16 May 2013 (as amended) be confirmed and signed.

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21 MAY 2013

The Mayor wished it to be noted that, at item 3, he had welcomed new councillors to the meeting, and had also thanked his proposer and seconder.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 21 May 2013 (as amended) be confirmed and signed.

6. QUESTIONS, PETITIONS AND REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

RESOLVED to note that no questions, petitions or requests to address the meeting had been received from the public.

7. PLANNING COMMITTEE – 03 APRIL 2013

An amendment to the minutes was noted at item 21 – ‘Planning application WP/2013/0081(FM)’ that the address in the title read ‘Meadowlands, Hardwick Road, Little Harrowden’.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee of 03 April 2013 (as amended) be noted.

8. LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 05 APRIL 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee of 05 April 2013 be noted.

9. PLANNING COMMITTEE – 08 MAY 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee of 08 May 2013 be noted.

10. STANDARDS ASSESSMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Assessments Sub-Committee of 20 May 2013 be noted.

11. LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 14 JUNE 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee of 14 June 2013 be noted.

12. AUDIT COMMITTEE – 26 MARCH 2013

The minutes of the Audit Committee of 26 March 2013 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee of 26 March 2013 be adopted.

13. LICENSING COMMITTEE – 11 APRIL 2013

The minutes of the Licensing Committee of 11 April 2013 were received. The committee chairman reminded members of two vacancies on Licensing Committee, and that they should contact their Group Leader if they wished to be considered to sit on the committee.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee of 11 April 2013 be adopted.

14. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 10 JUNE 2013

The minutes of the Community Committee of 10 June 2013 were received.

Concern was raised in relation to item 7 – ‘Wellingborough Community Safety Update – Annual Review’ in relation to the reporting of crime statistics and the absence of a separate category for recording hate crime. The committee chairman confirmed that a request had been made by the committee for this type of reporting, and it was the intention that the next set of figures reported to Community Committee would include a hate crime reporting category if this information could be extracted from the data held by the police.

A point of order was raised in relation to the committee chairman’s assertion that the provision of hate crime information to all future meetings had been agreed at the meeting of 10 June, and that this had not been reflected in the minutes.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Committee of 10 June 2013 (as amended) be adopted.

15. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 11 JUNE 2013

The minutes of the Development Committee of 11 June 2013 were received.

A correction to the minutes was noted at item 5 – that the title should read ‘Adoption of trees and landscape supplementary planning document’.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Development Committee of 11 June 2013 (as amended) be adopted.

16. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 12 JUNE 2013

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 12 June 2013 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Resources Committee of 12 June 2013 be adopted.

17. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 JUNE 2013

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 17 June 2013 were received.

Reference was made to item 4 – ‘Castle Arts Centre’ and to item 5 – ‘Sport and Leisure Performance’ both of which, it was pointed out, had appeared on the agenda of the Community Committee as well as the agenda of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was suggested that this presented a duplication of work for members

and officers. The committee chairman responded by stating that the two committees had significantly different terms of reference, one policy and the other scrutiny, and it was paramount that the Council paid adequate attention to scrutiny of services funded by public money and held the providers of those services to account.

An update was provided in relation to item 4 – ‘Castle Arts Centre’ in respect of the additional energy costs incurred due to issues with the boiler. It was noted that the May 2013 figures for energy costs had reduced significantly and were now moving in the right direction.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 17 June 2013 be adopted.

18. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SERVICES: EAST MIDLANDS DECLARATION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The annexed circulated report of the Director of Services was received seeking approval to sign up to the East Midlands Declaration on Affordable Housing.

A point of order was raised as to why this report had been presented directly to Council, and not via a policy committee. The Leader of the Council responded by stating that it was at his discretion that the report be put before Council; he reiterated his commitment to the principles of the declaration, and moved the resolution as printed.

The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion and endorsed the principles of the declaration, stating his support for the commitment to increasing the delivery of affordable housing in the borough.

RESOLVED that the Council sign up to the East Midlands Declaration on Affordable Housing.

19. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: NOTABLE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received, providing details of notable activities relating to the council’s PRIDE objectives. A number of councillors commented on the initiatives reported therein, with specific reference being made to the following:

- Waendel weekend – thanks to the Community Support team for organising a successful event which had brought a large number of international visitors to the borough; thanks also to fellow councillors who had supported the event and worked hard to encourage young people to take part;
- Investors in People – congratulations to the Chief Executive and the management team on their success in Investors in People re-accreditation;
- Wittlich visit – noted that representatives from the town of Zossen were also in attendance; the Mayor had been presented with a certificate to celebrate 20 years of twinning and thanking ‘Wellingborough’ for its ‘continued deep friendship’; noted that the Wittlichers return visit to Wellingborough would probably take place on 14-15 February 2014; noted that discussions had begun to re-start school exchange visits; the Mayor was congratulated on a successful weekend, including delivering his speech in German!;
- Minerva Way fitness zone –hoping to encourage people to lead healthy lifestyles;

- Shelley Road multi-court – congratulations to the young people who came up with the idea; Queensway councillors commended for their determination in bringing this initiative to fruition; thanks to Community Support team for their timely and hard work, and to the Mayor for his support in opening the event;
- No cold-calling zone – noted that Trading Standards were a major partner in this initiative; a number of councillors spoke in support of the scheme; agreed a letter be sent to the Police and Community Safety Partnership to request funding to extend the initiative throughout the borough; agreed a Members' Briefing Note be circulated to inform members of the parameters of the initiative;
- Continental market – successful event, should encourage more of this type of activity in the town;
- Fraud prosecutions – thanks to officers for their vigour in bringing the prosecution; noted that a further prosecution was being pursued for benefit fraud totalling approximately £82K; agreed that a Members' Briefing Note be circulated providing information on the fraud prosecution process, and the recovery of monies owed to the council;
- Northamptonshire Military Covenant – noted that the event took place on 18 June 2013;
- Armed Forces Day – the Mayor thanked fellow councillors who attended this very worthwhile event;
- Party weekend – members were invited to support the Carnival and Party in the Park; noted that there would be councillor surgeries held in the council marquee in Croyland Park on the Sunday.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

20. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS/MOTIONS

RESOLVED to note that no questions/motions had been received from members.

21. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS

RESOLVED to note that there was no correspondence, communications or other business to consider.

The Mayor invited his guests and fellow councillors to the Parlour for refreshments immediately after the meeting.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

