

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON TUESDAY 22 JULY 2014**

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

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

The Mayor welcomed his Chaplain and guest for the evening the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, Mrs Anne Burnett to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bailey, L Lawman, Morrall, Pursglove and Warwick. (Councillor Ainge did not attend the meeting.)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Committee	Reason for declaration
B Patel	Resources 25/6/14 min 9 Review of local government pension scheme.	Member of the local government pension scheme (DPI).
Hawkes	Resources 25/6/14 min 9 Review of local government pension scheme.	Member of the local government pension scheme (DPI).
G Lawman	Resources 25/6/14 min 9 Review of local government pension scheme and min 19 Shared Service options.	Chairman of the Northamptonshire County Council local government pension scheme. Assistant cabinet member Northamptonshire County Council.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings be confirmed and signed:

Council	15 April 2014
Extraordinary Council	13 May 2014
Extraordinary Council	13 May 2014
Annual Meeting of the Council	29 May 2014

4. LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The annexed circulated reports of the Head of Resources were received in relation to the long service awards for Mr D A Stevenson, Mrs P Bright and Mr P Toomey who had all completed 25 years of service with the council.

Mr Stevenson attended the meeting and the Mayor presented him with a certificate and his gift of John Lewis vouchers. Mrs Bright and Mr Toomey were unable to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED that the long service awards be noted.

5. RETIREMENT AWARD

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Resources was received in relation to the retirement award for Mr T Lucy who had completed 34 years and 11 months service with the council.

RESOLVED that the retirement award be noted.

6. QUESTIONS/PETITIONS/REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

RESOLVED to note that no questions or petitions had been received from the public but two requests to address the meeting had been received from Mrs H Saunders and Mr R Garvie which would be discussed under the Resources Committee minutes of 25 June 2014.

7. MINUTES TO NOTE

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings be noted:

Planning Committee	30 April 2014
Planning Committee	4 June 2014
Licensing Sub-Committee	16 June 2014

8. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25 JUNE 2014

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 25 June 2014 were received.

Councillor Henley made reference to minute 7 – Town and Country Planning Act Section 106 project update. He thanked members for the allocation of funding for the refurbishment of the car park at Olympic Way which was complete and had been gratefully received in his ward.

Councillor Maguire made reference to minute 10 - review of polling districts and polling places. He spoke in relation to the proposal that residents of John Lea Estate (part of the new Irchester ward) would vote at the Cemetery Chapel in Doddington Road. He did not feel that this was suitable and requested that an alternative polling place be found. Councillor Carr also endorsed this comment.

Councillor Bell responded, stating that the Returning Officer would be asked to investigate whether an alternative option was available.

Councillor Bell referred to Item 12 – Allocations process for voluntary sector grants. The membership for the working party would be Councillors Bell, Graves, Morrall and G Lawman from the Conservative group with Councillor Scarborough confirming that Councillor Elliott would be the Labour group nomination.

The Mayor asked if the speakers would like to address the meeting on minute 17 – Glamis Hall.

Mrs Saunders informed the meeting that her mother attended Glamis Hall and that she had various concerns over its closure. She considered that Glamis Hall, and the staff working there, were best placed to deal with her mother's various health and personal needs and that the closure of this facility would be devastating for all the elderly people who attended. She believed that the care and skills of the staff saved lives. She reminded members of the promise she felt had been made in November 2011 that the day centre would remain open and called for this to be honoured and that the building not be closed before November 2015. She believed this would enable work to be carried out to find a sustainable solution to the provision of this day care service.

Mr Garvie addressed the meeting. He considered that the closure of the day centre was not acceptable and called for a reprieve and to honour the pledge he considered had been made in November 2011 to keep the centre open until November 2015. He also asked if the 'building report' could be published. He suggested that consideration be given to rebuilding on the current site and that such a building should include facilities for the elderly along with a function room, bar, kitchen area and improved changing facilities to cater for various user groups. He also considered that the county council should be approached with a request that they provide funding for the care of the elderly.

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

Councillor Gough commented on the dedicated team of officers who were doing their utmost to provide the service users with an alternative solution for their needs. The reason for the decision being made to close the hall was due to the poor state of the building: investigations indicated that it was no longer fit for purpose and the council would incur huge costs for improvements. He considered that the resolution of the Resources Committee to close Glamis Hall from January 2015 was the right one.

Councillor Blackwell spoke about the first class service provided by the exceptional staff at Glamis Hall and how important this was for elderly people living in the town and villages across the borough. The staff had years of experience and their skills enabled the elderly and vulnerable to get out of their homes and mix with other people. He considered that proper alternative provision needed to be made available for the users before any decision on the closure of the hall was authorised.

Councillor Emerson also expressed concern regarding meeting the needs of the current users. The hall was used, not just for social gatherings, but for care purposes such as bathing and personal needs, including the provision of food. In effect this council was doing the county council's job for them. He considered that this should all be taken into account when finding alternative service provision.

Councillor Watts asked if there were any figures indicating how many minors were also carers in the borough.

Councillor Scarborough commented that the Labour group accepted that there were serious issues with the Glamis Hall building. He referred to the work that had been undertaken by the Glamis Hall Working Party and considered that the action taken at the Resources Committee had been appropriate. He did, however, reiterate the need to ensure that the stakeholders be liaised with individually so that proper care provision was provided for each individual's needs. He requested that officers hold meetings with each user and their family to ensure that the right support was available. These care packages needed to be in place before any closure happened. Members were expecting a report on the findings of the officers at the Resources Committee meeting to be held on 17 September 2014 and this would be in the public domain.

Councillor Graves had listened to the debate, and appreciated that this was an emotional subject. He clarified that the Glamis Hall Working Party, which was a cross-party group, had been trying for three years to find a solution to the building problems at the hall. Various options had been thoroughly discussed, including retendering for the service, as well as renovation of the building or rebuilding, which would involve the relocation of users while work was in progress. There were three officers working with Age UK, the 170 users and their families on alternative provision; some had already found alternative support that they were happy with. The centre had originally been used as day care for social interaction and lunches but the care needs had changed considerably and the centre was no longer suitable for the current

needs of the users, with a number suffering from dementia. The staff had worked brilliantly, adapting their working patterns to the changing needs of the users but Glamis Hall was no longer a suitable building for this provision. He also referred to a previous facility at Queens Hall which had been closed some years ago.

The leader thanked the speakers, and fellow councillors for the lengthy debate and the comments that had been made. He responded to the comments, reiterating that the working party had worked tirelessly to find a solution to the issues with the building which was no longer fit for purpose and which needed a considerable amount of money spent on it: money that the council did not have. He also paid tribute to the outstanding staff who worked at Glamis Hall and the care they provided.

He also reminded members of the discussions in November 2011 when the Resources Committee resolved that “the services currently provided at Glamis Hall be retained in the short term whilst officers pursue other possibilities for cost savings”. Members had not specified how long the building should be kept open, but needed sufficient time to investigate other options. All possibilities had been considered by the spring of 2014, which had resulted in the report to Resources Committee with the recommendations of the working party to close the building.

A copy of the building report would be made available on the council website, although he cautioned that the report was two years old and facts and figures would have changed since publication.

The council’s main focus and prime concern was to find alternative service provision for the users. He emphasised that the council was not abandoning users; individual assessments were being carried out with a view to finding the best possible alternative provision to suit individual needs.

This work would be carried out during the summer and a follow up report would be presented to the Resources Committee in September when the meeting would be open to the public to attend. He would personally be holding meetings with the ‘Save Glamis Hall for All’ committee and others during the next weeks.

It had been hard to reach the decision to close Glamis Hall from 1 January 2015 but after much consideration there had been no alternative. The way forward was to protect the users and ensure that they received the best possible care provision.

(Councillor Partridge-Underwood returned to the meeting.)

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the contents of the Treasury Annual Report and outturn position be noted;

- (ii) the changes to the credit worthiness policy contained in the investment strategy previously agreed by council in April 2014 be approved;
- (iii) the increase to the Lloyds Bank total investment limit to £6m be approved;
- (iv) the proposed polling districts and polling places be published for the new wards in the borough, as detailed in the report;
- (v) consultation commence on the new polling districts and polling places by the adoption of the terms of reference and the publication of the formal notice of review;
- (vi) a future report be made to Resources Committee to consider representations received during the review.
- (vii) Councillor Bell, Elliott, Graves, G Lawman and Morrall be appointed to the Allocation of Voluntary Sector Grants Working Party;
- (viii) the minutes of the Resources Committee of 25 June 2014 be adopted.

9. AUDIT COMMITTEE – 8 JULY 2014

The minutes of the Audit Committee of 8 July 2014 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

10. PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 8 JULY 2014

The minutes of the Partnerships and Performance Committee of 8 July 2014 were received.

Members made reference to minute 3 – Annual review of Wellingborough Norse Ltd. Views were expressed over the performance targets for waste and the need to increase the level of recycling. There appeared to be issues with people knowing what went in which bin. One incorrect item would mean that the whole bin was contaminated and that it would need to go to landfill. Previously food waste recycling had been rejected. It was believed that there was a need for an education programme to encourage residents to ensure that waste was put in the correct bin and that performance targets needed to be increased to encourage more waste to be recycled.

RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

11. COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

RESOLVED that the following be approved:

Standing Committees and Advisory Groups

Crematorium Advisory Group - Councillor Carr be appointed thereto.

Outside Organisations

Joint Health Scrutiny -

Councillor Graves be appointed instead of Councillor Bass

Wellingborough Homes Board -

Councillor Gough be appointed instead of Councillor Graves

Kettering General Hospital Foundation Trust -

It be noted that there was no longer a requirement for a council representative to be nominated.

12. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND/OR MOTIONS

- (a) The annexed circulated motion had been received in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Forum.

The following was proposed by Councillor Elliott and seconded by Councillor Emerson:

- (i) there be an elected member's presence on the Health and Wellbeing Forum and that this should be included in the official appointments of elected members to outside bodies;
- (ii) in line with the good practice in other parts of the county, the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Forum as they relate to the borough should clearly reflect the statutory and other core activities of the council and that regular reports should be made to the Services Committee with recommendations for prioritising the allocation of council resources, including grants to the voluntary sector.

Councillor Bell proposed an amendment to the above which was seconded by Councillor Hollyman that the words following 'Services Committee' be deleted. The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting and this was declared carried.

This became the substantive motion and was put to the vote and declared carried.

It was also proposed by Councillor Bell that Councillor Graves be appointed to the Health and Wellbeing Forum as council representative; this was seconded by Councillor Scarborough and on being put to the vote was declared carried.

- (b) Question from Councillor G Lawman

The following question was asked by Councillor G Lawman:

"Members may be aware that a group of eight traveller vans entered Castle Fields on Thursday evening at about 9.00pm.

"Does the leader wish to join me in congratulating our officers for their prompt action, in partnership with the County Traveller Unit, over the eviction by 10.00am on Saturday, and Wellingborough Norse for ensuring the site was immediately cleared of any rubbish and in the pristine state we would want

one of our parks to be in for residents to enjoy – particularly as this is Love Parks Week?

“Does he agree that this was all the more commendable when considering that the eviction was on a Saturday morning and over the same weekend that Norse were arranging the very successful Big Tidy Up in Croyland Gardens and Park?”

Councillor Bell confirmed that he wished congratulations to be extended to officers and Wellingborough Norse and that they be commended for the action taken at Castle Fields.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) there be an elected member’s presence on the Health and Wellbeing Forum and that this should be included in the official appointments of elected members to outside bodies;
- (ii) that in line with the good practice in other parts of the county, the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Forum as they relate to the borough should clearly reflect the statutory and other core activities of the council and that regular reports should be made to the Services Committee;
- (iii) Councillor Graves be appointed as the council’s representative on the Health and Wellbeing Forum;
- (iv) thanks be extended to officers and Wellingborough Norse and they be commended for the prompt action taken at Castle Fields.

13. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor addressed the meeting in relation to the following:

- Congratulations were extended to Councillor Scarborough on his appointment as Chairman of the Board of Governors at Northampton University;
- On 16 July, the Mayor had been delighted to welcome ‘Pudsey’ the dog and his owner Ashleigh Butler to the Mayor’s Parlour. They had been given the freedom of the town for the day;
- The Pensioners Bowls match had taken place on 16 July 2014 and had been enjoyed by all;
- The ‘Green Mile’ clean up from the Tithe Barn to Croyland Park had been organised by Wellingborough Norse and McDonalds. Along the way, the area of park through the town was litter picked, the brook cleared of rubbish, and the changing rooms painted.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.