

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2016**

Present: The Mayor, Councillor M Waters and Councillors Abram, Allebone, Anslow, Aslam, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Carr, Ekins, Francis, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Hallam, Harrington, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Maguire, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Scanlon, Scarborough, Simmons, Skittrall, Stevenson, Walia, Ward and V Waters.

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

A minutes silence was observed following the death of former councillor and Mayor Mr John Jessop.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bone, Emerson, Henley, Watts and York.

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 following declarations were made.

Name of Councillor	Item	Interest
Graves	Resources Committee 21 September 2016 Minute 8 - The efficiency plan and key projects update.	DPI - is chairman/board member of Wellingborough Bereavement Services Ltd.
G Lawman	Services Committee 27 September 2016 Minute 5 - Anti-Social Crime and Policing Act 2014.	Other – board member of Wellingborough Homes as council representative.
Maguire	Resources Committee 21 September 2016 Minute 8 - The efficiency plan and key projects update.	DPI - board member of Wellingborough Bereavement Services Ltd.

3. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Barbara Bailey to her first council meeting following her election as borough councillor for Finedon Ward.

4. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 26 JULY 2016

The minutes of the council meeting held on 26 July 2016 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on 26 July 2016 be confirmed and signed, subject to the date of Councillor J Bailey's death being corrected to 11 July 2016.

5. QUESTIONS/PETITIONS/REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

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

6. MINUTES TO NOTE

The minutes of the following meetings were received to note:

Planning Committee	13 July 2016
Planning Committee	10 August 2016
Planning Committee	14 September 2016
Licensing Sub-Committee	21 July 2016(1)
Licensing Sub-Committee	21 July 2016(2)
Licensing Sub-Committee	23 September 2016

The minutes of the Standards Assessment Sub-Committee of 8 August 2016 were also received and noted subject to the inclusion of Councillor Maguire in the membership of the meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meetings be noted.

7. AUDIT COMMITTEE – 13 SEPTEMBER 2016

The minutes of the Audit Committee of 13 September 2016 were received.

Councillors Aslam and Simmons praised the officers and auditors for their excellent work in completing the audit and achieving the deadline date. Members noted that the audit timescales for future years may result in additional staffing pressures.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee of 13 September 2016 be adopted.

8. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

The minutes of the Development Committee of 19 September 2016 were received.

Councillor G Lawman made reference to minute 4 – Croyland Gardens play equipment and the removal of the sound cushions; he asked when they would be relocated and what would be put in their place.

The chairman, Councillor Carr, responded confirming that relocation was expected to take place during the week commencing 7 November 2016. An alternative piece of play equipment would replace the sound cushions and a date for this installation was awaited.

Reference was also made to minute 6 – new market layout proposals and a question was asked about when the work on phase one would commence.

The chairman clarified that this would commence in November, subject to the availability of the electricians, and would be in place before the Christmas trading period.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Development Committee of 19 September 2016 be adopted.

9. REPORT OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 21 SEPTEMBER 2016

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 21 September 2016 were received.

The leader of the council, Councillor Griffiths, also welcomed Councillor Bailey to her first council meeting as a member of the borough council and wished her well in her new role.

Reference was made to minute 6 – capital programme monitoring.

Councillor Scarborough proposed an amendment to the recommendation within the minutes as follows:

“that approval be given ‘in principle’ to funding of £300,000 being provided for the installation of a new 3G football pitch and floodlighting.”

He considered that by removing the recommendation that the 3G pitch be located at Redwell Leisure Centre, there would be more openings available to explore alternative locations. The majority of pitches in other boroughs were located at school premises to ensure full use of the facility during the day as well as in the evenings. Location at a school would also give the opportunity for partnership working.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Anslow, who agreed that a 3G pitch was desirable but felt the location needed to be carefully considered to ensure full use and opportunities for all.

A number of other councillors, whilst fully supportive of the need for a 3G pitch, expressed their concern about the location and considered that further thought should be given, with suggestions that a more rural location be looked at to serve the needs of the whole borough.

Concern was also expressed about the future financing of the maintenance of the 3G pitch during its anticipated lifetime of around ten years along with the requirement for members to be presented with a full business plan.

Many other councillors also fully supported the need for a 3G pitch and considered Redwell Leisure Centre to be the ideal location particularly with the new developments at Stanton Cross and Glenville Park coming forward. The centre was accessible and had adequate parking facilities, it had also been recommended by the Football Foundation (FF) as a suitable location.

The chairman thanked members for the interesting debate and referred to the report to the Services Committee in March 2016 in which full details of the maintenance costs and upkeep of the pitch had been outlined and discussed. The reasons why the FF had considered the location as being the most suitable were also set out in the report. In the chairman's opinion this 3G pitch would bring a much needed facility to the borough to meet the huge demand from disability sports, walking football and general sport. He considered that a decision on this needed to be made to ensure that the match funding was received.

Councillor Scarborough responded to the comments made, agreeing that he also wished to see at least one 3G pitch in the borough. He was still unclear about the costs and future maintenance and felt that a further business plan should be presented before a commitment was made to Redwell Leisure Centre.

The mayor put Councillor Scarborough's amendment to the vote.

The amendment was declared lost with 10 votes in favour, 14 against and three abstentions.

The substantive recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried.

Councillor Carr made reference to minute 7 - Voluntary and Community sector funding and thanked the working group for the allocation of funding for small community grants which was most welcome.

Councillor Scarborough made reference to the paragraph in minute 7 that referred to the changing needs of the community and asked that this reference be directly linked to homelessness and the Daylight Centre; and the

advice services provided by the Free Impartial Support and Help shop (FISH) located in Cambridge Street.

Members referred to the Daylight Centre and the work it was doing with providing meals and food parcels for the increasing number of those in need. To continue to provide this important service additional funding would be required.

Whilst the council fully supported the work carried out by the Daylight Centre members were reminded that the continuing reliance on council funding was no longer sustainable and the centre may need to consider alternative means of funding.

The chairman thanked members for their comments and reiterated the excellent work carried out by the Daylight Centre. The working party would be meeting in the near future and could consider the points made.

(Councillors Graves and Maguire left the meeting during the item relating to Wellingborough Bereavement Services Ltd.).

RESOLVED that approval be given to:

- (i) a supplementary estimate of £19,000 being funded from reserves in order to complete the new market layout as outlined in the report to the Development Committee of 19 September 2016;
- (ii) Wollaston Household Recycling Centre remaining open for a further six months, revenue funding of £45,000, being allocated and the Chief Executive being asked to write to parish councils to see if they would reconsider contributing to the cost in the future;
- (iii) the funding of £300,000 being provided, in principle, for the installation of a new 3G football pitch and floodlights at Redwell Leisure Centre, as detailed in the report to Resources Committee;
- (iv) £17,000 of capital funding being allocated to complete the new market layout as reported to the Development Committee on 19 September 2016;
- (v) the use of capital receipts outlined in the report and the Head of Finance being authorised to submit a request for the flexible use of capital receipts to the DCLG;
- (vi) the Head of Finance submitting to DCLG a request for the four year funding settlement as detailed in the report to Resources Committee of 21 September 2016;
- (vii) the setting of ancillary sales prices for its business be delegated to the Board of Wellingborough Bereavement Services Ltd.
- (viii) the adoption of the minutes of the Resources Committee held on 21 September 2016.

(Councillors Graves and Maguire re-joined the meeting.)

10. PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE - 26 SEPTEMBER 2016

The circulated minutes of the Partnerships and Performance Committee of 26 September 2016 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnerships and Performance Committee of 26 September 2016 be adopted.

11. SERVICES COMMITTEE - 27 SEPTEMBER 2016

The minutes of the Services Committee of 27 September 2016 were received.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the terms of reference for Services Committee be approved;
- (ii) the new powers available to the council to tackle anti-social behaviour be noted;
- (iii) such powers be delegated, as required, to the Chief Executive or any one of the Heads of Service to implement the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour and Policing Act 2014 as detailed in the report to Services Committee;
- (iv) the fixed penalty levels in use across the county as recommended through the countywide ASB and hate crime group be noted and adopted;
- (v) the powers relating to private sector housing as detailed in the report to Services Committee of 27 September 2016 be delegated to the Head of Planning and Local Development
- (vi) the minutes of the Services Committee held on 27 September 2016 be adopted.

12. ABSENCE FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF COUNCILLOR M YORK

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received to seek approval to the absence of Councillor Martyn York from council and committee meetings pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor York is a member of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF) and has been called on a nine month tour of duty until 31 March 2017. He will therefore be unable to attend council and committee meetings.

Members commended Councillor York's commitment as a reservist; they fully supported him in carrying out his duties and wished him a safe tour.

RESOLVED to note and approve the absence of Councillor Martyn York from council and committee meetings until 31 March 2017.

13. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE

The annexed circulated report of the Chief Executive was received in relation to the conservative group's nominations to committees, working groups, advisory panels and outside organisations following the election of Councillor Barbara Bailey to the ward of Finedon.

The leader of the council, Councillor Griffiths, proposed the following nominations, which were seconded by Councillor Partridge-Underwood:

- Councillor L Lawman be appointed to Resources Committee;
- Councillor B Bailey be appointed to Development Committee;
- Councillor K Harrington be appointed as chairman of Audit Committee;
- Councillor B Skittrall be appointed to the Constitution Working Party;
- Councillor B Bailey be appointed to the Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) Liaison Group as Finedon ward representative;
- Councillor U Patel be appointed to the Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) Liaison Group as Rixon ward representative in place of Councillor L Lawman;
- Councillor J P Carr be appointed as lead adviser for heritage;
- Councillor P Morrall be appointed to Dulley's Baths Management Committee;

On being put to the vote this motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Councillor L Lawman be appointed to Resources Committee;
- (ii) Councillor B Bailey be appointed to Development Committee;
- (iii) Councillor K Harrington be appointed as chairman of Audit Committee;
- (iv) Councillor B Skittrall be appointed to the Constitution Working Party;
- (v) Councillor B Bailey be appointed to the Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) Liaison Group as Finedon ward representative;
- (vi) Councillor U Patel be appointed to the Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) Liaison Group as Rixon ward representative in place of Councillor L Lawman;
- (vii) Councillor J P Carr be appointed as lead adviser for heritage;
- (viii) Councillor P Morrall be appointed to Dulley's Baths Management Committee;

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

There being no further business the mayor closed the meeting.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPOOL HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016**

Present: The Deputy Mayor, Councillor B Graves and Councillors Aslam, Bailey, Beirne, Bone, Ekins, Emerson, Gough, Griffiths, Hallam, Harrington, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Maguire, Patel, Scanlon, Scarborough, Skittrall, Stevenson, Ward and Watts.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Abram, Allebone, Anslow, Bell, Carr, Francis, Henley, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Simmons, M Waters, V Waters, Walia and York.

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. REPORT ON THE ICT STRATEGY

The annexed circulated exempt report of the Head of Finance was received on the ICT strategy which was appended to the report.

The report detailed the current arrangements that had been in place for a number of years and listed the strengths and weakness in such existing arrangements.

Of particular concern was the following:

- PSN compliance and IT security requirements;
- Poor disaster recovery and business continuity arrangements;
- The time spent on housekeeping and troubleshooting;
- The duplication of work and inconsistency across the two sites;
- Lack of development of the service to move forward with technology opportunities.

The key aims of the strategy were as follows:

- To make the ICT infrastructure simpler, more reliable and secure with flexibility built in, to adapt to changes in the council and how the ICT service is delivered;

- To focus on business improvement, rather than housekeeping and troubleshooting;
- To introduce new governance arrangements to simplify management processes and decision-making within the ICT service;
- To adopt common processes and improve efficiency;
- To save money and establish better control and value for money from future investment.

The main focus of the strategy related to security and business continuity. Much of the existing ICT infrastructure would need migrating to an external data centre with some of the existing software systems moving to external providers. This would reduce the need for on-site maintenance and management of the infrastructure and systems.

Details of the key elements of the strategy were also referred to along with the management of the project and of the ICT service going forward, including all the legal and financial implications.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Griffiths, proposed that the motion be put to:

- agree the ICT Strategy;
- agree that the implementation costs be added to the capital programme;

This was seconded by Councillor Beirne.

Councillor Scarborough proposed an amendment to the proposition as follows:

- to agree the ICT Strategy;
- to agree that the implementation cost of £450,000 be added to the capital programme.

Councillor Griffiths seconded this amendment.

On being put to the vote this was agreed and became the substantive motion.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the practicalities of transferring the data, the timescale, costings, security of data centres, the need for a member ICT champion and a request that they be regularly informed of developments. They also agreed that a modern fit for purpose ICT strategy was a good way forward giving a clear direction and significant revenue savings.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillor G Lawman abstained from voting.)

RESOLVED that the:

- (i) ICT strategy be approved;
- (ii) Implementation costs of £450,000 be added to the capital programme.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8pm.

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2016**

Present: The Mayor, Councillor M Waters, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Graves, and Councillors Allebone, Bailey, Bell, Carr, Ekins, Emerson, Gough, Griffiths, Hallam, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Partridge-Underwood, Simmons, Scarborough, Skittrall, Stevenson, Ward and V Waters.

Officers present: Mr J T Campbell, Chief Executive, Mrs B Gamble, Head of Resources, Mr G Hollands, Solicitor, District Law, Miss K Denton, Principal Corporate Support Manager, Mr S Whiteley, Electoral Services Team Leader, Mr G Betts, Mayor's Sergeant and Mrs C A Mundy, Democratic Services Officer.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Abram, Anslow, Aslam, Beirne, Bone, Harrington, Maguire, Patel, Scanlon, Walia, Watts and York.

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 following declaration was made:

Name of Councillor	Item	Interest
Gough	3 – Review of Parliamentary boundaries 2016	Other – is employed by the Member of Parliament for Corby – will speak but won't vote.

3. REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARIES 2016

The annexed circulated exempt report of the Head of Resources was received to consider the council's response to the review of parliamentary boundary proposals made by the Boundary Commission for England, the response to which required submission by 5 December 2016.

The report detailed the proposals contained within the review, which would have a significant effect on the constituents of the existing Wellingborough Constituency. The criteria used by the boundary commission along with a map showing the proposed boundary for the Wellingborough Constituency were appended to the report.

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) had set a target whereby each MP should represent approximately equal numbers of electors within the range 71,031 to 78,507 per constituency.

The BCE had focused on four criteria in the decision making process as follows:

- Special geographical consideration, including the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- Local government boundaries as they existed on 7 May 2015;
- Boundaries of existing constituencies;
- Local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.

The report referred to the issues of concern that had been raised on each of these, and on which members elaborated during the meeting.

Accessibility would become an issue for many residents; residents of Earls Barton had already expressed their concern at being part of the Daventry constituency; to become part of Lutterworth would feel even more remote particularly as it was out of county.

With regard to the boundaries of existing constituencies, the borough of Wellingborough would experience the most change in the whole of Northamptonshire, with five wards being 'given away' and the borough being divided into four constituencies. This would potentially mean that issues in the borough could require the involvement of four Members of Parliament.

Members asserted that, by dividing the borough into four, many local ties would be broken. Finedon and villages to the north are very close to the Wellingborough town boundary, and new developments to the east and north of the town would result in neighbours being represented by different MPs. Harrowden and Sywell/Earls Barton wards would be represented by an MP whose base was likely to be in another county. Wollaston and Bozeat would be some distance from the centre of Northampton South constituency, despite being closer to Wellingborough.

The report detailed the areas that would be affected and the impact this would have:

- Finedon ward would become part of the proposed Kettering parliamentary constituency;
- Harrowden and Sywell ward would become part of the proposed Daventry and Lutterworth constituency;
- Wollaston and Bozeat wards would become part of the proposed Northampton South constituency;
- Irthlingborough Waterloo and Irthlingborough John Pyel wards would become part of the proposed Wellingborough constituency.

The leader of the council opened the report for debate.

A lengthy discussion ensued with members raising their concerns for their individual wards and for the borough in general.

Such concerns included the following:

- The lack of logic in moving Finedon ward to Kettering constituency and replacing it with wards from Irthlingborough;
- Earls Barton and Harrowden & Sywell wards potentially having an MP based in Lutterworth;
- There would be four separate constituencies for the borough.
- Constituents in Earls Barton already experienced confusion as they had an MP based in Daventry when they considered themselves to be part of Wellingborough.
- There was no interaction with Daventry on any level by the constituents of Harrowden and Sywell or Earls Barton.
- There was a natural gravitation to Wellingborough, and the villages within the borough needed to remain in the Wellingborough constituency.
- Residents of Bozeat and Wollaston had no natural links to Northampton south and should remain as part of Wellingborough.
- Councillors understood that each constituency needed to be of similar numbers; however they considered that the suggestions were unworkable and would split communities and create too much confusion. They considered that the changes were very damaging and there were better options that could be considered. Care also needed to be taken with regard to geographical areas, including schools and potential splitting of areas where people living in neighbouring streets could have a different MP.
- Reference was also made to the changes that had taken place with county council electoral divisions at the last review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, and had not been taken into account by the BCE at the current review;
- Members felt strongly that people and communities wanted to remain together. Bozeat, Wollaston and the other villages had nothing in common with Northampton South; they were part of the borough of Wellingborough and wished to remain in the Wellingborough constituency.

The leader of the council thanked members for the opening discussion.

He proposed that the motion contained in the report be put, together with the following additional clause:

“That this council fully supports the counter-proposal made by Northamptonshire MPs”.

Councillor Scarborough asked for exact detail of the counter-proposal.

Councillor Griffiths clarified this as follows:

Irthlingborough would remain as part of the Corby constituency;
Finedon would remain as part of the Wellingborough constituency;
Bozeat and Wollaston would also remain within the Wellingborough constituency;
Harrowden and Sywell ward would go to Daventry and Lutterworth constituency.

Councillors raised concern over this option as they considered that this did not reflect the views of local people.

The Chief Executive addressed the meeting. He concluded that some excellent points had been made during the discussion and he sought clarity from members that they wished to reject entirely the proposal.

On considering this Councillor Griffiths withdrew his original proposal and proposed that the motion be put with the addition of the following:

“That this council totally rejects the Boundary Commission for England’s proposal for the Wellingborough constituency and seeks further consideration of the entire matter.”

This was seconded by Councillor Scarborough.

On being put to the vote the motion, together with the additional clause, was unanimously declared carried.

(Councillor Gough did not vote on this item.)

RESOLVED that the following concerns be relayed to the Boundary Commission for England in relation to the review of parliamentary constituencies 2018

- (I) That this council totally rejects the Boundary Commission for England’s proposal for the Wellingborough constituency and seeks further consideration of the entire matter;
- (II) that the division of the borough of Wellingborough between four parliamentary constituencies, thus further losing the identity of the borough as a historical and well understood unit;
- (III) that the linkage of part of the borough to an area of Leicestershire, as part of an extensive rural constituency, which lacks cohesion, threatens accessibility and breaks local ties;
- (IV) The fragmenting of a long standing and understood constituency simply to accommodate numerical compliance for those around it.

Mayor

The meeting concluded at 7.55pm.