

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, MAIDSTONE ON 17 DECEMBER 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Joy (The Mayor) and Councillors Ash, Batt, Beerling, Bradshaw, Butler, Chittenden, Daley, English, Field, FitzGerald, Garland, Mrs Gibson, Gooch, Greer, Harwood, Hinder, Horne, Hotson, Lusty, Marchant, Marshall, Moriarty, Mortimer, Moss, Naghi, Nelson-Gracie, Paine, Parr, Mrs Parvin, Parvin, Paterson, Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, Robertson, Ross, Sams, Schnell, Verrall, Vizzard, Warner, Mrs Wilson, J A Wilson, J Wilson and Wooding.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs Blackmore, Mrs Hinder, Mrs Marshall, Sellar, Sherreard, Mrs Stockell and Yates.

67. **ANDREW ROWE**

The Council stood in silence for one minute in memory of Andrew Rowe, former Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid-Kent, who died in November 2008.

68. **DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

There were no disclosures by Members and Officers.

69. **DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING**

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

70. **EXEMPT ITEMS**

RESOLVED: That the items on the agenda be taken in public as proposed.

71. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Borough Council held on 24 September 2008 be approved as a correct record and

signed.

72. MAYOR'S ANNOUCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that:-

- As ever, the diary had been very busy; in particular, the Gurkha Tribute Day could not pass unmentioned. When asked "What has been the highlight of your Mayoral year so far?", the answer was always the Gurkha Tribute Day. It was indeed a memorable event for so many and Maidstone as a whole.
- The many events she had attended had been varied and enjoyable and she wished to thank everyone who had been involved in the planning and delivery of her visits.
- Her charity events, the Sunday Carvery and the Fish and Chip Supper, had been very well attended and she would like to thank Members for their support.
- She would like to thank all those who had joined her at the Mayor's Christmas Party. She also wished to thank Bethan Cox and her Team for organising the party and to say a very big thank you for her present.
- Sadly, Brian File, who would be remembered by many Members, passed away in September; he had been in hospital following an operation. Brian joined the Council in 1974 and spent much of his career as Chief Architect; his projects included the new Lenham Community Centre. He had been working as the Consultancy and Procurement Manager prior to leaving the Council in 2001.
- She wished to congratulate Russell Esgate and Nadia on the birth of their son.
- Finally, she would like to take the opportunity to wish all Members, Officers and their families a very happy and peaceful New Year.

73. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

1. Medway Valley Petition

Mrs Fran Smith presented a petition calling upon the Council to introduce, as a matter of urgency, effective planning policies to protect the skyline of the Medway Valley, retain the natural setting of the River Medway between Tovil footbridge and East Farleigh

bridge and stop any further building between the River and Glebe Lane/Gatland Lane and Upper Fant Road.

RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to the Local Development Document Advisory Group for consideration.

2. Fant Traffic Campaign

Mr Ian McDonald presented a petition calling upon Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council to make Bower Place, Upper Fant Road, Gatland Lane and Glebe Lane safer for all road users by slowing traffic down and reducing the volume of traffic using them.

RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to the Joint Transportation Board for consideration.

74. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

75. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions to the Leader of the Council

Councillor Mortimer asked questions and supplementary questions of the Leader of the Council.

The Leader of the Council responded to these questions.

Questions to Cabinet Members

Councillors Mortimer, FitzGerald and Mrs Wilson asked questions and supplementary questions of the Cabinet Member for Community Services.

The Cabinet Member for Community Services responded to these questions.

Councillors English and Parr asked questions and supplementary questions of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services responded to these questions.

Councillor Warner asked a question and a supplementary question of the Cabinet Member for Environment.

The Cabinet Member for Environment responded to these questions.

Councillor J A Wilson asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Environment.

The Cabinet Member for Environment responded to this question.

Councillor Horne asked a question and a supplementary question of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration responded to these questions.

76. CURRENT ISSUES – REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND RESPONSE OF THE GROUP LEADERS

The Leader of the Council submitted his report on current issues.

After the Leader of the Council had submitted his report, Councillor Mrs Wilson, the Leader of the Opposition, and Councillor FitzGerald, on behalf of the Leader of the Independent Group, responded to the issues raised.

The Leader of the Council then responded to the points raised by Councillors Mrs Wilson and FitzGerald.

77. ORAL REPORT OF THE CABINET

It was noted that there was no report from the Cabinet on this occasion.

78. REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 26 NOVEMBER 2008

It was moved by Councillor Marchant, seconded by Councillor Gooch, that the recommendations contained in the report of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 26 November 2008 be approved.

(1) The Role and Make-Up of Standards Committees - Recruitment of Independent Members from Another Standards Committee

Amendment moved by Councillor Warner, seconded by Councillor Mrs Wilson, that the recommendation be referred back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

The substantive motion was then put to the vote.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION CARRIED

RESOLVED: That the recommendation relating to the recruitment of Independent Members from another Standards Committee be referred back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.

(2) Review of Complaints 2007-2008

RESOLVED: That the issues outlined in the annual review of complaints 2007-2008 be noted and endorsed.

(3) Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances

Amendment moved by Councillor Marchant, seconded by Councillor Batt, that the recommendation be deleted and the following inserted:-

- (1) That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances for Maidstone Borough Council be approved with the exception of that relating to the continued non-payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to the Chairman of the Local Development Document Advisory Group; and
- (2) That the question of remuneration for the Chairman of the Local Development Document Advisory Group be referred back to the Panel for reconsideration, and that their report should be in the hands of the Standards Committee before its February meeting.

AMENDMENT LOST

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances for Maidstone Borough Council be approved.

(4) Substitute Members for Standards Committee

Amendment moved by Councillor Warner, seconded by Councillor Mrs Wilson, that the recommendation be referred back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

The substantive motion was then put to the vote.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION CARRIED

RESOLVED: That the recommendation relating to the use of Substitutes for the Standards Committee be referred back to the Standards Committee for further consideration.

79. REPORT OF THE YOUTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION REPORT

Sarah Croucher and Kate Robins, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Youth Scrutiny Committee, gave a short presentation on the Committee's report entitled "Sex and Relationships Education".

RESOLVED: That the Council supports the recommendations contained within the Youth Scrutiny Committee's report entitled "Sex and Relationships Education" and the approach for taking these recommendations forward and requests the Cabinet Member for Community Services to assist the Committee in its representations.

80. REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PARTNERSHIP MANAGER – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

It was moved by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor Mrs Wilson, that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2007-2008 be noted.

RESOLVED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2007-2008 be noted.

81. REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER – COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mortimer, that the recommendation contained in the report of the Democratic Services Manager relating to the membership of Committees be approved.

RESOLVED: That the following changes be approved to reflect the wishes of the Leader of the Conservative Group:-

Local Development Document Advisory Group

Members - Delete Councillor Lusty. Insert Councillor Sherreard.

Planning Committee

Members - Delete Councillor Sherreard. Insert Councillor Ash.

82. REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER – URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Hotson, that the report of the Democratic Services Manager setting out details of urgent decisions taken by the Executive be noted.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Democratic Services Manager setting out details of urgent decisions taken by the Executive be noted.

83. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 8.25 p.m.