

MINUTES of the MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote
on 28th February 2008
at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Bale (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Hood (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Mrs. Coyle, Mrs. Farrington, Grant, Hewlett, Jones, Lemmon, Murray, Mrs. Patten, Roberts, Stanton, Timms, Watson, Mrs. Wheeler and Wheeler.

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Lane, Mrs. Mead, Pabla, Rhind, Richards, Shepherd, Southerd, Taylor, Tilley and Wilkins.

Independent Member

Councillor Mrs. Brown.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Ford, Harrison and Mrs. Plenderleith (Conservative Group) and Councillor Bambrick (Labour Group).

CL/110. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th January 2008 (Minutes Nos. CL/97 – CL/107) were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

(Minute No. CL/106 – Councillor Richards referred to the Review of Members' Allowances, particularly about a statement made by the Chairman of Finance and Management Committee at its Meeting on 19th February 2008. Councillor Wheeler responded as the Vice-Chairman of that Committee. He reminded Members of the consideration of this report from the Independent Remuneration Panel at various meetings and he spoke about previous allowance schemes. Councillor Southerd requested an update on the pension aspects. Officers were still pursuing best practice information, which would be reported to Members as soon as possible. Under Minute No. CL/100, Councillor Lane requested that Members have sight of the response submitted about the closure of certain post offices in South Derbyshire.

CL/111. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman presented a paperweight to Mr. George Constantinou in recognition of the national award he had just won in the "Fish and Chip Shop of the Year" competition. Congratulations were also received from a local Member, Councillor Southerd and the Chief Executive. A presentation was also made to Mr. Stefan Kruczkowski, a Planning Officer who had won a

national prize from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. The Chairman sent Members' best wishes for a speedy recovery to Councillor Harrison following his recent hip operation.

An updated map was displayed, showing those locations that the Chairman had attended for Civic events. Recently, he had attended the re-launch of the Charity Appeal for the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance, at the Pingle School. He had judged the cub scouts cooking competition at Willington and presented the Child of the Year Award at the Burton Mail New Year Honours Dinner. The Chairman noted that Councillor Mrs. Farrington had received an award on behalf of the Swadlincote 50+ Group and he congratulated her on this. The Chairman thanked Members for supporting his Civic Dinner, which would be held on 8th March 2008 at the Pavilion, Branston Golf and Country Club. He also referred to his attendance at Swimming Club Awards and a recent visit to one of the Council's elderly citizens.

CL/112. **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader added her congratulations to Mr. Constantinou and Mr. Kruczkowski. South Derbyshire residents had been presented with awards at three different award ceremonies held recently, which she gave details of. The Leader referred to a grant received from the East Midlands Development Agency for £400,000 for the Rosliston Forestry Centre, which would continue tourism development in that area.

Under Minute No. CL/94 of 20th December 2007, a Motion was approved regarding the licensing of residential caravan sites. The Leader of the Council provided an update, reporting a reply from Iain Wright, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for DCLG. The Council would continue to lobby on this matter and further reports would be submitted. Finally, the Leader provided an update about the Grovewood "Eco" town development. Correspondence had been sent to the Housing Minister and the Leader referred to a petition submitted. It was hoped these would be taken on board when the Government made its decision on this matter the following week.

CL/113. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED:-

That the Open reports of the following Committees be received and noted and any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted:-

Environmental and Development Services Committee (Special), 8th January 2008 (Minute No. EDS/37)
(Councillor Southerd reported dog fouling problems in George Street, Church Gresley and on an access to the Pennine Way Junior School. Whilst praising the Clean Team for clearing these sites, problems did occur frequently. He referred to a recent statement by Councillor Lucas of Derbyshire County Council on the use of DNA testing to secure prosecutions for certain offences. He questioned whether this could be used for dog fouling. The Chairman of the Committee noted that the community wardens could issue fixed penalty fines. However, public support was needed to identify problem areas, so patrols could be

targeted. The Chief Executive agreed to investigate this request and would respond to Members.)

Housing and Community Services Committee (Special), 10th January 2008 (Minutes Nos. HCS/55- HCS/56)

(Minute No. HCS/55 – Councillor Rhind referred to the recent vandalism at the Maurice Lea Memorial Park and he questioned how the Council would respond to such criminal activity. The Chairman of the Committee was unable to give an answer to this question at the present time. Councillor Southerd added that previously, the gates to the Maurice Lea Memorial Park had been locked over night. He sought legal advice on the implications of re-introducing such a period of closure. The Chief Executive duly replied, also advising that this land was included within the Commons Registration Scheme. He spoke about enforcement, which would have to be through the Council's Wardens. There would also be a need to research if there were any restrictions or covenants in the documents that transferred this land to the Council. With Members' approval he offered to research this matter. Councillor Richards requested that this suggestion be extended to include the Council's cemeteries.)

Finance and Management Committee (Special), 17th January 2008 (Minutes Nos. FM/99 – FM/104)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 23rd January 2008 (Minutes Nos. OS/37 – OS/38)

Finance and Management Committee (Special), 28th January 2008 (Minute No. FM/106)

Environmental and Development Services Committee, 31st January 2008 (Minutes Nos. EDS/38- EDS/42)

(Minute No. EDS/38 – Councillor Taylor commented that he had made positive responses on this item, about the works undertaken in Swadlincote Town Centre. He sought a positive approach to progress the Town Centre Master Plan and the Chairman confirmed the sentiments expressed by Councillor Taylor at this Meeting.)

Development Control Committee, 5th February 2008 (Minutes Nos. DC/88- DC/94)

Housing and Community Services Committee, 7th February 2008 (Minutes Nos. HCS/58 – HCS/65)

(Minute No. HCS/61 – Councillor Mrs. Brown felt that her contribution to this item had been omitted. She felt that her concerns were vital for the future scrutiny of this item and she referred particularly to a discussion about liaison on stock transfer. The Chairman of the Committee replied that Minutes were prepared in accordance with the Council's custom and practice. The Chief Executive confirmed that the record showed the decision reached; they were not verbatim minutes. On stock transfer, the Chairman of the Committee confirmed this was a positive response and there were no plans for such transfer at this time.

Councillor Richards noted that Vicki Taylor-Stokes had recently left the Housing Service. He wished to pass on Members' thanks for her excellent service, which the Chief Executive agreed to do.

Minute No. HCS/63 – Councillor Lane questioned how many properties would benefit from the investment in private sector housing, under additional affordable housing investment priority 3. He asked where these properties were located and what were the budget issues. The Chairman of the Committee replied that there were some 450 private sector houses that needed to be upgraded to the “decent homes” standard. There would be a need to work with private sector landlords, if they were willing. He also spoke about the merits of the scheme, if the Council could secure nomination rights.)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 13th February 2008 (Minutes Nos. OS/40 – OS/45)

Finance and Management Committee, 19th February 2008 (Minutes Nos. FM/107 – FM/120)

Area Meetings

Etwall, 21st January 2008 (Minutes Nos. EA/10 – EA/15)

Melbourne, 22nd January 2008 (Minutes Nos. MA/10 – MA/15)

Newhall, 23rd January 2008 (Minutes Nos. NA/9 – NA/14)

(Minute No. NA/12 – It was requested that the Clean Team remove litter from school premises at Sunnyside, Newhall, following the matter being raised at the Newhall Area Meeting. The Chief Executive agreed to pursue this.)

Repton, 29th January 2008 (Minutes Nos. RA/10 – RA/16)

Swadlincote, 30th January 2008 (Minutes Nos. SA/10 – SA/15)

Linton, 6th February 2008 (Minutes Nos. LA/12 – LA/17)

CL/114. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED:-

That the sealed documents listed at Annexe “SMB1” to the Signed Minute Book, which have no specific authority, be duly authorised.

CL/115. COMPOSITIONS OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PANELS

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor R. Lane be appointed to the Community Partnerships Scheme Assessment Panel.

CL/116. **COMPOSITION OF SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Richards be appointed to the Substitute Panel for the Environmental and Development Services Committee.

CL/117. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Dunn referred to the Coalfield Communities Campaign (more recently known as the Coalfield Communities Alliance). He sought confirmation that the District Council was still represented on this organisation. The Leader of the Council agreed to confirm the position before the next Council Meeting.

CL/118. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985**

RESOLVED:-

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as indicated in the reports of Committees.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th January 2008 were duly received and approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Exempt reports of the following Committees were received and noted and any recommendations contained therein approved and adopted:-

Housing and Community Services Committee (Special), 10th January 2008

Finance and Management Committee (Special), 17th January 2008

Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 23rd January 2008

Development Control Committee, 5th February 2008

Housing and Community Services Committee, 7th February 2008

Finance and Management Committee, 19th February 2008

M. J. P. BALE

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COUNCIL CLERK

