

MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote
on 3rd August 2009
at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

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

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Lane, Mrs. Mead, Rhind, Richards, Southerd, Taylor and Tilley.

Independent Members

Councillors Mrs. Brown and Pabla.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Harrison, Jones and Mrs. Plenderleith (Conservative Group) and Councillors Shepherd and Wilkins. (Labour Group).

CL/40. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chief Executive had circulated information from the Improvement and Development Agency regarding the Swine Flu Pandemic. He advised that three staff briefings had also been held.

CL/41. **POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

A report had been circulated on the Council's political proportionality, following the resignation of Councillor Pabla from the Labour Group. The legislative background was prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as modified by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The report and associated schedule set out the revised political composition of the Council and explained the requirements on the Council in determining political proportionality. The Council's Monitoring Officer provided information on the previous Counsel's opinion on the application of political proportionality rules to Independent / non-grouped Members and on the further advice sought following the deferral of this matter at the Council Meeting held on 9th July 2009. Relevant sections of the later advice were included within the report.

Several Members spoke to this item, the first expressing disquiet at the proposals submitted to the previous Council Meeting. Reference was made to the Counsel's opinion and to the democratic rights of Independent Members.

In response to a question, information was provided on the cost of Counsel's opinion. Further reference was made to the Regulations and available guidance. It was confirmed that the Council took legal advice and acted upon it.

RESOLVED:-

That the allocation of seats to the Political Groups and the Independent Members attached at Annexe 'A' to these Minutes be approved.

CL/42. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PANELS 2009/10**

The Council reviewed the composition of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for 2009/10. A verbal update was provided to amend the document. A Member expressed concern over her removal from the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee, to which a reply was provided.

RESOLVED:-

That the nominations of Members to serve on Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for the remainder of the 2009/10 Municipal Year, as set out at Annexe 'B' to these Minutes, be received and noted.

CL/43. **COMPOSITIONS OF SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

RESOLVED:-

That the Group nominations of Members to serve on Substitute Panels, as set out at Annexe 'C' to these Minutes, be received and noted.

CL/44. **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2009/10**

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That Councillor Lemmon be re-appointed as the Council's representative on the Sir John Port and John Osbourne Almshouses, Etwall for a further period of four years.***
- (2) That the schedule of Outside Bodies be updated to include the Supporting People Commissioning Body for Derbyshire and related sub-groups and that the Chairman of the Housing and Community Services Committee be confirmed as the Council's representative on these bodies.***

P. MURRAY

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 6.25 p.m.

