

MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

held at Civic Offices, Civic Way,
Swadlincote on 20th May 2004
at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Mrs. Mead (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bell, Carroll, Harrington, Isham, Jones, Lane, Lauro, Mulgrew, Murphy, Pabla, Richards, Shepherd, Southerd, Southern, Stone, Taylor, Whyman, M.B.E. and Wilkins.

Conservative Group

Councillor Bale (Chair) and Councillors Atkin, Bladen, Ford, Mrs. Hall, Harrison, Mrs. Hood, Hood, Lemmon, Martin, Nalty, Mrs. Renwick, Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Wheeler.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Bambrick and Dunn (Labour Group) and Councillor Shaw (Conservative Group).

CL/1. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8th April 2004 (Minutes Nos. CL/125 – CL/138) were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CL/2. **APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was noted pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, that Councillor Whyman was the Leader of the Labour Group and Councillor Mrs. Wheeler was the Leader of the Conservative Group.

It was proposed, duly seconded and,

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Whyman be appointed Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

CL/3. **APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was noted pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, that Councillor Carroll was the Deputy Leader of the Labour Group and Councillor Harrison was the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

It was proposed, duly seconded and,

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Carroll be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

CL/4. **CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

At the request of the Chair, Members stood in silence in remembrance of the 11th Duke of Devonshire who had passed away earlier in the month. Members requested that their condolences be conveyed to the Duchess of Devonshire.

The Chair reported on various events he had recently attended, including a football match at Pride Park, Derby, the Derby Agricultural Dinner, the Brick Room at Linton, Aston-on-Trent School, a Friends of the Blind function, a Gresley Male Voice Choir Charity Concert, which had raised the sum of £2,300 for his Charity Appeal and People Express. He had also hosted a Caribbean Evening on 7th May 2004 for his Charity Appeal and the total funds raised during his year in office would be presented to the Derbyshire County Air Ambulance on 25th May 2004. The Chair advised that the World Pony Championships would be held at Catton Park next year and it was hoped that the event could be supported by the Council.

As this was the final Council Meeting before the forthcoming Civic Council Meeting on 27th May 2004, the Chair took the opportunity to thank all Members and Officers for the support and respect afforded to him during his year of office.

CL/5. **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader expressed his congratulations to Councillors Mrs. Wheeler and Harrison on their respective appointments as Leader and Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

The Leader congratulated Councillor Bale on his dedicated service as Chair of the Council during his year of office, referring to his conduct, dignity and dedication. He also extended these sentiments in respect of the Chair's Consort, Mrs. June Bale.

CL/6. **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, subject to any matters annotated:-

Environmental and Development Services Committee, 15th April 2004 (Minutes Nos. EDS/82 – EDS/91)

(The Chair referred to a recent leakage from a brown bin refuse truck and advised Members that this matter was currently under investigation in consultation with engineers).

Development Control Committee, 20th April 2004 (Minutes Nos. DC/126 – DC/137)

Housing and Community Services Committee, 22nd April 2004 (Minutes Nos. HCS/111– HCS/120)

(Minute No. HCS/112, “Walking the Way to Health” Project – the Chair referred to this project which had been shown as an example of good practice and expressed his congratulations to those involved.)

Finance and Management Committee, 29th April 2004 (Minutes Nos. FM/115 – FM/126)

(Minute No. FM/119, Council Tax Benefit Take up Campaign – Following a query, the Chief Executive agreed to advise Councillor Shepherd on any contact made with “hard to reach” groups. Councillor Wilkins encouraged Members to publicise the campaign and Councillor Richards confirmed that leaflets were to be distributed to all households in Derbyshire during the summer months.)

Community Scrutiny Committee, 4th May 2004 (Minutes Nos. CYS/51 – CYS/54)

Corporate Scrutiny Committee, 10th May 2004 (Minutes Nos. COS/63 – COS/67)

Development Control Committee, 11th May 2004 (Minutes Nos. DC/140 – DC/147)

Overview Committee, 17th May 2004 (Minutes Nos. OV/26 – OV/30)

CL/7. **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/8. **POLITICAL COMPOSITION 2004/05**

The Council reviewed the political proportionality for the composition of committees and sub-committees, calculated accordingly to reflect the political proportionality of the Council.

RESOLVED:-

That the allocation of seats to the political groups attached at Annexe ‘A’ to these Minutes be approved.

CL/9. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PANELS 2004/05**

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Groups’ nominations of Members to serve on Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for the ensuing year be received and noted.***

(2) That Chairs and Vice-Chairs be appointed as indicated.

CL/10. **SUBSTITUTE PANELS 2004/05**

RESOLVED:-

That the Groups' nominations of Members to serve on Substitute Panels be received and noted.

CL/11. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS OF AREA MEETINGS 2004/05**

RESOLVED:-

That Chairs of the following Area Meetings be appointed as indicated for the ensuing year:-

Area Meeting

Etwall

Linton

Melbourne

Newhall

Repton

Swadlincote

Chair

Councillor Whyman

Councillor Lauro

Councillor Carroll

Councillor Richards

Councillor Taylor

Councillor Stone

CL/12. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2004/05**

RESOLVED:-

That appointments of representatives to or nominations to serve on outside bodies for the ensuing year, unless otherwise indicated, be made as set out at Annexe 'B' to these Minutes.

CL/13. **CORPORATE PLAN 2003/04 – YEAR END REPORT**

It was reported that this item had been withdrawn.

CL/14. **SERVICE PLANS 2004/07**

It was reported that Service Plans were an important part of the Council's Performance Management Framework, which also included the Best Value Performance Plan, the Corporate Plan and the Employee Review and Development Scheme. At the end of 2003/early 2004, policy committees had considered Draft Service Plans for all Divisions with the exception of Human Resources and Policy and Best Value. These were deferred to enable the Human Resources Manager to commence employment in his new post and also due to other priorities, particularly the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. However, it had now been possible to produce the two remaining plans in a final format, to incorporate approved budget proposals and Corporate Plan Year 1 Milestones. This was now the subject of a separate exercise in respect of the previously agreed draft plans.

As previously reported, this year's Service Plans were based on a new format with the aim to condense the plans and focus additionally on key issues. Plans had also been extended to cover a three-year period, although they

would be reviewed and rolled forward annually. Progress reports would continue to be submitted every six months.

RESOLVED:-

That the Service Plans relating to the Human Resources and the Policy and Best Value Divisions be approved as the basis for service delivery during the period April 2004 to March 2007.

CL/15. **BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2004 – ARRANGEMENTS**

It was reported that the Council was required to produce the Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) by 30th June and Members were reminded that a leaflet containing summary information was circulated with the Council Tax Billing Notices earlier this year. Last year, the Government published Circular 03/03 on 'Best Value and Performance Improvement', which made significant changes to the contents of BVPP's. In March, an addendum to the Circular was issued introducing further changes, designed to link BVPP's more closely to Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) improvement planning processes. For Councils classified as 'fair', 'weak' or 'poor' or where a CPA had not been reported (as was the case with this Council), the BVPP must include various information relating to the Council's strategic objectives and priorities for improvement, arrangements for addressing the Council's improvement priorities, details of performance and a brief statement on contracts. Much of this information had already been collected and considered by Members as part of the Corporate and Service Planning process and the CPA self assessment process.

It was noted that arrangements had been made for a Special Meeting of the Council on 29th June 2004 to finalise the BVPP by the statutory deadline.

RESOLVED:-

That the proposed arrangements for producing the 2004 Best Value Performance Plan be approved.

CL/16. **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 8th April 2004 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:-

Environmental and Development Services Committee, 15th April 2004

Development Control Committee, 20th April 2004

Housing and Community Services Committee, 22nd April 2004

Finance and Management Committee, 29th April 2004

IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES
(Paragraph 8)

The Council approved a quotation for improving air circulation in the south facing ground floor offices in the Planning Service and in the Council Chamber.

RESTORATION OF MAURICE LEA MEMORIAL PARK, CHURCH GRESLEY
(Paragraph 8)

The Council approved a tender to provide professional services relating to the implementation of the restoration scheme for Maurice Lea Memorial Park, Church Gresley.

M.J.P. BALE

CHAIR