

MINUTES of the MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote
on 14th April 2011
at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

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

Labour Group

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

Independent / Non-Grouped Member

Councillor Pabla.

CL/113. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 28th February 2011 (Minutes Nos. CL/93 – CL/111) were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

CL/114. **PRESENTATIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

The Chairman made presentations on behalf of the South Derbyshire Partnership and the Council to representatives of voluntary groups. This was to recognise their contribution to life in South Derbyshire. Certificates were presented to representatives of Age Concern and Cancer Research. Certificates would also be forwarded to the British Heart Foundation, St. Giles Hospice, YMCA Happy Homes and Treetops Hospice Shop.

CL/115. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

On behalf of all Members, the Chairman declared a personal interest in the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel. In accordance with Clause 10(2)(c)(iv) of the Members' Code of Conduct, Members could regard themselves as not having a prejudicial interest as the matter related to a function of the Authority in respect of an allowance payment or indemnity given to Members.

CL/116. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Chairman welcomed Dr. Declan Hall, Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel. Dr. Hall gave a presentation to Members on the work of the Panel and the main points within its report. He thanked the Panel for their work, Officers for their support and the Members' and Officers' interviewed as part of this process. He explained the Panel's rationale in conducting the review, the comparators used and referred to special responsibility allowances at this authority and elsewhere.

The Council was required to undertake a review of its Members' allowances by an Independent Remuneration Panel every four years and a copy of the Panel's report had been submitted.

Dr. Hall and the Panel were thanked. The report was set against the backdrop of the current economic climate. There was one area of concern regarding the impact for younger Members, but it was proposed to accept and implement the report in full. A recommendation had been made regarding the Chairman's allowance and whilst this was outside the Panel's remit, it was proposed to give notice of a motion at the next Council Meeting, when considering a report on the role of the Chairman. This would be for the formation of a working group, comprising two ex-Chairmen from each political group, together with an independent Chairman nominated by the Chief Executive, on a pro bono basis, to consider the issue of the Chairman's allowance and report back to the Council. It was clarified that a recommendation regarding Members' eligibility to join the Local Government Pension Scheme would need to be the subject of an affordability report from the Section 151 Officer. Accordingly, this aspect would need to be deferred pending the submission of that report.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That Council accepts the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel as submitted and implements its recommendations, subject to Resolutions (2) and (3) below.**
- (2) That an affordability report be submitted by the Section 151 Officer regarding Members' eligibility to join the Local Government Pension Scheme.**
- (3) That further consideration be given to the Chairman's Allowance when considering the report at Annual Council on the role of the Chairman.**

CL/117. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked the Scouts for their fundraising efforts, packing bags at a local supermarket, which had raised a total of £1,125, with £375 going to the Scouts and to each of his two nominated charities and this was applauded by Members. He promoted a classical concert at St. Wystan's Church, Repton and reminded Members about the charity golf event. He thanked those who had attended the recent Civic Dinner and extended good wishes to Councillor

Lane, who would be competing in the London Marathon in support of his nominated charities.

CL/118. **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader thanked the Chairman for attending South Derbyshire Day at Pride Park the previous weekend. He also thanked the voluntary groups and staff for their support and Toyota for hosting this event in their suite at the Stadium. It was hoped to repeat this event next year and the Chief Executive agreed to pass on thanks to the staff involved.

The Leader and other Members paid tribute to Gill Hague, who had recently retired as the Council's Head of Planning Services. A card was presented to Mrs. Hague and she thanked Members and colleagues.

The Leader extended good wishes to Members who would not be seeking re-election at the forthcoming District Elections. The eight Members in question had a combined service of over 100 years and all had served their constituencies and the Council well. He paid tribute to several Members, particularly Councillor Dunn, who had served the Council and its predecessor authority for a total of 42 years. Councillor Dunn responded, speaking of his time as a Member in South Derbyshire. Further tributes were paid to Councillor Dunn and other retiring Members by the Leader of the Opposition Group.

CL/119. **HEAD OF PAID SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chief Executive also thanked retiring Members for the way that they had engaged with his Officers and he gave personal thanks to Councillor Dunn. He advised of a change of protocol and the Council was now able to fly the Union flag at will. The flag pole at the Town Hall had been refurbished, providing a prominent point within the town centre to fly the Union flag. He sought Members' consent, which was duly given to fly the Union flag on 29th April for the Royal Wedding, between 21st and 25th June to commemorate Armed Forces Day and in early July, as part of an Air Cadet event in the town centre.

The Chief Executive also displayed an award received from the Sunday Times, as the Council had again been voted in the top 100 public authorities and charities in the Country. It was agreed that Members' thanks be passed on to staff for this achievement.

CL/120. **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:-

Planning Committee, 1st March 2011 (Minutes Nos. PL/109 – PL/114)

*Environmental and Development Services Committee, 3rd March 2011
(Minutes Nos. EDS/49 - EDS/52)*

*Housing and Community Services Committee, 10th March 2011 (Minutes
Nos. HCS/68 – HCS/71)*

*Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 17th March 2011 (Minute No.
LAS/16)*

*Finance and Management Committee, 17th March 2011 (Minutes Nos.
FM/88 - FM/100)
(With reference to the Japan Disaster, Councillor Mrs. Wheeler M.P.
advised that Derbyshire Members of Parliament had also written a letter
of condolence.)*

*Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 21st March 2011 (Minute No.
LAS/18)*

*Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 23rd March 2011 (Minutes Nos. OS/35
– OS/39)
(In presenting the Minutes, the Chairman referred to the Committee's
Annual Report and he thanked Members and Officers for their service
and support to the Committee.)*

Planning Committee, 29th March 2011 (Minutes Nos. PL/115 – PL/125)

*Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 31st March 2011 (Minutes Nos.
LAS/19 - LAS/20)*

CL/121. **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/122. **COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING
PANELS**

There were no amendments to the compositions of Committees, Sub-
Committees and Working Panels.

CL/123. **COMPOSITION OF SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

There were no amendments to the compositions of Substitute Panels.

CL/124. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no amendments to the Council's representation on Outside
Bodies.

CL/125. **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 28h February 2011 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, 3rd March 2011

Housing and Community Services Committee, 10th March 2011

Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 17th March 2011

Finance and Management Committee, 17th March 2011

Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 31st March 2011

N. ATKIN

CHAIRMAN