

MINUTES of the MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at Civic Offices, Civic Way,
Swadlincote on 13th April 2006
at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Jones (Chair), Councillor Lauro (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Bambrick, Bell, Carroll, Dunn, Harrington, Isham, Mrs. Mead, Mulgrew, Pabla, Richards, Shepherd, Southerd, Southern, Taylor and Wilkins.

Conservative Group

Councillors Atkin, Bale, Bladen, Ford, Harrison, Mrs. Hood, Hood, Mrs. Littlejohn, Nalty and Mrs. Renwick.

Independent Member

Councillor Mrs. Walton.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Lane, Murphy and Whyman, M.B.E. (Labour Group) and Councillors Mrs. Hall, Lemmon, Shaw and Mrs. Wheeler (Conservative Group).

CL/155. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2nd March 2006 (Minutes Nos. CL/138-CL/152) were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CL/156. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Southerd declared a prejudicial interest in the Notice of Motion (Minute No. CL/158), as he was a Member of the Derbyshire Police Authority. Councillor Lauro declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Minute No. DC/116 of the Development Control Committee held on 6th April 2006 (Minute No. CL/159), as he had an interest in this application.

CL/157. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair thanked Members who had supported the Civic Dinner. He reported on his engagements since the last Council Meeting, including hosting a visit to Toyota and the Game Fair at Catton Park. He would be attending a Service at Derby Cathedral to mark the 80th Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. The Chair also publicised a Charity Rock Concert at the Grove Hall in Swadlincote and the Charity Golf Competition on 19th May 2006.

CL/158. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Note: At 6.05 p.m. Councillor Southerd left the Meeting.

It was reported that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 12, Councillor Carroll had given Notice of the following Motion:-

“This Council recognises that our government faces serious challenges in reacting to the threats of sophisticated, organised, international crime and terrorism. The Council acknowledges modern police forces must be ‘fit for purpose’ and capable of responding to twenty first century demands.

This Council does not believe that the proposed amalgamation of the Police Authorities of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire is an appropriate strategy. It will not bring about the required improvement in strategic and emergency operating capabilities the Home Secretary is seeking without immediate and very considerable funding.

The County Police Force of Derbyshire is an effective, efficient, high performing organisation. Crime rates in Derbyshire are falling faster than very many other authorities. Violent crimes and burglaries in particular are decreasing dramatically.

The proposed merger would inevitably adversely affect and undermine the effectiveness of neighbourhood policing within our District and impact upon the safety and security of our towns, villages and hamlets.

We urge the Home Secretary to re-examine this proposal in the light of our very real concerns and consider alternative and more appropriate means of addressing the enormous and complex policing issues currently before him.”

Councillor Carroll proposed the Motion, which was duly seconded.

Councillor Harrison proposed the following amendment, which was duly seconded:-

“This Council much regrets the Home Secretary’s announcement this week to impose unilaterally an East Midlands’ Police Force from 1 April 2008, by merging the Police Authorities in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire.

We believe that such a merger is being forced through without sufficient consideration; in defiance of the declared wishes of local communities affected and in a manner that will cause residents to feel even more alienated from the Police at local level.

This Council, therefore, strongly urges the Home Secretary to carry out a fundamental review of his decision in favour of adopting the approach of a Regional Federation of the 5 County Police Authorities in the same way as that recently adopted by the East Midland’s Fire Authorities.”

The amendment was debated, put to a vote and defeated. A further debate took place on the original Motion, which was then put to a vote.

RESOLVED:-

That the Motion be carried.

Note: At 6.30 p.m. Councillor Southerd re-joined the Meeting.

CL/159. **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:-

Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 1st March 2006 (Minutes Nos. LA/55 – LA/56)

Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 6th March 2006 (Minutes Nos. LA/58 – LA/59)

Development Control Committee, 7th March 2006 (Minutes Nos. DC/102 – DC/110)

Environmental and Development Services Committee, 9th March 2006 (Minutes Nos. EDS/59 - EDS/64)

(Councillor Wilkins referred to the presentation on Economic Regeneration and Tourism. He recorded thanks to those involved in the creation of a Tourist Information Centre for Swadlincote, which he felt was a remarkable achievement. The Chair of the Committee agreed to pass on thanks to those concerned. He felt the presentation was engaging and he gave an outline of the issues discussed. A Member Workshop would also be arranged on this issue).

Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 13th March 2006 (Minutes Nos. LA/61 – LA/62)

Housing and Community Services Committee, 16th March 2006 (Minutes Nos. HCS/77 - HCS/80)

Finance and Management Committee, 23rd March 2006 (Minutes Nos. FM/124 - FM/131)

(Councillor Wilkins praised the Concessionary Travel, Gold Card Scheme).

Community Scrutiny Committee, 27th March 2006 (Minutes Nos. CYS/29 – CYS/31)

Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 29th March 2006 (Minutes Nos. LA/64 – LA/65)

Corporate Scrutiny Committee, 3rd April 2006 (Minutes Nos. COS/26 – COS/31)

Development Control Committee, 6th April 2006 (Minutes Nos. DC/112 – DC/120)

CL/160. **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/161. **COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PANELS**

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

CL/162. **SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

There were no amendments to the compositions of Substitute Panels.

CL/163. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Bambrick be appointed as the substitute for Councillor Lane on the Nottingham East Midlands Airport Consultative Group.

CL/164. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

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 2nd March 2006 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:-

Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 1st March 2006

Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee, 6th March 2006

Development Control Committee, 7th March 2006

Environmental and Development Services Committee, 9th March 2006

Licensing and Appeals Committee, 13th March 2006

Housing and Community Services Committee, 16th March 2006

Finance and Management Committee, 23rd March 2006

Licensing and Appeals Committee, 29th March 2006

Development Control Committee, 6th April 2006

R JONES

CHAIR