
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH MAY 2009

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Present:

The Mayor, Councillor Mizon
The Sheriff, Councillor Cunio
Councillors Baillie, Ball, Barnes–Andrews, Baston, Beckett, Mrs Blatchford, Bogle, Burke, Capozzoli, Cooke, Daunt, Davis, Dean, Dick, Drake, Fitzgerald, Fitzhenry, Fuller, Galton, Hannides, Holmes, Jones, Letts, McEwing, Marsh-Jenks, Matthews, Moulton, Norris, Odgers, Osmond, Parnell, Payne, Rayment, Samuels, Slade, Smith, Sollitt, Stevens, Thomas, Walker, Wells, White, Willacy, P. Williams and Dr R. Williams.

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

RESOLVED upon the motion of Councillor Baston, seconded by Councillor Hannides and supported by Councillor Rayment, that Councillor Mizon be elected to the Office of 787th Mayor of Southampton and Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Mayor (Councillor Mizon) then made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR MIZON) IN THE CHAIR

2. MAYOR'S CHARITIES

The Mayor announced that she would be supporting Fairbridge Solent and Age Concern Southampton as charities during her term of office.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFF

RESOLVED upon the motion of Councillor R Williams, seconded by Councillor Smith and supported by Councillor Sollitt, that Councillor Cunio be appointed the 572nd Sheriff of the City of Southampton and Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Sheriff (Councillor Cunio) then made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

RESOLVED upon the motion of Councillor Moulton, seconded by Councillor Burke and supported by Councillor Sollitt, that the Council places on record its appreciation for the distinguished manner in which

Councillor Parnell had discharged the duties of the Mayor of the City during the period of his term of office.

5. CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON AWARDS

RESOLVED upon the motion of the Mayor (Councillor Mizon) and seconded by the Sheriff (Councillor Cunio) that the City of Southampton Award be presented to Professor David and Elizabeth Brown.

AT THE RECONVENED MEETING OF THE SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE ON 13TH MAY, 2009

6. APOLOGIES

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs Damani.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th March, 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

- (i) The Mayor thanked all Members for their support in electing her as Mayor. In order for the meeting to run efficiently and effectively she asked Members to keep in mind throughout the year the basic courtesies needed to be adhered to for this to happen; timeliness both in arriving at the meeting and when speaking: speaking to the point, and listening carefully to the arguments. She also asked Members to remember the courtesies they would like from members when they were speaking and to extend those to others. She also reminded members to switch off their mobile phones and that any ring would incur an instant fine.
- (ii) The Mayor informed Members that in future, Chief Officers would not always attend meetings of full Council. All Chief Officers would be on stand-by and available should they be needed.
- (iii) The Mayor reminded Members that at the last meeting, the method for dealing with questions on notice was raised, as none of the submitted questions had followed the agreed procedure. The former Mayor had asked Group Leaders to reconsider the procedure at their Group Leaders' meeting and their view was that the Mayor's involvement would now be a light touch one and it would be up to the Groups themselves to monitor and regulate the questions submitted.
- (iv) The Mayor informed Members that she had chosen a Humanist, David Bothwell, as her "Faith Advisor". It was hoped that the time

before Council set aside for prayer and contemplation would now be relevant to more Members as it would be lead by David and another Faith Advisor. There would be an opportunity for those who wished to pray to do so.

- (v) The Mayor announced the retirement of John Beer, Executive Director of Communities, Health and Care and Members paid tribute to his contribution to the work of the local authority during his period of service. The Mayor then presented him with a gift on behalf of the Council.

9. ELECTION OF THE LEADER

The nomination of Councillor Samuels was moved and seconded.

UPON BEING PUT TO THE VOTE IT WAS:

RESOLVED that Councillor Samuels be elected as Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

Following his election as Leader, Councillor Samuels informed the Council of his Cabinet and their Portfolio responsibilities.

Adult Social Care and Health – Councillor White
Childrens' Services – Councillor Baillie
Economic Development – Councillor Smith
Environment and Transport – Councillor Dean
Housing and Local Services – Councillor P Williams
Leisure, Culture and Heritage – Councillor Hannides
Resources and Workforce Planning – Councillor Moulton
Young People and Skills – Councillor Matthews

The Leader then confirmed the contents of each of the Portfolios, which were incorporated into the scheme of Executive Delegation in the Constitution; this would be unchanged subject to a change in delegation of street scene and safety issues remaining with Councillor Smith within Economic Development Portfolio and neighbourhoods' issues being transferred to Councillor P Williams under Housing and Local Services Portfolio.

10. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Political Group	Seats on Council	%
Conservative	26	54.17
Labour	14	29.17
Liberal Democrats	8	16.67

Committees	Lib Dem	Labour	Con	Number of Seats to Groups
Overview and Scrutiny Management (10)	3 Cllr Baston Cllr Drake Cllr Sollitt	3 Cllr Williams Cllr Barnes-Andrews Cllr Letts	4 Cllr Ball Cllr Cooke Cllr Walker Vacancy	10
Planning and Rights of Way (7)	1 Cllr Davis	2 Cllr Cunio Cllr Blatchford	4 Cllr Holmes Cllr Fitzhenry Cllr Norris Cllr Walker	7
Employment and Appeals Panel (7)	1 Cllr Davis	2 Cllr Marsh Jenks Cllr McEwing	4 Cllr Osmond Cllr Fitzhenry Cllr Norris Cllr Walker	7
Chief Officer Employment Panel (7)	1 Cllr Baston	2 Cllr Williams Cllr Rayment	4 Cllr Moulton Cllr Norris Cllr Samuels Cllr Smith	7
Licensing Committee (13)	2 Cllr Galton Cllr Drake	4 Cllr Blatchford Cllr Cunio Cllr Letts Cllr Thomas	7 Cllr Fuller Cllr Holmes Cllr Norris Cllr Odgers Cllr Walker Cllr Wells Cllr Willacy	13

Sub-Committees	Lib Dem	Labour	Con	
Environment and Sustainability SP (7)	2 Cllr Drake Cllr Galton	2 Cllr Payne Cllr Thomas	3 Cllr Odgers Cllr Jones Cllr Willacy	7
Children and Young People SP (7)	1 Cllr Beckett	2 Cllr Damani Cllr Stevens	4 Cllr Fitzgerald Cllr Fitzhenry Cllr Jones Cllr Odgers	7
Safer Communities SP (7)	1 Cllr Beckett	2 Cllr Rayment Cllr Thomas	4 Cllr Capozzoli Cllr Fitzgerald Cllr Holmes Cllr Odgers	7
Healthy City SP (7)	1 Cllr Drake	2 Cllr Marsh-Jenks Cllr McEwing	4 Cllr Cooke Cllr Capozzoli Cllr Daunt Cllr Osmond	7
Economic Well-being SP (7)	1 Cllr Sollitt	2 Cllr Bogle Cllr Burke	4 Cllr Ball Cllr Fuller Cllr Osmond Cllr Wells	7
Audit Committee (7)	1 Cllr Beckett	2 Cllr Bogle Cllr R Williams	4 Cllr Ball Cllr Daunt Cllr Fuller Cllr Wells	7
Licensing General Sub-Committee (7) (Membership must come from membership of Licensing Committee)	1 Cllr Galton	2 Cllr Blatchford Cllr Cunio	4 Cllr Fuller Cllr Norris Cllr Wells Cllr Willacy	7
TOTAL	16	27	50	93

2. Appointment to Committees / Sub-Committee and other Bodies NOT subject to political proportionality.				
Committee/Sub-Committee	Liberal Democrat	Labour	Con	Number of Seats to Groups
Standards and Governance ((10) including the Mayor and 3 independent members)	2 Cllr Baston Cllr Slade	2 Cllr Barnes-Andrews Cllr Burke	2 Cllr Cooke Cllr Osmond	6
Assessment Sub-Committee (4) 1 Independent (Chair) plus 3 Members appointed from S&G	1 Cllr Mizon	1 Cllr Burke	1 Cllr Cooke	3
Assessment Appeals Sub-Committee (4) 1 Independent (Chair) plus 3 Members appointed from S&G	1 Cllr Slade	1 Cllr Barnes-Andrews	1 Cllr Osmond	3
Local Determinations Hearing Panel (5) 2 Independent (1 as Chair) plus 3 Members from S&G	1 Cllr Mizon	1 Cllr Burke	1 Cllr Cooke	3
Licensing and Gambling Sub-Committee (3) (Any 3 Members drawn from the Licensing Committee membership on rotation basis)	1	1	1	3
Other bodies	Lib Dem	Labour	Con	

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (3)	1 Cllr Galton	1 Cllr Marsh-Jenks	1 Cllr Smith	3
South East Employers (3 + 3)	1+Deputy Cllr Davis Cllr Drake (deputy)	1+Deputy Cllr Barnes-Andrews Cllr Thomas (deputy)	1+Deputy Cllr Norris Cllr Matthews (deputy)	6
South East Employers Scrutiny Network (2)	1 Cllr Slade	1 Cllr Marsh-Jenks		2
Police Joint Committee (Police Authority) (1) <i>(Overall proportionality is calculated across the County. This may require a change in appointment)</i>		1 Cllr Rayment		1
Partnership for Urban Southampton – Overview and Scrutiny Committee	1 Cllr Baston			1

(b) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

RESOLVED that the following Chairs be elected for the 2009/2010 municipal year and the Vice-Chairs be elected at their first meetings of the municipal year: -

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>
Overview and Scrutiny Management	Councillor Letts
Planning and Rights of Way	Councillor Holmes
Employment and Appeals	Councillor Norris
Chief Officer Employment Panel	Councillor Samuels
Licensing Committee	Councillor Wells
Environment and Sustainability SP	Councillor Thomas
Children and Young People SP	Councillor Fitzhenry
Safer Communities SP	Councillor Fitzgerald
Healthy City SP	Councillor Cooke
Economic Well Being SP	Councillor Ball
Audit Committee	Councillor Ball
Licensing General Sub-Committee	Councillor Wells

11. CALENDAR OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council considered the dates for meetings of the Council for the 2009/10 municipal year and agreed the dates as follows:

15th July 2009
16th September 2009
18th November 2009
20th January 2010
17th February 2010
17th March 2010
12th May 2010

12. DEPUTATIONS, PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- (i) The Council received a deputation and a petition from Mrs Karen Player, objecting to the railings that had been erected at Oak Close and Brunel Road preventing access to Old Redbridge.
- (ii) The Council received a petition from Councillor McEwing concerning the proposed Test Lane Recycling Centre.

13. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The report of the Leader of the Council was submitted, setting out the details of the business undertaken by the Executive (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

The Leader and the Cabinet made statements and responded to

Questions.

The following questions were then submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1:-

1. Question from Councillor Baston to Councillor Smith.

Will the Cabinet Member for Economic Development inform the Council what assistance the administration has given to local businesses in the current difficult circumstances, apart from issuing lists of telephone numbers?

Answer

Along with the continued action of free commercial property search and numerous business opportunities held on the Invest In Southampton web site, the following actions are current examples of joint working to aid the business community.

Northam & Shirley Street Markets: Working with local traders and West Itchen Community Trust to develop street markets in Shirley and Northam Road, to increase footfall and encourage customer loyalty to the areas.

MOU: Continued agreement with Business Link (BL) to ensure mutual support and this as a means to advise and support the local business community. E.g. provision of meeting space for BL to advise local business start ups.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS: Contacting local businesses and advising of Chamber of Commerce (CoC) utilities procurement opportunities, BL Free Business Review and SCC support for Business as aids to reducing their costs. Initial 1000 cooked food retailers as trial, by 3rd week of May.

Empress Road: Will look to develop traders' association and promote opportunities from BL and CoC.

E-shot: CoC and BL have both promoted the SCC provision and free advice to some 3500 businesses.

Southampton Loans Link: PUSH partners are considering possible joint bid to European Regional Development Fund with local authorities across region to create a joint loan fund.

2. Question from Councillor R Williams to Councillor Moulton.

Does the Leader or the Cabinet Member for Resources agree with the view expressed last month by David Cameron MP at the Conservative Party Spring Conference for a crack-down on public sector pay and pensions?

Answer

I do believe that the public sector should show spending restraint. The country is more indebted than at any time in its history with public debt set to reach £1.4t. This will take a generation or more to pay off. Local government has historically borne the brunt of public sector savings and no doubt the government will require councils to take on much of its latest 'efficiency' savings.

Under funding of the city by the Government means that each year the city council faces a multi million pound gap in its revenue budget. Council staff pay increases and pension costs represent a sizable proportion of our roll forward revenue gap each year.

I do believe that the city and public sector as a whole needs to show pay restraint. The consequence of us not doing so locally would be a bigger revenue gap. This gap can be closed in one of 2 ways 1) reduce spending on services 2) increases in charges of services or in council tax.

Our residents are already over burdened by high council tax and the Administration believes that we should keep the council tax increase as low as possible whilst providing vital front line services.

When people are losing their jobs and those in the private sector are facing little or no pay rises, and the public finances are in tatters, large public sector pay awards are not appropriate.

The pay of city council staff is determined by the local government employers and we are bound by what ever decision they take. Last year the national pay negotiations led to a higher award than the city had budgeted for, meaning an additional cost of £300,000 to the local taxpayer. This year the national employers are negotiating for a 0.5% increase across the country.

The Local Government Pension Scheme is the national scheme for local government employees, the rules of which are laid down by Parliament. Locally we do not determine the criteria of the scheme. I was a member of the Hampshire County Council pension fund panel when the scheme was recently reviewed. The unanimous view of the panel was that a final salary scheme should be retained and that this should be on a 1 n/80th pension and 3 n/80ths cash accrual rate. This view was formally submitted to Government. In the end the Government opted for a 1/60th accrual rate with cash via commutation – a more expensive scheme.

3. Question from Councillor Baston to Councillor P Williams.

Will the Cabinet Member for Housing and Local Services inform the Council of the administration's strategy on public open spaces?

Answer

The Green Space Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 27th October 2008 and we have allocated extra resources to improve our public open spaces. Officers are now in the process of implementing the Southampton's Green Space Strategy Summary and Action Plan. (Green Spaces Great Places).

4. Question from Councillor Thomas to Councillor P Williams.

Community Associations across the city have always had the financial support of the Council in relation to essential Health and Safety repairs to community centres. Can the Cabinet Member for Housing and Local Services confirm that he has no plans to change this policy?

Answer

I have allocated extra resources to improve community centres. The administration has also not reduced the Community Centre repairs budget. I regularly meet with Community Associations to discuss ongoing issues. I am happy to discuss specific issues with him.

5. Question from Councillor R Williams to Councillor Smith.

Has Southampton City Council submitted an Expression of Interest in the Future Jobs Fund to the Department of Work and Pensions?

Answer

The City Council is currently working with PUSH local authorities and the Isle of Wight to prepare a bid for this Fund.

This is a new initiative which will help to generate jobs for those in greatest need, particularly young people, and also in areas of high unemployment. It is part of the Government's commitment to delivering help for young people and those who face barriers to employment, making sure people stay connected with the labour market and do not suffer the adverse effects of long-term unemployment.

The aim is to create 150,000 jobs between October 2009 and April 2011 providing real help for young people who face significant disadvantages in the labour market.

It is expected that successful bids will:

- **create additional jobs for long term unemployed people;**
- **benefit the local community; and**

• **create a significant proportion of jobs quickly.**

The majority of jobs created must go to people aged 18-24 who are approaching 12 months on Jobseeker's Allowance.

The Government expects that the majority of bids will come from upper tier local authorities or sub-regional partnerships and will demonstrate that all partners within the area have been involved in developing the proposals.

The Department for Work and Pensions is planning to publish details on the criteria for bids and on the bidding process on their website on 13th May. The initial set of bids is required later in the summer with the first successful bids in early autumn 2009.

14. MOTIONS

It was noted that no motions had been received.

15. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO THE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES OR THE MAYOR

It was noted that no questions had been received.

16. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

The report of the Solicitor to the Council was submitted seeking approval for changes to the City Council's Constitution (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the changes to the Constitution as set out in the report be approved;
- (ii) that the Solicitor to the Council be authorised to finalise the arrangements as approved by Full Council and to make any further consequential or minor changes arising from the decision(s) of Full Council; and
- (iii) that the City Council's Constitution, as amended, including the Officer Scheme of Delegation for the municipal year 2009/10, be reaffirmed and approved.

17. REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007 (LGPIH ACT).

The report of the Solicitor to the Council was submitted concerning the implications of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed

minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the proposals contained within the report together with the comments of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Working Group and Solicitor to the Council be noted;
- (ii) that the consultation proposals set out in paragraphs 49 and 50 of the report be noted and it be agreed that pre-statutory consultation be undertaken as set out in paragraph 51 of the report;
- (iii) that a further report be submitted to the May 2010 Council meeting in order that Members can resolve which options should be taken forward to public consultation; and
- (iv) that following consideration by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act Working Group, a report outlining the results of the consultation together with the Group's recommendations on the options which should be approved be submitted to a special meeting of the Council to be held prior to the September 2010 Council meeting.

18. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009/10

The report of the Leader of the Council was submitted seeking approval to the Council's draft Corporate Improvement Plan for 2009/10 (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the draft 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) be approved; and
- (ii) that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to amend the draft CIP, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to incorporate any changes made at the meeting, appropriate feedback from stakeholders and the finalisation of the 2008/09 financial and performance data prior to the publication of the plan in June.

19. LICENSING ACT 2003 – CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY

The report of the Solicitor to the Council was submitted concerning the draft Licensing Act 2003 Cumulative Impact Policy (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the draft Licensing Act 2003 Cumulative Impact Policy be adopted.

20. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUSINESS

a) SUMMARY OF CALL-IN ACTIVITY

It was noted that there had not been any use of the call-in procedure over the last three months.

b) OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy) was submitted detailing the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Annual Report 2008/09 in accordance with the Council's Constitution (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that Martin Day be thanked for his work in ensuring that members were fully supported in their Scrutiny role.

21. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC – CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN MINUTE 22

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of minute 22 on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information because it comprises financial information that if made public would prejudice the Council's ability to operate in a commercial environment and obtain best value during the acquisition negotiations.

22. STRATEGIC LAND PURCHASE

The confidential report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport was submitted seeking approval for funding to acquire the land detailed in the report (copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

RESOLVED

That the funding and land proposals detailed in the report be approved.

