

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council**
held on Thursday, 22nd April, 2010 at Assembly Room, Town Hall,
Macclesfield

PRESENT

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)
Councillor G Baxendale (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors E Alcock, C Andrew, A Arnold, M Asquith, Rhoda Bailey, G Barton, C Beard, T Beard, D Bebbington, D Beckford, S Bentley, D Brickhill, S Broadhurst, D Brown, D Cannon, R Cartlidge, S Conquest, J Crockatt, H Davenport, M Davies, S Davies, R Domleo, B Dykes, P Edwards, P Findlow, W Fitzgerald, R Fletcher, D Flude, S Furlong, H Gaddum, L Gilbert, E Gilliland, J Goddard, J Hammond, M Hollins, D Hough, B Howell, O Hunter, T Jackson, J Jones, S Jones, F Keegan, A Knowles, A Kolker, W Livesley, A Martin, M Martin, P Mason, S McGrory, R Menlove, G Merry, A Moran, B Moran, H Murray, J Narraway, D Neilson, R Parker, M Parsons, A Ranfield, B Silvester, L Smetham, D Stockton, D Thompson, C Thorley, R Walker, G M Walton, J Weatherill, R West, R Westwood, P Whiteley, S Wilkinson and J Wray

Apologies

Councillors Rachel Bailey, A Barratt, M Hardy, J Macrae, A Thwaite, C Tomlinson and D Topping

184 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Charles Razzall said prayers.

185 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2010

Having acknowledged that Councillor Arnold had requested that the numbers voting for and against the motion, at minute 175 be recorded, it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2010 be approved as a correct record.

186 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor:-

(1) Announced that the Council had opened a Book of Condolence for the victims of the planecrash, which had claimed the lives of the Polish President and

scores of his top officials. There were many in the Borough with ties to Poland and she was sure that Members would wish to express their sympathies to the Polish people and the families of the crash victims. The Book of Condolence was situated at the Municipal Buildings in Crewe, which was open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

- (2) Announced that, in time for the better weather, the Council had opened three new playareas at Lacey Green, Wilmslow, South Park, Macclesfield and Colshaw, near Handforth.
- (3)) Announced that the Vanuatu Ambassador had made a very successful visit to Crewe, in the previous week, to visit the Olympic training facilities, including the running track, Manchester Metropolitan University and Crewe Football Academy.
- (4)) Announced that a partnership, led by Cheshire East Council, had been selected from 32 nationwide to receive a £136,000 Government grant, to pioneer a social networking website, to support people affected by dementia and their Carers.
- (5) Sent best wishes to the troops from the 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment (Cheshire), who had deployed to Helmand Province, in Afghanistan, for a six month active service tour. The Battalion recruited from Congleton, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich, Macclesfield and Crewe and therefore, local men were involved.
- (6) Informed Members that notification had been received concerning the sad news of the death of Mr Arthur Molyneux, who was Chief Executive of Congleton Borough Council from 1972 to 1989. The funeral service would be held at 2.45pm on, Thursday 29 April 2010, at Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium.
- (7) Made reference to Cheshire East Council's first birthday, on 1 April and thanked Members and Officers for all their hard work, during what had been a challenging, but extremely rewarding first year.
- (8) As this was the Mayor's last meeting as Mayor and Chairman of the Council, she took the opportunity to thank Members, Officers and her Chaplain for their help and support throughout her year as Mayor.

187 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Baxendale declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9 of the agenda, relating to the Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2010/11 Civic Year, by virtue of the fact that it was recommended in the report that he be designated as Mayor Elect. Councillor R West declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9, as he understood that he was to be nominated to be designated as Deputy Mayor Elect.

In accordance with the Member Code of Conduct, Councillors Baxendale and West left the meeting during consideration of this item.

188 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public wishing to address the meeting.

189 NOTICE OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion, which had been submitted by Councillor J Weatherill, had been withdrawn, by written notice, prior to the meeting.

190 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr Nigel Briers, was unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, the Vice-chairman of the Committee, Mr David Sayer attended and presented the Standards Committee Annual report to Council. Mr Sayer thanked the Monitoring Officer, Chris Chapman, The Deputy Monitoring Officer, Julie Openshaw and Democratic Services Officer, Carol Jones for their support to the Committee during the past year.

Following the presentation, Members of the Council were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions upon any issues raised in the report. However, it was noted that these should not relate to any personal issues arising from the deliberations of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and that Mr Sayer be thanked for presenting the report and that the Committee Members be thanked for their hard work during the year.

191 ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE 2010/11 CIVIC YEAR

Consideration was given to the nominations for the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2010/11.

Council was requested to resolve that Councillor G Baxendale be designated as Mayor Elect and that a second Member be designated as Deputy Mayor Elect, with a view to their formal election as Mayor and appointment as Deputy Mayor for Cheshire East for 2010/2011.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor R West be designated as Deputy Mayor Elect.

RESOLVED

That Councillor G Baxendale be designated as Mayor Elect and that Councillor R West be designated as Deputy Mayor Elect, with a view to their formal election as Mayor and appointment as Deputy Mayor for Cheshire East for 2010/2011, at the Mayor Making ceremony to be held on 12 May 2010.

192 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL: MID-YEAR REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME - REFERRAL FROM GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Governance and Constitution Committee in respect of the Cheshire East Council Scheme of Members' Allowances 2009/10, following the mid-year review by the Independent Remuneration Panel, held on 8 January 2010.

RESOLVED

1. That subject to the following amendments, the Scheme of Member Allowances be adopted :-
 - (a) save as below, no increase be applied to the 2009/2010 rates fixed by the Cheshire East Council Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2010/2011 with effect from 1 April 2010;
 - (b) the position be reviewed following agreement of the Local Government Employers pay award to Local Government employees for 2010/2011;
 - (c) the following statements be incorporated into the Scheme:
 - (i) the rate applicable to Subsistence claims made in respect of attendance at the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference to be the rate applied to London and abroad, irrespective of where in the UK the event is held;
 - (ii) where elected Members are billed directly for a broadband/telephone line used or partly used for the purpose of carrying out Council duties, the associated line rental cost be reclaimable from the Members' Allowances Scheme on submission of a bill;
 - (iii) where a Member is acting in an official capacity at an event as the Council's representative, travel allowance will be paid. Travel and subsistence allowance may also be claimed where a Member is contributing to the business of a meeting in any of the following capacities:
 - as a member of the body
 - as a substitute for a member of the body

- as a local ward member in attendance for an agenda item
 - having registered to speak
 - being required to give evidence
 - being expected to attend, eg Cabinet Members attending scrutiny meetings, Group Whips attending Governance and Constitution Committee Briefings, scrutiny chairmen and spokesmen attending Cabinet and Portfolio Holder meetings.
- (iv) the right to Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowance and Travel and Subsistence Allowance may be withdrawn by the Council while a Councillor is suspended or partially suspended from his/her responsibilities or duties as a member of the Council as a result of a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 or Regulations made under that Part;
2. That, subject to 1 above, the Guide to Members' Allowances 2010/2011 be approved and adopted, with effect from 1 April 2010.
 3. That the Independent Remuneration Panel be invited to conduct a survey of the work of Cheshire East Members to help inform the Panel's future recommendations on Member allowances.

193 **LEADER'S REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL**

The Leader reported that, on 26 February, the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services had made a decision in respect of a proposed Traffic Regulation Order and Off-Street Parking Places Order, to facilitate civil enforcement of parking contraventions in the Congleton area.

The Chairman of the Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee had agreed that the decision would be considered as urgent for the purposes of Scrutiny Procedure Rule 13.

194 **QUESTIONS**

The Mayor reported that one question had been submitted by Councillor Flude as follows :-

The Vision for Crewe

SQW Consulting, The Vision for Crewe, what is the cost of the contract for this work?

The Leader of the Council, in summary, responded :-

One of the early priorities of the new Council was to identify the development priorities for our major towns of Macclesfield and Crewe. The contract with SQW to prepare an economic vision for Crewe has cost a total of £210,616. The work has been jointly funded through the Council and the North West Development Agency.

This work was tendered through the North West Development Agency's Framework Contract for regeneration work. Seven tenders were considered and the submission by SQW was assessed to offer both the best value for money and be most likely to deliver an authoritative document that would command wide spread support.

As a result, we got some great value for money. Feedback from public and private stakeholders has been positive and SQW need to be congratulated.

Recent quotes from high profile figures include:

Bombardier Transportation UK chairman Colin S Walton said: "As a major employer in Crewe, Bombardier is pleased to be able to offer its expertise and support to this exciting plan to transform the town.

Chris Gibb, chief operating officer at Virgin Trains: "Crewe is a key part of the Virgin Trains network and we have been delighted with the growth in customer numbers using the service in Cheshire in recent years.

"Now we also need to move to another level of customer service at the station and today's announcement is a clear sign of the vision that is required to attract more customers to rail."

NWDA chief executive Steven Broomhead said of the recent Government announcement: "The decision over Crewe train station is a big step forward – plans for future development can begin to move forward and Crewe can maximise the opportunities of its excellent infrastructure.

Partners must now work together on a single vision for Crewe which will deliver real change."

Mr Broomhead has said that he would personally like to sit on what ever Task Group we appoint to move things on in Crewe. At last, we are now getting money coming through. Crewe also received a massive boost with the recent government announcements on the £3m National Skills Academy for Rail Engineering, which we anticipate will be based in Crewe and the DfT support of £22m for Crewe Green Link Road. This is sign that confidence in Crewe is growing and that the Crewe Vision work has provided a momentum that did not exist twelve months ago.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 6.45 pm

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)
CHAIRMAN