

COUNCIL
22nd May 2008.

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Armstrong, Baldwin, Barker, Burton, Copeland, Davies, Dunstone, Francis, Freitag, Galletley, Harker, Hartley, L. Haszeldine, Hughes, Jenkinson, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. Jones, Lewis, Lister, Long, D. A. Lyonette, J. M. Lyonette, Maddison, McEwan, Newell, Nicholson, Nutt, Regan, Richmond, Roberts, Robson, Ruck, A. J. Scott, Stenson, Swainston, Swift, Vasey, Wallis, Williams and York. (42)

APOLOGIES – Councillors G. Cartwright, M. Cartwright, Chapman, Coultas, Dixon, S. Jones, Lawton, Lee, Mrs H. Scott, Thistlethwaite and Walker. (11)

ABSENT – None.

11. MINUTES - Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Council held on 26th March 2008.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Hughes declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Minute 17(1) below, in relation to the Transport Portfolio Overview Report.

13. ORDER OF SEALING DOCUMENTS – Presented – The Register showing the documents, which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

RESOLVED – That the Register of Documents, which had been sealed since the last meeting of the Council, be signed by the Mayor.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS – (1) Deaths in Service – The Mayor reported the deaths in service of Lesley Hemus, who died on 9th May 2008, and Liam Harker, who died on 5th May 2008. Lesley was employed by this Council as a Solicitor in the Legal Services Section and Liam was employed by this Council as a member of the Food and Bar Team at the Dolphin Centre.

RESOLVED – That the deepest sympathy of the Council be conveyed to the families of Ms. Hemus and Mr. Harker for the sad loss that they have sustained.

15. QUESTIONS – TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN) FROM – (1) The Public – There were no questions from members of the Public.

(2) Members to Cabinet / Chairs – There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, for the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

(3) Members to the nominated Member of the Police Authority in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996 - There were no questions to the nominated member of the Police Authority in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996.

16. COUNCIL REPORTS – (1) Procedure for the Assessment, Investigation and Determination of Complaints against Members – The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval of the ‘Procedure for the Assessment, Investigation and Determination of Complaints against Members’.

The submitted report stated that the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 were laid before Parliament on 17th April 2008, and subsequently came into force on 8th May 2008, and highlighted the responsibilities conferred on Standards Committees in terms of undertaking the initial assessment of misconduct allegations against Members. The submitted report outlined the local assessment process, and a copy of the revised procedure was appended to the submitted report.

RESOLVED – (a) That the ‘Procedure for the Assessment, Investigation and Determination of Complaints against Members’ be approved.

(b) That the consequential amendments to the Constitution, in relation to the role and function of the Standards Committee, be approved.

REASON – To enable the Standards Committee to discharge the initial assessment and review functions that it has taken on as a result of the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

(2) Membership of the Standards Committee - The Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval of an increase in the membership of the Standards Committee Parish Council Members.

The submitted report stated the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 were laid before Parliament on 17th April 2008, and came into force on 8th May 2008. The report outlined the new requirements that related to Parish Council representation on the Standards Committee, and the reasons for a proposed increase in Parish Council Representatives.

RESOLVED – That the number of Parish Council Members on the Standards Committee be increased by an additional Member (giving a total of three Parish Council Members on the Standards Committee).

REASON - To enable the Standards Committee to discharge the initial assessment and review functions that it has taken on as a result of the implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

17. CABINET REPORTS – (1) Overview Reports of Cabinet Members – The Leader and Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings.

Cabinet Members answered questions on their portfolios.

(2) Cabinet Urgent Decisions - The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) detailing five decisions taken by the Cabinet as a matter of urgency and to which the procedure for call-in could not be applied.

The submitted report outlined the procedure to be followed if decisions were taken under the Urgency Rule.

RESOLVED – That the urgent decision taken by Cabinet be noted.

REASON - To comply with the Council's Constitution.

18. SCRUTINY REPORTS - (1) Overview Reports - The five Scrutiny Committee Chairs each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings.

(2) Annual Reports 2007/08 - The five Scrutiny Committees Chairs each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the Municipal Year 2007/08.

19. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.