



MINUTES

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2006
4.20 PM

PRESENT

Councillor G Taylor Chairman

Councillor Auger	Councillor Lovelock M.B.E.
Councillor Bisnauthsing	Councillor Moore
Councillor Mrs Bosworth	Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Brailsford	Councillor O'Hare
Councillor Bryant	Councillor Radley
Councillor Carpenter	Councillor Mrs Radley
Councillor Mrs Cartwright	Councillor Selby
Councillor Channell	Councillor Shorrock
Councillor Chivers	Councillor Mrs Smith
Councillor Craft	Councillor Smith
Councillor Exton	Councillor Steptoe
Councillor Fines	Councillor M Taylor (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Gaffigan	Councillor Thompson
Councillor F Hurst	Councillor Turner
Councillor J Hurst	Councillor M Williams
Councillor Mrs Jalili	Councillor A Williams
Councillor Joynson	Councillor Wood
Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown	Councillor Mrs Woods
Councillor Kirkman	

OFFICERS

Chief Executive
Corporate Head of Finance & Resources
Scrutiny Support Officer

95. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Conboy, Mrs Dexter, Fisher, Kerr, Martin-Mayhew, Mrs. Neal, Pease, Mrs. Percival, Sandall, Stokes, Webster, G. Wheat and Mrs. Wheat.

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The chairman advised that all members had a personal interest in the agenda item but a prejudicial interest was not declarable because it was exempt for this issue. There were no other declarations of interest.

97. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES - OUTCOME OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT

DECISION:

The recommendations detailed in report CHFR22 be accepted as detailed in paragraph 3 but with the following amendments:

- ***The removal of recommendation 17 in total.***
- ***That paragraph 18 be changed to read “The payments detailed in this report (1-15 and 19-21) to become effective for the municipal year 2007/08. ”***
- ***Paragraph 16 be amended to read, “The council continues to pay travel and subsistence allowances to elected members and non-elected co-opted members at the existing locally agreed current levels, which are based on the revenue and customs tax allowances”. (These are exemplified in Part 6 of the members handbook and constitution on pages 242 (January 2005 issue) and 243-244 (October 2004 issue).)***
- ***To add, “Indexation be applied to existing members' allowances with effect from the start of the current municipal year. The base of indexation is to be the local government pay settlement which is 2.95% for the current financial year.”***
- ***Any virement necessary to implement this be approved by cabinet.***

The Corporate Head of Finance and Resources presented report CHFR22 that set out recommendations from the Welland partnership members remuneration panel.

The Resources & Assets Portfolio Holder spoke to the council about the recommendations, the panel's remit and reminded members that no increase had been made to member remuneration despite a significant increase in workload. He moved that the recommendations detailed in the report be accepted as detailed in paragraph 3 but with the following changes:

- a. The removal of recommendation 17 in total
- b. That paragraph 18 is changed and now reads “The payments detailed in this report (1-15 and 19-21) to become effective for the municipal year 2007/08”
- c. Paragraph 16 is amended to read, “The council continues to pay travel and subsistence allowances to elected members and non-elected co-opted members at the existing locally agreed current levels, which are based on the revenue and customs tax allowances”. These are exemplified in Part 6 of the members handbook and constitution on pages 242 (January 2005 issue) and 243-244 (October 2004 issue).
- d. To add, “Indexation be applied to existing members' allowances with effect from the start of the current municipal year. The base of indexation is to be the local government pay settlement which is 2.95% for the current financial year.”
- e. Any virement necessary to implement this be approved by cabinet.

A paper copy of the proposal was circulated to members and the motion was seconded. The member also highlighted to the council paragraph 4.1 of the remuneration panel's report, which referred to a perception that some members may not be putting in the time or commitment to their role, and that this was a matter for the council to address.

In support of the motion, a member spoke about how it would be wrong to make any decision that would affect the current budget and so the next municipal year was the appropriate time to change member remuneration. An increase was overdue, especially for executive members whose workload had increased. Reference had been made to the member attendance records but it was noted that these did not include attendance at non-public meetings nor when apologies had to be given for attendance at other council meetings.

A member moved under council procedure rule 14.10(a) to withdraw the motion because of the financial implications from the item of business at the preceding meeting. This was seconded.

Another member, as a point of order, raised various concerns in relation to council procedure rule 21.1, the code of conduct parts 2(c), 4, 7 and 10(1). The chairman noted the concerns but advised that it should be discussed outside the meeting.

A vote to withdraw the motion was lost and debate on the original motion continued. A proposal was made under council procedure rule 14.10(f) to adjourn the meeting until April 2007 as this would provide an ideal chance for accountability. This was seconded but lost on being put to the vote.

In relation to the original motion, it was proposed and seconded that it be put to the vote. The chairman ruled that the motion had not been sufficiently debated.

In support of the original motion, a member drew from comparisons with other Lincolnshire authorities' allowances. South Kesteven was generally the second lowest and would likely remain so even if the remuneration panel's recommendations were accepted.

In closing, the Resources & Assets Portfolio Holder stated his disappointment that the council had not addressed the report's references to time and commitment. He also spoke about the attendance records not including the considerable time that most members spent on council work.

A vote on the motion was carried.

98. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 4.53p.m.