

MINUTES

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 22 APRIL 2010
2.00 PM



PRESENT

Councillor Bob Adams Chairman
Councillor Margery Radley in the Chair at Minute 3

Councillor Ray Auger
Councillor Pam Bosworth
Councillor Christine Brough
Councillor Robert Broughton
Councillor Paul Carpenter
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor Elizabeth Channell
Councillor George Chivers
Councillor Michael Cook
Councillor Nick Craft
Councillor Alan Davidson
Councillor John Dawson
Councillor Mike Exton
Councillor Stuart Farrar
Councillor Mrs Joyce Gaffigan
Councillor John Harvey
Councillor Robert Hearmon
Councillor David Higgs
Councillor Trevor Holmes
Councillor Reginald Howard
Councillor Mrs Maureen Jalili
Councillor Sam Jalili
Councillor Kenneth Joynson
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Albert Victor Kerr
Councillor Jock Kerr

OFFICERS

Chief Executive (Beverly Agass)
Strategic Director (Ian Yates)

Councillor Reg Lovelock MBE.
Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew
Councillor Stuart McBride
Councillor Andrew Moore
Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal
Councillor Benjamin Newcombe-Jones
Councillor John Nicholson
Councillor Alan Parkin
Councillor Mrs Margery Radley
Councillor Bob Russell
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Bob Sandall
Councillor Trevor Scott
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor John Smith
Councillor Mrs Maureen Spencer-Gregson O.B.E.
Councillor Peter Stephens
Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Mike Taylor
Councillor Jeff Thompson
Councillor Frank Turner
Councillor Graham Wheat
Councillor Mike Williams
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Raymond Wooten

OFFICERS

Interim Strategic Director (Tracey Blackwell)

OFFICERS

Corporate Head, Finance & Customer Services (Richard Wyles)
Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer (Lucy Youles)
Transport & Operations Manager, Street Scene (Pat Swinton)
Assets & Facilities Service Manager (Liz Banner)

OFFICERS

Corporate Head, Resources and Organisational Development (Paul Stokes)
Democracy Services Manager (Lena Shuttlewood)
Enforcement Co-ordinator, Street Scene (Gwen Came)

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION: That Councillor Mrs Margery Radley be elected Chairman of the District Council until the next annual meeting of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Adams and seconded by Councillor Craft that Councillor Mrs Margery Radley be Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Chairman was invested with the chains of office and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. The Chairman gave a brief speech of thanks during which she undertook to promote the district of South Kesteven, an area she said she was proud to live in.

The Chairman then took the chair.

COUNCILLOR MRS MARGERY RADLEY IN THE CHAIR

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

A vote of thanks was made to the retiring Chairman, Councillor Bob Adams, by Councillor Thompson who pointed out that Councillor Adams had been the twenty fifth Chairman of South Kesteven District Council. Councillor Thompson referred to the pleasant and unobtrusive way that Councillor Adams had chaired the council meetings during which he had been even handed and fair to all sides.

Councillor Adams was presented with a retiring gift and responded to the vote of thanks during which he expressed his appreciation to his Chaplains, his Vice-Chairman, and officers for their support during his year of office. He also thanked members for their co-operation and goodwill irrespective of party.

Group Leaders then congratulated Councillor Mrs Radley on her election as

Chairman and expressed their good wishes for her term of office.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION: That Councillor Mike Cook be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council until the next annual meeting of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Linda Neal and seconded by Councillor Martin-Mayhew that Councillor Mike Cook be Vice-Chairman of the District Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Cook made a declaration of acceptance of office and thanked the Council for electing him.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bisnauthsing, Helyar, Selby, Andrea Webster, Tom Webster, and Avril Williams.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

6. MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2010.

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 1 March 2010 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the reply from Councillor Smith to Mrs Kara McDonald at minute 77 on page 2 being amended to read:

*Our current budget is entirely used for the maintenance and repair of **equipment** to ensure that it is kept fully compliant with Health and Safety regulations. This budget is under pressure with the unfortunate amount of vandalism in some areas. However, I am pleased to say that it is intended to **repaint** the existing apparatus by engaging the services of the Unpaid Work Scheme, better known as the Probation Service, and also to repair any equipment which needs it. Most importantly we will be fully repairing the damaged areas of safety surfacing.*

7. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS)

A list of engagements undertaken by the outgoing Chairman since the last council meeting was noted. Members' were advised that the civic dinner at West Lindsey District Council took place on 16 April this year and not 2009 as stated. Similarly, the civic service at Rutland County Council was on 18 April 2010, and not 2009 as listed.

8. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

DECISION: That Councillor Mrs Linda Neal be appointed Leader of the District Council until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Farrar, and seconded by Councillor Lovelock, that Councillor Mrs Linda Neal be appointed Leader of the Council. There were no other nominations.

Following the vote, a member expressed her concern that there was not to be a change of Leader although she pointed out that her comments were not a reflection on Councillor Mrs Neal personally.

9. DETERMINATION AS TO THE NUMBER OF CABINET SEATS AND THE NOTIFICATION BY THE LEADER OF THE CABINET MEMBERS AND PORTFOLIOS

DECISION:

- (1) To set the size of the Cabinet at six members, including the Leader;
- (2) To note the following membership of the Cabinet and their respective portfolio responsibilities:

PORTFOLIO	MEMBER
Leader Strategic Partnerships	Councillor Mrs Linda Neal
Deputy Leader Corporate Governance & Housing	Councillor Paul Carpenter
Resources & Assets	Councillor Mike Taylor
Economic Development	Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Access & Engagement	Councillor Ray Auger
Healthy Environment	Councillor John Smith

10. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL AND THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

DECISION:

(1) Noting and accepting the wish of the Labour Group to relinquish its allocated seat on the Development Control Committee, to approve the following arrangements for the allocation of committee seats to members based on political groups' aggregate membership as a proportional share of Full Council seats:

Committee	Conservative	Independent	Liberal Dem't	Labour	Total
Development Control	10	4	3		17
Licensing	7	3	1		11
Resources PDG	4	2	1		7
Community PDG	4	2	1		7
Engagement PDG	4	2		1	7
Scrutiny Committee	7	3	1		11
Constitution Cttee	3	1	1		5
Governance & Audit Committee	3	1	1		5
Standards	No political balance required				4

To endorse the names of the members of the Standards Committee as submitted by the Leaders of the Conservative group and the Independent group:

Councillor Lovelock, Councillor Adams, Councillor Moore, and Councillor Mike Williams

To approve the following committee memberships:

Development Control Committee:

**Councillor Adams
Councillor Cook
Councillor Exton**

**Councillor Mrs Gaffigan
Councillor Helyar
Councillor Higgs
Councillor Holmes
Councillor Howard
Councillor Mrs Jalili
Councillor Sam Jalili
Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Vic Kerr**

**Councillor Parkin
Councillor Scott
Councillor Judy Smith
Councillor Turner
Councillor Avril Williams**

Licensing Committee

**Councillor Mrs Bosworth
Councillor Brough
Councillor Broughton
Councillor Chivers
Councillor Exton
Councillor Howard
Councillor Mrs Radley
Councillor Russell
Councillor Turner
Councillor Wheat
Councillor Mike Williams**

Scrutiny Committee

**Councillor Mrs Bosworth
Councillor Hearmon
Councillor Helyar
Councillor Higgs
Councillor Holmes
Councillor Joynson
Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Newcombe-Jones
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor Andrea Webster
Councillor Mike Williams**

Resources Policy Development Group

**Councillor Craft
Councillor Cook**

**Councillor Mrs Jalili
Councillor Bob Sandall
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Scott
Councillor Stokes**

Engagement Policy Development Group

**Councillor Exton
Councillor Cook
Councillor Jock Kerr
Councillor McBride
Councillor Russell
Councillor Selby
Councillor Tom Webster**

Communities Policy Development Group

**Councillor Bisnauthsing
Councillor Miss Channell
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Martin-Mayhew
Councillor Stephens
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Wootten**

Constitution Committee

**Councillor Joyce Gaffigan
Councillor Martin-Mayhew
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Andrea Webster
Councillor Wootten**

Governance and Audit Committee

**Councillor Dawson
Councillor Farrar
Councillor Joynson
Councillor Lovelock
Councillor Moore**

In presenting report number DEM040 the Access and Engagement Portfolio Holder referred to the amended papers showing political composition and existing committee membership which had been circulated to members. He moved that the council accepts the political composition and the allocation of seats as indicated on the amended papers. The motion was seconded.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat group expressed her concern that although the Standards Committee was not required to be politically balanced, two groups on the council were effectively excluded from it. She considered that this was unfair and proposed an amendment that each group on the council should be represented on the Standards Committee. The amendment received a seconder. After several members spoke in support of the amendment a vote was taken but subsequently lost.

The debate moved back to the original motion during which the Conservative Unaligned member drew the council's attention to the paper on political composition which referred to his position as "unaligned". He wished it to be recorded that he was still a Conservative Councillor and therefore the minutes should reflect he was Conservative Unaligned. He also wished the minutes to reflect that before he ceased to be a member of the Conservative group, he had served for 10 out of the 12 months on both the Development Control Committee and the Standards Committee.

The Leader of the Independent group sought and received confirmation that as the Conservative group membership had reduced by one member, that group now relinquished one seat on the Resources PDG and the Independent group gained one seat on the Resources PDG.

Separate votes were taken on the political composition and allocation of seats, and the memberships to the committees and PDG's as proposed by the respective Group Leaders. Both votes were carried.

11. APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMANSHIPS AND VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS

DECISION: To award the positions of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of committees and groups to the following members:

Development Control Committee:

Councillor Parkin – Chairman

Councillor Adams – Vice-Chairman

Licensing Committee:

Councillor Mrs Bosworth – Chairman

Councillor Turner – Vice-Chairman

Scrutiny Committee:

Councillor Joynson – Chairman

Councillor Mrs Judy Smith – Vice-Chairman

Resources Policy Development Group:

Councillor Craft – Chairman

Councillor Scott – Vice-Chairman

Communities Policy Development Group:

Councillor Nicholson – Chairman

Councillor Thompson – Vice-Chairman

Engagement Policy Development Group:

Councillor Exton – Chairman

Councillor Tom Webster – Vice-Chairman

Constitution Committee:

Councillor Martin-Mayhew – Chairman

Councillor Andrea Webster – Vice-Chairman

Governance & Audit Committee:

Councillor Lovelock – Chairman

Councillor Farrar – Vice-Chairman

In accordance with Council procedure rule 1.1 (viii), the Leader proposed that there be no changes in chairmanships or vice-chairmanships from the previous year for appointments to the committees and Policy Development Groups. The proposals were seconded, and following a vote, carried.

12. TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2010/11

DECISION: In accordance with Council procedure rule 1.1 (x) that the meetings of the Council and Committees be held in accordance with the draft programme of meetings at appendix 2 to report DEM041 showing the Development Control Committee meeting on a four weekly cycle, and subject to the deletion of the council meeting on 14 April 2011, to be replaced by the annual meeting of the council on 19 May 2011 following the District and Parish elections.

The Access and Engagement Portfolio Holder presented report number DEM041 which contained two versions of a draft programme of meetings for the ensuing municipal year; one as presented to the council in January 2010 for information, and the second version showing the Development Control Committee meeting on a four weekly cycle instead of the present three week cycle. The Portfolio Holder moved that the council accepts the second version of the timetable and this was seconded.

The Chairman of the Development Control Committee, Councillor Parkin, explained the reasons why the committee was recommending a move to a four week cycle. It would allow case officers more time to prepare reports without affecting the operation of the service.

Councillor Parkin also highlighted the date of the annual meeting on the draft programme which was shown as 14 April 2011. Given that 2011 was the year of ordinary elections for the district, it was pointed out that this should be moved

to May to comply with statutory requirements. The Portfolio Holder agreed to this amendment to his motion that the annual meeting of the council be held on 19 May 2011 and the date of 14 April be deleted from the draft programme. A vote on moving the date of the annual meeting to 19 May 2011 was taken and carried.

A member asked why council meetings were always held on a Thursday and asked if there was no constitutional reason, consideration be given to some meetings being held on other days of the week to allow some members the opportunity to attend.

A further vote was taken on the motion to approve the draft programme of meetings as shown at appendix 2 with the Development Control Committee meeting on a four weekly basis. This was also carried.

13. REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DECISION: To note the note the report of the Standards Committee for the period May 2009 to April 2010.

In presenting his report to the council, Mr Chris Holtom, independent Chairman of the Standards Committee, made mention of earlier comments in the meeting about non partisanship. He said the Standards Committee's work was entirely without party politics. He saw the role of the committee as prevention and suggested that the standards regime seemed to be working as there had been fewer complaints lodged than last year. The focus was on raising the status of members in the public's perception; unfairly the public's poor perception of MP's extended to local Councillors who were in fact subject to a much tighter framework that was more controlled, open and accountable.

Mr Holtom concluded by thanking his vice-chairman, Mr Fred Mann, members (particularly Councillor Harvey whose insightful input would be missed), Mrs Lucy Youles, Monitoring Officer, and the democratic services team who continued to provide a high standard of support to the committee.

Members joined the Chairman and the Governance Portfolio Holder in thanking Mr Holtom and Mr Mann and the members of the Standards Committee. Councillor Harvey thanked Mr Holtom for his kind words of support.

14. REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

DECISION:

- (1) to note the annual report of the Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee for 2009/10**
- (2) to note the indicative work plan and timetable for 2010/11.**

The Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee, Councillor Lovelock, presented the committee's annual report and in moving the recommendations it contained said that it was most important that members were aware of the work of the committee and its role. He mentioned the support the committee received from Internal Audit, the District Auditor who occasionally attended the committee, as did the Chairman of the Resources PDG. The motion was seconded. The Assets and Resources portfolio holder commented on the thoroughness of the Internal Audit process which ensured that the council's financial resources were well spent.

15. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

DECISION:

- (1) To appoint the Leader to represent the Council on the Local Government Association General Assembly, with the Deputy Leader appointed to attend in her absence;**
- (2) To appoint the Healthy Environment Portfolio Holder and Councillor Martin-Mayhew to represent the Council on the Local Government Association Rural Commission, with the Portfolio Holder holding the voting rights;**
- (3) To appoint the Economic Development Portfolio Holder and Councillor Turner to represent the Council on the Local Government Association Urban Commission, with the Portfolio Holder holding the voting rights;**
- (4) To appoint Councillors Mike Exton, Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown, Bob Russell, and John Smith to represent the Council on the Kesteven Cultural Panel.**

The Access and Engagement Portfolio Holder presented report number DEM042 which concerned a number of annual appointments to regional bodies and sought four appointments to the Kesteven Cultural Panel.

The Leader moved that the existing appointees on the three regional bodies be re-appointed for 2010/11 and that the following nominees be put forward for the Kesteven Cultural Panel: Councillors Mike Exton, Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown, Bob Russell, and John Smith. The nominations were seconded and in the absence of any other nominations, a vote was taken and carried.

16. ADDITION TO SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL OFF STREET PARKING PLACES ORDER 2002: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

DECISION:

- (1) That the authority proceed with the proposed South Kesteven District Council Off-Street Parking Places Order 2009 following the consultation period;**

(2) The Order be made in accordance with the revised appendix to report AFM0137.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder submitted report number AFM0137 which sought authority from the council to proceed with the proposed South Kesteven District Council Off-Street Parking Places Order 2009, following the consultation period. The purpose of the new order was to prevent unauthorised use of the council's non pay and display car parks at Trent Road, Arnoldfield, Dysart Park and the area to the entrance to Dysart Park off Bridge End Road, Wyndham Park, the entrance and parking area off Hill Avenue in Grantham. The portfolio holder moved the making of the order and this was seconded.

The debate opened with a member requesting that the purpose and implications of the new order be communicated to the public in plain English. Another member expressed concern that a new order was being introduced for only one part of the district when potentially there could be similar issues of unauthorised use elsewhere. The Service Manager for Assets and Facilities clarified that problems of unauthorised use had only been identified in the areas to be covered by the order. Other avenues to address the problem, working with the police, had not resolved the issue.

The member who had raised the concern stated that he was still of the opinion that the order should apply to the rest of the district in case problems occurred elsewhere. The Chief Executive advised that the issue had been brought before the council prior to going out to consultation. That was the stage at which amendments to the proposed order could have been made. The Chairman then proceeded to call the vote following which the motion was carried.

[There was a break for refreshment between 3.37pm and 3.57pm.]

17. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

DECISION: To commence formal public consultation in relation to the adoption of Dog Control Orders within South Kesteven District as attached to report number SS0008.

The Healthy Environment Portfolio Holder submitted report number SS0008 which, he said, referred to an issue that concerned many residents – the control of dogs and dog fouling in public places as a result of irresponsible ownership. Members were advised that the proposed orders under the 2006 Regulations superseded the previous Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 under which the council currently issued fixed penalty notices for dog fouling offences. The new orders would allow volunteer employees of parish councils to act in an enforcement capacity and the portfolio holder was pleased to report that there had been interest expressed by a number of parish councils in taking up this

opportunity.

Before moving the recommendation that formal consultation be undertaken on the adoption of Dog Control Orders, the Portfolio Holder advised members that a revised list of play areas to be covered by the orders was available in the Members' Room. The motion was seconded.

A member expressed concern that there were a number of locations in Stamford that were not presently included in the list. The portfolio holder replied that there was an opportunity before the consultation was launched for members to put forward other suggested sites.

Concern was also expressed that the council would be making orders that it would not or could not enforce. He hoped that there would be sufficient resources available to carry out the enforcement. A comment was also made that those committing these offences did not do so within a 9 to 5 period. Officers then responded to these points explaining that PCSO's and other authorised officers of the council e.g. estate officers, would be able to carry out enforcement of these orders. Assurances were given that times that officers trained in enforcement were out in the community would be monitored and resources would be focused on "hot spots" where the problem was most prevalent. Councillor McBride outlined the role of PCSO's in this regard who would be acting as agents of the council.

Members indicated their support for these enhanced controls, recognising that most problems were down to an irresponsible minority of dog owners. It was hoped that those who were caught contravening the orders would be made an example of as well as proactive publicity about the dangers that dog fouling caused for children and pregnant women. The portfolio holder responded by acknowledging these points and the importance of training for the officers in a common sense application of the regulations during which they may have to deal with some abusive people.

18. NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

DECISION:

- (1) That the Council carries out the statutory consultation with electors and other interested persons on the new executive arrangements using its website and SKToday;**
- (2) To approve the proposed timetable as appended to report DEM039 for the consultation period and implementation of the new executive arrangements;**
- (3) That a letter be sent on behalf of the Council to the Local Government Association to express this authority's frustration at the amount of legislation passed by central government controlling the way local councils operate.**

The Access and Engagement Portfolio Holder presented report number DEM039 which referred to the new statutory requirement upon the council to consult on and implement new executive arrangements under Part 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The portfolio holder moved the recommendations contained in the report that the council's website and its SKToday publication be used for consulting residents and other interested parties and the timetable for implementation be that as appended to the report. The motion was seconded.

A member expressed concern that the proposed methods of consultation were not wide enough and should include direct consultation with all town and parish councils. It was suggested that members could refer to the issue in their own newsletters and it could also be discussed at the summer round of Local Forums. The member asked for clarification on what was meant by the public's views being "taken into account" and requested that all group leaders be kept informed of the feedback received from the consultation. The Monitoring Officer advised that the consultation was an opportunity for the public to comment on either of the two permissible models of executive arrangements; it was not a matter on which they could vote. She also stated that copies of SKToday were sent to every household within the district thereby ensuring a wide coverage.

Further concerns were then expressed at what was seen as a further bureaucratic imposition by central government which would inevitably have cost implications. It was questioned whether a six week consultation period would be sufficient for people to take in the detail of this new legislation. Noting that the new executive arrangements provided for a Leader to be elected for a four year term of office, officers were asked what would happen if the political balance of a council was to change during that term of office. The Monitoring Officer advised that constitutional provision could be made to remove a Leader by resolution of the council.

The Leader stated that although she agreed with the proposed consultation methods she was extremely frustrated at yet further intervention by central government over what local government could do for its communities. She made the point that ten years ago local authorities were able to make far more local choices but a constant stream of legislation now fettered that choice. Local councils' time would be far better spent on doing what their communities wanted them to do.

In support of the Leader's comments, another member expressed the view that the Local Government Association appeared to be an agent of central government rather than being responsive to local councils. He proposed that a letter be written to the LGA to express this council's frustrations at not being able to focus on serving the needs of the community because of the wealth of legislation aimed at regulating local authorities. With the consent of his seconder, the mover of the motion agreed to include this as part of the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

19. LOCAL DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION ACT 2009 - DUTY TO ADOPT A PETITIONS SCHEME

DECISION:

- (1) To adopt the new Petitions scheme as required by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009;**
- (2) To set the threshold for debate at Council at 5,000 signatures, and for attendance at Scrutiny Committee 2,500 signatures;**
- (3) In view of the timescales involved, the detailed work of the Council's petitions scheme be referred to the Engagement PDG for consideration. The Access and Engagement Portfolio Holder be granted delegated authority to agree the details of the scheme following the recommendations of the PDG;**
- (4) The Constitution Committee to consider consequent amendments to the Constitution for recommendation to Council.**

Members had before them report number DEM043 which set out a new legislative requirement for all councils to adopt a formal petitions scheme by 15 June 2010. The scheme must also include a formal procedure for dealing with electronic petitions but this aspect of the legislation came into force at a later date on 15 December 2010.

The Government had produced detailed statutory guidance, including a model petitions scheme which the council could adopt or adapt to suit local circumstances. In presenting the report, the Access and Engagement portfolio holder referred to the very short timescale the council had to implement this new duty. The statutory guidance and implementation date had only been notified to the council on 30 March 2010. The portfolio holder moved the recommendations contained within the report that the detail of this authority's scheme be considered by the Engagement PDG and its recommendations be referred to himself as portfolio holder. Subsequent amendment to the Constitution would be considered by the Constitution Committee before referral to full Council for approval. The motion was seconded.

The debate opened with a member welcoming the introduction of a formal scheme to deal with petitions. He was of the view that this was something the council should have been doing years ago as it was an opportunity for the public to get their views across and issues debated by the council. Concern was raised at the proposed threshold of 5,000 signatures to trigger debate at council and 2,500 signatures for referral to the Scrutiny Committee requiring attendance by a senior council officer. Some members felt that this was too high. It was proposed as an amendment that the thresholds be set at 1,000 signatures for both counts. The amendment received a seconder. Following a vote the amendment was lost. A vote then took place on the original motion which was subsequently carried.

20. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

No questions on notice were submitted.

The meeting closed at 5.08pm.