MINUTES

COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 18 APRIL 2013
2.00 PM

PRESENT
Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown Chairman
then Councillor David Nalson

Councillor Jean Bevan
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth
Councillor Terl Bryant
Councillor Paul Carpenter
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor Ibis Channell
Councillor George Chivers
Councillor Michael Cook
Councillor Kelham Cooke
Councillor Paul Cosham
Councillor Nick Craft
Councillor Alan Davidson
Councillor Phil Dilks
Councillor Breda Griffin
Councillor Reg Howard
Councillor Vic Kerr
Councillor Michael King
Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Councillor David Nalson
Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal
Councillor Nick Robins
Councillor Graddon Rowlands
Councillor Bob Russell
Councillor Bob Sampson
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Bob Sandall
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor Rob Shorrock
Councillor Jacky Smith
Councillor Peter Stephens
Councillor Judy Stevens
Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Adam Stokes
Councillor Brenda A Sumner
Councillor Mrs Jean Taylor
Councillor Mike Taylor
Councillor Jeff Thompson
Councillor Bruce Wells
Councillor Martin Wilkins
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Rosemary H Woolley
Councillor Raymond Wootten

OFFICERS

Chief Executive (Beverly Agass)
Strategic Director (Daren Turner, Tracey Blackwell)
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Lucy Youles)
Principal Democracy Officer (Jo Toomey)

Following the death of Baroness Thatcher, the Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect. Statements were then made by Councillor Mrs Neal on behalf of the Conservative Group, Councillor Morgan on behalf of the Labour Group and Councillor Howard on behalf of the Group of Independent Councillors.

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Decision:

That Councillor David Nalson is elected Chairman of South Kesteven District Council until the next annual meeting of the Council.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor David Nalson be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. In proposing Councillor Nalson, reference was made to his local roots and his experience as a local councillor in the district. The proposer also felt that the experience he gained as Mayor of Stamford and his considered approach made him particularly suited to the office.

No other nominations were put forward and a vote was taken. Councillor Nalson was duly elected Chairman of South Kesteven District Council.

The Chairman was invested with the chain of office. He made a declaration of acceptance and took the chair.

COUNCILLOR NALSON IN THE CHAIR

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

A vote of thanks was made to the retiring Chairman by Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth.

The Chairman presented Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown with gifts to commemorate her year in office.

Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown thanked Members for their support during her term of office and expressed how much she had enjoyed her tenure.

Gifts were presented to Councillor Bob Russell who had served as the Chairman's consort, the Council and the civic officer.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Decision:

That Councillor Reg Howard is elected Vice-Chairman of South Kesteven District Council until the next annual meeting of the Council.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Reg Howard be elected Vice-Chairman of South Kesteven District Council. In proposing Councillor Howard, reference was made to his many years' service as a town councillor (including 12 terms as Mayor of Market Deeping) and district councillor and the way in which he conducted himself.

On being put to the vote, Councillor Howard was appointed unanimously as

Vice Chairman of South Kesteven District Council. He signed the declaration of acceptance and thanked Members for their support.

The Chairman stated how the meeting would be run. He explained he saw the district as a single unit and did not want people of any area to be left out. He stated that the Council was for the people of South Kesteven not part politics.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, Ashberry, Auger, Jock Kerr, Parkin, Powell, Scott, John Smith and Mrs Judy Smith.

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No interests were disclosed.

6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2013 were proposed, seconded and agreed as a correct record.

7. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS)

The Council noted the Chairman’s engagements.

The Chairman announced that his charity for the year would be Cancer Research UK.

8. APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET

The Leader announced that the Cabinet would increase by one member (from six to seven). She announced the Cabinet members and their portfolios.

Portfolio	Member
Policy, Strategy and Strategic Partnerships	Councillor Mrs Linda Neal
Governance and Communication	Councillor Paul Carpenter
Strategic Resources – Well Run Council	Councillor Mike Taylor
Grow The Economy and Economic Development	Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Healthy Environment	Councillor John Smith
Good Housing	Councillor Terl Bryant
Arts and Leisure	Councillor Bob Adams

Councillor Carpenter would remain the Deputy Leader.

9. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

<u>Decision:</u>

1) **To approve the following appointments to Committees and Policy Development Groups based on rules of political balance and the**

nominations of group leaders:

Committee/Group	Member
Resources Policy Development Group	Councillor Jean Bevan Councillor Nick Craft Councillor Nick Robins Councillor Trevor Scott Councillor Jacky Smith Councillor Bob Sandall Councillor Alan Davidson
Engagement Policy Development Group	Councillor Ray Auger Councillor Mike Cook Councillor Nick Robins Councillor Rosemary Woolley Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing Councillor Miss Ibis Channell Councillor Jock Kerr
Communities Policy Development Group	Councillor Kelham Cooke Councillor Breda Griffin Councillor John Nicholson Councillor Mrs Jean Taylor Councillor Ray Wootten Councillor Jeff Thompson Councillor Charmaine Morgan
Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Paul Cosham Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown Councillor Michael King Councillor David Nalson Councillor Bob Russell Councillor Mrs Judy Smith Councillor Frank Turner Councillor Reg Howard Councillor Helen Powell Councillor Bob Sampson Councillor Ian Selby
Development Control Committee	Councillor Mike Cook Councillor David Higgs Councillor Mrs Rosemary-Kaberry Brown Councillor Michael King Councillor Alan Parkin Councillor Jacky Smith Councillor Mrs Judy Smith Councillor Adam Stokes Councillor Mrs Brenda Sumner Councillor Martin Wilkins Councillor Debbie Wren Councillor Reg Howard Councillor Vic Kerr Councillor Helen Powell Councillor Judy Stevens Councillor Mark Ashberry Councillor Charmaine Morgan

Licensing Committee & Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Committee	Councillor Mrs Pam Bosworth Councillor George Chivers Councillor Breda Griffin Councillor Graddon Rowlands Councillor Bob Russell Councillor Mrs Jean Taylor Councillor Frank Turner Councillor Bob Broughton Councillor Reg Howard Councillor Susan Sandall Councillor Mark Ashberry
Governance and Audit Committee	Councillor Jean Bevan Councillor Trevor Scott Councillor Ian Stokes Councillor Martin Wilkins Councillor Rosemary Woolley Councillor Jeff Thompson Councillor Rob Shorrock
Constitution Committee	Councillor Ray Auger Councillor Alan Parkin Councillor Ray Wootten Councillor Vic Kerr Councillor Rob Shorrock
Chief Executive's Remuneration Panel	Councillor Terl Bryant Councillor Trevor Scott Councillor Bob Sampson
Chief Executive's Performance Panel	Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal Councillor Mike Taylor Councillor Helen Powell
Chief Executive's Appeal Panel	Councillor Paul Carpenter Councillor Ian Stokes Councillor Vic Kerr
Electoral Review Working Group	Councillor Bob Adams Councillor Adam Stokes Councillor Rosemary Woolley Councillor Reg Howard Councillor Alan Davidson

2) To approve the appointments of chairmen and vice-chairman

Committee/Group	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Resources Policy Development Group	Councillor Craft	Councillor Scott
Engagement Policy Development Group	Councillor M Cook	Councillor Woolley
Communities Policy Development Group	Councillor Nicholson	Councillor Thompson
Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Howard	Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Development Control Committee	Councillor Wilkins	Councillor Jacky Smith

Licensing Committee & Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Committee	Councillor Mrs Bosworth	Councillor Russell
Governance and Audit	Councillor I Stokes	Councillor Bevan
Constitution Committee	Councillor Wootten	Councillor Parkin

The Council had before them report number LDS089, which informed Council of the proposed apportionment of places on the Council's committees and policy development groups when the rules of political balance were applied. A list of the proposed nominations from each political group was circulated before the meeting. Councillor Morgan confirmed the Labour group's nomination for the Resources Policy Development Group (Councillor Alan Davidson) and the Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Ian Selby).

The nominations for committees/PDGs were proposed *en bloc*. They were seconded and, on being put to the vote, the appointments were approved.

The Leader of the Council provided her nominations for chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Council's committees/PDGs, which were seconded and on being put to the vote, carried.

10. TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2013/14

Decision:

In accordance with Council procedure rule 1.1(x), the Council approves the programme of ordinary meetings of the Council and its committees attached as appendix 1 to report number LDS088 (subject to the Engagement PDG scheduled for 23 May 2013 being moved to 6 June 2013).

The adoption of the draft timetable of Council meetings as appended to report number LDS088 was proposed and seconded. Councillors were notified of one change to the circulated draft: the Engagement PDG meeting scheduled for 23 May 2013 would be moved to 6 June 2013 at 10am. Reference was also made to the meeting of the Development Control Committee scheduled for 31 December 2013. The site visit arrangements for this meeting would need varying from the normal pattern as they would fall on Christmas day.

On being put to the vote, the draft programme was approved unanimously subject to the alteration of the Engagement PDG meeting as noted above.

11. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Decision:

1. **To approve the following list of nominations for representatives on outside bodies:**

Organisation	Representative	Expiry
East Midlands Councils	The Leader (Deputy Leader in his/her absence)	May 2014
Local Government Association	The Leader (Deputy Leader in his/her absence)	May 2014
Local Government Association (Rural Commission)	Healthy Environment Portfolio Holder (voting rights) Councillor Michael King	May 2014
Local Government Association (Urban Commission)	Grow the Economy and Economic Development Portfolio Holder (Voting Rights) Councillor Mrs. Brenda Sumner	May 2014

2. **To approve the feedback form (attached as appendix B to report number LDS090) to keep other members informed of the work and effectiveness of outside bodies and the representative's input.**

Members had before them report number LDS090, setting out those outside bodies and organisations who were seeking district council representation. It was proposed and seconded that the appointments should continue as shown in appendix A to the report with the amendment that Councillor Mrs Sumner would be the Council's representative on the Local Government Association (Urban Commission) and that Councillor King would be the representative for the Local Government Association (Rural Commission). This was put to the vote and carried.

Also included in the report was a draft form produced by the Scrutiny Committee that would provide a mechanism through which Members could feed back about the outside bodies on which they represented the Council. Copies of completed forms would be kept in a file in the Members' Lounge and regular reports would be made to the Scrutiny Committee; exempt information would not be released. This was proposed and seconded and on being put to the vote, was carried.

12. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS

The Leader of the Council's report number LDS091, which listed two key decisions and one non-key decision that were taken under special urgency arrangements, was noted.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Decision:

That the Council approves the recommendations made by the Constitution Committee at its meeting on the 15 April 2013 as follows:

1. **At page 94 of the Constitution relating to delegations to the Strategic Director – Corporate Focus add the authority to authorise use of powers contained in the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Detection of Fraud and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013**

2. **At page 252 of the Constitution relating to the Members' Code of Conduct – Principles of Conduct in Public Life be amended in accordance with Appendix A to report number LDS092 including the following further amendment (as underlined):**

    - **INTEGRITY: Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or material benefits for themselves, their family, their friends <u>or other parties</u>. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.**

    - **LEADERSHIP: Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge <u>breaches of the Code by others where they see this occurring</u>.**

The Chairman of the Constitution Committee presented report number LDS094 which contained the recommendations made by the Committee at its meeting on Monday 15 April 2013. He proposed the recommendations as listed in the report. These were seconded. Each recommendation was put to the vote separately and carried.

14. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT AND WORK PLAN

<u>Decision:</u>

The Council:

1. **Approves the Annual Report of the Governance and Audit Committee for 2012/13.**

2. **Approves the indicative work plan and timetable for 2013/14 that reflects the terms of reference of the Committee.**

The Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee presented report number GAC005, which was a factual report on the work that the Governance and Audit Committee had undertaken during 2012/13 and an indicative work programme for 2013/14. The recommendations in the report were proposed, seconded and on being put to the vote, carried unanimously.

15. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Two questions without discussion had been received and referred to the relevant Policy Development Groups for a response.

Question 1

To: Councillor Terl Bryant, Good Housing for All Portfolio Holder

From: Councillor Ian Selby

I wish to raise a question on an issue that I have no doubt affects other councillors in their ward.

Back in April 2007 I was contacted by some of my constituents regarding contributions by residents on the warden scheme towards community centre costs. I subsequently submitted a question to Councillor Cartwright at that time and the reply stated that the matter would be discussed by the DSP Working Group. Further to this a letter from a council officer (name can be provided but unnamed for the purpose of this public question) in October 2007 stated that the Service Improvement Plan that was being developed would allow for the carrying out of a full review of the situation.

In Feb 2010 my constituents raised the question again and received a reply from the officer with an assurance that a 'Review of Supported Housing Services would tackle the issue'.

In 2011 I then contacted another officer for a progress report and the reply stated that, 'the use and funding of the community rooms will be reviewed as part of the extensive supported housing review which is ongoing. However this particular part of the review is unlikely to be started until after the summer of 2012 as it ties in with other key pieces of work involving fees and charges'.

My constituents feel that this issue is constantly being pushed back they think it is time that a decision was finally made, particularly in the light of yet another rise in the amount that they are having to pay, the present cost being £5.60 a week.

Also my constituents community centre in Belton Avenue is in use by at least seven different groups at various times of the day and evening and so it is not available for use by tenants at these times unless they are part of one of the groups.

My constituents have recently carried out a survey on the use of the community centre in Belton Avenue and have found out that the majority of the groups are not charged at this present time for use of the facilities and my constituents ask the question; "why are we being charged to pay for their use of electricity etc".

This issue is long overdue being addressed for fairness for all concerned. Personally I don't think it's fair that a small minority of people should pay for a facility that the whole community has the use of. May I therefore respectfully ask; Can you give me a definitive answer as to when will this issue be finally addressed by the council?

In anticipation of a positive response, Thank You.

This question was referred to the Resources Policy Development Group. Following consideration by the PDG, the Good Housing Portfolio Holder agreed to a formal meeting with Councillor Selby and the Head of Housing to discuss any outstanding areas of concern.

Question 2

To: Councillor Mrs Linda Neal, Leader

From: Councillor Ian Selby

If freedom of speech and democracy have any meaningful value to any of us, then as a local councillor I wish to express the view that after a period of mature reflection, and after a period of genuine, honest and open debate (in the interests of freedom of speech), especially for the younger generation to enable them to form their own opinion, and despite the fact that it is against the wishes of Mrs Thatcher who expressed the view that she did not want a statue of herself erected here in Grantham, I therefore ask if the leader of the council agrees with me that the erection of any statue here in Grantham should not be imposed upon a section of the community who suffered at the expense of Mrs Thatcher's policies but instead it should be put to the vote in a local referendum (in the interests of democracy), for local people to decide on whether or not a statue should be erected?

This question was referred to the Engagement Policy Development Group.

16. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was closed at 15:17