



MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 17 MAY 2007
2.00 PM

PRESENT

Chairman for the first item: Mr Gerald Taylor
After the election of Chairman, Councillor Michael Taylor in the Chair

Councillor Robert Adams
Councillor Ray Auger
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Pam Bosworth
Councillor Christine Brough
Councillor Paul Carpenter
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor Elizabeth Channell
Councillor George Chivers
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 Bryan Helyar
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 Jock Kerr
Councillor Albert Victor Kerr

Councillor Reg Lovelock M.B.E.
Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew
Councillor Stuart McBride
Councillor Andrew Roy Moore
Councillor Mrs. Linda Neal
Councillor Benjamin Newcombe-Jones
Councillor John Nicholson
Councillor Alan Parkin
Councillor Mrs Margery Radley
Councillor Robert Russell
Councillor Bob Sandall
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Trevor Scott
Councillor Ian Selby
Councillor John Smith
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor Mrs Maureen Spencer-Gregson
Councillor Peter Stephens
Councillor Ian Stokes
Councillor Jeffrey Thompson
Councillor Frank Turner
Councillor Andrea Webster
Councillor Graham Wheat
Councillor Mike Williams
Councillor Avril Williams
Councillor Paul Wood
Councillor Raymond Wootten

OFFICERS

Chief Executive
3 Strategic Directors: Beverly Agass; Geoff Plummer, Ian Yates
Corporate Head, Finance & Resources

OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer
Democracy Service Manager

Before the start of the formal business and after prayers were said, the outgoing

Chairman (Mr Gerald Taylor) asked the Council to observe a minute's silence to honour the contribution of former Councillor, Mrs Mary Wheat, who had recently passed away. It was with sadness that Mr. Taylor also asked Councillors to stand in silence out of respect for the tragic death on 12th May of a member of the Council's cleansing services team. Mr. Mark Crompton and his girlfriend had both been struck and fatally injured by a passing car as they waited for recovery of their broken down vehicle.

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION: That Councillor Mike Taylor be elected Chairman of the District Council until the next annual meeting of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Lovelock that Councillor Mike Taylor be Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. In proposing Councillor Taylor, Councillor Thompson referred to Councillor Taylor's Yorkshire roots but said his loyalties lay with the town of Grantham and the district of South Kesteven. Councillor Thompson stressed that the position of Chairman of the Council was no "jolly" and referred to the importance of its non partisan role. There were no other nominations put forward.

The Chairman and his Consort, Mrs Jean Taylor, were invested with the chains of office. The Chairman gave a brief speech of thanks during which he expressed the wish for civility and decorum during Council debates. He informed the Council that there would be three recipients of the Chairman's Charity during his year of office: the Army Benevolent Fund, the Fire Brigade Benevolent Fund, and the Marie Curie Cancer Fund.

The Chairman then made a declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

COUNCILLOR MIKE TAYLOR IN THE CHAIR

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

A vote of thanks was made to the retiring Chairman. Councillor Martin-Mayhew commended Mr Gerald Taylor for the way in which he had carried the banner for South Kesteven with profound dignity and excellence.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

It was proposed by Councillor Auger and seconded by Councillor Martin-Mayhew that Councillor Mike Exton be Vice-Chairman of the District Council for the ensuing year. In nominating Councillor Exton, Councillor Auger referred to Councillor Exton's commitment to public service: this had been demonstrated by his service as a retained fireman from 1966 to 1986 following which he had been awarded the Queens Fire Service Medal, and for his service on the Stamford Town Council. There were no other nominations put forward.

Councillor Exton made a declaration of acceptance of office and thanked the Council for electing him. He promised to serve the Council and to support the Chairman.

4. RESPONSE BY RETIRING CHAIRMAN

The Chairman then presented Mr. Taylor with gifts to commemorate his year of office, a past Chairman's badge, and a plaque showing the District Council's Coat of Arms.

Mr Taylor, in responding, thanked Councillor Mike Taylor for his support as Vice-Chairman during the past municipal year and thanked the previous Council members for their support and said how much he appreciated the kind remarks that had been made to him privately by numerous people. Mr Taylor advised the new Council that over £6,000 had been raised for his chosen charities and expressed his particular appreciation towards Councillor Mike Williams who had organised the variety concert that had raised a significant amount, and to the public who had supported his fund raising events. Mr. Taylor thanked his chaplain, the Reverend Charlie Robinson for his support and presented him with a donation towards the cost of repair work to the Folkingham parish church that had sustained considerable damage during last year's gales.

Mr Taylor also thanked Mrs Viv Wyatt whose role covered part time support to the Chairman of the Council and presented her with a token of his appreciation. Mr Taylor referred to the vital role of the Chairman's Consort and told members about the great help he had received from Ruth during his year of office. He then presented Ruth with a basket of flowers on behalf of the Council, and a gift of a hot air balloon flight from himself as a personal thank you.

He concluded his response by presenting Councillor Taylor with a gift of a plaque with a mounted cricket ball. He wished to place on record his apologies to the residents of the Aveland ward he had represented as he felt he had not achieved the solutions to the flooding problems he had wanted. He was pleased that the issues of environmental change were now nearing the top of the Council's agenda, albeit a bit late, and expressed the sincere hope that the Council would take this forward along with other issues affecting the rural areas such as lack of rural transport.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Broughton, Cook, and Tom Webster.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

7. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH APRIL 2007

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19th April 2007 were confirmed as a correct record.

8. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS)

A list of the outgoing Chairman's engagements as circulated with the agenda was received and noted. There were no other communications.

9. 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 Turner, and seconded by Councillor Helyar, that Councillor Mrs Linda Neal be appointed Leader of the Council. There were no other nominations.

10. CABINET MEMBERSHIP AND PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

DECISION: 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	Councillor Paul Carpenter

**Governance &
Housing**

Resources & Assets

**Councillor
Mrs Spencer-Gregson**

Economic Development

**Councillor
Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor Ray Auger**

Access & Engagement

Healthy Environment

Councillor John Smith

Councillor Mrs Neal thanked the Council for the confidence it had shown in her by re-electing her as Leader.

Councillor Howard, as representative of the second largest group on the Council (Independents), congratulated Councillor Mrs Neal on her appointment and extended the hand of friendship. He expressed the wish that all the independent members would seek to work with the administration and would endeavour to support its proposals providing that they were for the good of the district.

11. REVISIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

DECISION:

- (1) With the exception of minute 61 relating to proposed changes to notices of motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of the Constitution & Accounts Committee held on 30th April 2007;**
- (2) That the current procedures for the operation of notices of motion at council meetings remain in place until such time as they may be reviewed by the Council;**
- (3) To accept the consequential amendments to the Constitution arising out of the changes to the committee arrangements as agreed by the Council at its meeting held on 19th April 2007, together with all subsequent amendments as detailed on a separate paper which was circulated at the meeting.**

Members had before them the minutes of the meeting of the Constitution & Accounts Committee held on 30th April 2007. Circulated as a separate document, members had also been provided with a revised copy of the Constitution prepared by the Monitoring Officer which had incorporated the necessary changes to reflect the Council's decision on 19th April to reform the scrutiny and policy development arrangements previously consisting of five Development and Scrutiny Panels and replace these with three Policy Development Groups and a separate Scrutiny Committee. Other amendments had been made to address typographical

and grammatical errors. The Monitoring Officer advised that further typographical errors had subsequently been identified and these were listed in a separate paper that was circulated at the meeting.

In presenting the minutes of the Constitution & Accounts Committee, Councillor Mrs Neal as chairman of that committee, stated that it was the wish of the committee to withdraw the recommendation concerning changes to the way the procedure for submission of notices of motion to Council operated, this matter having arose from a motion that was proposed by Councillor Mike Williams and passed by the Council on 19th April 2007.

It was considered that, on reflection, to allow the new Council to consider further ideas on this subject and in the interests of democracy, this recommendation as contained at minute 61 be withdrawn. Councillor Mike Williams indicated that he was satisfied with the explanation provided by Councillor Mrs Neal about deferring consideration of the mechanism by which a limit of two notices of motion per Council meeting should operate.

The Chairman advised the meeting that in view of this decision, item 15 on the agenda "Selection of Members to propose Notices of Motions at future Council meetings" was deleted.

12. ADOPTION OF MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS: UPDATE

Members received and noted report number DLS0099 by the Monitoring Officer which advised that on 3rd May 2007, the Government introduced a new Members code of Conduct which contained mandatory provisions that must be adopted by the Council. At the present time, in signing their declaration of acceptance of office, members had agreed to be bound by the existing Code of Conduct until such time as the new Code was formally adopted by this Council.

The terms of the new Code would be considered by the Standards Committee at its meeting to be held on 6th July 2007. A recommendation would then be presented by the Chairman of the Standards Committee to the next meeting of the Council.

13. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

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	2	1	17
Licensing	7	3	1		11
Resources PDG	5	1	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
Chief Executive's appraisal panel	2	1			3

(2) To endorse the names of the members of the Standards Committee as submitted by the Leaders of the three largest Groups on the Council to the Chief Executive:

Councillor Lovelock, Councillor Farrar, Councillor Avril Williams

(3) To approve the following committee memberships:

Development Control Committee:

Councillor Cook
 Councillor Exton
 Councillor Mrs Gaffigan
 Councillor Harvey
 Councillor Helyar
 Councillor Higgs
 Councillor Holmes
 Councillor Howard
 Councillor Mrs Jalili
 Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown
 Councillor Vic Kerr
 Councillor Newcombe-Jones
 Councillor Parkin
 Councillor Scott

**Councillor Turner
Councillor Andrea Webster
Councillor Avril Williams**

Licensing Committee

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

Scrutiny Committee

**Councillor Mrs Bosworth
Councillor Farrar
Councillor Hearmon
Councillor Helyar
Councillor Higgs
Councillor Joynson
Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Andrea Webster
Councillor Mike Williams**

Resources Policy Development Group

**Councillor Adams
Councillor Craft
Councillor Sam Jalili
Councillor Bob Sandall
Councillor Scott
Councillor Mrs Judy smith
Councillor Stokes**

Engagement Policy Development Group

**Councillor Cook
Councillor Jock Kerr
Councillor McBride
Councillor Russell
Councillor Selby
Councillor Taylor**

Councillor Tom Webster

Community Policy Development Group

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

Constitution Committee

**Councillor Joynson
Councillor Martin-Mayhew
Councillor Parkin
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Wootten**

Governance and Audit Committee

**Councillor Dawson
Councillor Harvey
Councillor Sam Jalili
Councillor Lovelock
Councillor Moore**

Chief Executive's Appraisal Panel

**Councillor Carpenter
Councillor Hearmon
Councillor Mrs Neal**

Performance Board

**Councillor Carpenter
Councillor Mrs Neal
Councillor Mike Williams**

The Chief Executive presented his revised report number CEX377 which was circulated at the meeting following presentation to him of all groups on the Council and those members affiliated to those groups. He stated he had been notified by Group Leaders about the preferences of their respective members for committee seats and accordingly circulated a paper at the meeting confirming the groups' proposals. The preferences of the Labour Group for the two places allocated to them were not yet known.

Councillor Selby stated it was the wish of his group to relinquish its

allocated seat on the Development Control Committee. This seat was then offered to the other groups. It was proposed and seconded that the seat be given to Councillor Turner. A further nomination for the seat to be given to Councillor Jock Kerr was made. Members were asked to vote for one of the two candidates. Councillor Turner received the greater number of votes. A further vote on the remaining memberships was taken and carried.

14. 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 Exton – Vice-Chairman

Licensing Committee:
Councillor Turner – Chairman
Councillor Wheat – Vice-Chairman

Scrutiny Committee:
Councillor Joynson – Chairman
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith – Vice-Chairman

Resources Policy Development Group:
Councillor Craft – Chairman
Councillor Adams – Vice-Chairman

Community Policy Development Group:
Councillor Nicholson – Chairman
Councillor Thompson – Vice-Chairman

Engagement Policy Development Group:
Councillor Taylor – Chairman
Councillor Tom Webster – Vice-Chairman

Constitution Committee:
Councillor Martin-Mayhew – Chairman
Councillor Parkin – Vice-Chairman

Governance & Audit Committee:
Councillor Lovelock – Chairman
Councillor Moore – Vice-Chairman

In accordance with Council procedure rule 1.1 (ix), the Leader circulated a list of her recommendations for appointments to the Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of the Policy Development Groups and the Scrutiny Committee. The proposals were seconded. The Council went through

the remaining committees in turn and where alternative nominations were put forward, those receiving the higher number of votes were appointed:

Development Control Committee:

Nominations for Chairman – Councillor Parkin (30) Councillor Vic Kerr (23)

Nominations for Vice-Chairman – Councillor Exton (28) Councillor Vic Kerr (26)

Licensing Committee:

Nominations for Chairman – Councillor Turner (31) Councillor Mike Williams (23)

Nominations for Vice-Chairman – Councillor Wheat (33) Councillor Mike Williams (22)

15. TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2007/2008.

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 as submitted, subject to the date of the Constitution Committee listed as 16th April 2008 being amended to 14th April 2008, and noting the date of the Licensing Committee scheduled for 25th May 2007 was a training day.

A member asked the Chief Executive why there were only three dates for each of the Policy Development Groups shown. The Chief Executive explained that the programme presented represented scheduled public meetings. It was open to the Chairmen of the Groups to hold other meetings and any private briefings they deemed appropriate.

16. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

DECISION: To approve the following list of nominations for representatives on outside bodies until the annual meeting in May 2011 (or until where otherwise indicated):

ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVES
Age Concern Kesteven	Councillor A.V. Kerr
Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board	Councillor Russell
Disability Lincs. Bourne & District Branch	Councillor Higgs

Bourne Youth Centre Management Committee	Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Butterfield Committee of Trustees	Councillor Mrs Judy Smith
Community Care for the Elderly	Councillor Wootten
Council to Protect Rural England	Mr Teri Bryant
Dame Margaret Thorold's Foundation	Councillor Vic Kerr
Deeping St. James United Charities	Councillor Ken Joynson Mrs Carol Precey
Disability Lincs.	Councillor Wootten
Earlesfield Youth Centre Management Committee	Mr Adam Stokes
Local Government East Midlands (LGEM)	The Leader 1 year app'mt
East Midlands Regional Assembly	The Leader 1 year app'mt
Grantham Almshouse Charity	Councillor Wootten
Grantham Canal Partnership	Economic Development Portfolio Holder (Councillor Mrs Cartwright)
Heritage Lincolnshire	Councillor Thompson
Joseph Clark's (Grantham) Apprenticing Foundation	Councillor Wheat Councillor Thompson
Kesteven Museums Panel	Councillor Exton Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown
Lincolnshire Arts Forum	Councillor Thompson
Lincolnshire Enterprise SSP	Economic Development Portfolio Holder

	(Councillor Mrs Cartwright)
Lincolnshire Playing Fields Association	Councillor Stokes
Lincolnshire Sports Partnership	Healthy Environment Portfolio Holder (Councillor John Smith)
Local Government Association General Assembly	The Leader of the Council (Deputy Leader in his/her absence) 1 year app'mt
Local Government Association Rural Commission	Portfolio Holder Councillor Martin-Mayhew (Portfolio Holder has the voting rights) 1 year app'mt
Longhurst Housing Association – Board of Management	Councillor Martin-Mayhew
National Playing Fields Association	Healthy Environment Portfolio Holder (Councillor John Smith)
Rural Transport Partnership Scheme Board	Councillor Adams
South Kesteven Citizens Advice Bureau	Councillor Davidson Councillor Holmes Councillor Bob Sandall
South Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership	The Leader
South Lincs Blind Society	Councillor Sam Jalili
Thomas Truedale's Hospital	Councillor Harvey
Town Centre Management Partnerships: <u>Grantham Future</u>	Councillor Parkin Councillor Craft (Strategy Group) Councillor Taylor (Projects Group)

Stamford Vision

Councillor Harvey
Councillor Moore

Bourne

Councillor Higgs
Councillor Mrs Neal
Councillor Russell
Councillor John Smith

Deepings

Councillor Exton
Councillor K. Joynson

Upper Witham Internal

Councillor Newcombe-
Jones
Councillor Stephens
until March 2008

Welland & Deepings Internal
Drainage Board

Councillor Auger
Councillor Exton
Councillor Helyar
Councillor Holmes
Councillor Joynson
until March 2008

Welland Sub-Regional Strategic
Partnership (SSP)

The Leader

Members had before them report number DEM001 prepared by the Democracy Service Manager setting out those outside bodies and organisations who were seeking district council representation. The Leader circulated a paper at the meeting setting out the nominations to these bodies put forward by the Conservative Group. The Council went through each body in turn and where alternative nominations were put forward members voted for each candidate according to the number of representatives that were being sought for that body. The nominees receiving the higher number of votes as shown in brackets below were accordingly appointed:

Black Sluice IDB: Nominees – Councillor Russell (33) Councillor Holmes (16)

Council to Protect

Rural England: Nominees – Mr Terl Bryant (31) Councillor Sam Jalili (21)

Disability Lincs.: Nominees – Councillor Wootten (32) Councillor Bisnauthsing (21)

Earlesfield Youth Centre Management Committee: Nominees – Mr Adam

Stokes (33) Councillor Davidson (21)

[The meeting adjourned for a break at 3.32pm and resumed at 3.57pm]

Grantham Almshouse Charity: Nominees – Councillor Wootten (31)
Councillor Avril Williams (21)

Kesteven Museums Panel: Nominees – Councillor Exton (31) Councillor
Mrs kaberry-Brown (34) Councillor Mike Williams (19) Councillor Dawson
(20)

Longhurst Housing Association Board of Management: Nominees –
Councillor Bisnauthsing (19) Councillor Martin-Mayhew (34)

South Kesteven Citizens Advice Bureau: Nominees – Councillor Brough
(17) Councillor Davidson (17) Councillor Holmes (39) Councillor Bob
Sandall (48)

*There being three representatives required, members were asked to vote
again on the two nominees with equal scores of 17 votes. A second vote
resulted in another equality of votes with Councillor Brough and Councillor
Davidson both receiving 22 votes each. The Chairman decided the third
representative by a toss of a coin, Councillor Davidson being the
successful nominee.*

Stamford Vision: Nominees – Councillor Moore (38) Councillor Harvey
(33) Councillor Dawson (21)

Bourne TCMP: Nominees – Councillor Mrs Neal (35) Councillor John
Smith (37) Councillor Higgs (33) Councillor Russell (34) Councillor
Holmes (18)

Upper Witham IDB: Nominees – Councillor Vic Kerr (25) Councillor
Newcombe-Jones (33) Councillor Stephens (33)

The remaining nominations that were uncontested were then subject to a
vote and carried.

17. MEMBERS' FORUM: 21ST JUNE 2007

**DECISION: To approve the format and timing of the Members' Forum
on 21st June 2007 as set out in the Chief Executive's report CEX375.**

The Chief Executive submitted his report number CEX375 in which he set
out proposals for the content and format for the Members' Forum which
was scheduled to be held on 21st June in the morning before an ordinary
meeting of the Council in the afternoon. The event was to provide an
opportunity for members of the Council to acquaint themselves more
closely with staff in the authority and to work on particular aspects of the
Council's work in detail. The Chief Executive expressed pleasure in
confirming that as part of the session on communications, Fiona

Narburgh, Head of Strategy and Communications with Wychavon District Council had agreed to come and make a presentation. Wychavon DC had been awarded Local Government Chronicle "Council of the Year" on the basis of its communication and engagement with residents.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Before the closure of formal business, at the discretion of the Chairman the following announcements were made:

- (1) Councillor Thompson deplored the extremely poor recycling rate of 44% of office waste by this Council; he urged all Councillors to take their paperwork home and put it in their own domestic recycling. The Leader pointed out that the recycling rate was 100% from the Leader's Office.
- (2) The Chairman announced that the Hospital Defence Group were holding a concert at the Meres on 18th May 2007 starting at 7.30pm. Tickets were £10 and proceeds would be going to help the fight to retain the services at Grantham Hospital.
- (3) The Chief Executive reminded members of the Licensing Committee training day on 25th May, details of which would be forwarded to those members elected to that committee. He also announced that he would be contacting all new members with a view to meeting with them individually.

19. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 4.35 pm.