

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EAST
HERTS COUNCIL HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS,
HERTFORD ON WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL
2007 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor A L Burlton (Chairman).
Councillors M R Alexander, W Ashley, D R Atkins,
P R Ballam, H G S Banks, K A Barnes, S A Bull,
N Burdett, M G Carver, D Clark, R N Copping,
A F Dearman, J Demonti, A D Dodd, R Gilbert,
L O Haysey, J Hedley, Mrs D L E Hollebon,
A P Jackson, M P A McMullen, J Mayes, T Milner,
Mrs S Newton, R L Parker, D A A Peek,
L R Pinnell, N C Poulton, J O Ranger, D Richards,
P A Ruffles, G D Scrivener, J J Taylor,
M J Tindale, A L Warman, J P Warren, N Wilson,
M Wood.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Simon Chancellor	- Head of Accountancy Services
Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Philip Hamberger	- Director of Internal Services
Jeff Hughes	- Head of Democratic Services
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mary Orton	- Director of Customer and Community Services
Lois Prior	- Head of Executive Services

ACTION716 MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

717 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred to this being the last Council meeting before the elections and expressed his gratitude to all Members for their help in supporting him during his chairmanship. He also thanked those Members who were not seeking re-election for their service to the Council.

The Chairman invited the Leader to make a statement. The Leader made a statement in respect of those Members who were not seeking re-election. He referred to Councillors E J Cain, R Conway, Mrs S Newton, H Penson and M Port, who had served one term of office and thanked them for their input. He also referred to Councillor N Burdett and thanked her for her enthusiasm in her work for the Executive and in managing the community safety portfolio area.

The Leader also mentioned Councillors B W J Sapsford and D R Atkins, who had served for 16 and 14 years respectively, and thanked them for their cross-party support on issues such as revitalising Ware market.

Finally, the Leader highlighted the service of Councillor H G S Banks, who had served for 31 years. He thanked him for his pragmatic approach and for being a mentor to him. He believed that Councillor Banks would be greatly missed.

Councillor Banks responded by thanking Members and Officers, past and present, for their great support and stated that it had been a privilege to serve the area. He believed he would miss everyone and wished the Council a successful future.

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Councillor M Wood also thanked those retiring Members and Councillor Banks for his service and referred to him as a bridge-builder who always sought the views of all Members.

Councillor K A Barnes had always considered Councillor Banks to be a part of the establishment in East Herts and stated that he could not imagine the Council without him. He also thanked the two retiring independent Members and expressed his sorrow that they were going.

The Chairman referred Members to an envelope in front of them containing a form concerning their Related Party Transactions for the period 2006/07. This was a statutory requirement and had to be completed by all Members, regardless of whether they were standing for re-election or not. He asked Members to ensure that this form was completed and returned in the envelope provided, even if there was a nil return.

The Chairman advised those Members who would not be returning after the elections to note that their East Herts identity cards would be cancelled from 8 May 2007.

Finally, the Chairman welcomed Philip Hamberger, Director of Internal Services, to his first Council meeting.

718 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S A Bull declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter referred to at Minute 694 – Herts County Hospital Site, Hertford, Allocation of Capital Grant to Social Housing Provision, in that he was a board member of South Anglia Housing Association.

Councillor M G Carver declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter referred to at Minute 682 – Application 3/07/0061/FP, in that he was Chairman of the board of governors at Hertford Regional College.

ACTION719 MEMBER'S QUESTION

Councillor M J Tindale referred to the recent public consultation on the Little Hadham bypass, where the majority of the public had expressed a preference for one of the Northern routes. He asked the Leader if he was aware that flood alleviation measures could be incorporated into one of these routes and whether he would give consideration to this factor when he made his formal response on behalf of this Council.

In reply, the Leader stated that he was aware of the public enthusiasm for the northern routes and of the benefits in respect of flood alleviation that one of these routes could bring. He assured Members that these issues as well as all other relevant issues would be taken into account when the matter was considered by the Executive. He advised that he anticipated the matter being considered by the Executive in late May 2007 with a recommendation to a Council meeting in June 2007.

Councillor M J Tindale expressed his gratitude for the reassurance given by the Leader and asked him if was aware that over 60% of respondents had expressed a preference for two of the northern routes.

In reply, the Leader confirmed that it would be foolish to ignore this data, but that it would be premature at this stage, to express a preference for any particular route before the Executive had considered the matter fully. He reiterated that full consideration would be given to the public consultation.

720 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Leader of the Council reported on the work of the Executive and presented the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 3 April 2007.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 3 April 2007, be received, and the

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recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

721 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES(A) DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE –
14 FEBRUARY 2007

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 14 February 2007, be received.

(B) PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
15 FEBRUARY 2007

Council noted that Councillor L R Pinnell had attended this meeting.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15 February 2007, be received.

(C) PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
27 FEBRUARY 2007

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27 February 2007, be received.

(D) STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 6 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 6 March 2007, be received.

(E) DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE –
7 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 7 March 2007, be received.

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(F) POLICY DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy Development Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20 March 2007, be received.

(G) AUDIT COMMITTEE – 27 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 27 March 2007, be received.

(H) DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE – 28 MARCH 2007

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Development Control Committee meeting held on 28 March 2007, be received.

(I) LICENSING COMMITTEE – 4 APRIL 2007

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 4 April 2007, be received and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm

Chairman
Date