

## SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting - 24 April 2007

Present: Mr Adams (Chairman), Mr Dhillon (Vice-Chairman), Miss Arnold, Mr Bowater, Mr Busby, Mr Cooper, Mr Dawkins, Mrs Evans, Mr Harding, Mr Hollis, Mrs Holloway, Mr Houdret, Mr Jones, Mr Lidgate, Mrs Lowen-Cooper, Mr Mountford, Mr Oxley, Mr Reed, Mr Rigby, Mrs Royston, Mr Sandy, Dr Scott, Mrs Simmonds, Mr Tilbey, Mrs Tofari, Mr Walters and Mrs Woolveridge.

Apologies: Mr Binns, Mr Hardy, Miss Hazell and Mrs Mallowan.

### 87. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman began his report by announcing the death on 21 April 2007 of Mrs Pamela Price, a former District Councillor who had represented the Denham South Ward between 1991 and 1999. The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect to her memory.

The Chairman also reported on recent functions and events attended on behalf of the Council, including his own Civic Service in Burnham, attendance at a Scouts Centenary Event and a St George's Day Dinner at Aylesbury College.

### 88. MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting of a meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### 89. QUESTIONS

Mr Rigby had given notice in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 of the following questions for the Environment Portfolio Holder:

1. Do you believe it is acceptable that the public consultation about the transfer of Stoke Common to the City of London should be a meeting between 7 and 9 pm on a Saturday, 5 May, that forms part of a bank holiday weekend?
2. Will you now disclose to the public the capital sum that will be paid to the City by SBDC to maintain the SSSI status in the future?
3. Apart from holding a consultation meeting might you not consider a joint City and SBDC stand at the Fulmer, Stoke Poges and Wexham Horticultural Show which takes place on 28 July where this matter will be of great interest to the hundreds of residents who will attend, far more than will attend any public meeting?

Mr Lidgate, Environment Portfolio Holder, replied:-

1. The consultation originally planned for 5 May was chosen as it was the earliest evening the Stoke Poges Village Centre was available. However, I note Cllr Rigby's concern especially with regard to the Bank Holiday and have sought the agreement of the Corporation of London to re-arranging the event. A new date of Thursday 17 May has been fixed for a meeting to be held at Stoke Poges School.
2. The in-principle negotiations with the Corporation of London have been concluded and the commuted sum payable will be £125,000. This sum along with the additional resources from the Corporation of London will ensure the long term protection and upkeep of Stoke Common for the benefit of all users and local residents.

3. I think Cllr Rigby's suggestion is an excellent one which we will look to explore further with the Corporation of London. I am sure a stand at the Show will be of great interest to people. Thank you for the suggestion.

90. **CABINET MEETING**

The Deputy Leader, Mr Busby, presented the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10 April 2007. Each minute of the Cabinet was introduced by the relevant Portfolio Holder respectively.

The Council considered recommendations regarding the future of The Lanes Golf Facility and Farnham Park Golf Course Clubhouse (referred to in Minute 106 and Minute 108). In accepting the recommendations to approve in principle the disposal of The Lanes Golf Course and the redevelopment of the Farnham Park Golf Course Clubhouse, the Council recognised that this was subject to the riders attached to the recommendations contained in minute 106.

With reference to minute 113 [Audit Management Letter - 2005/06], in addition to the summary contained in the minute, the Chief Executive drew the attention of the Council to other points referred to in the Audit Management letter regarding the improved performance of the Council.

With reference to minute 117 [Amendments to the Constitution - Planning Committee], consideration was given to the wording of the alteration required to the Council Procedure Rules necessary to bring the proposed changes into effect. The current rules for a quorum would provide that if the number of the Planning Committee was reduced to twelve then the quorum would be three Members (i.e. one quarter). An amendment to the recommendations was proposed by Mrs Lowen-Cooper, seconded by Miss Arnold, that the following quorum provisions should be added in the appropriate part of the Council Procedure Rules: "The quorum for Planning Committee shall be one half of the number of the Committee". On being put to the vote the amendment was carried. The substantive motion was then put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and adopted.

(Note: Mr Rigby asked that it be recorded that he had voted against the recommendation to approve in principle the disposal of The Lanes Golf Course).

91. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The report of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14 March 2007 was presented.

The Chairman of the Committee expressed his appreciation of the long service of Mr Rigby (who was not standing for re-election) as a Member of the Planning Committee. His experience and wisdom would be a great loss to the Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and adopted.

(Note: The recommendations in minute 106 [Options for Future Ways of Working] were not considered since they had been superseded by the recommendations made, and adopted with modifications, in the Cabinet report see minute 90 above).

92. **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Part I of the report of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 21 March 2007 was presented.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and adopted.

93. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Part I of the report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 16 April 2007 was submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and adopted.

94. **PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION REPORT ON PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

The Council received a report of the Chief Executive about a draft Order made before Parliament which, if agreed, would bring into effect new Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries.

Following its review carried out between 2000 and 2005 the Boundary Commission for England had published its periodical review regarding Parliamentary Constituencies. The review had concluded that there should continue to be five constituencies within the County of Buckinghamshire, as close as possible to the average electorate figure. To achieve this, the Commission proposed that two southern Wycombe District Wards should be transferred from Wycombe Constituency to Beaconsfield Constituency and that the Wycombe District Ward of Tylers Green and Loudwater should be transferred from Beaconsfield to Wycombe.

The new constituencies would be brought into effect at the next General Election. The report detailed the makeup of the revised Beaconsfield Constituency.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

95. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Cabinet Meeting (Part II) - 10 April 2007 - as set out in minute 118.

Licensing Committee (Part II) - 21 March 2007 - as set out in minute 63; and

Personnel Committee (Part II) - 16 April 2007 - as set out in minute 47.

96. **CABINET MEETING**

The Deputy Leader, Mr Busby, presented the Part II report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10 April 2007.

With reference to minute 120 [Environment Portfolio Holder Report] Mr Lidgate introduced this item and described the evaluation process for the tenders received for the new household waste collection, recycling, street cleaning and ancillary services contract. This had led to the six recommendations being put to the Council for approval, to appoint a supplier for the new contract and approve four costed options to be added over and above the base specification for the new contract. Mr Lidgate thanked fellow Councillors Mrs Royston and Mr Bowater who had assisted him in the interviewing Panel, the Council's consultant Mark Allen and Chris Marchant, Head of Property and Contract Services and his team for all their hard work in the process to prepare and invite the tenders, and carry out the careful evaluation of bids made.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and adopted.

97. LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Part II report of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 21 March 2007 was presented.

RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

98. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Part II report of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 16 April 2007 was presented.

With reference to minute 48 [Early Retirement Request], the Council recorded its thanks to Mr Squires for his long service with the Council, which had commenced in 1985.

RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

99. CHAIRMAN'S END OF YEAR REMARKS

The Chairman made a number of closing remarks since this was the last meeting within the life of the current Council. He referred to a number of the challenges within the last four years which had been dealt with successfully. He paid tribute to the hard work of the Leader, Cabinet and conscientious Members working through Committees and groups. He also thanked the Chief Executive, Directors and staff, especially Mrs Mounteney, for their hard work and in particular those who had assisted him personally in his office as Chairman.

The Chairman made particular mention of Members not standing for re-election, mentioning by name Mr Worrall who had served for sixteen years, Mrs Mallowan who had served for eighteen years and Mr Rigby who had served for thirty-four years. The experience, wit and understanding that Mr Rigby had brought to his long and distinguished service to the Council would be sadly missed and Members joined the Chairman in expressing their very best wishes. Mr Rigby suitably responded and offered a number of anecdotes of Council life over many years as a Councillor.

100. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7.29 p.m.