

# Council Minutes

Date: 7 October 2013

Time: 6.30 - 7.47 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillor I L McEnnis (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs J A Adey, Z Ahmed, M Angell, D A Anson MBE, M C Appleyard, D H G Barnes, I Bates, W J Bendyshe-Brown, Mrs L M Clarke OBE, A D Collingwood, R B Colomb, C A Ditta, R Farmer, M A Foster, R Gaffney, J Gibbs, S Graham, A R Green, G C Hall, M Hanif, C B Harriss, A E Hill, A Hussain JP, M Hussain, M Hussain JP, D A Johncock, Mrs G A Jones, M E Knight, Ms R Knight, S P Lacey, Mrs J D Langley, Ms P L Lee, Mrs W J Mallen, J A Malliff, N B Marshall, H L McCarthy, Mrs M L Neudecker, S F Parker, Mrs K M Peatey MBE, B R Pollock JP, J L Richards OBE, J A Savage, R J Scott, C Shafique MBE, D A C Shakespeare OBE, A Slater, T Snaith, Mrs J E Teesdale, A Turner, P R Turner, Ms J D Wassell, D M Watson, R Wilson and Ms K S Wood

Also Present: Honorary Aldermen J M Blanksby and Mrs P Priestley.

## **38 ONE MINUTE SILENCE**

The Chairman requested all Members to stand for a minute's silence in memory of ex Councillors Peter Morris and Patricia O'Rourke who sadly recently passed away.

## **39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Honorary Aldermen E H Collins, D A E Cox, A J Hurst, M B Oram and Mrs K M Peatey MBE. Councillors: K Ahmed, D J Carroll, D V E Morgan and B Pearce.

## **40 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 July 2013 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## **41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

## **42 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**(a) Woodland Service Transfer**

The Chairman announced that on 24 July 2013, the Brush Hill Nature reserve transfer of the Woodland Service to the Chiltern Society at Princes Risborough had taken place.

**(b) Community Champion Awards**

The Chairman reported on the latest Community Champion Awards which took place in High Wycombe on 26 September 2013. It was reported that there had been some excellent entries and very well deserved winners.

**(c) Battle of Britain**

The Chairman informed Members that he had attended a Battle of Britain Service and that the turnout had been very good. He thanked Members for their help and support in this matter.

**(d) Memorial Service**

The Chairman of the Council encouraged all Members to attend the Memorial Service for Roger Emmett on Wednesday 6 November at 2.30pm to be held at All Saints Parish Church, High Wycombe.

**(e) Welcome**

The Chairman extended a warm welcome on behalf of the whole Council to the newly elected Councillor Roger Metcalfe to his first Council Meeting. Councillor Metcalfe had been elected to the Hambleden Valley Ward on 5 September 2013.

**(f) Congratulations**

The Chairman took pleasure in congratulating Councillor Rachel Knight on her recent exam success in obtaining her legal degree.

**(g) Lesley Clarke**

The Chairman of the Council congratulated the Vice-Chairman of Council on recently receiving the OBE honour.

### **Leaders Announcement**

The Leader of the Council rose to welcome Councillor Metcalfe to the Council, which he said had been a very good victory for his group. He also welcomed Councillor Shafique who had crossed the floor into the ranks of the Conservative Party.

## **43 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**(a) Question from Mr G Brown to the Cabinet Member for Community**

“When was the last time you met with the Chief Executive and Chairman of Red Kite to discuss their delivery on their promises on the decent home standards?”

**Response from Councillor J M Gibbs (Cabinet Member for Community)**

“The Council meets with Red Kite on a regular basis looking at various areas of mutual benefit and interest, such that are of a strategic or partnership nature. However we do not act as police officers or enforcer of their day to day operations. We do discuss progress in respect of them meeting their programme of improvements, which at the last review was deemed to be quite acceptable.

I would like to reiterate that our job as the Local Authority is to focus on the more strategic housing issues.”

#### **Supplementary Question**

“My wife and I have been told by Red Kite that our property is fit for living, but it is not. My wife is a post operation kidney transplant patient and is susceptible to the cold, and there is mould in the winter. Red Kite have been fumbling with resolving the issue.

Please could someone come and look at our property.”

#### **Supplementary Response**

“Thank you for your question. A decent home is required to meet 4 criteria in accordance with the Housing Act 2004. This includes (a) meeting the current statutory minimum standard for Housing, (b) being in a reasonable state of repair, (c) having reasonable modern facilities and services, (d) providing a reasonable degree of thermal comfort. However I think it is inappropriate to discuss individual cases here, and so I invite you to meet with me regarding the issue outside of this meeting.

## **44 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

### **(a) Question from Councillor S Parker to the Leader of the Council**

“Whilst recent signs of an upturn in the economy are most welcome, a recent survey by Citi Analysts concluded that the UK is going through an "unprecedented squeeze on living standards," thanks to falling incomes and rising costs of necessities like energy and utilities. Could the Leader of the Council assure us that all steps necessary are being taken to ensure that the burden of such a squeeze is being borne equally across the community?”

#### **Response from Councillor R J Scott (Leader of the Council)**

“I too welcome the recent upturn in the economy and, although you refer to a national report, recent local indicators are also promising. Wycombe District has seen 542 new company formations in the first six months of this year and the claimant count locally continues to fall, with the latest figure dropping to 2%. The Council is pressing on with its regeneration and growth plans and I am pleased to report to Members that we now on-site and have commenced the enabling works for the Handy Cross redevelopment scheme. The new sports and leisure centre is on course to open in summer 2015. This, and other regeneration projects, are all contributing to the creation of up to 2,000 new jobs by 2016.

In respect of Council services, I would highlight that this Council has not increased the level of Council Tax for the last three years. We continue to review and transform our services, as well as seeking out other sources of income, to provide value for money to local residents and maintain and improve services as much as we can. In answer to your very broad question,

we always try to strike the right balance to ensure any burdens are equally shared, whilst taking into account the interests of all Council taxpayers.

By helping our local economy to grow and the actions this Council is taking I believe we are ensuring that peoples' living standards are maintained and improved as far as we can, recognising that we are having to respond to the demands of Government and the global economy.”

### **Supplementary Question**

“Thank you for the response.

We are always pleased to hear of economies made on behalf of taxpayers, but of course should always be seen to be playing our part.

In the wake of the deepest recession in living memory, those in the most need have effectively lost income, notably due to the changes in the administration of Council Tax Benefit and the introduction of the Spare Room Subsidy.

Many others are finding that with increases in the cost of living consistently outstripping rises in incomes, they are effectively working harder and longer to achieve the same income.

Last year the Leader’s predecessor took the view that members of the ruling party should show a degree of solidarity with the suffering public, and reduced the Special Responsibility Allowances paid to cabinet members to £7,000.

This year, as living standards struggle to keep pace with inflation, the current cabinet decided to reverse the decision of the previous year, and to revert to the levels recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The effect of this is quite startling. The SRA paid to a cabinet member has increased from £7000 to £9029, an increase of almost 28%. Deputy cabinet ministers have seen a doubling of their allowance, and the Leader and Deputy Leader have also benefited from significant increases.

Notwithstanding the reduction in size of cabinet, and the increased workload incurred, can the Leader honestly claim that he could look someone in the eye, having lost £5 a week of this £60 in job seekers allowance, and repeat the chancellor’s much quoted phrase “We’re all in this together?”.”

### **Supplementary Response**

We have reverted to the national levels of pay for a very hard working cabinet. Since becoming Leader I have also reduced the size of the Cabinet.

#### **(b) Question from Councillor I Bates to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainability**

“How much money has WDC received from developers and planning applicants over the last 10 years through Section 106 Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy? How much has actually been spent in support of initiatives to benefit the communities where developments have taken place?”

**Response from Councillor N B Marshall (Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability)**

“WDC has received £12,635,400 from developers and planning applicants over the last 10 years through Section 106 Agreements. This information has been regularly reported to Cabinet in finance update reports.

As at 01 October 2013 £197,950 has actually been received in the form of Community Infrastructure Levy. You will be aware that this is a new system, introduced at the end of last year and there is a lead in time.

£6,996,450 has actually been spent in support of initiatives to benefit the communities where developments have taken place and the schemes have been agreed each year through Cabinet decisions. This autumn we have commenced a new regime to handle bids for the use of available funds and this will culminate in a report to Cabinet in February 2014.”

**Supplementary Question**

“In the period I have just mentioned, that is since 2003, has WDC been obliged to refund any developer contributions because of the expiry of time limits on spending? What is the total amount of money that WDC has had to hand back? At the current time are any developer contributions at risk of having to be returned, say within the next six months?”

**Supplementary Response**

“A lot of this work preceded my time as Cabinet Member for this area, I will send you a written response.”

**(c) Question from Councillor T Snaith to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainability**

“I’m sure Members appreciate the latest changes that planning have made to make the process easier. Have the changes under the DELCH process and the way planning applications are referred to Planning Committee improved to the point where members and residents can be satisfied that the outcomes are fair. Can we be assured that when residents and members request applications to be presented to Planning Committee we can see the scrutiny and debate of the application is in public?”

**Response from Councillor N B Marshall (Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability)**

“I am satisfied that we have a very fair and robust system for determining planning applications, even if every party does not agree with the final decision. All planning applications, whether determined by Planning Committee or under ‘delegated powers’, are carefully considered against our adopted policies and in the light of all representations received.

We target the valuable time of the Planning Committee at those applications where the scrutiny of the Committee can add real value to the process. This is part of ensuring cost effective and robust decision making.

The 'DELCH' process to which you refer captures more contentious applications and when local members put forward sound planning reasons and request consideration of an application at Planning Committee this request is considered in consultation with the Chairman. A decision is then reached on whether to allow the application to be decided under delegated powers, or whether it raises issues of such significance that it should be referred to the Planning Committee for additional scrutiny.

Under Cllr Johncock's chairmanship the Planning Committee has recently reviewed its procedures and, subject to consideration by Regulatory and Appeals Committee, has agreed refinements to the 'DELCH' arrangement. This should further improve the process and the involvement of ward members. However, this does not mean that all requests for 'call ups' can be acceded to as there needs to be judgment applied on whether there are sound planning issues to debate. I see that the Chairman is well placed to make that judgment."

### **Supplementary Question**

"Address the point asked regarding can ward members and residents be satisfied that the process is fair, is it?

I have been supplied by Planning Department the applications for the period April 2012 to date with members call up requests for items to come to Planning and the number that Chairman of Planning refused to bring to Planning Committee despite Members' request opted to DELCH the decisions and refuse the public scrutiny of the merits of the planning case.

The data shows out of 38 planning applications 18 were DELCH and 20 were sent to Planning Committee. This seems reasonable on the face of it.

However when viewed as High Wycombe Town (unparished wards) rural wards the finding are disturbing.

Rural – 7 DELCH and 13 sent to Planning

Unparished town wards – 11 DELECH and 7 sent to Planning

Without opening up debate to specific planning reasons unparished High Wycombe wards do not appear to be getting a fair hearing.

There is great disparity between what was allowed to be referred by Unparished High Wycombe ward Members and rural Members.

What can you offer to alleviate the concerns of Members and comments from residents that this Council is showing an undue bias to the rural areas when it comes to allowing for public scrutiny of application's at Full Council"

### **Supplementary Response**

"You have raised this issue many times previously during my chairmanship of the Planning Committee. I would assert that perhaps it is the quality of the applications and requests that determines the matter.

#### **(d) Question from Councillor M Hanif to the Cabinet Member for Community**

“As a result of central government cuts some local authorities are preparing to invest in charity-run food banks to cope with demand for crisis help from residents hit by reductions in their benefits.

Families in this town are affected as local food banks report massive increases in demand for their help. What is WDC doing to help such families?”

**Response from Councillor J M Gibbs (Cabinet Member for Community)**

“There are food banks in the area and we are working with agencies to assist households affected by the welfare reforms in a number of ways. These include, Discretionary Housing Payments, housing and homelessness assistance, Bucks and Oxon single homeless project work, debt advice and are working with the County Council to assist affected households. We work closely with The One Can trust who operate in the area, and have made a number of referrals to them for families who have been in for advice and they have been grateful for the help received.”

**Supplementary Question**

“A recent study supported by Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Oxfam and Trussle Trust said that up to half of all people turning to food banks are doing so as a direct result of having benefit payments delayed, reduced, or withdrawn altogether and changes to the benefit system are the most common reasons for people using the food banks.

They called on the government and local authorities to improve the monitoring and recording of the data on food poverty.

You regard this Council as caring and responsible local authority, can you please tell me what is being done for effective monitoring and recording of such data on food poverty in this town.”

**Supplementary Response**

“The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is a socialist organisation. We look at the bigger picture. I can report that as in the month of July, in the first quarter, £62,000 was given in discretionary housing payments. Next April personal allowance for tax will be increased getting people into work.

**(e) Question from Councillor R B Colomb to the Leader of the Council**

“Would the Leader please list the judicial reviews in which the Council appears as defendant and the costs incurred so far?”

**Response from Councillor R J Scott (Leader of the Council)**

“There are two judicial review matters in which the Council is currently involved.

The first is the challenge by the Daws Hill Neighbourhood Forum to the decision taken by Cabinet on 31 July 2012 to exclude the RAF Daws Hill site and the Handy Cross Sports Centre site from the proposed Daws Hill Neighbourhood Area. The Forum strongly objected to the Cabinet's reduction of the proposed Neighbourhood Area, although the Council has received

advice that it was entitled to do so and this was supported by the High Court Judge, who ruled in the Council's favour. The costs incurred in the proceedings so far are £25,925. The Council is having to incur further costs (estimated at around £25,000) in defending the matter in the Court of Appeal. The hearing is scheduled to take place in February 2014.

The second judicial review case is the challenge by the owners of the Eden Shopping Centre to the grant of planning permission on 16 July 2013 (following the Planning Committee's decision of 5 June 2013) to Next plc for retail development on part of the Cressex Island site. Eden are concerned with the potential impact of the proposal on the Town Centre. They allege that the grant of permission is unlawful and have applied for the permission to be quashed. If the matter proceeds to the full hearing in the High Court, costs estimated to be incurred are £32,780. The costs incurred to date are £9,180."

There was no supplementary question.

**(f) Question from Councillor Ms R Knight to the Cabinet Member for Community**

"Can the cabinet member please tell us how much in community funding has been allocated for the support of victims of domestic violence in our district and whether this has increased or decreased over the past ten years?"

**Response from Councillor J M Gibbs (Cabinet Member for Community)**

"While domestic violence work is co-ordinated by Bucks County Council, as a member of the Community Safety Partnership we have always worked to both tackle domestic abuse and support the victims of these crimes. The Community Safety Team has provided small amounts of funding for different projects tackling domestic abuse for a number of years.

In addition, over a number of years Wycombe Women's Aid has received annual revenue grants, currently £135,300, as well as a grant from Bucks County Council.

This remains an important area of work for both us and our partner councils and agencies."

**Supplementary Question**

"In light of the fact that injury by domestic violence was one of the few crimes in the area to have risen and the cuts and gaps to local provision (play therapy for children who have witnessed etc) providers have been able to offer, is the Council doing enough, under its community obligations, to support victims?"

**Supplementary Response**

"Yes of course, we are currently gathering information on grants to decide on appropriate levels. In the meantime we are mindful of our commitments under the Bucks Compact to our voluntary sector partners."



**(g) Question from Councillor S Graham to the Cabinet Member for Environment**

“There have been recent accusations from the Government Communities Secretary that councils use “over-zealous and unfair rules” to catch people parking illegally. How does the Cabinet member propose to change the current rules in the District to stop them damaging town centres as Mr Pickles tells us they do? Will parking charges be reduced, double-yellow lines be removed and CCTV cameras be turned off as central government wants?”

**Response from Councillor Mrs J E Teesdale (Cabinet Member for Environment)**

“It is important to remember the wider transportation issues associated with restrictions on parking and the reason for enforcement. In particular, controls are needed to keep traffic moving, for safety reasons, to balance supply and demand, to encourage turnover, to consider the needs of shoppers, businesses and residents, to assist environmental and health considerations, and to encourage people to use other forms of transport etc.

As part of the Council's service transformation programme, the parking service has been undergoing a review. It is intended that parking tariffs will be reviewed in due course, in particular the structure of tariffs but any changes to tariffs would be subject to public consultation. It is known that people will visit an area for the 'offer' rather than be influenced by the price of parking.

With respect to on-street enforcement (double yellow lines, signs, loading bays etc) this is a matter for BCC and their contractors, NSL. However, many lines and signs are in place to reduce accidents, ensure the free flow of traffic and to try to ensure that emergency vehicles can get through streets in urban areas. CCTV is provided in our car parks to assist with reducing the incidence of crime and fear of crime but isn't used specifically to monitor parking incidents.”

**Supplementary Question**

“Is the Cabinet Member in agreement with Mr Pickles, as to the over-zealous use and unfair nature of the rules, to catch people parking illegally.”

**Supplementary Response**

“We haven't increased parking charges since 2008. No we have not been over-zealous. Our CCTV activity is purely for safety reasons and to make people feel safer. We are a very caring Council. ”

**(h) Question from Councillor M Knight to the Cabinet Member for Finance**

“What is Wycombe District Council doing to reduce the impact of the "discretionary housing payment" (or bedroom tax) on families of disabled people and are you satisfied that all is being done to ensure that the disabled are not being unfairly discriminated against?”

**Response from Councillor M A Foster (Cabinet Member for Finance)**

“Thank you Chairman and thank you Councillor Knight for your question.

I think your question is about the way in which the Council has responded to the changes in the benefit system regarding spare bedrooms, as discretionary housing payments provide people with short-term help where they have financial difficulty meeting their housing costs.

Supporting claimants as they adjust to new levels of benefit is a priority and this is why claimants affected by welfare changes are specifically mentioned in our discretionary housing payment (DHP) guidelines. Factors such as medical circumstances of the claimant and their family, including ill health and disabilities, are taken into account.

There are specific groups who are exempt from the spare bedroom changes, such as children who are unable to share a bedroom due to severe disability, who may be allowed an extra bedroom, depending on their individual circumstances. There have been 10 such child cases.

However, disabled adults are not directly protected from the room restrictions, although DHP can be given where extra support is needed, in line with our published guidelines.

So far around 619 families have been affected by the room restrictions in Wycombe District and of these, 254 are in receipt of a disability income – although this does not imply that they need extra financial help.

This year to date we have provided DHP support to a total of 216 claimants totalling almost £94,000. Of this number, 81 claimants have come to us as a result of room reductions, of which 42 are in receipt of a disability income.

All applications for DHP are treated according to the overall criteria laid down by the DWP and the published guidelines issued by the Council and I am fully satisfied that there is no discrimination concerning disabled people within the application process.”

### **Supplementary Question**

“I am glad to hear that Wycombe District Council is meeting its statutory duties when it comes to housing.

I have observed that in some areas of service delivery the council takes pride in going beyond its statutory duties to offer real quality and added value for residents. When it comes to housing it seems that a lot of energy and resources are spent ensuring that only statutory duties are met with very little flexibility when dealing with vulnerable people who for whatever reason do not meet the requirements for statutory support.

Would you agree that as a result we are failing some of our most vulnerable residents and increasing the risk that they fall through the gaps?

### **Supplementary Response**

“No this is not the case. The Council is meeting the minimum standards. Furthermore the Council has protected disabled people from the impact of recent changes due to the Council tax reduction scheme. We cannot give an assurance that we have not rejected any DHP claims for disabled people, but this would only be so if there were clear reasons for doing so.

Therefore I would say that your observations are unfair.”

#### **45 PETITIONS**

No petitions were received before the deadline of 5pm on Monday 30 September.

#### **46 CABINET - 22 JULY 2013**

##### **(a) Minute 25 – Extra Care Charitable Trust**

A Member pointed out that there was a great need for temporary housing, and yet they were being transferred away. Was this not the case, Saunderton Lodge could be disposed of and more suitable housing provided within the town. She insisted that local Town Committee Members should be consulted on such matters prior to taking these sorts of decisions.

The Chairman of the High Wycombe Town Committee clarified that these were not existing properties being transferred but that it was a new development that was anticipated to bring income, whilst providing people with a place to live.

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22 July 2013 be received.

#### **47 CABINET - 9 SEPTEMBER 2013**

##### **(a) Minutes 30 – Referral from High Wycombe Town Centre – Fair Trade Status**

A Member rose to support the endorsement of fairtrade principles, which had received cross party support. He emphasised that in relation to recommendation (iv), fairtrade should be applied across all markets.

Another Member objected to the general emphasis of the recommendations, stating that it was the local farmers and businesses that should take priority over and above the application of fair trade. He then proposed an amendment to the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor M Hussain.

Another Member stated that there was no conflict between fairtrade principles and wanting to provide support to local businesses. The 2 ideas were inextricably bound together.

Upon a vote being taken on the amendment, this was lost by majority decision.

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 September 2013 be received and the recommendations as set out at minute number 30 be approved and adopted.

#### **48 IMPROVEMENT AND REVIEW COMMISSION - 4 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Review Commission held on 4 September 2013 be received.

**49 AUDIT COMMITTEE - 19 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 19 September 2013 be received, and the recommendation as set out in minute number 22 be approved and adopted.

**50 HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE - 10 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the High Wycombe Town Committee held on 10 September 2013 be received.

**51 PERSONNEL AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 23 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel and Development Committee held on 23 September 2013 be received.

**52 PLANNING COMMITTEE - 31 JULY, 25 AUGUST AND 25 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 31 July, 28 August and 25 September be received.

**53 REGULATORY AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**Minute 13 – Constitutional Amendments**

A Member rose to express the view that there should be a reversal of the current recommendation which was to reject the implementation of a protocol to allow filming/photography at Council/Committee meetings. It was suggested that the recommendation be amended to allow for this. This was moved by Councillor A D Collingwood and seconded by Councillor M Hussain (JP).

Upon a vote being taken, the amendment was carried by majority decision.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (i) the minutes of the meeting of the Regulatory and Appeals Committee held on 16 September 2013, be received and the recommendations as set out at minute numbers 11, 12 and 13(b) and 13(c) be approved and adopted.

- (ii) the recommendation at Minute 13(a) not be agreed and that the Protocol for filming recording and photography at Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings be adopted.

## 54 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.2

There were none.

## 55 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS/CHANGES

**RESOLVED:** That the following changes to Committee Membership in accordance with Standing Order 18(9) as set out in the Council Summons, and in the supplement be noted.

### **Hambleden Valley By election**

Councillor R Metcalfe has been elected as Councillor for the Hambleden Valley ward following the by election which took place on 5 September 2013.

The current political composition of the Council following the by election and Councillor Shafique joining the Conservative Group is as follows:

	Members	%
Conservative Group	42	70.00
Labour Group	5	8.33
Liberal Democrat Group	9	15.00
Independent Group	2	3.33
UKIP	1	1.67
(Independent) Real Conservative	1	1.67

### **Other Changes to Note**

As a result of the revised political composition the Labour Group has lost a seat on the Joint Staff, Planning and Licensing Committees. The conservative Group has gained a seat on each of those Committees.

Councillor R Metcalfe to replace Councillor M Angell as a full member of the Joint Staff Committee.

Councillor R Metcalfe to become a Full Member on the Planning Committee and Licensing Committees

Councillor J Gibbs to stand down as a Standing Deputy on the Planning Committee.

Councillor I Bates to stand down as a Full Member of the Planning Committee.

Councillor K Ahmed to stand down as a Standing Deputy on the Planning Committee.

Councillor I Bates to replace Councillor M Hanif as a Standing Deputy on Planning Committee.

Councillor Ms R Knight to become a full Member of the Licensing Committee.

Councillor S Graham to replace Councillor I Bates as a Standing Deputy on the Licensing Committee.

Councillor M Hanif to replace Councillor C Shafique MBE as a Standing Deputy on the Improvement & Review Commission.

Councillor I Bates to replace Councillor C Shafique MBE as a Full Member of the Standards Committee.

Councillor Ms R Knight to replace Councillor C Shafique MBE as a Standing Deputy on Personnel & Development Committee.

Councillor C Shafique MBE to become a Full Member of the Joint Staff Committee.

To confirm the membership of the JNC Staffing Matters Committee as follows:

R Scott (Chairman)

H McCarthy (Vice Chairman)

N Marshall

D Johncock

S Parker

(Standing Deputies) J Savage, J Adey, B Pollock JP

Council also **agreed** that delegated authority be given to the Committee to undertake the process and appoint the new Head of Planning & Sustainability as determined by that Committee.

### **Outside Bodies**

Wycombe Air Park Joint Consultative Committee – Councillor R Metcalfe be appointed in his capacity of Hambleden Ward Member to serve until 2015.

Chilterns Conservation Board – Councillor R Metcalfe be appointed to serve until 2015.

Joint Crematorium Committee – Councillor H McCarthy to replace Councillor Mrs J E Teesdale until May 2014.

Red Kite – Councillor J L Richards OBE be appointed to replace Councillor B Pollock JP until May 2014.

## 56 THANKS

Councillor R Metcalfe rose to thank everyone for the very warm welcome he had received and stated that it would be an honour and a privilege to serve the Council and its constituents.

He also took the opportunity to thank the officers for the very efficient induction process which he had recently undergone.

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Chairman

### **The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:**

Ian Hunt	- Democratic Services Manager
Iram Malik	- Democratic Services Officer
Karen Satterford	- Chief Executive
Ian Westgate	- Corporate Director