

Council

Agenda

Item		Page
10	CABINET - 16 JUNE 2014	1 - 4
	To receive the minutes of and consider any recommendations from the following meetings:	
	Cabinet 16 June 2014	
	Cabinet 14 July 2014	
	Special Cabinet 28 July 2014 (to follow)	
17	REGULATORY AND APPEALS COMMITTEE - 21 JULY 2014	5 - 8
	To receive the minutes of and consider any recommendations from the following meetings:	
	Regulatory & Appeals Committee 9 June 2014	
	Special Regulatory & Appeals Committee 21 July 2014 (to follow)	

For further information, please contact Iram Malik on 01494 421204, or email iram_malik@wycombe.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Special Cabinet Minutes

Date: 28 July 2014

Time: 5.30 - 5.51 pm

PRESENT: Councillor R J Scott (Executive Leader of the Council - in the Chair)

Councillor Mrs J A Adey	- Cabinet Member for Community
Councillor M A Foster	- Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor A R Green	- Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration
Councillor M Hussain JP	- Cabinet Member for HR, ICT & Customer Services
Councillor D A Johncock	- Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability
Councillor H L McCarthy	- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy
Councillor Mrs J E Teesdale	- Cabinet Member for Environment

By Invitation

Councillor I Bates	- Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor Mrs L M Clarke OBE	- Chairman of the Council
Councillor R Gaffney	- Chairman of the Improvement & Review Commission
Councillor M E Knight	- Leader of the East Wycombe Independent Group
Councillor B R Pollock JP	- Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor A Turner	- Leader of the Independent Group

Also present: Councillors A E Hill, R Metcalfe, J A Savage and P R Turner

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Marshall (Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainability).

21 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 July 2014 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as they contain exempt information as defined in Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to

Information) (England) Regulations 2012, more particularly as follows:

Minute 23 – High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan – Funding Issues

Minute 24 – Grounds Maintenance Contract Extension

Minute 25 – Former Computer House, Station Approach, Marlow

Minute 26 – Red Kite Matters – Castlefield Redevelopment

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information (Paragraph 3, Part 1 of schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972)

[The need to maintain the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure because disclosure could prejudice the Council's position in any future tender process or negotiations]

23 HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN - FUNDING ISSUES

The report before Cabinet detailed proposals under the High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan to regenerate the town centre, in particular the allocation of funding for the implementation of the Pauls Row and St Mary's Street scheme.

Cabinet were informed of the financial composition to the Pauls Row/St Mary's Street scheme.

The following recommendation and decision was made to support the regeneration of High Wycombe Town centre as set out in the High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan.

Recommended: That the sums for High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan set out in paragraph 6 (ii) and (iii) of the report be allocated and released.

RESOLVED: That the potential budget implications set out in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report, and proposed ring fencing of funds up to the financial cap be noted and agreed, and the allocation and release of funds as set out in paragraph 6 (i) of the report for implementation of the Pauls Row/St Mary's Street scheme be approved.

24 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT EXTENSION

Cabinet approval was sought to extend the current Grounds Maintenance Contract for a period of one year. The Council's current contract expired on 31 March 2015 and a one year extension was proposed to ensure continuity of service.

The following recommendation was made as the current contract started on 1 April 2010 for a 5 year term, with the ability to be extended by up to three years. The proposed one year extension had been negotiated with the contractor on the same terms, as provided in the current contract.

Recommended: That a one year extension to the Grounds Maintenance Contract be awarded to contractor A from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

25 FORMER COMPUTER HOUSE, STATION ROAD, MARLOW

The report before Cabinet sought approval to dispose of the former Computer House, Station Road, Marlow, to enable the site to be redeveloped.

The following recommendations were made as the disposal terms exceeded delegated authority levels.

Recommended: That (i) the freehold disposal of the property formerly known as Computer House, Station Road, Marlow, be approved on the basis of the exempt financial terms circulated at the meeting; and

(ii) delegated authority be granted to authorise the Major Projects & Estates Executive to finalise any further detailed terms in consultation with the Head of Finance & Commercial and Cabinet Members for Economic Regeneration and Finance.

26 RED KITE MATTERS - CASTLEFIELD REDEVELOPMENT

This item was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Karen Satterford	- Chief Executive
Ian Hunt	- Democratic Services Manager
Catherine MacKenzie	- Principal Democratic Services Officer

This page is intentionally left blank

Regulatory & Appeals Committee Minutes

Date: 21 July 2014

Time: 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor J A Savage (in the Chair)

Councillors : M C Appleyard, A D Collingwood, R Farmer, R Gaffney, Mrs G A Jones, B E Pearce and D A C Shakespeare OBE, T Snaith.

In attendance: Councillor Mrs L M Clarke OBE

7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ms P L Lee

8 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 June 2014 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

10 PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS - STANDING ORDERS- QUESTIONS AT FULL COUNCIL

A report was submitted which requested that the wording relating to public and Member questions within the Councils Standing Orders be amended. It was proposed that the length of time permitted to ask a question at Full Council meetings, including supplementary questions be reduced to a maximum of 1 minute.

The report stated that under the current provision whereby 3 minutes per question were allowed, Members were more able to make long statements as part of a preamble prior to reaching the relevant part of the question. Accordingly it was proposed that by reducing the time limit allowed for questions from 3 to 1 minute, there would be more limited opportunity for statements to be made. In addition it would help to negate the opportunity for the questioner to introduce new subject

matter during a supplementary question, thereby helping to ensure compliance with Standing Orders.

With regards to answering of questions, it was proposed to maintain the 3 minute time limit for the initial answer, but with a reduction in the length of time for answers to supplementary questions from 3 to 2 minutes.

A number of views were expressed regarding the matter. Whilst the majority of Members agreed with the proposed recommendations, some expressed the view that it would be more appropriate to postpone the decision until the life of the new Council next year.

Others expressed the view that by implementing the reduction in time limits for questions, particularly in relation to public questions, the Council could give the impression of not listening to relevant concerns, thereby contradicting its image of being a "Caring Council". As such it was suggested that the allocation of time for public questions should remain whilst possibly reducing the time for Members' Questions.

An additional suggestion made was that any remaining unused time allocated to Public questions should be added on to the period allowed for Members' questions, reducing the need for later written answers to unanswered questions which there had been insufficient time to deal with at the meeting. This was suggested as being particularly relevant in the light of the development of the newly formed political group of the Council.

Following detailed debate it was

RECOMMENDED: That

(i) S.O. 10 Sect. 5 (Public Questions) be amended to read as follows:

"The questioner shall have a maximum of 1 minute to ask a question, and the answer shall not exceed 3 minutes. A questioner shall then have a maximum of 1 minute to ask a supplementary question, and the answer shall not exceed 2 minutes. Question time shall not exceed 30 minutes in total."

(ii) S. O. 11 Sect 3(a) (Member Questions) be amended to read as follows:

"A Member shall have a maximum of 1 minute to ask a question and the Member responding shall have a maximum of 3 minutes to do so"

(iii) S.O.11 Sect 3(d) (Supplementary Questions) be amended to read as follows:

"A Member shall be allowed up to a maximum of 1 minute to put a supplementary question, and the member responding shall have up to a maximum of 2 minutes to do so"

11 MEMBERSHIP OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE - STANDING DEPUTIES

A report was submitted which invited a recommendation to Council as to whether or not standing deputies should be designated to serve on the Standards Committee. It further requested a recommendation as to whether the number of Members appointed to serve on hearings Panel should be reduced in number from a maximum of 5.

Members were informed that membership of the Hearings Panels was drawn from the Standards Committee, which currently allowed for up to 5 Members to sit at any one time. Its role was to hear complaints made against the behaviour of a member of Wycombe District Council or a Town or Parish Council within the district. It was emphasised that that this could lawfully be reduced to 3 if it was Members' preference. If the Committee was minded to allow standing deputies to come into existence, attendance at a suitable training session prior to sitting on the Committee or Panel would be obligatory.

The report stated that in accordance with Standing Order 22.2 appointment of standing deputies of any Standing Committee with less than 16 members should be on a formula of 3.1.1. This would therefore comprise 3 Conservative Members, 1 Labour, and 1 Liberal Democrat Member.

The report summarised the options available to the Committee for recommendation to Full Council for ratification.

In considering the facts before them, Members were in overall agreement with regard to allowing for the existence of standing deputy members on the Standards Committee. Views were varied as to the most appropriate number for members of Hearings Panels. Some felt that due to the irregularity of the meetings, the number should be reduced to 3.

A further view was expressed that the primary consideration should be the ability to be fair and equitable, and to appear to be so. The maximum number of 5 was therefore considered be the most preferable number for the panel hearings, with a qualified pool of people available to step in if and when required.

Following the debate it was:

RECOMMENDED: That

- (i) Subject to the appropriate training being completed standing deputies be permitted to serve on the Standards Committee, and that all relevant consequential changes be made to the Constitution.
- (ii) The number of Members required to serve at meetings of the Hearings Panels remain unchanged, at a maximum of 5.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

- Iram Malik - Senior Democratic Services Officer
- Julie Openshaw - District Solicitor