

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 12th November 1990.

Councillors:

p Mrs. N.E. Alldridge  
p A.E. Avery  
p Mrs. O.A.M. Badland  
p Mrs. M.J. Bannister  
p Wg. Cdr. H.E. Bennett, MBE  
p W.E.B. Boothby  
p E.R. Bowring  
p P. Brown  
p D.S. Burdle  
p R.J. Burnett  
p Miss M.A. Clarke  
J.E. Coles  
M.R. Cox  
p Miss S.A. Cooke  
p J.G. Craig  
p B.A. Cullers  
p G. Dawson  
p J.J. Dawson  
p Miss P.A. Drake  
p Major S.S. Elvery  
p Mrs. L.K. Errington  
M.G. Galpin  
p L.P. Gibbs  
p A.D. Goodall  
p W.J. Greer  
p A.J.C. Griffiths  
p S.S. Hayes  
p Group Capt. M. Hermiston, MBE  
p R.C.H. Hale

Councillors:

p J.M. Hoy  
p J.A.G. Hutchins, JP  
A.A. Joyce  
p J.D. Keating  
p D.W. Killen  
p Mrs. M.C. King  
p M.J. Knill  
p A. Lee  
p J. Lovering  
p Mrs. P.J. Marlow  
p J. Maynard  
p R.F. Orton  
p Mrs. S. Paton  
p R.A. Penny  
R.E. Podesta  
p Mrs. E.I. Pugh  
p C.G. Ramsden  
p Mrs. E.M.F. Randall  
p A.W. Rice, TD  
M.H.G. Richards  
p W.S. Rippon-Swaine  
p Mrs. M.J. Robinson  
p Mrs. J.C. Safe  
p Mrs. J.K. Vernon-Jackson, JP  
S.S. Wade  
p G.H. Wales  
p J.C. Webb, DFC  
p Mrs. D. Wilson  
p Mrs. P.A. Wyeth

Apologies:

were received from Cllrs. Coles, Cox, Galpin, Joyce, Podesta, Richards and Wade.

Officers Attending:

P.A.D. Hyde, R. Carver, N.J. Gibbs, D. Gurney, E.W. Hughes, E.S. Johnson, I.B. Macintosh, T. Simpson and Miss J. Debnam.

31. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 1990, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

32. OBITUARIES.

The Chairman reported with regret the death of Tom Addison, the former

Deputy Clerk of the old New Forest Rural District Council, and Brigadier D.E.O. Thackwell, CBE, who had been a member of this Council from its inception in 1973 until May 1976.

All those present stood in silent tribute to their memory.

33. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Chain of office

The Chairman formally reported the loss of the Chairman's Chain of Office. The Jewel of Office was not missing. The Chairman expressed his deep regret at the loss. The chain was particularly significant as it had been inherited from the former Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council.

The Chairman thanked Thomas Fattorini and Company who had lent a replacement chain at short notice, and also his fellow members for their expressions of support. The question of a permanent replacement chain would be discussed with the Vice-Chairman and other colleagues, including past chairmen.

(b) The Queen Mother's Birthday

The Chairman displayed a copy of the illuminated Loyal address which had been sent to the Queen Mother to mark the occasion of her 90th birthday. A letter of acknowledgement which was sent by her Private Secretary was submitted to the meeting.

(c) Ian Gow MP

The Chairman reported that a letter of acknowledgement had been received from the widow of Ian Gow MP. The Chairman had written to her following the murder of her husband by a car bomb.

(d) Visit by HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Eling Tide Mill

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester had visited Eling Tide Mill on Wednesday, 26th September 1990. He had opened the sluice gates to start up the mill and then toured the building. He showed a great interest in both the milling process and the structure and features of the building.

His Royal Highness had been presented with an engraved pewter coffee set, a leather bound guide book and a bag of wholemeal flour by the Chairman in his capacity as Chairman of the Eling Tide Mill Trust.

The Chairman reported that a letter of appreciation had been sent by His Royal Highness following the visit.

(e) Chairman's Appeals

The Chairman announced that the Chairman's Battle of Britain Appeal had raised 3,926.00, while the Dialysis Appeal had reached 3,608.00. The Battle of Britain Appeal would remain open until the end of the year. He thanked members for their support and kind contributions.

(f) Cllr. Mrs. M.J. Bannister

The Chairman was pleased to announce that, at the recent Housing and Town Planning Conference in Brighton, Cllr. Mrs. Margaret Bannister was re-elected as a representative of the Southern Region on the Executive Council of the National Housing and Town Planning Council.

Members added their congratulations to those expressed by the Chairman.

(g) New Forest Pride Week

The Chairman welcomed Martin Fletcher of the Forestry Commission, Peter Wheeler, Voluntary Organiser, and John Paterson, Deputy Chief Technical Officer who together had co-ordinated New Forest Pride Week. During the campaign, last Spring, over 6,000 volunteers collected 8,000 bags of litter. This community event had won the Queen Mother's Birthday Trophy, which was the overall award for the United Kingdom offered by the Tidy Britain Group.

34. CONSTRUCTION OF CAR PARK EXTENSION - APPLETREE COURT, LYN DHURST (PLANNING APPLICATION 45382) (REPORT A).

This matter was considered in accordance with the procedure for the resolution of disputes between Programme Committees, and the Planning Committee in respect of a planning application.

Members were advised that the Central Services Committee wished to construct a 76 space extension to the car park at Appletree Court on the southern edge of the grounds beyond the new wing. The Planning Committee had decided not to pass the second deeming resolution in respect of the application. A detailed analysis of the planning issues, and the considerations of each Committee were set out in the report. Slides of the site of the proposed extension, together with plan numbers PA6/262/1 and PA6/262/2 were displayed at the meeting.

Cllr. Lee moved that planning permission should be granted in accordance with the Resolution of the Central Services Committee. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston.

Cllr. Miss Drake spoke of the role that the present copse played in screening Appletree Court from the south, forming an essential part of the setting of the building. The site lay within the Green Belt, the Lyndhurst Conservation Area and the New Forest Heritage Area. She considered that availability of parking did not appear to cause the public any problems when visiting the offices. As the additional car parking would be for staff, not therefore the public, she questioned whether the proposals fell within the intentions of Policy SP6 of the Forest and Downlands Villages Local Plan. The Council should set extremely high standards for the developments which it permitted and undertook on its own behalf.

Cllr. Mrs. Errington was concerned that the proposed development might be used as a precedent by developers wishing to construct additional parking in the Forest. This view was supported by Cllrs. Lovering, Keating and G. Dawson, who suggested that consideration should be given to alternative methods of solving the car parking problem, such as the use of a pool bus system. The use of alternatives, or management techniques, was also supported by Cllrs. Cullers, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Randall. Cllr. Mrs. Randall believed the cost of the works would be an undesirable burden on the community charge. Cllrs. Rice and J. Dawson would also regret the loss of the copse.

Cllr. Webb reported that the Secretary of the Staff Consultative Committee had expressed strong support for the proposed car park extension, although the formal view of that Committee was not yet available. He pointed out that the car park extension had received consideration before the publication of New Forest 2000 added extra environmental considerations.

Cllr. Mrs. Safe reminded members that they had been assured that no additional car parking would be required following the construction of the new extension, although an increase of 10 per cent had been allowed. In addition, consideration of the car park extension had been concurrent with the preparation of New Forest 2000.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister supported the provision of the car park extension. The public car park in Lyndhurst was usually full, and was not suitable for staff. Parking on Bolton's Bench was undesirable and could ultimately force an extension to the car park in this area, which would be more intrusive and harmful to the Forest. Cllr. Mrs. Alldridge concurred with this view and suggested that far fewer people would see the proposed works at Appletree Court than would see the additional cars at Bolton Bench.

As a Member of both Committees, Cllr. Wg. Cdr. Bennett had followed the arguments with some interest, and on balance supported the request of the Central Services Committee. He considered that not all the tree screen would be lost. The need for additional car parking had been established, and the public park in Lyndhurst was not suitable. Cllr. Major Elvery believed the only other solution would be to take land from the lawns, which he considered less acceptable.

In answer to a question Members were advised that not all the copse would be removed, however the remaining trees were unlikely to survive the construction works.

Cllr. Mrs. Paton was not satisfied of the ecological importance of this spinney. She suggested that some management would be necessary in the future should the copse be retained. Cllr. Mrs. Wyeth referred to the unmanaged state of the copse. As there was a high proportion of sycamore sets some management would have to be introduced, which would reduce its value. Furthermore, there was no spare capacity in the Lyndhurst car park. Cllr. Craig reiterated the need for the car parking, which was not disputed by the Planning Committee, and supported the view of the Central Services Committee that this was the only viable option. He considered that Policy SP6 prevented such development being cited as a precedent. He was nonetheless concerned that the construction works should be confined within the new capital budget.

Cllr. Miss Cooke reminded Members that the Nature Conservancy Council supported the ecological value of the spinney. Cllr. Mrs. King was not satisfied that the proposed extension would ultimately resolve the car parking problems.

In summary Cllr. Miss Drake asked Members to have careful regard to the planning issues. Cllr. Lee reiterated the concerns of the Central Services Committee to find the best possible solution to the car parking problem, which after careful consideration of the issues, they had decided was the proposed extension and would, in their view, be within the terms of policy SP6.

With 25 Members voting in favour of the motion, and 25 voting against

the motion was declared carried on the Chairman's casting vote.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the development described in planning application 45382 comprising the construction of car park extension at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst be approved and that development be carried out subject to the following conditions:-

(1) No development shall take place until a landscaping and tree planting scheme has been submitted to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority. The submitted scheme shall include:-

- (a) The position, size, species and density of all trees and shrubs to be planted at a scale of 1:200.
- (b) The means of ground preparation.
- (c) The protection of existing natural features including those on the edges of the proposed works during construction works.
- (d) The levels of the finished scheme including cross-sections to show the profile of the finished landform.
- (e) The details of all hardsurfacing works to be undertaken.
- (f) The drainage of surface water from the hardsurfaced areas.

Reason: To ensure that the appearance of the development is satisfactory.

(2) All planting, seeding or turfing comprised in the approved details of landscaping shall be carried out in the first planting and seeding seasons following the carrying out of the construction works; and any trees or plants which, within a period of 5 years from the completion of the development, die are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written consent to any variation.

Reason: To ensure that the appearance of the development is satisfactory.

(3) Details of the lighting of the proposed car parking area shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority before any works are first commenced. These shall include the height and design of any columns required to support the lighting units.

Reason: To ensure that the appearance of the development is satisfactory.

(b) That this Resolution be passed for the purposes of

Regulation 4(5) of the Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1976.

35. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston presented the minutes of the meetings held on 30th July and 6th September 1990.

Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston referred to press reports regarding the prosecution of Lyminster Precision Engineering for contravention of a Noise Abatement Notice. He made it clear that costs had not been awarded against the Council. The appellant's costs were to be paid out of central funds, indicating the Court was satisfied that the proceedings were properly instituted. Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston reaffirmed that relevant Council officers were always available to assist the press to give accurate reports.

On the motion that the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted:-

- (a) Report of Advisory Steering Group - Review of Capital Expenditure 1990/91 and Development Programme 1991/92 and 1994/95 (Minute 34)

- (ii) Charging in Amenity Car Parks

Cllr. Cullers asked that consideration should be given to excluding charges for these car parks during off-peak periods, such as evenings during the summer. He felt this would be of assistance to local people. Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston agreed that this could be given further consideration although care would have to be taken that the off-peak period did not start too early in the evening.

- (vii) Food Safety Bill - Appointment of Additional Environmental Health Officers

Cllr. Maynard asked whether information had yet been received on the proportion of costs which would be met by Government. It was agreed that a reply would be sent to him in writing.

- (viii) Recycling

Cllr. Goodall advised Members that schools were having a problem with the disposal of non-aluminium cans which they were collecting for recycling. Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston confirmed that these were currently of small value and the cost of transport was prohibitive in taking them for recycling. At present the cans were being crushed to go as waste. The officers were, however, still investigating this matter.

- (b) Control of Dogs (Minute 37)

Cllr. Mrs Vernon-Jackson was sorry that a dog registration scheme had been rejected by the House of Commons. This view was supported by Cllrs. G. Dawson and Cullers who considered that the local Members of Parliament should have supported the District Council's view in favour of dog registration.

Cllr. Lovering reminded Members that the measures contained in

this Consultation Paper related to the control of dangerous dogs and would not in any way address the problem of dog fouling.

Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston was concerned that dog control measures should receive reasoned consideration at all levels of government. He suggested that no support should be given to any measures whereby any consequent income from licencing would not go to District Councils. The implementation of the proposed regulations on dogs would be quite difficult.

(c) Rumbridge Street Car Park, Totton (Minute 41)

Cllr. J.J. Dawson referred to local concerns at the proposed construction of an access to Rumbridge Street through the Council-owned car park. As the planning application for industrial development at Brokenford Lane had been refused, he questioned the need for this link road. He moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Cullers.

Cllrs. Mrs. Randall and Brown also believed that this matter should be given further consideration. Cllrs. Brown and Mrs. Bannister were further concerned that the new road would cut across an existing footpath and cycleway. The local residents would not wish to see any improvements to the road system which would encourage intensification of the industrial use on the Brokenford Lane site, which was already the source of numerous complaints. The site was now zoned for housing and a smaller link road might be more appropriate.

Cllrs. Miss Drake and Mrs. King reminded Members that this portion of road was part of the system proposed by the County Council to resolve traffic congestion in Totton. Under the present proposals this essential link would be funded by a developer.

Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston was satisfied that local concerns warranted this matter being given further consideration and suggested that, as there were complex planning issues involved, Members of the Planning Committee should be invited to attend.

(d) Brookley Road, Brockenhurst Car Park (Minute 43)

Cllr. Greer welcomed the introduction of a four-hour waiting limit which would encourage commuters to use the extensive British Railways car park. The Parish Council also supported these measures.

(e) Coastal Protection Capital Works Programme (Minute 45)

Cllr. Wales asked that the local Member of Parliament should be reminded of his commitment to support funding for essential coastal protection works.

Cllr. Group Capt. Hermiston advised Members that the local Member of Parliament had shown a keen interest in this matter and had given his support wherever possible.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation adopted, subject to Minute 41 relating to Rumbridge Car Park, Totton, being

referred back for further consideration.

(Note: Cllr. Brown disclosed an interest in the subject matter of Minute 41, relating to Rumbridge Car Park, Totton. He had a dispensation from the Department of the Environment to speak but not to vote on this matter).

36. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister presented the minutes of the meetings held on 30th July and 18th September 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

37. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Miss Drake presented the minutes of the meetings held on 8th August, 12th September and 10th October 1990.

Cllr. Miss Drake referred to the revised format for the presentation of the schedules, which had been adopted to allow full use of the computerised minute indexing system, as well as reducing paper consumption.

- (a) Totton Western By-Pass, A35 Junction - Provision of right turning lane for south-bound traffic (Minute 65).

Cllr. Mrs. Randall referred to a joint Member meeting with the County Council which had been held on the 26th November following an extensive site visit. Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson asked when the right-turn lane might be provided. Members were advised that the County Council had as yet taken no decision on the request for the provision for a right-turn lane, but it had been made clear at the joint meeting that these works could not be undertaken as an extension of the existing contract.

- (b) Extraction of sand and gravel and reinstatement to agricultural use: Land at Manor Farm, Milford Road, Pennington, Lyminster (Application 44700M) (Minute 82)

Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson referred with regret to the decision by the County Council to approve this application, in spite of the clear views expressed by the Planning Committee. She expressed her sympathy for local people who would be severely affected.

Cllr. Mrs. Safe endorsed this view and was concerned that this decision might weaken the resistance to similar proposals within the Avon Valley. Cllr. Boothby also sympathised with local residents.

Cllr. Miss Drake expressed her disappointment at the decision by the County Council, who had seen the proposed works as an extension to the existing works.

- (c) Comprehensive Roadside Service Area and land adjoining Shelley Nursery, Salisbury Road, Ower, Copythorne/Netley Marsh (Application 45399) (Minute 111)



Cllr. Rice regretted this decision which had been taken in the light of the demonstrated need for the development. He considered that the Department of Transport had been muddled in their advice and was surprised that the highway safety aspects had not been given greater importance. Cllrs. Ramsden and Mrs. Randall supported this view and considered the decision would be a cause for future regret. Cllr. Lovering shared these regrets but reminded Members that there had been no choice but to grant permission in view of the advice on need.

- (d) Seminar on Improvements to Rail Passenger Services and Facilities in Hampshire (Minute 126)

Cllr. J. J. Dawson was concerned that local District Councillors had not received information on this Seminar prior to reports appearing in the press. These issues were of particular concern to residents of the Waterside and he considered that the local Councillors should be kept closely informed. Cllr. Mrs. Alldridge believed that any proposals to develop the Fawley railway line would cause great concern to Waterside residents.

Cllr. Mrs. Randall advised Members that three proposals within the Consultation Document had a potential adverse impact on the District. These were development of the Waterside railway line, proposals for a West Totton Parkway Station, and an alternative station at Hounslow.

Cllr. Mrs. King, who had attended the seminar, advised Members that the County Council had only at this stage agreed in principle to undertake a more detailed survey, which would be subject to full debate and consultations. At the request of Cllr. Mrs. Bannister it was agreed that a report on the main issues would be included in the Information Bulletin.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

38. LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Mrs. Pugh presented the minutes of the meetings held on 20th August, 24th August and 27th September 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) Survey of Residential Caravan Sites (Minute 24)

Cllr. Burnett was concerned that the porch to a property would have to be demolished as it was within six metres of a mobile home which had subsequently been installed. Cllr. Mrs. Pugh

advised Members that the six metre space between caravans had been adopted for safety reasons, mainly relating to fire. The officers would, however, take account of all factors when considering each case.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

39. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Hutchins presented the minutes of the meetings held on 4th September 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received and the recommendation adopted:-

- (a) Clayfield Sports Centre, Claypits Lane, Dibden (Minute 39)

In answer to a question from Cllr. J.J. Dawson, Cllr. Hutchins advised Members that a formal meeting of the Clayfields Consultative Group would be held shortly.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendation adopted.

(Note: Cllr. Mrs. Robinson disclosed an interest in Minute 44 relating to the Hythe (Southampton) Sailing Club, but there being no discussion did not leave the meeting).

40. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Lee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) Town Hall, Lymington - New Entrance Draught Lobby (Minute 32)

Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson asked that careful consideration should be given to the signing within the lobby area. The building enjoyed three main uses and it was important that the public should find their way easily to their desired area.

Cllr. Lee reassured Members that the question of signing would be discussed fully in an attempt to resolve this matter.

- (b) Community Charge and Non-Domestic Rate (Minute 34)

In answer to a question from Cllr. J.J. Dawson, Cllr. Lee advised Members that regular reports would be submitted to the Committee on the collection statistics.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

41. WORKS COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Lee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 1990.

Cllr. Lee was pleased to announce that New Forest Contract Services had won three of four building cleaning contracts and a grounds maintenance contract for sheltered housing units. This was a significant expansion into the building cleaning market where competition was extremely fierce. Cllr. Lee congratulated the staff on their professionalism, expertise and enthusiasm. He also welcomed the new terms of contract which the staff had accepted.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

42. STRATEGIC GROWTH IN TOTTON COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Mrs. Paton presented the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

43. EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Lovering presented the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

44. POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

Cllr. Webb presented the minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 1990.

On the motion that the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted:-

- (a) Review of the Council's Capital Expenditure 1990/91  
Review of the Council's Development Programme 1991/2 -  
1994/5 (Minute 37)

Cllr. Wales expressed his concern that the Policy & Resources Committee had decided not to adopt car parking charges. The need for further parking in Lyminster had been identified in the Coastal Towns Local Plan. Provision had been made in the budget for decked parking and Cllr. Wales asked that Members should keep this matter in mind during their considerations of the budget at the informal meeting of the Committee.

- (b) Winchester Cathedral Campaign (Minute 41)

Cllr. Wales did not support the payment of a grant towards the Winchester Cathedral Campaign. Hampshire County Council were giving grant aid and he considered that community charge payers should not be required to contribute twice through this Authority. He moved that no grant be paid. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Bannister.

Cllr. J.J. Dawson was concerned at the five year commitment of expenditure at a time when finances were restricted. Cllr. Mrs. Errington believed English Heritage were now receiving additional funding to help with Cathedral repairs. Further consideration should be given to the payment of this grant. Cllr. Griffiths suggested that local people should make individual donations to the appeal should they wish to support it. Cllr. Lovering was concerned that community charge payers' money was being committed

to a sectarian religious building, even though it was a Grade I Listed Building.

Cllr. Hutchins considered the Council had the right and duty to support the Cathedral, which was part of the heritage of the main diocese of the District. Cllr. Rice also felt there was an obligation to support this appeal.

Cllr. Mrs. Safe did not consider that the argument against dual funding was valid as many projects were financed in this way.

The Chairman of the Council advised Members that, together with his Vice-Chairman, and the General Manager, he had visited the Cathedral and viewed the problems. The majority of the appeal funds were required to repair the structure of the building.

With 14 Members voting in favour of the amendment and the majority voting against, the amendment was declared LOST.

Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson moved that a grant of 10,000 should be made for this year only, with the Committee to consider further payments during the preparation of next year's budget. The amendment was seconded by Cllr. G. Dawson.

A single payment was supported by Cllr. Mrs. Wilson, who considered that matters such as homelessness should receive a higher priority within the budget. Cllr. J.J. Dawson considered that a single donation, with the newly-elected Council to decide future commitments, was the most appropriate course of action.

With 21 Members voting in favour of the once-only payment, and 23 voting against, the amendment was declared LOST.

The substantive motion was thereupon put to the vote and with 22 Members voting in favour and 21 voting against, the motion was declared CARRIED.

(c) Conferences (Minute 50)

Cllr. Mrs. Safe advised Members that they had been wrongly informed that she wished to attend the third "We are learning to love change in Local Government" conference. She was able to attend in her capacity as a Member of the Southern Provincial Council.

(d) Calendar of Meeting (Minute 51)

Cllr. Webb considered that every attempt should be made to arrange that each Committee should meet on a set day of the week. The Policy & Resources Committee were having to meet on Tuesdays on occasions and he had received representations that meetings should always be held on Wednesdays. To accommodate this, the Planning Committee would have to be moved on three occasions in the forthcoming year. The meeting timetabled for 10th July would need to move to 17th July; the meeting of 13th November to 6th November; and the meeting of 11th December to 4th December. This would maintain a balanced four or five week cycle for the Planning Committee. He further suggested that the proposed amendment would have the effect of separating main committee meetings, so they would not be held too close together. Cllr. Webb moved that the calendar of meetings be amended as set out above. The amendment

was seconded by Cllr. Craig.

Cllr. Mrs. Vernon-Jackson stated that a change in dates would cause her inconvenience as she had already arranged other engagements around the dates of the Planning Committee. Many Members of the public attended meetings of the Planning Committee, and they were used to meetings being held on the second Wednesday of every month. The suggested change would cause inconvenience to both Members and the public. This view was endorsed by Cllr. Mrs. Safe. Few members of the public attended meetings of the Policy & Resources Committee, whereas the Planning Committee frequently attracted large numbers. She was also not satisfied that the proposed rearrangement would have any benefit in separating meetings of main committees, as more than one programmed committee meeting was timetabled for other weeks.

Cllr. Mrs. Randall did not support the proposed amendment, and considered it was too late to alter the programme of meetings.

In answer to a question from Cllr. Bowring, Members were advised that the Policy & Resources Committee could not adopt the dates proposed for the Planning Committee because of the proximity to meetings of the Council or the programme committees.

Cllr. Mrs. Bannister suggested that this matter should be reviewed by the newly-elected Council after May.

Cllr. Miss Drake suggested that, as the proposals would largely affect Members of the Planning Committee, they should be given the opportunity to consider this matter in detail before a decision was taken.

Cllr. Craig was surprised by the controversy sparked by this item, which had been put forward to resolve certain anomalies in the timetabling.

Following further discussion it was agreed that the calendar of meetings for 1991/92, as attached at Annexe 2 to the minutes, should be adopted.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted.

45. SEASONS GREETINGS.

As this was the last Council meeting of the year the Chairman of the Council wished all Members a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

46. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS.

RESOLVED:

That the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to any orders, deeds or documents necessary to give effect to any decision made at this meeting.

CHAIRMAN