

23 MAY 1994

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 23 May 1994.

Councillors:

p Mrs N E Alldridge
p K E Austin
p Mrs O A M Badland
p S Bailey
p P A Baker
p Mrs P D Baker
p Mrs M J Bannister
p Major C Beeton MBE
p W E B Boothby
p E R Bowring
e Mrs D M Brooks
p D S Burdle
p R J Burnett
p J E Coles
p Miss S A Cooke
p D E Cracknell
p J G Craig
p W F Croydon
p B A Cullers
p G Dawson
p J J Dawson
p Miss P A Drake
p B C Earwicker
p Major S S Elvery
p Mrs L K Errington
p L P Gibbs
p W J Greer
p A J C Griffiths
p R C H Hale

Councillors:

p F R Harrison
p Mrs Y P Holloway
p Mrs A M Howe
p J M Hoy
p J A G Hutchins JP
p J Lovering
p J Maynard
p N D M McGeorge
p Mrs M McLean
p Miss G E Meaden
p R F Orton
p P G Pearce-Smith
p C G Ramsden
p A W Rice TD
p Miss G M Rickus CBE
p Mrs M J Robinson
p D N Scott
p Lieut Col M J Shand
p S A Shepherd
p A J Simmons
p Mrs B Smith
p Mrs L P Snashall
p G Spikins
p Mrs J K Vernon-Jackson MBE JP
p R G Vernon-Jackson
p S S Wade
p G H Wales
p Mrs D Wilson
p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

P A D Hyde, N J Gibbs, D A Gurney, I B Mackintosh, M Dean, Miss J Debnam, Mrs J Livesey and T R Simpson.

The Vice-Chairman of the Council (Cllr Wade) in the Chair

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Coles moved and the Vice-Chairman of the Council seconded the motion that Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson be elected Chairman of the Council to continue in office until her successor becomes entitled to act as Chairman at the next Annual Meeting of the Council in 1995.

In answer to questions, Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson advised members

that she would not be seeking election as Chairman of a Programme Committee. In addition, she would not be seeking an appointment as Vice-Chairman of a Programme Committee although she reminded members that in the past it has always been considered acceptable for the Chairman of the Council to be the Vice-Chairman of a Committee. It was

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson be elected Chairman of the Council to continue in office until her successor becomes entitled to act as Chairman at the next Annual Meeting of the Council in 1995.

Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson then took the Chair and made the declaration of acceptance of office which was formally witnessed by the Director of Finance and Administration.

Cllr Wade invested the Chairman with the chain and badge of office, and also presented her with a basket of flowers.

On behalf of the staff, the Chief Executive congratulated the Chairman on her election.

In thanking members for her election, Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson said that she believed it was a privilege to be Chairman of the Council and to represent this Authority at such a wide variety of events. She thanked the members who had acted as her consort during the previous year and looked forward to continuing support in the coming months. She hoped all those members would enjoy this added insight into the civic role of the Chairmanship.

The Chairman (Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson) in the Chair.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman of the Council moved, Cllr Baker seconded and it was

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Wade be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office until immediately after the election of the Chairman at the next annual meeting of the Council in 1995.

The Vice-Chairman made the declaration of acceptance of office, which was formally witnessed by the Director of Finance and Administration. The Chairman invested Cllr Wade with his badge of office, and presented Mrs Wade with a basket of flowers.

The Vice-Chairman thanked members for his appointment.

3. MINUTES.

Cllr Mrs Robinson was concerned that Minute 74(d) gave the impression that one housing association would be providing a community building at Heather Road, Fawley. She asked for the minute to be amended to make it clear that there were two housing associations involved in the project.

Members noted Cllr Scott's comments that his views on the Chairman of the Council also being the Chairman of a Programme Committee

were not adequately represented in Minute 76(a).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 1994, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the amendment of Minute 74(d) to refer throughout to housing associations.

4. THE LADY MANNERS AND P BROWN.

The Chairman reported the deaths of two former Councillors, the Lady Manners and P Brown.

The Lady Manners had represented the Sopley Ward of the former Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council from May 1958 until the dissolution of that Council in 1974.

Patrick Brown represented the Totton Central Ward of this Council from 1976 until 1983 and again from 1984 until 1991. He had served on the former New Forest Rural District Council from 1958 until 1960 and from 1970 until 1973. Cllrs Mrs Bannister, J J Dawson and Burdle paid tribute to the memory of Pat Brown. They recalled his hard work on behalf of his local community, where he was a well-known and very popular figure.

5. JAN BARRETT.

The Chairman also, with regret, advised members that a member of staff, Jan Barrett, had died suddenly on Friday, 13 May 1994 at home. Jan worked in the Benefits Section of Finance and Administration.

All those present stood as a mark of respect for former Councillors the Lady Manners and Pat Brown and for Jan Barrett.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(a) Fred Appleby OBE MA

The Chairman advised members that Mrs Appleby had presented both the OBE and New Forest District Council Plaque belonging to the former Clerk of New Forest Rural District Council to this Authority. The Chairman had been able to thank Mrs Appleby personally when she had visited Appletree Court recently to meet herself and the Chief Executive.

(b) The Privatisation of the Forestry Commission

The Chairman welcomed the Government's announcement that they would not be proceeding with proposals to privatise the Forestry Commission. They did, however, intend to make the Commission more commercial. It was to be turned into an agency with new profit targets, but new legislation was unlikely to be necessary. Further information would be reported in the next edition of the Information Bulletin.

(c) Roger Penny

The Chairman was pleased to present Roger Penny, former

Divisional Surveyor for the New Forest, with a silver salver to mark the occasion of his retirement. Although Roger was a County Council officer, the presentation was made in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Forest throughout his period of service. The Chairman also presented his wife with a basket of flowers.

In thanking members for the presentation, Roger Penny recalled the welcome, comradeship and friendship he had received from District Council members and officers. He wished all in this Authority well for the future.

All those present stood and applauded as a token of respect.

7. CONTRACT SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Miss Rickus presented the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 1994.

On the motion that the minutes be received:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

8. STRATEGIC GROWTH IN TOTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Cllr Shepherd presented the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 1994.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

- (a) Land off Loperwood Lane, Totton - Planning Application 53182 (Minute 36)

Cllr Burdle expressed concern that, although the original planning application had been refused, a further application had been received for social housing on the same site. In addition, Tatchbury Mount was listed as a site to be considered at the forthcoming joint meeting of the Housing and Planning Committees. He hoped that this Council would continue to resist residential development of this land and expressed the view that this kind of development did not fall within the scope of social housing in the proper sense.

Cllr Mrs Robinson advised members that this planning application was in its early stages, and consultations were taking place, particularly with local members. The question of Tatchbury Mount, which was on the agenda for the joint meeting, was a separate issue. This was about the re-location of the present residents of Tatchbury Mount into the local community, a process which would need much consultation and understanding. She confirmed this information when questioned further by Cllr Burdle.

It was noted that in Resolution (a) the word 'met' should read 'meet'.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received, subject to the amendment of minute 36(a) to read 'meet'.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson presented the minutes of the meetings held on 3 March and 3 May 1994.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Importation of Toxic Waste (Minute 108)

Cllr Rice believed that there were inherent dangers in transporting toxic waste by sea, as well as by land. He recalled the problems caused by unmarked drums being washed up on the coast.

Cllr Mrs Vernon-Jackson agreed that this was a legitimate concern, which had been included in the representations that had been made on this issue.

(b) Acquisition of Land for Car Parking - Emsworth Road, Lymington - Dawson's Garage (Minute 121)

In answer to Cllr Scott's concern at the closure of Dawson's Garage and the consequent loss of jobs, members were advised that this site was designated for open car parking in the Coastal Towns Local Plan and would redress the spaces lost on another site nearby. The site had been offered to the Council by the owners.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

10. PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Cllr G Dawson presented the minutes of the meetings held on 9 March, 13 April and 11 May 1994.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Planning Applications for Committee Decision (Minute 269)

Cllr Earwicker referred to planning application 53460 which was wrongly described as falling within Barton-on-Sea. He asked for greater attention to be given to the accuracy of addresses.

(b) Testwood Lakes, Totton and Netley Marsh (Applications 48306 and 48307) (Minute 303)

Cllr Harrison questioned whether allowances would be paid retrospectively to this Council's representative on the Testwood Lakes Forum, following formal approval of the appointment by the Policy and Resources Committee, but was advised that this was an administrative matter.

(c) Ampress Works, Southampton Road, Lymington (Application 54055) (Minute 305)

Cllr Vernon-Jackson thanked the officers and members of the Planning Committee for their continuing resolute opposition to these proposals. He hoped that this Authority would be able to continue to resist developments of this nature, which would have a seriously adverse effect on the town.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

11. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr J J Dawson presented the minutes of the meeting held 15 March 1994.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Land at Ashley, New Milton (Minute 88)

Cllr Mrs Wilson reminded members that, although this land was designated as public open space in the Coastal Towns Local Plan, the County Council was trying to sell it for residential development. There had been a joint meeting between representatives of this Authority and the County Council on this subject, and she asked what the outcome had been.

Cllr J J Dawson advised members that there was a dispute between the school and the County Council as to who owned this land, and this was yet to be determined by the Education Assets Board. At the joint meeting, there had been some sympathy for this Council's concerns, and an assurance had been given that these views would be taken into account by the County Council. Ultimately, however, the planning status of this land would rest in the hands of this Council as the Local Planning Authority. In answer to a further question from Cllr Griffiths, he advised members that the County Council had been asked to give an undertaking on the future of this land, but had been unable to do so at this stage.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

12. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Mrs Robinson presented the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 1994.

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

(a) Tenant Participation and Co-option of a Tenant to Housing Committee (Minute 106)

Cllr Scott asked what arrangements were in place for consultation with representatives of all groups of tenants prior to meetings of the Housing Committee. Cllr Griffiths

believed that it would be helpful if the meetings between the officers and the tenants were opened up to all parties.

Cllr Mrs Robinson advised members that the fifteen minute tenant liaison period before each meeting of the Housing Committee would continue. With respect to the officers' meeting with the Tenants' Committee, this meeting was organised by the tenants, and they invited who they chose. She would, however, ask for this matter to be put on the agenda for their next meeting. She reminded Cllr Griffiths that he was routinely invited to the Housing Committee Chairman's Briefing, in order that he might remain fully informed.

(b) Council Mortgages (Minute 108)

Cllr Griffiths was pleased that some former tenants had decided to transfer to cheaper, private mortgages but regretted that this had not been done in time to allow this Authority to be able to use 100% of the capital receipts.

(c) Energy Efficiency (Minute 112)

Cllrs G Dawson, Harrison, McGeorge and Vernon-Jackson regretted the failure of a Private Member's Bill on energy efficiency, as a result of a large number of amendments being tabled by the Government. They believed that the Bill had attracted cross-party support from about two-thirds of the Members of the House of Commons, and also from a variety of different organisations such as Friends of the Earth and the Gas Consumers' Council. The cost of compulsory energy audits would not have been high - twenty million pounds as a one off cost and two million pounds per annum thereafter, but would have successfully diverted resources to those properties where there would be greatest benefit. It was essential to meet the targets on CO2 emissions, to reduce global warming, and this could not be done on a voluntary basis. The County Council was considering discussions with the District Councils in Hampshire to establish a local campaign, which would benefit local Council Taxpayers. It was hoped that this Council would participate.

Cllrs Austin, Griffiths, Rice and Scott opposed mandatory measures. Any Council or any individual could carry out an energy audit if they chose. A detailed cost analysis should be taken to the next meeting of the Housing Committee on this issue. In addition, this Authority should confine its consideration to matters which fell within its responsibilities, and not speculate on possible Governmental proposals.

Cllr Mrs Robinson also regretted the failure of this Bill, which would have benefited the environment both within this County and throughout the world.

(d) Gypsy Sites and Planning - Department of the Environment Circular 1/94 (Minute 115)

Cllr Mrs Robinson drew members' attention to the letter of

reply from the Government, which had been published in the Information Bulletin. Despite further representations, the Government had declined to reconsider their decision not to designate the District under the Caravan Sites Act 1968. At Cllr Croydon's suggestion, the Town and Parish Councils were now being encouraged to lobby the Secretary of State and local MPs on this issue.

(e) Housing Performance Review Working Party 2 (Minute 117)

Cllr Scott did not consider that the business relating to the appointment of consultants had been conducted properly and should have been done openly by the full Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted.

13. LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Burnett presented the minutes of the meetings held on 24 March and 19 April 1994.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Application for Sports Entertainment Licence - Medieval Jousting - Forest Road, Holmsley (Minute 83)

Cllr Burnett advised members that a Summons had been issued regarding the holding of jousting events without a Public Entertainment Licence. The initial Hearing would be held on 29 May. If the Defendant entered a plea of not guilty there would be a delay of six to eight weeks before the case was heard. It was understood that the applicants argument would rest on whether a Public Entertainment Licence was needed for this type of event. In addition, a Noise Abatement Notice had been served.

Finally, Cllr Burnett recalled that prior to the determination of the Public Entertainment Licence on 19 April, a number of members had expressed surprise that none of the officers dealing with the application, nor members of the Licensing Committee, had made any comments on its merits. He reminded members that the Licensing Committee was acting in a quasi judicial manner and each application should be approached in an open-minded and fair manner, and a decision reached on the merits of the evidence submitted to the Hearing. Those involved had conducted themselves wholly appropriately, and to do otherwise would have left this Authority open to challenge through the Courts.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received.

14. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Wade presented the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 1994.

On the motion that the minutes be received:-

(a) Members' Allowances - Cycles (Minute 85)

Cllr J J Dawson believed that the discussion on this item had become confused as a result of the mistaken inclusion of information on the payment of cycle allowances to officers. He considered this matter should be discussed again, but on the correct basis. He moved that this matter be referred back for further consideration.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr Miss Cooke, who believed that a payment of a cycle allowance was not just in recognition of the cost of cycling, but also a means of encouraging people to use cycles instead of cars, which was cheaper and more environmentally friendly. Other members spoke in support in the same terms.

Cllrs Lovering, Craig and Mrs Wyeth considered that it was nonsensical to pay a cycle allowance. Cycling did not incur the running and depreciation costs associated with a car. Members should share vehicles whenever possible.

Cllr Miss Cooke moved that the question be now put, which on being seconded by Cllr Mrs Robinson was put to the vote and the motion carried.

With thirty members voting in favour and fewer against, the motion that this matter be referred back for further consideration was carried.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received, subject to Minute 85 relating to members' allowances for cycles being referred back for further consideration.

15. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

Cllr Coles presented the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 1994.

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

(a) Guidelines for the Review of Expenditure Plans (Minute 115)

Cllr Simmons believed that the Council was in danger of depleting its capital reserves, particularly as some investments were in gilts, which were losing money. In the light of this, he considered it would be more prudent for Committees to be asked to identify savings of 5%, not 3% as presently proposed. He moved as an amendment that the reduction in net revenue expenditure should be 5%. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Burdle, who did not believe that 3% savings was in keeping with the present inflation rate. He would prefer to see savings in excess of 5%.

Cllr G Dawson reminded members that in previous years each Committee had been very conscientious in identifying

savings, and if more than 3% could be achieved, this would be brought forward.

Cllr Coles advised members that a further report would be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee in July. He also recalled that, in setting the budget this year, some members had opposed the approved budget which replenished reserves by one million pounds. The figure of 3% savings had been chosen because it could be achieved without affecting services. Any additional savings would be brought forward.

With twenty-three members voting in favour, and a greater number against, the amendment was lost.

(b) Treasury Management Strategy 1994/95 (Minute 117)

Cllr Simmons reiterated his concern about capital losses, particularly as the Committee had decided that no funds could be withdrawn from the externally managed funds without Committee approval. No change was therefore possible for at least six weeks. He asked for Policy and Resources Committee to receive a full report on this to include advice on what could be done.

(c) Recommendations of Sub-Committees etc - Public Relations Working Party (Minute 118)

Cllr Orton opposed the decision to hold meetings of this Working Party in the evening, which had proved to be a total failure. The Chairman had arrived too late to conduct the meeting, and three of the six members had had to leave early. He hoped the issue of evening meetings could be discussed properly by the Policy and Resources Committee, to avoid a repetition of a situation which he had found farcical. These views were supported by Cllr Burdle, and by Cllr Craig who believed that a change in arrangements, which required the staff to work unsocial hours, should only be approached carefully, after proper consultation.

Cllr J J Dawson believed that evening meetings had proved successful for the Strategic Growth in Totton Advisory Committee, and for various Sub-Committees reporting to the Leisure Services Committee.

Cllr Scott criticised the number and content of press releases. He also expressed his dissatisfaction that he had not been allowed to speak on any items on the agenda for a meeting of the Working Party apart from those he had notified to the Chairman. He had asked his further questions by letter, but received no reply from the Chairman of the Working Party, although the Vice-Chairman had responded promptly. He asked for a full answer, and an apology.

Cllr Austin also questioned the political content of press releases.

Cllr G Dawson was satisfied that the Council's press releases complied with the requirements of the Local

Government and Housing Act 1988 with respect to their political content. Cllr Mrs Bannister advised members that there had been an excellent speaker at a seminar she had attended recently, who had given a presentation on press releases. She had mentioned this to the Chairman of the Public Relations Working Party as she felt training on this topic would be useful to the Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen and to political group leaders.

Cllr Rice criticised the objectives of public relations set out in Annex 3 to the minutes, which he felt were of no practical value and difficult to understand.

Cllr R G Vernon-Jackson advised members that Cllr Mrs Bannister's suggestion about a speaker on press releases had not been supported by the Public Relations Working Party, but he would be happy to discuss it with them again. The timing of the Working Party's meeting had not proved successful, but he hoped that this would improve in time, particularly if the time was adjusted to, for example, 5.30 pm. With respect to Cllr Scott's complaints, he was satisfied that Cllr Scott had been given every opportunity to discuss those issues he had nominated, but he had then felt that the Working Party should progress its business. Cllr Scott had not been asked to leave the meeting. He apologised that he had not replied to Cllr Scott's letter. With respect to the number of press releases, he considered that it was essential to provide a wide range of topics from which the media could select those items which were of interest to them, in order to promote a positive image.

(d) Provision of School Places in The New Forest (Minute 119)

Cllr Miss Rickus advised members that the County Council had analysed school numbers and allocations in the southern part of the District. It had been decided that, from September 1995, children in Bransgore would no longer have right of entry at Arnewood School, New Milton, but would have to travel to Twynham School in Dorset. There would be a meeting on this matter with local parents later in the day. She considered that parents had lost choice and diversity of schools as a result of recent changes in education provision.

Cllr Mrs Wilson agreed that children in Bransgore were being denied legitimate choice. The fundamental problem was that there were too few places for the children in the area. Demand had only been assessed in the western part of the catchment area, without consideration of the overall picture, or the effect of a similar shortfall of places at Priestlands School, Lymington. She urged the County Council to consider this issue in the light of all the facts.

These concerns were echoed by other members. It was noted that, although Arnewood School had given an undertaking that it would continue to serve its traditional catchment area when it became grant-maintained, it did not now have sufficient capacity. The education authority could not promote, or pay for, new classrooms at the school because of its grant-maintained status. Some members considered that there was now sufficient demand to justify the construction

of another secondary school in the New Milton area. Cllr Mrs Errington cautioned, however, that this was not a practical proposition. She also advised members that the present situation had been foreseen by members of the County Council Education Committee, who had feared the evolution of a two-tier education system.

Cllr Lovering moved that the Council proceed to the next business, which, upon being seconded by Cllr Miss Cooke, was put to the vote and carried.

(e) Young Persons' Councils (Minute 121)

Cllr Wales sought clarification as to which of the proposals for the establishment of Young Persons' Councils had been supported.

Cllr Lovering cautioned that Young Persons' Councils would have to be established with the active support of schools if they were to fulfil any meaningful role. Cllr Austin believed, however, that Young Persons' Councils were a waste of money and the same aims could be achieved through school debating societies.

Cllr Coles advised members that Option 1 of those put before members had been the one which was supported.

(f) Tenant Liaison Sessions and Co-option of Housing Tenant to Housing Committee (Minute 122)

Cllrs Rice and Scott were concerned that the Housing Committee would be acting undemocratically if it was selecting a tenants' representative to serve as the co-opted member.

Cllr Harrison advised members that the Tenants and Residents Joint Committee would put forward their nominations to represent the whole area. The Committee would have to select from the nominations put forward.

Cllr Mrs Robinson confirmed this information and that the Housing Committee would have to choose one tenants' representative if the Joint Committee put forward more than one nomination.

(g) Standing Orders as to Contracts (Minute 126)

Cllr Craig asked whether it had been confirmed if the proposed amendment to Standing Orders would prevent New Forest Contract Services from employing an unsuccessful tenderer as a sub-contractor.

Cllr Miss Rickus undertook that Cllr Craig would receive a written reply to this question. In answer to further concerns raised by Cllr Griffiths, she gave an undertaking that New Forest Contract Services would not be allowed to employ the cheapest tenderer as a sub-contractor, and take the additional profit, when they had been selected for a contract where they were not the cheapest tenderer.

- (h) National Code of Local Government Conduct - Complaint
(Minute 134)

Cllr Coles reported that he had received a letter from Cllr Cullers who had given notice that he wished to make a future appeal on this matter to the whole Council.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be received and the recommendations be adopted.

16. ADJOURNMENT AND RESUMPTION OF MEETING.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.35 pm and resumed at 1.30 pm.

p Mrs J K Vernon-Jackson MBE JP - Chairman
p S S Wade - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

Councillors:

p Mrs N E Alldridge
p K E Austin
p Mrs O A M Badland
p S Bailey
p P A Baker
p Mrs P D Baker
p Mrs M J Bannister
p Major C Beeton MBE
p W E B Boothby
p E R Bowring
e Mrs D M Brookes
p D S Burdle
p R J Burnett
p J E Coles
p Miss S A Cooke
p D E Cracknell
p J G Craig
p W F Croydon
p B A Cullers
p G Dawson
p J J Dawson
p Miss P A Drake
p B C Earwicker
p Major S S Elvery
p Mrs L K Errington
p L P Gibbs
p W J Greer
e A J C Griffiths

p R C H Hale
p F R Harrison
p Mrs Y P Holloway
p Mrs A M Howe
p J M Hoy
p J A G Hutchins JP
p J Lovering
p J Maynard
p N D M McGeorge
p Mrs M McLean
p Miss G E Meaden
p R F Orton
p P G Pearce-Smith
p C G Ramsden
p A W Rice TD
p Miss G M Rickus CBE
p Mrs M J Robinson
p D N Scott
p Lieut Col M J Shand
p S A Shepherd
p A J Simmons
p Mrs B Smith
p Mrs L P Snashall
p G Spikins
p R G Vernon-Jackson
p G H Wales
p Mrs D Wilson
p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

P A D Hyde, N J Gibbs, D A Gurney, I B Mackintosh, M Dean,
Miss J Debnam, Mrs J Livesey, T R Simpson.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION.

In accordance with Standing Order 7, Cllr McGeorge moved the following motion:

"This Council is concerned at the reports that the Local Government Commission may be considering retaining the existing two-tier structure for the New Forest District Council Area. This Council urges all effort to be made to ensure that unitary status is given to the New Forest District. This Council regrets that in considering the reform of local government the Government has no plans to establish elected regional authorities to undertake the informal activities currently done by bodies such as SERPLAN, and also believes the Government should help publicise and strengthen the activities of the Committee of the Regions in the European Union, established by the Treaty of Maastricht".

Cllr Miss Cooke seconded the motion which was referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for debate, for a report to be brought back to the next meeting of the Council.

18. POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES.

RESOLVED:

That no change be made to the political representation on Committees.

19. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr J E Coles be elected Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee for the ensuing year.

In thanking members for his election, Cllr Coles undertook to do everything in his power to improve the standard of debate and conduct during Council meetings, and hoped that the leader of the Conservative Group would take similar action.

Cllr Greer concurred with the comments regarding standards of debate and conduct and agreed that all present should seek an improvement.

20. 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