## **3 NOVEMBER 1997**

### **NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 3 November 1997.

- p Cllr J A G Hutchins JP Chairman
- p Cllr Mrs A M Howe Vice-Chairman

# Councillors: Councillors:

р	K E Austin	е	S A Hayes
p	Mrs O A M Badland	р	J M Hoy
p	S Bailey	p	M R Jones
p	P A Baker	p	M J Kendal
p	Mrs P D Baker	p	G N D Locock
p	Major C Beeton MBE	p	Mrs B M Maynard
p	Mrs C A Bianchi	p	N D M McGeorge
p	E R Bowring	p	Mrs M McLean
p	D S Burdle	p	S M Noel
p	J E Coles	p	R F Orton
p	Miss S A Cooke	e	P G Pearce-Smith
n.	M R Cox	n	C G Ramsden

Miss S A Cooke e P G Pearce-S
M R Cox p C G Ramsden
D E Cracknell p A W Rice TD
W F Croydon p B Rickman

B D Dash p Miss G M Rickus CBE
G Dawson p Mrs M J Robinson
J J Dawson p D N Scott

p Miss P A Drake
p K W Drew
e B C Earwicker
p A S Emery
p Mrs L K Errington
p Lt Col M J Shand
p S A Shepherd
p Mrs B Smith
p Mrs L P Snashall
p G Spikins

e R K Goodridge p Mrs J K Vernon-Jackson MBE JP DL

p W J Greer p M S Wade
p R C H Hale p S S Wade
p L E Harris p Dr M N Whitehead
p D Harrison p Mrs D Wilson
p F R Harrison p Mrs P A Wyeth

# Officers Attending:

I B Mackintosh, N J Gibbs, D A Gurney, Ms E Malcolm, J Bull, Mrs J Livesey, T R Simpson, P Thompson and G Tombs.

# 23. MINUTES.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 1997, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the words "written questions, once received," being inserted in place of the word "question" in Minute 16(a) (Direct Services Contracts Committee).

### 24. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

# (a) Diana, Princess of Wales

The Chairman referred to the recent tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Reference was also made to the Books of Remembrance which had been signed by 6,000 people in the District, and the Chairman expressed the thanks of members to officers for the prompt and efficient way in which all the arrangements had been put in hand. Particular reference was made to the Information Officers who remained on duty in the evening so that the public could sign the books after work.

Members stood in silence as a token of respect to the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales.

# (b) CIIr B C Earwicker

The Chairman referred to Cllr Earwicker, who had been the victim of an assault at his home during the previous week, sustaining serious injuries which had resulted in a stay in hospital.

Cllr Coles had visited Cllr Earwicker and reported that he was making good progress.

Members wished Cllr Earwicker a speedy recovery.

# (c) Mrs J Livesey

The Chairman congratulated Mrs Livesey on her recent appointment as Head of Personnel with Newbury Council and wished her the very best for the future.

## (d) Member Appointments

The Chairman advised members that the following appointments had been made recently:-

Cllr Vernon-Jackson had been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Hampshire.

Cllr Cooke had been elected Chairman of the Community Health Council for the Southampton and South West Hampshire Health Authority area.

Cllr Coles had been elected to the Leisure and Tourism Committee of the Local Government Association.

Cllr Greer had been elected to the Transportation Committee of the Local Government Association.

In addition, former District Councillor J Maynard had been honoured by Hampshire County Council, who had made him a Freeman of the County Council.

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# (e) Mr A Barlow

The Chairman announced that Mr A Barlow, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest, would be leaving shortly to take up a new post in Edinburgh. He expressed the members' best wishes for Mr Barlow's future.

# (f) Armistice Day

The Chairman referred to Armistice Day on Tuesday, 11 November, during which employees and members were being encouraged to observe a two minute silence at 11.00 am.

# (g) Mrs J Wigg

The Chairman announced, with regret, the recent death of Mrs J Wigg (formerly Gibbs), the County Council's Area Director of Social Services for the New Forest.

# (h) Mr C Tubbs

The Chairman also announced, with regret, the recent death of Mr C Tubbs, the former Senior Officer for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight branch of English Nature.

Members stood in silence as a token of respect to the memories of Mrs Wigg and Mr Tubbs.

## 25. HOUSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 29 July and 16 September 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received, it was -

# **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

## 26. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 13 August, 10 September and 8 October 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

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# (a) New Forest Transportation Strategy (Minute 57)

Cllr Burdle asked for an amendment to resolution (c) to be passed and an additional resolution (d) to be added as follows:-

- "(c) That an item be included on the next respective Liaison Meetings with Hampshire County Council and Esso, for the County Council to consider the need to take measures to guide HGVs from using roads not designated as part of the Strategic Road Network; and
- (d) That Esso be asked to take measures, in an attempt to reduce the environmental impact of their HGVs, by preventing them using roads on which they do not make deliveries, such as the A336 Ringwood Road through Netley Marsh, rather than using the Strategic Road Network."

The Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee undertook to take the matter back to the next meeting of the Committee.

# (b) Land of and adjacent to Gordleton Pit, Off Sway Road, Lymington (Minute 63)

In response to a question, the Chairman of the Committee stated that she had had no further information on developments at this site.

# (c) New Community Hospital for Lymington (Minute 93)

Cllr Vernon-Jackson disclosed a pecuniary interest in this item and, having left the meeting, took no part in the discussion thereon.

Cllr Robinson disclosed a pecuniary interest in the item, but indicated that she had a dispensation to speak but not vote on the matter.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee undertook, following questions from members, to ensure that the Director of Environment Services circulated a further update on progress on the matter.

It was noted that a written progress report had been considered at the Planning and Transportation Committee on 10 September 1997. It was also noted that the Committee had previously resolved to grant planning permission, pending the completion of legal agreements, which were nearing finalisation. Technical experts employed by the Health Trust continued to be satisfied with the site at Ampress and remained firmly minded to proceed with their proposals.

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# (d) Planning and Transportation Committee - Changes to Rules of Debate (Minute 78(a))

During discussion on the minutes, a member commented that the recently introduced changes to the rules of debate at Planning and Transportation Committee meetings (which basically included the enforcement of the three minute speaking rule and members being permitted to speak on one occasion only) should have been the subject of a full debate. All members needed to be informed of the changes.

It was noted that the proposals were for a trial period only and had been agreed following a discussion between the leaders of the three political groups.

The Chairman of the Committee undertook to circulate members with a note on the revised rules of debate for the Committee.

# (e) Hightown Reservoir, Picket Hill, Ringwood (Minute 100)

It was noted that the correct spelling of the location of the reservoir was "Picket Hill".

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

# 27. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meetings held on 29 August, 29 September and 15 October 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

## (a) Final Accounts 1996/97 (Minute 24)

A member noted the excellent results contained in the Final Accounts for 1996/97 and the savings they included, which amounted to £729,000 over the original budget. In view of the saving, he felt that the Council Tax increase of 14% imposed during that year could have been limited to some 2% or 3%, which was more in line with the level of inflation.

The Chairman of the Committee commented that the ongoing review process throughout the year had led to the savings and that no criticism should be levelled against the Council for the savings achieved.

# (b) Lymington Quay Wall (Minute 27)

In answer to a question as to how the proposed expenditure would be monitored, the Chairman of the Committee stated that the £30,000 capital sum recently made available for proposals to safeguard the structural integrity of the quay wall at Lymington would be kept under continuous review, and expenditure would be limited to that which was strictly necessary.

# (c) Review of the Committee's Expenditure Plans 1998/99 to 2001/02 (Minute 32)

A member noted that some £700,000 of savings were close to a budget originally proposed by the Conservative Group. He felt that a further saving would accrue in the forthcoming year and that, in view of the wide variances already seen, future budgets were set unjustifiably high. It was also felt that expenditure should not always be set at the capping limit.

The Chairman of the Committee commented that the Council's five year Expenditure Plan had been commended by the Audit Commission and that the savings generated in past years had been as a result of the continuous process of review.

# (d) Financial Strategy and Expenditure Plans 1998/99 to 2001/02 (Minute 32)

A member proposed that the recommendations of the above minute should all be deleted, with the sole exception of recommendation (d). On a vote being taken, the proposal was defeated by 27 votes to 20.

## (e) Committee Structure - Review (Minute 42)

A member referred to the recommendation that no change be made with respect to the evening commencement time of Central Services Committee. It was his view that a daytime meeting was more suitable and it was agreed to refer the issue to that Committee.

Members also referred to recommendation (a), which related to a thorough review of the arrangements relating to Planning and Transportation Committee, and expressed the view that the Committee should revert to a membership of 20. The view was also expressed that the addition of transportation issues to the former Planning Committee had led to increasing problems.

The Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee reiterated that the recent changes to the rules on debate at meetings of the Committee had speeded up its operation and were especially useful for members of the public. The changes had been instituted for a trial period only. Further consideration was being given to having a dedicated Transportation Sub-Committee and she hoped to encourage a better geographical spread of members on the existing Planning and Transportation Committee.

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An amendment was moved for recommendation (a) to read as follows:

"(a) That, subject to a thorough review of Planning and Transportation Committee with the aim of still securing democratic but more effective means of conducting its business, no changes be made to the Council's Committee structure at this stage;".

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted, subject to the amendment of recommendation (a) at minute 42 to read as follows:
  - "(a) That, subject to a thorough review of Planning and Transportation Committee with the aim of still securing democratic but more effective means of conducting its business, no changes be made to the Council's Committee structure at this stage;"
- (b) That Central Services Committee reconsider the start time of its meetings.

## 28. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

## (a) Barton Access Steps (Minute 48)

A member enquired as to whether a report had been prepared for circulation to members on the costs to date of work on the provision of steps at Barton.

The Chairman of the Committee replied that a full report was to be considered by the Committee on 11 November 1997.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

# 29. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

# (a) Community Safety (Minute 20)

It was noted that this recommendation stood referred back to the Council and appeared later on the agenda.

### **3 NOVEMBER 1997**

# (b) Outdoor Public Entertainments Licences - Review of Fee Scale (Minute 25)

A member expressed the view that the requirement for Public Entertainments Licences was being applied too rigidly, and to events which had not been the subject of the original legislation (ie raves).

The Chairman of the Committee responded that the only licences issued were those which were required by the legislation. She also undertook to circulate members with a note of the precise number of licences issued.

# (c) Public Conveniences at Paddy's Gap, Milford-on-Sea (Minute 26)

A member requested that this issue be referred back to the Committee and reviewed after twelve months.

The Chairman of the Committee responded that the Parish Council had been invited to contribute to the funding of the portable public conveniences which had not been removed to date. No response had yet been received.

# (d) Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996

A member explained that she had been unable to contact a Dog Warden, despite repeated attempts.

The Chairman of the Committee undertook to ask the Director of Community Services to ensure that her complaints were attended to.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

## 30. DIRECT SERVICES CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received, it was -

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

## 31. CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received, it was -

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received.

# 32. JOINT PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION AND POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEES.

The Chairman of the meeting presented the minutes of the joint meeting held during the afternoon of 3 November 1997.

On the motion that the minutes be received -

# (a) Car Parking Charges (Minute 3)

Cllr Greer moved the following alternative recommendation:-

"In view of the decision taken this afternoon, which ignored the clearly expressed wishes of the people of the New Forest, I propose that a decision on charging for car parking be deferred until after the elections for the District Council in May 1999."

Cllr Greer requested that this matter be determined by recorded vote and, in accordance with Standing Order 19, more than 15 other members stood in their places to indicate their support. The vote on Cllr Greer's amendment was taken as follows:-

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Austin P A Baker Badland Mrs P D Baker

Bailey Coles Beeton Cooke Bianchi Cox Bowring Croydon Burdle Dash Cracknell J J Dawson Drake Emery Drew Hale Errington Harris Greer D Harrison Hoy F R Harrison

Hutchins Howe Jones Locock Kendal Mavnard Noel McGeorge Orton McLean Ramsden Rickus Rice Robinson Rickman Shand Scott Shepherd **Spikins** Smith Wilson Snashall

Wyeth Vernon-Jackson

M S Wade S S Wade Whitehead

With 25 members voting in favour and 28 against, the amendment was lost.

Cllr Wilson expressed the view that no charge should be levied for the town centre car parks in New Milton (recommendation (c), (viii)), as this would adversely affect the economic viability of the town centre.

With 19 members voting in favour and 26 against, the amendment was lost.

In addition, Cllr Rice requested that the special general permit proposed for non-residents of the District be extended to residents of Walkford (recommendation (n)).

Cllr Burdle suggested that, if it was agreed to levy car park charges in the District, the basis should not be different in each town or village centre.

With respect to recommendation (c), a series of named votes was requested to determine the proposals to charge in car parks in town and village centres. In accordance with Standing Order 19, more than 15 other members stood in their places to indicate their support and the vote was taken as follows:-

## (viii) New Milton

## **3 NOVEMBER 1997**

P A Baker Austin Mrs P D Baker **Badland** Coles Bailey Cooke Beeton Cox Bianchi Croydon **Bowring** Dash Burdle J J Dawson Cracknell Emery Drake Hale Drew Harris Errington D Harrison Greer F R Harrison Hoy Howe Hutchins Locock Jones Maynard Kendal McGeorge Noel McLean Orton Rickus Ramsden Robinson Rice Shand Rickman Shepherd Scott Smith **Spikins** Snashall Wilson Vernon-Jackson Wyeth

M S Wade S S Wade Whitehead

With 28 members voting in favour and 25 against, the proposal was carried.

# (ix) Ringwood

## **3 NOVEMBER 1997**

P A Baker Austin Mrs P D Baker Badland Coles Bailey Cooke Beeton Cox Bianchi Croydon Bowring Dash Burdle J J Dawson Cracknell Emery Drake Hale Drew Harris Errington D Harrison Greer F R Harrison Hoy Howe Hutchins Locock Jones Kendal Maynard McGeorge Noel McLean Orton Rickus Ramsden Robinson Rice Shand Rickman Shepherd Scott Smith **Spikins** Snashall Wilson Vernon-Jackson Wyeth

M S Wade S S Wade Whitehead

With 28 members voting in favour and 25 against, the proposal was carried.

# (x) Totton

## **3 NOVEMBER 1997**

P A Baker Austin Mrs P D Baker **Badland** Coles Bailey Cooke **Beeton** Cox Bianchi Croydon **Bowring** Dash Burdle J J Dawson Cracknell **Emery** Drake Hale Drew Harris **Errington** D Harrison Greer F R Harrison Hutchins Howe Jones Kendal Hoy Locock Noel Orton Maynard McGeorge Ramsden McLean Rice Rickus Rickman Robinson Scott Shand **Spikins** Shepherd Wilson Smith Wyeth

Snashall

Vernon-Jackson M S Wade S S Wade Whitehead

With 29 members voting in favour and 24 against, the proposal was carried.

A further named vote was held in respect of recommendation (g), relating to the issue of free permits for New Forest residents, the vote on which was as follows:-

### **3 NOVEMBER 1997**

P A Baker Mrs P D Baker Bowring Coles Cooke Cox Cracknell Croydon Dash J J Dawson **Emery** Hale

Bianchi Drew Jones Ramsden Rickman Scott Spikins Wilson

Austin Bailey **Beeton** Burdle Drake Errington Greer Hoy Hutchins Orton Rice

D Harrison F R Harrison Howe Locock Maynard McGeorge McLean Rickus Robinson Shand

Harris

Shepherd Smith

Snashall

Vernon-Jackson

M S Wade

S S Wade

Whitehead

With 30 members voting in favour, 8 against and 11 abstentions, the proposal was carried.

Cllr Dash proposed an amendment to recommendation (w), such that it read:-

"(w) That the individual arrangements for off-street parking charges (if introduced) be reviewed one year after implementation for overall cost effective operation, and, where not viable in all aspects, be discontinued."

On a vote being taken, the amendment was carried by 28 votes with no person voting against.

A final vote was taken on the full range of recommendations, with the inclusion of the amendment at (w) noted above. With 28 votes for and 15 against, it was -

# **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received and the recommendations adopted, subject to the amendment of minute 3(w) to read as follows:

## **3 NOVEMBER 1997**

"(w) That the individual arrangements for off-street parking charges (if introduced) be reviewed one year after implementation for overall cost effective operation, and, where not viable in all aspects, be discontinued."

(**Note:** Cllr Scott wished to be recorded as having voted against the recommendations.)

# 33. NOTICE OF MOTION - COMMUNITY SAFETY.

The Council considered Minute 20 of the Environmental Services and Licensing Committee meeting held on 4 September 1997, on a motion which had been referred to the Committee for consideration and report back.

### **3 NOVEMBER 1997**

### **RESOLVED:**

That minute 20 of the Environmental Services and Licensing Committee be adopted.

### 34. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9.

Cllr Vernon-Jackson disclosed a pecuniary interest in the questions asked by Cllr Scott and withdrew from the meeting.

Cllr Robinson disclosed a pecuniary interest in the questions asked by Cllr Scott, but indicated that she had a dispensation to speak on the matter.

In accordance with Standing Order 9, Cllr Scott asked the Vice-Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee the following questions:-

# **New Hospital in South West of New Forest District**

1. When will a full appraisal of the best potential site be made by Planning Officers?

(At a meeting on 28 February 1997 in Lymington Town Hall with the Managing Director, the then Director of Planning and the Director of Environment Services (Designate), local district Councillors requested them to initiate this appraisal to -

- (a) ensure that the new hospital is located on the best quality site, and
- (b) provide best value for public money).
- 2. Why have local district Councillors been excluded from discussions, despite specific requests to attend, with New Forest District Council Officers and the Hospital Trust and their advisers, and site owners and their representatives (including other industrial site owners) contrary to past practice?
- 3. Why has not comprehensive report been made to local members on these matters despite requests since the Planning and Transportation Committee minute 207 of 14 May 1997?

# Ampress Works, Lymington - Planning Application 61014 : Permission Granted 14 May 1997 with Conditions

- 4. When were each of the Section 106, 227 and 278 legal agreements signed and what are these agreements? Alternatively, what are the principles of these legal agreements that have been agreed and when are the details expected to be completed and signed?
- 5. When are each of the 8, 2 and 2 requirements,, respectively listed in Annex 1 of the Planning and Transportation Committee minutes of 14 May 1997, in the Section 106, 227 and 278 legal agreements expected to be completed?

### **3 NOVEMBER 1997**

- 6. When, as resolved at the above meeting, were each of the other conditions, deemed appropriate by the Director of Environment Services, formally agreed/expected to be agreed by the applicants? Alternatively, when specifically are the current draft conditions being discussed with the applicants?
- 7. When are each of the latter conditions expected to be met?
- 8. When will sites for new factories be available?
- 9. What sites, if any, have been offered to prospective enterprises that meet their design specifications within the term ie start on site dates of six months or less from now, that is one year from 14 May 1997?
- 10. What evidence is there that new build industrial sites will be available at Ampress in 1997 and built and in operation in 1998?
- 11. What other steps have been, or are being taken to ensure industrial land is available in the local area to meet the needs of local companies such as Parker Baths of New Milton and Lymington Precision Engineering and thereby the local economy and job opportunities?

The Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee replied as follows:-

- 1. The Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust have carried out an appraisal of potential sites. It is for the Trust to be satisfied that the site they are promoting is suitable and provides best value for public money. The Council's Planning Officers are not carrying out a separate appraisal.
- 2. Discussions about the new Community Hospital have been conducted in line with past established practice. There have been no recent discussions initiated by the District Council.
- 3. The Planning and Transportation Committee Minute 270 of 14 May 1997 concerns planning application 61014 on the Ampress Works. At Cllr Scott's request, a progress report was brought to the 10 September 1997 meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee (Minute 93). The Planning and Transportation Committee have not requested a further report.
- 4. The legal agreements have not been finally completed. The general content of the S106 agreement has been agreed. Issues relating to the S227 agreement, which deals with the Council's option to acquire land in the future, are subject to detailed negotiation with the applicants' solicitor. The S278 agreement concerns highway and transport matters. The applicants' engineers have submitted designs to the Highway Authority and discussions on technical points of design are currently being undertaken. The principles are as set out in Appendix B to Report B6 to the Planning and Transportation Committee on 14 May 1997.
- 5. These matters will be determined in the legal agreements.

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- 6. Draft conditions are being discussed with the applicants in parallel with negotiations on the legal agreements referred to previously. A final decision on the conditions to be imposed will be taken in conjunction with the completion of the legal agreements.
- 7. Until they are agreed this cannot be answered.
- 8. The commercial agents for the site are promoting sites for new build on the basis that access to the site for development can be achieved within six months of a contract being signed. This will enable developments to be tailored to individual requirements.
- 9. The commercial property agents for the site are engaged on a marketing campaign to attract tenants to the existing buildings. They have informed the Council that new services have been installed; 30,000 sq ft has been let; other negotiations for substantial areas are at an advanced stage. Details of areas and terms are confidential commercial information.
- 10. Sites will be brought forward as soon as terms are agreed with prospective occupiers.
- 11. There is ongoing involvement from both the economic development and planning functions of the Council. Resolution of the situation is, however, largely in the hands of land owners and local companies who are engaged in a dialogue.

Cllr Scott asked a series of supplementary questions with reference to his original questions under Standing Order 9, and it was agreed that the Chairman would reply in writing upon receipt of the written questions and circulate all members with copy correspondence.

## 35. NOTICE OF MOTION.

In accordance with Standing Order 7, Cllr F R Harrison had given notice of his intention to move the following motion:-

"That this Council

- 1. thanks Project Integra for consulting the people of Totton and the Waterside over its proposals for dealing with Southampton's waste;
- 2. is disappointed at the failure of Southampton's plans for large scale anaerobic digestion;
- 3. notes that Project Integra's proposed solution would mean disposal of Hampshire's waste within New Forest District; and
- 4. calls on Project Integra and on Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council to recognise that this is unacceptable to the people of the New Forest and to find a way of disposing of Southampton's waste which does not place the burden on this District".

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However, since submitting his motion, Cllr Harrison had noted that the agenda and reports had been issued for Waste Management Sub-Committee and that the issue was to be debated on Wednesday, 5 November 1997, with the benefit of a full report. The Chairman of that Sub-Committee had undertaken to take on board the content of the motion and the views of all members who wished to attend or make written representations to the Sub-Committee. Cllr Harrison, therefore, no longer felt it necessary to move the motion.

In the circumstances, there was no further debate on the motion.

**CHAIRMAN** 

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