

23 APRIL 2007

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 23 April 2007.

- p Cllr D N Scott - Chairman
- p Cllr W H Dow - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

G Abbott
 p K F Ault
 p C Baker
 p G C Beck
 p Mrs F Carpenter
 p Mrs J L Cleary
 p D E Cracknell
 p G F Dart
 e L T Dunsdon
 p M H G Fidler
 p Ms L C Ford
 Mrs L P Francis
 e P C Greenfield
 p R C H Hale
 p L Harris
 p C J Harrison
 p D Harrison
 p F R Harrison
 p J D Heron
 p P E Hickman
 p Mrs M D Holding
 p Mrs M Humber
 p J A G Hutchins
 p M J Kendal
 p Mrs B M Maynard
 p Mrs M McLean
 p R J Neath
 p G J Parkes

Councillors:

p Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton
 p J Penwarden
 p L R Puttock
 p A W Rice TD
 p B Rickman
 e Mrs M J Robinson
 p B Rule
 p D J Russell
 p T M Russell
 p N E Scott
 p Lt Col M J Shand
 p S A Shepherd
 p Mrs B Smith
 p Mrs S I Snowden
 e M H Thierry
 p A R Tinsley
 p D B Tipp
 p C R Treleaven
 p Mrs B Vincent
 p M S Wade
 p S S Wade
 p G M Walmsley
 p J G Ward
 p A Weeks
 e Dr M N Whitehead
 p C A Wise
 p P R Woods
 p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

D Yates, J Mascal, C Malyon, Mrs M Dunsmore, Miss G O'Rourke and Mrs R Rutins.

Also in Attendance:

Mr A Lander, Chairman of the Standards Committee, for minute no. 75.

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made by members in connection with any agenda item.

67. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2007, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

68. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The late Councillor John Hoy

The Chairman announced that he had joined hundreds of other people at the parish church at Hordle for a service of thanksgiving and praise for the life of his dear friend and fellow Councillor, John Hoy.

He had heard what a wonderful father, husband and servant of the community John had been, and learned that he had been more than just a man representing a local community – he had been the personification of that community – he was Mr Hordle.

In 2002/03, John had been elected as Chairman of the Council. Supported by his wife Shirley they had attended dozens of civic events always promoting the work of the Council. His chosen charity was Forest Bus and, following 12 months of intense fundraising, he was able to donate over £5000 towards its running costs.

John was first elected in May 1983; he was an active member on a number of Committees, having been the Chairman of: -

- the Standards Committee,
- the Environment Review Panel,
- the General Purposes and Licensing Committee, and
- the Industrial Relations Committee.

He had also represented the Authority on a number of outside bodies.

The Chairman informed members that donations in memory of Cllr Hoy could be sent to Oakhaven Hospice, at Lymington.

The Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group all spoke in memory of Councillor Hoy and expressed their sadness and deep regret of his passing. Many members recalled how Councillor Hoy had been a quiet, thoughtful, sensitive and good tempered gentleman, who would be greatly missed by everyone at New Forest District Council.

All present stood in silence in memory of Councillor Hoy.

Death of former Councillor W J Greer

The Chairman announced with regret the death of former Councillor Bill Greer. There would be a memorial service in his honour at 2:30pm on Tuesday, 8 May, at St Saviour's church, Brockenhurst.

Bill Greer was first elected to New Forest District Council in 1990 and had served on various Committees, including Planning and Transportation and Policy and Resources. He had been Leader of the Conservative Group on the Council. He retired from the Council in 1998.

The Leader of the Council expressed his deep regret of the death of Bill Greer. During his time on the Council, former Cllr Greer had worked hard to serve the interests of his local community in Brockenhurst and had been a credit to the Council. Other members spoke in memory of former Councillor Greer, particularly his love for caravanning and his easy going nature.

All present stood in silence in memory of former Cllr Bill Greer.

Mr C Malyon, Director of Resources

The Chairman was pleased to announce that Chris Malyon, Director of Resources, had been elected President of the Society of District Council Treasurers. Chris was the youngest ever president of that national organisation. Members joined the Chairman in congratulating Chris on this achievement.

Councillors' Long Service Awards and Leaving Certificates

The Chairman presented Councillors Rice, Hutchins and S S Wade with a gift to mark their long service to the Council. A gift would also be passed to Mrs Hoy to mark former Cllr Hoy's service on the Council. Councillor Rice had served on the Council for 34 years, Councillor Hoy for 24 years, Councillor Hutchins for 24 years and Councillor S S Wade for 28 years. Members joined the Chairman in thanking these members for all their hard work and dedication.

The Chairman also presented certificates and thanked those members not standing for re-election in this year's District Council election. Members joined the Chairman in thanking Councillors Abbott, Ault, Baker, Hale, Neath, T Russell, Rule and Shepherd for their hard work during their time on the Council and wished them well for the future.

Members of the Council also thanked the Chairman Cllr D Scott who was also not standing for re-election for his good Chairmanship and wished him well for the future.

69. REPORT OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE.

Cllr Wise presented the report of the meeting held on 1 March 2007.

On the motion that the report be received, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

70. REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Dow, Chairman of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 17 March 2007.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations adopted.

71. REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE.

Cllr Hutchins, Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 30 March 2007.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations adopted.

72. REPORT OF CABINET.

Cllr Kendal, the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the report of the meetings held on 8 March and 4 April 2007.

On the motion that the report be received and the recommendations adopted:

Key Achievements 2006/07 and Key Targets 2007/08

The Leader of the Council spoke on one of the key targets concerning a review of the Council's office accommodation, which had been the topic of recent press speculation. He clarified some misunderstandings and stated that there were no firm plans for the Council to sell or move its office locations from either Appletree Court, Lyndhurst or Lymington Town Hall.

The purpose of the current options appraisal process was to examine the options of moving to Appletree Court, moving to Lymington Town Hall or a benchmark for moving to a new location. If this work showed the project as not viable the Council would continue to operate from the two existing sites. The Council was, as part of its commitment to value for money, undertaking a review of all potential opportunities that existed to make better use of asset holdings. The review was still at its very earliest information gathering stage.

In summing up, the Leader of the Council stated that members of the Council, not officers, would make the final decision about a one-site administration. Any proposals to move, to sell, or to maintain the status quo, would not be put to Councillors for a decision until a full and vigorous options appraisal had been carried out.

The Leader of the Council was pleased to highlight that the Council had met at clear majority of its targets for 2006/07. He further stated that work was taking place to achieve targets not met within this target year.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

73. REVISED MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT (REPORT B).

RESOLVED:

That the revised model Code of Conduct be adopted with effect from 4 May 2007.

74. NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr W H Dow be nominated as Chairman and Cllr P R Woods as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the following Municipal Year.

75. STANDARDS COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT (REPORT C).

Mr A Lander, Chairman of the Standards Committee, introduced the annual report of the Standards Committee.

The Standards Committee had, over the last year, sought ways to become more proactive in promoting ethical standards within the Authority. The Committee also wished to raise its profile and reinforce its role, purpose and presence.

The Committee was happy with the way in which the Authority was managing its corporate governance arrangements. In particular, following a visit to a meeting of the Planning Development Control Committee, the Standards Committee was pleased with the chairmanship and working arrangements of that Committee.

The Standards Committee had a full and varied work programme and was self driven by the members of the Committee. The Committee was aware of its need to balance its self promotion against inhibiting good governance. The Committee also looked forward to developing its relationship with Town and Parish Councils.

In summing up, Mr Lander thanked officers for their help and support over the last year.

Members of the Council congratulated Mr Lander for his excellent chairmanship.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and noted.

76. REPORT OF THE REVIEW PANELS FOR 2006/07 (REPORT D).

Cllr Ward, Chairman of the Corporate Overview Panel, commended the annual report of the Review Panels to the Council. He thanked officers for their help and support given to all of the Review Panels over the last year.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and noted.

77. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES.

It was noted that, due to the death of Cllr Hoy, there was a vacancy on the Planning Development Control Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Cllr Baker be appointed to the Planning Development Control Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year; and
- (b) That Cllr Baker be appointed to serve on the Economy and Planning Review Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year in place of Cllr Dart.

CHAIRMAN