

17 SEPTEMBER 2007

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the New Forest District Council held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday, 17 September 2007.

- p Cllr W H Dow - Chairman
- p Cllr P R Woods - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

- p G C Beck
- p D A Britton
- p Mrs D M Brooks
- p Mrs F Carpenter
- p Mrs J L Cleary
- e D E Cracknell
- p G F Dart
- p S P Davies
- p L T Dunsdon
- p Ms L C Ford
- p H F Forse
- p P C Greenfield
- p C J Harrison
- e D Harrison
- p E J Heron
- p P E Hickman
- p Mrs J A Hoare
- p Mrs M D Holding
- p J A G Hutchins
- e Mrs P Jackman
- p M J Kendal
- p C Lagdon
- p Mrs M E Lewis
- p Mrs K J Lord
- p Mrs P J Lovelace
- p B D Lucas
- p Mrs A E McEvoy
- p Mrs M McLean
- p G J Parkes

Councillors:

- p Sqn Ldr B M F Pemberton
- p J Penwarden
- e L R Puttock
- p M P Reid
- p A W Rice
- e B Rickman
- p W S Rippon-Swaine
- p Mrs M J Robinson
- e Mrs A M Rostand
- e D J Russell
- p R F Scrivens
- e Lt Col M J Shand
- p A E J Shotter
- e Mrs B Smith
- p Mrs S I Snowden
- p A J Swain
- p M H Thierry
- e A R Tinsley
- p D B Tipp
- p C R Treleaven
- p F P Vickers
- p M S Wade
- p S S Wade
- p R A Wappet
- p J G Ward
- p A Weeks
- e Dr M N Whitehead
- p C A Wise
- p Mrs P A Wyeth

Officers Attending:

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

31. MINUTES (PAPER A).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2007, having been circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest in connection with any agenda items.

33. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There were none.

34. REPORT OF CABINET.

Cllr Kendal, the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Cabinet, presented the report of the meeting held on 1 August 2007.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

35. REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE.

Cllr Shotter, Vice-Chairman of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 14 September 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.

36. REPORT OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE.

Cllr Wise, Chairman of the NFDC/TVBC Commercial Services Joint Committee, presented the report of the meeting held on 7 June 2007.

On the motion that the report be received, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

37. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22.

There were none.

38. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' QUESTION TIME.

Question from: Cllr Mrs McLean to Cllr Mrs Cleary (Housing Portfolio Holder)

"Is the Portfolio Holder satisfied that the temporary accommodation in the Council's ownership is being maintained to an adequate standard?"

Answer:

The Portfolio Holder welcomed the opportunity to answer the question as she felt it gave an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of housing in the presence of the press who did not attend the Review Panel meetings.

The Portfolio Holder was satisfied that the Council's six hostels were being maintained to an appropriate standard and that they remained an essential aspect of the need to provide temporary accommodation to meet the District's serious housing needs.

The Portfolio Holder was aware that the Council's hostels were often occupied by residents for considerable time whilst they waited for more permanent accommodation. Officers had been asked to review all of the Council's hostel accommodation, to see whether the Council should consider appropriate improvements to the current shared facilities, or better ways of providing temporary accommodation for those in housing need.

In response to a supplementary question regarding the possible use of the corporate housing underspend to provide more homes in the District, the Portfolio Holder agreed to explore this suggestion with the Assistant Director of Housing.

39. NOTICE OF MOTION.

Cllr Tipp moved the following motion standing in his name:

"That this Council calls on Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister, to abide by the Government's promise to the electorate in the 2005 Labour Party Manifesto page 84, 'We will put [the Constitution Treaty] to the British people in a referendum'".

In proposing the motion, Cllr Tipp said that the "Reform Treaty", signed by the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair, on 23 June 2007, was acknowledged publicly by the leaders of nearly all the United Kingdom's EU partners to be virtually the same as the Constitution Treaty. The people of France and The Netherlands had decisively rejected that Treaty.

Cllr Tipp said that the "Reform Treaty" transferred yet more substantive powers from Britain to the EU and further eroded British laws and the British Constitution. It would reduce the rights and freedoms of the residents of the New Forest and of the whole nation. He said that all political parties were united in the opinion that a referendum should be held. The Liberal Democrat Party had included a call for a referendum in their recent manifesto.

The motion was seconded.

The Chairman considered this matter urgent in that the response deadline to the Government was due in the beginning of October and, with the consent of the Cabinet, decided that it be considered at this meeting.

Members spoke in support of the amendment and were aware of the increasing pressure for a referendum. They felt that some clarity was needed in the matter. Others felt that the democratic process of a referendum was the right way forward.

The motion was put to the vote and was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That this Council calls on Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister, to abide by the Government's promise to the electorate in the 2005 Labour Party Manifesto page 84, 'We will put [the Constitution Treaty] to the British people in a referendum'.

40. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Mrs Wyeth be appointed to serve on the General Purposes and Licensing Committee in place of Cllr Reid.

CHAIRMAN