

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford on Thursday, 14 April 2011.

### PRESENT

Cllr P Hollick (Chairman)  
Cllr Mrs C F Chapman MBE (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs	P N Aldis	Cllrs	M Gibson	Cllrs	J Murray
	R A Baker		Mrs S A Goodchild		Mrs M Mustoe
	Mrs A Barker		Ms A M W Graham		T Nicols
	A R Bastable		Mrs D B Gurney		Ms J Nunn
	R D Berry		Mrs C Hegley		P Rawcliffe
	L Birt		D J Hopkin		A A J Rogers
	P A Blaine		J G Jamieson		J A G Saunders
	D Bowater		K Janes		A Shadbolt
	A D Brown		R W Johnstone		P Snelling
	J A E Clarke		D Jones		Miss A Sparrow
	N B Costin		M R Jones		B J Spurr
	I Dalgarno		J Kane		R C Stay
	Mrs R J Drinkwater		D J Lawrence		J Street
	P A Duckett		Mrs J G Lawrence		A M Turner
	Dr R Egan		Mrs A M Lewis		Mrs C Turner
	Mrs J Freeman		H J Lockey		Mrs P E Turner MBE
	P Freeman		K C Matthews		P F Vickers
	D J Gale		Ms C Maudlin		B Wells
	Mrs R B Gammons		D McVicar		J N Young

### Apologies for Absence

Cllrs	A Fahn	Cllrs	A Northwood	Cllrs	G Summerfield
	S F Male		K Sharer		P Williams

Officers in Attendance:	Mr G Alderson	–	Director of Sustainable Communities
	Mr J Atkinson	–	Head of Legal and Democratic Services
	Miss H Bell	–	Democratic Services Officer
	Mr R Ellis	–	Director of Customer and Shared Services
	Mrs E Grant	–	Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services
	Ms M Peaston	–	Committee Services Manager
	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	Mr J Unsworth	–	Interim Assistant Director of Finance

## **PRAYERS**

Prayers were taken by Reverend Canon Michael Bradley.

### **C/10/94 Minutes**

#### **RESOLVED**

**that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

### **C/10/95 Members' Interests**

#### **(a) Personal Interests:-**

There were no declarations made.

#### **(b) Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

There were no declarations made.

### **C/10/96 Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman reported the recent death of Malcolm Smith, a previous Member of a legacy authority.

He also reported the recent death of Councillor Tony Green, who represented Dunstable Downs on the Council.

The Council stood in silent tribute to the memory of both Malcolm Smith and Councillor Tony Green.

The Chairman commented on the success of recent functions, including a dinner at Stotfold Mill, a musical entertainment at the Grove Theatre and a golf tournament and he also advised on preparations for a forthcoming meal at the Spice Lounge in Dunstable.

The Chairman also commented that this was the last Council meeting prior to the elections to be held on 5 May 2011 and expressed particular gratitude to Councillor Mrs P E Turner who would be standing down from her position as Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council. Thanks were echoed by the Deputy Leader, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and others.

The Deputy Leader proposed a motion of thanks to Councillor Mrs P E Turner. The motion was seconded, voted upon and duly carried.

C/10/97 **Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications**

The Leader expressed her gratitude to the Council for their kind wishes.

The Leader advised the Council of the recent installation of the new High Sheriff, Andrew Slack, which she had attended.

The Leader reviewed some of the successes of the Council since it came into being in April 2009, including strong performance compared with other authorities particularly in the areas of recycling targets and significant improvement in adult care provision

The Leader recorded her thanks to her Deputy Leader, her Cabinet team and her ward colleague Councillor Mrs Maudlin. The Leader also expressed appreciation to Councillors P A Blaine and P Snelling, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition and commented that it had been a privilege to lead Central Bedfordshire in its first two years. She wished her successor all the very best.

C/10/98 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

Questions and statements were put by members of the public under the Public Participation provisions at Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

Mr J Ander, Mrs R Haves and, Mrs E Lammie all expressed concerns about provisions in the proposed Local Development Framework (North) Site Allocations Development Plan Document which was before the Council for approval later in the meeting. Comments covered:

- Impact of development on the character of the town of Ampthill
- pressure on school places in Ampthill
- support for farmers in maintaining land to produce food locally and thereby reduce transport requirements and emissions.

Mr R Smith expressed his concerns about the risk of flooding in Campton, Chicksands and Shefford arising from the HA25 site in Meppershall.

Mr B Collier began to comment on an election matter which the Chairman ruled inadmissible under Part A4 Annex 3 paragraph 11 of the Council's Constitution.

C/10/99 **Petitions**

In accordance with the Public Participation scheme set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution, the Council received the following petition:

**Proposed Imposition of substantial development in Ampthill through the Local Development Framework.**

The Chairman reminded Members that the Constitution provided that petitions relating to any planning decision or development plan document could not be considered by Council but indicated that he was prepared to allow the petition to be presented and passed to the appropriate body. This would be the Executive, when matters relating to development within the LDF were considered there.

Councillor Duckett presented the petition containing over 1600 signatures.

In presenting the petition, Councillor Duckett registered concern about the proposed LDF allocation in Ampthill.

C/10/100

### **Recommendations from the Executive**

#### **(a) Children and Young People's Plan**

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 15 March 2011 seeking approval of the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan.

#### **RESOLVED**

**that the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 be approved.**

#### **(b) LDF (North): Site Allocations Development Plan Document**

Following endorsement by the Executive the Council needed to adopt the Site allocations plan document. Therefore, the Council now considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 15 March 2011 in respect of the LDF (North) Site Allocations Development Plan.

#### **RESOLVED**

**that in view of the Executive's endorsement of the Inspector's conclusion that the Site Allocations Development Plan Document is sound, the Plan be endorsed.**

#### **(C) Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2011-2012**

The Council considered a recommendation of the Executive from its meeting held on 15 March 2011 seeking approval of the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2011-2012.

#### **RESOLVED**

**that the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011-2012 be adopted.**

C/10/101

## **Recommendations from the Constitution Advisory Group**

### **(a) Co-optees on Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

The Council considered recommendations from the Constitution Advisory Group held on 21 March 2011 in relation to Co-optees on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Council noted a revised report and appendix that was tabled at the meeting. These contained revised recommendations to provide for delegated authority for the appointment of the Parent Governor representatives in June 2011.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1 that Part D1 of the Constitution relating to Membership, Substitutes and Quorum of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be amended as set out in Appendix A attached to these minutes;**
- 2 that the existing co-opted parent governor representatives for the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 24 May 2011 be reaffirmed pending the appointment of the newly elected representatives in June 2011;**
- (c) that delegated authority be given to the Director of Children's Services, as advised by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, to appoint up to 3 parent governor representatives as set out in Part D1 of the Constitution, as amended, for the period June 2011 to April 2015.**

### **(b) Replacement of Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee by Dunstable Joint Committee**

The Council considered recommendations from the Constitution Advisory Group held on 21 March 2011 which sought approval for the replacement of Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee with Dunstable Joint Committee.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. that the Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee be abolished and replaced by the Dunstable Joint Committee;**
- 2. that section J2 of the Constitution relating to Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee be amended with new terms of reference as set out at Appendix B to these minutes.**

**C/10/102 Report of the Bedfordshire Police Authority**

The Council received the report from the meeting of the Bedfordshire Police Authority held on 14 April 2011.

Councillor Hollick, representative on the Police Authority, commented that he had given an oral report at the last Council meeting on the budgetary matters arising from the Police Authority's meeting, but that the written report was now before the Council. He advised that the recent demonstration in Luton had attracted commendations for the successful policing strategy. He indicated that an application had been made for the costs of policing the demonstration to be repaid in full centrally and that this had been successful.

Councillor Hollick responded to questions from Members. It was noted that A19 (a method for releasing Officers from the Police Force) was only relevant to those holding a Chief Officer rank with over 30 years service.

**C/10/103 Reports of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority**

A report from the meeting of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority held on 10 February 2011 was submitted.

Councillor Street commented that Councillor Green had been Chairman at meetings of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority and would be sadly missed.

**RESOLVED**

**that the report of the meeting of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority held on 10 February 2011 be noted.**

**C/10/104 Written Questions**

No written questions had been received from Members of the Council under Rule NO.12.2.

**C/10/105 Open Questions**

The Chairman presided over open questions asked of the Leader, Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holders and the Chairman of a Committee under Council Procedure Rule 12.7

- 1) Councillor Murray asked a question about the current employment issues at LuDun.

The Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health advised that two employees had opted to take redundancy, four had been offered future similar employment and that discussions were ongoing about future employment opportunities for others.

- 2) Councillor Murray asked for the specific times when CCTV cameras in Dunstable were in record mode and not monitored.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier lifestyles indicated that he would not disclose this information publicly as doing so would compromise community safety.

- 3) Councillor Jamieson requested data on the reduction in the number of Council employees and sought confirmation on the efficiencies delivered.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance & People advised that since immediately before the creation of Central Bedfordshire Council, staff numbers had been reduced by approximately 600 employees.

- 4) Councillor Duckett referred to a question he had asked at the last Council meeting regarding extra funding for minor road improvements and yellow lines in Bedford Street, Ampthill and recorded his thanks to the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles for works both completed and under way.

- 5) Councillor Aldis asked the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services to join him in congratulating Joe Kier, the Youth Parliament Member for Sandy, on a recent award.

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Service's recorded her congratulations to Joe Kier and assured Councillor Aldis that measures were in place to ensure that the Youth Parliament would continue.

- 6) Councillor Aldis reiterated a question further to a petition at the last meeting on the delivery of re-usable bags for garden waste to a particular area where biodegradable bags were currently in use.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier lifestyles indicated that a vehicle which would enable local residents to use these bags had been ordered and was due to be in use in three to four months.

- 7) Councillor Maudlin sought confirmation that Sandy Leisure Centre was to remain open this year and that work was ongoing to ensure its long term future.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles confirmed that Sandy Leisure Centre would remain open in 2011/12 and that work was ongoing regarding its future.

- 8) Councillor Rogers was granted the opportunity by the Chairman to express his thanks to Officers and Members for their help and kindness during his time as a Councillor, particularly during his period of ill health.

C/10/106 **Motions**

No motions had been received from Members of the Council under Rule No. 16.

C/10/107 **Membership of Standards Committee**

The Council received and considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People, proposing that the terms of office for existing Independent Members and Town and Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee be extended indefinitely to ensure that the Council could comply with its statutory obligations until the Localism Bill was enacted.

**RESOLVED**

1. **that the terms of office of the existing Independent Members and Town and Parish Council representatives on the Council's Standards Committee be extended indefinitely;**
2. **that the period of extension be subject to review when the Council has determined what local arrangements it intends to adopt to replace the current statutory regime.**

C/10/108 **NHS Campus Closure Programme**

The Council considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Social Care, Health and Housing and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People seeking approval of an increase in the NHS Campus Closure Programme budget from £10.031m to £11.308m. Members noted that the budget would be fully funded by capital grants from the NHS.

**RESOLVED**

**that the Campus Closure Programme budget of £11.308m be approved and fully funded by capital grants from the NHS.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 8.40 p.m.)

Chairman .....

Dated .....