

MID BEDFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At the final meeting of the **MID BEDFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford on Thursday, 26 March 2009.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs D B Gurney (Chairman)
Cllr A R Bastable (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs	P N Aldis	Cllrs	D J Lawrence
	Mrs A Barker		Mrs J G Lawrence
	P A Blaine		Mrs A M Lewis
	A D Brown		J H Lewis
	P B Carne		H J Lockey
	Mrs C F Chapman MBE		K D Lynch
	M R Chapman		S F Male
	J A E Clarke		K C Matthews
	I Dalgarno		S A Mitchell
	Mrs J R Davison		A A J Rogers
	Mrs R J Drinkwater		J A G Saunders
	G Ellis		M A Smith
	D J Gale		Mrs W P Smith
	M J Gibson		J Street
	B J Golby		G Summerfield
	Ms A M W Graham		L Thompson
	J A Gurney		Mrs C Turner
	H T W Harper		Mrs P E Turner MBE
	M Hawkins		D M Tysoe
	M R Jones		P F Vickers
	Mrs K D Keen		B Wells

Apologies for Absence:	Cllrs	A R Baines	Cllrs	M Cazaly
		D A Bayntun		A J Rayment
		L Birt		D Smith
		M Butler		Miss D C Maggs

Officers in Attendance:	Mr A Buckley	–	Web Content Manager
	Mr G Alderson	–	Director of Environmental & Planning Services
	Mrs M Clampitt	–	Committee Administrator
	Mr S Cooke	–	Electoral/Members' Services Manager
	Mrs J Crisp	–	Assistant Team Leader
	Miss S Fortune	–	Planning Officer
	Miss M A Houghton	–	Members' Services Officer
	Mr M Hustwitt	–	Communications Manager
	Mrs K John	–	Democratic Services Manager
	Mrs B Morris	–	Director of Corporate & Democratic Services
	Mr J Phillipson	–	Senior Committee Administrator

Mrs J Salisbury	– Chief Executive, MBDC/Interim Chief Executive, CBC
Mr D Sutherland	– Chief Finance Officer
Mrs H Wall	– Senior IT Development / DAB/ Support Analyst
Mrs H Western	– Youth & Community Arts Worker
Mr D York	– Contract Supervisor

PRAYERS

Prayers were taken by Cllr John Street.

C/08/59

MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 November 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C/08/60

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

(a) Personal Interests:-

None.

(b) Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-

None.

C/08/61

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT COMMUNICATIONS FROM LEADER

The Chairman of the Council presented a report summarising the activities and achievements of the Council during the Municipal Year 2008/09.

The Chairman informed the Council that since the last meeting resignations from Office had been received from Zain Haider and Mike Pearce. There was no requirement to hold by-elections to fill these casual vacancies.

In addition to the announcements a presentation was made to the Executive Members by the Chairman. The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman, Cllr A Bastable and his wife, Marion, for their support during her term of office as Chairman.

The Chairman presented long service awards for 25 year's service with Mid Bedfordshire District Council to the following members of staff:-

- Helen Wall – Senior development Analyst; and
- Janice Crisp – Assistant Team Leader – Revenues and Benefits.

The Chief Executive then made presentations to the following long serving members of the Council:-

- Sarah Fortune – Planning Officer;
- David York – Contract Supervisor;
- Andy Buckley – Web Content Manager.

The Chief Executive also commented upon other long serving members of staff who had been unable to attend the meeting:

- Jenny Carty – Senior Control and Incomes Officer;
- Elizabeth Darts – Technical Administrator;
- Kathy Izzard – Administration Officer.

Members recorded their thanks to all officers for their long and loyal support to Mid Bedfordshire District Council.

The Leader of the Council made a presentation to John Phillipson, Senior Committee Administrator, who had joined the Council on 1 April 1974 and had served Mid Bedfordshire District Council throughout its existence. The Council stood and applauded Mr Phillipson in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the work of the District Council.

The Leader of the Council presented Cllr Mrs D B Gurney, the Chairman of the Council, with her Past Chairman's badge. Members thanked Cllr Mrs Gurney for all her hard work and commitment during her period of office as Chairman of the District Council.

Cllr K C Matthews, the Deputy Leader of the Council, paid tribute to Cllr Mrs P E Turner, Leader of the Council, and on behalf of the Council, thanked her for her outstanding leadership during her term of office as Leader of Mid Bedfordshire District Council.

Tributes were also paid to Cllrs Mrs P E Turner, Mrs C F Chapman, D J Gale and B J Golby, the longest serving Members of the Council.

Finally, Group Leaders and Members recounted their years with the Council and their hopes for Central Bedfordshire Council.

Members were reminded that to commemorate Mid Bedfordshire District Council, a tree planting ceremony would take place at 12.45pm on Friday 27 March 2009.

C/08/62 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No applications had been received under the provisions of Appendix "A" to Full Council Procedure Rule No.C15.2 to speak during the 15 minute question and statement period, nor before any individual items included in the Agenda for this meeting.

C/08/63 **PETITIONS**

The Chairman advised that no petitions had been received.

C/08/64 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION**

The Council received a verbal update from the Chief Executive on progress made with the re-organisation of Local Government in Bedfordshire. It was noted that there were only 5 days left before Central Bedfordshire came into being. Members were informed of the following achievements:-

- DCLG had conducted a "stocktake" exercise on 10 March 2009 and had indicated they were happy with the progress made on re-organisation.
- Staff mapping had been completed with 3300 letters having been issued.
- The number of voluntary redundancies would be between 50 – 60, much lower than originally anticipated.
- The Government had awarded a 3% subsidy for housing rent, thus reducing the rent increase from 6% to just 3%.
- "Frequently asked questions" and responses had been prepared, Members were requested to continue to advise of any FAQs which were being asked by their Communities.
- Melbourne House was up and running for the Customer Services.
- SAP was working and the payroll had been tested.
- Member drop-ins would be held from 7 April.
- A Town & Parish Council conference to be held on 29 April 2009.

The Chief Executive thanked all of the staff for working so long and hard in preparing the re-organisation and also thanked the Leader for her work over the years.

C/08/65 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES (IF ANY) AND ANY QUESTIONS RAISED UNDER FULL COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. C10.1 IN RELATION TO THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Chairman advised that there were no recommendations arising from the meeting of the Executive held on 18 March 2009. There were no recommendations arising from meetings of Committees.

C/08/66 **QUESTIONS UNDER FULL COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. C10.1**

No questions were raised under Full Council Procedure Rule No. C10.1.

C/08/67 **WRITTEN QUESTIONS UNDER FULL COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. C10.2**

No written questions had been received under Full Council Procedure Rule No. C10.2.

C/08/68 **QUESTIONS UNDER FULL COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO C10.3**

The Chairman presided over oral questions asked of the Leader, Portfolio Holder or of the Chairman of any Committee under Full Council Procedure Rule No. C10.3.

Questions asked and answers given under these provisions were as follows:-

Q1 Cllr P N Aldis

Will the Leader accept a bottle of Priory House Gin?

A1 The Leader

I am happy to accept the bottle of Priory House Gin.

Q2 Cllr P N Aldis

Will the Leader have the releasing of land at Beeston for allotments top of her Community Engagement Agenda post 1 April 2009?

A2 The Leader

I cannot promise that anything will be resolved prior to the elections but confirm that Community Engagement is in the forefront of our priorities.

Q3 Cllr P N Aldis

Did the Council respond to the request under F.O.I. for details of how mobile CCTV cameras are used and what was the content of the response?

A3 Cllr Mrs A M Lewis

I do not believe the Council was asked to partake in this exercise and doubt that any Officers would use the system for anything unlawful.

C/08/69

VARIATION OF THE SCHEME OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DELEGATED TO OFFICERS

The Council noted that acting in accordance with the provisions of Rule No. E17 of the Executive Procedure Rules, the Leader of the Council had approved the following variations of the Scheme of Executive Functions Delegated to Officers:-

- (a) Deletion of existing delegation CFO/E10 and replacement with the following:-

Power	Qualifications (if any)
To sell land surplus to requirements not exceeding £50,000 in value.	Subject to consultation with the Portfolio Holder (Finance) and the relevant Ward Member(s) and subject to the policy agreed under Minute No. E/07/82 in respect of areas of public open space and amenity land. Report for information via Council Information Bulletin.

- (b) Amend existing delegation CFO/E15 to read as follows:-

Power	Qualifications (if any)
To take decisions on applications by electricity, gas, water, telephone, broadcasting or cable companies to place any apparatus in, on over or under any land or buildings owned by the Council and enter into any leases or acquire the freehold of land where the Council is to construct or provide a public amenity.	In consultation with the Director Corporate and Democratic Services and Portfolio Holder (Finance).

In response to a comment by Cllr Golby concerning the desirability of consulting Ward Members in the exercise of delegation (b) above, the Portfolio Holder (Finance) agreed to take on board his comments should any applications be received.

C/08/70

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.58 p.m.

C/08/71 **RE-SUMPTION OF MEETING**

The meeting resumed at 8.05 p.m. whereupon Cllrs Mrs C F Chapman MBE, D J Gale and Mrs P E Turner MBE, gave a performance to mark the conclusion of the life of Mid Bedfordshire District Council.

C/08/72 **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chairman of the Council declared the final meeting of the Mid Bedfordshire District Council closed.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 8.20 p.m.)