

Extraordinary Council – 5 June 2003

Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **5 June 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr R A Amner (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs R Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr C I Black	Cllr G A Mockford
Cllr P A Capon	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr Mrs T J Capon	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr R G S Choppen	Cllr P K Savill
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr K A Gibbs	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr Mrs S A Harper	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr C A Hungate	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs L Hungate	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr T Livings	Cllr D A Weir
Cllr Mrs M D McCarthy	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T E Goodwin, C C Langlands, C J Lumley, Mrs J R Lumley, J R F Mason and C R Morgan.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	- Chief Executive
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning Services
S Clarkson	- Head of Revenue & Housing Management
J Bourne	- Leisure & Contracts Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

244 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest by virtue of being a reader of the *Daily Mail*.

245 MOTION ON NOTICE

The Proper Officer reported that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12, the following Motion had been received from Councillors P F A Webster, T G Cutmore, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, R G S Choppen, K A Gibbs, T E Goodwin, J E Grey, Mrs S A Harper, C A Hungate, Mrs L Hungate, T Livings,

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Mrs M D McCarthy, G A Mockford, J M Pullen, P K Savill, C G Seagers, S P Smith, D G Stansby, Mrs M J Webster and Mrs B J Wilkins:-

“The Government has refused to consult the British people on proposals for a European Union Constitution for the United Kingdom.

Rochford District Council therefore believes it is in the interest of its residents and their children to participate in a nation-wide ballot on this important issue to be sponsored by a national daily newspaper. The vote will be held on Thursday 12 June 2003. In the absence of a national referendum, this at least will give people the opportunity to express a view on the implications of such a Constitution for Britain.”

In presenting the Motion, Cllr P F A Webster referred to the lack of opportunity being offered to the people of Britain to take part in a national referendum on a European Union Constitution for the United Kingdom. The British people should have the right to decide for themselves how their country should be governed.

In support of the Motion, some Members believed that the proposed amendments to the European Constitution posed a threat to British sovereignty and independence and would result in Britain no longer being a constitutional state with its own legal status. Arguing against the Motion, however, some Members felt that it was inappropriate to make recommendations to residents on how to vote on national or international issues.

On a requisition pursuant of Council Procedure Rule 16.4, a recorded vote was taken on the motion as follows:-

For (25) Cllrs Mrs R Brown, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, R G S Choppen, T G Cutmore, K A Gibbs, Mrs H L A Glynn, J E Grey, Mrs S A Harper, K H Hudson, A J Humphries, C A Hungate, Mrs L Hungate, T Livings, Mrs M D McCarthy, G A Mockford, J M Pullen, P K Savill, C G Seagers, S P Smith, D G Stansby, J Thomass, Mrs M J Webster, P F A Webster, Mrs B J Wilkins

Against (0)

Abstentions (7) Cllrs R A Amner, C I Black, R A Oatham, Mrs M A Starke, M G B Starke, Mrs M S Vince, D A Weir

Resolved

That the Motion be agreed. (HAMS)

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The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Chairman

Date