

## **Council – 28 February 2008**

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Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **28 February** 2008 when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr K A Gibbs  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr J E Grey

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr C I Black	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr P R Robinson
Cllr J P Cottis	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr Mrs J Dillnutt	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr Mrs S A Harper	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley	Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Cllr J R F Mason	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins
Cllr D Merrick	

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs R Brown, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, Mrs H L A Glynn, T E Goodwin, K J Gordon, K H Hudson, T Livings and C G Seagers.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	- Chief Executive
R J Honey	- Corporate Director (Internal Services)
G Woolhouse	- Corporate Director (External Services)
J Bostock	- Committee Services Manager

### **76 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2007 and the Extraordinary meetings held on 29 January and 19 February 2008 were approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

### **77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors J R F Mason and M G B Starke each declared a personal interest and did not vote on the item on the Royal Garden Party by virtue of being the proposed nominees.

### **78 PRESENTATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

#### **Presentation of Gideon Bible**

The Chairman was pleased to receive a Gideon bible presented by David Fryatt and David Ticket of Gideon's International, South Essex Branch.

### **Announcements**

The Chairman extended thanks to all Members for their support. The Chairman also extended thanks and congratulations to officers for recent achievements, notably the Revenues and Benefits Charter Mark, the maintenance of Investor in People status and the progress towards the introduction of the new environmental contracts. In the latter regard, specific reference was made to the sterling work and contribution of Councillor M G B Starke to the development of the new recycling contract.

Reference was made to the new Rochford hospital, which was an excellent and valuable facility.

### **79 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Council noted the minutes of Executive Board and Committee meetings held between 11 December 2007 and 18 February 2008.

### **80 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD – 9 JANUARY 2008**

Council considered the report of the Executive Board on the remuneration scheme proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2008/09.

#### **Resolved**

That the remuneration scheme proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2008/09 be adopted. (HICS)

### **81 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Council received the following report from the Chairman of the Executive Board:-

“This is now my fourth report as Chairman of the Executive Board and Leader of the Council.

Since my last report into Council prior to Christmas, it has certainly been a busy couple of months with two special Council meetings held to, firstly agree the budget, and then set the council tax. I would like to use this opportunity to place on record my thanks to all Members for the contribution and inputs made into the budget process over a number of months. When I hear what goes on in other authorities around the budget process, it confirms my judgement that we’ve got it about right in the way we handle the budget process in this Council. Nobody is excluded and everybody has the opportunity to input. I believe that we as a Council develop our budget in a way that is well considered and extremely open.

Since we took the decisions on our major contracts in December, work continues apace to ensure a smooth implementation from April. I know that both SITA and Connaught are already well advanced in their preparations and committing their resources to ensure things go well.

Last week I participated in our re-inspection for Investors in People. I am pleased to advise Members that we've already been informed we were successful in the re-inspection and therefore will be able to maintain our IIP status, which I believe is an important benchmark for the authority. Certainly our IIP inspector was extremely positive in his feedback around the work of the Council as an employer and that can only be a good thing.

Since my last report in December, the Executive Board has made decisions in respect of the Rayleigh Windmill as a wedding venue and the management of the CCTV provision of Websters Way Car Park. We've also set up a specific sub-committee to look at the issues around dog ownership in the District. We've received monitoring reports on our capital and revenue budgets and the third quarter update performance report in respect of our key projects and services. We've agreed to revisions to our corporate complaints handling process and commented back to the County Council on their emerging Community Strategy and the new Local Area Agreement process. We've looked at the changes coming into Planning in terms of the validation of planning applications as a result of the new rules coming in nationally from April. We've also looked at the implications of the changes resulting from changes in traffic management legislation and agreed changes to our Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Enforcement Policy.

It has certainly been an extremely full couple of months and, with the budget now agreed, I hope we can make good progress as we prepare for the new financial year in April."

Responding to a question, the Leader confirmed that a sub-committee had been set up on issues of dog ownership to enable Members to understand the detail of proposals.

## **82 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the appointment of representatives to attend one of the Royal Garden Parties held in July.

### **Resolved**

That Councillors J R F Mason and M G B Starke be nominated to attend one of the Royal Garden Parties to be held in July, accompanied by one guest each, using the civic car and driver. (CE)

The meeting closed at 7.47 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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