

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent County Council held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 13 May 2010.

PRESENT:

Mr W A Hayton (Chairman)
Mrs P A V Stockell (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr R W Bayford, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr D L Brazier, Mr R Brookbank, Mr R B Burgess, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr L Christie, Mrs P T Cole, Mr N J Collor, Mr G Cooke, Mr B R Cope, Mr H J Craske, Mr A D Crowther, Mr J Cubitt, Mrs V J Dagger, Mr D S Daley, Mr M C Dance, Mr J A Davies, Mrs T Dean, Mr K A Ferrin, MBE, Mr T Gates, Mr G K Gibbens, Mr R W Gough, Mrs E Green, Mr M J Harrison, Mr C Hibberd, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr D A Hirst, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr G A Horne MBE, Mr E E C Hotson, Mr M J Jarvis, Mr A J King, MBE, Mr R E King, Mr J D Kirby, Mr J A Kite, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr P W A Lake, Mrs J Law, Mr R J Lees, Mr R L H Long, TD, Mr K G Lynes, Mr S Manion, Mr R F Manning, Mr R A Marsh, Mr M J Northey, Mr J Ozog, Mr R J Parry, Mr R A Pascoe, Mr T Prater, Mr K Pugh, Mr L B Ridings, Mr M Robertson, Mrs J A Rook, Mr A Sandhu, MBE, Mr J E Scholes, Mr J D Simmonds, Mr C P Smith, Mr K Smith, Mr R Tolputt, Mrs E M Tweed, Mr M J Vye, Mr J Wedgbury, Mr C T Wells, Mr M Whiting, Mrs J Whittle, Mr A Wickham and Mr A Willicombe

IN ATTENDANCE: Geoff Wild (Director of Law and Governance) and Peter Sass (Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Election of Chairman

(Mr J Davies, the present Chairman, presided for this item)

(1) Mr E Hotson moved, Mr R King seconded:

That Mr W A Hayton be elected Chairman of the County Council

Carried without a vote

(2) Mr Hayton thereupon took the Chair, made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and returned thanks for his election.

(3) Mr Hayton then paid tribute to Mr Davies and thanked him for the manner in which he had carried out his duties as Chairman of the Council from June 2009 to the present day.

(4) Mr Davies responded in suitable terms.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

- (1) Mr P Carter moved, Mr L Ridings seconded:

That Mrs P A V Stockell be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council

Carried without a vote

- (2) Mrs Stockell thereupon made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and returned thanks for her appointment.

3. Apologies for Absence

The Director of Law and Governance reported apologies from the following Members:

Mr Bullock
Mr Chell
Mr Frayne
Mr Homewood
Mr London
Mr Richardson
Mr Snelling
Mr Sweetland

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made by Members on any item on this agenda.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2010, if in order, to be approved as a correct record.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2010 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

6. Chairman's Announcements

- (1) Petition – Dobbie Close, Sittingbourne

The Chairman announced the formal receipt of a petition from Mr Whiting in relation to a highways matter in Dobbie Close, Sittingbourne, which he handed to Mr N J D Chard, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste, for investigation and formal response.

- (2) Mr P J Homewood

The Chairman announced the sad death of Mr Homewood's wife, Evelyn. The Chairman stated that he would send a letter of condolence to Mr Homewood on behalf of the County Council.

7. Questions

Under Procedure Rule 1.18, 4 questions were asked and replies given.

8. Report by Leader of the Council (Oral)

The Leader updated the County Council on various matters since the last meeting of the County Council. Specifically, he mentioned the outcome of the Parliamentary Election on 6 May, which had led to the formation of a Conservative-Liberal Democrat Coalition Government. He circulated copies of the initial Coalition Agreement to Members and spoke briefly about the expected greater devolution of power to the local government family, which fitted well with the work currently being undertaken on the Kent Re-Commitment. He spoke about the changes being made to the “regional architecture” and the radical changes to the welfare rules, in which Kent County Council had a significant role to play. He also highlighted the Coalition Government’s decision to abandon plans for a third runway at either Gatwick or Heathrow airports, which would provide a massive opportunity for the expansion of Manston and/or Lydd airports; and the comments on nuclear energy and the consequent positive implications for the Dungeness site.

9. Appointment of Interim Head of Paid Service

(Mr D Cockburn, Executive Director, Strategy, Economic Development and ICT, left the meeting whilst this item was discussed and determined)

(1) The Chairman referred to the supplementary report, which was circulated on 12 May to all Members.

(2) Mr P Carter moved, Mr A King seconded, the recommendation contained in the Supplementary report.

RESOLVED: that Mr D Cockburn be appointed as the Council’s interim Chief Executive from 14 May to 4 July 2010 (including as interim Head of Paid Service from 14 May to 6 June 2010) to undertake the responsibilities and under the terms outlined in the supplementary report.

10. Mental Health Act Guardianship Sub-Committee

(1) Mr A King moved, Mr G Gibbens seconded the recommendation contained on page 12 of the Blue Book.

RESOLVED: that the following addition to the Terms of Reference for the Regulation Committee be approved:

“(g) the discharge of persons who are subject to guardianship, pursuant to section 23 of the Mental Health Act 1983 on the recommendation of the Director of Adult Social Services.

(The Council agreed on 13 May 2010 that function (g) could be delegated to a sub-committee of at least three Members one of whom should be a Member of the Regulation Committee and the others to be Members of the Adult Social Services Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (who must not also be

members of a Foundation Trust). The decision to discharge must be agreed by at least three Members or where there are more Members on the sub-committee by a majority of the Panel)”

11. Youth Justice Plan Strategic Plan 2010-11

(1) Mr M Hill moved, Mr A Sandhu seconded the approval of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2010/11.

(2) After discussion, it was:

RESOLVED: that the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2010/11 be approved and the contribution the County Council is making to improving both public safety and the life chances of those at risk of entering the youth justice system and those who have offended be noted.

12. Reporting of Transactions

(1) Mr J Simmonds moved, Miss S Carey seconded the recommendations on page 19 of the Blue Book, as follows:

- (a) Approve the principle of a wider public disclosure of payment transactions, as described in this report; and
- (b) Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance to determine the parameters for the disclosure scheme, in consultation with the Informal Member Group on Budgetary Issues.

(2) Mr T Prater moved, Mrs T Dean seconded the following amendment:

Add a third recommendation as follows:

- (c) “to ensure a system of more open and detailed disclosure of payments is implemented as soon as possible and no later than the start of the next financial year”

(3) Mr Simmonds, with the concurrence of his seconder, agreed to incorporate the Amendment into his Motion without the need for a vote.

RESOLVED: that the County Council agree:

- (a) To approve the principle of a wider public disclosure of payment transactions, as described in this report;
- (b) To delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance to determine the parameters for the disclosure scheme, in consultation with the Informal Member Group on Budgetary Issues; and
- (c) To ensure a system of more open and detailed disclosure of payments is implemented as soon as possible and no later than the start of the next financial year.

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13. Minutes for Information - Planning Applications Committee - 16 March 2010

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 1.10 and 1.23(1), the Minutes of the Planning Applications Committee, 16 March 2010, be noted.