

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SELECTION AND MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Selection and Member Services Committee held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Friday, 22 May 2015.

PRESENT: Mrs A D Allen, MBE (Chairman), Mr M A C Balfour (Substitute for Mr P B Carter, CBE), Mr G Cooke, Mr M C Dance, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Ms A Harrison, Mr R A Latchford, OBE, Mr B E MacDowall and Mr B J Sweetland

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Wild (Director of Governance and Law), Mr A Wood (Corporate Director Finance and Procurement), Mr P Sass (Head of Democratic Services), Mr P D Wickenden (Democratic Services Manager (Members)) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

7. Minutes - 5 March 2015
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2015 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

8. Proposed changes to the Constitution
(Item 4)

RESOLVED that approval be given to:-

- (a) the amendments to paragraph 2.2. of Appendix 4 Part 2 of the Constitution in relation to filming at meetings, as set out on paragraph 11 of the report;
- (b) the proposed revisions to paragraphs 6.34 to 6.36 of Appendix 4 Part 6 of the Constitution in relation to the recording of Executive Officer decisions, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report;
- (c) the proposed addition of paragraphs 6.37 to 6.43 of Appendix 4 Part 6 of the Constitution in relation to recording Non-Executive Officer decisions, as set out in paragraph 22 of the report; and
- (d) the proposed changes to paragraph 1.17 (6) of Appendix 4 Part 1 of the Constitution in relation to County Council Questions, as set out in paragraph 24 of the report.

9. Members' Allowances and Expenses 2014/15

(Item 5)

(1) The Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement referred to the County Council's tax liability for existing and former elected Members' home to office travel for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2013. He tabled a working document which set out a rough calculation of the amount any Member should pay if they wished to contribute a personal share of the County Council's payment to HMRC out of the overall figure of £179k. This figure included the sum of £35k in respect of former Members of the Council.

(2) Following the decision of the County Council the previous day that Members would follow the advice of the Section 151 Officer, the Corporate Director stated that his advice would be that each Member and surviving former Member should be written to with an indication of the amount that would be appropriate (dependent on their personal financial circumstances) if they wished to contribute their personal share but stressing that any such contribution would be entirely voluntary.

(3) Mr R Latchford asked for an overall figure of the amount voluntarily paid by Members and former Members to be provided to the Committee at a later stage.

(4) Mrs T Dean moved, seconded by Mr B MacDowall that any Member who requires use of a taxi for health reasons be required to provide a medical certificate after a period of six weeks' usage.

Lost 3 votes to 6.

(5) RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the publication of the allowances and expenses for 2014/15 be approved as detailed in Appendix A of the report and as required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances (England) Regulations 2003;
- (b) the publication of the costs of the County Car service and taxis for Members for 2014/15 be approved as set out in Appendices B and D of the report; and
- (c) it be noted that each Member and surviving former Member will be written to by the Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement with an indication of the amount that would be appropriate (dependent on their personal financial circumstances) if they wished to contribute their personal share to the County Council's backdated tax invoice, but stressing that any such contribution would be entirely voluntary.

10. County Car Service - Discussion paper on the present condition of the existing fleet

(Item 6)

(1) Mr G Cooke moved, and it was duly seconded that the offer by Barretts to provide a civic car for the 2015/16 Municipal Year be accepted under the terms offered in paragraph 3 (7) of the report and that the Volvo Estate be mothballed during this period.

Carried 6 votes to 2 with 1 abstention

(2) RESOLVED that the offer by Barretts to provide a civic car for the 2015/16 Municipal Year be accepted under the terms offered in paragraph 3 (7) of the report and that the Volvo Estate be mothballed during this period.

11. Local Pension Board
(Item 7)

(1) In agreeing the recommendations of the Head of Democratic Services, the Committee agreed that the Group Leaders be written to with a request for nominations to fill the Elected Member nominations.

(2) RESOLVED that the Group leaders be requested to make nominations to fill the two Elected Member places on the Local Pension Board as KCC employer representatives and that one of these will be the Chairman of the Board.

12. Appointment of Trustee to the Molyneux Almshouses, Rusthall
(Item 8)

RESOLVED that Ms Carolyn Cohen be appointed as the County Council's representative on the Body of Trustees of the *Molyneux Almhouses* for the remainder of the Council's term, whereupon the position will be reviewed.