

## **COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, 23 JANUARY 2014**

**PRESENT:-** The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, Paul Baker, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Michael Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Neil Heavens, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Ann Richards, James Robbins, Nicky Sewell, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Steve Wakefield, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams, David Wood, Robert Wright and Julie Wright.

### **76. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mike Bawden and Rochelle Russell.

### **77. Communications**

The Chief Executive reported that no communications had been received.

### **78. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013, be confirmed and signed.

### **79. Declarations of Interest**

The Mayor reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors Steve Allsopp, Fionuala Foley, Colin Lovell and Keith Williams made personal declarations of interest in respect Agenda item 7(a) (Motion – Thamesdown Transport) as they were Council appointed Directors of Thamesdown Transport.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Teresa Page, made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 7(b) (Motion – New Parish Council for Nythe) as she was a Stratton St. Margaret Parish Councillor.)

### **80. Public Question Time**

Mr Barrie Thompson submitted a written question relating to road safety in Drove Road. A written response was tabled.

Mr Brian Cockbill submitted written questions relating to household recycling changes. A written response was tabled.

Mr Brian Cockbill asked supplementary questions regarding publicity for the household recycling changes and the provision of additional household recycling boxes. The Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery) responded at the meeting.

Mr Terry Reynolds asked a public question relating to the number of official engagements undertaken by the Mayor. The Worshipful The Mayor indicated that he would provide Mr Reynolds with a written response.

Mr Terry Reynolds asked a public question relating to the number of gully cleaners and road sweepers operating in Swindon. The Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery) indicated that a written response would be provided.

Mr Terry Reynolds asked a public question relating to the possible precept level for a newly created Nythe Parish Council. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability indicated that a written response would be provided.

Mr Tim French asked a public question relating to the availability of disabled car parking spaces near the central bus station. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

## **81. Minutes for Confirmation**

(1) Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That Minute 65(5) of the Cabinet (Budget Management 2013/14 and Draft Budget 2014/15) be confirmed and adopted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(2) Councillor Garry Perkins moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That Minute 71(2) of the Cabinet (Swindon Heritage Strategy) be confirmed and adopted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(3) Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That Minute 73(1) of the Cabinet (Community Right to Challenge) be confirmed and adopted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(4) Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“Council thanks the Independent Remuneration Panel for its diligent work. However, given the current economic circumstances Council resolves not to increase Councillors’ Allowances for 2014/15.”

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Mark Dempsey seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

“That Council thanks the Independent Remuneration Panel for its diligent work. However, given the current economic circumstances, Council resolves not to increase the Basic Councillors’ Allowance and cut by 10% all Special Responsibility Allowances for Councillors in 2014/15.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

## **82. Motion - Thamesdown Transport**

Councillor Jim Robbins moved and Councillor Peter Watts seconded:

“This Council expresses it’s concerns about the decision of Thamesdown Transport to reroute their number 13 and 14 services away from the west side of the Town Centre (Farnsby Street, Commercial Road and Regent Circus) and calls upon Thamesdown Transport to reinstate this element of the service which will have no financial impact on this Council as it is a popular service and good income generator for the bus company.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillors Steve Allsopp, Fionuala Foley, Colin Lovell and Keith Williams made personal declarations of interest in respect of this item as they were Council appointed Directors of Thamesdown Transport.)

## **83. Motion - New Parish Council for Nythe**

Councillor Julian Price moved:

“This Council:

- Recognises its decision to form a Nythe parish.
- Believes that, in order to ensure a smooth transfer of responsibilities and services between Stratton and the new Nythe Parish, a shadow Nythe Parish Council should be established as soon as possible following the making of the necessary Order.
- Notes that a grant of £25k has been made available for newly forming parish councils by the National Association of Local Councils to help the sustainability of the new parish’s work.

Council Resolves:

To request the Director of Law and Democratic Services to consult with the Group Leaders and Borough Ward Councillors on

- the composition of the transitional body representing the new parish of Nythe;
- the clerking arrangements for that body; and
- the utilisation of the grant funding available from the National Association of Local Councils.”

With the agreement of the mover and Council the Motion was amended to read:

Councillor Dale Heenan moved and Councillor Julian Price Seconded:

“This Council:

Recognises its decision to form a Nythe parish

Acknowledges that a smooth transfer of responsibilities and services between Stratton St Margaret Parish and the new Nythe Parish is in the best interests of all local residents in both Parishes, and that a shadow Nythe Parish Council will be formed in 2014 following the making of the necessary Legal Order.

Requests that the shadow Nythe Parish Council be formed under the Legal Order in time to consider the 2015/16 Budget and precept for the new parish council, and notes that the transitional body will be formed by the Borough Ward Councillors for Covingham and Dorcan, with the parish councillors for Lower Coleview and Nythe being invited to participate in a non-voting capacity.

Requests that Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, the transitional body and Swindon Borough Council work together amicably and responsibility on all parish issues, including

- Establishing appropriate part time clerking arrangements by the first parish election in May 2015,
- Consulting local residents on the Nythe parish precept so that a budget is submitted to Full Council in February 2015,
- Publicising the Nythe Parish elections so that sufficient residents stand for election to see the first contested election since 1997
- Maintaining the burial rights of those people currently living in Stratton St Margaret Parish but who will be in the new Nythe Parish, and who wish to be buried in the cemeteries maintained by Stratton St. Margaret Parish Council.

The Motion, as amended was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillor Teresa Page made a personal declaration of interest in respect this item as she was a Stratton St. Margaret Parish Councillor.)

**84. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies**

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Mark Dempsey seconded:

“That Councillor Jim Robbins be appointed as a Labour Group Deputy to serve on the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

**85. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members**

The Council considered (a) the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014, and (b) questions to the Cabinet Members regarding their portfolio responsibilities and answers received.

**86. Minutes of Other Council Bodies**

The Council (a) received the minutes set out in the “Minutes of Other Council Bodies” circulated with the Agenda, and (b) considered questions to Chairs relating to the work of their Committees and other bodies and answers received.

(Councillor Michael Dickinson made a personal and prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of this item (Minute 11 of the Schools Forum) as he worked for New College.)

**87. Councillors Question Time**

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that Standing Order 15 questions had been received from Councillors Wayne Crabbe, Neil Heavens and Julian Price.

Councillor Wayne Crabbe asked a supplementary question regarding employment figures in Wroughton. The Cabinet Member for Finance responded at the meeting.

Councillor Neil Heavens asked a supplementary question regarding access to Eldene Community Centre. The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services responded at the meeting.

Councillor Julian Price asked a supplementary question regarding Housing Benefit claims. The Cabinet Member for Finance responded at the meeting.