

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2013

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Michael Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Emma Famarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Neil Heavens, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Ann Richards, James Robbins, Rochelle Russell, 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.

69. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roderick Bluh, Michael Dickinson, Richard Hurley and Colin Lovell.

70. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that a letter had been received from OFWAT in response to Minute 45 (Motion – Thames Water).

71. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held 7th November 2013, be confirmed and signed.

72. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

73. Public Question Time

Mrs Kareen Boyd asked if the vote in relation to Agenda Item 6 (Motion) would be a recorded vote. The Mayor responded at the meeting.

Mr James Boyd asked public questions relating to The Mayor's voting intentions and possible declarations of interest. The Mayor responded at the meeting.

Mr James Boyd asked a public question relating to the Mayor's election. The Mayor responded at the meeting.

Mrs Carole Bent asked a public question relating to Councillor and public confidence in the Council's Standards Committee. The Director of Law and Democratic Services responded at the meeting.

Mrs Carole Bent asked a public question regarding the possible outcome of the Motion to be debated at the meeting. The Mayor responded at the meeting.

The Mayor responded to a further public questions regarding the maintenance of War Memorials and Councillor conduct and whether they should be role models.

74. Motion

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Rochelle Russell seconded:

That Council has no confidence in the Mayor and calls on him to resign forthwith.”

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Mike Bawden seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

“That Council notes the:

(1) Constitution adopted by this Council on 17th May 2013 (Council Minute 8, 2013/14 refers).

(2) Corporate Governance Review Working Group Minute 28 (2012/13), which says; “The Working Group noted concerns expressed regarding recent notices of Motion which appeared to pre-empt decisions to be taken in the near future by the Council.”

(3) Basic principle of justice that a person who is accused should have a right to know and question the accusations brought against him or her.

This Council resolves to:

(1) Continue to uphold its Constitution.

(2) Maintain the traditional British legal principle that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

(3) Refrain from making premature judgements about any Member of this Council that may prejudice an on-going investigation by the Standards Committee.”

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

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

75. Councillors Question Time

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that a Standing Order 15 question had been received from Councillor Bob Wright and that a written answer would be provided and circulated to all Councillors.