

## WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Thirty Ninth Annual Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough, on Monday, 23 May 2011, at 7.00 pm.

**Present:**

Councillor Owen Bierley (In the Chair)  
Councillor William Parry (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Gillian Bardsley	Councillor Irmgard Parrott
Councillor Nigel Bowler	Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Ken Bridger	Councillor Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Alan Caine	Councillor Sue Rawlins
Councillor David Cotton	Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Stuart Curtis	Councillor Di Rodgers
Councillor Chris Darcel	Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor David Dobbie	Councillor Ray Sellars
Councillor Richy Doran	Councillor Reg Shore
Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Mel Starkey
Councillor Paul Howitt - Cowan	Councillor Lewis Strange
Councillor Burt Keimach	Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Stuart Kinch	Councillor Mick Tinker
Councillor Angela Lawrence	Councillor Chris Underwood-Frost
Councillor Malcolm Leaning	Councillor Anne Welburn
Councillor Jessie Milne	Councillor Geoff Wiseman
Councillor Malcolm Parish	Councillor Trevor Young

**Also Present:** Councillors J Hill, Mrs R Dobbs and P Walton  
G Phillips and M Airey (Parish and Independent  
Members of the Standards Committee). Mrs A Adams  
(Independent Member of the Governance and Audit  
Committee)

**Apologies:** Councillor Jackie Brockway  
Mr A Monaghan (Standards Committee)

**In Attendance:** Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and Director  
of Resources, Director of Strategy and Regeneration,  
Director of Neighbourhoods and Health, Democratic  
Services Team Leader, Senior Democratic Officer,  
Civic Officer, Civic Chauffeur.

**Also in Attendance:** Seven Members of the public and other Council  
Officers  
One Member of the Press

## **1 PRAYERS**

The meeting commenced with prayers by Councillor David Cotton.

## **2 WELCOME TO NEWLY ELECTED AND RETURNING MEMBERS**

The Chairman welcomed those newly elected Members of the Council and also the 31 returning Members and wished everyone well for the forthcoming four year terms of office.

## **3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were given for Councillor Jackie Brockway and Mr Alan Monighan (Standards Committee).

## **4 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman of Council referred to the list of civic engagements undertaken during the Civic Year which totalled 223. The Chairman specifically referred to his first engagement of the year at Lincoln University, which was becoming a very successful establishment, and also to his most recent engagements the previous Saturday. The day had commenced with Market Rasen Country Fair, followed by an RAF event at Faldingworth and then Swallow Village Hall.

The Chairman then expressed his thanks to Councillors for the privilege of serving as Chairman, and also to Officers, specifically to the Civic Team, the Communications Team and the Civic Chauffeur, without whom the job would not be possible.

It was then proposed and seconded that Councillor William Parry be appointed the Council Chairman for the civic year 2011/12, there being no further nominations it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor William Parry be elected Chairman of the Council for the 2011/12 civic year.

Councillor William Parry made and subscribed the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair. He thanked the Council for his appointment, moved a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman for his services to the Council and presented him with a medal.

The former Chairman of the Council then presented the Chain of Office to Councillor William Parry.

**Note:** Councillor David Dobbie joined the meeting during the above item.

## **5 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Jessie Milne be appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Council. There being no further nominations it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Jessie Milne be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2011/12 civic year.

## **6 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Director of Strategy and Regeneration proposed that a blanket declaration of personal interest for all Councillors be recorded in Paper E, the Electoral Arrangements for West Lindsey.

## **7 CHAIRMAN'S CHAPLAIN**

The former Chairman of Council moved a vote of thanks to his Chaplain, Reverend Canon Stephen Phillips for his services and support during the past year, and also to Councillor David Cotton for his services during Canon Phillips' unavailability due to ill health.

The Chairman of Council advised that his Chaplain for the year was to be the Reverend Gill Barrow, Assistant Curate for Gainsborough and Morton Team Parish.

The former Chairman then presented the Chairman with the Chaplain's stole.

**RESOLVED** that Reverend Canon Stephen Phillips be thanked for his services during the past year.

## **8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions had been received.

## **9 QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9**

No questions had been received.

## **10 NOTICE OF MOTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10**

Councillor Underwood Frost had submitted the following motion in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 10:

“Following my question that was submitted on time for the full Council meeting of the 18 April 2011. I wish the Council to know that Officers were very uncomfortable that I had submitted a question regarding a subject that many people in the Gainsborough/WLDC area are very concerned about. I was asked at that time to alter the question and soften the contents, the change then made my question unconstitutional. Following the full Council where Cllr K Smith challenged the question, I will now ask this question in full hard fact. The article in the 225 issue of BBC Focus magazine stated "Do coal fired power stations produce radioactive waste?". The first word in the article is "YES" I asked if the council could set up a Task and Finish group (TFG) to look at pollutants in the district.

Therefore, when the Chernobyl nuclear power station exploded, Environmental Health Officers (EHO) officers in West Lindsey DC allegedly checked radiation fallout by taking specialist equipment reading on local vegetables. I so move that Radiation fallout data from the time the Chernobyl power station exploded and that any data over a 20 plus year period after the Chernobyl disaster is now made public and submitted on a non-confidential basis to the task and finish group.

Following the BBC Focus (issue 225) article, I so move that the task and finish group is set up from the appropriate committee to work with members, officers and appropriate external experts to ascertain a detailed understanding of pollutants affecting the West Lindsey DC area. The (TFG) remit must include tests in West Lindsey to see if burning coal has impacted on the health of the people of West Lindsey from power stations, this data must show any details of uranium and/or thorium in the atmosphere, soil and local food.

I so move that the Council publishes a report for the people of West Lindsey on the findings of the (TFG) and the data is of a local nature, local people want answers!”.

After being moved, seconded and voted upon, it was:

**RESOLVED** that the motion be referred to the Prosperous Communities Committee for consideration.

## **11 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 April 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **12 DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION 2011 (PAPER B)**

**RESOLVED** that the results of the District Council Elections held on 5 May 2011 be received.

### **13 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MEMBERS**

The Chairman echoed the previous Chairman's welcome to newly elected and returning Members and also expressed thanks to those Members not returning; Councillors Brown, Smith, O'Connor and Mrs Shore, to Councillor Meg Davidson who had served nine years and special thanks to Councillor Alf Frith who had served an impressive 27 years and who had seen the Council change and grow into the organisation that it was today.

### **14 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Burt Keimach be elected as Leader of the Council.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Burt Keimach be elected Leader of the Council for the 2011/12 civic year.

### **15 ELECTION OF A DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Ian Fleetwood be elected Deputy Leader of the Council.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Ian Fleetwood be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2011/12 civic year.

### **16 REVIEW OF THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS ON COMMITTEES/SUB-COMMITTEES (PAPER C)**

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the details of political groups, as set out in Appendix A to Paper C, be noted;
- (b) the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each committee and sub-committee be noted; and
- (c) the allocation to different political groups of seats on committees/sub-committees, as set out in Appendix B to Paper C be noted.

### **17 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES (PAPER D)**

In response to a Member's query on the Constitutional make up of the Taxi and General Licensing Sub-Committee, clarification was given.

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with the provisions of section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the wishes expressed by political groups, members be appointed to serve on the Council's committees for the 2011/12 civic year as follows:

**Challenge and Improvement Committee (11 members)**

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Alan Caine  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Richard Doran  
Councillor Paul-Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Angela Lawrence  
Councillor Malcolm Leaning  
Councillor Irmgard Parrott  
Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor Mick Tinker  
Councillor Geoff Wiseman

**Chief Officer Employment Committee (9 Members)**

Councillor Jackie Brockway  
Councillor Alan Caine  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Ian Fleetwood  
Councillor Burt Keimach  
Councillor William Parry  
Councillor Reg Shore  
Councillor Lesley Rollings  
Councillor Chris Underwood-Frost

**Development Management Committee (11 members)**

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Alan Caine  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Stuart Curtis  
Councillor Richard Doran  
Councillor Ian Fleetwood  
Councillor Malcolm Leaning  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Chris Underwood-Frost

**Governance and Audit Committee (9 Members)**

Councillor Kenneth Bridger  
Councillor Jackie Brockway  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Malcolm Leaning  
Councillor William Parry  
Councillor Sue Rawlins  
Councillor Di Rodgers  
Councillor Ray Sellars  
Councillor Anne Welburn

**Licensing and Regulatory Committee (11 Members)**

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Chris Darcel  
Councillor Richard Doran  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Irmgard Parrott  
Councillor Roger Patterson  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Mel Starkey  
Councillor Anne Welburn  
Councillor Geoff Wiseman

**Policy and Resources Committee (11 Members)**

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Kenneth Bridger  
Councillor Nigel Bowler  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Chris Darcel  
Councillor Ian Fleetwood  
Councillor Burt Keimach  
Councillor Stuart Kinch  
Councillor Tom Regis  
Councillor Reg Shore  
Councillor Jeff Summers

**Prosperous Communities Committee (13 Members)**

Councillor Gillian Bardsley  
Councillor Nigel Bowler  
Councillor Jackie Brockway  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Stuart Kinch

Councillor Malcolm Parish  
Councillor Lesley Rollings  
Councillor Ray Sellars  
Councillor Lewis Strange  
Councillor Jeff Summers  
Councillor Geoff Wiseman  
Councillor Trevor Young

## **18 APPOINTMENT OF JOINT STAFF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Clarification was sought and given on the reason for the report being submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee prior to being approved, in that the Joint Staff Consultative Committee reported directly to the Policy and Resources Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the appointment of Members to the Joint Staff Consultative Committee be deferred pending submission of a report to the Policy and Resources Committee on the outcome of the survey undertaken on staff representation on the Committee.

## **19 APPOINTMENT OF HOUSING APPEALS BOARD**

**RESOLVED** that :

- (a) the provisions of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 not apply to the Housing Appeals Board; and
- (b) the following Members be appointed to serve on the Housing Appeals Board for the 2011/12 civic year:

Councillor Malcolm Parish  
Councillor William Parry  
Councillor Judy Rainsforth  
Councillor Sue Rawlins  
Councillor Mel Starkey  
Councillor Anne Welburn

## **20 STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED** that :

- (a) the following Members be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee:

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan  
Councillor Ray Sellars



- (b) the parish and independent members of the Standards Committee be noted as follows:

Councillor P Walton to 2012  
Councillor Mrs R Dobbs to 2013  
Councillor J Hill to 2014  
Mr A Monighan to 2012  
Mr G Phillips to 2013  
Mr M Airey to 2014

**Note:** Ms Adams left the meeting for consideration of the following item.

## **21 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED** that the appointment of the existing Independent Member of the Governance and Audit Committee be extended for a further 12 months in view of the limited number of meetings held during her first term of office (five months).

**Note:** Ms Adams returned to the meeting.

## **22 APPOINTMENT OF LINCOLNSHIRE SHOW TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

**RESOLVED** that the following members be appointed to serve on the Lincolnshire Show Task and Finish Group:

Councillor Owen Bierley  
Councillor Ken Bridger  
Councillor Alan Caine  
Councillor David Cotton  
Councillor Jessie Milne  
Councillor Irmgard Parrott  
Councillor Roger Patterson

## **23 NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL (PAPER E)**

The Director of Strategy and Regeneration presented the report which provided a detailed summary of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft proposals on the number of Councillors for West Lindsey and the subsequent ward patterns across the district.

The report asked Members to consider whether they wished to accept the Boundary Commission's recommendation or to delegate to the Chief Executive a consultation response with key points arising from the debate in consultation with the Group Leaders.

The Director of Strategy and Regeneration stated that the Review was a Government mandate designed to eliminate electoral inequality which in West Lindsey existed in 44% of the wards. The District Council was a consultee in the process and there was a set timetable of stages. A working group had been established and a response had been submitted, from which 12 recommendations had been accepted.

The presumption of three Member wards was no longer applicable following the Council's move to all out elections, so the proposal was for a mixture of one, two and three Member wards. Further submissions were required by the next deadline of 20 June 2011 and needed to be backed up by evidence.

Discussion ensued amongst Members and it was generally agreed that the process had come a long way from the original proposal of 11 three Member wards. However, concerns were expressed regarding the combining of 'unnatural' neighbours. In particular the proposals regarding Caistor and Yarborough, Nettleham and Sudbrooke, and Dunholme and Welton were raised as being of grave concern. Members felt that three Member wards undermined the relationships between Councillors and constituents, and that the current arrangements best reflected the urban and rural differences.

There needed to be a cross-party consensus expressed in the consultation response, and the Chief Executive emphasised that she would require the response by the week commencing 4 June.

**RESOLVED** that Members delegate to the Chief Executive a consultation response with key points arising from the debate in consultation with the Group Leaders.

## **24 REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) that it be noted that appointments are made on the following basis:
  - i) In the first instance any Member with a specialist interest or expertise in the particular field of the Outside Body should be appointed (the appointment should not be party political); failing this, where possible, appointments should be made geographically involving a local Ward Member. Where neither of these criteria can be met, any other Member should be appointed;

- ii) wherever possible and practicable the minimum length of service on an Outside Body should be two years;
  - iii) where a body shows that the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of a particular committee is the representative, this is because either the constitution of the body concerned requires it or there has been a previous Council decision that the office-holder will serve. Where a body indicates that this has traditionally been the case, there is no actual requirement;
  - iv) those Members appointed to serve on an outside body would be expected to provide a short report on the achievements, finance and forward plans for inclusion in a booklet prior to Annual Council; and
  - v) those Members appointed to represent the Authority on a 'Strategic' body will be allocated a named officer to actively support them in their role.
- (b) places which have traditionally been filled by the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of a particular committee or their nominee continue to be so filled;
- (c) appointed representatives should arrange for a reserve (where required) from within their own political group with the exception of those bodies marked with an asterisk \*(as these are directorships and personal appointments);
- (d) Councillors Nigel Bowler, Alan Caine, Burt Keimach and Malcolm Leaning be appointed to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board;
- (e) Members be appointed to the Tactical Boards as follows:
- i) Capital Monitoring and Asset Management Board – Chairman or Vice-Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee or Committee Member; and
  - ii) Corporate Governance Board – Chairman of Governance and Audit Committee.
- (f) Councillor David Cotton be appointed as the Member Champion for Equality and Diversity;
- (g) Councillor Reg Shore be appointed as District Carer and Safeguarding Children Champion to drive the agendas forward in West Lindsey and represent the Council at meetings of the Lincolnshire Carers Partnership;

- (h) Councillors Jessie Milne and Gillian Bardsley be appointed to work alongside officers and Arts for Trinity in order to secure the future of the Trinity Arts Centre; and
- (i) that representatives to the following Statutory, Strategic Charitable and Community Organisations be appointed as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
Witham Third Internal Drainage Board	Cllr Chris Darcel Cllr Irmgard Parrott
Acis Housing Group Local Management Board	Cllr Malcolm Parish
Gainsborough Town Centre Partnership	Cllr Stuart Kinch
Young and Safe in Gainsborough	Cllr Gillian Bardsley
West Lindsey Women’s Aid Management Board	Cllr Jessie Milne
Valley Youth Centre Management Committee	Cllr Mick Tinker
Trustees for Dixons Almshouses	Cllr Angela Lawrence
Trustees of the Charles Cooper Trust	Cllr Judy Rainsforth

**RESOLVED** that the appointment to the Health Scrutiny Committee be deferred to the next meeting of Council whilst officers clarify the Membership requirements with the County Council.

The meeting concluded at 8.36 pm.

Chairman