

DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

**ANNUAL COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the proceedings of the meeting of the Annual Council held on Wednesday 7 May 2008.

**PRESENT:**

The Mayor

Councillor I D Armitt JP

The Deputy Mayor

Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood

Councillor Mrs A D Allen

Councillor A R Martin

Councillor A Bardoe

Councillor D E May

Councillor L J Bobby

Councillor Mrs A Muckle

Councillor S H Brown

Councillor J I Muckle

Councillor M J Bryant

Councillor V Openshaw

Councillor R Bryant

Councillor J M Ozog

Councillor P F Coleman

Councillor R S L Perfitt

Councillor M J Davis

Councillor A E Peters

Councillor S East

Councillor M I Peters

Councillor D A Hammock

Councillor D M Pickersgill

Councillor J A Hayes

Councillor G T Prout

Councillor D E Hunnisett

Councillor B E Read

Councillor S Johnston

Councillor P J Scanlan

Councillor P Kelly

Councillor C J Shippam

Councillor J A Kite

Councillor Mrs R L Shanks

Councillor E J Lampkin

Councillor T C H Smith

Councillor D E Lawson

Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow

Councillor A R Lloyd

Councillor A Wells

Councillor T A Maddison

Councillor Mrs N C Wightman

**ABSENT:**

Councillor Ms C Angell

Councillor D J Baker

Councillor C Gallagher

Councillor Mrs D J Stoate

**1. ELECTION OF THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF DARTFORD FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

Councillor J A Kite nominated Councillor I D Armitt for election as Mayor of the Borough, for the ensuing year 2008/2009.

Councillor A R Martin seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, the Mayor declared Councillor I D Armitt to be duly elected the

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Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of Dartford, for the ensuing year 2008/2009.

Following his election, Councillor I D Armitt made his declaration of acceptance of office.

The meeting then adjourned for a short period.

### **THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR I D ARMITT IN THE CHAIR**

The Mayor thanked Members for electing him as Mayor of the Borough for the forthcoming year. He announced that his wife, Mrs Lynne Armitt, would be Mayoress and invited her to the front of the dais where he invested her with the Chain and Badge.

The Mayor also informed the meeting that he had appointed the Reverend J Dash as his personal chaplain during his term of office. Reverend R Barron invested Reverend J Dash with the Chaplain's Cross.

#### **2. PRAYERS**

The Mayor invited the Reverend J Dash to say prayers.

#### **3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

The Mayor announced that Councillor Mrs Jennifer Rickwood would be Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing year 2008/2009.

Councillor Mrs J Rickwood made her declaration of acceptance of office. She informed the meeting that Councillor M I Peters would be her Escort during her term of office. She duly invested her with the Badge and Ribbon.

#### **4. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR IN RESPECT OF SERVICES RENDERED DURING THE PAST YEAR**

Members spoke in praise for the dedication and commitment shown by Councillor S East, the retiring Mayor. Members commented that she never neglected the interests of Dartford and was popular with members of the public. Particular reference was made to the opening of St Pancreas International Station, and that it was an experience which would be hard to match by future Mayors.

Councillor J A Kite presented Councillor S East with a photo album, which chronicled her Mayoral year, together with a gift of a watch, on behalf of the Council.

Councillor G T Prout presented Councillor S East with a bouquet of flowers.

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Councillor S East responded to the vote of thanks. She thanked the people who had supported her during her term of office and recalled some of her memorable events.

She presented gifts to the mayoral office staff and thanked them for their support during the past year.

It was moved by Councillor J A Kite, seconded by Councillor A R Martin, supported by other Members of the Council and;

### RESOLVED:

That sincere thanks and appreciation be accorded to Councillor S East for her outstanding service, as Mayor, during the past year.

#### **5. PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR'S BADGE**

The Mayor invited Councillor S East to the dais for the presentation of her Past Mayor's badge, to commemorate her year of office.

#### **6. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MEMBERS MAY WISH TO MAKE**

There were no declarations of interest received.

#### **7. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors C Angell, D Baker, C Gallagher and Mrs D Stoate.

#### **8. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was moved by Councillor A R Martin, and seconded by Councillor A D Allen, that Councillor J A Kite be elected Leader of the Council, for the ensuing year.

There being no further nominations, the Mayor declared Councillor J A Kite to be duly elected Leader of the Council, for the ensuing year.

#### **9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Mayor advised Members that Councillor A R Martin would be Deputy Leader of the Council, for the ensuing year.

#### **10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SHADOW LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, GROUP LEADERS AND THEIR DEPUTIES**

The Mayor advised that for the ensuing year, Councillor G T Prout and Councillor M J Bryant would be the Shadow Leader and the Shadow Deputy Leader of the Council respectively, that Councillor B E Read and Councillor L

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J Bobby would be the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents' Association respectively.

### **11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEAD OF PAID SERVICE, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER, MONITORING OFFICER AND DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER**

The Mayor advised that Mr Graham John Harris will be Head of Paid Service (pursuant to Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) and Chief Finance Officer (pursuant to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972) and that Mr Christopher Gordon Oliver will be Monitoring Officer (pursuant to Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) and that Mrs Marie Kelly-Stone will be the Deputy Monitoring Officer.

### **12. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced that the beneficiaries of his Charity Appeal for his term of office this year, will be:

- 121 Youth Befriending Service
- Dartford Association for the Disabled
- Valley Park Radio
- The Sea Cadets -T S Anson
- Squadron 1051 Air Training Cadets
- Rainbow Lodge
- 1<sup>st</sup> Galley Hill Scouts
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sutton at Hone Scouts
- 1<sup>st</sup> Dartford Scouts
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dartford Scouts
- Dartford Age Concern
- Broomhill Nursery
- Hubert House
- Walk Tall

The Mayor advised that he had chosen to support a large number of local charities, to whom a small amount of money would make a big difference.

The Mayor advised that to start his term of office, Reverend J Dash would be conducting a service at St Margaret of Antioch Church, Darenth, on Sunday 18 May 2008 at 10am and extended an invitation for anyone to attend.

### **13. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Mayor advised that following interviews held on 6 May 2008, Mr Philip Gough, was proposed as the Independent Member on the Standards Committee until 2012.

Councillor J A Kite seconded the proposal and;

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RESOLVED:

That Mr Philip Gough be appointed as the Independent Member of the Standards Committee until the Annual Meeting held in 2012.

**14. CONFIRMATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS**

The details of the size and membership of political groups formed by Members of the Council was presented. The Political Groups on the Council comprise The Dartford Borough Council Conservative Group (26), Labour Group (12), Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents' Association (6).

RESOLVED:

That the size and membership of political groups formed by members of the Council, attached at Appendix A to the agenda, be noted.

**15. ADOPTION OF RULES FOR SUBSTITUTION**

It was moved by Councillor J A Kite, seconded by Councillor A R Martin and;

RESOLVED:

That the Rules for Substitution on Standing Committees, Boards and Panels, as set out in Appendix B to the agenda, be adopted.

**16. TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE SIZE OF THE CABINET AND TO ALLOCATE ALL EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS TO THE CABINET AND DETERMINE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CABINET**

It was moved by Councillor J A Kite, seconded by Councillor A R Martin, and

RESOLVED:

1. That, pursuant to Section 11(8) of the Local Government Act 2000, the size of the Cabinet be set at six Members.

2. That, pursuant to Section 15(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, all functions be allocated to the Cabinet as a body with the Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix C(i) to the agenda.

**17. ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENTS AS TO MEMBERSHIP MADE TO THE CABINET BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (SECTION 11(3) (B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000) (WITH NO DECISION MAKING), ALLOCATION/DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS WITHIN THE CABINET, THE APPOINTMENT OF JUNIOR MINISTERS AND THE ALLOCATION/DISTRIBUTION OF AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

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The Mayor advised that for the ensuing year, the Cabinet Members will be Councillors Mrs A D Allen, P F Coleman, J A Kite, A R Martin, B E Read and Mrs P A Thurlow. The portfolios (with no decision making) will be held by the Cabinet members as set out in Appendix C(ii) to the Agenda. Councillors J A Kite and A R Martin will be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

The Cabinet will be supported by Councillors A Bardoe, S H Brown, D A Hammock, D E Hunnisett, E J Lampkin, A R Lloyd, A E Peters, M I Peters, Ms R L Shanks and C J Shippam, the Junior Ministers, with areas of responsibility as set out in Appendix C(ii) to the Agenda.

**18. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE LABOUR GROUP AND THE ALLOCATIONS/DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Mayor announced that the structure of the Labour Group and the allocation/distribution of responsibilities are as set out in Appendix D to the agenda.

**19. TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL**

It was moved by Councillor J A Kite, seconded by Councillor A R Martin, and

RESOLVED:

That the terms of reference, as set out in Appendix E to the agenda, be agreed.

**20. TO CONSIDER AND ESTABLISH THE QUALITY SERVICES AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES, THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, BOARDS, PANELS AND OTHER BODIES, APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES AND DETERMINE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF AND DELEGATIONS TO SUCH COMMITTEES, BOARDS, PANELS AND OTHER BODIES**

It was moved by Councillor J A Kite, seconded by Councillor A R Martin, and

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the review of the representation of the political groups on Standing Committees, Boards and Panels (as it affects the Council) and other "bodies" within the meaning of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. Details of the entitlement of each political group to representation on each of these "bodies" are set out in Appendix F in accordance with the principles contained in the 1989 Act and 1990 Regulations. These principles are set out in Appendix G to the agenda.
- (2) That the adoption of the Quality Services and Scrutiny Committees, the Standards Committee and other Standing Committees, Sub-committees, Boards and Panels and the appointments to membership

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made in accordance with the wishes of the political groups on the Council and the appointments of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, as set out in Appendices H to S to the agenda be approved.

- (3) That the adoption of the Cabinet Advisory Panels and the appointments to membership made in accordance with the wishes of the political groups on the Council, as set out in Appendix T to the agenda be approved.
  - (4) That the adoption of the Joint Transportation Board as a non-statutory forum and the appointments to membership made in accordance with the wishes of the political groups on the Council, as set out in Appendix U to the agenda be approved.
  - (5) That the adoption of the Deed, Trust and Obligations Committee and the appointments to membership made in accordance with the wishes of the political groups on the Council, as set out in Appendix V to the agenda be approved.
  - (6) That the adoption of the Review of Polling Places, Polling Districts and Access Arrangements Sub-committee and the appointments to membership made in accordance with the wishes of the political groups on the Council, as set out in Appendix W, be approved.
  - (7) That the Terms of Reference and Delegations for the Quality Services and Scrutiny Committees, the Standards Committee and other Standing Committees, Boards and Panels, as set out in Appendices H to S of the agenda, be approved.
  - (8) That the Terms of Reference for the Cabinet Advisory Panels, Joint Transportation Board, Deed, Trust and Obligations Committee and Review of Polling Places, Polling Districts and Access Arrangements Sub-committee as set out in Appendix T to W to the agenda respectively, be approved.
- 21. TO APPOINT THE DAYS AND HOUR OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND OF ITS STANDING COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, BOARDS, PANELS AND OTHER BODIES/FORUMS DURING THE ENSUING YEAR 2008/09 AND PROVISIONALLY APPOINT THE DAYS AND HOUR OF THE MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2009/2010**

It was moved by Councillor J A Kite, seconded by Councillor A R Martin, and

RESOLVED:

That the dates and times of meetings, as set out in Appendix X to the agenda, be agreed.

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**22. TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENTS OF COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES BY EXTERNAL BODIES, AND TO OUTSIDE BODIES WHERE THE TERM OF OFFICE EXCEEDS ONE YEAR**

It was moved by Councillor J A Kite, seconded by Councillor A R Martin, and

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the appointments of Councillor representatives to external bodies as set out in Appendix Y(i) be noted.
- (ii) That the appointments of Councillor representatives to outside bodies, over one year term, as set out in Appendix Y(ii) to the agenda, be noted.

**23. TO APPOINT COUNCILLORS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND TO LIAISON GROUPS**

It was moved by Councillor J A Kite, seconded by Councillor A R Martin, and

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the appointments of Councillor representatives to outside bodies as set out in Appendix Z(i) be noted.
- (ii) That the appointments of Councillor representatives to liaison groups as set out in Appendix Z(ii) to the agenda, be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.05 am

Councillor I D Armitt  
MAYOR