

DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL

MINUTES of the proceedings of the meeting of the Annual Council held on Wednesday 6 May 2009.

PRESENT:

The Mayor

Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood

The Deputy Mayor

Councillor P F Coleman

Councillor Mrs A D Allen

Councillor T A Maddison

Councillor I D Armitt JP

Councillor A R Martin

Councillor D J Baker

Councillor D E May

Councillor A Bardoe

Councillor Mrs A Muckle

Councillor L J Bobby

Councillor J I Muckle

Councillor S H Brown

Councillor V Openshaw

Councillor M J Bryant

Councillor J M Ozog

Councillor R Bryant

Councillor R S L Perfitt

Councillor M J Davis

Councillor A E Peters

Councillor S East

Councillor M I Peters

Councillor C Gallagher

Councillor D M Pickersgill

Councillor D A Hammock

Councillor G T Prout

Councillor J A Hayes

Councillor B E Read

Councillor D E Hunnisett

Councillor P J Scanlan

Councillor S Johnston

Councillor Mrs R L Shanks

Councillor P Kelly

Councillor C J Shippam

Councillor J A Kite

Councillor T C H Smith

Councillor E J Lampkin

Councillor A Wells

Councillor D E Lawson

Councillor Mrs N C Wightman

Councillor A R Lloyd

ABSENT:

Councillor Ms C Angell

Councillor Mrs D J Stoate

Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow

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

Councillor J A Kite nominated Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood for election as Mayor of the Borough, for the ensuing year 2009/2010.

Councillor A R Martin seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, the Mayor declared Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood to be duly

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elected the Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of Dartford, for the ensuing year 2009/2010.

Following her election, Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood made her declaration of acceptance of office.

The meeting then adjourned for a short period.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR MRS J A RICKWOOD IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor thanked Members for electing her as Mayor of the Borough for the forthcoming year. She announced that Councillor M I Peters would be her Escort for the year and invited her to the front of the dais where she invested her with the Chain and Badge.

The Mayor also informed the meeting that she had appointed the Reverend D Norley as her personal chaplain during her term of office. Reverend J Dash invested Reverend D Norley with the Chaplain's Cross.

2. PRAYERS

The Mayor invited the Reverend D Norley to say prayers. Reverend Norley made special mention of Councillor Mrs P A Thurlow and her family and the wish for Councillor Mrs Thurlow to make a full recovery from her current illness.

3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Mayor announced that Councillor P F Coleman would be Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing year 2009/2010.

Councillor Coleman made his declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the insignia of office. Councillor Coleman informed the meeting that his wife, Mrs D Coleman, would be his Deputy Mayoress during his term of office and duly invested her with the Chain and Badge.

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

Members spoke in praise of the outstanding contribution made by the retiring Mayor, Councillor I D Armit, and his Mayoress Mrs L Armit, to promoting the Borough of Dartford. It was noted that Councillor Armit had now served successfully as Mayor for two terms of office, an honour accorded to very few Members. The Mayor had both preserved the traditional role of the Mayoralty whilst also being innovative and forward thinking. Members commented upon the outstanding relationship that the Mayor had fostered with many voluntary organisations, schools and other bodies throughout the Borough and across Kent and neighbouring boroughs during the year. At the same time the Mayor

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had reached out to local people and had continued to be a dedicated and active constituency Member representing the views and needs of his constituents and championing their cause as appropriate.

Members also noted Councillor Armit's active support of fourteen local charities and that his fund raising had raised £26,868 to support their activities against a background of challenging economic conditions. The Mayor's work with the voluntary sector, his support for volunteers, young people and the uniformed organisations was also highlighted and the fact that the Mayor had attended 434 functions during the year was a testimony to his energy and enthusiasm for promoting the Borough's work in the community. Members from all parties spoke of the Mayor's firm and impartial management of GAC meetings, his fairness and integrity and felt that he had been a fine leader of the local community.

On behalf of the Council Councillor J A Kite presented Councillor Armit with a photo album which chronicled his Mayoral year together with the gift of a season ticket for Dartford Football Club in recognition of his service.

Councillor G T Prout presented the outgoing Mayoress, Mrs L Armit, with a bouquet of flowers.

Councillor I D Armit responded to the vote of thanks. He thanked the people who had supported him during his term of office including the Mayoress, Reverend J Dash and the Mayor's Attendant and Town Sergeant, Mr C Cloke. Councillor Armit also thanked Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood for her help during the year and recorded his admiration for the work of the many voluntary organisations and volunteers who he had met who were "unsung heroes" of the local community.

Councillor Armit presented gifts to Reverend J Dash and to the Mayor's Attendant in appreciation of their support.

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 I D Armit for his outstanding service as Mayor during the past year.

5. PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR'S BADGE

The Mayor invited Councillor I D Armit to the dais for the presentation of his past Mayor's badge to which an inscribed bar had been added to commemorate his second term of office as Mayor.

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

No declarations of interest were made.

7. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C Angell, Mrs D J Stoate and Mrs P A Thurlow.

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, and that Councillor B E Read and Councillor L J Bobby would be the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents' Association respectively.

11. 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 set out in Appendix A to the agenda.

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12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT TO THE CABINET BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS WITHIN THE CABINET (WITH NO DECISION MAKING), THE APPOINTMENT OF JUNIOR MINISTERS AND THE ALLOCATION OF AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Mayor advised that for the ensuing year, the Cabinet Members will be Councillors Mrs A D Allen, S H Brown, 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 B to the Agenda. Councillors J A Kite and A R Martin will be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet respectively.

The Cabinet would be supported by Councillors M Davis, D A Hammock, E J Lampkin, A R Lloyd, R S L Perfitt, A E Peters, M I Peters, Mrs R L Shanks, C J Shippam and A Wells, as Junior Ministers with the areas of responsibility set out in Appendix B to the Agenda.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEAD OF PAID SERVICE, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER, MONITORING OFFICER AND DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER

The Mayor advised that Mr Graham John Harris would be the 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 would be the Monitoring Officer (pursuant to Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) and that Mrs Marie Kelly-Stone would be the Deputy Monitoring Officer.

14. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the Council that she would be supporting four local charities during her Mayoral Year: the Ellenor Lions Hospice; the Darent Valley Hospital Heartbeat Appeal; the North West Kent Carers Service; and Victim Support Dartford.

15. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Mayor advised that following interviews held on 5 May 2009, Mr J Moules, was proposed to serve as an Independent Member on the Standards Committee until 2013.

Councillor J A Kite seconded the proposal.

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RESOLVED:

That Mr J Moules be appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee until the Annual Meeting held in 2013.

16. 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 C to the agenda, be noted.

17. 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, set out in Appendix D to the agenda, be adopted.

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 would be as set out in Appendix E to the agenda.

19. TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE 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 for the General Assembly of the Council, set out in Appendix F to the agenda, be agreed.

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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 be agreed. Details of the entitlement of each political group to representation on each of these "bodies" to be as set out in Appendix G to the agenda in accordance with the principles contained in the 1989 Act and 1990 Regulations. These principles are set out in Appendix H to the agenda.
- (2) That the adoption of the Quality Services and Scrutiny Committees, the Standards Committee, Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee and other Standing Committees, Sub-committees, Boards and Panels and the appointments to membership made in accordance with the wishes of the political groups on the Council and the appointments of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, set out in Appendices I to S to the agenda, (including the amended appendices I and J(ii) tabled at the meeting which replaced the original appendices) 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 set out in Appendix T(i) 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 set out in Appendix T(ii) 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 set out in Appendix T(iii) to the agenda be approved.
- (6) That the adoption of the Electoral Provisions Sub-committee and the appointments to membership made in accordance with the wishes of the political groups on the Council set out in Appendix T(iv) be approved.

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- (7) That the Terms of Reference and Delegations for the Quality Services and Scrutiny Committees, the Standards Committee, the Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee, and other Standing Committees, Boards and Panels set out in Appendices I to S of the agenda, (including the amended appendices I and J(ii) tabled at the meeting which replaced the original appendices), be approved.
- (8) That the Terms of Reference for the Cabinet Advisory Panels, Joint Transportation Board, Deed, Trust and Obligations Committee and the Electoral Provisions Sub-committee set out in Appendices T(i) to T(iv) 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 2009/10 AND PROVISIONALLY APPOINT THE DAYS AND HOUR OF THE MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2010/2011

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

RESOLVED:

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

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 appointment of Councillor representatives to external bodies set out in Appendix V be noted.
- (ii) That the appointments of Councillor representatives to outside bodies, for a term exceeding one year, set out in Appendix W 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 set out in Appendix X to the agenda be adopted.

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- (ii) That the appointments of Councillor representatives to liaison groups set out in Appendix Y to the agenda be adopted.

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm

Councillor Mrs J A Rickwood
MAYOR