

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2012 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Douglas W Clark (Chairman); Councillors Dark, Alexandrou, Aldred, Bayford, Binks, Bruce, Campbell, Cohen, Coleman-Cooke, Driver, Dwyer, Edwards, Everitt, Ezekiel, Fenner, Gideon, D Green, E Green, I Gregory, K Gregory, Grove, Harrison, C Hart, S Hart, Hayton, Hibbert, Huxley, Johnston, King, Kirby, Lodge-Pritchard, Marson, Matterface, Moore, Moores, Nicholson, Poole, Roberts, D Saunders, M Saunders, Savage, H Scobie, W Scobie, Sullivan, M Tomlinson, S Tomlinson, Watkins, Wells, Wiltshire, Wise, Worrow and Wright

In Attendance: Mr R Hills, Independent Member and Chairman of the Standards Committee

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gibson and Hornus.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

40. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 12 July 2012 were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

41. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Thanet Against Live Exports

The Chairman read out a statement which he had received from Thanet Against Live Exports, as follows:

“Thanet Against Live Exports wish to extend their gratitude to the Members of Thanet District Council, for the principled opposition that they have demonstrated in regards to live animal exports passing through Port Ramsgate. We are pleased to say that Councillors and Officers have shown willingness to work with us and the RSPCA (*The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*) in finding means by which this unwanted trade can be curbed.

“In particular, we commend the Council for highlighting to DEFRA (*the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*) the complete lack of facilities at Port Ramsgate and the County of Kent for the proper welfare of animals in transit. The predicted emergency arrived on 12 September, when 45 sheep were killed in appalling circumstances. The subsequent temporary cessation of activity at the port, which had been previously called for by the Council, has been proved to be entirely justified, and the Council can be proud of the actions they have taken, as indeed we are proud of our Council.

Reg Bell
Thanet Against Live Exports”

(b) **New date - Cabinet meeting in November 2012**

The Chairman announced that the date of the meeting of Cabinet in November had been moved from Thursday, 15 November 2012 to Thursday, 8 November 2012, as the original date coincided with the date of the elections for the Police & Crime Commissioners.

42. PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(a) **Petition - Active 4 Life**

It was NOTED that Mrs Doulton, the petition organiser, had withdrawn the petition, as the petitioners felt that the issue had now been resolved.

43. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was NOTED that no questions had been received from the press or public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.

44. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

It was NOTED that no questions had been received from Members of the Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.

45. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

(a) **Recording of Meeting Proceedings**

It was proposed by Councillor Driver and seconded by Councillor King:

“THAT in accordance with its commitment to open governance and transparency, this Council agrees in principle that the proceedings of meetings of the Council and all other properly constituted committees, panels and working groups which are normally open to the public can be recorded and relayed provided that the recording and relaying is not disruptive to the conduct of business.

“Council requests the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to develop procedures and guidance which will enable this principle to be put into practice and that these procedures and guidance are considered by the Constitutional Review Working Group and Standards Committee before being presented to Council for approval.”

In his right of reply, the Leader stated that it was his view that only the Council should publish proceedings of meetings. He referred to the procurement process which was now at an advanced stage for a new recording system for the Council Chamber.

It was proposed by Councillor Driver, seconded by Councillor Campbell:

“THAT the motion on notice be debated”.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion to debate was CARRIED.

In the debate which ensued, some concerns were expressed at the lack of editorial control the Council would have if members of the public were allowed to record or video record the proceedings.

The motion on notice, upon being put to the vote, was declared LOST.

(b) **Animal Welfare Inspections**

It was NOTED that Councillor Driver had withdrawn his motion on notice.

46. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader of the Council referred to Priority 10 of the Corporate Plan 2012-16: "to influence the work of other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for Thanet".

He cited several examples of partnership working by the Council, including its engagement with community safety partnerships and the police; involvement with the local NHS and recent developments with the Thanet Leisure Force; work with education providers on issues concerning future school places in Thanet; and his own involvement in the East Kent Regeneration Board.

He referred to the recent suspension of the live animal exports trade at the port of Ramsgate as a result of it becoming apparent that lorries or animals were, on several occasions, unfit for further travel and on the grounds of there not being adequate facilities at the port or nearby to care for the animals. He thanked Councillors Fenner and Poole for their help in ensuring that lorries were inspected thoroughly.

The Leader concluded by referring to the circumstances which appeared to underlie the failure to set up a Locality Board for Thanet.

Councillor Bayford, Leader of the Conservative Group, referred to the legal advice which he argued had prevented the previous administration from taking action to stop the animal live export trade. He also stated that he had met personally with a Government Minister regarding the issue and that Laura Sandys MP had spoken during an adjournment debate in the House of Commons.

Councillor Worrow, Leader of the Thanet Independent Group, congratulated Councillor Driver and members of "Thanet Against Live Exports" for campaigning against the live animal export trade.

Councillor King, Leader of the Independent Group, who also congratulated the animal rights lobby, suggested that the Leader of the Council should, in advance of Council meetings, provide copies of his report to the other Group Leaders.

47. REPORTS BACK TO COUNCIL - MOTIONS ON NOTICE(a) **Diversity Champion**

The report was NOTED.

48. REPORTS BACK TO COUNCIL - PETITIONS

The report was NOTED.

(a) **Birchington Roadsweeper**

The Report was NOTED.

(b) **Night time flying - Manston International Airport**

The report was NOTED.

(c) **Free community BMX / Skatepark**

The report was NOTED.

49. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, and **RESOLVED** that the recommendations as set out at paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 of the report be adopted, namely:

1. That Council notes the recommendation of the Standards Appointments Working Party and appoints both Mrs Jiggy Bhore and Mrs Joanne Pearman as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for a term starting from the date of this meeting and ending on 21 May 2015;
2. That Council appoints Parish Councillor Way of Monkton Parish Council as the third Parish/Town Councillor representative on the Standards Committee.

50. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2012/13 - INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE / INDEPENDENT PERSON

It was NOTED from the Chairman that this item was being deferred until the next ordinary meeting of Council, to enable consultation to take place with the Group Leaders, and that it was anticipated that any allowances finally agreed would be back-dated to the date of this meeting.

Meeting concluded : 8.26 pm