

## THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Full Council Meeting duly convened and held at the Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate on 24 July 2008

Present: Councillor J D Kirby (Chairman); Councillors Ms Aldred, Bayford, Broadhurst, Brown, Campbell, Clark, Crotty, Mrs Dark, Day, Ezekiel, Ms Gideon, Goodwin, D Green, E Green, Gregory, Ms Harker, Hart, Hayton, Jarvis, Mrs Johnston, King, Mrs J M Kirby, Latchford, Lawson, Mrs Lodge-Pritchard, McCastree, Moores, Mrs B Nicholson, R Nicholson, Nottingham, Peppiatt, Mrs Pickering, Poole, Mrs Rogers, Mrs Russell, Savage, Scobie, Mrs Sheldrick, B Sullivan, Mrs K Sullivan, Taylor, M Tomlinson, Mrs S Tomlinson, Watt-Ruffell, and Mrs Wiltshire

#### 20 MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 8 May 2008 were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

#### 21 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard Samuel, Chief Executive, thanked Members and Officers for the support and encouragement they had given him whilst he was off work. In particular he thanked Councillor Latchford, the Corporate Directors and the Management Team and Mrs Williams who had kept the Council and the Chief Executive in contact. The Chief Executive also thanked staff for the stream of messages received.

The Chief Executive announced that this meeting of Council would be the last scheduled meeting attended by Paul Moore, Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer as he was leaving Thanet to take up a post at Wandsworth Borough Council. The Chief Executive thanked Paul for his personal leadership in the improvement of IT services to customers, performance management and support to the Standards Committee and Scrutiny. He said that Paul would be sorely missed and wished him well in the future.

The Chief Executive also announced that Robert Rose, Head of Improvement and Performance would leave the Council in September 2008. Robert had joined the council from the Health Service and had completed detailed work around improving performance and led on the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. The Chief Executive wished Robert well for the future.

The Chairman congratulated Paul Moore on his new appointment saying that he had been an inspiration to Members' of Council and had given useful advice with reference to Members' Standards. The Chairman said that Paul would be missed.

The Leader of the Council said that Paul had worked diligently giving sound advice and would be missed. It was Wandsworth's gain and Thanet's loss he said.

Councillor Nicholson, Leader of the Opposition, thanked Paul Moore and Robert Rose for their work with the council and welcomed the returning Chief Executive.

The Leader proposed and Councillor R Nicholson seconded a motion of thanks to Paul Moore and Robert Rose which was unanimously agreed.

Paul Moore, Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer thanked Council for its good wishes saying that he had felt at home in the past five years and was slightly sad to be leaving.

The Leader thanked Members and Officers who took part and helped Thanet council to receive the Investors in People award. This had last been achieved in 2005. In particular he thanked Tim Conroy, Corporate Training Officer for his work and congratulated all involved.

The Leader announced that SEEDA had agreed, alongside the Arts Council, full funding for the Turner Contemporary which he said, was fantastic news for Thanet.

## **22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ezekiel declared a personal interest in Minute Number 23 (Agenda Item 4 (iii) – Petition: Northdown Road Parking) and left the meeting during the item.

Councillor Hart declared a personal interest in Minute Number 23 (Agenda Item 4 (iii) – Petition: Northdown Road Parking) and left the meeting during the item.

## **23 PETITION (i) – PAYMENT FOR GARDEN WASTE**

The Council received a petition collected by local residents concerning the Payment for Garden Waste Collection.

The petition had been signed by 34 residents and stated that:

“We, the undersigned, feel the Council is acting contrary to the Council Tax Banding Agreement by charging for the removal of Green garden waste while NOT charging for the removal of waste such as furniture and white goods from blocks of flats.

This generally unfairly penalises those on higher Council Tax Bands with gardens compared to Lower Tax Bands with no gardens”.

A notice of a wish to make a verbal statement had been received from Mr Westbrook who was present and addressed the meeting.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Sheldrick, that:

“in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6 the petition be referred the Cabinet with a report back to the Council within three ordinary meetings”.

MOTION ADOPTED.

## **PETITION (ii) – CLIFTONVILLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PREFERRED ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

The Council received a petition collected by local residents concerning the Cliftonville Development Plan – Preferred issues and options.

The petition had been signed by 641 residents and stated that:

“We, the residents of Cliftonville West, wish to express our views as part of the formal public consultation for the Cliftonville Development Plan – Preferred Issues and Options, (for Cliftonville West) which will form part of the Local Development Framework.

We want to revive Cliftonville with better quality, larger accommodation to encourage families and settled people to move in. This will mean more and better shops, businesses and leisure facilities.

We agree with the proposals set out in our submission prepared by the Street Schemes in Cliftonville West”.

No notice of a wish to make a verbal statement had been received.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Sheldrick, that:

“in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6 the petition be referred the Cabinet with a report back to the Council within three ordinary meetings”.

MOTION ADOPTED.

### **PETITION (iii) – NORTHDOWN ROAD PARKING**

The Council received a petition collected by local residents concerning Northdown Road Parking.

The petition had been signed by 1040 residents and stated that:

“We, the undersigned, strongly object to the 66% increase in parking charges in Northdown Road, which we feel is a retrograde step for a regeneration area, such as Cliftonville West. We consider it unjust that parts of Northdown Road are affected by this, whereas other local areas are not. We request that short-term parking should be free which would enable shoppers to use local facilities, without being penalised, which will, in turn obviously benefit the local area”.

A notice of a wish to make a verbal statement had been received from Mr Cooke who was present and addressed the meeting.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Sheldrick, that:

“in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6 the petition be referred the Cabinet with a report back to the Council within three ordinary meetings”.

MOTION ADOPTED.

### **PETITION (iv) – COMMUNITY WARDEN**

The Council received a petition collected by local residents concerning Community Warden

The petition had been signed by 1137 residents and stated that:

“We, the undersigned, strongly object to the withdrawal of the Community Wardens from the SSCF and Neighbourhood Renewal areas of Cliftonville West and Margate Central. The presence of these Wardens is imperative for the safety of the businesses, residents and community as a whole. (the regeneration areas of Cliftonville West and Margate Central are crime hotspots and 2 of the most deprived Wards, not only in Kent but in the South East of England)”.

No notice of a wish to make a verbal statement had been received.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Sheldrick, that:

“in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6 the petition be referred the Cabinet with a report back to the Council within three ordinary meetings”.

MOTION ADOPTED.

### **PETITION (v) – SAVE OUR TOWN WARDEN (HIGH STREET, MARGATE)**

The Council received a petition collected by local residents concerning Save our Town Warden (High Street, Margate)

The petition had been signed by 1522 residents and stated that:

"Thanet District Council are proposing to remove our Town Warden from our High Street. Since the introduction of the town Warden the level of crime and the fear of crime have been reduced. Please sign our petition so that our concerns are voiced to Thanet District Council".

No notice of a wish to make a verbal statement had been received.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Sheldrick, that:

"in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6 the petition be referred the Cabinet with a report back to the Council within three ordinary meetings".

MOTION ADOPTED.

#### **PETITION (vi) – TOILETS, HIGH STREET, ST LAWRENCE**

The Council received a petition collected by local residents concerning Toilets, High Street, St Lawrence.

The petition had been signed by 141 residents and stated that:

"Request to open the toilets, High Street, St Lawrence during the day".

A notice of a wish to make a verbal statement had been received from Mr Hart who was present and addressed the meeting.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Sheldrick, that:

"in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6 the petition be referred the Cabinet with a report back to the Council within three ordinary meetings".

MOTION ADOPTED.

#### **PETITION (vii) – ANNUAL RESIDENTS' PARKING PERMITS 2008/09**

The Council received a petition collected by local residents concerning Annual Residents' Parking Permits 2008/09

The petition had been signed by 61 residents and stated that:

"We wish to protest about the fact that the cost of a Thanet Annual Residents' Parking Permit for 2008/09 has been increased by 20% from 2007/08, to £60. This is a steep jump, especially when one considers that two years ago the cost of a Residents' Permit was £30. We believe that an increase in line with the current rate of inflation (roughly 2.5%) would be more appropriate. We would also like to see more consistent enforcement of parking regulations in the case of non-residents".

No notice of a wish to make a verbal statement had been received.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Sheldrick, that:

"in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6 the petition be referred the Cabinet with a report back to the Council within three ordinary meetings".

MOTION ADOPTED.

#### **PETITION (viii) – SAY NO TO THE SALE OF NORTHDOWN HOUSE**

The Council received a petition collected by local residents concerning Say no to the sale of Northdown House.

The petition had been signed by 1898 residents and stated that:

"We the undersigned, vehemently oppose Thanet District Council's proposed sale of Northdown house and its environs, which we firmly believe is held in trust for the use of local residents.

We further refer the Council to the Register for Title K903155, which covers the original generous conveyance of the land (13<sup>th</sup> January 1937). The covenants confirm the rights, benefit and protection of descendants and residents at East Northdown AND all the successors in title of Palm Bay Estates.

We demand Thanet District Council immediately withdraw this vital public amenity from its asset disposal list and confirm publicly that the ruling Conservative Group will abide by the covenants honorably agreed by the former Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Margate and the benefactors".

A notice of a wish to make a verbal statement had been received from Mrs Petfore who was present and addressed the meeting.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Sheldrick, that:

"in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6 the petition be referred the Cabinet with a report back to the Council within three ordinary meetings".

MOTION ADOPTED

It was noted that this matter was to be discussed at the next meeting of Cabinet on 7 August 2008.

#### **PETITION (ix) – COMMUNITY WARDENS**

The Council received a petition collected by local residents concerning Community Wardens

The petition had been signed by 258 residents and stated that:

"Is this the beginning of the end!!! Community wardens are the people who you call when you have trouble in your community. Community safety unit manager is restructuring the system so therefore this means we will lose our community wardens. One of our long standing local wardens has already been given notice. This will be the first of many.

Please sign the below petition to keep our community safe".

No notice of a wish to make a verbal statement had been received.

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Sheldrick, that:

"in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.6 the petition be referred the Cabinet with a report back to the Council within three ordinary meetings".

MOTION ADOPTED.

#### **24 QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no questions from the press and public.

#### **25 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Members noted that a question had been received from Councillor King which has been forwarded to Mrs Jennifer Sterndale, as Chairman of the Standards Committee, for a response. It was also noted that Councillor King objected to this course of action.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14, the question received from a Member of the Council was dealt with as follows:

Councillor D Green asked the following question of Councillor Ezekiel, Leader of the Council;

“Could the Leader of the Council inform us of the latest valuation the Council has of the old Marks and Spencer’s building in Margate high Street. Could he also indicate what the annual income to the council is being generated from this asset?”

Councillor Ezekiel responded as follows;

“The former Marks and Spencer building in Margate High Street has been included within the 2007/08 Financial Statement at a value of £2.75 million. This valuation was prepared by GVA Grimley in May 2006, and assets are normally revalued on a five yearly cycle.

At present we do not receive any income relating to this building, however the Council does not incur any Business Rates for this building as these are met by the occupier”.

## **26 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – UPDATE**

Members considered the report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager which gave an update on the Council’s appointments to Outside Bodies.

Moved by Councillor Ezekiel and seconded by Councillor Latchford that:

“Councillor Mrs Kirby withdraws from the Thanet Community Safety Partnership, leaving Councillor Gideon as Thanet’s sole representative

And

The Leader is Thanet Council’s representative, with Councillor Latchford as his named substitute, for South East Employers

And

The review of the Schedule to be undertaken by Officers in consultation with the Group Leaders with a report back to Council”

MOTION ADOPTED.

## **27 PROPOSED EXTENSION OF RAMSGATE CONSERVATION AREA TO INCLUDE GRANVILLE MARINA**

Members considered the report of the Head of Development Services.

On 12 June 2008 Cabinet agreed that the Ramsgate Conservation Area be extended to include Granville Marina. Because Council had previously agreed the serving of Article 4(2) Directions on unlisted buildings elsewhere in the Conservation Area the report recommended that they now be served in respect of unlisted buildings within the new extension to the conservation Area.

Moved by Councillor Latchford and seconded by Councillor D Green that:

“Council agrees the serving of Article 4(2) Directions on unlisted buildings within the new Granville Marina Conservation Area (as designated on 12 June 2008 by Cabinet) extension”

MOTION ADOPTED.

## **28 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY**

Members considered the report of the Head of Development Services which requested Council’s agreement to establish and agree the Terms of Reference for the Local Development Framework Working Party.

Moved by Councillor Latchford and seconded by Councillor Gregory that:

“A formal working party be established with five Members and with the terms of reference a set out in Annex 1 below;

Local Development Framework Working Party  
Terms of Reference July 2008

To consider the content of and to advise Cabinet on policy documents comprising the Thanet Local Development Framework.

In their considerations the Working Party should have regard to compliance with the relevant legislation, to government policy and guidance, to the other parts of the Development Plan for the area and to all other material considerations.

The Working Party will be bound by the existing standards and codes of conduct applicable to Thanet District Council Members.

The Working Party will be known as “The Local Development Framework Working Party”.

The Working Party will comprise five elected Councillors supported by a committee clerk and such professional officers as may be required.

The Chair will be elected at the first meeting.

Decisions will be by consensus or by a simple majority vote. Officers cannot vote.

Members will be nominated in the ratio of 3:2 between the Majority Group and the main Opposition Group.

Substitutes will be accepted”

MOTION ADOPTED.

Meeting concluded at 7.45pm.