

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 25 April 2007 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Swain (Chairman), Bradshaw, Blackmore, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Cole, Cross, Dennett, Edge, Findon, Gerrard, Gilligan, Harris, Hignett, Hodgkinson, Horabin, Howard, C Inch, D Inch, Jones, Leadbetter, Lewis, Lloyd Jones, Loftus, A. Lowe, Marlow, Massey, McDermott, McInerney, Morley, Nolan, Norddahl, Osborne, Parker, Pearsall, Philbin, Polhill, M Ratcliffe, Redhead, Rowan, Rowe, Sly, Stockton, Thompson, Wallace, Wharton, Whittaker, Worrall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Drakeley, Fraser, Higginson, E Ratcliffe, Swift and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Steff Nelson

Officers present: I. Leivesley, P. McWade, D. Parr, D Tregaea, M. Winstanley, C. Foley and L. Cairns

Also in attendance: 3 public

Action

(NB Prior to the start of the meeting the Council stood in silence for one minute in memory of Mrs Gilbody, a previous Council Member, who had recently died.)

COU76 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 21 February and 7 March 2007, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings be confirmed and adopted.

COU77 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- A pennant and literature from the home town of a group of student and teacher visitors from Latvia, visiting Ss Peter and Paul High School, had been presented to the Council on 7th March 2007.
- A medal from the Under 16s Touring Rugby League

Team from Carcassonne in France, paying a return visit following the West Bank Bears ARL visit to Carcassonne in October 2005, had been presented to the Council on 5th April 2007.

- A framed picture of a scene showing the Manchester Ship Canal had been presented to the Council on 12th April 2007 during a visit to Runcorn Town Hall.
- A medal, rugby ball and team shirt from team members of the Students European Nations Cup Finals, hosted in Halton on 8th April, had been presented to the Council on 25th April 2007. Councillor Jones was commended for the huge role he had played in organising this event.

In addition, the Mayor thanked Council for Members' exemplary conduct during the year and commended Councillors Pearsall and Whittaker, who would be standing down from office from 3rd May, for their distinguished service with the Council.

COU78 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader of the Council reported on the positive articles in the Manchester Evening News in respect of Daresbury and the Runcorn Industrial Market.

COU79 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board held on 8th February, 22nd February, 15th March and 29th March 2007. In receiving the minutes it was noted that minute number EXB91 of the meeting held on 15th March should refer to "children with a disability".

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

(NB Councillor Wharton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item of business in respect of minute number ES83 of the meeting held on 22nd February as his son played for Hale Juniors FC.)

COU80 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council considered the Minutes of the Executive Board Sub-Committee held on 8th February, 22nd February, 15th March and 29th March 2007.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU81 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE (TRANSMODAL IMPLEMENTATION) SUB-BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive (Transmodal Implementation) Sub-Board held on 1st March 2007.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU82 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8

It was noted that no questions had been submitted under Standing Order No. 8.

(NB Councillors Hodgkinson and Cole declared personal and prejudicial interests in the following item of business due to being nominees and left the room for the duration of its consideration.)

COU83 EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE - 22ND FEBRUARY (ES88 REFERS) - APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR 2007/08

The Executive Board Sub-Committee had considered a report regarding the appointment of a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Hodgkinson be appointed Mayor for the 2007/08 Municipal Year; and
- (2) Councillor Cole be appointed Deputy Mayor for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

COU84 EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE - 15TH MARCH (ES98 REFERS) - TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2007/8

The Executive Board Sub-Committee had considered a report regarding the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2007/08.

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy be approved.

COU85 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 15TH MARCH (EXB93 REFERS) - HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Executive Board had considered a report regarding the forecast outturn for the 2006/08 housing

capital programme, and seeking approval for the 2007/08 programme.

RESOLVED: That the proposed programme for 2007/08, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.

COU86 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 29TH MARCH (EXB98 REFERS) - GAMBLING ACT 2005 - DELEGATION

The Executive Board had considered a report regarding a recommendation from the Regulatory Committee in respect of setting fees under section 212 of the Gambling Act 2005.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Regulatory Committee to set fees under Section 212 Gambling Act 2005 in accordance with Section 154 Gambling Act 2005.

(NB Councillor Massey declared a personal interest in the following item of business in respect of minute no. HEA47 of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board held on 13th March 2007.)

COU87 MINUTES OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

The Council considered the reports on the work of the following Boards in the period since the last meeting of the Council:

Children and Young People
Employment, Learning and Skills
Healthy Halton
Safer Halton
Urban Renewal
Corporate Services
Business Efficiency Board

In receiving the minutes, the Chairs, Deputy Chairs and all Councillors on the Boards were thanked for their work and assistance throughout the year. In addition;

- in respect of minute number CYP50, bullet point 4, of the meeting of the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board (PPB) held on 26th February, an objection was raised in respect of the wording and the Chairman agreed to look at this the following meeting; and

- the Chairman of the Safer Halton PPB congratulated all officers and members who had been involved in reviewing the provision of alleygates, which were considered to be of great benefit, providing security and reducing the fear of crime.

COU88 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered reports on the following Committees in the period since the last meeting of the Council:

Development Control
Regulatory
Appointments

(NB At the close of the meeting the Leader thanked all Members for their service during the year and paid credit to the Mayor for the way he had chaired meetings and carried out his ambassadorial role, together with the Mayoress, throughout the year.)

Meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.