

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TANDRIDGE

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted on Thursday the 1st November 2012 at 7.35 p.m.

PRESENT: The Chairman of the Council (Councillor Mrs. Bradbury), the Vice-Chairman of the Council (Councillor Mrs. Connolly) and Councillors Ainsworth, Bangs, Mrs. Black, Bond, Botten, Cannon, Caudle, Childs, Compton, Cooley, Cooper, David, Dempsey, Duck, Mrs. Dunbar, Elias, Fisher, Gascoigne, Gosling, Harwood, Mrs. Ingham, Jones, Keenan, Keymer, Mrs. Marks, Morrow, Pannett, Mrs. Parker, Perkins, Pursehouse, Stead, Sydney, Mrs. Thorn, Turner, Mrs. Vickers, Wall, Mrs. Webster, Weightman and Mrs. Whittle.

The Meeting was preceded with a prayer read by Councillor Compton.

141. MINUTES

The minutes of the special and ordinary Council meetings held on the 19th July 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

142. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Ex-Councillors Mr. Bob Tomlin and Mrs. Ilse Simcocks

In September, the Council had been saddened to learn of the deaths of these two former Councillors. Mr. Tomlin had represented the Queens Park Ward from 1986 to 1994 and Mrs. Simcocks had represented the Portley Ward from 1991 to 1995. Members stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

(ii) Olympic Torch Relay

The Council had been thanked by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games for the part it played in the Olympic Torch Relay in July 2012. The Chairman commented that the Relay had been an excellent, well managed community event for the District. She praised the Councillors and staff concerned for their contributions and acknowledged the support of key partners including Surrey Police and Surrey County Council.

(iii) Renewable energy initiative

Members were advised that the Council had been published as a case study in a book, "A Guide to Solar PV Projects in the public sector" written in conjunction with the Renewable Energy Association.

(iv) 'Taste for Volunteering' Initiative

The Chairman announced that the Council, in conjunction with Tandridge Voluntary Service Council, would be staging three events on the 4th, 5th and 6th December to raise awareness of the importance of volunteering and the opportunities available.

(v) Civic Service – 23rd September 2012

The Chairman thanked those Councillors and staff who had supported this Service.

(vi) Remembrance Day

The Chairman welcomed the fact that many Councillors and staff would be taking part in Remembrance Day events throughout the District on the 11th November.

(vii) Mr. Stephen Weigel and Mr. Keith Price

The Chairman announced that Mr. Stephen Weigel and Mr. Keith Price would be retiring at the end of the year and that this was their last Council meeting.

Stephen had been with Tandridge for nine years and was the longest serving Chief Executive in Surrey.

Keith had joined Tandridge 33 years ago as a town planner before becoming Assistant Chief Executive and, since June 2012, Corporate Director. He was the Council's longest serving Chief Officer.

The Chairman invited Members to join her for a short while after the meeting to wish Stephen and Keith all the best for the future.

143. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the reports of the Committees shown below be received and adopted:

Planning Committee – 26th July 2012

No amendment.

Planning Committee – 23rd August 2012

No amendment.

Planning Policy Committee – 6th September 2012

No amendment.

Community Services Committee – 13th September 2012

No amendment.

Planning Committee – 20th September 2012

No amendment.

Special Resources Committee – 25th September 2012

No amendment.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 27th September 2012

No amendment.

Housing Committee – 4th October 2012

Minute 123 – Douglas Brunton Centre – Value for Money Review

Councillors Duck, Stead and Mrs. Webster declared non-pecuniary interests due to their appointments by the Council to serve on the Douglas Brunton Centre Management Committee. In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, they stayed in the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed and voted upon.

No amendment.

Resources Committee – 11th October 2012

No amendment.

Planning Committee – 18th October 2012

No amendment.

Chief Officer Appointments Sub-Committee – 23rd to 24th October 2012

No amendment.

144. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER 28 (3)

The Chairman of the Community Services Committee responded to a question submitted by Councillor Sydney regarding the disposal of clinical needles and other medical waste.

The Chairman of the Resources Committee responded to a question submitted by Councillor Sydney regarding the implications of forthcoming changes to the system for collecting business rates.

145. MOTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 7

The following Motions were referred to the Planning Policy Committee on the 29th November 2012 under Standing Order 7(4):

(i) Proposed by Councillor Weightman and seconded by Councillor Botten:

“This Council strongly supports the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) approach to the protection of the Green Belt. The Green Belt plays a vital part in the life and work of Tandridge District, its residents and those who work there. We call upon the Government to support strongly this aspect of the NPPF and the Planning Inspectorate to ensure it follows the NPPF position when reaching its decisions on planning applications relating to the Green Belt.”

(ii) Moved by Councillor Morrow and seconded by Councillor Weightman:

“This Council wishes the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to note the following:

This Council believes that local people, through their democratically elected local authorities, are the most suitable judges of what development is acceptable in an area and the suitable level of contributions that developers need to make.

This Council opposes:

- *The Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to have powers to override agreements between Councils and developers over the number of affordable housing units allocated to planning applications.*
- *The Secretary of State's proposals for planning permission – currently required for extensions of more than three or four metres from the rear wall of any home – to only be needed for those reaching beyond 8m for detached homes and 6m for others.*
- *The Secretary of State's intention to override Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1990 which will allow developers to immediately appeal to the Planning Inspectorate over the allocation of affordable housing units in any scheme they may be concerned with.*
- *The Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to take planning powers away from local authorities which he deems to be slow or of making poor quality planning decisions in determining applications.*

This Council notes that the current Coalition government did listen earlier in the year over concerns regarding the National Planning Policy Framework and revised its plans accordingly, so urges the Government to listen to the concerns being expressed by the Local Government Association on a cross party basis.

This Council therefore resolves to formally write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, outlining its opposition to the plans.”