

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, HARROGATE
ON 19 APRIL 2006
(FROM 5.30 PM TO 7.10 PM)**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Bayliss in the Chair). Councillors Heather Adderley, Robin Adderley, Mrs Atkinson, Beer, Broadbank, Jean Butterfield, Chapman, Cooper, Joan Crowther, Fawcett, Fox, Freeman, Galloway, Dr Gardner, Goss, Grange, Harrison, Hawke, Hawkins, Elwyn Hinchcliffe, Houlton, Andrew Jones, Anne Jones, Pat Jones, Chris Lewis, Macare, Pat Marsh, Marsh, Nash, Newby, Charlie Powell, Dr Rothwell, Simister, Simms, Skidmore, Mrs Smith, Smith, Sturdy, Theakston, Trotter, Webber, Williams, Willis and Wilson.

Late Arrivals: None.

Early Departures: Councillor Powell at 6.30 pm
Councillor Williams at 6.30 pm.

87/05 - **PRAYER:** Councillor Broadbank led Members in prayer prior to commencement of the meeting and in doing so referred to the sad loss of former Councillor Barry Haxby who had served on the Council from 1988 until 2000 and was Mayor of the District for 1995-96. Councillor Broadbank called upon the Council to observe a period of silence in memory of the late Barry Haxby.

86/05 - **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alton, Brown, Clark, de Coursey-Bayley, Ellington, Martin, Phillips, Ward and Wren.

87/05 - **URGENT BUSINESS:** There were no items of urgent business.

88/05 - **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Councillor Cooper declared a personal interest in any relevant items appearing before the Council associated with the HIC and the use of its facilities by his employer for conference purposes.

89/05 - **EXEMPT INFORMATION:** There was no exempt information.

90/05 - **MINUTES:**

Moved by Councillor Dr Gardner Seconded by Councillor Cooper

and **RESOLVED:**

That subject to amendment of the record to reflect the submission of Councillor Anne Jones' apologies for the meeting the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 1 March 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(Forty one Members voted for the motion and there were four abstentions).

91/05 - **COMMUNICATIONS:**

01. **HARROGATE'S HOUSING TEAM:** The Mayor advised that for the third year running the Housing Team of Harrogate Borough Council had been recognised, following independent reports, as the top housing performer in the country. On behalf of the Council the Mayor conveyed her congratulations to the Director and his staff.
02. **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:** The Mayor presented Garry Atkins with his award for Council Employee of the Year and explained to Council his dedication and commitment to his work which had resulted in, first his nomination and ultimately, his winning of the title of Council Employee of the Year. Garry had now been short listed in the final six to go forward for the national award to be staged in Bournemouth later in the year.
03. **TOWN TWINNING:** The Mayor advised that the first meeting of the Town Twinning Advisory Group had taken place on 6 April when it had commenced work on reporting back to Cabinet on the possibility of establishing a link with a third world town. It was hoped that a representative from the Malawi High Commission would be able to attend a future meeting of the Group in order to provide information on the country but in the meantime the Group would welcome any information Members had on links with the third world. Information on existing links had also been sought from the public via the local press.
04. **HARROGATE BOWLING CLUB:** The Mayor reported that the Harrogate Bowling Club had on the occasion of the Council's 75th anniversary donated to the Council a silver sugar sifter. The Club was now celebrating its own 75th anniversary and, in recognition of this fact, the Mayor had agreed to loan the silver sugar sifter to the Bowling Club for its own anniversary year.
05. **WELL TO WELL WALK:** The Mayor gave details of her Well to Well Walk which was to take place on 7 May 2006 in association with which a Hog Roast and Water Competitions would also take place and invited as many Members as possible to take part in the event.
06. **DRINKS:** The Mayor advised that she was departing from the convention of offering drinks upon conclusion of the final Council Meeting of the municipal year in favour of an invitation to all Members to join her and her consort at her home, details of which had been circulated to all Members.
07. **RETIRING MEMBERS:** The Mayor advised that Councillors Joan Crowther, Simister, Skidmore and John Smith were attending their last Meeting of the Council, having decided not to offer themselves for re-election in the forthcoming District Council Elections on 4 May and called upon the Council to recognise their contribution to its business during their terms of office.

92/05 - **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – PETITIONS:** No petitions had been received.

93/05 - **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – QUESTIONS:** No questions had been received.

94/05 - **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME:** No questions had been received.

95/05 - **MEMORANDA OF REPORT FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS:** There were no reports to be considered.

96/05 - **REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS NOTICES OF MOTION:** In accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(a), the Council considered the following reports on the Notices of Motion referred from Council at its meeting held on 1 March 2006.

(96/05 01) **PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF GREENFIELD LAND FOR BUILDING:** The Cabinet Member for Planning submitted a written report, arising from a Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Houlst and seconded by Councillor Rothwell outlining the strong feeling in Knaresborough against any proposal to extend the current built up limits of the town, by way of identification in the Local Development Framework of areas of Greenfield land for housing and other development. A meeting between the Cabinet Member and the mover of the motion had, therefore, been held on 31 March 2006 at which the Local Development Framework process had been discussed together with the Government policy requiring local authorities to ensure that appropriate provision to meet housing requirement throughout the plan period was made. The Cabinet Member had recognised the strong feelings against all the possible urban extensions identified in the last round of consultation and, in addition, their adverse environmental and other impacts. At this stage, however, it seemed very unlikely that a major urban extension would be needed and the Cabinet Member therefore felt able to assure Members that none of the potential areas previously identified would be a 'preferred option' in meeting future housing requirements in the next stage of work on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

Moved by Councillor Cooper

Seconded by Councillor Dr Gardner

and **RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That the report and action of the Cabinet Member be accepted.

(96/05 02) **CEMETERY MEMORIALS:** The Cabinet Member for Cultural Services submitted a written report, arising from a Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Williams and seconded by Councillor Powell calling on the Council to agree to commence a phased programme of works to ensure that, following a number of memorials which had been laid flat, the Council's cemeteries were restored to a condition that bereaved relatives would expect. The Cabinet Member had, therefore, met with the mover and seconder of the motion on 29 March 2006. In recognising the

administrative and financial difficulties in reinstating the memorials the Meeting had discussed the involvement of personnel from the Ripon Army Base together with that of the Probation Service, in addition to which the Cabinet Member advised that she was keen to find a way of resolving the issue and had, therefore, agreed to discuss with the administration the availability of any financial resources to commence works and also investigate whether additional funding could be identified to aid progression of the works.

Moved by Councillor Pat Jones

Seconded by Councillor Dr Gardner

and **RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That the report and action of the Cabinet Member be accepted.

97/05 - **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND CABINET:** The Council resolved upon the various non-delegated Minutes of Committees and Cabinet as follows:-

97/05(01) – **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2006:**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Atkinson

Seconded by Councillor Jean Butterfield

and **RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 23 March 2006 be approved and adopted.

97/05 (02) – **CABINET – 5 APRIL 2006:**

Moved by Councillor Dr Gardner

Seconded by Councillor Cooper

and **RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That the Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 5 April 2006 be approved and adopted.

98/05 - **PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL BY THE EXECUTIVE:** In accordance with Standing Order 28, the Cabinet Member for Cultural Services and Leader of the Council addressed the Council on the major and/or topical issues arising under their portfolio as summarised below:-

CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURAL SERVICES

Parks and Bereavement Services: Community work, projects, greenflag assessments, commuted sums, parks strategy and ISO accreditation.

Leisure, Museum and Arts: Widening access, a range of opportunities, safer, stronger communities, improving education, the local economy, improving health and building capacity.

The Cabinet Member then answered Members' questions.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillors: Their role, their value, democracy, improvement and involvement, the Cabinet system and the role of Central Government.

Council Issues: Recycling, e-Government, single-status, Renaissance, Royal Hall, car parks, Regional Assembly, Leeds City Region and Local Government Reorganisation.

The Leader of the Council then answered Members' questions.

99/05 - **NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED:** In accordance with Standing Order 10, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted those Notices of Motion received of which that shown at 01 below was debated by Council.

01. This Council recognises public fears about the health effects of mobile phone masts and will ask all North Yorkshire Councils to form a non-political Group to share best practice on preventing mobile phone companies from setting up masts in residential areas or where vulnerable groups, such as schoolchildren, may be exposed.

The Group will represent the concerns of local residents on masts to the Government and campaign for more power to be given to planning authorities to reject applications for masts on health grounds.

In the meantime this Council continues its stance introduced in 2001, not to allow new masts on Council-owned buildings.

Proposed: Councillor Richard Cooper Seconded: Councillor Andrew Jones

In accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(F) this Notice was debated by Council.

On a vote being taken on the Motion thirty-eight Members voted in favour, one against and there was one abstention.

The Mayor declared the Motion carried.

02. For the benefit of those traders who need and depend upon the assistance that A-boards can provide to the success of their business, this Council looks to provide a scheme which would enable them legally to display one. This could form a scheme whereby a business could purchase the right to display an A-board as long as it was within certain dimensions, displayed in a position not to inhibit pedestrian flow or it was complying with instructions provided by the Council.

If it is necessary to consult with North Yorkshire County Council about providing this service for our local traders, then this Council is instructed to do so. This Council should do everything within its power to obtain the right for local business to apply to display an A-board in order to maximise their chances of trading successfully.

Proposed: Councillor Reg Marsh Seconded: Councillor Pat Marsh

The Mayor ruled that, in accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(a) this motion stood referred to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

03. This Council should consider the reintroduction of a Ward Members' Allowance to support local Ward initiatives.

Proposed: Councillor Chris Lewis Seconded: Councillor Bill Houlst

The Mayor ruled that, in accordance with Standing Order 10(6)(a) this Motion stood referred to the Leader.

100/05 - **COMMON SEAL:**

Moved by Councillor Dr Gardner Seconded by Councillor Cooper

and **RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That (1) the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the Deeds and documents necessary to carry out the resolutions confirmed and passed this day; and

(2) no Deed shall be treated as being conditional upon the Council proceeding to completion of the transaction relevant to any Deeds..