MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2011 AT SIX THIRTY O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENT: HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR Councillor Lane (in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS: Ansell, Beardsworth, Bottwood, Capstick, Caswell, N Choudary, Davies, Duncan, Eales, Eldred, Ford, Glynane, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, King, Larratt, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Marriott, Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Palethorpe, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Stone, Strachan, Wire DL and Yates

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Beardsworth declared a Personal interest in item 8- Opposition Group Business insofar as the discussion might refer to Community Law of which she was a trustee.

Councillor Malpas declared a Personal interest in item 7- Cabinet Member Presentations insofar as Councillor Eldred’s Portfolio Holder Report referred to Service Six of which he was a member and Treasurer.

2. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meetings of Council held on 24 October and 7 November 2011 were agreed and signed by the Mayor subject to the amendment on page six of the minutes of the meeting of 24 October so as to add the words “the introduction of” to Councillor Yates’s comment on the introduction of the new waste collection service.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Aziz, Begum, I Choudary, Conroy, Flavell, Hill, Lynch and Subbarayan.

4. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor commented that his Gala dinner had raised just over £1,000 towards his charities. He also reported that the Royal Lancers had presented the Council with a lance spike.

The Mayor announced that Justin Gleitch, Conservative Group Political Assistant, and his wife had had a baby girl on 4 December 2011.

The Mayor reported that the Strictly Dancing competition organised by the Chronicle and Echo and which he and Councillor Glynane had entered had raised £33,000 for charity. He presented Councillor Glynane with a crystal from the competition as a fellow competitor.
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Ms Walker commented that the BBC was currently consulting on the future of its services and encouraged Councillors to respond to the questionnaire on the BBC Trust website in respect of Radio Northampton. Radio Northampton had a large listening public but it was proposed that broadcast hours be reduced and programmes paired down including sharing programming with Cambridge. She did not believe that this would be good for a growing county. She stated that at a regional meeting it had appeared that Radio1 and Radio 4 would be unaffected by the proposals and that regional radio would take a disproportionate hit. She believed that local radio was a good form of communication for the public.

Mr Tuttle stated that he had been a bus user for 50 years and had previously been involved in a bus station campaign in Southampton. He believed that the Council was making a big mistake in proposing the demolition of the existing bus station. He stated that there were many older people who had never driven and he noted articles in the Chronicle and Echo not supporting the demolition of the bus station. He hoped that the Council would reflect on this. In Southampton a lot of money had been spent on advertising their proposals but after five years nothing had actually happened. He understood that the Council did not have all the funding needed in place and he noted that Brian Binley MP was interested in where the funding was coming from.

Mr Baker contrasted Councillor Mackintosh’s statements about the Christmas Lights switch on with the County Council’s views on switching street lights back on. He stated that he believed that the proposals for the new bus interchange were ill thought out, too small and that people didn’t like it. He commented that the Fish Market was one of the oldest parts of the town and should be preserved. He believed that the Council was not listening to the public.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 18 questions had been received from members of the public and Councillors and that they and the answers had been tabled in accordance with the Constitution.

In the absence of Mr McNabb it was noted that the responses to his questions would be sent to him.

Mr Adams asked Councillor Markham as the relevant Portfolio Holder for an assurance that her Group would uphold their manifesto pledge on sheltered housing and noted the response as tabled. As a supplementary question he asked if her Group was also honour its manifesto pledge to retain control of of sheltered housing bearing in mind that a review had already been carried out. Councillor Markham stated that a review was underway, its results would be considered and any proposals would be consulted upon.

Mr Adams asked Councillor Bottwood as the relevant Portfolio Holder what contracts the Council had with supported factories or businesses and noted the response. As a supplementary question Mr Adams asked the Portfolio Holder to confirm that there were none. Councillor Bottwood confirmed that there were no Council contract with supported factories or businesses.
Councillor Mason asked Councillor Caswell as the relevant Portfolio Holder whether the Council was taking customer comments and complaints on the environmental services provided by Enterprise and noted the response.

Councillor Mason asked Councillor Markham as the relevant Portfolio Holder whether there were plans to use powers in the Localism Act to restrict the number of people joining the social housing register and noted the response. As a supplementary question Councillor Mason asked when a report would go to Cabinet. Councillor Markham commented as soon as the Tenancy Strategy was ready.

Councillor Mason asked Councillor Larratt as Special Advisor to the Leader on Shared Services what services were being considered and noted the response. As a supplementary question Councillor Mason asked what “back office” meant. Councillor Larratt stated all back office functions such as Finance and IT.

Councillor Stone asked Councillor Markham as the relevant Portfolio Holder about the projected impact on local residents of the rise in rents and the new cap on housing benefit and noted the response. As a supplementary question she asked how any increase in homelessness due to this would be monitored. Councillor Markham commented that the Council would be working closely with landlords and other partners to monitor the situation.

Councillor Stone asked Councillor Hadland as the relevant Portfolio Holder whether he supported the renaming of the top of Abington Street “Eastgate” and noted the response. As a supplementary question she asked if the Portfolio Holder would support any public consultation on this. Councillor Hadland stated that he did support public consultation on this.

Councillor Capstick asked Councillor Markham as the relevant Portfolio Holder if she agreed that a viable long term Tenant Participation strategy should be submitted to Cabinet before July 2012 and noted the response. As a supplementary question she asked the Portfolio Holder when Cabinet would receive a report on co-regulation. Councillor Markham commented that the Officers were working hard to understand the implications of the Localism Act and a report would go to Cabinet as soon as practicable.

Councillor Capstick asked Councillor Hadland as the relevant Portfolio Holder whether, in the light of current economic projections, the Joint Core Strategy was now deliverable in the medium term and noted the response.

Councillor N. Choudary asked Councillor Mackintosh as the relevant Portfolio Holder whether the Administration intended to continue the Councillor Development Group and noted the response.

Councillor Marriott asked Councillor Mackintosh as the relevant Portfolio Holder about the decision to scrap Neighbourhood Management Boards and noted the response. He commented that he would bring forward a review by Overview and Scrutiny of the neighbourhood management arrangements to January 2012. Councillor Mackintosh
commented that he supported such a review.

Councillor Capstick asked Councillor Mackintosh as the relevant Portfolio Holder whether a “local joint committee” could be created such as that at the County Council and noted the response. As a supplementary question she asked if the Portfolio Holder supported the idea of a “local joint committee”. Councillor Mackintosh commented that he had nothing further to add to his response.

Councillor Marriott asked Councillor Bottwood as the relevant Portfolio Holder whether the Administration planned to freeze Council Tax in 2012/13 and noted the response. As supplementary question he asked if any contingency had been made for a by-election. Councillor Bottwood commented that the budget would include a contingency for unforeseen events.

Councillor N. Choudary asked Councillor Caswell as the relevant Portfolio Holder what ideas he had to encourage residents to recycle more and noted the response.

Councillor Wire asked Councillor Mackintosh as the relevant Portfolio Holder about the Council’s support to the St James Residents Association in trying to find suitable premises for the relocation of S James Library and noted the response. As a supplementary question he asked if the response was confirmation that the Council was not going to end the current agreement or financial support for the current library premises. Councillor Mackintosh stated that he would be meeting representatives of the St James Residents Association later in the week.

Councillor Beardsworth asked Councillor Mackintosh as the relevant Portfolio Holder why the practice of regularly publishing finance and performance data had been stopped and noted the response. As a supplementary question she noted that no performance information had been published for seven months and asked how the public could hold the Council to account. Councillor Mackintosh commented that a performance report would be going to Cabinet on 14 December. He agreed that this was an important subject and that Portfolio Holders had regular meetings with Directors to discuss these issues. He noted that not all indicators were reported on a monthly basis.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

At this point each of the Portfolio Holders made a presentation of their respective portfolios that had been circulated with the agenda.

Councillor Mackintosh submitted his Portfolio Holder report. Councillor Stone asked what had been discussed with Legal and General in respect of the way forward: what issues had been raised with the Prime Minister and whether Bridge Street would be closed to traffic for every big event. Councillor Mackintosh commented that Legal and General had welcomed the provision of funding for the bus interchange and the Prime Minister had been very interested in the Enterprise Zone. Bridge Street would now be closed to traffic at weekends until the New Year. Discussions were continuing with the Police about future closures of Bridge Street. Councillor Beardsworth asked why there was no reference to performance in his report and why had he asked the Chief
Executive not to provide this information to other Councillors. She noted that the last published performance information on the website was that of the outgoing Liberal Democrat Administration. Councillor Mackintosh commented that he had not instructed the Chief Executive to withhold performance information from Councillors and that the report for Cabinet on this would be published the following day. Councillor Glynane noted the County Council’s proposal to cut funding to PCSOs by £500,000 and that the Council funded PCSOs to the tune of £100,000. He asked if there were any proposals to cut this funding. Councillor Mackintosh noted that budget proposals would go to Cabinet later in the month; he was also due to meet with the Police Authority to discuss budgets. Councillor Stone enquired as to how much FOI responses cost and whether the number of enquiries reflected a lack of transparency. Councillor Mackintosh commented that he would write to Councillor Stone in respect of the cost of FOI responses and commented that he believed in publishing more information and thereby reduce the number of FOI enquiries. Councillor Glynane noted the report to Overview and Scrutiny on performance monitoring on 14 November and the latest information on the website related to March 2011. He also noted that 505 of indicators were red flagged. Councillor Mackintosh agreed that some performance indicators were giving concern and that action was being taken to deal with them. In some cases it might be that some of the targets were unrealistic and required revision.

Councillor Caswell submitted his Portfolio Holder report. Councillor Eales commented that as part of the Enterprise contract a sweeper service was meant to follow refuse collection vehicles to deal with spillages etc. This did not appear to be happening regularly in Spencer but did appear to be happening in more affluent areas. He also noted that refuse bins in Gladstone Road had yet to be replaced and asked if the Portfolio Holder work with him to resolve these issues. Councillor Caswell commented that he would be happy to work with Councillor Eales on these matters. Councillor Meredith noted that the report did not mention food waste collection and enquired as to the cost in delaying its introduction. Councillor Caswell commented that the scheme had been due to be introduced in the Autumn but that it had been agreed to delay it until after Christmas so as to allow a smoother introduction. There was no cost incurred by this delay and by coincidence there had been a small saving. Councillor Glynane noted that Councillor Yates had previously stated that there had only been eleven enquiries about pest control to the One Stop Shop out of 30,000 in total. As the service had only cost £10,000 he asked if the Portfolio Holder would reinstate the service. Councillor Caswell commented that reinstatement of the Pest Control Service was being considered as part of the budget. Councillor Meredith commented that he had asked at the last Council meeting for a statement concerning equipment that was available for Community Clear Ups and that he had not had a response. Councillor Caswell stated that an e-mailed response had been sent to him two days previously.

Councillor Eldred submitted his Portfolio Holder report. Councillor Davies enquired as to the progress of recruiting Junior Wardens in schools. Councillor Eldred stated that he would send her an update. Councillor Eales noted that at the last Council meeting he had asked when the hand over of Dallington Spencer Community Centre to Deafconnect was due to take place and had been told that it should have been completed by 5 December. However, he had now been told by Deafconnect that
completion was now not due until the end of January 2012 and that no repair work had yet been started. Councillor Eldred stated that he would write to Councillor Eales. Councillor Glynane asked when the management of Parklands Community Centre would take place. Councillor Eldred commented that he could not give a date but that work was progressing towards a handover. Councillor Glynane also asked when neighbourhood public meetings would be reinstated and why no dates appeared on the website and why there were no action plans. Councillor Eldred commented that he had asked Wardens to e-mail Councillors with the Action Plans by the end of the week and in respect of neighbourhood public meetings it was up to Councillors to say what meetings they wanted; this would give them greater flexibility. Councillor Meredith stated that the users of Southfields Community Centre had previously asked for a meeting with the new management committee but to date nothing had happened. Councillor Eldred undertook to liaise between the management committee and Councillor Meredith over dates for a meeting.

Councillor Bottwood submitted his Portfolio Holder report and noted that the External Auditor had now signed off grant claims relating to the 2010/11 accounts and that ICT continued to make improvements to the Council’s IT infrastructure to support the improvement of the Council’s services. Councillor Beardsworth asked for an update on the Council’s policy to give preference to local suppliers and also asked how opposition Councillors and the public could respond to financial matters when the information was being withheld. Councillor Bottwood commented that a Procurement Open Day had recently been held and that the Council did what it could within the law. The Council had to set a budget and would listen to suggestions from the opposition. Councillor Glynane asked what the programme for public consultation on the budget would be. Councillor Bottwood stated that it would be the same as in previous years. Councillor Davies noted that the timing of the Procurement Day had not been good for small businesses being in the lead up to Christmas. She asked if it could be repeated in the New Year. Councillor Bottwood commented that there was probably never a good time of year but that a further session could be considered. Councillor Stone asked what happened to old equipment that the Council had declared surplus to its needs. Councillor Bottwood stated that he would write to Councillor Stone with a response and that suggestions for recycling would be welcome.

Councillor Markham submitted her Portfolio Holder report. Councillor Strachan thanked Councillor Caswell for his comments concerning pest control and congratulated Councillor Markham upon her recent appointment as Portfolio Holder for Housing and thanked the previous Portfolio Holder, Councillor Malpas for his support. Councillor Strachan commented that he was disappointed that the report made no reference to the housing policy review and asked when it would take place and submitted to Cabinet. He also asked for an update on the review of Council owned garages in terms of how many were in Council ownership, how many were unoccupied and the cost of repairs and enquired if Overview and Scrutiny should see any report before Cabinet. Councillor Markham commented that the housing strategy would be presented to Cabinet in due course. Councillor Davies commented that walkabouts on Delapre and Briar Hill had shown up the flats that were in need of repair and she asked when they would be brought up to standard. Councillor Markham commented that this was true of other areas of the town and indicated that
she would look at any examples referred to her. Councillor Glynane commented that Officers had been very helpful to residents over Decent Homes and asked that consideration be given to a process to assisting vulnerable people whilst the works were being undertaken. Councillor Markham thanked Councillor Glynane for his comments about Decent Homes and that she was happy to discuss issues surrounding carrying out of work in the homes of vulnerable people. Councillor Mason asked when the results of the garage review would be known and noted the progress in respect of Robinson House. Councillor Markham stated that the garage review was continuing and that in some areas garages had been replaced with affordable housing. Councillor Meredith noted that he and Councillor I Choudary were part of the garage review and were waiting for the last few bits of information before a report could be made to Overview and Scrutiny. He suggested that Councillor Markham discuss the matter with Councillor Malpas. Councillor Beardsworth asked what the impact would be of the cuts in benefits supported by the new Leader. Councillor Markham stated that the reviews currently being undertaken would report once completed. Councillor Glynane commented that he had raised the street light switch off with the Chief Executive of the County Council but had had no response to comments made where lighting had been switched off at sheltered housing schemes and especially where lights had illuminated steps. This not only affected tenants but also visitors including Doctors and Nurses. Councillor Markham commented that this should be raised with the County Council and reminded Councillors of the consultation undertaken by the County Council earlier in the year. Councillor Glynane stated that the County Council were not listening and asked the Portfolio Holder to discuss with the County Council switching some of the street lights back on. Councillor Markham asked that he let her have examples and she would discuss these with the County Council.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Portfolio Holder Report and noted that some obsolete ticket machines in the Grosvenor Car Park were being replaced. Councillor Hadland referred to Mr Tuttle’s comments earlier in the meeting concerning the bus interchange and noted that public consultation was continuing. The full funding was in place. The County Council were meeting the design costs; WNDC had contributed £4m and the Council up to £3m. He accepted that change upset people but the new facility would be on the level, improving access and there would be no need for lifts, stairs or escalators. He reminded Council that the current Bus Station had been voted the second worst public building in the United Kingdom some years previously. This was an opportunity to have a facility that everyone could be proud of. Councillor Hadland commented that the Enterprise Zone was progressing well and a meeting on 7 December would be reported back to Council. Councillor Davies asked that Councillors from Delapre and Briar Hill Ward be included in the circulation of information concerning the Enterprise Zone. Councillor Hadland commented that he was happy for this to be done.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Beadsworth commented that there were 10,500 children and an unknown number adults living in poverty in Northampton. As incomes fell and the cost of living increased more people would find themselves in fuel poverty. Fuel costs were set to
rise a further 20%. She queried what the Council was doing to help people. Many other Councils such as Norfolk and the Isle of Wight had put schemes together to help people. She commented that this Christmas many people would be disappointed or would have to manage debt. The Council needed to do more to help the old, vulnerable and the poor.

Councillor Mackintosh stated that Councillor Beardsworth had raised important issues and that the Council had an obligation to help the vulnerable especially as the energy providers had increased their tariffs. He noted the Council’s affordable warmth strategy for tenants and that the Council was working with EON on energy efficiency measures.

Councillor Beardsworth commented that Age UK had made a bid for Warm and Healthy Homes funding and noted that a previous scheme with Boots to test electric blankets was to be included. She noted that heaters would be given by Age Concern to vulnerable people coming out of hospital and to vulnerable families with young children.

9. APPOINTMENT TO NORTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL CHURCH CHARITY

Councillor Patel submitted a report that sought approval of the appointment of Mr Richard Pestell as a Trustee of Northampton Municipal Church Charity. Councillor Wire DL seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: That Mr Richard Pestell be appointed as Trustee to Northampton Municipal Church Charity.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Mr Clarke commented that unless the Council had proper authority and was in charge of its own destiny it would always get a raw deal. When this issue had arisen previously it had usually received unanimous support. However, he felt that some Councillors would oppose the motion, particularly those who were County Councillors; they would say that the timing was wrong. The Council would never get City status unless the Council put it on the agenda. The former Government Minister John Gummer had said that it had been a mistake that the Town had not been made a City in 1995. He hoped that Councillors would ask for a recorded vote as he believed that the public had the right to know who supported the County Council. He stated that he would give up his County seat to sit on an unitary Borough Council. He urged Councillors to support the motion.

Honorary Alderman Dickie commented that unitary status was often a topic of debate and the timing of this one was appropriate. There had to be unanimous support for it. He commented that there was never a good time to raise this issue but the Localism Act brought responsibility closer to the people, so this was the right time to introduce it. Twenty years ago it had been a different situation but now there was a better chance of success with the experience of those towns that had gained city status, the University, and the experience of ex-councillors to guide a campaign. Although Police and Fire powers could not be taken back and Education was perhaps too far along a different route, it was
absurd that Social Services and Housing were separate. He believed that the Council owed it to the people of Northampton to argue for unitary status.

Councillor Mason proposed and Councillor Marriott seconded:

“This Council notes that Cllr T Hadland And Cllr A Woods put an amendment to a motion in November 2006 (motion by Cllr L Barron and Cllr L Marriott) supporting unitary status for Northampton but not on the current borough boundaries. The amendment also clearly opposed a unitary Northamptonshire. The motion and amendment was carried.

This Council reaffirms its long held commitment to achieving Unitary Status for Northampton on expanded borough boundaries and opposes any plans to create a Unitary Northamptonshire.

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Leader of Northamptonshire County Council and Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government stating this motion has the support of NBC full Council."

Council debated the motion.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion Councillors Beardsworth, Capstick, N. Choudary, Davies, Eales, Glynane, Gowen, Marriott, Mason, Mennell, Meredith Palethorpe, Stone, Strachan and Wire DL.

There voted against the motion Councillors Ansell, Bottwood, Caswell, Duncan, Eldred, Ford, Golby, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, King, Larratt, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant and Yates.

There abstained: The Mayor

The motion was lost.

(ii) Ms Walker stated that the Northampton Carnival Committee was very proud that the Olympic Flame was coming to Northampton and hoped that they could be involved in the event. She observed that the Committee had been awarded the Inspire mark. In the present circumstances there was constant talk about the financial situation but there was a wealth of talent within Northampton. She asked the Council to consider how it could support organisations that wanted to be involved with 2 July 2012 and how disadvantaged and vulnerable groups could be included. She commented that there was a synergy between the Carnival on 9 June and 2 July and also the Queen’s Jubilee and the 50th Anniversary of Jamaican Independence

Councillor. Eldred proposed and Councillor King seconded:
“Council welcomes the news that as part of the Olympic Torch Relay the Olympic Flame will be coming to Northampton on 2nd July 2012 during its 70-day journey to the Olympic stadium in London.

The arrival of the Olympic Flame in Northampton is an exciting opportunity for the town to be involved in Olympic fever and feel part of this once in a lifetime event. Council will work with residents, community groups and its partners to use the excitement of the games and the arrival of the torch to promote the virtues of sport, education, friendship and fair play that are encompassed by the Olympic Games.

This council also encourages local schools, community groups and organisations to seize these opportunities and harness interest in the Olympics for the good of Northampton.”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

(iii) Councillor Hadland proposed and Councillor Nunn seconded:

“Council reaffirms its commitment to support local businesses, local jobs and the local economy in these difficult financial times. Northampton Borough Council has a civic responsibility to promote local enterprise wherever it can, and to work with partners to create and sustain good quality jobs and a healthy environment in which businesses can flourish.

Council notes the following positive developments since May 2011:

Northampton is one of 22 areas nationally to be awarded an Enterprise Zone, which will give our town a competitive edge in attracting and keeping new business investment, high quality education and skilled jobs through favourable planning regulations and concessions to business rates.

By introducing a scheme of one hour free parking and free Sunday town centre parking this administration is supporting local businesses by giving shoppers an additional financial incentive to visit our town centre.

Funding has been secured to relocate and demolish the old bus station, which is the first, and long overdue step towards the regeneration of the Grosvenor Centre and town centre retail.

The administration is working with market traders and the Town Centre BID to make improvements to the organisation of the Market Square that will help traders and businesses who depend on it to make a living.

With local partners the Borough Council has put together one of the best Christmas packages of events and decorations for many years to attract
Christmas shoppers, and keep them returning to our town throughout the year. In difficult financial times, Council welcomes the contribution of local businesses to make this happen.”

Councillor Marriott proposed and Councillor Gowen seconded an amendment as follows:

“That the following be added following the final paragraph of the motion;

“This Council further notes that all the above have been supported by the Main Opposition, Northampton Labour Group, as these have been positive developments instigated by the Leader of the Council aided by the Cabinet.

In addition the Council recognises that the support of Labour led Luton Borough Council, like other members of SEMLEP, was important in establishing the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone”.

Council debated the amendment.

Upon a vote the amendment was lost.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

11. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

The Mayor was of the opinion that the following item be discussed as a Matter of Urgency due to undue delay if consideration of it were deferred:

COMMITTEE PROPORTIONALITY AND COMMITTEE PLACES

Councillor Mackintosh submitted a report that set out the effect of Councillor Palethorpe joining the Labour Group and sought Council’s approval of the consequent changes to the number and Group proportionality of seats on each committee and the consequential effect on Committee memberships. Councillor Caswell seconded the report.

RESOLVED: 1. That the result of Councillor Palethorpe joining the Labour Group be noted.
2. That the number of seats on each Committee as set in the report be approved.
3. That the representation of the political groups be as set out in this report.
4. That the removal of Councillor Eldred from the membership of the Appointments and Appeals Committee and the removal of
Councillor Hill from the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.
5. That Councillor Palethorpe be appointed to the Audit Committee.
6. That Councillor Beardsworth be appointed to the Appointments and Appeals Committee.

The meeting concluded at 21.12 hours.