

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 3 December 2012 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

COUNCILLORS: Ansell, Aziz, Beardsworth, Begum, Bottwood, Caswell, I. Choudary, N Choudary, Davies, Duncan, Eldred, Flavell, Ford, Glynane, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Markham, Marriott, Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Palethorpe, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Stone, Strachan, Subbarayan and Wire DL

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Eldred declared a personal interest in Item 9 – Community Governance Review as a member of the Parish Council Wootton and East Hunsbury.

Councillor Bottwood declared a personal interest in Item 9 – Community Governance Review as a member of the Parish Council for Upton.

Councillor Hill declared a personal interest in Item 9 – Community Governance Review as his wife was a member of the Parish Council for Wootton and East Hunsbury

Councillor Nunn declared a personal interest in Item 9 – Community Governance Review as a member of the Parish Council for Wootton and East Hunsbury

Councillor Larratt declared a personal interest in Item 9 – Community Governance Review as Ward Councillor for East Hunsbury

Councillor Patel declared a personal interest in Item 9 – Community Governance Review as a member of the Parish Council for Wootton and East Hunsbury.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd October 2012 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Capstick, Eales and Malpas.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor commented that he had attended a Britain in Bloom presentation at the Guildhall. A certificate was accepted by Councillors Mackintosh and Caswell on

behalf of John Farrell for his contributions and efforts towards Britain in Bloom.

The Mayor commented that he and the Mayoress had attended the Supplementary Schools Annual Dinner which had been very successful and noted the outstanding contributions that supplementary schools had made.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mr Mike Penny addressed Council and expressed his concern over the abolition of Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council. He commented that there would be financial implications under the proposed structure. He reported that the ethos of the proposal was to allow local communities to be more influential in the decision making process; however, he commented that the cultural and socio-economic needs of the residents would not be changed should the proposal be implemented and was therefore unnecessary. He further commented that the low voter turnout was not representative and the proposed changes to the Parish Council should therefore not be supported.

Mr Danny Moody spoke in his capacity as the Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils and commented that he had provided technical advice with regards to the Community Governance Review. He stated that there had been a long history of the Council working with Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council and that the council had been recognised and awarded for its positive contribution. He stated that it would be a dark day when one local authority suggests the abolition of another.

Ms Victoria Shaw commented on the extensive work that had been carried out by the Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council, which included being one of the first Parish Councils to sponsor PCSOs and the continued support during the relocation of the library facilities. She stated that to create two further Parish Councils would result in further expenditure for residents and that it was unsustainable – it would not be possible to run two parish councils more financially efficiently than one. She urged Members to vote against the abolition of Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council.

Mr Owen Coop spoke on behalf of the Banbury Lane Residents Association. He explained that residents had informed him that they wanted a Parish Council for Hunsbury Meadows and having circulated a document regarding the proposal, he called an open meeting with regards to the matter. He expressed his thanks to Councillors Bottwood and Oldham for attending the meeting. He further reported that there was a comparatively high turnout of voters in Hunsbury Meadows and congratulated and thanked the Borough Council for debating the notion. He commented that he welcomed the recommendations of the Council's steering group to propose that Hunsbury Meadow be made a Parish Council.

Mr Brian Hoare was of the opinion that the Local Advisory Poll was fundamentally flawed in many respects and commented that the number of votes received were not indicative of the true feelings of the residents. He stated that there had been a lack of information about the Advisory Poll and the introduction of a new parish council could potentially have significant financial implications for residents. He urged Members to

listen to the public and not to lay blame at the low turnout, as the process was flawed. He further asked Council to consider the recommendations individually and that they not be agreed on mass.

Mr Peter Jones commented that he was a resident of Wootton and East Hunsbury and he had received a letter from the Borough Council which detailed information relating to the Advisory Poll. It was noted that he had received further information which made reference to websites and that the information that had been supplied was satisfactory. He urged Members to consider the way people voted, irrespective of turnout.

Councillor D Savage spoke in his capacity as a Parish Councillor for Wootton and East Hunsbury. He commented that the proposal to abolish the Parish Council in favour of establishing two separate Parish Councils would greatly increase the operational costs which could be disastrous for the residents. He further reported that the current parish precept was considerably lower than others within the county and argued that the proposed changes could greatly impact on this.

Mr John Smith commented that the creation of further Parish Councils was unwanted and argued that another politicised Council was unwelcome and unnecessary. He was of the opinion that the low turnout was due to people feeling disillusioned and stated that the changes would only bring about an increase in Council tax.

Mr David Huffadine- Smith commented that he was very disappointed in the turnout and the result. He reported that the referenda had been an opportunity for people to vote and make changes and take on responsibilities at a grass roots level, but that apathy had prevailed and the lack of turnout was a reflection of this.

Mr Liam Costello commented that there had been considerable criticism of the financial implications that would occur should the proposals be agreed. He argued that it should not be viewed as an abolition of a Parish Council but as a creation of two further Councils which should be based on locality. Mr Costello commented that he had seen an email that had been circulated by one of the Borough Councillors which urged his fellow Councillors to vote against the split. He suggested that the communication was disgraceful and a manipulation of the process and had effectively turned the procedure into gerrymandering.

Mr Brain Hoare submitted a petition to the Mayor. He commented that he had conducted a straw poll which indicated that 38 percent of the 90 residents he had spoken to were unaware of the Local Advisory Poll that had taken place on the 15th November 2012. He commented that people had not been able to have a postal vote and had felt disenfranchised. He commented that the Advisory Poll was flawed and was poorly advertised and therefore the 1 percent vote in favour of the abolition was neither good enough nor acceptable.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 5 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.

Councillor Davies asked Councillor Caswell as the relevant Cabinet Member what steps had been taken to implement the recommendations of the Beasley report and how was enterprise performance going to be monitored. In response he explained that the question would be covered in his Cabinet Member presentation.

Councillor Palethorpe asked Councillor Bottwood for details about the number of agency staff employed by NBC since April 2012 and noted the tabled response.

Councillor I Choudary asked Councillor Eldred as the relevant Cabinet Member, whether there had been any consultation with the 'Save Sekhemka' Action Group and noted the tabled response.

Responses to the two questions received from Norman Adams for Councillor Markham were noted. A response to his questions would be forwarded to him.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

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

Councillor Mackintosh presented his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. He offered his congratulations to HRH the Prince of Wales and his wife on the announcement that they were expecting their first child. He informed Council that the recent Police and Crime Commissioner elections had resulted in the Conservative nominee winning the election in Northamptonshire and looked forward to working with him in the near future. An update was given with regards to the flooding at Billing Aquadrome and it was noted that the Secretary of State for Environment had visited the area. It was also noted that Strictly Northampton had raised over £30,000 for charity. Councillor Wire (DL) commented that the PCC election was a 'Tory Flagship' that was only wanted by the administration and asked if Councillor Mackintosh could confirm whether the new Police and Crime Commissioner had ten staff members working for him. He also commented that the Remembrance Day service could be run more smoothly and asked that the logistics of the event be looked at. He further commented that in relation to the figures quoted by Councillor Mackintosh with regards to the crime statistics that the actual overall trend of crimes had increased – figures that Councillor Wire (DL) had obtained from the Police. In response to the questions posed, Councillor Mackintosh commented that it was a failure of the Labour Party to put forward a candidate who was electable. He commented that the concerns expressed about the logistics of the remembrance service had been noted and could not comment on crime statistics without sight of the figures. In response to a question from Councillor Glynane, it was confirmed that Councillor Mackintosh and Councillor Eldred had visited the Home Farm Equestrian Centre that offers riding for the disabled and that they were taking stock of issues and a report would be taken to Cabinet in the future. Councillor Mackintosh, in response to a further question, explained that he had been in contact with the Secretary of State for the Environment and would follow up the issues and concerns about insurance matters for homes in flood hit locations. In response to a question asked by Councillor Larratt, Councillor Mackintosh commented that he was aware of the concerns of the people of Collingtree Park where flooding might be exacerbated in the future, by the recent

decision of South Northants District Council to allow houses to be built by the Newport Pagnell Road, and he would continue to look into the problem.

Councillor Caswell submitted his Cabinet Member report and commented that he was pleased that the Environmental Management Service was now listening to the concerns of the Council. He commented that a new operations Director had been put in place. He also reported that the authority been awarded recertification to the Carbon Trust Standard. Councillor Caswell explained that there were a number of issues with regards to the gateways within Northampton and that the Council was now working with other agencies to resolve these. He stated that the main factor was the maintenance of verges and hedges and that of cleaning litter. Councillor Davies commented that her question submitted under Item 6 of the agenda had not been answered and asked that more information be provided with regards operational and managerial changes and the publication of key performance indicators and targets. Councillor Caswell reported that money had been set aside in order to keep the town centre tidy and free from litter. In response to a question asked by Councillor Glynane, it was noted that Ward Councillors would be involved and engaged in working on each of the areas affected by the gateways into Northampton.

Councillor Eldred submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. He commented that the St Crispin's Street Fair had been very successful and had requested that it revisit Northampton next year. He informed Councillors that the Frost Fair had also increased footfall in the town centre with some business reporting a large increase in sales and visitors. He further reported that the Paul Weller tickets had sold well and continued to do so. In response to a question, he commented that BID had a positive impact on the people of Northampton and explained that the consultation regarding land at Eagle Drive had closed and that a report would be bought before Cabinet in the future. Responding to a comment, Councillor Eldred reported that all Councillors should be using the contact centre, whose staff would be able to assist them and refer their queries to the correct department within the Council.

Councillor Markham submitted her Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. She explained that there had been a Tenant Participation Day with regards to the Stock Options that had been successful. She reported that over 150 people had been in attendance and thanked the officers for their continued work. In response to a question asked by Councillor Mason, Councillor Markham explained that she was deeply concerned about Council tenants hence the reasoning for Housing Stock Options. In response to a question from Councillor Beardsworth, Councillor Markham reported that there were 5 rough sleepers in Northampton and that every effort was being made to address the problem of rough sleepers and homelessness. She commented that the authority was rated 9th in the country with regards homelessness. In response to a further question, it was reported that there were currently 39 people who were being housed in a bed and breakfast facility.

Councillor Bottwood submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. In response to a question, he explained that performance was being monitored and more detailed information was available through the normal channels. With regard to wellness, he commented that there were a number of people who had different needs

and a different approach to their sickness could result in fewer days being lost. Councillor Palethorpe asked if requests by the Audit Committee for performance information were reported to Cabinet Members and was informed that they were and that issues regarding Environmental Management Services had now been addressed.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. He informed Council that lights had now been installed at the Skatepark and that the recent road closure at the bottom of the Guildhall had reopened for access. He also commented that the St Johns development was going very well and that further negotiations were underway with regards to the hotel development. In response to a question, Councillor Hadland commented that all archaeological findings at the railway station would be addressed and would be part of the promotion of heritage within Northampton.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Wire DL stated that the administration had paid very little attention to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He stated that the decision to have the Music Festival at Delapre had been made in a way so as to avoid the call in procedure and thus negate consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He commented that the Overview and Scrutiny committee was in place to improve the decision making process, allowing for non-cabinet members to scrutinise the work being undertaken by Cabinet. He further stated that the regulations laid out in the Council's constitution were being dismissed which made the democratic process less valid. He commented that members and the general public felt disappointed with Cabinet meetings themselves as they were not an arena where democratic decision making was carried out and the concerns of people were being largely dismissed especially with regards to the decision made about the Shekhema and the subsequent Call In. The Call In procedure highlighted the fact that there had been a limited consultation and urged that Cabinet, Council and the general public listen to the valuable opinions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Wire DL, commented that the move towards LGSS was wrong and that Council staff should be valued. He stated that Councillor Mackintosh's reference to some Council Workers as 'Dead Wood' deserved a public apology.

Councillor Mackintosh questioned why Labour were opposed to bringing in big name acts to the region, which had been done as part of the Delapre Music Festival. He explained that the decision had been taken for it not to go through the Cabinet process due to very strict time constraints and that delaying the decision could have impacted on the loss of an act being signed up. In reference to the comments made about 'Dead Wood', Councillor Mackintosh stated that he was not going to defend over-paid and languid civil servants.

Councillor Wire DL commented that Labour had supported numerous initiatives in Northampton but expressed concern that too much was being given away with regards to LGSS. He commented that further loss would result in the Council being left as a shell and no more than a district council.

9. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Councillor Mackintosh submitted a report that sought to agree the outcomes of the Borough-wide Community Governance review. He clarified that there was a mistake within the report at Item 9, section 2.1.11(d) that should have read Simpson Manor, not as Simpson Meadow as printed. An Addendum was also distributed, which summarised feedback that had been received since the publication of the Report to Council on 23rd November 2012. These were brought to the attention of the Council for information in making a decision on the recommendations arising from the Community Governance Review although they came after the closing of the formal consultation process. It was noted that the consultation stages of the Community Governance Review ended on the 15th November 2012 and a Local Advisory Poll had been conducted on that day. It was further explained that the Local Advisory Poll had been conducted in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the review, the process of which had been developed by the cross party Councillor Community Governance Review Steering Group.

Councillor Eldred congratulated the officers on their work and commented that the process was an opportunity to give people a say about the areas in which they lived.

Councillor Beardsworth commented that the advisory poll had not been as successful as thought of by the administration. It was noted that whilst she had no problems with Parish Councils, she had received communications from residents who had shown a real concern about the increase in the parish precept which people could not afford. She commented that there was little publicity with regards to the Poll and therefore questioned whether people had been suitably and sufficiently informed to make a decision.

Councillor Oldham reported that he had received communication in the post about the Local Advisory Poll. He commented that an extensive consultation process had been undertaken and was satisfied that everything had been done to ensure people had the necessary information with regards to the Local Advisory Poll.

Councillor Wire DL commented that both he and Councillor Mason had sat on the Community Governance Review Steering Group and explained that he could see no problem with the information provided and suggested that some of the responsibility lay with each Councillor to inform their Constituents. He further commented that the views of the people who did turn out to vote should therefore be listened to.

Councillor Nunn commented that the majority of people who had voted in the Wootton and East Hunsbury district had voted against the split of the Parish which he attributed to increased costs. He further reported that the Council had an obligation to listen to the views of the electorate and suggested that further consideration and the analysis of the implications was required. He stated therefore, that he would be voting against the split of Wootton and East Hunsbury.

Councillor Meredith reported that the low turn-out was a reflection of the spirit of democracy as people were exasperated by politics. He stated that the decision should be deferred or not agreed, to split Wootton and East Hunsbury and urged Council Members to reconsider.

Councillor Larratt thanked Keith Mitchell for his work on the Community Governance Review. He commented that he was a supporter of Parish Councils as they had provided some excellent services to residents. However, he commented that splitting Wootton and East Hunsbury would lead to severe financial implications which could potentially result in the splitting of services within the parish. He further reported that the proposed split was not due to come into effect until 2015 and suggested that any decision may need reviewing over the next 2 years.

Councillor Glynane commented that a vote was a vote and that the views of the people need to be listened to. He expressed his concern with regards to an email circulated about the opinion of a Councillor and requested that a copy be made available. He asked that a separate vote be held as to the date on which the proposed split of Wootton and East Hunsbury would take effect. He asked for assurance from the Leader that where areas become parished, that they not be subject to an increase in precept.

Councillor Hill referred to comments about an email sent by him, which he explained was of a personal nature and was disappointed that it had been circulated in the public domain. He echoed Councillor Larratt's views and commented that he too would not be able to support a vote for the Wootton and East Hunsbury parish split.

Councillor Hallam commented that he felt it important to support the views of the parishioners who voted and therefore he would be voting against the creation of a Parish Council in Parklands.

Councillor Mackintosh, in response to Councillor Glynane, commented that any new parish created would be subject to the same rules and conditions as other Parish Councils.

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That Council approves the following proposals for new Parish Councils and boundary changes to existing Parish Councils, commended to the Council by the CGR Steering Group:
 - 2.1.1 That a Parish Council should not be created in the Parklands ward area of Northampton, as detailed in Appendix 1.1.
 - 2.1.2 That a Parish Council should not be created in the Rectory Farm area of Northampton, as detailed in Appendix 1.2.
 - 2.1.3 That a Parish Council should not be created in the Sunnyside and Obelisk wards of Northampton, as detailed in Appendix 1.3.
 - 2.1.4 (a) That a Parish be created in the West Hunsbury ward area of Northampton, as shown in Appendix 1.4.
 - (b) That the new Parish should be represented by a Parish Council.

- (c) That the new Parish Council be known as West Hunsbury Parish Council. An alternative style is not recommended.
 - (d) That the electoral arrangements for West Hunsbury Parish Council are as contained in 3.8.4.15 – 3.8.4.17 of this report.
- 2.1.5 That a Parish Council should not be created in the Westone ward area of Northampton, as detailed in Appendix 1.5.
- 2.1.6 That a Parish Council should not be created in the St James ward area of Northampton, as detailed in Appendix 1.6.
- 2.1.7 (a) That a Parish be created in the Hunsbury Meadows area of Northampton, as shown in Appendix 1.7.
- (b) That the new Parish should be represented by a Parish Council.
 - (c) That the new Parish Council be known as Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council. An alternative style is not recommended.
 - (d) That the electoral arrangements for Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council are as contained in 3.8.7.16 – 3.8.7.18 of this report.
 - (e) That further consultation be carried out with the new Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council and Upton Parish Council with regard to extending the proposed Parish boundary to include the development at Pineham Village.
- 2.1.8 (a) That the Parish boundary should be changed and the new boundary detailed in Appendix 1.8 be agreed to move the properties in Turners Court and Turners Gardens affected by the proposal into Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish.
- (b) That this proposal will take effect from 1 April 2013.
 - (c) That this proposal does not require any other changes to the existing governance arrangements for the Parish.
- 2.1.9 (a) That the Parish boundary should be changed and the new boundary detailed in Appendix 1.9 be agreed to move the properties in Belfry Lane affected by the proposal from Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish into Collingtree Parish.
- (b) That this proposal will take effect from 1 April 2013.
 - (c) That this proposal does not require any other changes to the existing governance arrangements for the Parishes affected.

- 2.1.10(a) That the Parish boundary for Hardingstone Parish Council should be changed and the new boundary detailed in Appendix 1.10 be agreed.
- (b) That the Parish boundary for Great Houghton Parish Council should be changed and the new boundary detailed in Appendix 1.10 be agreed, to include land to the north to be coterminous with the boundary for polling district SNRME.
- (c) That these proposals will take effect from 1 April 2013.
- (d) That these proposals do not require any other changes to the existing governance arrangements for the Parishes affected.
- 2.1.11(a) That the existing Parish of Wootton and East Hunsbury be abolished on 1 April 2015.
- (b) That a new Parish be created in the Wootton area of Northampton, the boundary for which is detailed in Appendix 1.11, with effect from 1 April 2015.
- (c) That the new Parish in the Wootton area should be represented by a Parish Council.
- (d) That the new Parish Council be known as Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor Parish Council. An alternative style is not recommended.
- (e) That the electoral arrangements for Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor Parish Council are as contained in 3.8.11.19 – 3.8.11.21 of this report.
- (f) That a new Parish be created in the East Hunsbury area of Northampton, the boundary for which is detailed in Appendix 1.11, with effect from 1 April 2015.
- (g) That the new Parish in the East Hunsbury area should be represented by a Parish Council.
- (h) That the new Parish Council be known as East Hunsbury Parish Council. An alternative style is not recommended.
- (i) That the electoral arrangements for East Hunsbury Parish Council are as contained in 3.8.11.19 – 3.8.11.21 of this report.
- 2.1.12(a) That the boundary for Upton Parish should be changed to that detailed in Appendix 1.12.

- (b) That this proposal will take effect from 1 April 2013.
- (d) That the Parish will continue to be known as Upton Parish.
- (e) That the Parish will continue to be represented by a Parish Council and that the Parish Council be known as Upton Parish Council.
- (f) That this proposal does not require any other changes to the existing governance arrangements for the Parish affected.
- (g) That governance arrangements for the Upton Parish should be reviewed by no later than 1 April 2027 to ensure that they reflect the changing demographics and community interests within the expanded community.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

- i) Councillor Hadland proposed and Councillor Nunn seconded:

“This Council records its gratitude to the Market Advisory Group and its independent chair, Mr. Raymond Everall for their hard work so far, in helping the Administration find solutions to the problems faced by Market Square traders.

This council believes that a vibrant Town Centre is the key to attracting more visitors, business and investment to our town with the Market Square at its heart. This year events such as Godiva Awakes, the Olympic Torch Relay, the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and St. Crispin's Street Fair have attracted thousands of people onto the streets of our Town Centre.

This Administration is also committed to deliver more schemes such as an hour of free parking and the 25 percent reduction in market rents to help Town Centre businesses, and in cooperation with our partners, is delivering long-term the 'Northampton Alive' regeneration projects such as the new bus interchange, the St. John's development, the new railway station, Project Angel and the new cinema at The Royal and Derngate for the benefit of the whole town.”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

- ii) Councillor Mackintosh proposed and Councillor Eldred seconded:

“This council recognises the outstanding contribution made by Walter Tull both in the service of our country and in breaking down racial barriers as a sportsman and a soldier.

Walter Tull served with distinction during the First World War, seeing action at the Battle of The Somme in 1916, and gaining a Mention in Despatches for his 'gallantry and coolness' during his time fighting in Italy. As the first black officer in the British Army he has come to be seen as an important historical role model. Walter Tull was

killed in action before the end of the war, and was unfortunately never awarded the Military Cross for which he was recommended.

Walter Tull made 111 appearances for Northampton Town Football Club between 1911-1914, and is a figure of national importance with whom Northampton is proudly associated.

2014 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, and 2013 is the 125th anniversary of Walter Tull's birth. This Council adds its support to the campaign for Walter Tull to be posthumously awarded the Military Cross."

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

iii) Councillor Palethorpe proposed and Councillor Davies seconded:

"This Council recognises that the National Minimum Wage as of the 1st October 2012 has increased to £6.19 an hour.

This Council also recognises the significant impact on hard working people in Northampton ability to provide the essentials of life for their families of higher fuel and housing costs along with inflation of over 2% and the changes arising from the Welfare Reforms.

Northampton Borough Council recognises that it has a responsibility to provide the leadership required to help hard working families and that the National Minimum Wage is insufficient to provide the essentials for their families.

This Council recognises that the Living Wage is calculated according to the cost of living and given minimum pay rates required – "for a worker to provide their family with the essentials of life".

As a major employer and sub-contractor responsible for the provision of public services to the Northampton taxpayers' this Council agrees that it will become a Living Wage Employer in the financial year 2013/2014. In becoming a Living Wage employer this Council determines that no member of staff, whether directly employed or under an agency agreement will earn less than the calculated Living Wage which is currently £7.45 an hour.

This Council also determines that any contracts entered into with external service providers will require the employer to pay employees employed to deliver the contract the Living Wage rate of pay."

Council debated the motion.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Aziz, Beardsworth, Begum, I Choudary, N

Choudary, Davies, Glynane Gowen, Marriot, Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Palethorpe, Sivaramen, Stone and Strachan.

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

There abstained the Mayor.

The motion was lost.

iv) Councillor Marriot proposed and Councillor Gowen seconded;
“This Council notes that in October 2012 the former Deputy Conservative Prime Minister, Lord Heseltine, published a report titled, ‘No Stone Unturned: In Pursuit of Growth’

This Council further notes the following paragraphs on page 52 of the report that states,

‘2.78 Unitary authorities run local services effectively and at considerably lower cost. They provide greater clarity and accountability about where responsibilities lie for delivery of local services. They avoid duplication and coordination issues that can arise between different local authority functions. They facilitate faster and more robust decision making and avoid the unnecessary administrative expense associated with running a two-tier system.’

‘2.81 Changing to a unitary model of local government will not be easy. It will naturally be uncomfortable for those involved, it may be disruptive in the short term and it will take time. But it would be a mistake not to persevere. The costs of the two-tier system are simply unsustainable. The advantages in increasing effectiveness and freeing resource for the benefit of communities will outweigh the pain.’

This Council agrees and endorses these two paragraphs of the report. It allows for a future discussion about the self-governance of our town.”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote the motion was lost.

v) Councillor Mason proposed and Councillor Mennell seconded:

“This Council notes the recent changes brought in by the Coalition Government to Housing and Welfare Reform, which will have a huge impact on our tenants.

This Council notes that this has put added pressure on staff to cope with these changes and to comply with all the new legislation.

This Council believes that for these changes to be implemented there can be no

compulsory redundancies within the Housing Department in the HRA budget 2013/14.”

Council debated the motion:

Upon a vote the motion was lost.

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

None

The meeting concluded at 10.00pm