MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2011 AT SIX THIRTY O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

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

1. APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from Councillors I Choudary, Glynane and Malpas.

2. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP
Councillor Hadland announced that Councillor Mackintosh was now Leader of the Conservative Group and that Councillor Caswell was now Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

The announcement was noted.

3. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Councillor Hill proposed and Councillor King seconded “That Councillor Mackintosh be elected Leader of the Council to hold office until the day of the post-election Annual Council Meeting which follows Councillor Mackintosh’s election today, unless before this date; he resigns from office; he is suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); he is no longer a Councillor; or he is removed from office by resolution of the Council.”

Councillor Palethorpe commented that the past week had been difficult for him in the aftermath of what had seemed an innocent question at the last Council meeting concerning city status. He stood by his views. He had been proud to lead the Conservative Group to its first election victory in 24 years and he expected the new Administration to build upon the foundations he had laid. He stood by the Conservative’s manifesto pledges and the delivery of them. Councillor Palethorpe commented that he looked forward to further progress being made with the Town’s sporting clubs and believed that the Administration would take advantage of any opportunities that arose to further the Town’s interests. He would give the new Administration the same level of loyalty, dedication and support as they had given him as Conservative Group Leader and Council Leader: and looked forward to the challenges that faced everyone.
Councillor Mason extended her congratulations to Councillor Mackintosh and commented that she was mystified as to why the Conservative Group were so set against city status. She hoped that they could put their differences behind them especially in the light of the cuts in County Council services.

Councillor Beardsworth commented that the events of the past week had been a complete surprise: Councillor Palethorpe was a honourable person. She congratulated Councillor Mackintosh and hoped that the Leadership meetings would continue and that the new Administration would build upon the success of the previous one.

Councillor Hill commented that the Council had bid for city status some years previously however it was an expensive process, wasteful of officer time and did not lead to any real benefit; there was a certain cachet to being the largest town in the country. The Conservative Group was united.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mackintosh be elected Leader of the Council to hold office until the day of the post-election Annual Council Meeting which follows Councillor Mackintosh’s election today, unless before this date; he resigns from office; he is suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); he is no longer a Councillor; or he is removed from office by resolution of the Council.

4. DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET

Council noted the Leader of the Council’s appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet, Portfolio responsibilities, Assistant Cabinet Members and Advisors to the Leader as tabled and as follows:

Councillor Caswell- Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment
Councillor Bottwood- Portfolio Holder for Finance
Councillor Eldred- Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement
Councillor Hadland- Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise
Councillor Markham- Portfolio Holder for Housing.

Assistant Cabinet members:
Councillor Golby- Environment
Councillor Nunn- Regeneration and Enterprise
Councillor King- Community Engagement
Councillor Hibbert- Housing

Special Advisor posts to the Leader:
Councillor Larratt- Shared Services and
Councillor Hill- Civic Affairs

[The Assistant Cabinet posts and the special advisor posts would not attract a Special Responsibility Allowance payment.]
5. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Councillor Mackintosh submitted a report that had been tabled and sought approval to amendments to the appointments to Committees for 2011/12. Councillor Caswell seconded adoption of the report.

RESOLVED: That the amended appointments to Committees for 2011/12 be as set out in the report.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Mackintosh submitted a report setting out amendments to the appointments to Outside Bodies for 2011-2015 and noted the amended appendix that had been tabled and the further amendments so that Councillor King replaced Councillor Patel on the Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council and Councillors Markham and Hibbert replaced Councillors Malpas and Yates on the Countywide Travellers Unit. Councillor Caswell seconded adoption of the report as amended.

In response to a query from Councillor Wire, Councillor Mackintosh stated that he was happy for Councillor Mason to remain as the Council’s representative on the East Midlands Museum’s Service and that the Council’s representation of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee would remain as tabled.

RESOLVED: That the amended Appointments to Outside Bodies be as set out in the report and as tabled and as further amended at the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 18.48 hours.