

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

25 April 2002
(6.00 – 10.35pm)

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Lakin), Deputy Mayor (Councillor Slatter), Councillors Bagnall, Benstead, Blencowe, Bradnack, Callaghan, Cowell, Currie, Dixon, Douglas, Dryden, Durrant, Ellis-Miller, Gilchrist, Griffiths, Harrison, Hipkin, Howarth, Howell, James, Johnston, Knowles, Liddle, Mbaya, Nimmo-Smith, Overhill, Reed, C Rosenstiel, J Rosenstiel, M Schofield, T Schofield, Smart, Smith, Stebbings, Stuart, Talbot, Taylor, Ward, and White

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

02/14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 February 2002 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

02/15 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Levison.

- **Lord Mayoralty Competition**

In connection with her Golden Jubilee, Her Majesty The Queen had agreed to create one additional lord mayoralty in the United Kingdom as well as elevating some towns to city status. Cambridge City Council had submitted an application to receive lord mayor status, along with sixteen other eligible cities. However, Cambridge had not won, the honour going to Exeter City Council.

- **Reach Fair**

All members had received an invitation to attend the annual Proclamation of Reach Fair on Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May 2002, and were reminded to indicate to Members' Services whether or not they would be attending.

- **Guest Tickets to Attend Council Meetings**

Members were reminded of the procedure to be followed when bringing a guest to a full meeting of the Council.

- **Code of Conduct**

Members were requested to sign a written undertaking that they would abide by the new Code of Conduct for Members, and return it to the Committee Section during the evening.

- **Forthcoming Elections**

Councillors Douglas, Levison, T Schofield and Talbot had decided not to contest their seats in the local elections on 2 May. The Mayor thanked them, together with former Councillor Woodford (who had resigned his seat in March 2002), for the contribution they had made to the work of the City Council over the years. The Mayor himself would also not be standing at the local elections.

The Mayor offered his good wishes to those members fighting seats in the local elections.

- **Honorary Councillor Mrs Mabel Morse**

The Mayor reported with regret the death of Honorary Councillor Mrs Mabel Morse. Mrs Morse had first been elected to the Council in 1957, had been elected an alderman in 1970 and an honorary councillor in 1974. Soon after ceasing to become an active member of the Council, Mrs Morse had moved to the Isle of Man. Her funeral service had taken place there on Wednesday 13 March. Members stood in silence in memory of Mrs Morse.

- **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor C Rosenstiel declared a Code of Conduct (non-financial) interest in City Board adoption minute 02/A/27 – “Housing Management Board and Elected Tenants” – as he was one of the editors of the current edition of the Electoral Reform Society publication “How to Conduct an Election by the Single Transferable Vote” (paragraph 5.5 of the of the Housing Management Board Constitution refers).

02/16 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

See minute number 02/19.

02/17 **MINUTES PRESENTED BY COMMITTEES FOR ADOPTION**

The Council received a presentation from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on the new Code of Conduct for Members. The Council then considered the recommendation of the Standards Committee meeting held on 11 March 2002.

02/S/01 **Code of Conduct for Members**

Resolved (with no votes against) that the Code of Conduct for Members attached at Appendix 1 to the adoption minute be adopted.

The Council considered the recommendations of the City Board meeting held on 16 April 2002.

02/A/25 A New Constitution for the City Council

Resolved (by 24 votes to 15) that

- 1) The Constitution be approved in principle as drafted subject to:
 - (i) The inclusion of a procedure for referring decisions from Regulatory Committees to the Civic Affairs Committee and thence to Full Council (excepting decisions of the Homelessness, Employment Appeals and Taxi Disciplinary Sub-Committees);
 - (ii) The deletion of the preview of Annual Statements at April Council;
 - (iii) The incorporation of the comments of Joint Staff Employer Forum into the Member/Officer Protocol or the Code of Conduct for Officers;
 - (iv) The inclusion of a provision that Executive Councillors should normally only routinely attend a scrutiny committee to which their executive role relates;
 - (v) The inclusion of a protocol on the use of the Party Whip at scrutiny committees;
 - (vi) Consideration being given to a procedure for consulting Planning Committee on planning briefs and supplementary planning guidance.
- 2) The transitional arrangements in section 5 of the covering report be approved, subject to the minutes of the City Centre Development Sub-Committee being signed by its successor scrutiny committee.

02/A/26 Decentralised Decision Making

Resolved (by 22 votes to 14) that

- 1) The establishment in mid-2003 of area based committees with some decision-making powers be approved in principle.
- 2) The key stages of the project plan (shown at Appendix 1 of the committee report) be approved.

02/A/27 Housing Management Board and Elected Tenants

Councillor Bagnall proposed and Councillor Gilchrist seconded the following amendment to the adoption minute recommendation:

“Approval be given to the setting up of the Housing Management Board on the principles

and timetable contained within the City Board report and in accordance with the Constitution and Terms of Reference attached as Appendix 2 to the adoption minutes, subject to the following amendments to the Constitution:

'Insert/replace as shown in bold below:

3.1 The Board will be composed of:

- **Five** City Councillors, who shall also be members of the Housing and Health Scrutiny Committee. Political parties shall be represented in a way which reflects the balance of representation on the whole Council.
- **Seven** elected tenants and leaseholders of Cambridge City Council: **three from the North and four from the South. Also one leaseholder.**
- Up to six specialists or experts who shall be co-opted to the Board from time to time as the Board shall decide.

3.2 All (**elected**) members of the Board will have a vote.

5.5 The tenants and leaseholders shall elect their (own) representatives ...

Delete: There shall be a minimum of four tenants elected to the Housing Management Board by this method.

5.6 Officers shall draw up a scheme for the election which will ensure both separate North and South City representation **and a leaseholder** to be elected. This scheme will respect the principles in paragraph 6.3 of this document.

6.3 There shall be three representatives of the north of the City and **four** representing the south, **and one leaseholder.**”

After some discussion, Councillor Bagnall withdrew the amendment with the consent of Councillor Gilchrist and of the Council.

Councillor Nimmo-Smith proposed and Councillor Howarth seconded the following amendment to the adoption minute recommendation:

“Approval be given to the setting up of the Housing Management Board on the principles and timetable contained within the City Board report and in accordance with the Constitution and Terms of Reference attached as Appendix 2 to the adoption minutes, subject to consultation with tenants and leaseholders on the following suggested amendments to the Constitution:

'Insert/replace as shown in bold below:

3.1 The Board will be composed of:

- **Five** City Councillors, who shall also be members of the Housing and Health Scrutiny Committee. Political parties shall be represented in a way

which reflects the balance of representation on the whole Council.

- **Seven** elected tenants and leaseholders of Cambridge City Council: **three from the North and four from the South. Also one leaseholder.**
- Up to six specialists or experts who shall be co-opted to the Board from time to time as the Board shall decide.

3.3 All (**elected**) members of the Board will have a vote.

5.7 The tenants and leaseholders shall elect their (own) representatives ...

Delete: There shall be a minimum of four tenants elected to the Housing Management Board by this method.

5.8 Officers shall draw up a scheme for the election which will ensure both separate North and South City representation **and a leaseholder** to be elected. This scheme will respect the principles in paragraph 6.3 of this document.

6.3 There shall be three representatives of the north of the City and **four** representing the south, **and one leaseholder.**”

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried unanimously.

Resolved (unanimously) that approval be given to the setting up of the Housing Management Board on the principles and timetable contained within the City Board report and in accordance with the Constitution and Terms of Reference attached as Appendix 2 to the adoption minutes, subject to consultation with tenants and leaseholders on the following suggested amendments to the Constitution:

“Insert/replace as shown in bold below:

3.1 The Board will be composed of:

- **Five** City Councillors, who shall also be members of the Housing and Health Scrutiny Committee. Political parties shall be represented in a way which reflects the balance of representation on the whole Council.
- **Seven** elected tenants and leaseholders of Cambridge City Council: **three from the North and four from the South. Also one leaseholder.**
- Up to six specialists or experts who shall be co-opted to the Board from time to time as the Board shall decide.

3.4 All (**elected**) members of the Board will have a vote.

5.9 The tenants and leaseholders shall elect their (own) representatives ...

Delete: There shall be a minimum of four tenants elected to the Housing Management Board by this method.

5.10 Officers shall draw up a scheme for the election which will ensure both separate North and South City representation **and a leaseholder** to be elected. This scheme will respect the principles in paragraph 6.3 of this document.

6.3 There shall be three representatives of the north of the City and **four** representing the south, **and one leaseholder.**”

02/A/28 Revenue and Capital Budgets, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances

Resolved (by 21 votes to 11) that

- 1) An estimated total of £675,100 budgets, detailed in Appendix 3 to the adoption minutes, be carried forward from 2001/02 into 2002/03, all subject to the final outturn position.
- 2) Up to £50,000 reserves be used to fund the Streets and Open Spaces Review Best Value procurement process.

02/A/29 The Council's Code of Corporate Governance

Resolved (with no votes against) that the Code of Corporate Governance detailed in Appendix 4 to the adoption minutes be adopted.

02/18 ORAL QUESTIONS

Question	Question by	Answer by
What provision of community facilities is the Council willing to make in future for people in the Romsey and Coleridge area of Cambridge?	Councillor Gilchrist	Councillor J Rosenstiel
Councillor Bagnall raised the issue of the starter homes initiative at the recent seminar on Key Workers and Affordable Housing hosted by South Cambridgeshire District Council. Was anything said in reply to support Labour Party claims that Cambridge “missed the boat” in getting help for key workers from the Government?	Councillor Stebbings	Councillor Nimmo-Smith
In view of the fact that there is a lot of graffiti beside the railway as it approaches our	Councillor Douglas	Councillor Harrison

city from the south, and at the bus station, could the Chair of the Environment Committee explain what, if any, plans there are to remove it and thereby improve visual first impressions to this ancient and otherwise beautiful city?		
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02/19 NOTICE OF MOTION: QD STORE

Councillor C Rosenstiel declared that he was a regular shopper at the QD store. A number of other members indicated that they were also customers at the store.

Jane O'Neil addressed the Council under the Public Speaking Rights procedure. She asked the Council to do everything possible within its power to help find an alternative site for the QD store, which would shortly have to vacate its current premises in Burleigh Street.

Councillor Blencowe proposed and Councillor Johnston seconded the following notice of motion:

"In view of the widespread public support for keeping the QD store within the city, the City Council will assist wherever possible within current resources in helping this low-price but highly valuable store to remain in Cambridge."

Under Standing Order 7 it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Councillor J Rosenstiel proposed and Councillor C Rosenstiel seconded the following amendment:

"Delete all and insert:

'The Council notes that the low-price but highly valuable QD store in Burleigh Street is to close because it has come to the end of its lease.

The Council, noting the widespread public support for keeping a QD store within the city, undertakes, within existing resources, to help QD look for an alternative site in the Cambridge area."

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried unanimously.

Resolved (unanimously) that the Council notes that the low-price but highly valuable QD store in Burleigh Street is to close because it has come to the end of its lease. The Council, noting the widespread public support for keeping a QD store within the city, undertakes, within existing resources, to help QD look for an alternative site in the Cambridge area.

02/20 NOTICE OF MOTION: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Councillor Bagnall proposed and Councillor Durrant seconded the following notice of motion:

“This Council believes that 50% of all housing built on land to be released from the Cambridge Green Belt should be affordable for people on low or moderate incomes.”

Under Standing Order 7 it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Councillor Harrison proposed and Councillor Howarth seconded the following amendment:

“delete all and replace with:

‘This Council recognises:

- a) the urgent need, confirmed by the recent Key Worker and Affordable Housing study carried out by Cambridge University, to provide more affordable housing (including traditional social housing, housing for key workers, the elderly, students, homeless people, travellers and gypsies) in and around Cambridge; and
- b) the need for planning policy to be effective in delivering this housing in a wide range of circumstances.

The proportion of affordable housing within new developments should therefore be in the range of 30-50%, though on sites released from the Green Belt this proportion should be at or towards the top end of the range.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried by 24 votes to 9.

Resolved (by 24 votes to 8) that this Council recognises:

- a) the urgent need, confirmed by the recent Key Worker and Affordable Housing study carried out by Cambridge University, to provide more affordable housing (including traditional social housing, housing for key workers, the elderly, students, homeless people, travellers and gypsies) in and around Cambridge; and
- b) the need for planning policy to be effective in delivering this housing in a wide range of circumstances.

The proportion of affordable housing within new developments should therefore be in the range of 30-50%, though on sites released from the Green Belt this proportion should be at or towards the top end of the range.

02/21 NOTICE OF MOTION: NEW SETTLEMENT

Councillor Durrant proposed and Councillor Bagnall seconded the following notice of motion:

“This Council instructs the Director of Environment and Planning to undertake the work required to enable the new Executive Councillor for Environment as their first and most important task to make recommendations to the Council to allow it to decide its preference for the location of a new settlement beyond the Cambridge Green Belt. This should be based on an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of alternative locations in respect of their relationship with Cambridge, placing primary emphasis on the ability to deliver high quality public transport to, into and through Cambridge and to minimise the generation of car journeys to Cambridge locations, to provide for affordable housing within a framework of sustainable development, and secure the future boundary of the Green Belt in the period after 2016.”

Under Standing Order 7 it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Councillor Harrison proposed and Councillor Howarth seconded the following amendment:

“delete first sentence and replace with: ‘The eastern expansion of Cambridge remains this Council's preferred option to accommodate the new settlement growth target identified in the Structure Plan, but it is accepted that a new settlement outside the Green Belt may be necessary within the Plan period.’

Since the relative merits of the new settlement locations, especially as regards transport, have not yet been satisfactorily established, the Council is unable to endorse any specific location for the new settlement at this stage.

The Council will seek to ensure that a full assessment of the alternative new settlement proposals takes place at the Structure Plan Examination in Public.’

In second sentence, add after the words ‘into and through Cambridge’: ‘,to maximise opportunities for cycling and walking’.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried by 20 votes to 12.

Resolved (by 19 votes to 12) that the eastern expansion of Cambridge remains this Council's preferred option to accommodate the new settlement growth target identified in the Structure Plan, but it is accepted that a new settlement outside the Green Belt may be necessary within the Plan period.

Since the relative merits of the new settlement locations, especially as regards transport, have not yet been satisfactorily established, the Council is unable to endorse any specific location for the new settlement at this stage.

The Council will seek to ensure that a full assessment of the alternative new settlement proposals takes place at the Structure Plan Examination in Public. This should be based

on an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of alternative locations in respect of their relationship with Cambridge, placing primary emphasis on the ability to deliver high quality public transport to, into and through Cambridge, to maximise opportunities for cycling and walking and to minimise the generation of car journeys to Cambridge locations, to provide for affordable housing within a framework of sustainable development, and secure the future boundary of the Green Belt in the period after 2016.

(During consideration of the above item, the Mayor drew the attention of the Council to the fact that it was 10.30pm. The Council agreed to continue its proceedings, in accordance with Standing Order 27.)

02/22 RECEPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of committees and sub-committees were presented for the information of the Council.

As the Council would be adopting new political structures on 23 May 2002, there would not be another opportunity to confirm as correct records some of the information minutes included with the agenda. The information minutes of the following meetings were therefore confirmed as correct records by the Council and signed by the Mayor:

- Property and Administration Sub-Committee – 19 March 2002
- Community Development and Leisure Committee – 21 March 2002
- Housing and Health Committee – 20 March 2002
- Environment Committee – 26 March 2002
- Environment Committee – 16 April 2002.

02/23 NOTIFICATION OF SEALING

The Council received notification from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services of the sealing of documents noted in the Council's Sealing Register as having been sealed between 22 February and 25 April 2002.

The Council concluded its business at 10.35pm.

MAYOR