

MINUTES OF AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL11 March 2004
6.00pm – 7.54pm

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor White), Deputy Mayor (Councillor Callaghan), Councillors Adigun-Harris, Bailey, Baker, Bell, Benstead, Blencowe, Boyce, Bradnack, Downham, Durrant, Ellis-Miller, Harrison, Hart, Hipkin, Howarth, Howell, Hughes, James, Liddle, Nimmo-Smith, Rosenstiel C, Rosenstiel J, Schofield, Slatter, Smart, Smith J, Stebbings, Taylor, Todd-Jones, Ward and Wright.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**04/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Adey, Bagnall, Coleman, Dixon, Dryden, Pinnington, Reid, R Smith and Stuart.

04/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Durrant declared a personal interest as a director of Jimmy's Night Shelter and a member of Emmaus, Cambridge.

04/15 PETITION

Two versions of a petition (with slightly different wording) had been submitted with a combined total of over 500 signatures on the following matter:

"We, the undersigned request that the City Council make a designated public places order to apply to the areas identified by the police, so that they have the discretionary powers to arrest and detain people who cause a nuisance to others by consuming alcohol in public. We understand that this will not affect ordinary law-abiding people who wish to enjoy a drink in the open."

"We, the undersigned request that the City Council make a designated public places order to apply to the areas listed (attached) so that the Police have the discretionary powers to arrest and detain people who cause a nuisance to others by consuming alcohol in public. We understand that this will not affect ordinary law-abiding people who wish to enjoy a drink in the open."

Ms Susie Oakes, Mr Jonathan Goodacre and Mr Jonathan Mills spoke to the petition.

Members then considered the petition and asked questions of the petitioners. Councillor Nimmo-Smith, the Leader, then responded to the petitioners.

04/16 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public wished to address the meeting.

04/17 NOTICE OF MOTION

Following a request by five councillors to convene a special meeting of the Council, members considered the following motion proposed by Councillor Bradnack and seconded by Councillor Benstead:

In the light of the experience of 92 English local authorities which have used Designated Public Places Orders to deal with drinking and associated anti-social behaviour in public places, and of the advice given to members and officers of Cambridge City Council on 4th Feb 2004 by the Local Government Minister on this issue, this Council resolves to accept the offer of government assistance to pursue the use of Designated Public Places Order powers to meet the needs of the city of Cambridge

To achieve this, the Council further resolves:

- "1. To rescind its decision of 19 November 2003 not to pursue the option of designated public places orders for Cambridge;
2. To establish an ad hoc committee of members to exercise the Council's powers in respect of DPPOs
3. To consult urgently with Home Office officials on the best way to use -DPPO powers to meet Cambridge's needs, and to request that, in the light of Home Office advice, officers prepare a report to the ad-hoc committee identifying public places which are suitable for designation, along with evidence to support designation, and any relevant financial implications"

Under paragraph 13.7.1 of the Council Procedure Rules it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Councillor Nimmo-Smith proposed and Councillor Smart seconded the following amendment:

Delete all and replace with:

"The Council

- notes that the Home Office has belatedly acknowledged that a city-wide DPPO is not appropriate to the situation in Cambridge;
- regrets the way the Home Office and the city's MP had since September led residents of the Mill Road area on a wild goose chase for this illegal remedy;
- confirms its decision of 19 November that, given the existing legal framework, the option of designated public places orders for Cambridge is not pursued, on the grounds that they are impractical and illiberal;
- urges the police to bring forward proposals for dispersal power orders under s.30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 if they consider they are appropriate for areas of the city;
- demands that the police ensure that adequate and prioritised resources are deployed for enforcement against anti-social consequences of street drinking using the many currently existing powers;

- calls for the Government to provide funding for a wet day centre so that better provision can be made for the personal care of those caught up in street life; and
- urges the Government to give a positive endorsement to the Council's byelaw as the only measure available that would provide the police with city-wide powers to enforce against anti-social street drinking.”

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 20 votes to 8.

Resolved (by 20 votes to 0):

“The Council

- notes that the Home Office has belatedly acknowledged that a city-wide DPPO is not appropriate to the situation in Cambridge;
- regrets the way the Home Office and the city’s MP had since September led residents of the Mill Road area on a wild goose chase for this illegal remedy;
- confirms its decision of 19 November that, given the existing legal framework, the option of designated public places orders for Cambridge is not pursued, on the grounds that they are impractical and illiberal;
- urges the police to bring forward proposals for dispersal power orders under s.30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 if they consider they are appropriate for areas of the city;
- demands that the police ensure that adequate and prioritised resources are deployed for enforcement against anti-social consequences of street drinking using the many currently existing powers;
- calls for the Government to provide funding for a wet day centre so that better provision can be made for the personal care of those caught up in street life; and
- urges the Government to give a positive endorsement to the Council's byelaw as the only measure available that would provide the police with city-wide powers to enforce against anti-social street drinking.”

The Council concluded its business at 7.54pm.

Mayor