

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL COUNCIL
MEETING**24 May 2007
11.00am – 6.05pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Dryden), Councillors Armstrong, Bailey, Baker, Blair, Blackhurst, Blencowe, Boyce, Bradnack, Cantrill, Dixon, Downham, Durrant, Ellis-Miller, Hart, Herbert, Holness, Holland, James, Kightley, Levy, Lynn, McPherson, Newbold, Nimmo-Smith, Pitt, Reid, Rosenstiel C, Rosenstiel J, Sadiq, Sanders, Shah, Slatter, Smart, Smith J, Stuart, Taylor, Upstone, Walker, Ward, Zmura

For the Information of the Council**07/25 ELECTION OF MAYOR 2007/2008**

Councillor Holness proposed and Councillor Herbert seconded the nomination of Councillor Bailey as Mayor for the municipal year 2007/2008.

Resolved that Councillor Bailey be elected Mayor for the municipal year 2007/2008 (Councillor Bailey then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of the office of Mayor).

07/26 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2007/2008

Councillor J Rosenstiel proposed and Councillor Baker seconded the nomination of Councillor Dixon as Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2007/2008.

Councillor Bradnack proposed and Councillor Newbold seconded the nomination of Councillor McPherson as Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2007/2008.

On a show of hands it was **Resolved** (by 26 votes to 12) that Councillor Dixon be elected Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2007/2008 (Councillor Dixon then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of the office of Deputy Mayor).

07/27 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 April 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

07/28 TO NOTE THE RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

That the following have been elected to the office of Councillor:

Abbey	Caroline Julie Hart
Arbury	Alan Levy
Castle	Tania Zmura
Cherry Hinton	Russ McPherson
Coleridge	Jeremy Benstead and Tariq Sadiq
East Chesterton	Clare Frances Blair
Kings Hedges	Michael Hal Pitt
Market	Mike Dixon
Newnham	Julie Elizabeth Smith
Petersfield	Lucy Walker
Queen Edith's	Viki Sanders
Romsey	Raj Shah

Trumpington	Andy Blackhurst
West Chesterton	Diane Kay Armstrong
Trumpington	Sheila Barri Stuart
West Chesterton	Raymond Alan Boyce

07/29 **MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

The Council noted the appointment of Vajrashadu as the Mayor's Chaplain for the municipal year 2007/2008.

07/30 **TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR'S CADET FOR THE ENSUING YEAR**

The Council noted the appointment of Arthur Savory, representing the Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force, as Mayor's Cadet for the ensuing year.

07/31 **TO PASS A RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING MAYOR AND MAYORESS**

Resolved unanimously, on the proposition of Councillor Mc Pherson, seconded by Councillor Smith, that this Council expresses its appreciation of the manner in which the duties of Mayor and Mayoress were discharged by Councillor Robert Dryden and his wife Mrs Sandra Dryden during their period of office and that the Common Seal be affixed to a copy of this resolution for presentation to them.

07/32 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Benstead.

2. QUEEN EDITH'S SCHOOL

The Mayor extended a special welcome to pupils from Queen Edith School. The pupils recently visited the Guildhall to learn about the mayoralty as part of Citizenship work, and were present to witness the ceremonial side of today's proceedings.

3. VISIT TO SZEGED

Councillor Robert Dryden had just returned from a civic visit to Szeged where he, his wife Sandra, and Margaret Pisarska from the Tourist Information Centre represented the Council at the annual Bridge Fair.

4. THE PREACHING OF THE MOTT SERMON

The annual Mott Sermon would be preached at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday, 3rd June at 11 a.m. and Members of the Council had received notification of this service.

5. MIDSUMMER FAIR

The Proclamation of Midsummer Fair would take place on Wednesday, 20th June at 6.30 p.m. on Midsummer Common.

6. MARGARET WALKER, GRAHAM WATTS AND ROGER COEY

Three key, long-serving members of senior management would shortly be leaving the Council. Today was the last meeting of Council at which Councillors had the opportunity to say thank you.

Margaret Walker had loyally attended Council meetings and many committee meetings, briefings, working groups, sub-committees, officer meetings for over thirty years and, at the beginning of June Margaret would be taking a very well deserved early retirement from her post as Director of Central Services.

Graham Watts had worked with the Council since 1979. He worked his way up through the ranks, starting in the Parks Department, to become Director of City Services.

Roger Coey had been with us even longer, having started with the Council in 1964 in environmental health. He progressed to become head of service.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, wished all three of them a long and happy retirement and thanked them for the long, loyal and conscientious service to the Council and the community in Cambridge.

Councillors Nimmo-Smith and Herbert spoke on behalf of Councillors, offering appreciation for the long service of these officers.

7. MAYORAL CHARITIES

The Mayor had undertaken to support:

The Cambridge Museum of Technology and Press Relief (a charity run by the *Cambridge Evening News* which in turn supports a number of local charitable organisations)

07/33 TO ELECT FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOUR BAILIFFS OF THE CITY FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2007/2008

Councillor Nimmo-Smith proposed and Councillor Smart seconded that Councillors James and Slatter be appointed as bailiffs.

Councillor Herbert proposed and Councillor Bradnack seconded that Councillors McPherson and Hart be appointed as bailiffs.

Resolved that Councillors James, Hart, McPherson and Slatter be appointed as bailiffs of the city for the municipal year 2007/2008.

07/34 VARY ORDER OF BUSINESS

Under Council Procedure Rules 4.2.1, the Mayor said that she would use her discretion to vary the order of business so as to allow the Motion on Punting to be heard after the item on Oral Question as members of the public were present to hear the debate.

07/35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 16 (f): Motion on Punting Councillors Lynn, Nimmo-Smith and Ward were representatives of the Council on the Conservators of the River Cam and declared personal

interests.

07/36 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (14 MAY) WHICH ARE FOR ADOPTION

(07/CIV/20) Joint Planning Arrangements – Major Growth Sites

Councillor Nimmo-Smith proposed the following amendment, seconded by Councillor Smart:

Add the following words to Recommendation 2: “For the avoidance of doubt, the powers delegated do not include any powers to make or vary planning policy or to exercise plan making powers which are the responsibility of the Executive.”

Add new Recommendation 7: “The Council reserves the right by resolution to revoke the delegation of powers contained in Recommendation 2.”

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 26 votes to 11. With the consent of the Council, Councillor Nimmo-Smith further amended Recommendation 2 to delete the words “which are the responsibility of the Executive”

RESOLVED (by 26 votes to 0)

- 1) That the Council resolves, pursuant to section 101(5), Local Government Act, 1972, to delegate powers to a joint development control committee with the terms of reference set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2) That the powers delegated shall be those set out in Appendix 1. For the avoidance of doubt, the powers delegated do not include any powers to make or vary planning policy or to exercise plan making powers.
- 3) That the joint committee shall be authorised to exercise its delegated powers from 1 September 2007 but may meet prior to that date in preparation for the discharge of its duties.
- 4) That the Council appoints members of the joint committee at the Annual Meeting.
- 5) That the Director of Environment and Planning be authorised to agree changes to the terms of reference and appendices governing the working of the joint committee (but not the extent of the powers delegated) following consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning and Transport and the relevant spokesperson.
- 6) That the Director of Environment and Planning be authorised to agree any scheme of delegation to officers to be adopted by the joint committee.
- 7) The Council reserves the right by resolution to revoke the delegation of powers contained in Recommendation 2

07/CIV/21 Election of Leader and Executive Councillors

Council noted a change in title to two portfolios as set out in the adoption minute. Councillor Nimmo-Smith proposed the following amendment, seconded by Cllr Smart:

“That responsibility for City Centre management is moved from the Executive Councillor

for Planning and Transport/Climate Change and Growth to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources."

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 26 votes to 0.

RESOLVED (by 26 votes to 0) to approve the Leader and Executive Councillors for 2007/08:

Leader – Cllr Nimmo-Smith

Executive Councillor for Customer Services & Resources (to include City Centre Management as referred to above) – Cllr Cantrill

Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health – Cllr Stuart

Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation – Cllr Smith

Executive Councillor for Housing (and Deputy Leader) – Cllr Smart

Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services – Cllr C Rosenstiel

Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth – Cllr Reid

07/CIV/22 Appointment of Committees 2007/08

The Mayor drew the Council's attention to the updated nominations to Committees laid around the Chamber.

RESOLVED (by 25 votes to 0)

1) To agree the appointments for 2007/08 as follows:

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		NUMBER (alternate)	NOMINATIONS (alternate)
Strategy & Resources	Liberal Democrats	6 (1)	Taylor, Ward, Boyce, Ellis-Miller, Shah, Blackhurst (Alt Pitt)
	Labour	3	Bradnack (s), Herbert (s), Sadiq
City Centre Development	Liberal Democrats	4 (1)	Dixon, Boyce, J Rosenstiel, Levy (Shah)
	Labour	2	Hart (s), Durrant
Community Services [with up to 3 co-optees nominated by HMB and a nomination from the PCT]	Liberal Democrats	6 (1)	Slatter, Kightley, Shah, James, Sanders, Blair (Ellis-Miller)
	Labour	3	Blencowe(s), Bradnack (s), Lynn (s)
Environment	Liberal Democrats	6 (1)	Ward, Shah, Baker, Upstone, Holness, Armstrong (Kightley)
	Labour	2	Durrant (s), Newbold (s)
	Independent	1	Holland

Housing Management Board [plus 6 elected tenants/leaseholders]	Liberal Democrats	6 (1)	James, Armstrong, Pitt, Levy, Blair, Kightley (J Rosenstiel)
	Labour	3	Blencowe (s), Herbert, Walker

Committee/Sub Committee		NUMBERS (Alternate)	NOMINATIONS
Planning	Liberal Democrat	6 (1)	Baker, Bailey, Dixon, Reid, Slatter, Zmura (Blair)
	Labour	3	Blencowe (s), Dryden, Durrant
Licensing	Liberal Democrat	8	Dixon, Bailey, Boyce, Upstone, C Rosenstiel, Slatter, Smith, Stuart
	Labour	4	Benstead, Blencowe, Downham (s), McPherson
Civic Affairs	Liberal Democrat	4 (1)	Boyce, C Rosenstiel, Blackhurst, Ward (Reid)
	Labour	2	Bradnack, Hart(s)
Employment Appeals Sub	Liberal Democrat	4	Smart, Boyce, Smith, Stuart
	Labour	2	Herbert, Bardnack
Standards Committee	Liberal Democrat	4	Taylor, Pitt, J Rosenstiel, Ellis-Miller McPherson (s), Walker
	Labour	2	External Members: Clark, Dasgupta, English (Alternate), Williams & Barrett (Reserves)
Cambridge Environment & Transport Area Joint	Liberal Democrat	4 (1)	Baker, Zmura, Armstrong, C Rosenstiel (Reid)
	Labour	2	Blencowe (s), Herbert
Joint Development Control Committee	Liberal Democrat	4 (1)	Baker, Smart, Blair, Reid (Ward)
	Labour	2	Blencowe (s), Durrant

07/CIV/23 Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs 2007/08

The Mayor drew the Council's attention to the updated sheet of nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs by the Liberal Democrat Group laid around the Chamber and shown below.

Councillor Herbert nominated and Councillor Blencowe seconded the Labour Group nominations for Committee Chairs as shown below:

Committee	Liberal Democrat	Labour
Strategy and Resources	Cllr Taylor	Cllr Bradnack
Community Services	Cllr Slatter	Cllr Lynn
Environment	Cllr Ward	Cllr Newbold
Housing Management Board	Mr Tony Barnes	-
City Centre Development	Cllr Dixon	Cllr Hart
Planning	Cllr Baker	Cllr Blencowe
Joint Development Control*	Cllr Baker	Cllr Blencowe
Licensing	Cllr Dixon	Cllr Downham
Civic Affairs	Cllr Boyce	Cllr Hart
Employment Appeals Sub	Cllr Smart	Cllr Bradnack
Standards	Cllr Taylor	Cllr McPherson

*as spokesperson

RESOLVED that

1. (by 26 votes for 11) the following Chairs of Committees be elected for 2007/08:

Committee	Chairs
Strategy and Resources	Cllr Taylor
Community Services	Cllr Slatter
Environment	Cllr Ward
Housing Management Board	Mr Tony Barnes
City Centre Development	Cllr Dixon
Planning	Cllr Baker
Joint Development Control*	Cllr Baker
Licensing	Cllr Dixon
Civic Affairs	Cllr Boyce
Employment Appeals Sub	Cllr Smart
Standards	Cllr Taylor

*as spokesperson

2. (unopposed) the following Vice Chairs of Committees be elected for 2007/08:

Committee	Vice Chairs
Strategy and Resources	Cllr Ward
Community Services	Cllr Kightley
Environment	Cllr Shah
Housing Management Board	Cllr James
City Centre Development	Cllr Boyce
Planning	Cllr Slatter
Joint Development Control	N/a
Licensing	Cllr Bailey
Civic Affairs	Cllr C Rosenstiel
Employment Appeals Sub	-
Standards	External member – Dr Clark

07/CIV/24 Amendment to the Constitution – Key Decisions

RESOLVED (unopposed) to amend the Constitution as follows:

Article 12 – Decision Making

12.3.1 **Key decisions.** A "key decision" means a decision made in the exercise of an executive function by any person (including officers) or body which meets one or more of the following conditions

1. The decision is likely to result in the City Council incurring expenditure or making savings in excess of ~~£250,000~~£300,000. Excluded from this are all loans to banks or other financial institutions made in accordance with the Treasury Management Policy.

In relation to letting contracts the key decision is the proposal to let a contract for a particular type of work. The subsequent decision to award the contract to a specific contractor will not be a key decision provided the value of the contract does not vary above the estimated amount by more than 10% for contracts with a value of ~~£250,000~~£300,000 to £1 Million or 5% for contracts of over £1 Million.

OR

2. The decision relates to the acquisition or disposal of land or interest in land with a value in excess of ~~£500,000~~£600,000.

07/CIV/25 Members' Allowances

RESOLVED (unopposed)

To adopt the revised scheme of Allowances for 2007/08 tabled at the meeting (appended to these minutes).

07/35 **ANNUAL STATEMENTS**

Councillor Nimmo-Smith spoke to a written statement on the Liberal Democrat Group's priorities, which was appended to the agenda for the meeting. A Labour Group Annual Statement was also included in the agenda.

Councillors Nimmo-Smith and Herbert then each spoke on their groups' priorities for the forthcoming municipal year.

07/37 **ADOPTION OF ANNUAL STATEMENT**

Under the Scheme for Annual Statements, that of Councillor Nimmo-Smith was deemed to be a motion for adoption by the Council.

Resolved (by 26 votes to 0)

That the Annual Statement of the Liberal Democrat Group, as appended to the agenda, be adopted as Council policy for 2007/2008.

07/38 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No members of the public wished to address the Council.

07/39 **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LEADER – BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2007**

Resolved (by 25 votes to 0)

To approve the draft of the Best Value Performance Plan 2007 as included in the agenda and to delegate completion and publication of the document to the Chief Executive.

07/40 **ORAL QUESTIONS**

1 Councillor Herbert to Councillor Reid answered by Councillor Nimmo-Smith

Does she support the removal of punt touts from along Bridge Street and does she believe that the use of ASBOs is the best route to ending this problem?

2 Councillor Newbold to Councillor C Rosenstiel

Does the City Council's use of black boxes for kerbside recycling comply with health & safety regulation, in particular those concerning manual handling? If use is not wholly compliant, what measures are envisaged to rectify the problem and help improve the City Council's position of 5th out of 6 in Cambridgeshire's recycling league table?

3 Councillor Slatter to Councillor Stuart

What is the City Council's policy on the display of No Smoking notices at the entrance to public buildings which will be required by law this July?

4 Councillor Downham to Councillor Nimmo-Smith

In the Cambridge Evening News on 8 July 2006, as City Council Leader you made the following comments to the News: "The City Council Leader described the Fair as a jaded, lacklustre, tawdry affair. He said there is going to be a review. We will be looking at issues it has generated. The Showmen themselves expressed some concern about the way the Fair is going..... We will certainly be reviewing the Fair and looking at these various factors." As far as I am aware, there has been no review. Why has no review taken place with police,

Showmen's Guild, local residents before the start of this year's Midsummer Fair as promised by yourself in the Cambridge Evening News?

5 Councillor Lynn to Councillor Smith

Can the Executive Councillor summarise the complaints received by herself and officers about Folk Festival ticket sale processes, and what action is proposed to avoid repeat problems?

6 Councillor James to Councillor Smart

What would the Executive Councillor say in response to Margaret Hodge M.P.'s recent remarks about the allocation of social housing?

7 Councillor Herbert to Councillor Reid

Who now leads for the Executive and for the city council on strategic planning and strategic transport issues, and why are both being removed from her Executive Councillor's job title?

8 Councillor Newbold to Councillor Smith

What numbers of Cambridge Folk Festival adult tickets this year were sold a) online, b) by telephone, c) via the Box Office. And what were the numbers and %s in each category purchased as 'Cambridge resident tickets' versus tickets for all comers?

07/41 MOTION – DISCONTINUATION OF THE CAMBRIDGE BUS DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE BUS STRATEGY REFERENCE GROUP

Councillor Reid proposed and Councillor Baker seconded the following motion:

The City Council is dismayed at the County Council's unilateral decision to discontinue the Cambridge Bus Development Board and the Bus Strategy Reference Group, a decision taken with no consultation with the City Council. At a time of planning high growth in housing in and around Cambridge, whose future is critically dependent on the provision of enhanced public transport networks, we need to improve the mechanisms for cooperation between the Councils rather than abolish them.

The City Council invites the new Leader of the County Council to establish a cross party South Cambs, City and County transport working group. We need a forum reviewing transport planning and funding for Cambridge and its developing urban fringes, with a particular focus on facilitating and providing the sustainable forms of transport which will be needed if the expansion of Cambridge is to succeed.

Under paragraph 13.8 of the Council Procedure Rules it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

RESOLVED (by 34 votes to 0) that

The City Council is dismayed at the County Council's unilateral decision to discontinue the Cambridge Bus Development Board and the Bus Strategy Reference Group, a decision taken with no consultation with the City Council. At a time of planning high growth in housing in and

around Cambridge, whose future is critically dependent on the provision of enhanced public transport networks, we need to improve the mechanisms for cooperation between the Councils rather than abolish them.

The City Council invites the new Leader of the County Council to establish a cross party South Cambs, City and County transport working group. We need a forum reviewing transport planning and funding for Cambridge and its developing urban fringes, with a particular focus on facilitating and providing the sustainable forms of transport which will be needed if the expansion of Cambridge is to succeed.

07/42 **MOTION – CLIMATE CHANGE BILL**

Under Council Procedure Rules 26.1 and with the consent of the Council, Councillor Upstone altered his motion as follows (changes are in capital letters below for ease of reference):

This council recognises the urgent need to mitigate against dangerous climate change and its associated consequences for the safety and happiness of this and future generations.

We acknowledge the UK government's efforts to take steps to legislate to make mandatory cuts in emissions in its draft Climate Change Bill. We are however deeply concerned THAT THE BILL DOES NOT establish a rationale for the UK's obligation within an international framework.

We suggest that the bill FALLS SHORT IN TWO SIGNIFICANT AREAS:

- it DOES NOT state what entitlement the government expects other nations to have, such that our cuts are part of real reductions in emissions globally.
- it DOES NOT provide SUFFICIENT leadership on the one issue that is inevitable for a long term global treaty: that of equity, establishing that each person has an equal right to use of the global atmosphere.

We are confident that this bill represents the potential to be A GROUNDBREAKING model for other governments around the world.

We therefore resolve as a City Council to ask the government to use this Bill to create a global context by adopting the principles of contraction and convergence; contractions of global emissions to achieve no greater than 450 parts per million CO₂ (as recommended by the IPCC), and convergence of international entitlements to an equal per-capita entitlement.

The motion, as altered, was seconded by Councillor Reid.

Under paragraph 13.8 of the Council Procedure Rules it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Councillor Herbert, seconded by Councillor Newbold, proposed the following amendment:

Delete from 'We are however' to 'the global atmosphere'
and insert:

'We welcome the lead taken by the UK Government in international negotiations and the publication of the world-leading Stern Review and look forward to the opportunity of a real

breakthrough at the International G8+ Conference late 2007 tying in India, China, South America and the USA to concrete carbon reduction targets.

We also recognise that acting locally is the biggest contribution the City Council can make and therefore agree that the City Council will

- make it a priority to cut its own carbon emissions and energy waste and move to buy green electricity produced from renewables
- adopt a 'Cambridge Climate Change and Pollution Action Plan', involving all sections of the community, companies, schools, residents and world-renowned Cambridge experts to promote viable alternatives that cut carbon emissions, which would:
- use the Council's planning and other powers to ensure new developments are both energy efficient and generate an increased percentage of their energy needs
- work with schools to provide incentives and options for them to reduce the 100s of avoidable car journeys involved in the school run every day
- ensure effective counting of progress in reducing carbon emissions with real targets and progress measures.

On a show of hands the amendment was lost by 9 votes to 24.

RESOLVED (by 24 votes to 0) that

This council recognises the urgent need to mitigate against dangerous climate change and its associated consequences for the safety and happiness of this and future generations.

We acknowledge the UK government's efforts to take steps to legislate to make mandatory cuts in emissions in its draft Climate Change Bill. We are however deeply concerned that the bill does not establish a rationale for the UK's obligation within an international framework.

We suggest that the bill falls short in two significant areas:

- it does not state what entitlement the government expects other nations to have, such that our cuts are part of real reductions in emissions globally.
- it does not provide sufficient leadership on the one issue that is inevitable for a long term global treaty: that of equity, establishing that each person has an equal right to use of the global atmosphere.

We are confident that this bill represents the potential to be a groundbreaking model for other governments around the world.

We therefore resolve as a City Council to ask the government to use this Bill to create a global context by adopting the principles of contraction and convergence; contractions of global emissions to achieve no greater than 450 parts per million CO₂ (as recommended by the IPCC), and convergence of international entitlements to an equal per-capita entitlement.

07/43 MOTION – EMPTY OR UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY

Councillor Herbert proposed and Councillor Blencowe seconded the following motion:

The Council calls on the Executive to lead an urgent campaign to bring back into use currently empty or unoccupied residential properties in Cambridge, and assist many people badly in need of affordable housing in the city.

The Council requests the Executive Councillor for Housing to bring forward detailed proposals, including any requiring scrutiny by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee

- to quantify empty property across the city, including the use of
- council tax records and other data sources
- to involve local Cambridge residents in identifying empty properties, where intervention can bring the properties back into use
- to identify any homes in new developments that have been bought months ago by investors but are still not occupied
- to consider the increased use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers, the better use of budgeted funding, and partnerships with Housing Associations

and increase the empty properties made available to people in need of housing.

Under paragraph 13.8 of the Council Procedure Rules it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Councillor Smart, seconded by Councillor Upstone proposed the following amendment:

Delete all and replace with:

The Council recognises that the existence of empty and unoccupied residential properties in Cambridge are an affront to people badly in need of affordable housing in the city. The Council notes that

- it has already exercised the option to reduce the Council tax discount on unoccupied but furnished houses from 50% to 10%
- it takes the option of removing the discount altogether on unoccupied and unfurnished houses in those cases where there seem to be undue delays in getting the houses back into occupation
- some houses are brought back into occupation in partnership with Housing Associations, in particular Kings Street Housing the environmental health team dealing with the most difficult cases have met their target for the past five years, sometimes with the aid of a compulsory purchase order

Nevertheless Council

- invites Cambridge residents to identify empty properties where intervention may bring properties back into use invites ward councillors to share their knowledge of their area with officers in the environmental health department dealing with empty homes
- invites members of the relevant scrutiny committee to request a paper giving the arguments for and against making the removal of the discount automatic so they can advise the Executive Councillor whether the council should change its practice.

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 24 votes to 0.

Resolved (by 22 votes to 0)

The Council recognises that the existence of empty and unoccupied residential properties in Cambridge are an affront to people badly in need of affordable housing in the city. The Council notes that

- it has already exercised the option to reduce the Council tax discount on unoccupied but furnished houses from 50% to 10%
- it takes the option of removing the discount altogether on unoccupied and unfurnished houses in those cases where there seem to be undue delays in getting the houses back

into occupation

- some houses are brought back into occupation in partnership with Housing Associations, in particular Kings Street Housing the environmental health team dealing with the most difficult cases have met their target for the past five years, sometimes with the aid of a compulsory purchase order

Nevertheless Council

- invites Cambridge residents to identify empty properties where intervention may bring properties back into use invites ward councillors to share their knowledge of their area with officers in the environmental health department dealing with empty homes
- invites members of the relevant scrutiny committee to request a paper giving the arguments for and against making the removal of the discount automatic so they can advise the Executive Councillor whether the council should change its practice.

07/44 MOTION – CITY CENTRE

Councillor Bradnack proposed and Councillor Hart seconded the following motion:

The Council is committed to improving City Centre facilities and environment, increasing accessibility for all, and delivering further investments.

The Council calls on the Leader to bring forward proposals to the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee for a new integrated city centre strategy including an extended City Centre Scrutiny Committee that combines all City Centre management and development issues, and engages representatives of stakeholders including residents, workers, businesses, the University, the county council and the police.

Under paragraph 13.8 of the Council Procedure Rules it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Councillor Cantrill, seconded by Councillor J Rosenstiel, proposed the following amendment:

Delete and replace all:

The Council's vision for Cambridge recognises its commitment to ensure the ongoing vitality and economic prosperity of the thriving city centre. This was illustrated in the last municipal year when the Council approved investments of approximately £4.1m on projects in the historic core. In addition, the Council has acted as a catalyst for the unprecedented level of private sector investment that is currently being undertaken in the city centre.

The Council notes that the City Centre Management Executive provides a platform for key stakeholders to shape the development of the city centre. The Council calls on the Executive Councillor for CS&R to consult with key stakeholders and to bring a report to the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on how the role of City Centre Management may be enhanced further to ensure that it is as effective as possible in achieving this element of the Council's vision.

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 18 votes to 0.

Resolved (by 17 votes to 0) that the Council's vision for Cambridge recognises its commitment to ensure the ongoing vitality and economic prosperity of the thriving city centre.

This was illustrated in the last municipal year when the Council approved investments of approximately £4.1m on projects in the historic core. In addition, the Council has acted as a catalyst for the unprecedented level of private sector investment that is currently being undertaken in the city centre.

The Council notes that the City Centre Management Executive provides a platform for key stakeholders to shape the development of the city centre. The Council calls on the Executive Councillor for CS&R to consult with key stakeholders and to bring a report to the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on how the role of City Centre Management may be enhanced further to ensure that it is as effective as possible in achieving this element of the Council's vision.

07/45 MOTION – FOLK FESTIVAL

Councillor Lynn proposed and Councillor Herbert seconded the following motion:

Following a further Folk Festival tickets fiasco, and the earlier rejection of Labour's 2006 proposals for improvements, the Council requests a report by the Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee proposing affordable measures from 2008 to ensure:

- that tickets can only be used by purchasers and their immediate group, ending ticket sales by touts and on Ebay
- that 'Cambridge resident tickets' are only available to be used by the purchasers
- that tickets are sold on a 'first come first served' basis.

Under paragraph 13.8 of the Council Procedure Rules it was agreed to deal with the motion at the meeting.

Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Kightley, proposed the following amendment:

Delete all and insert:

“Council welcomes the changes that were introduced this year for the sale of Folk Festival tickets, notes that the queues were significantly shorter than in previous years and thanks the Arts and Entertainments staff for their hard work in all aspects of the Folk Festival.

Council notes that further improvements could be made, including ensuring that local residents are aware of how many discounted tickets are available and making it more difficult for discounted tickets to be sold at a profit by touts. It therefore calls on the Executive Councillor to bring a report on Folk Festival ticket sales to the November meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.”

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 18 votes to 9.

Resolved (by 17 votes to 0)

Council welcomes the changes that were introduced this year for the sale of Folk Festival tickets, notes that the queues were significantly shorter than in previous years and thanks the Arts and Entertainments staff for their hard work in all aspects of the Folk Festival.

Council notes that further improvements could be made, including ensuring that local

residents are aware of how many discounted tickets are available and making it more difficult for discounted tickets to be sold at a profit by touts. It therefore calls on the Executive Councillor to bring a report on Folk Festival ticket sales to the November meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

07/46 **MOTION – PUNTING AND TOUTS**

Councillor Lynn proposed and Councillor Herbert seconded the following motion:

The Council values the importance that punting plays in providing Cambridge residents and tourists with a unique and friendly way of enjoying our city and discovering its history.

The Council wants to end the current problems as soon as possible and asks Executive Councillors to seek support from all the parties for a solution based on

- creating a new punt station on or near Quayside and prohibiting unauthorised use of Jesus Green as a base for commercial punts
- ending punt touting along Bridge Street except on Quayside
- working with the Cam Conservators to cap the number of commercial punts
- ensuring that punting is a safe tourist attraction.

On a show of hands, under paragraph 13.8 of the Council Procedure Rules, 23 members voted against dealing with the motion at the meeting and 10 in favour. The motion therefore stood referred without discussion to the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration and recommendation and to the Leader for decision.

07/47 **TO NOTE THE WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS, RECORD OF MEMBERS' ATTENDANCES AT COMMITTEE, SUB-COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS DURING 2006/2007**

Resolved that the written questions and answers and the Record of Members' attendances at Committee, Sub-Committee and Working Party Meetings during 2006/2007 be noted.
(A revised copy was sent to members having received amendments to the circulated copy)

MAYOR

Council Minute 07/35

Appendix

07/CIV/25 Members' Allowances