

MINUTES OF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING21 May 2009
11.00am – 5.45pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor McPherson), Councillors Baker, Benstead, Bick, Blackhurst, Blair, Blencowe, Boyce, Bradnack, Cantrill, Dixon, Dryden, Hart, Herbert, Hipkin, Howell, Kightley, Liddle, Lynn, McGovern, Newbold, Nimmo-Smith, Pitt, Reid, Rosenstiel, Sanders, Shah, Smart, Smith, Stuart, Taylor, Todd-Jones, Walker, Ward, Wright, Zmura

For the Information of the Council**09/31 ELECTION OF MAYOR 2009/2010**

Councillor Dryden proposed and Councillor Smith seconded the nomination of Councillor McPherson as Mayor for the municipal year 2009/2010.

Resolved that Councillor McPherson be elected Mayor for the municipal year 2009/2010 (Councillor McPherson then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of the office of Mayor).

09/32 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2009/2010

Councillor Blackhurst proposed and Councillor Hart seconded the nomination of Councillor Stuart as Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2009/2010.

Resolved that Councillor Stuart be elected Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2009/2010 (Councillor Stuart then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of the office of Deputy Mayor).

09/33 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23 April 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

09/34 MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Council noted the appointment of The Reverend Chris Wilson, as the Mayor's Chaplain for the municipal year 2009/2010.

09/35 TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR'S CADET FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Council noted the appointment of Nathan Saberton, representing the Cambridge Regional College Army Cadet Force, as Mayor's Cadet for the ensuing year.

09/36 TO PASS A RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING MAYOR AND MAYORESS

Resolved, unanimously, on the proposal of Councillor Bick, seconded by Councillor Hart, that this Council expresses its appreciation of the manner in which the duties of Mayor and Mayoress were discharged by Councillor Mike Dixon and his wife, Anne Dixon, during their period of office and that the Common Seal be affixed to a copy of this resolution for presentation to them.

09/37 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Al Bander, Armstrong, Ellis-Miller, Levy and Upstone

2. COPE

The Mayor welcomed a group from the Cambridge Older People's Enterprise who were attending for the ceremonial part of the meeting together with some politics students from Long Road Sixth Form College. It was felt extremely important that members of the community gained the opportunity to witness the ancient Mayor-making ceremony.

3. VISIT TO SZEGED

The Sister Cities Festival and Bridge Fair were taking place in Cambridge's twin City of Szeged at the weekend. Due to the fact that the date for the Festival had clashed with the Councils Annual Meeting, it had not been possible for civic representatives to attend this year. However, Cambridge was being ably represented by Emma Thornton, Head of Tourism and City Centre Management.

4. CIVIC CHURCH SERVICE – SUNDAY, 24th MAY, 2009

The Mott Sermon would be preached at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 24th May at 9.30 a.m. Members had received details of this civic occasion, and were asked to inform Sue Edwards of their attendance.

5. ARMED FORCES DAY - 27th June

In support of national Armed Forces Day, it had been agreed that the Armed Forces Flag would be hoisted onto the Guildhall on Monday, 22nd June. Cadets and TA personnel would be involved in this ceremony.

6. PROCLAMATION OF MIDSUMMER FAIR – WEDNESDAY, 24th JUNE, 2009

The Proclamation of Midsummer Fair would take place on Wednesday, 24th June, and details would shortly be circulated. Members were asked to note the date and try to support this civic occasion.

7. MAYOR'S DAY OUT

The Mayor's Day Out for Cambridge senior citizens would take place on Thursday, 3rd September and the venue was once again Great Yarmouth. Any Members of the Council who were free to lend a hand as stewards were asked to contact the Arts and Entertainments team.

8. HARVEST FESTIVAL CIVIC SERVICE

The Harvest Festival civic service would take place on Sunday, 11th October in Great St. Mary's Church at 9.30am and notification would be sent nearer the time.

9. MARIAN HOLNESS

Marian Holness had resigned from her East Chesterton seat and a by-election would take place on Thursday, 4th June. The Mayor placed on record the Council's thanks for the work former Councillor Holness had done on behalf of her Ward and the City.

10. ROB HAMMONDS RECEPTION

Members were reminded that that there would be a reception for Rob Hammond on 22 June 5pm – 8pm in the Large and Small Hall.

11. COUNCILLOR ALAN BAKER

It was reported to Full Council that Her Majesty The Queen had awarded Councillor Alan Baker the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. The Founder's Medal was one of the Society's highest awards and was in recognition of Councillor Baker's work as an historical geographer, and for his research and published articles and books on the social geography of rural France during the nineteenth century. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor congratulated Councillor Baker on this award.

09/38 TO ELECT FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOUR BAILIFFS OF THE CITY FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/2010

Councillor Boyce proposed and Councillor Hart seconded that Councillors Dryden, Hart, Taylor and Wright, be appointed as bailiffs.

Resolved that Councillors Dryden, Hart, Taylor and Wright be appointed as bailiffs of the city for the municipal year 2009/2010.

09/39 CHANGE OF AGENDA ORDER

The Mayor used his discretion, under paragraph 4.2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, to alter the order of business so that Agenda Item 15e was taken next.

09/40 MOTION E: Resolution of thanks to Chief Executive

Councillor Nimmo-Smith proposed and Councillor Herbert seconded the following motion:

The Council puts on record its very warm appreciation of Rob Hammond's leadership as Chief Executive for the past 19 years, noting particularly the respect and affection that he has personally engendered in Cambridge including from Councillors of all political persuasions and local partner organisations.

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

Resolved (unanimously) that the motion be agreed as set out above.

09/41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were raised

**09/42 CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT – RECOMMENDATION OF
THE APPOINTMENT SUB COMMITTEE OF A NEW CHIEF
EXECUTIVE AND INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS**

The Council resolved to exclude the press and public on the grounds that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of information defined as exempt from publication by virtue of paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Directors, Council officers and the Sergeant at Mace were also excluded from the Chamber. The Chief Executive, Head of Legal Services, Head of HR remained.

09/43 CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT

Members of the public, Directors, Council officers and the Sergeant at Mace were invited back into the Council Chamber.

The Leader of the Council formally announced that Antoinette Jackson, the current Director of Customer and Democratic Services, had been appointed to the position of Chief Executive.

**09/44 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
(11 MAY) FOR ADOPTION**

09/CIV/09 Election of Leader and Executive Councillors

RESOLVED (by 22 votes to 0) to approve the appointment of the Leader and Executive Councillors for 2009/10.

Leader – Cllr Nimmo-Smith

Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation	Cllr Smith
Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth	Cllr Reid
Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health	Cllr Blair
Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources	Cllr Cantrill
Executive Councillor for Environmental Health and Waste Services	Cllr Pitt
Executive Councillor for Housing (and Deputy Leader)	Cllr Smart

09/CIV/10 Appointment of Committees 2009/10

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

RESOLVED (by 30 votes to 0) to agree the size and membership of Committees as follows:

Scrutiny Committees						
Community Services	9(1)	Lib Dem	6(1)	Lab	3	Other *3
		Al Bander		Benstead	Spk AR	
		Ellis-Miller		Blencowe	Spk H	
		Kightley		Walker	Spk CDH	
		Liddle				
		McGovern				
		Sanders				
		Boyce	(Alt)			

* Up to 3 co-optees nominated by 1st meeting of HMB

Environment	9(1) Lib Dem	6(1)	Lab 2	Other 1
	Baker		Herbert Spk Tr&Plan	Wright
	Kightley		Newbold Spk Env Srv	
	Shah			
	Upstone			
	Ward			
	Zmura			
	TBD (Alt)			
Housing Management Board	9(6) Lib Dem	6	Lab 2	Other *7
	Armstrong		Blencowe	Howell
	Blackhurst		Todd-Jones Spk	Mr Barnes
	Levy			Mrs Best
	McGovern			Mrs Dennis
	Shah			Mr Haywood
	Ward			Mr Marais
	TBD (Alt)			Mr Sweeney

* Up to 6 elected tenant/leaseholder representatives

Strategy & Resources	9(1) Lib Dem	6(1)	Lab 2	Other 1
	Bick		Herbert Spk Strategy	Howell
	Blackhurst		Dryden Spk CSR	
	Boyce			
	Shah			
	Taylor			
	Ward			
	McGovern (Alt)			

Regulatory Committees				
Civic Affairs	6(1)	Lib Dem 4(1)	Lab 2	Other 0
		Boyce	Dryden	
		Pitt	Herbert Spk	
		Rosenstiel		
		Ward		
		Blackhurst (Alt)		
Employment Appeals Sub	9	Lib Dem 6	Lab 2	Other 1
		Blair	Dryden	Hipkin
		Boyce	Walker	
		Cantrill		
		McGovern		
		Smart		
		Stuart		
Licensing	12	Lib Dem 8(1)	Lab 3	Other 1
	(1)	Boyce	Benstead	Wright
		Dixon	Blencowe (Spk)	
		Liddle	Hart	
		McGovern		
		Rosenstiel		
		Smith		
		Stuart		
		Upstone		
		Shah (Alt for main Committee only)		
Planning	9(1)	Lib Dem 6(1)	Lab 2	Other 1
		Al Bander	Blencowe Spk	Hipkin
		Baker	Dryden	
		Blair		
		Dixon		
		Reid		
		Stuart		
		Zmura (Alt)		

Standards	6	Lib Dem	4	Lab 2	Other *3
		Bick		Dryden	Dr Clark
		McGovern		McPherson	Mr Dasgupta
		Stuart			Mr Williams
		Taylor	Spokes		
		Ellis-Miller	(Alt)		

* 3 External Members

Joint Committees

Joint Development Control	6(1)	Lib Dem	4(1)	Lab 2	Other
		Baker		Blencowe	
		Blair		Dryden	
		Reid			
		Smart			
		Ward	(Alt)		
Joint Planning Policy (Cambridge Fringes)	3(1)	Lib Dem	2(1)	Lab 1	Other
		Exec Cllr	CC&G	Herbert (Alt)	
		Ward		Blencowe	
		Nimmo-Smith	(Alt)		
Cambridge Traffic Management Area Joint (AJC)	6(1)	Lib Dem	4(1)	Lab 2	Other
		Baker	(Lead Member)	Blencowe	
		Blair		Newbold	
		Rosenstiel			
		Zmura			
		Reid	(Alt)		

09/CIV/11 Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs 2009/10

The Liberal Democrat Group nominations tabled at Civic Affairs Committee and the Labour Group nominations proposed at the meeting by Councillor Herbert and seconded by Councillor Blencowe for Committee Chairs were as shown below:

Scrutiny Committee Chair	Liberal Democrat	Labour
Strategy and Resources	Cllr Taylor	Cllr Herbert
Community Services	Cllr Liddle	Cllr Blencowe
Environment	Cllr Ward	Cllr Newbold
Civic Affairs	Cllr Boyce	Cllr Herbert

The Liberal Democrat Group nomination tabled at Civic Affairs Committee and the Labour Group nomination proposed at the meeting by Councillor Blencowe and seconded by Councillor Bradnack for Committee Vice-Chairs were as shown below:

Scrutiny Committee Vice - Chair	Liberal Democrat	Labour
Strategy and Resources	Cllr Blackhurst	Cllr Herbert
Community Services	Cllr Kightley	Cllr Blencowe
Environment	Cllr Shah	Cllr Newbold
Civic Affairs	Cllr Rosenstiel	Cllr Herbert

Resolved

- 1 (by 22 votes to 0) that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees be as follows:

Scrutiny Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Strategy and Resources	Cllr Taylor	Cllr Blackhurst
Community Services	Cllr Liddle	Cllr Kightley
Environment	Cllr Ward	Cllr Shah
Housing Management Board	Diane Best (Tenant Rep)	Cllr Blackhurst
Planning	Cllr Baker	Cllr Dixon
Licensing	Cllr Dixon	Cllr Stuart
Civic Affairs	Cllr Boyce	Cllr Rosenstiel
Employment Appeals Sub	Cllr Smart	N/A
Standards	To be appointed from the Non-Councillor members by the Committee at its first meeting	N/A
Joint Development Control Committee*	Cllr Baker	

* Spokesperson for the City Council on the Joint Development Control Committee

09/44 ANNUAL STATEMENTS

Councillor Nimmo-Smith spoke to a written Annual Statement on the Liberal Democrat Group's priorities for the forthcoming municipal year, which was appended to the agenda for the meeting.

The Labour Group's Annual Statement was circulated around the chamber at the meeting and Councillor Herbert spoke on the Labour Group's priorities for the forthcoming municipal year.

09/45 ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND PRIORITIES

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

Councillor Herbert proposed and Councillor Blencowe seconded the replacement of the Liberal Democrat Annual Statement by that of the Labour Group. On a show of hands, this proposal was lost by 20 votes to 10.

Resolved (by 20 votes to 10) that the Annual Statement of the Liberal Democrat Group, as appended to the agenda, be adopted as Council policy for 2009/10.

09/46 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor apologised to members of the public for the delay in getting to this section of the agenda.

Mrs Doreen Brady addressed the Council and asked why no restrictions were put on the sale of Tiverton House when local residents had asked for this to be done?

The Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources thanked Mrs Brady for raising the question and gave members some general background information on the situation.

It was confirmed that Council policy on this issue had been discussed fully by the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee in 2008. The issue of having a covenant on the sale of the property had been raised at Committee but this course of action was decided against. Contracts were exchanged in March and the sale of Tiverton House was concluded in May.

Mrs Brady commented that local accommodation was a mixture of flats and bungalows for older residents. The new owners of Tiverton House had not consulted with residents about how they would feel about having it converted into student accommodation. Issues raised through a petition and residents meetings included: potential for increased car usage and late night noise and disturbance. It was felt that extra vehicles would overburden existing resident parking or they would park on the road, causing issues for emergency vehicle access. Why had the Executive Councillor for Housing not protected residents?

The Executive Councillor for Housing stated that a comprehensive answer had been given at a recent East Area Committee. She reiterated that in order for the Council to have the funds to refurbish sheltered housing in the City for the overall benefit of elderly residents, it was necessary to sell Tiverton House on the open market.

The Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources reinforced that the Council's clear policy was not to include a covenant on the property. Members were fully clear of this policy when they made their decision at the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

09/47 ORAL QUESTIONS**1. From Councillor Wright to the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth**

Whilst welcoming the year's trial set to begin this autumn for a 20 mph speed limit within the inner ring road of the city, I ask the Executive Councillor by what means pressure may be placed on Cambridgeshire County Council to extend the area of the zone to cover all outer residential areas where the average speed of traffic is no more than 24 mph?

2. From Councillor Herbert to the Leader

What is his view of the lessons from the 2008 Folk Festival ticket loss review, and are there Council-wide lessons to be learnt or was it all the fault of Arts and Entertainment?

3. From Councillor Dryden to the Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation

Is the Executive Councillor happy with the Internet sale of Folk Festival tickets this year?

4. From Councillor Lynn to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

Why was there no consultation with opposition Councillors during the job restructuring process arising out of the Customer Access Strategy?

5. From Councillor McGovern to the Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation

Would the Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation join myself and a resident at North Area Committee in congratulating officers for the wonderful display of flower beds in parks, open spaces and on roundabouts throughout the city?

6. From Councillor Walker to the Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health

What is the City Council doing to support and facilitate a new drop-in centre for older people in the city centre, following its closure of Parsons Court in 2006?

7. From Councillor Dryden to the Executive Councillor for Housing

Colville & Augers Road bungalows are no longer to be considered for redevelopment in the current review programme running to 2011. Why have the residents not been informed that their homes are no longer under threat of demolition?

09/48 MOTION A: Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Councillor Newbold proposed and Councillor Herbert seconded the following motion:

The Council asks the Civic Affairs Committee to establish a Councillor Scrutiny Subgroup to visit other Councils operating effective member scrutiny systems, and report back to Civic Affairs Committee before the end of 2009 with any recommendations for improving the Council's current Scrutiny Committee and constitutional arrangements.

Under Procedure Rule 13.7.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

On a show of hands the motion was lost by 19 votes to 11.

09/49 MOTION B: Committee of Inquiry into Folk Festival

Councillor Herbert proposed and Councillor Blencowe seconded the following motion:

The Council agrees that the proposed member-led Committee of Inquiry into Folk Festival arrangements should report to Civic Affairs Committee given the need to consider council-wide and audit issues, and integrate it with the responsibilities of Civic Affairs for:

- monitoring the implementation of its Action Plan re: the review of 2008 Ticket Sales
- considering also the agreed additional review by the Chief Executive.

Under Procedure Rule 13.7.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

On a show of hands the motion was lost by 20 votes to 9.

09/50 MOTION C: Electric Car Strategy

Councillor Newbold proposed and Councillor Walker seconded the following motion:

The Council welcomes the Government Electric Car Strategy, complete with plans for cities to become testing grounds for drivers using and charging electric vehicles, and the Government invitation asking cities to bid to become 'electric car showcases'.

Building on previous council investment in electric charging points, and public opinion strongly in favour of further transport measures to combat climate change, Cambridge is an excellent position to become a showcase city.

The Council therefore asks the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth to work with Cambridgeshire County Council in putting together a bid for a share of the £250 million Government funding.

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

Resolved (unanimously) that the motion be agreed as set out above.

09/51 MOTION D: Clone Towns

Councillor Smart proposed and Councillor Cantrill seconded the following motion:

This Council

- notes that Cambridge has been an important regional market town for over 1000 years,
- welcomes the formation of "Love Cambridge" to promote the city as an excellent shopping destination
- believes that there is room in Cambridge for large and small branches of national and international chains

However this Council also

- notes that the New Economic Foundation and others have expressed concern about places where the major shopping areas are dominated by chains, calling them "Clone Towns"
- fears that the domination of national chains stocking only the most popular brands will make it difficult for smaller specialist shops with greater diversity to survive

This Council notes

- that Cambridge is not, up to now, among those called “Clone Towns”,
- that there are still many smaller independent shops in the city, many of them offering specialist ranges
- that many of them are grouped just outside the main city centre shopping area in places such as Mill Road and Magdalene Street

This Council therefore instructs the Director of Environment and Planning

- to explore ways of enhancing the appeal of the shopping streets dominated by independent and specialist shops
- to consider the implications of setting up an Independent Business Zone
- to consider whether national legislation would be necessary to establish such a zone and, if it is, to work with the city’s MPs and national organisations to promote the legislation

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

Councillor Blencowe proposed and Councillor Todd-Jones seconded the following amendment:

Replace last paragraph with:

This Council therefore instructs the Director of Environment and Planning, in association with ‘Love Cambridge’

- to explore ways of enhancing the appeal of the shopping streets dominated by independent and specialist shops
- to explore ways of enhancing the appeal of our many and varied local shopping centres and parades such as Barnwell Rd, Campkin Rd, Cherry Hinton High Street and Wulfstan Way
- to fully consult existing local traders, land and property owners, businesses and residents in these above mentioned areas to find out whether there is a clear level of public support for suggested enhancements
- if consultation shows proven public support for an independent business zone, to consider the implications of setting one up
- if consultation shows proven public support for an independent business zone, to consider whether national legislation would be necessary to establish such a zone and, if it is, to work with the City’s MPs and national organisations to promote the legislation

On a show of hands the amendment was lost by 19 votes to 9.

Resolved (by 19 votes to 0) that:

This Council

- notes that Cambridge has been an important regional market town for over 1000 years,
- welcomes the formation of “Love Cambridge” to promote the city as an excellent shopping destination
- believes that there is room in Cambridge for large and small branches of national and international chains

However this Council also

- notes that the New Economic Foundation and others have expressed concern about places where the major shopping areas are dominated by chains, calling them “Clone Towns”
- fears that the domination of national chains stocking only the most popular brands will make it difficult for smaller specialist shops with greater diversity to survive

This Council notes

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This Council therefore instructs the Director of Environment and Planning

- to explore ways of enhancing the appeal of the shopping streets dominated by independent and specialist shops
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- to consider whether national legislation would be necessary to establish such a zone and, if it is, to work with the city’s MPs and national organisations to promote the legislation

09/52 TO NOTE THE WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS, RECORD OF MEMBERS’ ATTENDANCES AT COMMITTEE, SUB-COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS DURING 2008/2009

Resolved that the written questions and answers and the Record of Members’ attendances at Committee, Sub-Committee and Working Party Meetings during 2008/2009 be noted.

MAYOR