

**PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD**  
**13 APRIL 2011**

**The Mayor – Councillor Keith Sharp**

**Present:**

Councillors: Allen, Arculus, Ash, Benton, Burton, Cereste, M Dalton, S Dalton, S Day, D Day, Eley, Fitzgerald, Fletcher, Fower, JA Fox, JR Fox, Goldspink, Goodwin, Harrington, Hiller, Holdich, Hussain, Jamil, Khan, Kreling, Lamb, Lane, Lee, Lowndes, Miners, Morley, Murphy, Nash, Nawaz, Newton, North, Over, Peach, Rush, Saltmarsh, Sanders, Sandford, Scott, Seaton, Serluca, Sharp, Simons, Stokes, Swift, Todd, Walsh, Wilkinson and Winslade.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Dobbs, Shaheed and Thacker.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were received:

Councillor Sharp declared a personal interest in item 7(ii), motion one, in that he was a member of Innova Board.

Councillor Sandford declared a personal interest in item 7(ii), motion four, in that he was a member of the Electoral Reform Society.

Councillor Hiller declared a personal interest in item 7(ii), motion one, in that he had been involved in the orchestration of the current state of the hydrotherapy pool.

Councillor Fitzgerald declared a personal interest in item 7(ii), motion five, in that he was a member of the Police Authority.

Councillor Lee declared a personal interest in item 7(ii), motion five, in that he was a member of the Police Authority.

**3. Minutes of the meetings held on 23 February 2011**

The minutes of the meetings held on 23 February 2011 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as an accurate record.

**4. Communications Time**

**4(i) Mayor's Announcements**

Members noted the report outlining the Mayor's engagements for the period 13 February 2011 to 3 April 2011.

**4(ii) Leader's Announcements**

Councillor Cereste addressed the meeting and stated that the launch of the war memorial had been a success and a company in Peterborough had donated the first £5k towards the fund. Further donations towards this worthy cause would be welcomed and encouraged.

Group Leaders were invited to respond to the announcement and all offered notes of support and thanks.

In response, Councillor Cereste thanked the Group Leaders for their support.

#### **4(iii) Chief Executive's Announcements**

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive.

### **5. Community Involvement Time**

#### **5(i) Questions with Notice by Members of the public**

There were no questions raised.

#### **5(ii) Questions with notice by Members of the Council relating to ward matters to Cabinet Members and to Committee Chairmen**

There were no questions raised.

#### **5(iii) Questions with Notice by Members of the Council to representatives of the Police and Fire Authorities**

Questions were asked to the representative of the Police Authority in respect of the following:

- Payments for full time police officers and Police Community Support Officers working at the Private Finance Initiative Schools (PFI) in Peterborough and the hospital; and
- The reduction in the hours of the villages' Police Constable (PC).

A summary of all questions and answers were raised within agenda items 5(iii) are attached at **Appendix A**.

#### **5(iv) Petitions submitted by Members or Residents**

Councillor Todd submitted a petition from the residents of Glenton Street and Eastgate with regards to improving the state of their footpaths.

### **6. Executive Business Time**

#### **6(i) Questions with Notice to the Leader and Members of the Executive**

Questions were asked to the Leader and Members of the Executive in respect of the following:

- Speeding traffic on David's Lane;
- Private Sector landlords and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs);
- Flytipping;
- Services provided by Enterprise following loss of staff;
- Trees and shrubs in Cathedral Square; and
- Webcasting.

A summary of all questions and answers raised within agenda items 6(i) are attached at **Appendix B**.

#### **6(ii) Questions without Notice on the Record of Executive Decisions**

Members received and noted a report summarising:

- Decisions from the Cabinet Meetings held 21 March 2011;
- Use of the Council's call-in mechanism, which had not been invoked since the last meeting;
- Waiver of Call-in provision, which had not been invoked since the last meeting; and
- Cabinet Member Decisions taken during the period 15 February 2011 to 31 March 2011.

**Questions were asked about the following:**

Neighbourhood Council Review – Part 2

Councillor Ash queried whether the work of the Neighbourhood Councils would overshadow and duplicate the work undertaken by the local residents and community associations and the Parish Councils. Councillor Cereste responded and stated that the concept was for the Neighbourhood Councils to be decision making bodies, enabling the public to be involved in the way the city was run. Ultimately some duplication may occur, but this would be addressed going forward.

Councillor Sanders questioned whether the further inclusion of Parish Councillors could be explored in the future, including affording one member from each Parish Council a vote at the meetings. Councillor Cereste responded that there had been a number of recommendations made in relation to Parish Councils and there was nothing to say that this point could not be explored further in the future.

Councillor Sandford queried why the name 'Area Committees', as proposed by the Task and Finish Group, had been changed to 'Neighbourhood Committees' by Cabinet, and what consultation had been undertaken prior to putting that name change forward? Councillor Cereste responded and stated that the name 'Area Committees' was too impersonal. Cabinet wanted to convey a clear message that the Committees were about neighbourhoods and the people who lived in those neighbourhoods. With regards to consultation, Councillor Cereste stated that he wasn't aware that this was required on this point.

Councillor Sandford expressed concern at the nature of the powers to be afforded to the Committees, requested clarification from the Leader as to what their powers would be, and to confirm that they would not become purely talking shops. Councillor Cereste stated that the Committees would be given all the powers possible that the rules allowed.

Councillor Khan stated that he broadly welcomed the decision of the Cabinet, however could the Leader assure him that the Committees would receive the support and attention they deserved? Councillor Cereste responded and guaranteed support for the Committees.

Councillor Miners stated that he believed it should be the decision of each of the individual Neighbourhood Committees to decide its own seating arrangements, therefore he believed that section 13 of the recommendations should be deleted and taken back for further consideration. Councillor Goodwin responded and stated that the meetings were only the front facing aspect, the real work was undertaken within the Neighbourhood Management Team, and it was therefore not important where people were seated. Councillor Cereste further responded and stated that it would be acceptable for each of the Committees to identify their own seating arrangements.

Councillor Arculus stated that the report contained references to Area Committees. Councillor Arculus was assured that this point would be addressed.

Councillor Fower queried whether the Peterborough North Area Committee would be required to change its name and if so would Councillor Cereste be happy to attend a future meeting to explain to those present why their chosen name was no longer to be used. Councillor Cereste stated that he would be happy to attend and explain the point.

Councillor Fitzgerald sought clarification as to the formal wording change to point 13 in the recommendations with regards to seating arrangements. Councillor Cereste stated that this point would be explored.

## 7. Council Business Time

### 7(i) Executive Recommendations

#### a) Long Term Transport Strategy and Local Transport Plan (LTP)

Cabinet at its meeting of 21 March received a report following a Joint Meeting of the Environment Capital and Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committees and Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities as part of the democratic process leading to the adoption of the Peterborough Long Term Transport Strategy (2011-2026) and Local Transport Plan (2011-2016) at Full Council in April 2011. Cabinet considered the Peterborough Long Term Transport Strategy (2011-2026) and the Local Transport Plan (2011-2016) and recommended it to Council for adoption.

Councillor Hiller introduced and moved the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Cereste seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

During debate, concerns were raised over the ongoing issue of parking on verges and also of the bus strategy on page 43 of the document.

A vote was taken (48 in favour, 0 against and 3 abstentions) and it was **RESOLVED** to:

Adopt the Peterborough Long Term Transport Strategy (2011-2026) and the Local Transport Plan (2011-2016).

### 7(ii) Notices of Motion

1. Council agreed to accept an altered motion from Councillor John Fox. Councillor John Fox moved the following motion (deletions are shown):

That this Council:

- (i) Recognises the extent of the work being carried out at the hydrotherapy pool, located at St George's Centre, and its benefits to all the communities across Peterborough;
- ~~(ii) Requests that the Leader of the Council considers amending the Community Leadership Fund (CLF) criteria to cover city wide projects, and if agreed:~~
- (iii) Requests that all Councillors ~~be asked to making~~ a donation of ~~£500~~ from their annual CLF allocation towards the running costs of the hydrotherapy pool.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Judy Fox and she reserved her right to speak.

Following a brief debate this motion was **CARRIED** unanimously.

2. Councillor Sandford moved the following motion with an amendment from Councillor Seaton (shown below):

That this Council:

- (i) Notes that the last Labour Government closed over 5,000 post offices, including several in the Peterborough area;

- (ii) Welcomes the Coalition's Governments plans for post offices, which involve:
- Post offices becoming a one-stop shop;
  - Investment of £1.3 billion in the post office network;
  - Post offices opening longer;
  - 80% of bank accounts being accessible in your local post office;
  - Post offices remaining a central point of our community life;
  - Post offices offering information for jobseekers;
  - Post office services being offered at the shop till; and
  - Small, local shops providing some post office services.
- ~~(iii) Will endeavour to put as much business through Peterborough's post office network as possible, i.e. council tax payments and other council services;~~
- (iii) Will endeavour to put business through Peterborough's post office network where possible, where value for money and subject to procurement legislation.
- (iv) Instructs the Chief Executive to write to Postal Affairs Minister, Ed Davey MP, giving this Council's full support to the Government's proposals.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Fower who reserved his right to speak.

Following a brief debate this motion was **CARRIED** unanimously.

3. Councillor Fower moved the following motion:

That this Council:

- (i) Recognises the litter problems created, especially in those areas designated District Centres, where there are a high proportion of takeaway food outlets;
- (ii) Requests that, unless there are pressing logistical reasons not to do so, a standard planning condition for planning applications for such developments will be automatically imposed for provision of a litterbin at the applicant's expense in the vicinity of the development.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Sandford who reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Hiller moved amendments to the motion to leave out words from paragraph 1 and to replace words in paragraph 2 as below:

That this Council:

- (i) Recognises the litter problems created, especially in those areas designated District Centres.
- (ii) Requests that, unless there are logistical reasons not to do so, planning officers, when considering all retail outlets' planning applications, investigate the potential to condition litter disposal methodology to endeavour to reduce the problem.

The amendments were seconded by Councillor Sam Dalton.

Following a brief debate a vote was taken on the amendments to the motion and they were **CARRIED**: 48 in favour, 2 against, 3 abstentions.

No further debate took place and the substantive motion was **CARRIED** unanimously.

4. Councillor Fower moved the following motion:

That this Council:

- (i) Supports moves to change our parliamentary voting system, which will see Peterborough Members of Parliament elected under a fairer system;
- (ii) Calls on the Returning Officer to take steps to promote participation in the Referendum.

This was seconded by Councillor Sandford.

Following a debate in which views both for and against the motion were given, a vote was taken and the motion was **DEFEATED**: 4 in favour, 44 against, 3 abstentions.

5. Councillor Fower moved the following motion:

That this Council:

- (i) Notes that the Government wants to have directly elected police commissioners with the intention also to axe police authorities, and that the LGA is opposing this change;
- (ii) Expresses deep concern that this will lead to the politicisation of Cambridgeshire Police and jeopardise their operational independence. Such a radical change would be a diversion, at an estimated cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds, in precious resources away from front-line policing;
- (iii) Believes accountability of the police in Peterborough would be best served in strengthening the ties, by other means, between our local neighbourhoods and Councillors;
- (iv) Requests that the Leader of the Council to write to our local MPs informing them of this motion and asking them to oppose the Government's proposals for elected Police Commissioners.

This was seconded by Councillor Sandford.

Following debate the motion was **DEFEATED**: 10 in favour, 38 against, 2 abstentions.

### **7(iii) Reports and Recommendations**

#### **a) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document**

Council received a report informing it of the publication of the Inspectors Report and its conclusion which found the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy 'sound' and recommending that Council approve the adoption of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy DPD including Proposals Map C, incorporating the changes recommended by the Inspectors Report.

Councillor Hiller introduced and moved the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Cereste seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

During debate, Councillor Sandford raised concerns over the content of page 103 of the document relating to the potential disposal of low level radioactive waste in Cambridgeshire. Councillor Cereste advised that it would be for the Planning and Environmental Protection

Committee to agree to any use of Peterborough land for the disposal of such waste and therefore could not envisage this happening.

A vote was taken (45 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions) and it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the conclusions of the independent Inspector who was appointed to examine the Council's submitted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document; and
2. Approve the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document, incorporating the changes as recommended by the Inspector, for adoption on 19 July 2011 following approval by Cambridgeshire County Council on that date.

#### **b) Programme of Meetings**

Council received a report presenting for the consideration of Council the annual programme of meetings for 2011/12 and the draft programme of meetings for 2012/13.

Councillor Cereste moved the recommendations in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Rush.

A brief debate was held in which Councillor Sandford queried the necessity to hold some Committee meetings in the daytime and Councillor Rush advised of a clash of dates in June 2012 with the Queen's Jubilee bank holiday.

It was **AGREED** to carry the recommendations in the report to:

Approve the programme of meetings for 2011/12 and approve, in principle, the draft programme of meetings for 2012/13.

#### **c) Grouping of Borough Fen and Newborough Parish Councils**

Council received a report to approve the grouping of the parishes of Borough Fen and Newborough and to allow a common parish council under the name of Newborough and Borough Fen Parish Council to be formed, and to make an Order to bring the parish council into force.

Councillor Harrington moved the recommendations in the report.

This was seconded by Councillor Cereste.

It was **AGREED** to carry the recommendations in the report to:

1. Group Newborough and Borough Fen Parish Councils under the name of Newborough and Borough Fen Parish Council;
2. Authorise the Solicitor to the Council to draw up an Order to group the parish councils to include the following electoral arrangements:
  - (i) the number of parish councillors should be twelve, eight representing Newborough and four representing Borough Fen;
  - (ii) the current parish councillors elected in 2010 for Newborough and Borough Fen should continue to represent the new parish council, elections will be held at the end of their term of office in 2014.

Meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

MAYOR