

**MINUTES
OF A
MEETING OF THE ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
HELD IN THE ARUN CIVIC CENTRE
ON 7 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 6.00 P.M.**

Present:- Councillors Gammon (Chairman), Dillon (Vice-Chairman), Ambler, Ballard, T Bence, Mrs Bence, Bicknell, Blampied, Mrs Bower, R Bower, Brooks, Mrs Brown, L Brown, Buckland, Cates, Chapman, Charles, Clayden, Cooper, Dendle, Dingemans, Edwards, Elkins, English, Mrs Hall, Mrs Hall, Mrs Harrison-Horn, Haymes, Hitchins, Hughes, Mrs Madeley, Mrs Neno, Mrs Oakley, Patel, Mrs Pendleton, Mrs Porter, Purchase, Mrs Rapnik, Reynolds, Miss Rhodes, Smith, Mrs Stainton, Stanley, Dr Walsh, Warren, Wheal, Wells, Wensley and Wotherspoon.

[Note: The following Members were absent from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business: - Councillors Mrs Harrison-Horn and Porter - Minute 229 (Part) to Minute 233; and Councillor Miss Rhodes – Minute 230 (Part) to Minute 233].

206. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and representatives of the public, press and officers to the Council Meeting.

207. FORMER COUNCILLOR DEREK WHITTAKER

The Chairman announced with great sadness that former Councillor Derek Whittaker had passed away suddenly following a short period of illness. He confirmed that Mr Whittaker had served the District as a Councillor from August 1987 to 2003 and had fulfilled the roles of Chairman of the Council for the civic year 1991 to 1992 and had also been Leader of the Council between 1995 and 2002. He had represented the District Ward of Rustington East for that time.

The Chairman asked Members to join him in sending the Council's thoughts to his family and friends during this difficult time.

The Council then stood in silence to his memory.

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208. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Ayres, Oliver-Redgate, Oppler and Tyler and from all of the Council's Honorary Aldermen.

209. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Gammon, Dr Walsh, Warren, Buckland and Purchase declared their Personal Interests in Agenda Item 18 [Littlehampton Regeneration Sub-Committee – 10 October 2018 – in relation to Minute 11 (Littlehampton Town Centre Management [Exempt – Paragraphs 1 and 3 – Information Relating to Individuals and Business Affairs] as Members of Littlehampton Town Council.

Councillor Wells declared a Personal Interest in relation to Agenda Item 13 [Bognor Regis Regeneration Sub-Committee – 24 September 2018] in relation to Minute 10 (Bognor Regis Town Centre Management and Business Improvement Bud (BID) Update) as he was the Chairman of Business Improvement District.

210. QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions from members of the public who had submitted their questions in advance of the meeting in accordance with the rules of the Council's Constitution.

The Chairman announced that one question had been received. The questioner outlined to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Charles, that many residents in the District had been increasingly concerned about the bizarre conduct of a number of recent meetings of the Development Control Committee. The Cabinet Member was asked if he would consider some suggestions to improve the situation?

The Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Charles, responded stating that he had read, at length, the suggestions put forward but that Development Control Committee meetings were controlled by adhering to the Planning Code of Conduct and subsequently confirmed how meetings were operated.

The Chairman then invited supplementary questions.

The questioner asked a supplementary question stating that from the response just received he took it that the Cabinet Member would not be taking his suggestions on board for review. He made reference to the Council's webcasting equipment which had been a costly investment for the Council and had been rarely used since installation. He stated that it was unfortunate that the Special Meeting of the Development Control Committee had not been webcast live on 24 October 2018 due to a technical fault and as the equipment was still with the manufacturer. He therefore asked if it could be confirmed if the Reconvened Special Meeting of the Development Control Committee scheduled for 13 November 2018 would be webcast as well as future meetings of this Committee, especially when there was significant interest from the public.

Councillor Charles responded confirming that the webcasting unit had been removed from the Council Chamber so that it could receive a software upgrade and he confirmed that this had taken longer than scheduled. The Reconvened Special Development Control Committee to be held on 13 November 2018 would be webcast and Councillor Charles confirmed that all for future meetings of this Committee would be too.

The Chairman then drew Public Question Time to a close.

[To view the full detail of the questions submitted and the answers provided in writing – please refer to the Council's Public Question Time page on its web site - <https://www.arun.gov.uk/public-question-time>]

211. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS WITH PREJUDICIAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no Questions from Members with prejudicial/pecuniary interests.

212. PETITIONS

No Petitions had been received by the Council.

213. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 September 2018 were approved by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to a requested amendment at:

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Minute 153 - Petitions

The Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer advised the Council that normal practice was that any requested amendments over the accuracy of minutes would be presented by a Councillor for amendment. At the last Full Council meeting held on 12 September 2018, at Minute 153 [Petitions] following the publication of the minutes on this item, the Petition Organiser had asked if an amendment could be made to the minutes as set out below:

To amend the second paragraph on Page 111 [deletions shown using ~~strikethrough~~]

Mr Coster then referred to the size of rink that could be used. To attract activities ~~such as speed skating and ice hockey~~, an ice rink did not have to be the size of a stadium; a smaller rink would be relevant – paragraph to then continue as written.

The Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer outlined that if Members believed that there was an inaccuracy in the minute at this item, then a request to amend this needed to be proposed and seconded by a Councillor.

In debating this request, it was the view of several Councillors that this would be a dangerous precedent to start allowing requests from members of the public to amend Council minutes. This was because the accuracy of minutes was for the Council to determine.

Other Councillors expressed their view that the requested amendment should not be rejected solely because the request had not been received from a Councillor. The amendment requested did not alter the decision it asked that what had been said by the Petition Organiser be accurately recorded.

Councillor Dr Walsh then proposed that the amendment be accepted and this was seconded by Councillor Stanley.

The Chairman then invited debate on this amendment. Councillor Dingemans then moved that the question be now put. Voting on the amendment was therefore undertaken and it was declared LOST.

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 September 2018 un-amended were then put to the vote and approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

214. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman alerted Members to the list of engagements and events that had been attended since the last Meeting of the Council held on 12 September 2018 – these had been emailed to Councillors recently.

The Chairman also announced future events planned.

215. URGENT MATTERS

There were no items for this meeting.

216. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE – 5 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Bower, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 5 September 2018.

217. CABINET – 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Brown, presented the Minutes from the Cabinet Meeting held on 17 September 2018.

218. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Dingemans, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 18 September 2018.

219. HOUSING & CUSTOMER SERVICES WORKING GROUP – 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Hughes, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Housing & Customer Services Working Group held on 20 September 2018.

Councillor Buckland then made a Statement in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.1 in relation to Minute 17 [Homelessness and Housing Strategy] and that it had been minuted that an information report would be brought back to a future meeting of the Working Group on the status of Chilgrove House. Councillor Buckland outlined that as the Council had already spent significant funds, resulting in planning consent at Chilgrove House to be turned into flats, he questioned if this request would be actioned. The Cabinet Member for Residential Services, Councillor Bence, confirmed that a report was due to be brought back to the Working Group.

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Councillor Dr Walsh also made a Statement on the same Minute in relation to the Rough Sleepers' Strategy 2013-2016 and he stated that the life of this Strategy had now passed. In looking at introducing one overall Strategy to include this element, he asked to receive reassurance that there would be consultation with West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) in terms of their proposals to financially reduce housing support as this would impact heavily on homeless and victims of domestic abuse as well as other vulnerable categories.

The Chief Executive was able to provide an update. He confirmed that West Sussex Leaders and Chief Executives had been working together to review WSSCC's proposals on housing related support contracts. The outcome of this work would be reported to the WSSCC's Health and Adult Social Care Committee on 12 December 2018.

(During the course of the discussion on this item, Councillor Dr Walsh declared a Personal Interest as a Member of West Sussex County Council.)

220. BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION SUB-COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Hitchins, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Bognor Regis Regeneration Sub-Committee held on 24 September 2018.

Councillor Stanley then made a Statement in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.1 in relation to Minute 11 [Bognor Regis Regeneration Position Statement] confirming that he had recently attended a Town Council meeting regarding the Gardens by the Sea which had been very well attended by the public with discussion focusing on the issue of the Linear Park. Councillor Stanley queried what had been minuted in that there would be further consultation with focus groups regarding the design details of the park.

Councillor Hitchins responded confirming that when the planning application was received consultation could take place at that point.

Councillor Brooks also made a Statement on the same minute in relation to seafront regeneration. He outlined that he was pleased that the new public conveniences had now been installed but asked why this had taken so long as they had originally been promised for the commencement of the holiday season before Easter 2018. The Cabinet Member for Technical Services, Councillor Haymes, provided an update on the issues that had been experienced and since resolved.

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(During the course of the discussion on this item, Councillor Stanley declared a Personal Interest as a Member of Bognor Regis Town Council.)

221. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE [CIL] SUB-COMMITTEE – 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Bower, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Community Infrastructure [CIL] Sub-Committee held on 27 September 2018.

222. LICENSING COMMITTEE – 28 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Cooper, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 28 September 2018.

Councillor Cooper alerted Members to a recommendation at Minute 195 [Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles – Policy Review] which he formally proposed. The recommendation was then seconded by Councillor Wheal.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Principles 2019-2022 be adopted.

223. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE – 3 OCTOBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Bower, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 3 October 2018.

224. ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP – 9 OCTOBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Hitchins, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Environment & Leisure Working Group held on 9 October 2018.

225. LITTLEHAMPTON REGENERATION SUB-COMMITTEE – 10 OCTOBER 2018

(Prior to the debate on this item, Councillor Gammon re-declared his Personal Interest made at the start of the meeting.)

The Chairman, Councillor Bicknell, presented the Minutes from Littlehampton Regeneration Sub-Committee held on 10 October 2018.

Councillor Bicknell informed Members that there were a series of recommendations at Minute 11 [Littlehampton Town Centre Management (Exempt – Paragraphs 1 and 3 – Information Relating to Individuals and Business Affairs)]. Councillor Bicknell then proposed the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Warren.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

(1) The post of Littlehampton Town Centre Regeneration Officer be approved and funded for a period of two years from April 2019 from contributions from Section 106 [Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) financial obligations, underwritten by financial support from the Council and Littlehampton Town Council, subject to a supplementary estimate of up to £90,000 to be approved by Full Council to fund the post if the funding is not secured;

(2) A supplementary estimate of up to £90,000 be approved (which equates to a Band D equivalent Council Tax of £1.49) to underwrite the Council's share of the Littlehampton Town Regeneration Officer post to 31 March 2019 if funding is not secured; and

(3) If funding for continuity of the post is not achieved, then Members accept a critical scaling back of activities and support for this initiative.

226. CABINET – 15 OCTOBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Brown, presented the Minutes from the meeting of Cabinet held on 15 October 2018.

227. LOCAL PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE – 16 OCTOBER 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Bower, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Local Plan Sub-Committee held on 16 October 2018.

The Chairman alerted Members to recommendations at Minute 14 [Arun District Council Gypsy & Traveller Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)] which he proposed should be agreed as noted. Councillor Charles duly seconded this recommendation.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the proposed approach and timetable for the preparation of the Arun District Council Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocation Development Plan Document covering the period 2018-2036, including the key outputs of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Report 2018, be noted.

Councillor Bower then referred Members to four recommendations at Minute 16 [Merger of the Local Plan Sub-Committee (LPSC) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Sub-Committee. In proposing the recommendations, Councillor Bower confirmed that he wished to make an amendment to Recommendation (3) – the revised Terms of Reference for the Planning Policy Sub-Committee as set out at Appendix A to the report. He confirmed that he wished to remove the words “as set out in Appendix A to the report” and to have these words replaced with “as circulated at the meeting”.

Councillor Bower explained that in proposing this merger of the two Sub-Committees, the Local Plan Sub-Committee had been presented with revised Terms of Reference. Having considered these since the meeting, it had been identified that there was a lack of commonality between the levels of delegation between the preparation of planning policy documents and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) documents with regard to delegated authority to consult.

The initial terms of reference presented to the Sub-Committee still required Full Council approval before consultation for any CIL documents – which was at odds with the Planning Policy terms.

Councillor Bower announced that Members had been circulated with a revised terms of reference with showed proposed amendments which would result in the same delegation levels for all documents considered by the Sub-Committee. The intention behind the merger was that the preparation of a CIL charging schedule should be as efficient as possible and ensure that the authority could capture CIL receipts as soon as possible.

The proposed amendments would align the level of delegated authority for consultation on CIL with Planning Policy Documents resulting in a simplified decision making process. Councillor Bower therefore urged Members to support this amendment. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Charles.

Having responded to a couple of questions, Councillor Bower urged Members to attend the Members' briefing on Community Infrastructure Levy that was being organised for 4 December 2018 as this would ensure that all Members would be fully confident and understand the evidence base for preparing the Council's CIL charging schedule.

The voting on the amendment was declared CARRIED.

The Chairman then returned to the substantive recommendations which were duly proposed by Councillor Bower and seconded by Councillor Charles.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

- (1) The transfer of the function of the Community Infrastructure Levy Sub-Committee to the Local Plan Sub-Committee be approved;
- (2) The Local Plan Sub-Committee be renamed the Planning Policy Sub-Committee to reflect its wider remit;
- (3) The revised Terms of Reference for the Planning Policy Sub-Committee, as circulated at the meeting, be accepted; and
- (4) The Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution.

228. SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE – 24 OCTOBER 2018

The Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer confirmed that the draft Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 24 October 2018 had been deferred, in view of the adjournment of the meeting, and would not be presented to this meeting.

229. MOTIONS

The Chairman announced that a Motion had been received from Councillor Wells in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 14.1 and 14.2.

Councillor Wells then proposed the following Motion:

“The Council is concerned at the growling level of public and trader dissatisfaction with Town Centre anti-social behaviour, shop lifting, alcohol abuse and intimidating behaviour, fuelled by the withdrawal of regular PC and PCSO patrols by Sussex Police.

It calls on the Police and Crime Commissioner to deal urgently with this problem by reinstating regular, dedicated PC and/or PCSO patrols in both Bognor Regis and Littlehampton and other communities.

Failing that, and cognisant that this problem is worsening, it resolves that a Motion of no confidence in the Police and Crime Commissioner be brought before this Council in 3 months’ time”.

Councillor Wells in formally proposing his Motion stated that it had just been over a year ago that a similar Motion had been submitted to and discussed by Full Council. That motion had discussed the ongoing issues that Littlehampton and Bognor Regis were facing in tackling anti-social behaviour. At the same time residents had seen a drastic reduction in policing across Sussex in general. The result of this was that a huge rise in crime rates within the community leading to community tensions in Bognor Regis and similar issues in Littlehampton had been seen. Councillor Wells stated that this was not a political issue but a major one that needed to be resolved. He urged the Council to send a strong message to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and to lobby Central Government with a plea that these ongoing issues be resolved and that the PCC actually be forced to undertake the job that she was paid to do.

Councillor Wells outlined that the last Motion presented had resulted in the PCC attending a meeting of the Council's Overview Select Committee. Subsequently, visits had been made by the PCC to both the Towns of Littlehampton and Bognor Regis but one year on it was saddening to have to report that nothing had changed. Many press features had followed and the public had had to endure a £12 year increase in precept across Sussex as well as minimal numbers of policing. The levels of policing were now at a critical level and so he urged the Council to call on the PCC to do her job and to lobby Government to do what was needed to rectify the situation. There had been a major reduction in community beat officers as the Sussex Police had had to introduce new models of policing due to the financial situation they now found themselves in. Councillor Wells stated that this was a sad and difficult situation as he appreciated that the Police, in terms of Officers on the beat, did a sterling job within the resources that they were given – but they were struggling. Due to cut backs there was a severe lack of presence of policing in the towns and so theft was on the rise. Incidents of shoplifting and anti-social behaviour were increasing as well as crime figures for anti-social behaviour which had reached record levels. The Council needed to send a very clear message up to Central Government stating that enough was enough and that what communities needed was a good injection of resource to provide police to serve the public.

Councillor Dr Walsh then seconded the Motion.

The Chairman then invited Members to debate the Motion. The first to speak was the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown, and she acknowledged that this Motion had been accepted as it related to District wide issues. She outlined that everyone was concerned about Police numbers and anti-social behaviour and how it was important that all residents needed to be able to feel safe in their neighbourhoods. To achieve this greater Police presence would greatly contribute to resolving the problems outlined. Councillor Mrs Brown stated that the Council had had to make its own difficult decisions in prioritising its budget - the Sussex Police was no different and had had to do the same. There was more pressure on the Police now than ever before as it had to deal with greater categories of crime as well as adopting transformational change in its policing programme. It was good news that the latest settlement of £460m and the precept increase meant that each District in the County would have an increase in its overtime budget allowing Officers to work on rest days.

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Councillor Mrs Brown stated that as elected representatives of the people of Arun it was right and proper to communicate public concern to the Chief Constable as the appropriate Officer. Although she supported the broad thrust of the motion, Councillor Mrs Brown stated that it was targeting the wrong person as the PCC did not have the responsibility or authority to offset policing which was the sole duty of the Chief Constable.

Councillor Mrs Brown confirmed that she therefore proposed to make an amendment, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.7, to add the following words to the Motion [as set out below – the added words are shown in **bold** and to remove words – as shown using ~~strikethrough~~]:

This Council is concerned at the growing level of public and trader dissatisfaction with ~~Town Centre~~ **District wide** anti-social behaviour **including** shop lifting, alcohol **and drug** abuse **and** intimidating behaviour, fuelled by the withdrawal of regular PC and PCSO patrols by Sussex Police.

It calls on the ~~Police and Crime Commissioner~~ **Chief Constable** to deal urgently with this problem by re- instating regular, dedicated ~~PC~~ **Police** patrols in ~~both Bognor Regis and Littlehampton and other communities~~ **across the whole of the Arun District**.

~~Failing that, and cognisant that this problem is worsening, it resolves that a motion of no confidence in the Police and Crime Commissioner be brought before this Council in 3 months' time.~~

Councillor Wensley then seconded this amendment.

The Chairman then invited debate on the amendment.

Councillor Dr Walsh as seconder to the Motion outlined that he was grateful for what the Leader of the Council had outlined and was mostly in agreement with the amendment proposed. He queried the amendment in the second paragraph to remove the PCC and to replace with the Chief Constable. This was because it was his view that the Chief Constable had operational responsibility but that he operated within the parameters set by the PCC who confirmed the strategic direction for the Sussex Police. Although he was prepared to accept this element of the amendment, he remained with the view that the responsibility ended with the PCC.

Other Members spoke in support of the amendment, especially as it had been expanded to highlight problems being experienced in the whole of the District rather than being limited to the towns of Littlehampton and Bognor Regis. Some Councillors also supported the amendment that the Motion be directed to the Chief Constable to respond to as he was responsible for all operational issues. What was of most concern was the increase in drug crime and so the inclusion of this increasing major problem was supported as it strengthened the thrust of the original Motion. As district wide drug related problems were rapidly increasing, it was suggested that WSCC be asked to respond in view of its planned proposals to reduce housing support – it was felt that this would only worsen the situation.

Councillor Wells, as proposer of the Motion, confirmed that he supported some elements of the amendment. He could not support the removal of the third paragraph as someone had to be accountable for the incidents and issues that had been outlined. He felt that the message being put across to the Sussex Police needed to be backed up with some sort of sanction, otherwise the Council would most likely be debating this again in a year's time.

Voting then took place on the amendment and it was declared CARRIED.

The Chairman then invited debate on the substantive motion.

This saw various views expressed. The biggest concern was the increase in public violent crime and Members referred to recently published crime figures presented to meetings of the Joint Eastern and Western Arun Area Committees. These figures showed that the increase in incidents was not just in relation to the District's Towns but that the biggest increases in reported incidents had taken place in rural villages. Drug related crime was also noted as an issue of major concern with a majority of crimes taking place in daylight hours and in very public areas.

Councillor Dr Walsh, as proposer of the Motion, was invited to speak. He outlined that he was grateful for what has been said and that cross party support had been given to agreeing and amending the first part of the Motion. He was particularly grateful for the inclusion of drug crime as this was recognised as being a significant and growing issue. The figures presented to the Arun Area Committees by the Police needed to reflect this. The largest issue, from the public's perspective, was the lack of visible policing which would reduce crime.

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Councillor Wells, as proposer of the Motion, thanked Members for the debate and he thanked the Police for the good job that they did and with the resources that they had. This was an important issue for the community and one that needed to be recognised. It was hoped that the Motion would ensure that the appropriate resources were replaced.

The substantive Motion was then put to the vote and it was declared CARRIED.

The Council

RESOLVED

That this Council is concerned at the growing level of public and trader dissatisfaction with District wide anti-social behaviour including shop lifting, alcohol and drug abuse and intimidating behaviour, fuelled by the withdrawal of regular PC and PCSO patrols by Sussex Police.

It calls on the Chief Constable to deal urgently with this problem by re- instating regular, dedicated Police patrols across the whole of the Arun District.

230. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13

The Chairman confirmed that no questions had been received for this meeting.

231. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2019/2020

The Council received a report from the Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer which proposed arrangements for the Calendar of Meetings for 2019/2020.

Following consideration, the Council

RESOLVED

That the Calendar of Meetings for 2019/2020 be approved.

232. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown asked the Council to note that Councillor Mrs Rapnik had replaced Councillor Wells as a Member of the Development Control Committee.

233. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no changes to representation on Outside Bodies to report.

(The meeting concluded at 19.49 pm)