

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SURREY
HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL held at
Surrey Heath House, Camberley on
26 July 2017**

+ Cllr Valerie White (Mayor)
+ Cllr Dan Adams (Deputy Mayor)

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| + Cllr David Allen | + Cllr Jonathan Lytle |
| + Cllr Rodney Bates | + Cllr Katia Malcaus Cooper |
| + Cllr Richard Brooks | + Cllr Bruce Mansell |
| + Cllr Nick Chambers | - Cllr David Mansfield |
| - Cllr Bill Chapman | + Cllr Charlotte Morley |
| - Cllr Mrs Vivienne Chapman | + Cllr Alan McClafferty |
| + Cllr Ian Cullen | + Cllr Max Nelson |
| + Cllr Paul Deach | + Cllr Adrian Page |
| - Cllr Colin Dougan | + Cllr Robin Perry |
| + Cllr Craig Fennell | + Cllr Chris Pitt |
| + Cllr Surinder Gandhum | + Cllr Joanne Potter |
| + Cllr Moira Gibson | + Cllr Nic Price |
| + Cllr Edward Hawkins | - Cllr Wynne Price |
| + Cllr Josephine Hawkins | + Cllr Darryl Ratiram |
| + Cllr Ruth Hutchinson | + Cllr Ian Sams |
| + Cllr Paul Ilnicki | - Cllr Conrad Sturt |
| - Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans | + Cllr Pat Tedder |
| + Cllr David Lewis | + Cllr Victoria Wheeler |
| + Cllr Oliver Lewis | + Cllr John Winterton |

+ Present

- Apologies for absence presented

21/C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bill Chapman, Vivienne Chapman, Colin Dougan, Rebeca Jennings-Evans, David Mansfield, Wynne Price and Conrad Sturt.

22/C Minutes

It was moved by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, and

RESOLVED that the open minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 20 June 2017 be approved as a correct record.

23/C Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported that the last 2 months had been very busy. She had attended 55 events including the hosting of a visit by German students. Some of the highlights had been a visit to the Alzheimer's Café at St Mary's Church, Camberley

and an event hosted by the Gurkhas. A performance, at the Camberley Theatre, by Surrey Choices Rhythmic Collision Dance Company and pupils from Cordwalles Junior School had been moving and the Mayor encouraged all members to attend any future performances.

The Mayor presented the Mayor's Cadet, Daniel Farrow, with a certificate in recognition of the completion of his year as a Mayor's Cadet. Unfortunately Libby Butler, the other Mayor's Cadet, was on holiday but her certificate would be sent to her.

24/C Leader's Announcements

The Leader announced that, since the last Council meeting, she had attended the Surrey Leaders' meeting, the EM3 Leaders' meeting and the Local Government Conference.

The Surrey Leaders had discussed the County Council's difficult budget situation, which it was felt could only be solved nationally by increased government funding or by removing the council tax cap.

The EM3 Leaders had discussed the Housing Infrastructure Fund which required bids for funds from local government by the end of September. The Leader reported that she had asked the Chief Executive to explore the possibility of submitting bids for grants from both the major and the small scheme funds.

Ann Widecombe had been the guest speaker at the Local Government Conference and had spoken about Brexit. Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, had also spoken at the Conference. He had delivered a strong message about the delivery of housing and indicated that he held local authorities responsible for the lack of provision. It was likely that more frequent local plan reviews would be required together with changes to the housing needs assessments.

The Leader also reported that the appeal against the Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the development of up to 140 dwellings and communities facilities on land at Heathpark Wood, Heathpark Drive, Windlesham, had been upheld and planning permission granted.

25/C E-Petition - Housing Development at Fairoaks

In accordance with the Petition Scheme at Part 4 of the Constitution, an e-petition was considered. The petition stated:

“We petition SHBC not to promote or support housing development at Fairoaks but to retain it in the Greenbelt This includes committing to not making a second bid for a Fairoaks Garden Village. SHBC should instead encourage airport operations at Fairoaks with their associated local employment opportunities.”

The e-petition had opened for signatures on 24 March 2017 and closed on 24 June 2017. It had received 5,348 signatures nationally. Members were advised

that 992 signatories were from addresses in the Borough and included 605 signatories from Chobham.

Mr Darren Rees of the Chobham Society presented the petition and spoke for 5 minutes.

The Mayor advised that the following options were available to the Council in responding to the petition

- take the action the petition requests,
- not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate,
- or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant scrutiny committee.

Members considered the request contained in the petition.

It was moved by Councillor Moira Gibson and seconded by Councillor Richard Brooks that the petition and the concerns of local people be noted but that no further action be taken at this time.

Councillor Gibson spoke to her motion. She advised the Council that there were currently no plans to submit a second round Garden Village Bid as there was no information to suggest that there would be further bid rounds available. Certainly no second bid round had been announced and it was understood that the government's thinking had changed. However she stressed it would be wrong to fetter any future decision the Council might make about the submission of a second bid as this would restrict the Council from obtaining available funds. Councillor Gibson reminded Members that garden village bids were essentially bids for infrastructure contributions. In addition, in view of the pressure from government relating to the provision of housing, no Council could afford to rule out any potential housing site without going through the proper process and a detailed examination of all the appropriate issues.

The Council was informed that the relevant issues would be dealt with through the planning process if an application was submitted. A planning application would be considered by the full Council. In addition viability issues would be dealt with as part of the planning process. It would not be for the Council to establish viability but to make a decision once all evidence had been examined. As a result Members were advised of the need to be cautious in their approach so as not to put themselves in a situation where predetermination might apply.

Councillor Victoria Wheeler spoke in support of the action requested by the petitioners. She supported the use of the site as an airport, as provided for in the local plan, as an area of strategic employment. She was of the opinion that the site was unsuitable as a garden village as it failed to meet the criteria of being a free standing settlement due to its close proximity to Chobham and the new development at Longcross.

Councillor Wheeler considered that, in a climate of fewer local airports, the use of Fair Oaks as an airport provided the opportunity for it to become a destination of

choice for business and leisure. She was of the opinion that the Council should exploit this opportunity for growth and remain open for business. Furthermore she indicated that the proposed garden village was not supported by the community and that the potential developer had failed to overcome the objections of local residents. In addition there was no evidence that the infrastructure needs had been assessed as part of the garden village bid. She also drew attention to issues relating to congestion and air pollution as a result of the development of a garden village.

Councillor Rodney Bates indicated that he did not wish to debate the merits of housing development on this site at the current time. However he did not support an application for a second bid for a garden village and suggested that if a further bid was contemplated it should be considered by the Executive. He agreed with the action in the petition that the Council should encourage airport operations at Fair Oaks and the local business opportunities.

The Leader concluded that the information provided by the petitioners had been extremely helpful. The motion as proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor Richard Brooks was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved the petition, together the concerns of local people, be noted but that no further action be taken at this time.

Note 1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.4, a roll call vote was taken.

The following Members voted in favour of the motion: Councillor Dan Adams, Richard Brooks, Nick Chambers, Ian Cullen, Paul Deach, Craig Fennell, Surinder Gandhum, Moira Gibson, Edward Hawkins, Josephine Hawkins, Paul Ilnicki, David Lewis, Oliver Lewis, Jonathon Lytle, Katia Malcaus Cooper, Bruce Mansell, Alan McClafferty, Charlotte Morley, Max Nelson, Adrian Page, Robin Perry, Chris Pitt, Joanne Potter, Nic Price, Darryl Ratiram, Ian Sams, Valerie White, John Winterton.

The following Members voted in against of the motion: David Allen, Rodney Bates, Ruth Hutchinson, Pat Tedder, Victoria Wheeler.

Note: 2

- The Mayor, on behalf of all Members present, declared for the record, that all Members had been lobbied and had received approaches relating to the issues raised in the above petition.
- Councillor Pat Tedder declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Chobham Society.
- Councillor Victoria Wheeler declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Chobham Society and as the Council's representative on the Fair Oaks Consultative Committee. She also declared for the record that her partner and son had signed the petition.

- Councillor Paul Innicki declared for the record that he had spoken to Mr Mancini.

26/C Executive, Committees and Other Bodies

- (a) Executive – 20 June 2017 and 11 July 2017

It was moved by Councillor Moira Gibson, seconded by Councillor Richard Brooks, and

Resolved that

- (i) **the minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 20 June 2017 and 11 July 2017 be received;**
- (ii) **local contributions funding of up to £1,000,000 be agreed for the Public Realm Bid Scheme; and**
- (iii) **contributions be phased over 2017/18 and 2018/19, with payment to be made upon commencement of the works.**

- (b) Planning Applications Committee – 11 May 2017 and 29 June 2017

It was moved by Councillor Edward Hawkins, seconded by Councillor Nick Chambers, and

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Applications Committee held on 11 May 2017 and 29 June 2017 be received.

- (c) External Partnerships Select Committee – 27 June 2017

It was moved by Councillor Robin Perry, seconded by Councillor Darryl Ratiram and

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the External Partnerships Select Committee held on 27 June 2017 be received.

- (d) Licensing Committee – 28 June 2017

It was moved by Councillor Adrian Page, seconded by Councillor Nick Price and

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 28 June 2017 be received.

- (e) Joint Staff Consultative Group – 6 July 2017

It was moved by Councillor Josephine Hawkins, seconded by Councillor Charlotte Morley and

Resolved that the notes of the meeting of the Joint Staff Consultative Group held on 6 July 2017 be received.

- (f) Audit and Standards Committee – 10 July 2017

It was moved by Councillor Paul Deach, seconded by Councillor Paul Ilnicki and

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings of the Audit and Standards Committee held on 10 July 2017 be received.

- (g) Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee - 12 July 2017

It was moved by Councillor Jonathan Lytle, seconded by Councillor Katia Malcaus Cooper, and

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee held on 12 July 2017 be received.

27/C Leader's Question Time

The Leader responded to a question from Councillor Rodney Bates relating to the housing of Syrian refugees. She reported that difficulties had been experienced with Surrey County Council and with gaining the cooperation of private landlords. The Leader undertook to ask the Executive Head of Regulatory to provide a fuller update by email.

28/C Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act as set out below:

| <u>Minute</u> | <u>Paragraphs</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 29/C | 3 |
| 30/C | 3 |
| 31/C | 3 |

29/C Council, Executive and Committees - Exempt

The exempt minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 20 June 2017 were approved. The Council also received the exempt minutes of the Executive of 20 June and 11 July 2017 and adopted the recommendation therein.

30/C Acquisition of Land for use as SANGS

The Council made decisions relating to the acquisition of land for use as SANGS.

31/C Review of Exempt Items

The Council reviewed the minutes which had been considered at the meeting following the exclusion of members of the press and public, as they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information.

Resolved that

- (i) Minute 18/C be made public but the minute and the associated agenda report remain exempt for the present time;
- (ii) Minute 19/C and the associated agenda report remain exempt for the present time, but the decision be made public following completion of lease negotiations;
- (iii) Minute 11/E, and the associated agenda report, remain exempt until further notice;
- (iv) the decision at Minute 12/E be made public, but the minute and associated agenda report remain exempt for the present time;
- (v) the decision at Minute 13/E be made public following the completion of lease negotiations, but the minute and associated agenda report remain;
- (vi) the decision at Minute 25/E be made public but the minute and the associated agenda report remain exempt for the present time;
- (vii) the decision at Minute 26/E be made public but the minute and the associated agenda report remain exempt for the present time; and
- (viii) the decision at Minute 30/C be made public but the minute and the associated agenda report remain exempt until the completion of the acquisition.

Mayor