

## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Hertford, on Tuesday 19 May 1998.

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

N E Agar	D J Drake	M H T Janes	J E Price
P M Aldis	J M Dwerryhouse-Spears	T G M Kent	G A G Pulman
T I Ambrose	R J M Ellis	D L Kerr	E A Rafferty
J E Anderson	K F Emsall	A Kilkerr	P Riches
D A Ashley	B C Engel	I H Laidlaw-Dickson	R Sanderson
M V Bayes	F J Escott	B J Lamb	R H Smith
D Beatty	G L Francis	A Lee	R J Smith
J D Beesley	G D Game	N Lindop (Chairman)	W A Storey
H A Burningham	J Gipps	D B Lloyd	I E M Tarry
G Burrow	P V Goggins	R Mays	J Taunton
F Button	A K Gray	J T Metcalf	S H Tendeter
P T J Channell	M Green	R Mills	R A G Thomas
A R Choudhrey	B P Hall	S J Mills	J W A Usher
G R Churchard	B N W Hammond	M V Moore	P A Webb
R A Clark	N A D Haslam	J R Morton	G F Wenham
F W Clayton	R Hebborn	S R Munden	C J White
K J Coleman	D W Hills	M H O'Neill	M Wilson
M D Colne	J A Hobday	F G Peacock	B Wing
R N Copping	M J Hobday	J M Pitman	B A York

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Annual meeting of the County Council held on 19 May 1998, as circulated, action was taken or decisions were reached as follows:-

#### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman, N Lindop, being a candidate for election, withdrew in favour of the Vice-Chairman.

The Vice-Chairman, P V Goggins, called for nominations. **N Lindop** was nominated by J T Metcalf and this was seconded.

There being no other nominations, **N Lindop** was declared ELECTED Chairman of the Council, to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council next following.

The Chairman returned to the meeting, thanked the Council and took the Chair.

## **2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

The Chairman called for nominations. **P V Goggins** was nominated by C J White and this was seconded.

There being no other nominations, **P V Goggins** was declared ELECTED Vice-Chairman of the Council, to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council next following.

## **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 1998 and of the Extraordinary meeting held on 3 April 1998 were confirmed.

## **4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **4.1 Death of former County Councillor Dennis Perrett**

The Chairman reported the death of former County Councillor Dennis Perrett who had represented St Albans (East) from 1981 to 1989. The Council stood in his memory.

### **4.2 Departing Officers**

The Chairman reported that Nick Cull, who had joined the County Council as County Trading Standards Officer in 1987, and had been Director of Community Information since 1996, was leaving to take up the post of Executive Director of LACOTS (Local Authorities Co-ordinating Body on Food and Trading Standards) in June 1998.

The Council thanked him for his outstanding work in Hertfordshire and wished him every success in his new post.

The Chairman also informed the Council that Simon Smith, Head of Economic Development Unit was leaving in July to join Cambridgeshire County Council as Head of Economic Development and Community Regeneration

The Council acknowledged the considerable success he had achieved for the County Council and its partners, and wished him well in his new post.

### **4.3 Personnel Department Award**

The Council congratulated the Personnel Department on having won the Local Government Management Board/Society of Chief Personnel Officers Award for future excellence.

### **4.4 The Lavender Appeal**

H A Burningham was invited by the Chairman to draw the attention of members to the Lavender Appeal which the Assistant Chief Executive, Beth Wagstaff, had launched to raise funds to assist young women stricken by cancer.

Mrs Burningham and the Council paid tribute to Beth and leaflets were distributed to all members should they wish to make private contributions to the fund.

**5. QUESTIONS : HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**

None were notified.

**6. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**6.1** The Chairman called for nominations for appointment of Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

**J T Metcalf** was nominated by F G Peacock and this was seconded.

There were no other nominations and the Council agreed that **J T Metcalf** be APPOINTED Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council next following.

**6.2** The Chairman called for nominations for the appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

**C J White** was nominated by M D Colne and this was seconded.

There were no other nominations and the Council agreed that **C J White** be APPOINTED Deputy Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council next following.

**7. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

In the absence of a resolution to the contrary, the proportionality of places on Committees and Sub-Committees remained unchanged and it was noted that existing Committee members would remain in office for the ensuing year.

## 8. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS TO JULY 1999

- (a) The Chairman moved:-

*“That the timetable of meetings to July 1999, previously circulated to all members, be noted.”*

- (b) The following amendment proposed by **J E Price**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

*“That the dates of the following two meetings be changed:-*

- (i) *Policy Committee from 10 December 1998 to 17 December 1998 at 10.30 a.m.*
- (ii) *Social Services Operations Sub-Committee from 6 May 1999 to 29 April 1999 at 10.30 a.m.”*

- (c) The revised timetable, as set out in the Appendix to these minutes, was then APPROVED.

## 9. PUBLIC PETITIONS

Presented under item 14.

## 10. REPRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

- (a) The Chairman called for nominations for four members to serve on the Local Government Association General Assembly until 18 May 1999.
- (b) The following members were nominated, and duly seconded, and the Council agreed that they be APPOINTED:-

**R J M Ellis, J T Metcalf, J M Pitman, C J White**

- (c) The Council then RESOLVED:-

*“That the allocation of the ten available votes at the Local Government Association General Assembly be as follows:-*

<i>J T Metcalf</i>	<i>3 votes</i>
<i>R J M Ellis</i>	<i>3 votes</i>
<i>J M Pitman</i>	<i>2 votes</i>
<i>C J White</i>	<i>2 votes.”</i>

**11. REPRESENTATION ON HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**

- (a) The Chairman called for nominations for nine representatives (5 Administration/4 Conservatives) to serve on the Hertfordshire Police Authority until 18 May 1999.
- (b) The following members were nominated, and duly seconded and the Council agreed that they be APPOINTED:-

**F Button, A R Choudhrey, R J M Ellis, K F Emsall, B P Hall, I H Laidlaw-Dickson, R Sanderson, I E M Tarry, C J White**

**12. REPORTS OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE**

(Presented by Chairman of the Committee, **I H Laidlaw-Dickson**)

**12.1 Report of the Policy Committee - 29 January 1998**  
**- Item 1 : Question Time**

- (a) The Chairman of the Committee moved the Recommendation:-
  - “(1) *That Standing Order 7 be amended as shown in the Appendix to the report to include a Question Time for members at Council meetings.*
  - (2) *That Standing Order 6(1)(f) be amended to read:*  
*‘to deal with Questions asked under Standing Order 7(1) and 7(2).’*
- (b) The following amendment, proposed by **C J White**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-
  - “*That in the Appendix, Standing Order 7(1)(a) the words ‘and Commissions’ be added after ‘Chairmen of Committees’.*”
- (c) The Recommendation, as amended by (b), was then ADOPTED.

## 12.2 Report of the Policy Committee - 30 April 1998

### (a) Item 1 - Standing Orders for Extraordinary Council Meetings

The Recommendations were ADOPTED:-

*“That Standing Order 2 for meetings of the Council be amended:-*

(i) *so that Standing Order 2(2) reads as follows:*

*‘On a requisition signed by any five members of the Council the Chairman shall call an extraordinary meeting. If the Chairman refuses to call an extraordinary meeting, or fails to do so within 7 days after the requisition has been presented to him, the five members may call a meeting at any time and in any place in Hertfordshire.’*

(ii) *so that the following is added as new (3):*

*‘(3) These Standing Orders shall apply to extraordinary meetings, subject to the following modifications:*

*a) the summons sent to every member by virtue of Standing Order 3(1)(b) shall state the business specified in the requisition as the business to be transacted at the extraordinary meeting.*

*b) Standing Order 7 (Questions) shall not apply to extraordinary meetings.*

*c) Standing Order 15 (Petitions) shall only apply so as to allow public petitions which relate to the business to be transacted at the meeting.*

*d) Standing Orders 8(2) and 8(3) (Notice of Motions) shall not apply to extraordinary meetings.*

*e) when sending the summons to every member, the Chairman, or the 5 members of the Council who requisitioned the extraordinary meeting as the case may be, shall notify every member of the time and date by which written notice of motions in relation to the business to be transacted at the extraordinary meeting shall be lodged with the County Secretary. However that time and date shall be no later than 5 p.m. on the second day before the extraordinary meeting’.*”

### (b) Item 2 - Protocol for relationships between members and

### officers

The Chairman of the Committee undertook to re-examine the wording of paragraph 4.9 of the Protocol for relationships between members and officers.

- 12.3** The Reports of the Policy Committee dated 29 January and 30 April 1998 and the recommendations therein, as amended by minute 12.1 (c) were received and adopted.

### **13. THAMES LINK 2000 PROJECT**

- (a) **B A York** moved the officer resolution in the report and this was ADOPTED:-

*“That the Council, whilst generally supporting the Thames Link 2000 Project, objects to:-*

- (i) *the use of any part of the newly constructed St Albans Inter-Change Scheme as a work site.*
- (ii) *the closure of the Moorgate branch without consideration of an innovative replacement service.”*

- (b) The following motion proposed by **J M Pitman**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

*“That in the letter accompanying the formal objection, the Director of Environment conveys the Council’s concern about any disruption to commuter travel that results in increased care borne commuting, and urges that work be carried out so that such disruption is kept to a minimum.”*

### **14. NOTICES OF MOTION - ADMISSION RULES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

- (a) The following motion was proposed by **R J M Ellis**, and duly seconded:-

*“That the Council*

- (i) *recognises the strength of feeling in the county against the proposed new rules for admission to county secondary schools in September 1999*
- (ii) *notes the Government’s intention to publish a Code of Practice on Admissions under the Schools Standards and Framework Bill which will be effective from September 2000 and which will have significant implications for schools and admitting authorities, and*
- (iii) *determines that:*

- *the decision of the Education Committee on 1 April 1998 to adopt new rules for admission to county co-educational secondary schools in September 1999 be rescinded;*
- *the consultation exercise in relation to proposed new rules for admission to county single sex secondary schools in September 1999 be discontinued; and*
- *the current rules for admission to county secondary schools continue to be applied until the Education Committee have been able to consider the implications of the new legislation.”*

(b) The following motion was proposed by **R Mays**, and duly seconded:-

*“That the Council endorses the decisions taken by the Education Committee in respect of admissions rules for county secondary schools at their meeting on 1 April 1998 and in particular:-*

- (i) *that the rules for county co-educational schools as adopted by the Committee be confirmed; and*
- (ii) *that the rules for county single sex schools be determined by the Committee at their meeting on 17 June 1998 following consideration of responses to the consultation exercise.”*

(c) **R J M Ellis** and **R Mays** asked that their motions be dealt with at the meeting, whereupon more than 39 members of the Council supported the motions being so dealt with.

(d) The following motion was proposed by **J T Metcalf**, and duly seconded:-

*“That, in accordance with Standing Order 20(2), Standing Order 8(3)(d) be suspended to allow more than 3 speakers per motion.”*

(e) More than 39 members having indicated that they were in favour of Standing Order 8(3)(d) being suspended, the Chairman took motions (a) and (b) as one debate and allowed a total of 5 speakers from the Administration Group and 5 speakers from the Opposition Group.

(f) The following motion was proposed by **R J M Ellis**, and duly seconded:-

*“That in accordance with Standing Order 20(2), Standing Orders 15(2) and 15(3) be suspended in order to allow public petitions to be presented of which notice has not been given and to allow more than 3 petitioners to be heard.”*

(g) Upon the Chairman calling for a vote, **H A Burningham** required a

recorded vote under Standing Order 13(3)(b).

A recorded vote was taken and it was AGREED that Standing Orders 15(2) and 15(3) be suspended to allow more than 3 petitioners to be heard.

The voting was:-

Those in favour (45)

J E Anderson	R J M Ellis	S J Mills
D A Ashley	K F Emsall	M V Moore
M V Bayes	B C Engel	J R Morton
D Beatty	F J Escott	M H O'Neill
J D Beesley	G L Francis	J M Pitman
H A Burningham	G D Game	J E Price
G Burrow	P V Goggins	G A G Pulman
F Button	A K Gray	P Riches
P T J Channell	B N W Hammond	R H Smith
G R Churchard	D W Hills	W A Storey
K J Coleman	M H T Janes	I E M Tarry
M D Colne	A Kilkerr	J Taunton
R N Copping	B J Lamb	R A G Thomas
D J Drake	A Lee	J W A Usher
J M Dwerryhouse-Spears	D B Lloyd	C J White

Those against (7)

B P Hall	G F Wenham
J A Hobday	M Wilson
S H Tendeter	B Wing
P A Webb	

Those who abstained (24)

N E Agar	N A D Haslam	J T Metcalf
P M Aldis	R Hebborn	R Mills
T I Ambrose	M J Hobday	S R Munden
A R Choudhrey	T G M Kent	F G Peacock
R A Clark	D L Kerr	E A Rafferty
F W Clayton	I H Laidlaw-Dickson	R Sanderson
J Gipps	N Lindop	R J Smith
M Green	R Mays	B A York

Those absent (1)

A M R Searing

- (h) Petitions were then presented and the Council were addressed by the following persons, representing the Secondary Transfer Action Group, opposed to the decision of the Education Committee taken on

1 April 1998:-

- Mrs G Randall (North Hertfordshire)
- Mrs T Smith (South Hertfordshire)
- Mrs L King (Markyate/Redbourn)
- Mr M Waller (Radlett and Borehamwood)
- Mrs S Yates (Redbourn)
- Mrs J Jenkins (Bricket Wood)
- Mr R Whitby (London Colney)
- Mrs Wilkins (Welwyn and Digswell)

- (i) Following debate, **R Mays**, with the agreement of the seconder, withdrew the motion at (b).
- (j) Upon the Chairman calling for a vote on (a), **R J M Ellis** required a recorded vote under Standing Order 13(3)(b).

A recorded vote was taken and the votes cast were:-

Those in favour (38)

J E Anderson	K F Emsall	J R Morton
D A Ashley	B C Engel	M H O'Neill
M V Bayes	F J Escott	J M Pitman
D Beatty	G D Game	J E Price
J D Beesley	A K Gray	G A G Pulman
H A Burningham	B N W Hammond	P Riches
F Button	D W Hills	R H Smith
P T J Channell	M H T Janes	W A Storey
K J Coleman	A Kilkerr	I E M Tarry
R N Copping	B J Lamb	J Taunton
D J Drake	D B Lloyd	R A G Thomas
J M Dwerryhouse-Spears	S J Mills	J W A Usher
R J M Ellis	M V Moore	

Those against (38)

N E Agar	B P Hall	S R Munden
P M Aldis	N A D Haslam	F G Peacock
T I Ambrose	R Hebborn	E A Rafferty
G Burrow	J A Hobday	R Sanderson
A R Choudhrey	M J Hobday	R J Smith
G R Churchard	T G M Kent	S H Tendeter
R A Clark	D L Kerr	P A Webb
F W Clayton	I H Laidlaw-Dickson	G F Wenham
M D Colne	A Lee	C J White
G L Francis	N Lindop	M Wilson
J Gipps	R Mays	B Wing
P V Goggins	J T Metcalf	B A York
M Green	R Mills	

Those absent (1)

A M R Searing

The Chairman exercised his casting vote against the motion and this was LOST.

**ANDREW LAYCOCK**  
**County Secretary**