

## **HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

MINUTES of a meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Hertford, on Tuesday 24 November 1998.

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

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

Upon consideration of the agenda for the meeting of the County Council held on 24 November 1998, as circulated, action was taken or decisions were reached as follows:-

#### **1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 July 1998 were confirmed.

#### **2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **2.1 Death of former County Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Hales**

The Chairman reported the death of Mrs Elizabeth Hales, who had been first elected as a County Councillor in 1946. She later became an Alderman before being elected as County Councillor for Letchworth East, serving from 1974 to 1977.

The Council stood in her memory.

## **2.2 Herts Smart Scheme**

The Chairman announced that the Herts Smart Scheme had been awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 1998 Local Government IT Excellence Awards.

The Council congratulated all those who were involved in securing the award.

## **2.3 National Award for Partnership working**

The Chairman announced that the County Council, together with AFM Ltd., had recently won a national award for Partnership Working and congratulated those staff, both from the County Council and AFM whose hard work had made this possible.

## **2.4 National Music Council Award**

The Chairman reported that on 4 November, he had received on behalf of the County Council the major trophy of the National Music Council Awards for 1997. This was the second time the County Council had won this award.

The Council congratulated the County Music Service who deliver the music education programme in Hertfordshire.

## **3. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)**

None were notified.

## **4. QUESTIONS – HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY – STANDING ORDER 7(2)**

None were notified.

## **5. PUBLIC PETITIONS**

Mr David Marston, presented a petition and addressed the Council, on behalf of library users seeking the reversal of cuts to the Library Service, higher priority for books within Library spending and full consultation with the public on the latest Library review.

This was referred to the Community Services Committee.

## 6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### 6.1 REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE - 17 SEPTEMBER 1998

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

#### Item 2 - Implications of the Government White Paper : Modern Local Government - In touch with the people

The following motion, proposed by **M H T Janes**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED unanimously:-

*“That the Council endorse resolution (1) of the Policy Committee of 17 September 1998 (as set out below), which was supported by all political Groups on the Committee, and forward it to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, with copies to all Hertfordshire Members of Parliament:-*

*‘That the Committee note the publication of the White Paper - Modern Local Government: In Touch with the People, acknowledge the need for the radical thinking about local government structures and procedures contained therein, but regret the use of reserve powers and other forms of ministerial discretion to deny democratically elected local authorities proper accountability to their communities’.*”

6.2 The Report of the Policy Committee dated 17 September 1998, as amended by minute 6.1, was received and adopted.

### 6.3 REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE - 5 NOVEMBER 1998

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

The Report of the Policy Committee dated 5 November 1998 was received and adopted.

**6.4 REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES  
COMMITTEE - 22 OCTOBER 1998**

(presented by **J A Hobday**, Vice-Chairman of the Committee)

**Item 1 - Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century : A model for the future  
delivery of Library and Information Services**

- (a) The following motion was proposed by **D A Ashley**, and duly seconded:-

*“That the following principles for the future development of information and library services, as previously outlined in paragraph 3 of the report to Community Services Committee on 20 October 1998, be the subject of immediate wide consultation and public discussion:-*

- (i) *the pattern of service points should take account of the settlement patterns of the county and aim to give equality of access to all;*
- (ii) *premises should comply fully with the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995;*
- (iii) *fixed service points should not be further than 250 metres from the centre of a community or a major community focal point;*
- (iv) *tenure should be flexible enough to allow a change of location to reflect shifting retail and leisure provision in town centres;*
- (v) *partnerships both within HCC and with other agencies should be actively sought to add value to the service provided and to share property costs;*
- (vi) *resources should not be used to make incremental improvements to buildings which remain fundamentally unsuitable despite those improvements. Buildings should be chosen to maximise security, ease of maintenance and management, flexibility of layout and suitability for Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). Listed buildings or those with similar restrictions should neither be retained nor acquired;*
- (vii) *new forms of access should be trialled to develop information provision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in line with the recommendations of ‘New Library : The People’s Network’.*”

- (b) The following amendment was proposed by **J A Hobday**, and duly seconded:-

*“That the words ‘be the subject of immediate wide consultation and public discussion’ be replaced by ‘be the subject of countywide consultation and public discussion with users and non-users with a report back to the Community Services Committee on 25 March’ .”*

- (c) **D A Ashley**, with the consent of his seconder, altered the motions at (a) to incorporate the amendment at (b).

- (d) The substantive motion was then CARRIED unanimously as follows:-

*“That the following principles for the future development of information and library services, as previously outlined in paragraph 3 of the report to Community Services Committee on 20 October 1998, be the subject of countywide consultation and public discussion with users and non-users, with a report back to the Community Services Committee on 25 March 1999:-*

- (i) *the pattern of service points should take account of the settlement patterns of the county and aim to give equality of access to all;*
- (ii) *premises should comply fully with the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995;*
- (iii) *fixed service points should not be further than 250 metres from the centre of a community or a major community focal point;*
- (iv) *tenure should be flexible enough to allow a change of location to reflect shifting retail and leisure provision in town centres;*
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(vii) *new forms of access should be trialled to develop information provision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in line with the recommendations of 'New Library : The People's Network.'*

**6.5** The Report of the Community Services Committee dated 22 October 1998, as amended by minute 6.4(d), was received and adopted.'

**6.6 REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 20 OCTOBER 1998**

(presented by **B A York**, Chairman of the Committee)

The Report of the Environment Committee dated 20 October 1998, was received and adopted.

**6.7 REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 15 OCTOBER 1998**

(presented by **P M Aldis**, Chairman of the Committee)

The Report of the Social Services Committee dated 15 October 1998 was received and adopted.

**6.8 NOTICES OF MOTION**

None were notified.

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