

## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Hertford, on Tuesday 18 May 1999.

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

N E Agar	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	A M R Searing
D Beatty	G L Francis	A Lee	R H Smith
J D Beesley	G D Game	N Lindop	R J Smith
H A Burningham	J Gipps	D B Lloyd	W A Storey
G Burrow	P V Goggins	R Mays	I E M Tarry
F Button	A K Gray	J T Metcalf	J Taunton
P T J Channell	M Green	R Mills	S H Tendeter
A R Choudhrey	B P Hall	S J Mills	R A G Thomas
G R Churchard	B N W Hammond	M V Moore	J W A Usher
R A Clark	N A D Haslam	J R Morton	P A Webb
F W Clayton	R Hebborn	S R Munden	G F Wenham
K J Coleman	D W Hills	M H O'Neill	C J White
M D Colne	J A Hobday	F G Peacock	M Wilson
R N Copping	M J Hobday	J M Pitman	B Wing
D J Drake	M H T Janes	J E Price	B A York

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Annual meeting of the County Council held on 18 May 1999, as circulated, action was taken or decisions were reached as follows:-

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

The Chairman, N Lindop, called for nominations.

**R J Smith** was nominated by J T Metcalf and this was seconded.

**J M Pitman** was nominated by R J M Ellis and this was seconded.

A vote was taken, whereupon **R J Smith**, having gained the greater number of votes, was declared ELECTED Chairman of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council next following.

He thanked the Council, signed his declaration of office and took the Chair. He then paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Sir Norman Lindop.

The outgoing Chairman in turn paid tribute to his Vice-Chairman (P V Goggins) and thanked the members and officers who had helped him during his Chairmanship.

## **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 16 February 1999 were confirmed.

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

### **4.1 Death of County Councillor Philip Aldis**

The Chairman reported the death on 26 March of County Councillor Philip Aldis, who had served as County Councillor for Hemel Hempstead South-East since November 1995 and since January 1998 had been Chairman of the Social Services Committee.

J T Metcalf, R J M Ellis and C J White paid tribute.

The Chairman also mentioned that the Chairman of the West Hertfordshire Health Authority had written, paying tribute to County Councillor Aldis' involvement in partnership working with that body.

### **4.2 Death of former County Councillor John (JNA) Hudson**

The Chairman also reported the death on 30 April of former County Councillor John Hudson, who was first elected in October 1981, and had represented Bushey Heath until May 1997.

### **4.3 Death of Neil Gill, Representative Member of the Education Committee**

The Chairman also reported the death on 9 May of Neil Gill, who had represented the Diocese of St Albans on the Education Committee since June 1998.

The Council stood in tribute.

**5. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY / APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES / TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS TO JULY 2000**

The Council resolved:-

*"That under Standing Order 6(2)(a) the Council vary the order of business to enable item 5 to be dealt with at the same time as item 1 of the Report of the Policy Committee dated 28 April 1999."*

**6. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)**

None were notified.

**7. QUESTIONS : HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY (STANDING ORDER 7(3))**

None were notified.

**8. PUBLIC PETITIONS (STANDING ORDER 15)**

None were received.

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

**9.1 Leader of the Council**

The Chairman to call 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.

## 9.2 Deputy Leader of the Council

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.

**R J M Ellis** was nominated by M H T Janes and this was seconded.

A vote was taken and **C J White**, having obtained the greater number of votes, was APPOINTED Deputy Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council next following.

## 10. **REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE - 28 APRIL 1999** (Presented by **I H Laidlaw-Dickson**, Chairman of the Committee)

### 10.1 **Item 1 - Modernisation of Local Government : Member Structures**

(Taken with item 5, Report of the County Secretary, on Review of Proportionality/Appointment of Committees/Timetable of Meetings)

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

*"(i) That the Council review proportionality at this meeting.*

*"(ii) That with effect from this meeting until the review, the Administration and Conservative Groups be allocated equal numbers of places on Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Task Groups and other member bodies."*

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

*"(i) That the Council defer the review of proportionality and appointment of members to member bodies to a meeting of the Council to be held at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 15 June 1999.*

*"(ii) That no meetings of Committees or Sub-Committees (except for those ad hoc meetings dealing with personal casework) take place until after the Council meeting on 15 June."*

The Leader of the Council gave an undertaking that any Panels and Task Groups which were to take place between this meeting and the Council meeting on 15 June would have equality of membership between the Administration and Conservative Groups.

(c) The Recommendations of the Policy Committee were moved by the Chairman of the Committee:-

"(1) That the Scheme of Delegation to Committees set out in Appendix 1A be adopted in place of the current Scheme.

(2) That the numbers of County Councillors on these bodies be:

- Policy Committee - **14**
- Improvement & Review Committee - **14**
- Education Committee - **14** [plus 2 voting and 14 non voting added members]
- Social Services Committee - **14**
- Environment Committee - **14**
- Information & Access Committee - **8**
- Protection Committee - **8**
- Development Control - **10**
- Scrutiny & Audit Panel - **8** (chaired by an Opposition member)
- Standards Panel (comprising **3** County Councillors and **4** independent members one of whom to chair the Panel); and that the next meeting of the Policy Committee determine the process for appointing the independent members.

(3) That Committees of the Council shall meet 6 times a year, and the Council 3 times a year and that:-

(i) Standing Order 1(2) be amended to read:

*The other fixed meetings of the Council shall be held:-*

*- on a Tuesday in February each year, not during half-term, to be determined by the Council*

*- on the third Tuesday in October.'*

(ii) *For the next two years the February Council meetings be held on the following dates:-*

Tuesday 15 February 2000

Tuesday 27 February 2001

- (4) That the Improvement and Review Committee establish a Review Group of members to oversee a review of the political and operational management structures best designed to meet the Council's objectives in delivering services to and working with young people to maximise their life chances and minimise social exclusion. This review to report back to this Committee in October 1999.  
[Terms of reference for the review set out in Appendix 2]
- (5) That all Committees, at their next meeting, review what Panels and Task Groups they need.
- (6) That the existing Equality Member Reference Groups of the service Committees become Panels, and that future member oversight of this work be considered as part of a report to the Policy Committee in July 1999.
- (7) That the local Panels, described in Part 2 of the Scheme of Delegation, report back to the Committee in January 2000 on their proposed way of working, priorities and needs for support.
- (8) That Standing Order for Committees C3(8) be amended to read:

*'All members of the Council may attend committees of which they are not members and may speak, subject to the Chairman's responsibility to control the business of the Committee'.*

- (d) The following motion proposed by **R J M Ellis**, as an alternative to the Recommendations, was LOST:-

*"(1) That the changes to the County Council's structure be accepted in principle.*

*(2) That the Improvement and Review Committee be implemented immediately and that they carry out the review of Education and Social Services - together with any other relevant organisational matters - after which the full changes be reconsidered."*

- (e) The following amendment to Recommendation (1) proposed

by **R J M Ellis**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

*"Add, but amended to delete from the functions of Information and Access Committee:-*

*trading standards, consumer protection, animal health, public health, licensing and as weights & measures and food authority*

*and transfer those functions to the Protection Committee'."*

- (f) The following amendment to Recommendation (2), proposed by **R J M Ellis**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

*"That the number of County Councillors on the Committees and Panels listed (except the Standards Panel) be increased by one on each."*

- (g) The following amendment to Recommendation 3(i), proposed by **J T Metcalf**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

*"Add after 'October', 'except that in 1999 the meeting be held on Tuesday, 30 November'."*

(Amended Recommendation (3) (i) to read:-

"That Committees of the Council shall meet 6 times a year, and the Council 3 times a year and that:-

- (i) Standing Order 1(2) be amended to read:

*The other fixed meetings of the Council shall be held:-*

- on a Tuesday in February each year, not during half-term, to be determined by the Council*
- on the third Tuesday in October, except that in 1999 the meeting be held on Tuesday, 30 November."*

- (h) The substantive Recommendations at (c) as amended at (g) were then ADOPTED.

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

*"That the calendar of meetings attached at Appendix 1 be adopted, amended to incorporate a meeting of the School Provision and LMS Panel on 23 June, and to note that the Improvement and Review Committee meeting will be held on the morning of 6 July."*

- (j) The following motion, proposed by **J T Metcalf**, and duly

seconded, was CARRIED:-

*"That the programme of meetings for September 1999 to July 2000 be approved, as set out in Appendix 2 attached."*

**10.2 Item 2 - Proportional Representation for the Elections to Hertfordshire County Council in 2001**

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

*"That this matter be referred back to the Policy Committee for further consideration."*

**10.3** The Report of the Policy Committee dated 28 April 1999 (together with the Report of the County Secretary at item 5 on the agenda) and the Recommendations therein, as amended by minute 10.1(b) (g) (h) and (j) were received and adopted.

**11. REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 15 APRIL 1999**

(Presented by **P A Webb**, Chairman of the Committee)

**11.1** The Report of the Social Services Committee dated 15 April 1999 was received and adopted.

**12. REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - 13 APRIL 1999**

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

**12.1 Item 1 - Regional Planning Guidance for the South East: The Public Examination**

The Chairman of the Committee informed the Council that, following successful representations made by the Environment Committee, the County Council had now been invited by the Independent Panel to participate in discussions about Stansted Airport related issues in Regional Planning.

**12.2** The Report of the Environment Committee dated 13 April 1999 was received and adopted.

**13. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 21 APRIL 1999**

**13.1 Item 1 - Secondary Transfer : Admission Rules for Community Secondary Schools for September 2000, Co-ordination arrangements for September 2000, and consultation procedures for 2001/2002 admissions**

The following motion proposed by **K F Emsall**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

*"That this Council deplores the continued prevarication by the Education Committee about publishing in full the details of rankings for each school, as expressed by parents in the secondary school transfer process and regrets that, by denying parents this essential element of information, it demonstrates a less than whole-hearted commitment to the principle of parental involvement in the education of their children."*

**13.2** The Report of the Education Committee dated 21 April 1999 was received and adopted.

**14. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 25 MARCH 1999**

(Presented by **P V Goggins**, Chairman of the Committee)

**14.1** The Report of the Community Services Committee dated 25 March 1999 was received and adopted.

**15. REPRESENTATION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

(a) 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**

(b) 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>

**16. 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 16 May 2000.
- (b) The following members were nominated, and duly seconded and the Council agreed that they be APPOINTED:-

**D Beatty, A R Choudhrey, R J M Ellis, K F Emsall, B P Hall,  
I H Laidlaw-Dickson, R Sanderson, J Taunton, C J White**

**17. MOTIONS**

None were notified.

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