

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Hertford, on Tuesday 1 April 2003.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| N E Agar | D J Drake | I H Laidlaw-Dickson | E N Singam |
| T I Ambrose | R J M Ellis | B J Lamb | R H Smith |
| D A Ashley | K F Emsall | A Lee | R J Smith |
| S A Batson | B C Engel | D B Lloyd | W A Storey |
| M V Bayes | F J Escott | D E Lloyd | I E M Tarry |
| D Beatty | G D Game | R Mays | J Taunton |
| D E Billing | S B A Giles-Medhurst | D R McManus | J W A Usher |
| N K Brook | J Gipps | J T Metcalf | P A Webb |
| P T J Channell | P V Goggins | S J Mills | G F Wenham |
| G R Churchard | R I N Gordon | J R Morton | C J White |
| E M Clarke | A K Gray (Chairman) | A Oaten | B A York |
| D Clayton | M Green | M H O'Neill | |
| F W Clayton | F Guest | D A A Peek | |
| R S Clements | B N W Hammond | J M Pitman | |
| K J Coleman | D W Hills | S Quilty | |
| M D Colne | M J Hobday | D Royall | |
| G M Cook | J A Hobday | P A Ruffles | |
| R N Copping | M H T Janes | R Sanderson | |
| K M Crout | S E Jones | H M Saunders | |
| A D Dodd | T G M Kent | A M R Searing | |
| M Downing | L R Kercher | I Simpson | |

Upon consideration of the agenda for the meeting of the County Council held on 1 April 2003, as circulated, action was taken or decisions were reached as follows:-

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 February 2003 were confirmed, subject to the following amendment:-

ITEM 16.2 – REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES (PREPARATIONS) BILL

The following amendment proposed by **C J White** and seconded was LOST:-

“Replace the last sentence of penultimate paragraph of Appendix 3 with:

‘From these figures it is clear that support for a referendum varies widely dependent on how much and what information is provided to the respondents. One key piece of information not included in MORI’s

questions was that an elected regional assembly would replace and subsume an existing unelected body which was already making decisions on their behalf.

The County Council believes that the views expressed indicate sufficient support to justify holding a referendum during which the electors of Hertfordshire would be able to hear and consider all the benefits and disbenefits of having an elected regional chamber.

However the County Council cannot accept that such a referendum should be preceded by a review of local government in the region for the reasons already stated. It is evident, from the large reduction in support for an elected regional chamber recorded by MORI when electors were told that a unitary form of government must be simultaneously introduced, that this aspect of the Government's proposals, as well as having no logical basis, is currently extremely unpopular with electors and would almost certainly distort the result of a referendum and thus render it pointless'."

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

2.1 Council of the Year Award

The Chairman announced that the Council had been awarded the Local Government Chronicle Council of the Year Award 2003. Richard Vize, Editor of the Local Government Chronicle was welcomed and he presented the award to the Chairman on behalf of the Council.

The Council joined the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group in placing on record their thanks to all the Council's staff whose hard work had led to this prestigious award.

2.2 Departure of Bill Ogley, Chief Executive

The Chairman announced that this would be the last full Council meeting for the Chief Executive, Bill Ogley, who was leaving on 2 May to take up the post of Chief Executive of the States of Jersey.

The Council joined the Chairman, the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group in paying tribute to Mr Ogley for his outstanding contribution to the authority since becoming Chief Executive in 1996. They wished him every success for the future.

Mr Ogley thanked the Council.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Leader of the Council, R J M Ellis, reported that a Casework Appointments and Appeals Committee had met on Friday 28 March to interview candidates for the post of Chief Executive. Having done so they decided that there was no candidate that they wished to appoint. The Leader indicated that the post was likely to be re-advertised later in the year and that in the meantime Charlie Watson, former Director of Environment, would assume the role of interim Chief Executive.

4. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)

4.1 (a) B A York asked the Leader of the Council:-

“As well as acknowledging the work of the Study Support Centre, partly funded by the County Council, at Watford Football Club, would he agree that the Council’s congratulations be sent to the Club for reaching the semi-final of the F.A. Cup, having beaten Macclesfield, West Bromwich Albion, Sunderland and Burnley on the way, and wish the team every success in the semi-final match against Southampton?”

(b) R J M Ellis replied:-

“I am sure that the whole Council will wish Watford FC well in their FA Cup Semi-final match and the Chairman will write to them on the Council’s behalf.”

4.2 (a) B A York asked the Executive Member for Environment:-

“Would the Executive Member please comment on the leading article in the Hoddesdon and Cheshunt Mercury of 21 February 2003 which stated:

‘Cramming more homes into town centre sites might be the County Council line but Broxbourne councillors were having none of it this week.....

It might fly in the face of the planning blueprint for Hertfordshire, which seeks to delay building on greenfield sites and favours urban development instead, but local councillors are obviously fed up with the “constant infilling” around the borough.

They had the courage to say no to developments which would obviously make people’s living conditions worse...

Whatever the answer is to the need for more homes it certainly isn't over-developing already built-up areas. Something called quality of life is involved?"

(b) D A Ashley replied:-

"Firstly, I do not wish to comment on the decisions of the members of the local planning authority. It is perfectly appropriate for them to have reached a view based on local considerations even if it is against the advice from their officers who had compared the applications to local and national policy.

The County Council is not suggesting in the current or the deposit structure plan that all applications in urban areas should be approved no matter what the consequences. Only proposals which can usefully bring forward opportunities on previously developed land, and that can make a positive contribution to urban areas, are likely to be acceptable. Final decisions on all applications rightly lie with the local planning authorities.

I would however like to remind the member of National Planning Policy which is conveniently being forgotten. As well as Planning Policy Guidance note 3 which seeks to achieve a greater use of previously developed land, the Deputy Prime Minister in the Communities Plan for the Region, recently stated that:-

' New developments should make the most efficient use of land – with densities between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare and sometimes more;

Priority should be given to brownfield sites and the focus should be on development within urban areas;

We should ensure protection of the green belt in the region.'

This is exactly the policy approach embraced by the Structure Plan Alterations, which sets out to deliver high quality, sustainable new development in our settlements to meet our housing needs, without concreting unnecessarily over the countryside."

(c) B A York then asked the following supplementary question:-

"Is the Executive Member aware that Broxbourne Council is Conservative controlled, and that they regard the Housing Development Strategy in the Structure Plan as unworkable?"

(d) D A Ashley replied:-

“Yes I am aware that the Broxbourne Council is Conservative controlled.”

4.3 (a) J W A Usher asked the Executive Member for Community Services:-

“Following recent announcements from the Government regarding possible terrorist attacks, could we please be informed as to the state of readiness of our Emergency Services to combat this threat?”

(b) I E M Tarry replied:-

“Through HESMIC (the Hertfordshire Emergency Services Major Incident Committee), Hertfordshire has a well developed level of emergency preparedness to respond to a whole range of major emergencies. These have been tested during a number of situations including three rail crashes in the last six years, floods, fires and the discovery of World War II bombs. Hertfordshire has received commendations for the way HESMIC agencies have responded to these incidents.

Immediately following the attacks on 11 September 2001 HESMIC agencies reviewed the potential threats in Hertfordshire. There were concerns over potential chemical attacks and emergency arrangements were developed by the Fire & Rescue Service to deal with decontamination of the public.

At national level the departments responsible for Emergency Services have co-ordinated their planning within a framework called New Dimensions. Teams have been set up to provide guidance and equipment for a range of scenarios. Equipment and vehicles are being delivered to deal with mass decontamination, with further specialist equipment being provided for search and rescue purposes.

Government funding has also been provided for a team of Fire Service officers to undertake regional planning and training for the six Fire Authority areas. Peter Hazeldine, Assistant Chief Fire Officer is responsible for co-ordinating this work in the region. This increased level of preparedness will also improve our capability to respond to other chemical incidents.

Whilst the threat of a terrorist attack to the county is considered to be low, the HESMIC agencies will continue to plan for this as with all other identified risks. All plans will be kept under review and there is a planned increase in the level of training and exercises that we undertake.

Our continued review of incidents and exercises has also highlighted the need for members of the public to be more aware of what they can do to help themselves. Information about this has been available on Herts Direct and a press release has been issued by HESMIC, along with interviews by David Moses, Head of Safety, Emergency & Risk Management which have received widespread coverage in the local press and media.”

4.4 (a) S B A Giles-Medhurst asked the Executive Member for Environment:-

“As the Executive Member will now be aware as a result of this question, I and several of my residents in the Central Watford and Oxhey Division, have been chasing for the repairs and replacement of damaged road safety crash barriers in several places in this area for many months.

Of particular concern is the failure of the Hertfordshire Highways to effect replacement barriers at key locations where there have been accidents and thus pose a serious risk to life as a result. In particular:

- Beechen Grove, above local railway line*
- Dalton Way, adjunct to Century Park*
- Colonial Way, junction Stephenson Way*

In the case of the first site the road safety crash barrier at the time of this question had been broken for 8 months. A report on this was certainly filed on September 11 although residents claim it was reported prior to that. A temporary barrier was put in place in January following a further accident but the long overdue replacement has still not been effected.

The Dalton Way one was destroyed by a lorry long before Christmas!

Despite regular chasing by myself and residents since last September repairs and replacements have not been effected. The only excuse given is that these are ‘specialist barriers’. Given I am told by M25 Mouchel that these barriers are the same sort as used

on the motorway network, where if an accident occurs and they are damaged, they source a replacement within hours, could the Executive Member provide an explanation of the failure of Herts Highways to do the same and provide an assurance as to when the essential works will be carried out?"

(b) D A Ashley replied:-

"Unlike Motorway maintenance, we do not have contractual arrangements which provide for the immediate replacement of all types of crash barriers when damaged. We do however have an arrangement that ensures that sites are made safe immediately, and permanent repairs organised. With regard to the specific crash barrier locations named, I can report:

Beechen Grove: *replacement barriers were ordered in January with a 9 week delivery period. It is expected that the units will be delivered and installed by the second week in April.*

Dalton Way: *these barriers are due to be installed by the second week in April.*

Colonial Way: *the damaged barrier has been made safe and the replacement section is expected to be installed by the second week in April."*

(c) S B A Giles-Medhurst then asked the following supplementary question:-

"Will the Executive Member consider that there should be a more speedy response when the types of barrier such as those at Beechen Grove (i.e. above railway lines) need replacing?"

(d) D A Ashley replied:-

"I note your comments."

4.5 (a) S B A Giles-Medhurst asked the Executive Member for Environment:-

"Representatives of the Central Town Residents Association and myself have been trying, unsuccessfully since the middle of last year, to get the County Highways Officers to agree that a small street plaque – no larger than those already put on street furniture – could be erected at no cost to this council, to recognise the achievement of the local residents in securing, after years of campaigning, a surface level crossing over Beechen Grove, Watford.

Given that the specification of the said sign has been provided to officers I now ask that the Executive Member intervene in this issue so that the residents can rightly have their achievement recognised. Will the Executive Member do this?"

(b) D A Ashley replied:-

"I understand the wishes of the member and the Residents Association. I have however reviewed the decisions of officers to refuse this request and have to advise him that I am not minded to change those decisions.

I am however willing to investigate other ways of ensuring that the efforts of the Residents Association can be recognised."

4.6 (a) S B A Giles-Medhurst asked the Executive Member for Environment:-

"Given the answer given by the Executive Member at the last full Council meeting relating to my question of the transfer of certain trunk roads – namely the A41 and A405 – I now understand that this transfer has been delayed.

Could the Executive Member now tell Council the time scale that the County is working to, and the funding arrangements that have been put in place on transfer to enable road safety, maintenance and Environmental Protection Act duties to be fulfilled? Further can I draw the Executive Member's attention to the A405 junction with St Albans Road and Horseshoe Lane where I asked for assurance that the County would make sure that all details relating to the underpass that has regularly flooded are passed to the County. Has this yet been done?

Also in this area it has now been brought to my attention that the pedestrian facilities that were installed last November, as part of the improved cycle network along the A405, but which residents are now prevented from using because they are sectioned off as unsafe, and that Mouchel M25, the agents for the Highways Agency, are only now preparing plans to change the signals here to enable these to be used. However these plans have not yet been finalised and will require new equipment to be installed.

Given the ongoing delay here which may cut across any handover, will the Executive Member firstly ensure that there is funding in any handover to complete these works and any snagging, ensure that local members are kept informed and finally express extreme

dissatisfaction with the way this project has been handled that has left residents with no safe crossing at the junction of the A405 and the St Albans Road?"

(b) D A Ashley replied:-

- “1. The Highways Agency has confirmed that the transfer date will now be 1 May for the roads included in the first tranche of de-trunking. The special grant monies negotiated will be forthcoming, although for this year it will be reduced to reflect the month's delay.*
- 2. We have not yet got the details of the underpass referred to. However we expect to have them as part of the transfer documentation.*
- 3. Items of work left over from previous contracts will be dealt with via the contract arrangements relative to the particular scheme and arrangements have been made to inspect jointly with the Highways Agency projects falling in this category and produce snagging lists of work to be completed.*
- 4. Further money for improvements and capital maintenance will also be forthcoming and any outstanding works, such as the items identified by the member, will need to be prioritised and funded from this allocation which is likely to amount to no more than £800,000 for all of the de-trunked network. Works not able to be covered within this allocation will need to be bid for in the Local Transport Plan for future years.*
- 5. I will advise the Highways Agency of the dissatisfaction of this authority in handling the works referred to.”*

(c) S B A Giles-Medhurst then asked the following supplementary question:-

“Will the Executive Member seek written confirmation from the Highways Agency that they will complete the required works and that, once completed, they are done to the satisfaction of the County Council?”

(d) D A Ashley replied:-

“I will let you know.”

4.7 (a) G R Churchard asked the Executive Member for Children, Schools and Families:-

“How does the Executive Member plan to overcome the serious shortage of secondary places in St Albans and Harpenden?”

(b) R I N Gordon replied:-

“A range of issues impact on admission to secondary schools in St Albans and Harpenden. In order to identify appropriate actions, I have arranged a series of briefings and have invited local members to join me. Mr Churchyard attended the meeting on 13 February and, as promised, a further session will be held to reflect on the outcome of this year’s admissions.

Put briefly, there are ample places in the schools in the St Albans City part of the priority area for children living there. However, several non-community schools – notably the faith schools – admit substantial numbers from outside the priority area. As a result – at initial allocation – 39 St Albans children had to be allocated to non-ranked schools outside the priority area. This position will improve as a result of continuing interest.

In that respect, as at yesterday, 46 initial offers had been declined for the 6 community schools in the priority area. Some will also be available at the 6 voluntary-aided and foundation schools and these figures are likely to increase during the process and will be re-allocated through continuing interest.

The establishment of priority areas has helped local children get local schools. However, the full effect will not be apparent yet because of the priority given to younger siblings of children previously admitted from outside the priority area. Marlborough School is consulting on contracting its catchment area and, if agreed, this will also help. The department will continue to monitor carefully the balance of supply and demand in St Albans City and the incremental effect of changes to admission rules.

The position in the Harpenden part of the priority area is more severe notwithstanding similar benefits arising from the introduction of priority areas and the expansion of the single-sex priority areas. This year has seen a high number of applicants for Sir John Lawes, Roundwood Park and St George’s from Harpenden, Wheathampstead, Redbourn and the villages and this has exacerbated the problem.

Over the next few years, it appears that number of children in this part of the priority area will be lower than this year. However, it is clear that it will not be possible to accommodate all the children in the current priority area without increasing the total capacity of the three Harpenden Schools. Officers and I are in active discussion with the schools to establish if any temporary expansion is possible to meet this year's exceptional demand. The premises implications are currently being reviewed and I can say no more that this time.

Consideration is also being made as to the possibility of permanent expansion of one of the schools. I am grateful to the schools for their willingness to explore the options. One option discussed – without commitment on either side – has been for an additional form of entry at St George's. To progress this, additional buildings would need to be funded through the Voluntary Aided Targeted Capital Scheme. Alas, yesterday's announcement by the government of a virtual moratorium on major voluntary aided capital schemes – with but one in the whole of the Eastern Region – has put this possibility in jeopardy. I will continue to work with the Harpenden Schools to identify an appropriate response to this difficult issue.”

(c) G R Churchard then asked the following supplementary question:-

“Will children within the district be given priority over those who live outside the area?”

(d) R I N Gordon replied:-

“The Rules already provide for this.”

5. QUESTIONS – HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

None were notified.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 7(10)

None were notified.

7. PUBLIC PETITIONS – STANDING ORDER 14

None were notified.

8. ADMISSION RULES AND CO-ORDINATED SCHEME FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED NURSERY, INFANT, JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The following motion proposed by **R I N Gordon**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the following rules for community and voluntary controlled schools and the co-ordinated scheme attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved:

Rule 1: Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school

Rule 2: Children who can prove that they have a particular medical or social reason why they must go to the school, and those who are in public care.

Rule 3: In the case of junior schools, children who attend the linked infant school at the time of their application.

Rule 4: Children who have a brother or sister on the roll of the school, or linked school in the nursery through to Year 5 at the time of application.

Rule 5: Children for whom the school is their nearest Hertfordshire community or voluntary controlled school.

Rule 6: Children who live nearest to the school.”

9. ADMISSION RULES AND CO-ORDINATED SCHEME FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SECONDARY SCHOOLS

9.1 The following motion was proposed by **R I N Gordon** and duly seconded:-

“That approval be given to:

(i) the following rules for community and voluntary controlled co-educational schools (except Tring):-

a) Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school.

- b) Children who can prove they have a particular medical or social reason for attending the school, and those who are in public care.
- c) Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of application.
- d) *Children of staff permanently employed at the school where the Local Authority has determined, having regard to the wishes of the Governing Body, that this is necessary to reduce recruitment and/or retention difficulties.*
- e) *Children who live in the priority area for the school and who demonstrate an aptitude in the area of the school's specialism (with those demonstrating the greatest aptitude being given priority). This rule applies to 10% of places in those schools determined by the LEA having regard to the wishes of their Governing Bodies. This rule will not be applied to any community or voluntary controlled school this year.*
- f) *Children who live in the priority area and for whom it is their nearest Hertfordshire maintained non-faith co-educational school. Where more children qualify under this rule than there are places available, places will be allocated to those who live nearest to the school.*
- g) *Children who live in the priority area who live closest to the school.*
- h) *Children who live outside the priority area and for whom it is their nearest Hertfordshire maintained non-faith co-educational school. Where more children qualify under this rule than there are places available, places will be allocated to those who live nearest the school.*
- i) *Children living outside the priority area who live closest to the school.*

These rules are applied in the order they are printed above. If more children qualify under a particular rule than there are places available, then a tiebreak is used for those children.

(ii) *the following rules for community single sex schools:-*

- a) *Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school.*
- b) *Children who can prove they have a particular medical or social reason for attending the school and those who are in public care.*
- c) *Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of application.*
- d) *Children of staff permanently employed at the school where the Local Authority has determined, having regard to the wishes of the Governing Body, that this is necessary to reduce recruitment and/or retention difficulties.*
- e) *Children who live in the priority area for the school and who demonstrate an aptitude in the area of the school's specialism (with those demonstrating the greatest aptitude being given priority). This rule applies to 10% of places in those schools determined by the LEA having regard to the wishes of their Governing Bodies.*
- f) *Children who live in the priority area. Places will be allocated to each parish or town in proportion to the number of applications made. In the event of there being more applications than places available to a particular parish or town, places will be allocated in the following order:*
 - (i) *those for whom it is their nearest Hertfordshire non-faith maintained school*
 - (ii) *those living closest to the school*
- g) *Children living outside of the priority area who live closest to the school.*

(iii) *the following rules for Tring VC School:-*

- a) *Children who must go to Tring School because they have a statement of special educational needs under the 1996 Education Act which names the school.*

- b) *Children who can prove that they have a particular medical or social reason why they must go to the school and those in public care.*
- c) *Up to a maximum 10 places will be available for children who can prove that they have specific religious reasons for attending Tring School.*

Priority will be given to children whose parents have been active Church attendees (e.g. at least once a month) over a period of time. Applications must be supported by a letter from a Priest or Minister. If there are more than ten applications which meet this criteria, priority will be given to those who live nearest the school.

- d) *Children who have an elder brother or sister at the school at the time of application.*
- e) *Children who live in the parishes of Tring, Tring Rural, Aldbury, Wigginton and Little Gaddesden.*

If there are more children living in these parishes than there are places then priority will be given to those who live nearest to the school.

- f) *Children who live nearest to Tring School.*
- (iv) *the co-ordinated scheme for secondary admissions attached at Appendix 1 to the report.*
- (v) *the following definition of the shortest designated route for primary and secondary rules:*

‘the shortest public route with a proper surface (for example tarmac or concrete) and adopted national cycle routes’.

9.2 The following amendment proposed by **T G M Kent**, and duly seconded was LOST:-

“Delete 9.1 (i) (e) and 9.1 (ii) (e).”

9.3 The motion at 9.1 was then CARRIED.

9A. ADMISSION RULES FOR SIXTH FORMS OF COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS

The Council received the report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families (item 9A). On Appendix 1 the following changes were noted:-

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Bishops Hatfield Girls School | - Admission number 121 |
| Sir Frederic Osborn School | - Minimum entry requirement 4 GCSEs at least at E grade |
| Stanborough School | - Minimum entry requirement 4 GCSEs at least at E grade |
| Monks Walk | - Minimum entry requirement 4 GCSEs at least at E grade |

The following motion proposed by **R I N Gordon**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the Sixth Form admission rules for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools be approved, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, as amended above, and where a school has not identified an oversubscription criterion the highest GCSE points score be used.”

10. TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE DELIVERY AND FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT PLANS 2003/4

The following motion proposed by **I E M Tarry**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the Trading Standards Service Delivery Plan and Food Law Enforcement Plan for 2003/2004 be adopted.”

11. IMPLICATIONS OF CABINET CHANGES

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

“(i) That Annex 8 of the Constitution be amended:

(a) to rename the Community Information & Protection Scrutiny Committee as Community Services Scrutiny Committee and the Resources, Prosperity, Partnership & Consultation Scrutiny Committee as Resources Scrutiny Committee.

- (b) *to move 'crime and disorder reduction' from Resources Scrutiny Committee to Community Services.*
 - (c) *to move 'securing unified access to services' from Community Services to Resources.*
 - (ii) *That having noted the views of the Independent Panel, the Schedule of Special Responsibility Allowance payments for 2003/4 agreed by the Council on 13 February 2003 (item 9) be amended as follows:-*
 - Delete SRA for Protection & Registration portfolio holder (£8,400)*
 - Delete SRA for Regeneration, the Region & Europe portfolio holder (£8,400)*
 - Delete SRA for Best Value portfolio holder (£8,400)*
 - Delete SRA for Community Information & Development portfolio holder (£16,800)*
 - Insert SRA for Partnerships portfolio holder (£16,800)*
 - Insert SRA for Efficiencies & IT portfolio holder (£16,800)*
 - Insert SRA for Community Services portfolio holder (£16,800)*
 - Insert Chairman of (CSF) Children and Families Panel in place of Chairman of (CSF) Strategy Panel.*
 - Insert Chairman of (CSF) Schools' Resources Panel in place of Chairman of (CSF) Resources Panel.*
 - (iii) *That the following changes be made to the Vice-Chairmanships of Scrutiny Committees (until the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 20 May 2003):-*
 - (a) *That S Quilty be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee in place of R Clements*

(b) *That G D Game be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in place of Keith Emsall.*"

11.2 The following motion proposed by **R Mays**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

"That I H Laidlaw-Dickson be appointed as Chairman of the Resources Scrutiny Committee until the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 20 May 2003, in place of R Mays."

12. REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2003 – FLY TIPPING AND DUMPING IN HERTFORDSHIRE

(Presented by C J White, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee.)

The Council received and noted the report of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

13. REPORT OF THE RESOURCES, PROSPERITY, PARTNERSHIP AND CONSULTATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2003 – SIMPLY DONE EFFICIENCIES PROGRAMME

(Presented by R Mays, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee on 20 March.)

The Council received and noted the report of the Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Scrutiny Committee.

14. ETHICAL STANDARDS ISSUES – UPDATE

The Council received and noted the report of the Standards Committee.

15. KEY DECISIONS/ FORWARD PLAN

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

"That the position of Key Decisions in the decision-making process, shown in the current edition of the Forward Plan, be noted."

16. ITEMS OF BUSINESS REQUESTED BY MEMBERS

None were notified.

NOTICES OF MOTION – STANDING ORDER 8(5)

17. The following motion proposed by **C J White**, and duly seconded, was referred to the Environment Scrutiny Committee for consideration:-

“That this Council remains concerned about the increasing noise levels on our trunk roads, especially the A1 (M), and the lack of progress in introducing noise reduction measures such as special low noise surfaces and screening, and accordingly resolves:

- *to express its concern to the Highways Agency*
- *to urge the Cabinet to give high priority to campaigning for road noise reduction.”*

- 18.1 The following motion was proposed by **B A York** and duly seconded:-

“That, given the failure of 24/Seven to restore electricity supply to so many street lights, which have been out for so long throughout the county, and the consequent security and safety issues for the public, the County Council consider, as a matter of urgency:

(a) imposing sanctions on 24/Seven;

(b) making representations to appropriate regulatory bodies and the LGA; and

(c) sending a deputation to the appropriate minister.”

The Chairman decided that, in order to promote the Council's interests, he would deal with this matter on the day.

- 18.2 The following amendment proposed by **D A Ashley**, and duly seconded, was ACCEPTED by the proposer and seconder of the motion:-

“Delete ‘consider as a matter of urgency’ and add in its place ‘endorses executive actions which have included investigating, inter alia’.”

18.3 The substantive motion was then CARRIED as follows:-

“That, given the failure of 24/Seven to restore electricity supply to so many street lights, which have been out for so long throughout the county, and the consequent security and safety issues for the public, the County Council endorses executive actions which have included investigating, inter alia:-

(a) imposing sanctions on 24/Seven

(b) making representations to appropriate regulatory bodies and the LGA; and

(c) sending a deputation to the appropriate minister.”

19.1 The following motion was proposed by **S B A Giles-Medhurst**, and duly seconded:-

“That, in view of the appalling track record on the current contractors and their failure to repair or restore electrical supplies to many hundreds of street lights across Hertfordshire that has and is creating a dangerous situation for members of the public, this Council resolved to take all measure required to have this services restored to the levels Hertfordshire enjoyed prior to these contractors taking over, or failing that for the contractors to be removed and replaced with ones that can deliver the service expected by Hertfordshire residents. The Council so urges the Cabinet to act to ensure ‘normal’ service is restored.”

The Chairman decided that, in order to promote the Council’s interests, he would deal with this matter on the day.

19.2 Following debate the motion at 19.1 was LOST.

ANDREW LAYCOCK
County Secretary