

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 5th September, 2007.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Bill Noble), Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Phillip Broughton, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Alex Cunningham, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Miss Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Ken Lupton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Lee Narroway, Cllr Mrs Kath Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Julia Roberts, Cllr Fred Salt, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Mrs Allison Trainer, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr William Woodhead and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: G Garlick (CE); A Baxter (CESC); D E Bond, P K Bell (LD); N Schneider (DNS); J Danks, H Dean, J Spittle (R).

Also in attendance: F Robinson (Independent Member of the Standards Committee), four members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Andrew Larkin and Cllr Liz Nesbitt.

C 63/07 **Petitions - Protest Against the Re-Opening of the Anhydrite Mine, Billingham**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution; and following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members, Council was invited to note the receipt by the Worshipful the Mayor of two petitions handed to the Council on the 1st August 2007 objecting to the re-opening of the Anhydrite Mine at Billingham.

Council agreed that copies of the petitions be sent to NPL to ensure they were aware of the extent of local opinion.

C 64/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Cabinet

Councillor Roberts declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute CAB 30/7 as she was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Councillor Nelson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute CAB 30/07 as he was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute CAB 30/07 as he was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute CAB 30/07 as he was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Councillor Miss Large declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute CAB 30/07 as she was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management

Board.

Councillor Mrs Trainer declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute CAB 30/07 as she was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Housing and Community Safety Select Committee

Councillor Roberts declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute HCS 7/07 as she was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Councillor Nelson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute HCS 7/07 as he was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute HCS 7/07 as he was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute HCS 7/07 as he was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Councillor Miss Large declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute HCS 7/07 as she was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Councillor Mrs Trainer declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute HCS 7/07 as she was a Member of Tristar Homes Ltd Management Board.

Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee

Councillor Nelson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute CSI 2/07 as he was a Member of Friends of Forum Theatre.

Councillor Mrs Nelson declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of minute CSI 2/07 as she was a Member of Friends of Forum Theatre.

Cleveland Police Authority Executive - Minutes - Agenda Item 34 - 14th June 2007

Councillor Cook declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Cleveland Police Authority Executive minutes as he had a relative that was a serving Officer.

Councillor Dixon declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Cleveland Police Authority Executive minutes as a family member was a member of Cleveland Police.

Councillor Smith declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Cleveland Police Authority Executive minutes as a family member was a

member of Cleveland Police.

Councillor Kirton declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in respect of the Cleveland Police Authority Executive minutes as he was a Member of Cleveland Police Authority Executive.

C Minutes

65/07

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2007 were signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as correct record.

C Public Question Time

66/07

The Director of Law and Democracy reported that no public questions had been received.

C Members' Question Time

67/07

The following question was submitted by Councillor Fletcher for response by the Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture:-

"Given the approval by Cabinet on 12th April 2007 (Minute 1199) of the recommendation in March 2007 by the Adults, Leisure & Culture Select Committee "that all publicity material and information leaflets contain details of suitability of events for people with disability as well as identifying location of toilet facilities for disabled people", will the Cabinet Member explain why this information is not on the website for Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF) for 2007, the Souvenir Brochure or the folder given out during the Festival?

"The Committee recommend that the Disability Advisory Group become a consultee when considering aspects of the festivals." Will the Cabinet Member report whether this was done before SIRF 2007 and, if so, what were the Group's recommendations and whether they were implemented?"

The Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

"Information about disabled access, dropped kerbs, disabled parking, and disabled toilets was and still is on the www.sirf.co.uk website, from the home page go to maps, and then 'disabled access' or 'parking' to get to the links in question. This was added in direct response to the Adult, Leisure and Culture Select Committee (ALCS) recommendation.

We accept that the Souvenir Brochure did not make reference to toilet provision, disabled or otherwise. However, consideration was given to disabled issues, if any show had been deemed inaccessible or necessitated any warning such as for strobe lighting, that information would have been included in the Brochure and the foldout programme. We will extend the inclusion of information about disability facilities beyond our website in the future.

Also in direct response to the ALCS recommendation, additional advice was taken on access issues. The Disability Advisory Group was only initiated earlier

this year and has not yet agreed its terms of reference. However, a member of that Group, the Shopmobility Manager, Hailey Perks, was consulted by the SIRF team direct, and through the Town Centre Managers Shopmobility liaison officer Susie Bennett. Susie, a wheelchair user, also visited all SIRF sites to help us consider physical access issues. Advice from both Hailey and Sue was followed, including the creation of wheelchair user viewing space for the Carnival, which has in the past been difficult to see because of the crowds standing at the edge of the carriageway.

The highly visible SIRF Visitor Helper team and TIC staff were briefed in detail on any anticipated disability issues and were able to answer any questions on site.

Consideration has been given in previous years to signing performances for the benefit of people with hearing difficulties, however this has not been deemed necessary since very few performances contain any spoken word. There was one performance in SIRF 07 that contained some signing by the performers.

SIRF is the subject of an extensive visitor survey which captures specific data and general comments. The 07 information is still being collated but headline figures suggest it was another massive success with 96% satisfaction. The survey included 8% who self defined as disabled and of the 324 comments, the following was the only negative reference; 'Although the Council catered for the disabled there is still room for improvement.'

A full report on the SIRF 07 will be produced once the feedback and survey analysis is complete, this report will cover the provision of information for people with disabilities and can provide a detailed set of actions for future years."

Councillor Fletcher asked the following supplementary question:-

"Would the Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture agree that it would have been useful if there had been cross reference on the website as to where disabled facilities information was accessible and can this be kept in mind for next year when I am sure SIRF will be just as successful?"

The Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

"Yes we will keep that in mind."

The following question was submitted by Councillor Fletcher for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport:-

"Given that Cabinet on 12th April 2007 (Minute 1199) approved the recommendation in March 2007 by the Adults, Leisure & Culture Select Committee "that SBC engineers and bus operators work together to ensure that both the public and bus crews are advised of diversions during SIRF events and the Carnival parade by providing clear advance publicity and site notices on the days affected", could the Cabinet Member explain why on the morning of the Carnival intending 'bus passengers were waiting in unmarked stops (e.g., outside the Corporation Hall), no advance publicity of the details of the diversions was circulated to councillors and the SIRF website contained a map of the usual High Street 'bus stops with no note of the diversions?"

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport responded with:-

"During the months leading up to SIRF, Council Officers together with the Joint Public Transport Group, Police and Bus Operators worked closely to plan how bus routes and bus users would be catered for during the periods when the central section of the High Street was to be closed to through traffic.

During the closure periods, both the north and south loops were in full operation. Buses on routes wishing to access the opposite end of the High St. were to use the agreed diversion route along Prince Regent St. No temporary stops were to be utilised along the diversion. In advance of the event, stops affected had advance notices placed, detailing alternative stop numbers and locations.

At the time the road closures were advertised, and running up to the event, publicity and press releases, including maps, relating to bus routing and specific stops were issued by the Joint Public Transport Group.

With regard to the question relating to passengers waiting outside Corporation Hall, it is now understood that Stagecoach acted outside of the agreed arrangements and placed their own stop sign at this location. This was against all agreements and the matter has been taken up with Stagecoach Management. Despite this, to date no complaints have been received from bus users about the arrangements that were in place.

The SIRF website did not contain information relating to bus arrangements, however the Council website did give details through the weekly roadworks bulletin.

Senior Officers are due to meet in early September to review SIRF and look to what needs to be considered for next year. The inclusion of Public Transport Information and diversion routes on the SIRF website will be part of this review.

So in summary for future events that cause such widespread disruption we will alert all Members directly, not relying on Members looking at our website for road closures, and if any other Member has any comments or concerns about SIRF please tell officers so they can be part of the review in September 2007."

The following question was submitted by Councillor Walmsley for response by the Leader:-

"Is the new Council a partnership or a Labour-Conservative coalition?"

The Leader responded with the following:-

"I consider neither of these descriptions to be an accurate assessment of the governance arrangements in Stockton.

It is not a temporary alliance, as defined by a coalition, nor a joint venture as defined by a partnership.

The current arrangement is based on an agreement between the Conservative

and Labour Groups to share positions of responsibility.
In this case it includes sharing Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair positions with representatives of all the political and Independent groups that existed immediately following the election."

**C
68/07 Adult Services & Health Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Cains, seconded by Councillor Javed and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Adult Services and Health Select Committee held on 11th June 2007 (Minutes ASH 1/07 - ASH 5/07) be confirmed.

**C
69/07 Adult Services & Health Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Cains, seconded by Councillor Javed and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Adult Services and Health Select Committee held on 23rd July 2007 (Minutes ASH 6/07 - ASH 11/07) be confirmed.

**C
70/07 Appointments Panel (Heads of Service) Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Lupton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Appointment Panel (Heads of Service) held on 24th May 2007 (Minutes APP 1/07 - APP 3/07) be received.

**C
71/07 Appointments Panel (Heads of Service) Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Lupton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Appointment Panel (Heads of Service) held on 31st May 2007 (Minutes APP 4/07 - APP 5/07) be received.

**C
72/07 Appointments Panel (Heads of Service) Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Lupton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Appointment Panel (Heads of Service) held on 5th July 2007 (Minutes APP 6/07 - APP 9/07) be received.

**C
73/07 Appointments Panel (Heads of Service) Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Lupton and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Appointment Panel (Heads of Service) held on 17th July 2007 (Minutes APP 10/07 - APP 12/07) be received.

**C
74/07 Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Sherris and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee held on 20th June 2007 (Minutes ALC 1/07 - ALC 3/07) be confirmed.

**C
75/07 Audit Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Woodhouse and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 28th June 2007 (Minutes A 9/07 - A 14/07) be received subject to the following correction:-

Delete Councillor Mrs Walmsley from being in attendance and add her apologies.

**C
76/07** **Cabinet Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Beaumont and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet held on 2nd August 2007 (Minutes CAB 25/07 - CAB 36/07) be confirmed or received as appropriate.

**C
77/07** **Children & Young People Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Eddy and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 13th June 2007 (Minutes CYP 1/07 - CYP 4/07) be confirmed.

**C
78/07** **Children & Young People Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Eddy and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 2nd July 2007 (Minutes CYP 5/07 - CYP 7/07) be confirmed.

**C
79/07** **Children & Young People Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Eddy and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 19th July 2007 (Minutes CYP 8/07 - CYP 11/07) be confirmed.

**C
80/07** **Corporate & Social Inclusion Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Womphrey and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee held on 19th June 2007 (Minutes CSI 1/07 - CSI 3/07) be confirmed.

**C
81/07** **Environment Select Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Mrs Rigg, seconded by Councillor Smith and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment Select Committee held on 18th June 2007 (Minutes ENV 1/07 - ENV 3/07) be confirmed.

**C
82/07** **Executive Scrutiny Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Fletcher and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 26th June 2007 (Minutes EXC 6/07 - EXC 11/07) be received.

**C
83/07** **Executive Scrutiny Committee Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Mrs Fletcher and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 24th July 2007 (Minutes EXC 12/07 - EXC 20/07) be received subject to the following correction:-

Minute EXC 19/07 refers to the current Scrutiny Review being undertaken by Adults, Leisure and Culture as 'River Based Lettings' this should read 'River Based Leisure'.

Also in Minute EXC 19/07 under the heading Environment – Management of Memorials reference is made to 'Durham Lane Cemetery', this should read 'Durham Road Cemetery'.

C **Housing & Community Safety Select Committee Minutes**

84/07

Moved by Councillor Mrs Trainer, seconded by Councillor Roberts and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee held on 14th June 2007 (Minutes HCS 1/07 - HCS 7/07) be confirmed.

C **Licensing Committee Minutes**

85/07

Moved by Councillor Woodhead, seconded by Councillor Mrs Nelson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 31st July 2007 (Minutes L 7/07 - L 18/07) be received subject to the following correction:-

With regard to minute L11/07 at the third line please replace "2008" with "2007".

C **Licensing Sub Committee Minutes**

86/07

Moved by Councillor Woodhead, seconded by Councillor Mrs Nelson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee held on 19th July 2007 (Minutes LSC 11/07 - LSC 13/07) be received.

C **Planning Committee Minutes**

87/07

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Patterson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 27th June 2007 (Minutes P 13/07 - P 24/07) be received subject to the following correction:-

In the title of minute number P22/07 of the above minutes please replace 'doucment' with the word 'document'.

C **Planning Committee Minutes**

88/07

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Patterson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18th July 2007 (Minutes P 25/07 - P 32/07) be received.

C **Planning Committee Minutes**

89/07

Moved by Councillor Rix, seconded by Councillor Patterson and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8th August 2007 (Minutes P 33/07 - P 42/07) be received.

C **Regeneration & Transport Select Committee Minutes**

90/07

Moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee held on 25th June 2007 (Minutes RTS 1/07 - RTS 2/07) be confirmed.

C Regeneration & Transport Select Committee Minutes

91/07

Moved by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Cains and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee held on 6th August 2007 (Minutes RTS 3/07 - RTS 6/07) be confirmed.

C Standards Committee Minutes

92/07

Moved by Councillor Sherris, seconded by Councillor Fletcher and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 27th July 2007 (Minutes S 13/07 - S 24/07) be received.

C Standards Committee Minutes

93/07

Moved by Councillor Sherris, seconded by Councillor Fletcher and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standards Committee held on 16th August 2007 (Minutes S 25/07 - S 38/07) be received.

C Cabinet Minutes

94/07

Moved by Councillor Lupton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Beaumont and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet held on 30th August 2007 (Minutes CAB 37/07 - CAB 51/07) be confirmed or received as appropriate.

With regard to Cabinet minute CAB 41/97, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People invited all Members of the Council to join him in congratulating children, young people and schools of the Borough on another set of outstanding results in the summer tests and examinations. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People gave Council the headlines from the different Key Stages.

All Members of the Council offered their congratulations to everyone involved from the students themselves to the supporting team at the authority.

**C To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Cleveland Police Authority
95/07 Executive held on 14th June 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cleveland Police Authority Executive held on 14th June 2007 were noted.

**C To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Members Advisory Panel held
96/07 on 2nd July 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of the Members Advisory Panel held on 2nd July 2007 were noted.

C To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership

97/07 held on 3rd July 2007

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership held on 3rd July 2007 were noted.

**C
98/07 Changes to Committee Membership**

Council was informed that further to notification received regarding the establishment of Billingham Independent Association as a recognised political group on the Council, it was necessary, in accordance with the requirements regarding political proportionality, to review the political composition of committee membership insofar as they affected the relevant political groups; namely the Liberal Democrats Group and the newly formed Billingham Independent Association.

Consultation had therefore taken place with each of these groups and the following changes to committee representation were proposed:-

Executive Scrutiny Committee
Add Cllr Leckonby (BIA)
Remove Cllr Mrs Fletcher (LD)

Planning Committee
Add Cllr Mrs Aggio (BIA)
Remove Cllr Roberts (LD)

Housing Review Panel
Add Cllr Mrs Aggio (BIA)
Remove Cllr Roberts (LD)

Local Joint Consultative Panel
Add Cllr Mrs Apedaile (BIA)
Remove Cllr Mrs Rigg (LD)

Members Advisory Panel
Add Cllr Mrs Apedaile (BIA)
Remove Cllr Mrs Rigg (LD)

Local Development Framework
Add Cllr Leckonby (BIA)
Remove Cllr Mrs Rigg (LD)

RESOLVED that the proposed changes as detailed above to Committee membership to reflect the requirements of political balance be approved.

**C
99/07 Appointments to Outside Bodies for the Municipal Year 2007/2008**

Council had been approached by the following three Outside Bodies requesting representatives for their boards/committees:-

Yarm Grammar School Trust Fund - A vacancy had arisen for a member to become a Nominative Trustee of Yarm Grammar School Trust. This

appointment would be an executive (decision-making) role.

Hartlepool Power Station Community Liaison Committee - A vacancy had arisen for a member to become a representative on the Community Liaison Committee. This would be an advisory role only.

Cleveland College of Art & Design (CCAD) - A vacancy had arisen for a member to become a Corporate Board Member of the CCAD Corporation. The appointment would be an executive (decision-making) role.

Following consultation with all groups the following nominations had been received:-

Yarm Grammar School Trust (1 Vacancy)

Nomination:-

Joe Craven, Glaisdale Road, Yarm

Cleveland College of Art and Design (CCAD) (1 Vacancy)

Nomination:-

Councillor Andrew Sherris

Hartlepool Power Station Community Liaison Committee (3 Vacancies)

Nominations:-

Councillor Dick Cains
Councillor Bill Woodhead
Councillor Colin Leckonby

RESOLVED that the above nominations be approved.

**C
100/07 Amendments to the Membership of Parish Council Liaison Forum and Durham Tees Valley Airport (Director and Council Representative) for the Municipal Year 2007/2008**

At its Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2007 Council approved appointments to its Committees, Panels and Joint/Outside Bodies for the Municipal year 2007/2008. Subsequently necessary amendments to Parish Council Liaison Forum and Durham Tees Valley Airport (Director and Council Representative) had been identified, which required approval by the Council viz:-

Parish Council Liaison Forum

Remove Councillor J Gardner

Add Councillor T Laing

Durham Tees Valley Airport (Director and Council Representative)

Remove Councillor Gibson

Add Councillor Lupton

RESOLVED that the above amendments be approved.