

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT GUILDHALL ON TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2015
AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor D W W Thomas (Presiding Member) presided

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
J C Bayliss	T J Hennegan	J Newbury
P M Black	C A Holley	B G Owen
J E Burtonshaw	P R Hood-Williams	D Phillips
M C Child	B Hopkins	C L Philpott
R A Clay	D H Hopkins	J A Raynor
U C Clay	L James	T H Rees
A C S Colburn	Y V Jardine	I M Richard
D W Cole	J W Jones	C Richards
A M Cook	M H Jones	P B Smith
J P Curtice	S M Jones	R V Smith
N J Davies	E T Kirchner	R J Stanton
A M Day	A S Lewis	R C Stewart
P Downing	D J Lewis	G J Tanner
C R Doyle	R D Lewis	C M R W D Thomas
V M Evans	C E Lloyd	M Thomas
W Evans	P Lloyd	L G Thomas
E W Fitzgerald	K E Marsh	L J Tyler-Lloyd
R Francis-Davies	P M Matthews	G D Walker
F M Gordon	P N May	L V Walton
J A Hale	P M Meara	T M White
J E C Harris	H M Morris	N M Woollard

206. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S E Crouch, A J Jones, D G Sullivan and C Thomas.

207. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

The Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement gave advice regarding the potential personal and prejudicial interests that Councillors and / Officers may have on the agenda.

The Head of Democratic Services reminded Councillors and Officers that the "Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests" sheet should only be completed if the Councillor/Officer actually had an interest to declare. Nil returns were not required. Councillors and Officers were also informed that any declarable interest must be made orally and in writing on the sheet.

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea the following interests were declared:

Councillors

- 1) Councillors J C Bayliss, P M Black, J E Burtonshaw, A M Day, P M Meara and J A Raynor declared a personal interest in Minute No. 212 - "Public Presentation - Bay Campus, Swansea University Campus Development Strategy".
- 2) Councillors J E Burtonshaw, J P Curtice, J A Hale, C Richards and N M Woollard declared a personal interest in Minute No. 213 - "Pay Policy 2015/2016".
- 3) Councillor P Downing declared a personal interest in Minute No. 213 - "Pay Policy 2015/2016" and stated that he had received dispensation from the Standards Committee to stay and speak and vote on any item relating to general staff Employment, on Budget matters and any other matters that affect Corporate Building Services, other than matters that directly affect his brother with specific reference to his post.
- 4) Councillor F M Gordon declared a personal interest in Minute No. 213 - "Pay Policy 2015/2016" and stated that she had received dispensation from the Standards Committee to stay and speak on any item relating to general staff employment, on budget matters and any other matters that directly affect Education other than matters that directly affect her son by specific reference to his post.
- 5) Councillor C A Holley declared a personal interest in Minute No. 213 - "Pay Policy 2015/2016" and stated that he had received dispensation from the Standards Committee to stay, speak and vote on any item relating to Social Services matters, general staff employment, on budget matters and other Social Services matters other than those that directly affect his daughter by specific reference to her post.
- 6) Councillor G J Tanner declared a personal interest in Minute No. 213 - "Pay Policy 2015/2016" and stated that she had received dispensation from the Standards Committee to stay and speak but not vote on any item relating to general staff employment on budget matters other than matters that directly affect her son by specific reference to his post.

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- 7) Councillor M Thomas declared a personal interest in Minute No. 213 - "Pay Policy 2015/2016" and stated that he had received dispensation from the Standards Committee to stay and speak but not vote on any item relating to general staff employment, on budget matters other than matters that directly affect his wife by specific reference to her post.
- 8) Councillor T M White declared a personal interest in Minute No. 213 "Pay Policy 2015/2016" and stated that he had received dispensation from the Standards Committee to stay and speak on any item relating to general employment, on budget matters other than matters that directly affect his daughter by specific reference to her post.
- 9) Councillor C R Doyle declared a personal interest in Minute No. 215 "Admission Arrangements 2016/2017" as a School Governor of Birchgrove Comprehensive and Primary Schools.
- 10) Councillor J W Jones declared a personal interest in Minute No. 215 "Admission Arrangements 2016/2017" as a School Governor and his grandchild is due to enter education.
- 11) Councillor I M Richard declared a personal interest in Minute No. 215 "Admission Arrangements 2016/2017" in relation to having nine grandchildren in education in Swansea.
- 12) Councillors J C Bayliss, D W Cole, A C S Colburn, A M Cook, M H Jones, E T Kirchner, A S Lewis, P Lloyd, C L Philpott, I M Richard, D W W Thomas and T M White declared a personal interest in Minute No. 217 - "Local Development Plan Petitions" as members of the Planning Committee.

Officers

- 1) P Arran, L Harvey, M Hawes, P Meller, J Parkhouse, P Roberts, C Sivers, D Taylor and J Tinker declared personal and prejudicial interests in Minute No. 213 - "Pay Policy 2015/2016" and left the meeting prior to discussions on this item.

208. **MINUTES.**

RESOLVED that the following Minutes be approved and signed as a correct record:

- 1) Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 24 February 2015;
- 2) Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 3 March 2015.

209. **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER.**

1) Condolences

a) Janet Borsden, Wife of Gareth Borsden

The Presiding Member referred with sadness to the recent death of Janet Borsden. Janet Borsden was a former employee of the City and County of Swansea and the wife of Gareth Borsden (Democratic Services).

All stood as a mark of respect and sympathy.

2) Councillor Resignations

The Presiding member stated that three Councillors of the City and County of Swansea had resigned with immediate effect on 20 March 2015.

Councillor John Davies represented the Morrison Electoral Ward on Swansea City Council from 5 May 1983 to 31 March 1996 and the City and County of Swansea from 4 May 1995 to 20 March 2015. This was a period of approximately 32 years. Councillor John Davies had previously served as a Cabinet Member and was Lord Mayor in 2000-2001.

Councillor Nick Bradley represented the Townhill Electoral Ward on the City and County of Swansea from 1 May 2008 to 20 March 2015. This was a period of approximately 7 years. Councillor Nick Bradley had previously served as a Cabinet Member.

Councillor Mitch Theaker represented the Cockett Electoral Ward on the City and County of Swansea from 3 May 2012 to 20 March 2015. This was a period of approximately 3 years. Councillor Mitch Theaker had previously served as a Cabinet Member.

3) MPs Standing Down

The Presiding Member indicated that two MPs for Swansea were standing down - Martin Caton, who had been an MP for Gower since 1997 and Sian James who had been an MP for Swansea East since 2005.

4) Congratulations

The Presiding Officer stated that youngsters from Blaenymaes school's Rhodri's Rangers Group had won a High Sheriff Award for their work in helping classmates with issues such as bullying and internet safety.

210. **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.**

1) Tribute to Councillor J Davies

The Leader paid tribute to ward all his colleagues, but paid specific thanks to his ward colleague Councillor John Davies for his contribution over many years both as both as Cabinet Member and Ward Colleague.

2) Marketing of Sites

The Leader indicated that there had been keen interest in the marketing of sites and a shortlist had been prepared. A productive and positive meeting had also been had regarding the sale of the Liberty Stadium.

211. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

A number of questions were asked by members of the public. The relevant Cabinet Member responded accordingly. Those questions requiring a written response are listed below:

1) Lis Davies asked the relevant Cabinet Member a question in relation to Minute 218 - Council Questions - Page 145.

- (i) Which specific schools has the Labour Administration identified as having 'high market value sites with existing access arrangements'?
- (ii) Why has Swansea Council decided to effectively award schools five percent less money in the next financial year [delegated budget cuts] when Neath & Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire councils have not done so?

The Cabinet Member for Education indicated that she would provide a written response.

2) Lis Davies asked the relevant Cabinet Member a question in relation to Minute No. 215 - Admission Arrangements 2016/2017 - Page 54.

The report identifies that there are 79 Primary and 14 Comprehensive Schools in Swansea and yet the Council only received (11) responses to the consultation on Admission arrangements.

- (i) A breakdown of the 11 responses - how many responses were received from Primary Schools and how many from Comprehensive Schools?
- (ii) Has there been any further consultation with schools asking why they failed to respond to the consultation?

- (iii) Was the lack of interest apathy on part of the schools who failed to respond or further evidence of the dysfunctional relationship between Swansea schools in general and the LA Education Department?

The Cabinet Member for Education indicated that she would provide a written response.

212. **PUBLIC PRESENTATION - BAY CAMPUS - SWANSEA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.**

Professor Iwan Davies gave a presentation on the Bay Campus, Swansea University Campus Development Strategy. He referred to the opportunity, excellence and impact that this development would create.

Questions were asked by members regarding this exciting project.

The Leader and the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development and Strategy gave thanks for the presentation.

213. **PAY POLICY 2015/2016.**

S Rees, Head of HR & OD, Neath Port Talbot County Council presented a report on the Pay Policy 2015/2016. The Pay Policy 2015/16 was attached as Appendix 1. Paragraph 4.3.5 of the pay policy was amended to state that the living wage was increasing from £7.45 per hour to £7.61 per hour, rather than per year.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the Pay Policy 2015/2016 be approved;
- 2) the pay offer for Chief Officers as outlined in paragraph 3.9 of the report be approved.
- 3) any future pay increases for JNC, NJC and Soulbury Staff be implemented as and when they arise.

214. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES.**

The Citizen, Community Engagement and Democracy Cabinet Member stated that an amended report had been circulated. The Leader had agreed that the following organisation be added to Council Outside Bodies:-

Vision Impaired West Glamorgan

Add Councillor T J Hennegan
Add Councillor Y V Jardine
Add Councillor G J Tanner
Add Councillor C Thomas

RESOLVED that the membership of the Council Bodies listed below be amended as follows:

1) Scrutiny Programme Committee

Remove Councillor A J Jones
Add Councillor D J Lewis

2) Audit Committee

Remove Councillor P Downing
Add Councillor J C Bayliss

3) Engagement and Inclusion Cabinet Advisory Committee

Remove Councillor D W Cole
Add Councillor C R Doyle

215. **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2016/2017.**

The Cabinet Member for Education presented a report which sought to determine the Admission Arrangements for maintained schools for the academic year 2016/2017.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the proposed Admission Arrangements for 2016/2017 for Nursery Classes as set out in Appendix A be approved;
- 2) the proposed Admission Arrangements for 2016/2017 for Primary Schools as set out in Appendix B of the report be approved;
- 3) the proposed Admission Arrangements for 2016/2017 for Secondary Schools is as set out in Appendix B of the report be approved;
- 4) the proposed Admission Arrangements/ Criteria for Entry for 2016/2017 for Sixth Forms set in Appendix B of the report be approved;
- 5) the Schedule of Events at Appendix C of the report be approved;
- 6) the Admission Numbers for primary and secondary schools be noted, as set out in Appendix D of the report.

216. **AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION & COUNCIL DIARY 2015-2016.**

The Monitoring Officer presented the joint report of the Presiding Member, Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services which sought to make amendments in order to outline the draft Council Diary 2015-2016 and to simplify, improve and/or add to the Council Constitution and to in relation to the following areas:-

- 1) Part 4 - "Council Procedure Rules";
- 2) Part 4 - "Access to Information Procedure Rules";
- 3) Part 4 - "Cabinet Procedure Rules".

The draft Council Diary 2015 - 2016 was attached as Appendix A.

An additional report was circulated with the following further amendments to the Council Diary 2015-2016:

4.2 Amendments to the cycle of meetings as follows:-

Communities CAC:	Amend from the 1 st Tuesday of every month to 2 nd Thursday of every month.
Democratic Services Committee:	Amend from the 2 nd Tuesday of every 3 rd month to 3 rd Tuesday of every 3 rd month.

Appendix A - Council Diary 2015-2016

The date of the Cabinet meeting shown as 14 May 2015 be amended to 12 May 2015.

The date of General Licensing Committee shown as 15 May 2015 be amended to 14 May 2015.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the changes to the Council Constitution as outlined in paragraph 3 of the report together with any further consequential changes be adopted;
- 2) the Council Diary 2015-2016 be noted subject to the further amendments in the additional report and be resubmitted to the Annual Meeting of Council on 19 May 2015 for formal adoption.

217. **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PETITIONS.**

The Monitoring Officer presented the report of the Constitution Working Group which sought to agree a mechanism for all petitioners to proposed Local Development Plan (LDP) allocations to be heard. Amended recommendations were circulated.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the opportunity to present valid petitions be afforded to all petitioners objecting to proposed A and potential B-List LDP sites (including those sites subject of multiple letters of objection) and that site promoters be afforded the right to reply;
- 2) all Petitions relating to the LDP will be directed to and heard by the Planning Committee who will then make a recommendation in a report to Council for a final decision to be made. The report to Council will provide details of the representations made at Planning Committee in respect of each site;
- 3) consequential amendments be made to the Constitution and the Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement be given authority to make those amendments.

218. **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.**

1) **Part A 'Supplementary Questions'**

Eleven (11) Part A 'Supplementary Questions' were submitted. The relevant Cabinet Member(s) responded by way of written answers contained in the Council Summons.

Those supplementary questions requiring a written response are listed below:-

(i) Question 4 - Councillor M H Jones asked:-

In relation to revised figures verbal provided by the Cabinet Member do these include the staff who were on temporary contracts of under a year and had already been given notice? (Councillor M H Jones indicated that she would provide notes regarding this matter in the new term)

The Cabinet Member for Education indicated that she would provide a written response.

(ii) Question 4 – Councillor M H Jones further asked:-

As a result of the emphasis on Numeracy and Literacy in recent years, can the Cabinet Member indicate how schools were going to manage to help all children to be able to read at their chronological reading age when the staff schools are mainly losing Teaching Assistants that work with these children? How do you expect them to access the Curriculum when they get to Secondary School?

The Cabinet Member for Education indicated that she would provide a written response.

- (iii) Question 10 (2) - Councillor P M Meara asked:

How does the table produced in respect of the number of liability orders issued in respect of the past financial years compared to the collection rate differ from that in other cities?

The Leader indicated that he would provide a written response.

- (iv) Question 10 (4) - Councillor P M Meara asked:

What support do people get from the free debt advice organisations?

The Leader indicated that he would provide a written response.

2) Part B 'Questions not requiring Supplementary Questions'

One (1) Part B 'Question not requiring Supplementary Questions' was submitted.

219. **WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL.**

The Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement submitted an information report setting out the written responses to questions asked at the last Ordinary Meeting of Council.

The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

CHAIR