

# Minutes

## of a meeting of the

# Council



held at 7pm on Wednesday 13 July 2011  
at the Abbey House, Abingdon

**Open to the public, including the press**

### **Present:**

Members: Councillor Alison Thomson (Chairman), Sue Marchant (Vice-Chairman) John Amys, Marilyn Badcock, Mike Badcock, Matthew Barber, Eric Batts, Julia Bricknell, Yvonne Constance, Roger Cox, Andy Crawford, Jane Crossley, Tony de Vere, Charlotte Dickson, Gervase Duffield, Jason Fiddaman, Debby Hallett, Jim Halliday, Jenny Hannaby, Anthony Hayward, Dudley Hoddinott, Holly Holman, Simon Howell, Bob Johnston, Bill Jones, Peter Jones, Mohinder Kainth, Angela Lawrence, Pat Lonergan, Sandy Lovatt, Ron Mansfield, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Aidan Melville, Mike Murray, Jerry Patterson, Helen Pighills, Kate Precious, Judy Roberts, Fiona Roper, Robert Sharp, Janet Shelley, Melinda Tilley, Margaret Turner, Reg Waite, Elaine Ware, Richard Webber, John Woodford

Officers: David Buckle, Steven Corrigan, Steve Culliford, Margaret Reed, Anna Robinson

Number of members of the public: 3

### **Co.18 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Timothy Foggin, Jane Hanna, Gill Morgan and John Morgan.

### **Co.19 Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2011 as a correct record and agree that the Chairman sign them.

### **Co.20 Declarations of interest**

Councillor Jim Halliday declared a personal interest in the report of the Leader of Council as a member of an organisation which formed part of Science Vale UK.

### **Co.21 Urgent business and chairman's announcements**

The Chairman sought a show of hands in support of the continuation of prayers at Council meetings. A majority supported the continuation.

## **Co.22 Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting council**

Beth Coates and Alistair Harper addressed Council on the Sweatbox Youth Centre motion. They highlighted the important role the facility played in providing a vital resource for young people, including those with special needs, and urged the council to support it.

## **Co.23 Urgent business**

None.

## **Co.24 Petitions under standing order No.13**

None.

## **Co.25 Questions under standing order 12**

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 12.

- (1) With the agreement of Council Councillor Julie Mayhew Archer put the following question to Matthew Barber, Leader of Council which replaced that published on the agenda:

**Regarding the Abingdon Partnership:** Is it in the new spirit of partnership for Vale Conservatives to take both District places on the Abingdon Partnership Board, when the majority of elected Vale Councillors in Abingdon are not Conservative?

Councillor Matthew Barber responded that the partnership would continue to work co-operatively.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Mayhew-Archer Councillor Matthew Barber stated that observers were welcome to attend the meetings.

- (2) Question to the Leader from Councillor Richard Webber:

**Regarding shared accommodation:** 'Does the Leader agree that of the options facing this Council over the unused capacity of its Abbey House offices, a move by SODC to join VWHDC in Abbey House is the best option for the people of Abingdon and the Vale as a whole?'

Councillor Matthew Barber responded that Cabinet would look at all the options and work with South Oxfordshire District Council regarding any move if appropriate for joint working.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Richard Webber Councillor Matthew Barber stated that the council could investigate other ideas to address the unused capacity.

- (3) Question to the Leader from Councillor Bob Johnston

**Regarding environmental challenge:** 'Given the increasing emphasis being given at national level to the question of renewable forms of energy, could the Leader of

the Council indicate the acceptability to him of each of the following, heat pump technologies, anaerobic digesters, microgeneration by small wind turbines, solar panels, solar arrays, archimedes screws, single wind turbines and wind farms in the Vale?’

Councillor Matthew Barber responded that he found all of these forms of renewable energy acceptable. Officers were exploring the feasibility of installing solar panels at the council offices and would explore other alternatives.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Bob Johnston Councillor Matthew Barber confirmed that he was aware that an Archimedes screw existed in his ward.

(4) Question to the Leader from Councillor Jim Halliday

**Regarding the elections in May 2011:** ‘Did the Leader approve the Terms of Reference of the enquiry into the conduct of the 2011 elections?’

Councillor Matthew Barber responded that he had not approved the terms of reference which were drawn up by the returning officer.

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Richard Webber as to whether he would have added anything to the terms of reference Councillor Matthew Barber stated that he would await the content of the report but he was impressed with the investigator.

## **Co.26 Virements**

In accordance with the virement policy, the Council noted all virements of £10,000 and over, approved since its last meeting.

## **Co.27 Report of the leader of the council**

The Leader of council reported that Science vale UK had applied to become an Enterprise Zone. The bid was supported by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and if successful would generate jobs and increased business rates.

## **Co.28 Notices of motion under standing order 11**

1. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Richard Webber, seconded by Councillor Julia Bricknell:

“This council supports the work of the Youth Forum in stimulating the interest of young people in politics, and in the democratic process, and will do all it can to continue its support in the future.”

Councillor Jason Fiddaman moved and Councillor Marilyn Badcock seconded an amendment to add the words “for these aims” after support in the third line of the motion.

**RESOLVED:** That council supports the work of the Youth Forum in stimulating the interest of young people in politics, and in the democratic process, and will do all it can to continue its support for these aims in the future.

2. At its meeting on 23 February 2011 Council considered the following motion submitted by Councillor Matthew Barber and seconded by Councillor John Morgan:

“This Council instructs the executive to investigate ways in which this Authority can support the Sweatbox youth centre”.

In accordance with Standing Order 27(5) regarding the duration of meetings the Council meeting held on 23 February 2011 concluded at 10.00pm. The debate on this motion was not concluded prior to the close of the meeting. In accordance with Standing Order 27(6), which provides that any business not disposed of by the end of a meeting shall be included on the agenda for the next appropriate meeting.

Councillor Matthew Barber sought and received the consent of Council to withdraw the motion on the grounds that since the Council meeting in February officers had met with the Sweatbox leader and were investigating ways of supporting its work.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm