

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at St Andrews Church, Churchdown on Thursday, 12 May 2016 commencing at 6:00 pm and reconvened at the Council Offices, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury on Tuesday, 17 May 2016 at 6.00pm

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Deputy Mayor

Councillor R E Allen
Councillor Mrs G F Blackwell

and Councillors:

P W Awford, Mrs K J Berry, R A Bird, R Bishop, G J Bocking, K J Cromwell, D M M Davies, Mrs J E Day, M Dean, R D East, A J Evans, J H Evetts, D T Foyle, R Furolo, Mrs P A Godwin, Mrs M A Gore, Mrs J Greening, Mrs R M Hatton, B C J Hesketh, Mrs S E Hillier-Richardson, Mrs A Hollaway, Mrs E J MacTiernan, J R Mason, A S Reece, T A Spencer, Mrs P E Stokes, H A E Turbyfield, R J E Vines, D J Waters, M J Williams and P N Workman

CL.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R E Garnham, Mrs H C McLain, V D Smith, P D Surman and M G Sztymiak.

CL.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR

- 2.1 With the retiring Mayor, Councillor Ron Allen, in the chair, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Elaine MacTiernan and seconded by Councillor Mike Dean, that Councillor Mrs Gill Blackwell be, and is hereby, elected Mayor of the Borough of Tewkesbury for the ensuing Municipal Year.
- 2.2 On the Motion being put to the meeting it was declared to be carried, whereupon the Mayor took the chair, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen.
- 2.3 In thanking Members for the honour of electing her Mayor of the Borough of Tewkesbury, Councillor Blackwell indicated that she knew the year ahead would be busy but that she planned to enjoy it immensely. She welcomed the friends who were in attendance from Miesbach and the Vicar at the Church for allowing its use for the Mayor Making Ceremony along with the ladies at the Church who had provided the flower arrangements.
- 2.4 The Mayor indicated that her Consort for the year would be her husband, Mr Mike Blackwell, her Mayoress would be her friend, Mrs Christine Wray, and her Chaplain would be Reverend Wendy Ruffle, Minister for Prior's Park. She felt sure that all would offer the support and guidance which would be needed to ensure a successful year in Office. The charities that she would be supporting during her Mayoral year were Winston's Wish and Gloucester Royal Hospital's Stroke Unit.
- 2.5 In concluding her speech, the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and hoped that they would have an enjoyable evening.

CL.3 RETIRING MAYOR - COUNCILLOR RON ALLEN

- 3.1 Councillor Robert Vines expressed the Council's thanks to Councillor Ron Allen for the way that he had represented the Borough throughout his year in Office. He indicated that Councillor Allen was extremely kind and considerate and had shown this during his year in Office. Councillor Allen had been persuaded to stand as Mayor and had had high standards to maintain but had done so with no problem. He had been assisted by his Mayoress and friend, Councillor Elaine MacTiernan, who was a force to be reckoned with and had guided him through his ambassadorial role. As Chair of the Council, Councillor Allen had been fair and equitable to all allowing everyone their opportunity to speak.
- 3.2 Councillor Allen thanked Councillor Vines for his generous words and offered his congratulations and best wishes to the new Mayor, Consort and Mayoress for their year ahead.
- 3.3 Councillor Allen advised that the past year had been an intriguing and instructive experience. Unusually he had not been Deputy Mayor the year before and so had not had the usual year to acclimatise to the role which had been difficult to begin with. He offered his gratitude to his colleague and friend, Councillor Elaine MacTiernan, who had stepped in to be his Mayoress at relatively short notice and had been a reassuring support at the heart of everything they had done throughout the year. He indicated that he had hugely enjoyed the experience and would value and cherish the year.
- 3.4 In concluding his speech, Councillor Allen offered his thanks to all of the Officers at the Council who had helped him throughout the year, to his Chaplain, Reverend Wendy Ruffle, for her comfort and guidance and to everyone who had attended his events and offered raffle prizes; his charities had benefited significantly for which he was grateful.
- 3.5 The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Gill Blackwell, presented Councillor Ron Allen with a Past Mayor's Badge to mark his successful year in Office.
- 3.6 The retiring Mayoress, Councillor Mrs Elaine MacTiernan, invested Mrs Christine Wray with the Mayoress' Badge of Office and Mrs Wray presented Councillor MacTiernan with a Past Mayoress' Badge.

CL.4 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

- 4.1 It was proposed by Councillor Rob Bird, and seconded by Councillor Dave Waters, that Councillor Harry Turbyfield be, and is hereby, appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Tewkesbury for the ensuing Municipal Year.
- 4.2 The Motion was put to the meeting and was carried.
- 4.3 Councillor Turbyfield expressed his thanks to his fellow Councillors for their support and indicated that he felt honoured to be elected Deputy Mayor. He advised that his Mayoress would be his partner Councillor Mrs Ruth Hatton.
- 4.4 Councillor Turbyfield accepted the Deputy Mayor's Badge of Office from the Mayor and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 4.5 Flowers were presented to Councillor Mrs Elaine MacTiernan, Mrs Christine Wray and Councillor Mrs Gill Blackwell.

CL.5 ADJOURNMENT

- 5.1 Upon the Motion of the Mayor, the meeting of the Council stood adjourned until Tuesday, 17 May 2016 at 6.00pm.

CL.6 RESUMPTION

- 6.1 The meeting then resumed in the Council Chamber of the Tewkesbury Borough

Council Offices, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury on Tuesday 17 May 2016, when the attendance was as follows:

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Deputy Mayor

Councillor Mrs G F Blackwell
Councillor H A E Turbyfield

and Councillors:

R E Allen, P W Awford, Mrs K J Berry, R A Bird, R Bishop, G J Bocking, K J Cromwell, D M M Davies, M Dean, R D East, A J Evans, J H Evetts, R Furolo, Mrs P A Godwin, Mrs M A Gore, Mrs J Greening, Mrs R M Hatton, B C J Hesketh, Mrs S E Hillier-Richardson, Mrs A Hollaway, Mrs E J MacTiernan, J R Mason, Mrs H C McLain, A S Reece, V D Smith, Mrs P E Stokes, P D Surman, M G Sztymiak, R J E Vines, D J Waters, M J Williams and P N Workman

CL.7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

7.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J E Day, D T Foyle, R E Garnham and T A Spencer.

CL.8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

8.1 The Committee's attention was drawn to the Tewkesbury Borough Council Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 26 June 2012 and took effect from 1 July 2012.

8.2 There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

CL.9 MINUTES

9.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

CL.10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

10.1 The evacuation procedure, as noted on the Agenda, was advised to those present.

10.2 The Mayor welcomed Stella Barnes to the meeting and explained that she would be presenting the petition to be considered at Item 7 on the Agenda.

10.3 The Mayor also offered her thanks to everyone that had made her Mayor Making Ceremony a success and thanked her fellow Councillors for giving her the opportunity of being Borough Mayor.

CL.11 ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

11.1 There were no items from members of the public on this occasion.

CL.12 MEMBER QUESTIONS PROPERLY SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

12.1 There were no Member questions on this occasion.

CL.13 CONSIDERATION OF A PETITION REQUESTING THAT INDUSTRIAL-SCALE FARMING DEVELOPMENT IMMEDIATELY BE RESTRICTED WITHIN RURAL VILLAGE LOCATIONS

- 13.1 Attention was drawn to the report of the Development Services Group Manager, circulated at Pages No. 10-22, which asked Members to note the petition and to request that Officers consider the issues raised within it as part of the Borough Plan process.
- 13.2 The Mayor invited Stella Barnes, speaking on behalf of the petition organiser, to make her presentation to the Council. Ms Barnes explained that she represented the people who had signed the e-petition. She indicated that, firstly, she would like to make it clear that the petition was not aimed at blocking the necessary evolution of farming, nor was it a protest about industrial farming itself. Instead the petition was a request that the Council create policy guidelines to set criteria to provide those concerned with the reassurance that they would continue to enjoy living in a farming community during this important transitional time. The particular concern of the petitioners had been triggered by the introduction of industrial scale poultry farming into villages which had seen little change for hundreds of years. It was understood that progress was essential but it was not without problems. Ms Barnes provided the example of an application in The Leigh for three units housing 155,000 birds which had been facilitated by a professional agent who had followed a standard format and used data to support the application from previous clients. This was a 'one size fits all' approach which may be appropriate in open farmland but was not appropriate in a village where there were a unique set of challenges. The issue had been recognised by other authorities and was being dealt with; location was seen as the key to long term success.
- 13.3 Ms Barnes explained that it was the petitioners' belief that a set of policy guidelines, implemented at the outset of the permanent change to villages, would safeguard the health and enjoyment of future generations. She explained that West Lindsey District Council had such a policy – Econ 5 for Intensive Livestock Units – which asked that: they were located not less than 400 metres from a building occupied by people who were not directly related to the enterprise; that the final distance would be determined by other factors such as prevailing winds, lack of screening and topography; ensured that there would not be an over-intensification of livestock units in a locality; and that the development complied with all other relevant policies in the Local Plan. It was considered that this was a reasonable and fair guideline. The petitioners also asked that the policy included a clear and measurable criteria for all aspects of environmental impact including noise, odour, airborne dust, waste disposal and vermin control. Ms Barnes provided the example that they would like assurance that the transport access, route to main highway and road construction did not impinge on residents right to enjoyment i.e. the farm at Cursey Lane had 155,000 birds and had 54 articulated lorry movements day and night over a 36 hour period – because the farm was not located in a village the nuisance level had little impact on others, however, this would be unacceptable in a residential setting. Another simple reassurance would be that the prevailing wind direction was not toward the residents, there were well documented health risks caused by airborne dust from intensive poultry farming so compliance would safeguard residents and help to avoid any potential litigation between affected residents and farmers in the future. In summing up, Ms Barnes felt that a policy developed by Tewkesbury Borough Council could be the benchmark needed to provide peace of mind to its constituents; to safeguard the health and wellbeing of constituents now and in future generations; ensure industrial scale farming under strict policy guidelines would also help reduce the negative impact on property values and the fear of negative equity; would provide a clear demarcation for future residential property allowing new build planning applications to easily comply; and would reduce the number of Parish and Borough meetings, correspondence and petitions such as this. She felt that the

policy would provide a framework to reassure all concerned that the introduction of industrial scale farming in a village setting would meet the interests of all concerned.

- 13.4 The Mayor thanked Ms Barnes for the information provided and invited the Deputy Chief Executive to introduce the report of the Development Services Group Manager. The Deputy Chief Executive indicated that the issues raised by the petition were key matters for debate within the Local Plan which it was felt was the appropriate way to determine such matters. There was an opportunity to influence the development of the Plan through the consultation process and she indicated the importance of developing such policies following due process and taking into account the debates and representations made from all parties in all areas. Should Members agree to the recommended course of action, the petitioners would be invited to make their comments through the consultation which was likely to be held during winter 2016.
- 13.5 During the discussion which ensued, a Member raised concern about the recommendation on the paper and questioned whether the petitioner would need to present their petition again when the Local Plan was considered by the Council. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Officers working on the Plan would take into account the comments made at this evening's meeting so there would be no need to repeat the current debate. The petitioners could input directly to the consultation should they so wish. In terms of the action that could be taken in response to a petition, the Chief Executive explained that one of the options was to consider the petition at a Council meeting which was what was being done this evening. The recommendation on the report was a suggestion as to how Members may wish to deal with the matter but if the Council wished to agree something else it was entitled to do so. There followed a brief debate about how petitions were dealt with and how the Borough Plan was being devised. The Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Joint Core Strategy and the Borough Plan were linked so the Joint Core Strategy examination had implications on the Borough Plan timescales. The Joint Core Strategy set the high level framework and the Borough Plan set the local policies. The Planning Policy Reference Panel had had some early stage discussions about the policies in the Borough Plan and a consultation process had been undertaken with the public last year on the principles of the Borough Plan. Going forward, the Plan would of course be developed with Member input and could only be agreed by Council when it reached that stage.
- 13.6 A Member indicated that he was grateful for the petition and issues it raised and he felt that the proper place to discuss this serious matter would be as part of the plan-making process. He felt that looking at other examples would be helpful and that if the issue could be resolved elsewhere it seemed something that the Borough Council should look at carefully. He did not think it would be helpful for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look at the matter as it was something that ultimately would need to be agreed by the Council anyway; particularly as the Borough Solicitor had confirmed that it would be a new policy rather than a change to an existing one. Members generally agreed that the matter should be dealt with through the Local Plan process and, upon being proposed and seconded, it was
- RESOLVED** That the issues raised by the e-petition be considered as part of the Borough Plan process.
- 13.7 The Mayor thanked Ms Barnes for her attendance and invited her to watch the remainder of the meeting from the public gallery should she so wish.

CL.14 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

- 14.1 Upon being proposed and seconded it was

RESOLVED That Councillor R J E Vines be elected as Leader of the Council, and therefore Chair of the Executive Committee, for

the ensuing Municipal Year.

- 14.2 Councillor Vines thanked the Council for its endorsement in his leadership and indicated that he would continue to do his best for the Borough during the year ahead.

CL.15 ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

- 15.1 Upon being proposed and seconded it was

RESOLVED That Councillor D J Waters be elected as Deputy Leader of the Council, and therefore Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee, for the ensuing Municipal Year.

- 15.2 Councillor Waters thanked the Council for its confidence in him.

CL.16 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, LEAD MEMBERS AND APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Membership of Committees 2016/17

- 16.1 Upon being proposed and seconded it was

RESOLVED That the following Committee Memberships be **AGREED**:

Executive

R E Allen
Mrs K J Berry
R A Bird
D M M Davies
M Dean
Mrs E J MacTiernan
J R Mason
R J E Vines
D J Waters

Licensing

Mrs K J Berry
Mrs G F Blackwell
G J Bocking
Mrs J E Day
A J Evans
R Furolo
R E Garnham
Mrs P A Godwin
Mrs J Greening
Mrs R M Hatton
Mrs A Hollaway
A S Reece
H A E Turbyfield
M J Williams
P N Workman

Planning

R E Allen
R A Bird
Mrs G F Blackwell
D M M Davies
M Dean
R D East
J H Evetts
D T Foyle
Mrs M A Gore
Mrs J Greening
Mrs A Hollaway
Mrs E J MacTiernan
J R Mason
A S Reece
T A Spencer
Mrs P E Stokes
P D Surman
R J E Vines
P N Workman

Standards

M Dean
Mrs S E Hillier-Richardson
T A Spencer
P D Surman
M G Sztymiak
H A E Turbyfield
M J Williams

AD HOC COMMITTEES

**Employee Appeals
(any 5 from 8)**

Mrs K J Berry
Mrs G F Blackwell
Mrs J E Day
R E Garnham
Mrs M A Gore
Mrs E J MacTiernan
J R Mason
P D Surman

**Housing Allocations and
Homelessness Review (any
5 from 9)**

Mrs G F Blackwell
Mrs J E Day
R Furolo
Mrs P A Godwin
Mrs R M Hatton
Mrs E J MacTiernan
J R Mason
Mrs P E Stokes
M J Williams

Overview and Scrutiny

P W Awford
Mrs G F Blackwell
G J Bocking
K J Cromwell
Mrs J E Day
R D East
D T Foyle
Mrs R M Hatton
Mrs H C McLain
T A Spencer
Mrs P E Stokes
P D Surman
M G Sztymiak
H A E Turbyfield
M J Williams

Audit

K J Cromwell
A J Evans
R Furolo
Mrs P A Godwin
B C J Hesketh
Mrs S E Hillier-Richardson
Mrs H C McLain

**Employee
Appointments (5)**

R E Allen
M Dean
R E Garnham
Mrs E J MacTiernan
M G Sztymiak

Report of the Leader of the Council

- 16.2 The Leader of the Council indicated that, as part of the Constitution, he was required to report at the Annual Council meeting on the number of Lead Members and scope of their Portfolios for the coming year, the number of Specialist Members and the specialist areas to be covered, and any other matters in relation to the political management of the Council. He proposed that there should be no change to the current arrangements in respect of the number of Lead Members, the areas covered by each Portfolio, Member Specialists and any other matters in relation to the Political Management of the Council. He advised that, in his view, the Council was working well, as highlighted in his 'State of the Borough' report at the last meeting, and he could therefore see no reason for change. He expressed a hope that Members would all continue to work in the best interests of the Borough to meet the challenges ahead. Members agreed and, accordingly, it was

RESOLVED That the Leader's report be **NOTED** and that there be no changes to the number of Lead Members or scope of their Portfolios and no Member Specialists.

Outside Bodies 2016/17, Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel, Shared Legal Services Joint Monitoring and Liaison Group and Shared Building Control Joint Monitoring and Liaison Group

- 16.3 Upon being proposed and seconded, it was

RESOLVED 1. That the following Outside Body Representation be **AGREED**:

2gether NHS Foundation Trust (<i>observer</i>)	R E Allen
A48 Meeting	D M M Davies
Ambulance Trust (<i>observer</i>)	R E Allen
Cleeve Common Board of Conservators	R D East
Community Safety Partnership	Lead Member (<i>Community</i>) Mrs E J MacTiernan
Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board	M Dean
District Councils Network	Leader of the Council
G First/LEP (plus 1 reserve)	Lead Member (<i>Economic Development/Promotion</i>) Mrs E J MacTiernan
Gloucester and District Citizens' Advice Bureau	A J Evans
Gloucestershire Airport Consultative Committee	M J Williams

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust <i>(observer)</i>	G J Bocking
Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee	Lead Member <i>(Clean & Green Environment)</i> Leader of the Council
Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association	D T Foyle
Leadership Gloucestershire (plus 1 reserve)	Leader of the Council Deputy Leader of the Council
Local Government Association	Leader of the Council <i>* should the Leader of the Council be unable to attend the Annual Local Government Association Conference in any year, authority will be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to appoint a representative to attend.</i>
Lower Severn (2005) Internal Drainage Board	P W Awford
Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) Adjudication Joint Committee	K J Cromwell J R Mason
Prior's Park Neighbourhood Project	Mrs J Greening
Riverside Partnership	Lead Member <i>(Built Environment)</i> Lead Member <i>(Economic Development/Promotion)</i> Lead Member <i>(Health and Wellbeing)</i> Mrs E J MacTiernan
Roses Theatre Trust	Mrs A Hollaway
Safe at Home Advisory Group <i>(formerly known as Anchor Staying Put Advisory Group)</i>	Mrs J E Day Mrs M A Gore
South West Councils	Leader of the Council R E Allen (Deputy)
South West Councils –	D M M Davies

Employers Panel

Tewkesbury Road Safety Liaison Group	K J Cromwell M Dean
Tewkesbury District Twinning Association Management Committee	P W Awford
Tewkesbury Regeneration Partnership	Lead Member (<i>Built Environment</i>) Lead Member (<i>Economic Development/Promotion</i>) Lead Member (<i>Organisational Development</i>)
Tewkesbury Swimming Bath Trust Management Committee	P W Awford R A Bird K J Cromwell Mrs J E Day R Furolo Mrs J Greening A S Reece V D Smith T A Spencer P N Workman
Winchcombe Sports Hall Management Committee	Mrs J E Day
Winchcombe Town Trust	J R Mason

2. That Councillor R E Garnham be appointed as the Council's representative on the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel and that Councillor R E Allen be appointed as the reserve Member.
3. That the Lead Member for Corporate Governance and Councillor D T Foyle be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Shared Legal Services Joint Monitoring and Liaison Group and that Councillors Mrs M A Gore and Mrs H C McLain be appointed as the substitutes.
4. That the Lead Member for Built Environment and Councillor R D East be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Shared Building Control Joint Monitoring and Liaison Group.

Chairs and Vice-Chairs, County Council Health and Care Scrutiny Committee and Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee

- 16.4 Members of each Committee took turns to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee elected representatives to the County Council's Health and Care Scrutiny Committee and the Gloucestershire Economic Growth

Scrutiny Committee. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

1. That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each Committee be **AGREED** as follows:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Chair – Councillor P W Awford

Vice-Chair – Councillor Mrs G F Blackwell

Audit Committee:

Chair – Councillor R Furolo

Vice-Chair – Councillor Mrs H C McLain

Planning Committee:

Chair – Councillor J H Evetts

Vice-Chair – Councillor R D East

Licensing Committee:

Chair – Councillor R E Garnham

Vice-Chair – Councillor Mrs J Greening

Standards Committee

Chair – Councillor P D Surman

Vice-Chair – Councillor M J Williams

2. That Councillor Mrs J E Day be the Council's nominated representative on the County Council's Health and Care Scrutiny Committee.
3. That Councillor P W Awford be the Council's nominated representative on the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee and that Councillor K J Cromwell be the reserve.

CL.17 MAYOR OF TEWKESBURY'S APPEAL FUND

17.1 It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That Councillors P W Awford, J R Mason and D J Waters be appointed as Trustees of the Mayor of Tewkesbury's Appeal Fund for 2016/17.

CL.18 REVIEW OF SCHEME FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT PLANNING COMMITTEE

18.1 The report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, circulated at Pages No. 28-55, detailed the outcome of the review of the Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee and sought to enable the Council to make a decision on the continuation of the Scheme based on the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group. Members were asked to confirm the Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee as a permanent arrangement with the minor adjustments which were set out at Paragraph 5 of the report: to clarify that the deadline for registration is 10.00am on the working day before the meeting; to clarify the requirements for Ward Councillors wishing to speak at the Committee; to amend the scheme to allow a Parish Clerk to read a statement setting out the views of the Parish Council in the circumstance where no Parish Councillor is available to attend the meeting of the Planning Committee, subject to the required registration

procedure being complied with (see Appendix 3); and to grant authority to the Borough Solicitor to review the wording of the scheme to ensure clarity without changing the fundamental elements of the scheme.

- 18.2 In proposing the report before the Council, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee indicated that, at its meeting on 14 April 2015, the Council had resolved that a Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee be introduced for a one year trial period starting with the new term of the Council in May 2015 and so had commenced with the Planning Committee in June. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 23 February 2016, had established a Working Group of seven Members to review the Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee and approved the Terms of Reference which had been attached to the report at Appendix 1. The Group, under the Chairmanship of Councillor East, had met on four occasions. At the first two meetings users of the Scheme, including the public, agents, Parish Councils and Officers, were invited to put forward their views. Most of the participants were very complimentary about the Scheme in general and the management of the Planning Committee meetings. At the third meeting of the Group best practice from around the Country was reviewed and at the final meeting a draft report was prepared for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had adopted the report of the Working Group which recommended to Council that the Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee be confirmed as a permanent arrangement with minor adjustments as set out at Paragraph 5 of the report. The report was also considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 10 May 2016 to invite any observations that Committee may wish to make to Council. The Planning Committee was supportive of the report with the only concern being in relation to the seating arrangements which was something for the Planning Committee to determine separately.
- 18.3 The Chair of the Public Participation at Planning Committee Review Working Group seconded the proposal and offered his thanks to the Members and Officers that had been involved in the review. He felt that it had been extremely interesting to hear people's views of the Scheme and particularly the positive support that had been noted by those that had attended to provide their views.
- 18.4 During the discussion which ensued, a Member questioned whether Ward Members had to register to speak at Committee in the same way that a member of the public did. He felt that this could be a problem if residents raised concerns with Councillors after the close of registration as this would mean the Member was not able to fulfil their role to the best of their ability. In response, the Borough Solicitor indicated that, for Ward Councillors particularly, there would usually be an exception made which meant that, with the Chair's discretion, they would be able to speak. In response, the Chair of the Planning Committee sought to reassure Members that he would ensure local Members were not disenfranchised in any way and would always try to accommodate them if they wished to speak. The main reason for asking Members to register to speak in the same way as the public was to enable better management of the meeting but he would not wish to stop Members that wished to speak on behalf of residents in their areas.
- 18.5 Accordingly, it was
- RESOLVED** That the Scheme for Public Participation at Planning Committee be confirmed as a permanent arrangement with minor adjustments as set out at Paragraph 5 and subject to an acknowledgement that, whilst Ward Members are expected to register to speak at Planning Committee in accordance with the Scheme, at the discretion of the Chairman the normal deadline for registration may be extended in circumstances where residents' concerns have been raised with the Ward Member

after the close of registration to speak.

CL.19 SEPARATE BUSINESS

19.1 The Chairman proposed, and it was

RESOLVED: That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CL.20 SEPARATE MINUTES

20.1 The separate Minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

The meeting closed at 7:00 pm