

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, 17TH MAY, 2007 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT:-

Councillor Woodall (Mayor)
Councillor Stanley (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Adams, Ahmed, Ali, Mrs. Ameson, Mrs. Aston, Attwood, Banks, D. Blood, Mrs. E. Blood, Body, Ms. Boleyn, Burston, Caunt, Mrs. Collins, Cotterill, Mrs. Coulter, Mrs. Cowell, Ms. Craigie, G.H. Davies, J. R. Davies, Mrs. Dunn, Evans, J. Finch, K. Finch, Ms. Foster, Fraser-Macnamara, Hanif, Harley, Ms. Harris, Hill, Islam, Jackson, James, Jones, Mrs. Jordan, Kettle, Knowles, Lavender, Lowe, J. Martin, Mrs. P. Martin, Miller, Mrs. Millward, Mottram, Ms. Nicholls, Nottingham, Ms. Partridge, Rahman, Mrs. Ridley, Roberts, Mrs. Rogers, Ryder, Mrs. Shakespeare, Simms, Southall, Sparks, Taylor, Tomkinson, A. Turner, Mrs. H. Turner, K. Turner, Tyler, Mrs. Walker, Waltho, While-Cooper, R. Wilson, Mrs. M. Wilson and Wright; together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

1 **VIDEO RECORDING**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 24.5, the Council gave its consent to a video recording of this meeting being made.

2 **PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain, Canon John Everest, led the Council in prayer.

3 **ELECTION OF MAYOR**

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara and

RESOLVED

That Councillor David Stanley be elected Mayor of the Borough for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

Councillor Stanley then made and subscribed to the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

4 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ray Burston be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

5 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 6.12 p.m. in order to enable the re-robing of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the retiring Mayor.

The meeting re-convened at 6.25 p.m.

Councillor Burston then made and subscribed to the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Deputy Mayor.

6 ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR

The new Mayor addressed the Council, expressing his thanks to the Council and others on his election. In so doing he, along with other members, paid tribute to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress.

7 TRIBUTES TO THE RETIRING MAYOR AND MAYORESS/
PRESENTATION OF BADGES

Following tributes to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor John Woodall and Mrs. Audrey Woodall, the Mayor presented them with past Mayor's and past Mayoress' badges.

Councillor Woodall then addressed the Council, thanking the retiring Mayoress, Members, officers and others for the support that had enabled him to carry out his duties during the year.

8 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th April, 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) The Mayor's Consort

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Consort for the 2007/08 Municipal Year would be Councillor Jill Nicholls.

(b) The Deputy Mayoress

The Mayor announced that the Deputy Mayoress for the 2007/08 Municipal Year would be Mrs. Deborah Burston.

(c) The Mayor's Chaplain

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Chaplain for the 2007/08 Municipal Year would be Revd. J Ward-Mott.

(d) The Mayor's Charity

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Charities to be supported in the 2007/08 Municipal Year would be the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Alzheimer's Society.

(e) "At Home" Events

The Mayor announced that the "At Home" events would take place at Dudley Concert Hall on dates to be agreed.

(f) Civic Service

The Mayor announced that the Civic Service would be held on Sunday, 1st July, 2007 at St. James the Great Church, Lower Gornal.

(g) Civic Carol Service

The Mayor announced that he hoped that the Civic Carol Service would be at St. James the Great Church, Lower Gornal on a date to be arranged. Details would be confirmed at a later date.

(h) Welcome to New Councillors

The Mayor welcomed the following members, elected to the Council on 3rd May, 2007:-

Councillors Mrs. E. Blood, K. Finch, Hanif, Lavender, J. Martin, Roberts, Mrs. Rogers and While-Cooper.

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Crumpton and Mrs. Faulkner.

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of personal or prejudicial interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were received in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

12 ELECTION OF THE LEADER FOR 2007/08 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Millward and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Caunt be elected Leader of the Council for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

13 ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY LEADER FOR 2007/08 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Millward and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Fraser-Macnamara be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

14 APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET FOR 2007/08 MUNICIPAL YEAR

A list indicating the proposed composition and membership of the Cabinet and the names of the opposition nominees to speak but not vote had been circulated around the Council Chamber.

It was moved by Councillor Caunt and seconded by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara

“That the proposals set out in the report regarding the number of members to be appointed to the Cabinet for the 2007/08 municipal year, and the members to serve for the year, be approved and that the names of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Group nominees to attend meetings of the Cabinet to speak, but not vote, be received.”

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Hill and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Dunn

“That the name of Councillor Mrs. Shakespeare be substituted for the name of Councillor K. Turner in the list of names of Cabinet Members, wherever it occurs in the report.”

The amendment was put to the vote and carried and was thereupon incorporated into the substantive motion.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the number of Members appointed to the Cabinet for the 2007/08 Municipal Year and the names of the Members to serve for that year, be approved as follows:-

Councillors Adams, Caunt, Evans, Fraser-Macnamara, Knowles, Mrs. P. Martin, Miller, Mrs. Millward, Mrs. Shakespeare and Mrs. Walker.

- (2) That the names of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Group nominees to attend meetings of the Cabinet, to speak but not to vote, be received as follows:-

Labour Group

Councillors Ali, Crumpton, G.H. Davies, Ms. Foster, Ms. Partridge, Mrs. Ridney and Sparks.

Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor Tyler.

- (3) That the assignment of Cabinet Portfolios and the names of the corresponding Group spokespersons be received, as follows:-

<u>Portfolios</u>	<u>Leader and Cabinet Members</u>	<u>Labour Group Spokes-person</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat Group Spokesperson</u> <u>Councillors</u>
Policy	Caunt	Sparks	Tyler
Adult and Community Services	Miller	Mrs. Ridney	Mrs. Collins
Children's Services	Mrs. Walker	Ms. Partridge	Ms. Boleyn

Economic Regeneration	Knowles	Tomkinson	Tyler
Environment	Mrs. Shakespeare	Lowe	Ms. Craigie
Finance	Mrs. Millward	Ali	Lavender
Housing	Evans	Waltho	Ms. Craigie
Leisure and Culture	Fraser-Macnamara	Crumpton	Tyler
Personnel, Legal and Property	Mrs. P. Martin	G. H. Davies	Tyler
Transportation	Adams	Ms. Foster	Tyler

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APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2007/08 AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara and

RESOLVED

- (1) That the structure of Committees for 2007/08 be approved on the basis set out in the report.
- (2) That the terms of reference and onward delegation of functions of the Committees referred to in the report, and as set out in the Council's Constitution, be reaffirmed for the 2007/08 municipal year.
- (3) That, except for the Standards Committee and Area Committees, the composition and membership of Committees for the 2007/08 municipal year be determined in accordance with the political balance requirements of Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, as set out below:-

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SEATS</u>			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>
Select Committee on Children's Services *	11	6	4	1

Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services	11	6	4	1
Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care	11	6	4	1
Select Committee on the Environment	11	6	4	1
Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education	11	6	4	1
Appointments	9	5	4	0
Audit	9	5	3	1
Development Control	9	5	3	1
Disciplinary/Dismissal/ Grading Appeals	9	5	4	0
Licensing and Safety	15	8	6	1
Taxis	9	5	3	1
Tree Preservation Orders	9	5	4	0
Standards**	6	2	2	2

* Excluding Non-Elected Members

** Excluding the two Independent Members

- (4) That the appointment of members to Committees be as set out in the lists circulated at the meeting, subject to any necessary changes being notified to the Chief Executive by the Leader of the Council.
- (5) That with regard to the Select Committee on Children's Services, the position in relation to non-elected members be as described in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report and as set out in the lists circulated at the meeting.
- (6) That the members of the Licensing and Safety Committee continue to undertake the statutory Committee functions in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003, as referred to in paragraph 10 of the report.

- (7) That the Council confirm that the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 shall not apply to Sub-Committees established by the Licensing and Safety Committee in 2007/08.
- (8) That the composition and membership of the Standards Committee for the 2007/08 municipal year be as set out below:-

Standards Committee

(6 Elected Members plus 2 independent members)

Conservative (2)

Labour (2)

Liberal
Democrat (2)

Councillors

Councillors

Councillors

Fraser-Macnamara
Kettle

Ms. Partridge
J. R. Davies

Tyler
Ms. Craigie

Independent Members - The Bishop of Dudley and Ms. L. Smith

- (9) That the terms of reference of the Standards Committee, as set out in the Council's Constitution, be reaffirmed for the 2007/08 municipal year.
- (10) That the arrangements for substitutes on Committees, as set out in Council Procedure Rules 5.2 to 5.4, be re-affirmed for the 2007/08 municipal year.
- (11) That Area Committees be appointed for the 2007/08 municipal year as set out below; that the Committees comprise the Ward Councillors for the areas referred to and that the functions and protocols of Area Committees, as set out in the Council's Constitution, be re-affirmed:-

Brierley Hill Area Committee - Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett, Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley wards.

Central Dudley Area Committee - Castle and Priory, Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrew's, Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood, St. James's and St. Thomas's wards.

Halesowen Area Committee - Belle Vale, Cradley and Foxcote, Halesowen North, Halesowen South and Hayley Green and Cradley South wards.

North Dudley Area Committee - Coseley East, Gornal, Sedgley and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton wards.

Stourbridge Area Committee - Amblecote, Lye and Wollescote, Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East and Wollaston and Stourbridge Town wards.

- (12) That the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the following Committees be appointed for 2007/08:-

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Vice-Chairman</u>
	<u>Councillors</u>	
Select Committee on Children's Services	Nottingham	Ms. Boleyn
Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services	A. Turner	Cotterill
Select Committee on Health and Adult Social Care	Mrs. Ridney	Mrs. Faulkner
Select Committee on the Environment	Mrs. Cowell	Mrs. H Turner
Select Committee on Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education	R. Wilson	Mottram
Appointments	Caunt	Fraser-Macnamara
Audit	Taylor	Kettle
Development Control	Wright	Banks
Disciplinary/Dismissal/Grading Appeals	Harley	Jackson
Licensing and Safety	Ryder	D. Blood
Taxis	Mrs. Ameson	Hill
Tree Preservation Orders	James	Simms
Standards	Independent Chairman - The Bishop of Dudley	

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CONSTITUTION AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara and

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation be reaffirmed for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.
- (2) That the Director of Law and Property be authorised to make any necessary and consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from the decisions taken at this meeting.

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ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES FOR 2007/08

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara and

RESOLVED

That, subject to the amendment of the start times for all meetings of the Labour Group to read 6.30p.m, the programme of ordinary meetings of the Council and Committees for the 2007/08 Municipal Year, as now submitted, be approved.

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APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Caunt, seconded by Councillor Fraser-Macnamara and

RESOLVED

- (1) That, in view of the urgency involved in making appointments to the following outside bodies, the Director of Law and Property, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make appointments to those bodies:

Local Government Association - General Assembly

West Midlands Local Government Association

- Association Council/ Regional Assembly
- Provincial Council
- Regional Planning Partnership
- Regional Housing Partnership

West Midlands Joint Committee (WMJC)
WMJC – Joint Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority and “Prime Member”

West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority and “Prime Member”

Dudley and West Midlands Zoological Society Limited - Executive Board

Dudley Community Partnership

North Priory Project Board

- (2) That in view of the timetabling of meetings of the Cabinet and Area Committees for the 2007/08 municipal year, the appointments to outside bodies which will usually be made by Area Committees be referred for determination direct by those Committees, rather than through the Cabinet.

The meeting ended at 7.09 pm.

MAYOR