

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

11 MARCH 2004

4.30PM

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Jeane Lepper (Mayor); Councillors Allen, Battle, Bennett, Bodfish, Mrs Brown, Burgess, Carden, Mrs Cobb, Davidson, Mrs Drake, Edmond-Smith, Elgood, Fitch, Forester, Framroze, Giebeler, Hamilton, Hawkes, Hazelgrove, Hyde, John, Kemble, Kielty, Mallender, McCaffery, Meadows, Mears, Meegan, Mitchell, Morgan, Mrs A Norman, Older, Paskins, Peltzer Dunn, Pennington, Pidgeon, Randall, Mrs Simson, Smith, Taylor, Mrs C Theobald, G Theobald, Tonks, Turner, Turton, Watkins, Wells, Williams, Willows, Wrighton and Young.

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

73.1 There were no declarations of interest.

74. MINUTES

74.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 January and 26 February 2004 be approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings subject to the inclusion of Councillor Paskins in paragraph 56.3 declaring an interest in Item 10(a) on the agenda as a member of the Fire Authority.

75. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

75.1 The Mayor reported that in the light of the atrocities perpetrated in Madrid today, she would be sending a letter to the Mayor of the City expressing hers, and the Council's condolences to the people of Madrid who had lost relatives or were injured in the incidents.

75.2 The Mayor reported that the Council had been awarded two Green Apple awards for Brighton Town Hall and the Brighton Pavilion and invited Councillor Burgess to present the awards to Angela Dymott and Joe Browning.

75.3 The Mayor also reported that on the list of questions from members under Item 7, Councillor Brian Oxley had submitted a question. In view of the fact that Councillor Oxley was unable to attend the meeting today as

he was attending his mother's funeral, in these exceptional circumstances she had agreed that Councillor Peltzer Dunn could put the question.

75.4 The Mayor also stated that the next meeting of the Council was due to take place at Hove Town Hall. As this was the last meeting in the municipal year, she had asked that the meeting be switched to Brighton Town Hall, as she intended to invite Councillors to the Mayor's Parlour for refreshments afterwards and that this could be facilitated better if the meeting was at Brighton rather than Hove.

76. PETITIONS

76.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from Councillors. She reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee without debate and the Councillor presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.

76.2 Councillor Drake presented a petition signed by 91 residents objecting to the planning application (BH2004/00212/FP) concerning development of "Ruston", Withdean Avenue.

76.3 Councillor Willows presented a petition signed by 229 residents objecting to the proposed closure of the Doctors Surgery at 96 Northease Drive, Hove.

76.4 Councillor Elgood presented a petition signed by 30 residents asking for the provision of a "Residents' Gate" at the Western End of Farman Street.

76.5 Councillor Fitch presented a petition signed by 29 residents asking for the grass verges in Gleton Avenue to be filled in.

77. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

77.1 The Mayor reported that one written question had been received from a member of the public.

Questioner	Subject	Reply by
Mr Nigel Furness (and supplementary question)	Beacon Status	Councillor Bodfish

78. DEPUTATIONS

78.1 The Mayor reported that no Deputations had been received from members of the public.

79. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

79.1 The Mayor reminded the Council that Councillors' questions were now taken as read by reference to the list, which had been circulated.

79.2 Questions on the following subjects were replied to by the appropriate Councillor as follows:-

Questioner	Subject	Reply by
Councillor Peltzer Dunn (and supplementary questions from Councillors Peltzer Dunn and Battle)	Draft Local Plan	Councillor Bodfish
Councillor Williams (and supplementary questions from Councillors Williams and Battle)	Implementation of the communal bin trial in Central Brighton and Hove	Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Wrighton (and supplementary questions from Councillors Wrighton and Taylor)	Chair's Meetings	Councillor Bodfish

80. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: CALLOVER

80.1 The following items were reserved for discussion:

Committee	Item
Policy and Resources Committee: 11 February 2004	8.1 (a) The Corporate Plan 2004/07
Policy and Resources Committee: 11 February 2004	8.1 (b) Medium Term Financial Strategy
Policy and Resources Committee: 3 March 2004	Annual Investment Strategy

81. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

81.1 There were no oral questions from Councillors on the items which had not been reserved for discussion.

82. THE CORPORATE PLAN 2004/07

82.1 It was moved by Councillor Bodfish that the report of the Policy and Resources Committee of 11 February 2004 be approved.

82.2 The motion was carried.

83. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

83.1 It was moved by Councillor Burgess that the report of the Policy and Resources Committee of 11 February 2004 be approved.

83.2 The motion was carried.

84. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

84.1 It was moved by Councillor Burgess that the report of the Policy and Resources Committee of 3 March 2004 be approved.

84.2 The motion was carried.

85. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) 'City News'

85.1 The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Randall and seconded by Councillor Taylor:

"This Council notes the widely held concerns among Councillors about the editorial policy and the finances of City News.

This Council recognises that City News has an important communication role to play and believes the newspaper must always remain even-handed in its coverage of Council achievements and policy initiatives.

This Council feels City News should be entirely self-financing and has the potential to generate income for the Council.

Further this Council believes that an all-party time-limited "Members Task Group" would be a useful way for Members to discuss and recommend alternative proposals around the future policy and operation of City News.

Accordingly this Council resolves:

- To require the Chief Executive to note this Council's belief that an ongoing all-party Editorial Board would be an effective way of enhancing City News and to ensure this matter is discussed at a future meeting of the Leader's Group.
- That following discussion at the Leader's Group and any subsequent reports which may follow, this Council requests that the Policy & Resources Committee consider this matter as soon as possible."

85.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor John and seconded by Councillor Allen:

~~This Council notes the widely held concerns among Councillors about the editorial policy and the finances of City News.~~

This Council recognises that City News has an important communication role to play and believes the newspaper must always remain even-handed in its coverage of Council achievements and policy initiatives.

~~This Council feels City News should be entirely self-financing and has the potential to generate income for the Council.~~

~~Further this Council believes that an all-party time-limited "Members Task Group" would be a useful way for Members to discuss and recommend alternative proposals around the future policy and operation of City News.~~

Accordingly this Council resolves:

- ~~• To require the Chief Executive to note this Council's belief that an ongoing all-party Editorial Board would be an effective way of enhancing City News and to ensure this matter is discussed at a future meeting of the Leader's Group.~~
- ~~• That following discussion at the Leader's Group and any subsequent reports which may follow, this Council requests that the Policy & Resources Committee consider this matter as soon as possible.~~

~~This Council notes the proposal to make City News self-financing over the next two years.~~

~~Further this Council believes that an all-party group of Members would be a useful way to discuss proposals around the future policy and operation of City News. This would fit well into the Best Value Review programme for the communications function during the next municipal year.~~

This Council therefore requests that the Chief Executive sets up and chairs this cross-party Members' group (3, 2, 1, 1) to meet twice yearly.

85.3 The amendment was carried and therefore became the substantive motion.

85.4 The motion was carried.

86. CALL IN AND URGENCY

86.1 It was moved by the Mayor that the report be noted.

86.2 The motion was carried.

The meeting concluded at 7.15 pm.

Signed

Mayor

Dated this

day of

2004