

COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 10 MAY 2011

MINUTES of the Meeting of the County Council held at the County Hall, Kingston upon Thames on Tuesday 10 May 2011 commencing at 10:30am, the Council being constituted as follows:

	Mr Agarwal		Mr Ivison
*	Mr Amin	*	Mrs King
	Mrs Angell		Mr Kington
	Mr Barker OBE		Mr Lake
	Mr Beardsmore		Mr Lambell
	Mr Bennison	*	Mrs Lay
	Mrs Bowes		Ms Le Gal
	Mr Brett-Warburton		Mr MacLeod
	Mr Butcher	*	Mr Mallett
	Mr Carasco		Mrs Marks
	Mr Chapman		Mr Marlow
	Mrs Clack		Mr Martin
	Mrs Coleman		Mrs Mason
	Mr Cooksey	*	Mrs Moseley
	Mr Cooper		Mr Munro
	Mr Cosser	*	Mrs Nichols
	Mrs Curran		Mr Norman
	Mr Elias		Mr Orrick
	Mr Ellwood		Mr Phelps-Penry
	Mr Few		Mr Pitt
	Mr Forster		Dr Povey
	Mrs Fraser DL		Mr Renshaw
	Mr Frost		Mrs Ross-Tomlin
*	Mrs Frost	*	Mrs Saliagopoulos
	Mr Fuller		Mr Samuels
	Mr Furey		Mrs Sealy
*	Mr Gimson		Mrs Searle
	Mr Goodwin		Mr Skellett CBE
	Mr Gosling		Mrs Smith
	Dr Grant-Duff		Mr Sutcliffe
	Dr Hack		Mr Sydney
	Mr Hall		Mr Colin Taylor
	Mrs Hammond		Mr Keith Taylor
	Mr Harmer		Mr Townsend
	Mr Harrison	*	Mrs Turner-Stewart
	Ms Heath		Mr Walsh
	Mr Hickman		Mrs Watson
	Mrs Hicks		Mrs White
	Mr Hodge		Mr Wood
			Mr Young

*absent

31/11 **CHAIRMAN (ITEM 1)**

Upon the motion of Dr Andrew Povey, seconded by Mrs Hazel Watson, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

That Mrs Lavinia Caroline Sealy be elected Chairman of the Council for the council year 2011/12.

32/11 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Mrs Sealy made the statutory declaration of office and took the Chair. The newly elected Chairman expressed her thanks to the Members of the Council for electing her as Chairman.

33/11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Amin, Mrs Frost, Mrs King, Mrs Lay, Mr Mallett, Mrs Moseley, Mrs Nichols, Mrs Saliagopoulos and Mrs Turner-Stewart.

34/11 **MINUTES (ITEM 3)**

The Minutes of the meeting of the County Council, as amended, and held on 22 March 2011 were submitted, confirmed and signed.

35/11 **ELECTION OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS (ITEM 4)**

The Chief Executive reported the election of Mr Alan Young as County Councillor for the Cranleigh & Ewhurst Electoral Division and Mr Simon Gimson as County Councillor for the Shalford Electoral Division.

36/11 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (ITEM 5)**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- She thanked the Very Reverend Victor Stock, Dean of Guildford for consenting to say prayers at this council meeting.
- She also thanked officers from Estates, Planning and Management, and in particular Morag Turner, Steve Taylor and Angela Cope, for their efforts in ensuring that the Council Chamber was ready for the County Council's AGM.
- Finally, she informed Members that it was with regret that Elizabeth Compton was no longer a County Councillor and said that she would be visiting her shortly. She publically

thanked her for 14 years of dedicated service as County Councillor for St John's and Brookwood.

37/11 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 6)**

Both Mr Frost and Mr Colin Taylor declared personal interests in Members' Question Time, question 9 (item 11) because they were members of the Lower Mole Countryside Project.

Mr Bennison declared a personal interest in the Public Petition (item 9) because he was involved in trying to remove Claygate from the On-street parking charges proposals for Elmbridge.

Mr Pitt declared a prejudicial interest in the Election of Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen 2011/12 (item 18). However, he had left the meeting prior to the item being discussed

38/11 **VICE-CHAIRMAN (ITEM 7)**

Upon the motion of Mrs Denise Le Gal, seconded by Mr Peter Hickman it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

That Mr David John Munro be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the council year 2011/12.

39/11 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Mr Munro was invested by Mrs Sealy with the Vice-Chairman's badge. He made the statutory declaration of office and expressed thanks to the Members of the Council for electing him as Vice-Chairman.

40/11 **MOTION OF THANKS TO RETIRING CHAIRMAN (ITEM 8)**

Upon the motion of the newly elected Chairman, seconded by Mrs Hazel Watson, followed by speeches from the Leaders of the Conservative and Residents' Association / Independent and the Labour representative in support of the motion, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman and Members of the Surrey County Council, record our warm appreciation of the distinguished services given to the County and its inhabitants by Mr Geoffrey Marlow during his tenure of office as Chairman of the Council from 23 June 2009 to 10 May 2011.

The Chairman presented Mr Marlow with an inscribed copy of the motion together with an ex-Chairman's badge. Mr Marlow made a farewell speech.

41/11 **PUBLIC PETITION (ITEM 9)**

Following the introduction of the Petition Scheme in June 2010, this was the first time a petition had been debated at a County Council meeting.

The petition regarding on-street parking charges in Surrey had received 26,300 signatures via the Council's e-petition facility and the petitioner, Miss Caroline Salmon was invited to address the meeting.

She made the following points:

- The signatures had been collected within a month and many other residents had signed paper petitions.
- The number of signatories illustrated the public displeasure to the introduction of on-street parking charges.
- One size did not fit all.
- Parking spaces should be free for the first hour not the first 30 minutes.
- Concern for the local economy and local shoppers.
- The effects of the bus subsidy review.
- The need for vibrant, lively towns.
- Finally, she urged Surrey County Council to abandon the introduction of on-street parking charges.

The Cabinet Member for Transport responded to the petitioner. A copy of his statement is attached as Appendix A.

Of the 11 Members who spoke during the debate, 6 Members supported the petition.

Key points made in support of the petition were:

- Any reduction in the number of shoppers would be detrimental for local traders.
- Many local towns /villages suffer from nearby supermarkets.
- Proposals for Thames Ditton did not appear to be cost effective if the 30 minutes of free parking was agreed as part of the proposal.
- Concern that the free 30 minutes would disappear over time.
- Lack of Local Member engagement.
- Any surplus would not be used to improve the Highways.
- The scheme was another way to raise additional revenue from residents.

- The cost of its installation.
- Inconvenience to local people.
- Threat to small businesses and the need to support them in these difficult economic times.
- Massive public opposition to the proposals.

(Mr Kington tabled a statement concerning the Pay and Display online petition, which was circulated at the meeting – Appendix B)

Key points made against the petition were:

- On-street parking was being abused in areas close to Gatwick Airport and there was a need to protect Horley businesses.
- Commuter issues.
- The Cabinet would introduce an acceptable policy and local issues would be considered.
- Extensive consultation had taken place and comments would be listened to.
- Reigate and Banstead's was one of 3 borough /districts that took responsibility for its car parking and had made an £18K surplus last year which should not be used to subsidise other boroughs / districts.
- The £0.5m annual loss re. on-street parking enforcement could not continue.
- The petition has 'done its job' – each area would be looked at individually, based on local consultation.
- Parking control was needed.
- There has been extensive consultation, which was still on-going, and proposals had changed as a result.
- The on-street parking task group would report to the Environment and Transport Select Committee before the decision being made at Cabinet on 24 May.
- 30 minute free parking would not destroy businesses, it would increase turnover of shoppers.
- Pay and Display was already operational in Guildford and Woking.

A recorded vote was requested and 10 Members stood in support of this request.

The following Members voted to support the petition:

Mr Agarwal, Mr Beardsmore, Mrs Coleman, Mr Cooksey, Mr Cooper, Mr Forster, Mr Frost, Mr Goodwin, Mr Harrison, Mr Hickman, Mr Kington, Mr Lambell, Mrs Mason, Mr Orrick, Mr Phelps-Penry, Mrs Searle, Mrs Smith, Mr Colin Taylor, Mr Townsend, Mrs Watson, Mrs White, Mr Wood.

The following Members voted against the petition:

Mrs Angell, Mr Barker, Mr Bennison, Mrs Bowes, Mr Brett-Warburton, Mr Butcher, Mr Carasco, Mr Chapman, Mrs Clack, Mr Cosser, Mrs Curran, Mr Elias, Mr Ellwood, Mr Few, Mr Fuller, Mr Furey, Mr Gosling, Dr Grant Duff, Dr Hack, Mr Hall, Mrs Hammond, Mr Harmer, Ms Heath, Mr Hodge, Mr Ivison, Mr Lake, Ms Le Gal, Mr MacLeod, Mr Marlow, Mr Martin, Mr Munro, Mr Norman, Mr Pitt, Dr Povey, Mr Renshaw, Mrs Ross-Tomlin, Mr Samuels, Mr Skellett, Mr Sutcliffe, Mr Sydney, Mr Keith Taylor, Mr Walsh, Mr Young.

The following Members abstained:

Mrs Marks, Mrs Sealy.

Therefore, the petition was not supported.

42/11 **LEADER'S STATEMENT (ITEM 10)**

The Leader of the Council made a verbal statement, in which he informed Members of the following:

- He welcomed the two recently elected County Councillors to their first meeting.
- He acknowledged the large numbers of people, across all parties, who had stood in the recent Borough / District elections.
- He highlighted the following achievements from the first 2 years of his Administration – (i) the new Senior Management team, (ii) an extensive staff training programme, (iii) a change in culture within the organisation, (iv) ensuring that 'Value for Money' was achieved, (v) an open and transparent Council, (vi) webcasting of many decision making meetings, (vii) the first e-petition presented to a County Council meeting, (viii) the Council's Annual report published on the website today.
- He publically thanked officers for the enormous progress that had been made during the last two years, which he acknowledged had been difficult.
- He made reference to the uncertain economic climate but said that it was still his desire to become the leading County Council in the country and gave examples across the Directorates of outstanding achievements.
- He informed Members that Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, had expressed interest in Surrey's Public Value Review programme.
- Looking forward to the next two years, he said that he wished to promote economic growth and that he would like to see

financial freedom for councils plus the introduction of community budgets.

- Finally, he announced firstly, that the County Council would be investing £2m for road scheme improvements at a key roundabout (Egerton Road/Gill Avenue) in Guildford. This funding would be matched by the University.
- Secondly, 'Looked after Children', who received a small amount of pocket money from their Corporate Parents (Surrey County Council) would be encouraged to save some of it and when they reached 18 years, the County Council would match fund the amount they had saved.

Members had the opportunity to make comments and ask questions in respect of this statement.

43/11 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME (ITEM 11)**

Notice of 9 questions had been received. The questions and replies are attached as Appendix C.

A number of supplementary questions were asked and a summary of the main points is set out below:

(Q1) Mr Ellwood said that he hoped, and it was confirmed by the Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency, that the County Council's monitoring of Countryliners operations at Merrow would be on a pro-active basis.

(Q2) Mr Lambell asked the Cabinet Member for Transport for reassurance on how the County Council dealt with commercial bus companies withdrawing bus services at short notice. The Cabinet Member said that officers worked closely with bus operators and would address any problems as / when they occurred.

(Q4) Mr Munro considered that the response to his first question would not satisfy some parents and requested that the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning agreed to an increase in PAN at the Bourne Infants School from September 2011, as a matter of urgency. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the strong feelings locally and said that he had met some parents already and had agreed to re-examine the issue of expansion at the Bourne Infants School. However, he considered that it was unlikely for September 2011.

(Q5) Mr Hickman said that his original question had related specifically to Thames Ditton and not the whole of Elmbridge and requested an answer relating to this village. The Cabinet Member for Transport said that the report on the outcome of the consultation for on-street parking charges in Elmbridge, which set out details for each locality, would be considered by the Environment and

Transport Select Committee on 18 May 2011 and by Cabinet on 24 May 2011, when a decision would be made.

(Q6) Mr Sydney asked for clarification about the new milking parlour. The Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency agreed to meet him outside the meeting to discuss his concerns further.

(Q7) Mr Kington considered that his questions had not been answered. He also declined the offer from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to accept his offer of a private briefing. The Cabinet Member explained that he had a prepared response before Easter, which had contained commercially sensitive information. However, the submission of a Member question to Council had resulted in the revision of the response but he invited all Members to examine the Anchor contract.

(Q8) Mr Butcher considered that the public should be made aware that information sent via email to Members could be monitored by the County Council. **Mr Beardsmore** asked about the status of emails sent from private computers. The Cabinet Member for Change and Efficiency said that, for data security reasons, it was preferable for Members to use IT equipment supplied by Surrey County Council. He also reassured Members that, as far as humanly possible, all data held by the Council was secure.

(Q9) Mrs Mason requested that the Cabinet Member for Environment reinstated the funding for the Lower Mole Countryside Project. The Cabinet Member said that the Public Value Review of the Countryside Services had to make some difficult decisions and provided an explanation of the changes proposed to the financial arrangements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.50pm, partway through Members' Question Time (item 11) and resumed at 2.30pm, with all those present who had been in attendance in the morning session except for Mrs Bowes, Mr Carasco, Mr Cooper, Mr Elias, Mr Ellwood, Ms Heath, Mrs Hicks, Mr Kington, Mr Phelps-Penry, Mr Pitt, Mr Sutcliffe, Mr Sydney and Mr Young.

44/11 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 12)**

No questions were received for the Surrey Police Authority.

45/11 **REPORT OF THE SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY (ITEM 13)**

A written statement on the work of the Surrey Police Authority had been included in the agenda.

Mr Harmer, as the Surrey Police Authority representative, agreed to respond to Mrs Coleman's question concerning the location of 'police posts' for the Ashford area outside the meeting.

46/11 **STATEMENT BY MEMBERS (ITEM 14)**

There was one statement from Mrs Coleman concerning her opposition to parking meters in Ashford.

A copy is attached as Appendix D.

47/11 **CHANGES TO SELECT COMMITTEES (ITEM 15)**

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the select committee remits as outlined in Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved, for inclusion in the Constitution.
- (2) That Article 7 of the Constitution be amended accordingly as attached at Appendix 2 to the submitted report.

48/11 **ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY – 2011/12 (ITEM 16)**

The report on the Scheme of Proportionality was circulated to Members on Monday 9 May 2011. Members were asked to note that there was an error in the table in paragraph 4. It should read 54 Conservatives (67.5%) and 3 Others (3.75%).

RESOLVED (with no Member voting against):

That the committee sizes and scheme of proportionality for 2011/12 as set out in the scheme, attached at Annex 1 to the submitted report, be adopted.

49/11 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES (ITEM 17)**

The proposals for the appointment of committees were tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- (1) That the Members, as set out in Appendix E, be appointed to serve on the committees of the Council for the council year 2011/12 in accordance with the wishes of political groups.
- (2) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make changes to the membership of any of the Council's Committees as

necessary during the council year in accordance with the wishes of political groups.

- (3) That the county councillors for each district / borough area be appointed to serve on the appropriate Local Committee for the council year 2011/12, and that the Chief Executive be authorised to appoint an equal number of district / borough councillors to the Local Committees following nominations by the district and borough councils.

50/11

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN 2011/12 (ITEM 18)

The proposals for the Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen were tabled at the meeting. Three positions were contested.

- (i) There were two nominations for the Chairman of the Adult Social Care Committee – Mr John Furey and Mrs Fiona White. These were put to the vote, with the majority voting for Mr John Furey.
- (ii) There were two nominations for the Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Regulatory Committee – Mr Ian Beardsmore and Mr Keith Taylor. These were put to the vote, with the majority voting for Mr Keith Taylor.
- (iii) There were two nominations for the Chairman of Woking Local Committee – Mrs Liz Bowes and Mr Will Forster. These were put to the vote, with the majority voting for Mrs Liz Bowes.

RESOLVED:

That the Members listed below be elected as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees, as shown, for the council year 2011/12.

SELECT COMMITTEES		
	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Council Overview & Scrutiny	Denise Le Gal	Mel Few
Adult Social Care	John Furey	Tony Samuels
Children and Families	Richard Walsh	Clare Curran
Communities	Steve Cosser	Chris Norman

Education	Dorothy Ross-Tomlin	Denise Turner-Stewart
Environment and Transport	Steve Renshaw	Mark Brett-Warburton
Health Scrutiny	Nick Skellett	Zully Grant Duff
PLANNING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE		
	Marisa Heath	Keith Taylor
AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
	Nick Harrison	Bill Barker
PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		
	Andrew Povey	David Hodge

LOCAL COMMITTEES		
DISTRICT	CHAIRMAN	VICE-CHAIRMAN
Elmbridge	Mike Bennison	Margaret Hicks
Epsom & Ewell	Eber Kington	Jan Mason
Guildford	Mark Brett-Warburton	Graham Ellwood
Mole Valley	Clare Curran	1 District / Borough Member (vacancy*)
Reigate & Banstead	Zully Grant Duff	Frances King
Runnymede	Chris Norman	Marisa Heath
Spelthorne	Denise Turner-Stewart	Richard Walsh
Surrey Heath	Bill Chapman	Denis Fuller
Tandridge	Michael Sydney	Nick Skellett
Waverley	Pat Frost	Steve Renshaw
Woking	Liz Bowes	1 District / Borough Member (vacancy*)

* District / Borough Member to be nominated once the co-opted Members are appointed, and reported to County Council on 14 June 2011 for final agreement.

- (2) That the appointment of Simon Edge and Marion Roberts as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Standards Committee be ratified.

51/11 **SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY 2011/12 (ITEM 19)**

The proposals for Members to serve on the Surrey Police Authority were tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Members named below be appointed to serve on the Surrey Police Authority for the council year 2011/12:

Mr Bill Barker, Mr David Harmer, Mrs Margaret Hicks, Mrs Yvonna Lay, Mr Ernest Mallett, Mr Geoff Marlow, Mr Nick Skellett, Mrs Hazel Watson and Mrs Fiona White

- (2) That the Chief Executive be authorised to make changes to the Council's membership of the Surrey Police Authority as necessary during the council year in accordance with the wishes of political groups.

52/11 **REPORT OF THE CABINET (ITEM 20)**

Dr Povey presented the reports of the Cabinet's meetings held on 29 March and 26 April 2011.

(1) Statements / Updates from Cabinet Members

A statement from the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games on the success factors of Services for Communities and 2012 portfolio was tabled at the meeting. (Appendix F)

(2) Recommendations on Policy Framework Documents and the Council's Constitution

(A) 'MAKING A DIFFERENCE' CORPORATE STRATEGY 2011

Members were asked to note an error on page 6 of the annex, the title should read 'Our Corporate Objectives'.

RESOLVED:

That the 'Making a Difference' Corporate Strategy 2011 be approved as a suitable means of communicating the Council's corporate priorities and strategies to Members, staff, partners and residents.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 29 March and 26 April 2011 be adopted.

53/11

AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION – THE EXERCISE OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS (ITEM 21)

RESOLVED:

That the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to the deletion of the reference to the Fire and Rescue Services Regional Management Board and to the agreement of the In Year Fair Access Protocol agreed by the Leader, as detailed in the submitted report, be noted.

[The meeting ended at 2.55pm]

Chairman