

MINUTES of the meeting of Council held on 27 November 2013 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Tony Fish (Mayor), Wendy Curtis (Deputy Mayor), Phil Anderson, Clare Baldwin, Mark Coxshall, Charles Curtis, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Yash Gupta, Garry Hague, James Halden, Martin Healy, Terry Hipsey, Victoria Holloway, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Charlie Key, Steve Liddiard, Susan Little, Suzanne MacPherson, Ben Maney, Val Morris-Cook, Tunde Ojetola, Bukky Okunade, John Purkiss, Robert Ray, Joycelyn Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Andrew Roast, Susan Shinnick, Andy Smith, Philip Smith, Richard Speight, Michael Stone, Pauline Tolson, Simon Wootton and Lynn Worrall.

Apologies: Councillors Lynn Carr, Angie Gaywood, Sue Gray, Shane Hebb, Wendy Herd, Barry Palmer, Maureen Pearce and Michael Revell.

Before the start of the Meeting, the Mayor advised all present that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be made available on the Council's website.

Members were advised that Councillor Pearce had sent her apologies after the sad death of Mr Leslie Wingett, her consort during her mayoral year, and that his funeral was to be held on Friday. The Mayor informed Members that he had written to Councillor Pearce to offer his condolences.

75. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting, held on 23 October 2013, were approved as a correct record.

Councillor Hague advised the Chamber that he felt that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council, held on 4 November 2013, did not adequately reflect the magnitude of the debate on the Adoption of the Local Development Order. The Mayor agreed that a more comprehensive set of minutes would be submitted to the next meeting of the Council.

76. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor informed the Council that he had not agreed to the consideration of any items of urgent business.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

During the course of Item 13, Question 1 to Cabinet Members, Councillor A. Smith declared a non pecuniary interest as a member of his family attended Gable Hall School.

78. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the Chamber that he had continued to carry out his Mayoral duties and that he would have carried out over 250 engagements by Christmas.

The Mayor informed Members that he had attended several remembrance services across the Borough and that he felt privileged to talk to the veterans about their wartime experiences and that this had given him an insight into the sacrifices that so many people had made for our freedom.

Members were informed that the Mayor had the pleasure of visiting many schools in the Borough including his old school, Herringham Primary School and also visits from others.

The Mayor informed the Chamber that earlier in the week he had received a visit from Mrs. Glenda Stephens, who had received the British Empire Medal in June this year for services to hockey in the borough. The Mayor informed Members that she was an inspiration for many young people over the years and fully deserved her recognition.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mrs. Stephens was in attendance at the meeting. The Mayor made a presentation to her on behalf of the Council to recognise her contribution to the Borough.

The Leader of the Council was then invited to make any announcements he wished to make.

The Leader advised the Chamber that he had no announcements to make at this time.

79. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be viewed on CMIS at <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock>.

80. PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

The Mayor informed Members that, in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the requisite notice had been given by one councillor that they wished to present a petition at the meeting.

Councillor P. Smith addressed the Council and presented a petition on the lack of toilet facilities in Corringham Town Centre.

81. PETITIONS UPDATE REPORT

Members received a report on the status of those petitions handed in at Council Meetings and Council Offices over the past six months.

82. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES, STATUTORY AND OTHER PANELS

The Mayor enquired whether Group Leaders wished for any changes to be made to the appointments previously made to Committees and outside bodies, statutory and other panels.

The Leader of the Council informed the Chamber that he wished to appoint Councillor Wendy Curtis as the Council's representative on the Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Board of Governors, to replace Councillor Shinnick.

The Leader of the Opposition informed the Chamber that changes had been made to the Shadow Cabinet and the members of the Shadow Cabinet were as follows:

| | Shadow Portfolio |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Councillor Phil Anderson | Leader, Communities and Delivery |
| Councillor Robert Gledhill | Deputy Leader, Finance |
| Councillor Barry Johnson | Transformation and Corporate Services |
| Councillor Simon Wootton | Environmental Services |
| Councillor Garry Hague | Strategic Regeneration |
| Councillor Pauline Tolson | Transport |
| Councillor Andrew Roast | Children's Social Care |
| Councillor Tunde Ojetola | Education |
| Councillor Susan Little | Housing |
| Councillor Shane Hebb | Health and Adult Social Care |

The Leader of the Opposition informed the Chamber that he would like the Council to make the following changes to appointments on committees, as set out below:

Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Halden to be appointed as a member of the committee to replace Councillor Coxshall.
- Councillor Herd to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to fill a vacancy.

- Councillor Coxshall to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to replace Councillor Revell.

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Little to be appointed as a member of the committee to replace Councillor Gledhill.
- Councillor MacPherson to be appointed as a member of the committee to replace Councillor Roast.
- Councillor Gledhill to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to replace Councillor Ojetola.

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Ojetola to be appointed as a member of the committee to replace Councillor Halden.
- Councillor Roast to be appointed as a member of the committee to replace Councillor Little.
- Councillor MacPherson to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to replace Councillor Coxshall.

Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Tolson to be appointed as a member of the committee to replace Councillor Kelly.
- Councillor Kelly to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to replace Councillor Hebb.

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Kelly to be appointed as a member of the committee to replace Councillor Tolson.
- Councillor Redsell to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to replace Councillor Kelly.
- Councillor Tolson to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to replace Councillor Roast.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor Gledhill to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to replace Councillor Ojetola.

Corporate Parenting Committee

- Councillor Roast to be appointed as a member of the committee to replace Councillor Revell.
- Councillor Revell to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to replace Councillor Roast.

Licensing Committee

- Councillor Kelly to be appointed as a member of the committee to replace Councillor Roast.
- Councillor Roast to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to replace Councillor Kelly.

Standards and Audit Committee

- Councillor Gledhill to be appointed as a member of the committee to replace Councillor Ojetola, with effect from 1 December 2013.
- Councillor Ojetola to be appointed as a substitute member of the committee to replace Councillor Key, with effect from 1 December 2013.

The Leader of the Opposition further informed Members that as a result of the proposed changes made, vacancies for Chairs and Vice Chairs had arisen on some committees. In accordance with procedural rule 16.1(e), the Leader of the Opposition moved a motion to appoint Members to the vacancies that had arisen, as set out below:

- That Councillor Halden be appointed as Vice Chair of the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- That Councillor Little be appointed as Vice Chair of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- That Councillor Ojetola be appointed as Vice Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- That Councillor Roast be appointed as Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee.
- That Councillor Gledhill be appointed as Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee with effect from 1 December 2013.

The nominations to fill the vacant positions of Chair and Vice Chair were seconded by Councillor Gledhill.

Members indicated their agreement to the nominations made.

Councillor Purkiss informed the Mayor that the Independent Group did not wish to make any changes to the appointments previously made.

RESOLVED:

1. **That Councillor Wendy Curtis be appointed to the Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Board of Governors, to replace Councillor Shinnick.**

- 2. That Councillor Halden be appointed as a member of the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Coxshall.**
- 3. That Councillors Herd and Coxshall be appointed as substitute members of the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee to fill a vacancy and also to replace Councillor Revell.**
- 4. That Councillors Little and MacPherson be appointed as members of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillors Gledhill and Roast.**
- 5. That Councillor Gledhill be appointed as a substitute member of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Ojetola**
- 6. That Councillors Ojetola and Roast be appointed as members of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillors Halden and Little.**
- 7. That Councillor MacPherson be appointed as a substitute member of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Coxshall.**
- 8. That Councillor Tolson be appointed as a member of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Kelly.**
- 9. That Councillor Kelly be appointed as a substitute member of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Hebb.**
- 10. That Councillor Kelly be appointed as a member of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Tolson.**
- 11. That Councillors Redsell and Tolson be appointed as substitute members of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillors Kelly and Roast.**
- 12. That Councillor Gledhill be appointed as a substitute member of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Ojetola.**
- 13. That Councillor Roast be appointed as a member of the Corporate Parenting Committee to replace Councillor Revell.**
- 14. That Councillor Revell be appointed as a substitute member of the Corporate Parenting Committee to replace Councillor Roast.**

15. That Councillor Kelly be appointed as a member of the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Roast.
16. That Councillor Roast be appointed as a substitute member of the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Kelly.
17. That, with effect from 1 December 2013, Councillor Gledhill be appointed as a member of the Standards & Audit Committee to replace Councillor Ojetola.
18. That, with effect from 1 December 2013, Councillor Ojetola be appointed as a substitute member of the Standards & Audit Committee to replace Councillor Key.
19. That Councillor Halden be appointed as Vice Chair of the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
20. That Councillor Little be appointed as Vice Chair of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
21. That Councillor Ojetola be appointed as Vice Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
22. That Councillor Roast be appointed as Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee.
23. That Councillor Gledhill be appointed as Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee with effect from 1 December 2013.

83. SENIOR MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS

Prior to consideration of the report, the Mayor informed the Chamber that he had been requested to bring to Members attention that the salaries of both the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Strategy, as shown in Appendix 1 to the report, should be shown as shared and only 50% funded by Thurrock Council.

The report requested Members to agree the permanent recruitment to the posts of Director of Children's Services and Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning, as both posts were currently vacant and covered by acting up arrangements. In addition, the report set out the Council's senior management structure and compared it to the senior management structure from 2010.

On behalf of the Conservative Group, Councillor Anderson thanked the officers that were undertaking each of the roles for both their support and for the work that had been done since the acting up arrangements began.

Members were informed that, whilst the Conservative Group supported the recommendation to recruit to both posts on a permanent basis, there were a

number of other issues that were covered in the report which were points of ongoing controversy. Furthermore, it was reported that the Group did not feel that it was possible to support the report in its current form without highlighting those issues.

Accordingly, Councillor Anderson informed the Chamber that he had circulated a set of revised recommendations he intended to propose to replace those contained within the report. He then proceeded to raise the following points:

- In November 2010, Members had voted unanimously to request a 5% reduction in the salaries of senior management. Although he recognised that employment contracts could not be amended retrospectively, Councillor Anderson expressed concern that no action had yet been taken in respect of a pay review and felt that this ought to be expedited in order to give proper consideration to senior pay structures as the market had changed radically since 2010 as a result of changes in the economy.
- The report referred to temporary appointments that had been made from the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Councillor Anderson expressed concern that there was no evidence to suggest that other authorities had been approached and informed Members that he would like the Council to look fully at partners from other authorities and not just to Barking and Dagenham.

Councillor Anderson proposed the following amendment:

“That recommendation 1.1 and 1.2 be removed and replaced with:

- 1.1 Council requests that an expedited review of senior pay scales for future appointments be carried out, to reflect the motion agreed in November 2010 requesting a 5% reduction and give consideration to market rates in both the public and private sectors in Thurrock.*
- 1.2 Councillor agree to the recruitment of the post of Director of Children’s Services and the post of Director of Adult Services at salaries determined by the above expedited review.*
- 1.3 Council requests the Chief Executive to reconsider the temporary appointments covering the vacant post of Director of Environment and any future shared senior management roles, to include interviewing individuals from a range of potential partner Authorities and organisations, and not giving them preferential consideration from the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.”*

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Gledhill.

Speaking in support of the amendment, Councillor Gledhill expressed concern that the appendices to the report were neither transparent nor easy to understand. Members were informed that whilst the report showed a reduction

in overall costs of senior management to the General Fund, there was no mention of the 110% increase in management costs from the Housing Revenue Account. In addition, he felt that the biggest omission from the report was the amount of money it had cost the Council to get to where it was, as there had been a number of “payoffs” over the past three years, with not all being at senior management level but across both management and ordinary staff levels.

During the course of debate, Members raised the following points:

- Of the two temporary appointments within the Environment Directorate, one had last worked for the London Borough of Barnet and not the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
- The staff that had been “paid off” over the last three years were those people who had been made redundant as part of the Council’s efforts to save the £30m to balance the books as a result of the cuts in funding that have been imposed by central government
- The report shows that the Council saved £0.5m a year from the pay of senior management and that was a record the Council could be proud of
- It had been stated in the Chamber on a number of occasions that education was the Council’s number one priority and yet the amendment sought to cut the rate for the Director of Children’s Services
- Members were reminded of the item that was debated by the Council in November 2012 regarding shared services and shared management, during which Members had requested that any future sharing be considered with other authorities and not just the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

The Mayor called for vote to be taken on the amendment proposed by Councillor Anderson, whereupon 16 Members voted in favour and 24 against. The Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

A vote was then taken on the substantive motion, as printed in the report, whereupon 24 Members voted in favour and 16 against. The Mayor declared the substantive motion to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That Council:

- 1.1 Agree to the recruitment of the post of Director of Children’s Services and the post of Director of Adults, Health & Commissioning at the current evaluated salaries.**
- 1.2 Notes the reduction in overall costs of senior management to the General Fund of £455,676 and reduction in costs to the public sector of £907,076 since 2010, including National Insurance and pension contributions.**

84. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

Councillor P. Smith, Portfolio Holder for Central Services, introduced the report which updated Members on the results of the public consultation exercise undertaken by the Council, which closed on the 20 October 2013 and which recommended the 2014/15 Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

Members were advised that at their meeting on 13 November 2013, Cabinet recommended that the scheme for 2014/15 remained unchanged but that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the practical and equality issues around introducing a residency requirement to the scheme to inform discussions for 2015/16. The opportunity to discuss the introduction of a residency requirement at the overview and scrutiny committee was welcomed by Councillor Johnson.

Members welcomed the report. During the course of debate, Councillor Gledhill requested clarity in respect of the recommendation which stated that there would be a 100% disregard of military compensation payments, including War Disablement Pensions, War Widow's Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments. He advised the Chamber that he had been asked by a resident who received an extra top up to their War Disablement Pension whether this too would be excluded from the Scheme.

In addition, Councillor Gledhill welcomed the residency requirement but suggested that the exemption list be extended to cover such persons as armed forces personnel and victims of domestic violence.

Councillor Morris-Cook informed Members that in the current financial climate, she would like to see an option offered for residents to make payments on a monthly basis.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations, whereupon the Mayor declared these to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That the 2014/15 LCTSS for Thurrock remains the same as it is for this current year thereby containing the following elements:-

- **The first £25 per week of earned income will be disregarded when calculating levels of council tax support.**
- **The maximum capital limit is to be set at £6,000. This means anyone who has savings over 6,000 may not receive support with their Council Tax.**
- **Second adult rebate will no longer be awarded for working age claimants**

- **For working age claimants, the maximum support that will be allowed will be 75% of the full Council Tax bill for the Banding of the property.**
- **Child Benefit and Child Maintenance received will not be included as income in the calculation of Council Tax Support.**
- **There will be a 100% disregard of military compensation payments, including War Disablement Pensions, War Widow's Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments.**

85. REPORT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

Members received a report from Councillor Worrall, Portfolio Holder for Communities, and were then invited to put questions.

The report of the Cabinet Member was set out on pages 61 to 70 of the Agenda.

Councillor Redsell took the opportunity to thank Mr. Neil Speight and the Royal Air Force Club in Thurrock for arranging the funeral of Mr Stan Franks who served as an airman in World War II and gave her appreciation to Thurrock residents for their generosity for their donations. The Chamber was informed that the funeral would be held on 13 December and to contact Mr Speight for details.

Members questioned the Cabinet Member and received responses as follows:

- In respect of the Community Engagement Strategy, Councillor Anderson asked the portfolio holder whether she was willing to look again at Community Council's and what powers and budget could be given to them to enable them to fulfil the aspirations the Council had for them.

The Cabinet Member advised the Chamber that she was happy to look at this again. Members were further advised that it had been envisaged that Community Councils would sit there until there was a big decision that affected their local community, such as a major development or a planning decision. However, it was acknowledged that they were currently quite dormant and therefore should be looked at again.

- Councillor Okunade asked the Cabinet Member how the Council planned to sustain the community hubs.

The Cabinet Member advised that capital had been built into the Medium Term Financial Strategy for community hubs over the next three years. It was noted that sustaining them was about each community the Council was working with putting together a proposal to be considered by the Partnership Board, with these being done on an individual basis as no two Hubs were meant to be the same as they were enablers for communities. Furthermore, Members were advised that a mixture of funding sources

was being explored including external funding and grants. It was reported that the Council were planning to make community hubs sustainable in the future.

- Councillor Halden noted that just under £3 ½ million of capital funding had been set aside for Community Hubs, with four expressions of interest being received from across the Borough. He sought an assurance that a fair share of the funding would be seen in Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham, considering how the borough was logistically divided, as it was possible that the east of the borough may only see one Hub. Councillor Halden took the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr John Fox, a constituent of his ward, who was a volunteer at the South Ockendon Community Hub.

The Cabinet Member advised that the capital identified to develop community hubs would not go to any specific area, that all the forums had been invited to attend meetings and that the Council were working with nine of the forums. Members were advised that if a community had a proposal to submit to the Partnership Board, then this would be considered.

- Councillor MacPherson asked whether the page on the Council's website about Civic Awards could be made more user friendly to enable those who were not computer literate to be able to nominate someone online.

The Cabinet Member assured that the Communication Team would look at making the website page more user friendly.

- Councillor Gupta questioned why the Corporate Diversity Team had finished on 31 October despite seeming to be self efficient.

The Cabinet Member informed Members that the team were still doing diversity and equality work, however this was being undertaken in a different way to be more efficient and stated that this would be monitored throughout the year.

- Councillor Wendy Curtis informed the Chamber that a volunteer at the South Ockendon Community Hub who had been unemployed for some time, had gained employment at DP World and that this was a wonderful achievement.

In summarising her report, the Cabinet Member informed the Chamber that nominations for the Civic Awards were being taken and that the Award Ceremony was to be held on 21 February 2014.

86. REPORT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING

Members received a report from Councillor Morris-Cook, Portfolio Holder for Housing, and were then invited to put questions.

The report of the Cabinet Member was set out on pages 71 to 80 of the Agenda. Members questioned the Cabinet Member and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Anderson asked what plans there were for the vacant Corringham Housing Office and asked the Portfolio Holder to be proactive in communicating with Members in respect of informing them of housing issues in their wards, such as planned refurbishments, housing offices and other portfolio related issues.

The Cabinet Member informed Members that they would receive a list of housing related issues in their wards for the next six months to enable Members to talk to their residents. The Cabinet Member advised that a housing officer would be based at Seabrook Rise during its refurbishment programme and that there would be a single point of contact for refurbishments in each ward.

Furthermore, the Cabinet Member could not confirm what would be happening regarding Corringham Housing Office, however she assured Members that residents would have the opportunity to meet Housing Officers if they had any concerns; that Housing Officers would attend OAP complex meetings and if Members wished, Housing Officers would attend their surgeries.

- Councillor MacPherson asked whether any of there would be any self build properties and if so, where would these be.

The Cabinet Member advised Members that there had previously been a successful self build in Tilbury and that a range of opportunities were currently being considered such as mixed tenures, shared equity and opportunities to purchase properties under Gloriana.

87. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

A copy of the transcript of questions and answers can be viewed on CMIS at <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock/>.

88. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Gerard Rice informed Members that at a recent meeting of the Environment Agency Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, and after a visit to the Tilbury Barrier, he was able to secure £450,000 to be spent in the borough next year.

89. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

The Minutes of Committees and Sub-Committees, as set out in the Agenda, were received.

90. MOTIONS UPDATE REPORT

Members received an information report updating them on progress in respect of Motions resolved at Council over the past year.

91. MOTIONS

The Mayor informed the Chamber that three motions had been submitted for consideration at the meeting.

Motion 1

The motion, as printed on the Agenda, was proposed by Councillor B. Rice and seconded by Councillor Redsell.

A number of Members spoke in support of the motion during debate and concern was expressed regarding passive smoking and its associated health risks, in particular those inflicted on vulnerable children and the need to educate residents of the dangers.

Further concern was expressed in relation to illegally manufactured and counterfeit cigarettes, the need for greater enforcement to prevent the sale of these products and the Council's responsibilities in assisting ports in their enforcement of illegally imported products and the Leader welcomed suggestions on how the additional enforcement could be funded.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the Motion, whereupon the Mayor declared this to be carried.

RESOLVED:

In May Newcastle City Council passed a declaration setting out their commitment to tackle the harm smoking causes their communities. This has become known as the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control and been endorsed by, among others, The Public Health Minister, Chief Medical Officer and Public Health England.

This Council will sign up to the Declaration and commit to:

- **Reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities**
- **Develop plans with partners and local communities**
- **Participate in local and regional networks**
- **Support Government action at national level**
- **Protect tobacco control work from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry**
- **Monitor the progress of our plans**
- **Join the Smokefree Action Coalition.**

Motion 2

The motion, as printed on the Agenda, was proposed by Councillor Anderson and seconded by Councillor Worrall.

In speaking to the motion, Councillor Anderson advised the Chamber that the motion followed the decision made by Cabinet on 13 November 2013, to adopt procedures to enable the Community Right to Bid and Community Right to Challenge in Thurrock, which would allow community groups to nominate assets within local communities.

Councillor Anderson advised Members that the Motion requested that the Council take proactive steps to ensure that a comprehensive list of community assets be produced and maintained as quickly as possible to:

- Ensure that communities are given the opportunity to identify their assets prior to interest from developers.
- Provide a clear and transparent message to developers that certain assets are valuable to communities prior to speculative proposals being submitted.
- Assist the Planning Committee in determining applications whereby the application relates to a community asset.
- Provide a comprehensive list of community buildings, facilities and assets in Thurrock.

Councillor Worrall spoke to second the Motion and advised Members that a meeting between the Council and the ACE Partnership would be held on 13 December 2013, to agree a mechanism for informing communities about the right to bid and community right to challenge.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the Motion, whereupon the Mayor declared this to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That Thurrock Council will work pro-actively with local community groups to create a comprehensive list of Assets of Community Value in Thurrock, which would then be protected by the Community Right to Buy provisions of the Localism Act.

Motion 3

The motion, as printed on the Agenda, was proposed by Councillor Gledhill and seconded by Councillor Morris-Cook.

Councillor Gledhill spoke to his motion, during which he requested Members continue to support all current and future residents who had served in the British Armed Forces by putting them at the forefront of policies and actions. Furthermore, he welcomed recent Council schemes such as the Housing Policy, whereby a years service in the armed forces appeared as an equivalent year on the housing waiting list; and the Council Tax Scheme,

whereby any pension payments with enhanced pension payments for compensation when servicemen are injured were excluded.

Councillor Gledhill suggested that the Housing Scheme for former offenders be adapted for forces personnel and questioned whether the Council could assist former forces personnel with benefit claims, re-employment and education with the possibility of aiming recruitment directly at individuals joining civilian life and reviewing the current Veterans Charter.

Furthermore, it was suggested that a bid be submitted to the Military Governance Scheme to improve the service the Council provides to veterans.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the Motion, whereupon the Mayor declared this to be carried.

RESOLVED:

The Council request that a review be carried out of the implementation of the Veteran's Charter and publish the results before its second anniversary (March 2014), to ensure that the commitment we signed up to is working in Thurrock.

The meeting finished at 9.03pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

MAYOR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Victoria Freeman, telephone 01375 652205,
or alternatively e-mail VEFreeman@thurrock.gov.uk**