

Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY, 25th March, 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor M. Smith) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Richardson)

Councillors	Allan	M. Forbes	Morrissey	Tye
	Anderson	Foster	Old	Vardy
	Arnott	Francis	Oliver	Wake
	Ball	E. Gibson	I.J. Richardson	Wakefield
	Bell	P. Gibson	Rolph	Walker
	Blackburn	Gofton	J.B Scott	J. Walton
	Chamberlin	A. Hall	J. Scott	L. Walton
	Charlton	G. Hall	Shattock	Wares
	Copeland	Heron	D. Smith	P. Watson
	M. Dixon	Kelly	Speding	S. Watson
	P. Dixon	Peter Maddison	Stephenson	A. Wilson
	Ellis	L. Martin	Stewart	D. Wilson
	Errington	T. Martin	Tate	Wood
	Fairs	Miller	Timmins	A. Wright
	D. Forbes	Mordey	Trueman	N. Wright
				T. H. Wright

The Notice convening the meeting was read.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4th March, 2009 (copy circulated) be confirmed as a correct record subject to an amendment to the votes on pages 15 and 17 to reflect that Councillor D. Richardson had voted against the amendments rather than Councillor I. Richardson as indicated.

Declarations of Interest

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the following items on the agenda for the reasons indicated:-

Item 05 – Receipt of Petitions – Hetton Primary School	Councillor Blackburn	Governor of a School within the cluster group
	Councillor Tate	Governor of Hetton Primary School

Item 07 (ii) – Report of the Cabinet - Hetton Town Council Charter	Councillor Anderson	Member of Hetton Town Council
	Councillor Blackburn	Member of Hetton Town Council
	Councillor Heron	Member of Hetton Town Council
	Councillor Tate	Member of Hetton Town Council

The following Councillor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item in respect of the reason indicated and left the chamber during consideration thereof:-

Item 10 (iii) – Notices of Motion	Councillor L. Martin	Employee of Nokia (UK) Ltd.
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Mayor’s Announcements

- (i) It was with sadness that the Mayor advised the Council of the recent death of the former Mayoress and First Lady, Nancy Rowe. Members and Officers joined the Mayor in observing a moment’s silence as a mark of respect.
- (ii) At the invitation of the Mayor, the Portfolio holder for Resources, Councillor Allan informed the meeting of the Council’s recent successes in the Beacon Awards for Digital Inclusion. The Mayor formally accepted the award on behalf of the Council.

Reception of Petitions

RESOLVED that the undermentioned petitions submitted by the Councillors respectively named be received and referred for consideration as indicated: -

- (i) Councillor Timmins - petition from residents of Hill Rise and Rushmore Grange requesting that the Council remove three road humps in Hill Rise – Director of Development and Regeneration; and
- (ii) Councillor Heron - petition from residents of Hetton strongly supporting the continuation of Eppleton Primary School - Director of Children’s Services;

- (iii) Councillor Tate - petition from residents of Hetton requesting that the Council intervene and stop the closure of Hetton Nursery School and Hetton Primary School - Director of Children's Services;
- (iv) Councillor Wakefield - petition from residents of Houghton stating that they have no confidence in the consultation option appraisal and decision making processes that led to the decision to close Gillis Lane Primary School through the school place planning exercise carried out by Children's Services – Director of Children's Services; and
- (v) Councillor P. Dixon - petition from residents requiring full public consultation before any changes/ restrictions are implemented in the residential streets surrounding the hospital – Director of Development and Regeneration.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors A. Cuthbert, I. Cuthbert, Fletcher, Howe, Leadbitter, Paul Maddison, Scaplehorn, O'Connor, P. Smith, Snowdon, Symonds and Whalen.

The Cabinet reported as follows:-

1. Councillor Call for Action - Guidance

That they had given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and the City Solicitor (copy circulated) to provide information and draft guidance on new powers for Councillors designed to help them solve problems in their wards which have now been implemented by the Government. The new powers were known as the Councillor Call for Action (CCfA). The report also highlighted how improvements promoted through the emerging Community Leadership Programme would support the Council in approaching CCfA in the most constructive and effective manner.

The report had been referred to all of the Review Committees for further comments on the Guidance.

The Environmental and Planning Review Committee had welcomed the proposals, the Health and Well Being Review Committee had welcomed and noted the report, the Children's Services, Regeneration and Community and Policy and Co-ordination Review Committees had noted the proposals and the Culture and Leisure review Committee noted the report and welcomed the arrangements to hold two workshops to accommodate all Members.

Accordingly the Cabinet had recommended the Council to endorse the amendment to the Constitution as set out in Paragraph 8.2 of the report.

2. Hetton Town Council – Request for a Town Council Charter

That they had given consideration to a report of the City Solicitor (copy circulated) to seek views on a request to enter into a Local Council Charter for Hetton Town Council. The report had also been referred to the Coalfield Area Committee which had noted the proposals.

Accordingly, the Cabinet had recommended the Council to approve and adopt a Town Council Charter for Hetton Town Council.

3. Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Use of Resources – Auditors Judgement 2007/2008

That they had given consideration to a report of the City Treasurer (copy circulated) on the outcome of the Auditors Judgement on the Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Use of Resources.

The Council had been recommended to note the outcome of the Auditors Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Use of Resources – Auditors Judgement 2007/2008.

They had also referred the report to the Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee for consideration and comment.

The policy and Co-ordination Review Committee congratulated the City Treasurer and his Team on maintaining and strengthening the level 4 assessment (performing strongly) but were still mindful of the comments made by the Auditors and endorse the Council's approach to work through them.

Councillor P. Watson, seconded by Councillor Anderson, moved the report of the Cabinet and it was:-

RESOLVED that the report of the Cabinet, together with the views of the Review Committees and the Area Committees, be approved and adopted.

Written Questions under Rule 8.2

Pursuant to Rule 8.2 of the Council Rules of Procedure Members of the Council asked questions of the Leader and Members of the Executive.

Councillor L. Martin, seconded by Councillor Wood, moved to extend the half hour time limit to ask questions. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 22 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillor	Arnott	M. Forbes	Oliver	Wake
	Chamberlin	Francis	I. Richardson	Wakefield
	M. Dixon	G. Hall	D. Smith	Wood
	P. Dixon	Peter Maddison	Vardy	A. Wright
	Ellis	L. Martin	J.W. Walton	
	Fairs	Morrissey	L. Walton	

and 39 Members voting against, viz:-

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Richardson)

Councillor	Allan	Foster	Mordey	Trueman
	Anderson	E. Gibson	Old	Tye
	Ball	P. Gibson	Rolph	Walker
	Bell	Gofton	J.B. Scott	Wares
	Blackburn	A. Hall	J. Scott	P. Watson
	Charlton	Heron	Shattock	S. Watson
	Copeland	Kelly	Speding	A. Wilson
	Errington	T. Martin	Stephenson	D. Wilson
	D. Forbes	Miller	Tate	N. Wright
			Timmins	T. H. Wright

As the time limit was reached before the end of the questioning it was agreed that Councillor L. Martin would receive a written response to his remaining questions.

Action Taken on Petitions

The Council received the undermentioned report on action taken in relation to petition which had been presented to the Council: -

Petition by residents of Turnstone Drive, Ayton, Washington that the footpath between 35 and 36 Turnstone Drive and/or a diversion of a footpath to the rear of 33 to 49 Turnstone Drive should be closed off/diverted because they allegedly give rise to problems of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage in the area. The petition had been presented to Council by former Councillor Linda Williams on Wednesday 27th February 2008

The Director of Development and Regeneration, following consultation with Ward Councillors for that area, had declined the petitioners' request. However, it had been proposed that petitioners' concerns be addressed by way of mitigation measures, in the form of continuous

maintenance of the plantation area to the rear of 33 – 49 Turnstone Drive and the placement of a camera next to the play area, south of Turnstone Drive. The lead petitioner had been notified of the decision.

Notice of Motion – Miners Memorial

Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Heron moved that ‘This Council recognises the 25th Anniversary of the start of the Miners’ Strike, called by the National Union of Mineworkers with the aim of securing jobs, communities and the coal mining industry.

We congratulate those in our former mining communities, who endured a year of acute hardship and salute their fortitude and resolve in overcoming the destruction of their industry and recognise that, together, we have made great strides towards economic recovery.

We instruct the Chief Executive to commission a permanent memorial to the Miners’ historic struggle, with an appropriate ceremony.’

Councillor Morrissey, seconded by Councillor A. Wright, moved an amendment to the motion as follows:

First paragraph delete:-

“, called by the National Union of Mineworkers with the aim of securing jobs, communities and the coal mining industry”.

Third paragraph add: “Furthermore,”

Third paragraph delete: “Miners’ historic struggle”

Replace with: “City’s mining heritage”

So the amended motion would read:-

This Council recognises the 25th Anniversary of the start of the Miners’ Strike.

“We congratulate those in our former mining communities, who endured a year of acute hardship and salute their fortitude and resolve in overcoming the destruction of their industry and recognise that, together, we have made great strides towards economic recovery.

Furthermore, we instruct the Chief Executive to commission a permanent memorial to the City’s mining heritage with an appropriate ceremony.”

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated, with 17 Members voting in favour thereof, viz:-

Councillor	Arnott	M. Forbes	Morrissey	Wake
	Chamberlin	Francis	Oliver	J. Walton
	P. Dixon	G. Hall	I. Richardson	L. Walton
	Fairs	L. Martin	Vardy	Wood
				A. Wright

and 43 Members voting against, viz:-

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Richardson)

Councillor	Allan	E. Gibson	Rolph	Tye
	Anderson	P. Gibson	J.B. Scott	Wakefield
	Ball	Gofton	J. Scott	Walker
	Bell	A. Hall	Shattock	Wares
	Blackburn	Heron	D. Smith	P. Watson
	Charlton	Kelly	Speding	S. Watson
	Copeland	Peter Maddison	Stephenson	A. Wilson
	Ellis	T. Martin	Stewart	D. Wilson
	Errington	Miller	Tate	N. Wright
	D. Forbes	Mordey	Trueman	T. Wright
	Foster	Old		

Upon being put to the meeting, the substantive motion was carried with 42 Members voting in favour thereof, viz: -

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Richardson)

Councillor	Allan	Foster	Old	Trueman
	Anderson	E. Gibson	Rolph	Tye
	Ball	P. Gibson	J. Scott	Wakefield
	Bell	Gofton	Shattock	Walker
	Blackburn	A. Hall	D. Smith	Wares
	Charlton	Heron	Speding	P. Watson
	Copeland	Kelly	Stephenson	S. Watson
	Ellis	T. Martin	Stewart	A. Wilson
	Errington	Miller	Tate	D. Wilson
	D. Forbes	Mordey	Timmins	N. Wright
				T. Wright

And no Members voting against.

It was: -

RESOLVED that this Council recognises the 25th Anniversary of the start of the Miners' Strike, called by the National Union of Mineworkers with the aim of securing jobs, communities and the coal mining industry.

We congratulate those in our former mining communities, who endured a year of acute hardship and salute their fortitude and resolve in overcoming the destruction of their industry and recognise that, together, we have made great strides towards economic recovery.

We instruct the Chief Executive to commission a permanent memorial to the Miners' historic struggle, with an appropriate ceremony.

Notice of Motion – Corporate Performance Assessment

Councillor P. Watson, seconded by Councillor D. Allan moved a motion in recognition of staff efforts in achieving four star status in the Corporate Performance Assessment

Upon being put to the meeting, the motion was carried unanimously with 57 Members voting in favour thereof, viz: -

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Richardson)

Councillor	Allan	M. Forbes	Mordey	Wake
	Anderson	Foster	Morrissey	Wakefield
	Arnott	Francis	Old	Walker
	Ball	E. Gibson	Oliver	J. Walton
	Bell	P. Gibson	Rolph	L. Walton
	Blackburn	Gofton	J. Scott	Wares
	Chamberlin	A. Hall	Shattock	P. Watson
	Charlton	G. Hall	D. Smith	S. Watson
	Copeland	Heron	Speding	A. Wilson
	M. Dixon	Kelly	Stewart	D. Wilson
	Ellis	Peter Maddison	Tate	Wood
	Errington	L. Martin	Timmins	A. Wright
	Fairs	T. Martin	Trueman	N. Wright
	D. Forbes	Miller	Tye	T. Wright

And no Members voting against.

It was: -

RESOLVED that after the magnificent performance over seven years of attaining “excellent” four star status in the independent Corporate Performance Assessment inspection regime, this Council acknowledges and congratulates the heroic efforts made by officers in this achievement.’

Notice of Motion – Development Control Committees

Councillor Wakefield, seconded by Councillor N. Wright moved a motion in relation to removing restrictions when considering 'phone mast applications.

Upon being put to the meeting the motion was carried unanimously and it was: -

RESOLVED that 'Sunderland City Council urges the Government to consider removing all restrictions placed on Development Control Committees when considering phone mast applications.'

Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

The Leader of the Council submitted a quarterly report (copy circulated) on executive decisions which had been taken under Rule 16 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(Signed) M. SMITH,
Mayor.