

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall,
Portsmouth on Tuesday 11 December 2012 at 2.00 pm.

Council Members Present

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor
Councillor Frank Jonas (In the Chair)

Councillors

Adair, Margaret	Patey, Jim
Andrewes, Michael	Phillips, Darron
Bosher, Simon	Purvis, Will
Eddis, Peter	Sanders, Darren
Ellcome, Ken	Scott, Caroline
Fazackarley, Jason	Scott, Eleanor
Ferrett, John	Smith, Phil
Ferrett, Ken	Stagg, Lynne
Foster, Margaret	Stevens, Les
Fuller, David	Stockdale, Sandra
Gray, Aiden	Stubbs, Luke
Hancock, Jacqui	Thompson, Alistair
Horne, David	Vernon-Jackson, Gerald
Hunt, Lee	Wemyss, Steve
Jones, Donna	Windebank, April
Madden, Leo	Winnington, Matthew
Mason, Hugh	Wood, Rob
Mason, Lee	Wylie, Steven
New, Robert	Young, Neill

97 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Darron Phillips declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 in that his wife works at the Central Library and works with outreach workers.

Councillor John Ferrett declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 as although he is not employed by BAE he works for TU Prospect and works with union members of BAE and so would leave the chamber for this item.

Councillor Ken Ferrett declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 as he is employed by BAE Systems and would leave the chamber for this item.

Councillor Jason Fazackarley declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 as he is a member of Unison and representatives from Unison were making deputations today.

Councillor Ken Ellcome declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 as his wife works for the city council.

Councillor Steve Wemyss declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 as he is a member of Unison, he works for the NHS and he is a co-opted trustee for the Theatre Royal.

Councillor David Horne declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 in that he is employed by the Peter Ashley Centre and felt unable to vote on this item.

98 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 13 November 2012

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Simon Boshier

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 November 2012 be approved as a correct record subject to the amendments set out below.

- (1) In minute 88 – Petition concerning St Peter’s Theatre – the proposal to approve the recommendations contained in Cabinet minute 97 was seconded by Councillor Leo Madden and not by Councillor Hugh Mason.
- (2) Councillor Hugh Mason’s declared interest in agenda item 4 should be amended to read that he is an elected member of the Deanery Finance Committee, a Committee which has oversight of all 20 parishes in Portsmouth, thus not as stated “at St Peters”

This was agreed.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson advised members that he had received a response to his letter to the Foreign Secretary, William Hague in relation to the request to allow the Arctic Convoy veterans to accept the Medal of Ushakov. A copy of the letter was available on request.

99 Communications and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Park, Councillor Terry Hall and Councillor Mike Hancock.

The Lord Mayor announced that Councillor Jim Patey had decided to stand down as Leader of the Labour Group and that Councillor John Ferrett, his current deputy would become Leader of the Labour Group with Councillor Patey acting as Labour Group Deputy Leader.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson recorded his thanks on behalf of the council for all Councillor Patey’s work over many years as Labour Group Leader.

100 Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24(b)(vi)

The City Solicitor advised that six deputation requests had been received; one in respect of agenda item 7, the council tax local scheme and five in respect of agenda item 8 – the revenue budget.

A deputation was made by Graham Heaney against the recommendations in agenda item 7.

One of the deputees did not attend to speak on agenda item 8 and therefore only four deputations were made on this item.

Deputations against certain recommendations contained in agenda item 8 – the revenue budget – were made by Ms Muriel Deacon, on behalf of the Portsmouth Pensioners' Association, Honorary Alderman Burnett on behalf of the Portsmouth Pensioners' Association, Ms Lindsay Williams of Unison and Mr Chris Pickett of Unison.

101 Questions from the Public under Standing Order No 25

There were no questions from the public.

102 Appointments

It was

Proposed by Councillor Jim Patey
Seconded by Councillor Simon Boshier

That the Labour Group receive one seat on the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee from the Conservative Group in accordance with political proportionality on committees and panels, under the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.

That consequently Councillor John Ferrett be appointed in place of Councillor Young and Councillor Gray become his deputy on that committee.

Councillor Young will replace Councillor Boshier as the standing deputy.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

Members were also advised that it was proposed that Councillor Les Stevens to replace Councillor Rob Wood as a full member on the Planning Committee and that Councillor Rob Wood to replace Councillor Les Stevens as the standing deputy on the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED that all the above proposals be approved.

103 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

104 Recommendations from Cabinet from its meeting held on 3 December 2012

The following minutes were approved unopposed.

Minute 107 – Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Minute 110 – Budget and Performance Monitoring 2012/13 (2nd Quarter) to end of September 2012

Minute 106 – Council Tax Local Scheme

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the recommendations contained in Cabinet minute 106 – Council Tax Local Scheme – be approved.

Following discussion upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in Cabinet minute 106 be approved.

Minute 111 – Treasury Management Mid-Year Review for 2012/13

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the recommendations set out in Cabinet Minute 111 be approved.

Upon being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the recommendations set out in Cabinet Minute 111 be approved.

105 Recommendations from Special Cabinet - 10 December 2012

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the recommendations contained in Cabinet minute 118 – the Council's Revenue Budget 2013/14 be approved.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett
Seconded by Councillor Jim Patey

“That the high level savings proposal reference “D-007” entitled “Review and reconfiguration of service delivery arrangements through Children’s Centres” be withdrawn at this stage from Appendix 1 and any decision relating to this item be deferred until the Annual Budget Meeting on February 12th 2013 when the full extent of the proposals to meet the Savings Requirement of £15m in 2013/14 can be properly and more fully considered and this saving potentially replaced by alternative savings proposals. The Cabinet therefore be requested to reconsider its planned review of Children’s Centres, which as an Executive function is a matter reserved to the Cabinet, until the final decision on the Council’s 2013/14 Budget has been taken on the 12th February 2013.

Consequently, that recommendation 3.1 (f) be replaced with:

The high level budget proposals amounting to £7,490,100 for 2013/14 and £8,067,200 in a full year as set out in Appendix 1 (as amended to exclude D-007 at this time) to enable appropriate consultation and notice periods to be given to affected parties.”

Before moving to the votes the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson asked that his thanks be recorded to Chris Ward and his officers for all the work that has been done on the budget.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment standing in the name of Councillor John Ferrett was LOST.

Upon being put to the vote the Cabinet proposal standing in the name of Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the recommendations set out in Cabinet minute 118 be approved.

106 Recommendations from Scrutiny Management Panel - 8 November 2012

The following minute was approved unamended

Minute 13 – Report on Scrutiny

Council adjourned at 4.30 pm.

Council resumed at 4.38 pm.

107 Notices of Motion

There was one notice of motion before council - Shipbuilding in Portsmouth Naval Base.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Aiden Gray
Seconded by Councillor Jim Patey

That this notice of motion set out at agenda item 10 be discussed today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Aiden Gray
Seconded by Councillor Jim Patey

That the notice of motion be adopted by Council.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Simon Boshier

“To add after Council notes (bullet points) that the Council regrets:

The decision of the last Labour Government to build into the Ship Building Contract with BAE Systems that the company should close down and rationalise dockyards in the UK.

To delete second and third bullet points under “Council resolves” and replace with

The City Council will continue to work with all local MPs, Councils and the Local Economic Partnerships to protect jobs in the Dockyard.

To support moves to bring down the first aircraft carrier to Portsmouth early so that fit out work can be done in Portsmouth.

To make Portsmouth the official home of the surface fleet.

To ask the MOD to rebalance the deep re fit work on the type 23 frigates which is currently two thirds Plymouth and one third Portsmouth.

To write to BAE Systems and Government Ministers to ask them to work together with ourselves to protect ship building in Portsmouth and to support other measures listed above to support jobs in the city.

The council to record our thanks to both local MPs Mike Hancock and Penny Mordaunt for the work they are doing on this issue.

The Notice of Motion will therefore read:

Council notes:

- BAE Systems employ in the region of 1,500 people in their shipbuilding business in Portsmouth and have over 4,000 employees in total working in the Naval Base.
- Recent reports in the media that have indicated that BAE Systems are considering closing the shipbuilding facility in Portsmouth Naval Base.
- That workers have faced more than a year of uncertainty since BAE Systems announced they would be undertaking a review of shipbuilding at the end of last year.
- That the continuing uncertainty is having a severe impact on the morale of all those working in the Naval Base.

The Council regrets

- The decision of the last Labour Government to build into the Ship Building Contract with BAE Systems that the company should close down and rationalise dockyards in the UK.

Council believes:

- The shipbuild facility in Portsmouth to be the most modern in the UK and to have a proven record of building complex warships.
- Ending naval shipbuilding in Portsmouth will mean the end of shipbuilding in England and, potentially, the UK. It will also leave the MoD without a facility providing 'through life' capability.
- In order to fill the gap between the end of the Carrier build and the commencement of Type-26 work, the MoD should consider commissioning the building of Off-Shore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)
- In the event that a decision is taken by BAE Systems and the Government to close the shipbuilding facility the company should mitigate any job losses by redeploying those at risk of redundancy to the services business in the Naval Base.

Council resolves:

- To write to the Defence Secretary stating why the closure of shipbuilding in Portsmouth will not only have a devastating impact on workers and their families, but will also be detrimental to the strategic defence capability of the UK.
- The City Council will continue to work with all local MPs, Councils and the Local Economic Partnerships to protect jobs in the Dockyard.
- To support moves to bring down the first aircraft carrier to Portsmouth early so that fit out work can be done in Portsmouth.
- To make Portsmouth the official home of the surface fleet.

- To ask the MOD to rebalance the deep re fit work on the type 23 frigates which is currently two thirds Plymouth and one third Portsmouth.
- To write to BAE Systems and Government Ministers to ask them to work together with ourselves to protect ship building in Portsmouth and to support other measures listed above to support jobs in the city.
- The council to record our thanks to both local MPs Mike Hancock and Penny Mordaunt for the work they are doing on this issue.”

A recorded vote was requested by eight members standing. The following members voted in favour of the amendment:

Adair, Margaret	Phillips, Darron
Andrewes, Michael	Purvis, Will
Bosher, Simon	Sanders, Darren
Eddis, Peter	Scott, Caroline
Ellcome, Ken	Scott, Eleanor
Fazackarley, Jason	Smith, Phil
Foster, Margaret	Stagg, Lynne
Fuller, David	Stevens, Les
Gray, Aiden	Stockdale, Sandra
Hancock, Jacqui	Stubbs, Luke
Horne, David	Thompson, Alistair
Hunt, Lee	Vernon-Jackson, Gerald
Jones, Donna	Wemyss, Steve
Madden, Leo	Windebank, April
Mason, Hugh	Winnington, Matthew
Mason, Lee	Wood, Rob
New, Robert	Wylie, Steven
Patey, Jim	Young, Neill

There were no votes against the amendment.

There were no abstentions.

The amendment was therefore CARRIED.

A recorded vote was requested by eight members standing on the substantive motion.

Upon being put to the vote the following members voted in favour of the substantive motion:

Adair, Margaret	Phillips, Darron
Andrewes, Michael	Purvis, Will
Bosher, Simon	Sanders, Darren
Eddis, Peter	Scott, Caroline
Ellcome, Ken	Scott, Eleanor
Fazackarley, Jason	Smith, Phil
Foster, Margaret	Stagg, Lynne
Fuller, David	Stevens, Les
Gray, Aiden	Stockdale, Sandra
Hancock, Jacqui	Stubbs, Luke
Horne, David	Thompson, Alistair

Hunt, Lee
Jones, Donna
Madden, Leo
Mason, Hugh
Mason, Lee
New, Robert
Patey, Jim

Vernon-Jackson, Gerald
Wemyss, Steve
Windebank, April
Winnington, Matthew
Wood, Rob
Wylie, Steven
Young, Neill

There were no votes against the substantive motion. There were no abstentions.

The substantive motion was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that Council notes:

- **BAE Systems employ in the region of 1,500 people in their shipbuilding business in Portsmouth and have over 4,000 employees in total working in the Naval Base.**
- **Recent reports in the media that have indicated that BAE Systems are considering closing the shipbuilding facility in Portsmouth Naval Base.**
- **That workers have faced more than a year of uncertainty since BAE Systems announced they would be undertaking a review of shipbuilding at the end of last year.**
- **That the continuing uncertainty is having a severe impact on the morale of all those working in the Naval Base.**

The Council regrets

- **The decision of the last Labour Government to build into the Ship Building Contract with BAE Systems that the company should close down and rationalise dockyards in the UK.**

Council believes:

- **The shipbuild facility in Portsmouth to be the most modern in the UK and to have a proven record of building complex warships.**
- **Ending naval shipbuilding in Portsmouth will mean the end of shipbuilding in England and, potentially, the UK. It will also leave the MoD without a facility providing 'through life' capability.**
- **In order to fill the gap between the end of the Carrier build and the commencement of Type-26 work, the MoD should consider commissioning the building of Off-Shore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)**
- **In the event that a decision is taken by BAE Systems and the Government to close the shipbuilding facility the company should mitigate any job losses by redeploying those at risk of redundancy to the services business in the Naval Base.**

Council resolves:

- **To write to the Defence Secretary stating why the closure of shipbuilding in Portsmouth will not only have a devastating impact on workers and their families, but will also be detrimental to the strategic defence capability of the UK.**
- **The City Council will continue to work with all local MPs, Councils and the Local Economic Partnerships to protect jobs in the Dockyard.**
- **To support moves to bring down the first aircraft carrier to Portsmouth early so that fit out work can be done in Portsmouth.**
- **To make Portsmouth the official home of the surface fleet.**
- **To ask the MOD to rebalance the deep re fit work on the type 23 frigates which is currently two thirds Plymouth and one third Portsmouth.**
- **To write to BAE Systems and Government Ministers to ask them to work together with ourselves to protect ship building in Portsmouth and to support other measures listed above to support jobs in the city.**
- **The council to record our thanks to both local MPs Mike Hancock and Penny Mordaunt for the work they are doing on this issue.**

108 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17

There were seven questions under Standing Order 17 but question No 2 from Councillor Alistair Thompson was withdrawn from this meeting as the portfolio holder for Planning, Regeneration & Economic Development, Councillor Mike Hancock CBE MP was not present at the meeting.

Question No 1 was from Councillor John Ferrett.

“What steps is the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure taking to avoid any conflict of interest with his position as Chair of the Planning Committee, not least when taking decisions relating to the Seafront Strategy?”

This and a supplementary question was answered by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport, Councillor Lee Hunt.

Question No 2 – this was deferred.

Question No 3 was from Councillor Donna Jones.

“Are you confident that ALL internal audit recommendations (exempt report, October 2012) have been implemented by Southsea Community Leisure Ltd, at the Pyramids site to ensure the security of PCC money?”

This and a supplementary question was answered by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport, Councillor Lee Hunt.

Question No 4 was from Councillor Luke Stubbs.

“Are Blue Badges being issued efficiently?”

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, Councillor Jason Fazackarley. Councillor Fazackarley undertook to consider taking an item on the Blue Badge issue to a future meeting of his portfolio. Councillor Fazackarley said he was happy to involve the Opposition Spokespersons in this matter and would contact the officer concerned.

Question No 5 was from Councillor Alistair Thompson.

“The Comprehensive Spending Review changed the shared room rate age threshold for Local Housing Allowance from 25 to 35, meaning that single benefit recipients under this age can only access shared housing. I have been told that this will require 300 extra rooms in HMOs when the changes come into force. Has the Council carried out an assessment as to the impact of the further changes to the rules governing HMOs and is he worried that the council appears to be actively attempting to reduce the number of shared housing options in the city.”

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Steven Wylie.

Question No 6 was from Councillor Luke Stubbs.

“Do the planters in the newly pedestrianised part of Palmerston Road improve the street scene?”

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, Councillor Jason Fazackarley. Councillor Fazackarley said that he was happy to look at this matter at a future meeting of his portfolio. Councillor Eleanor Scott offered to look at the issue of cigarette ends being discarded in planters as part of a special project looking at toxic forms of litter as she hoped to do something about this and Councillor Fazackarley said he was happy to accept this offer. Councillor Fazackarley also welcomed Councillor Hunt’s action in writing about the planters to Ms Jane Tume as part of the seafront strategy.

Question No 7 was from Councillor Alistair Thompson.

“Could the Cabinet Member for Housing tell the Council what actions he has taken to enforce the implementation of landlord waste strategy under the Management of Houses in Multiple occupation?”

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Steven Wylie. Councillor Wylie said he was happy to look into particular instances if problems had been identified. Councillor Wylie undertook to find out whether it was the case that action had not been taken against landlords who did not adhere to the strategy and would report back to members.

109 Provisional Dates for Meetings of the Council during the next Municipal Year – subject to ratification at the Annual Council Meeting to be held on 21 May 2013

It was

Proposed by Councillor Hugh Mason
Seconded by Councillor Steven Wylie

That the council meeting dates for the next municipal year be as set out at agenda item 12, subject to moving the proposed July date forward one week from 16 July to 9 July and subject to ratification at the next annual council meeting.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that subject to formal ratification at the council's annual meeting on 21 May 2013, meeting dates for the next municipal year be as follows:-

11 June 2013	21 January 2014
9 July 2013	11 February 2014 (budget)
15 October 2013	18 March 2014
12 November 2013	20 May 2014* (Annual) (11.00 am)
10 December 2013 (if needed)	

Note: (*) It is possible that the local elections may be combined with the European Parliament elections in June 2014 (the date of the European elections and whether they will be combined with the Local elections has yet to be decided), however it could mean that the Annual meeting of the Council, may be postponed from May to June 2014. When the position has been determined, the implications will be reported.

The meeting concluded at 5.40 pm.

Lord Mayor