

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall  
Portsmouth on Tuesday, 15 October 2013 at 2.00 pm

**Council Members Present**

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor  
Councillor Lynne Stagg (in the Chair)

Councillors

Councillor Margaret Adair	Councillor Lee Mason
Councillor Michael Andrewes	Councillor Mike Park
Councillor Simon Boshier	Councillor Jim Patey
Councillor Peter Eddis	Councillor Darron Phillips
Councillor Ken Ellcome	Councillor Will Purvis
Councillor Jason Fazackarley	Councillor Darren Sanders
Councillor John Ferrett	Councillor Caroline Scott
Councillor Ken Ferrett	Councillor Phil Smith
Councillor Margaret Foster	Councillor Les Stevens
Councillor David Fuller	Councillor Sandra Stockdale
Councillor Aiden Gray	Councillor Luke Stubbs
Councillor Terry Hall	Councillor Alistair Thompson
Councillor Jacqui Hancock	Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Councillor Mike Hancock CBE MP	Councillor Steve Wemyss
Councillor David Horne	Councillor April Windebank
Councillor Lee Hunt	Councillor Matthew Winnington
Councillor Frank Jonas	Councillor Rob Wood
Councillor Donna Jones	Councillor Steven Wylie
Councillor Hugh Mason	Councillor Neill Young

**78. Declarations of Members' Interests under Standing Order 13(2)(b)**

Councillor Luke Stubbs declared an interest in notice of motion (d) in that he bought £750 worth of shares in Royal Mail. He said that he would not participate in the vote on that item. He also declared a personal and prejudicial code of conduct interest in question number 4 relating to South Parade Pier as he lives nearby.

Councillor Alistair Thompson declared an interest in notice of motion (d) in that he also bought £750 worth of shares in Royal Mail.

Councillor Will Purvis declared an interest in notice of motion (a) and would leave the chamber for that item as he works for a residential developer and will be responding to the consultation.

Councillor Ken Ellcome declared a personal but non-pecuniary interest in questions number 3 and 6 in that he is the opposition spokesperson for Traffic & Transportation.

Councillor Lee Mason declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in notice of motion (b) in that he lives in the North London Road.

**79. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 July 2013**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

**80. Communications and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Eleanor Scott, Councillor Robert New and Councillor Leo Madden.

The Lord Mayor welcomed a group of Fast Track students all doing their diploma in journalism who had come to watch proceedings from the public gallery.

The Lord Mayor read out the letter she had received from Kensington Palace in response to the letter sent on behalf of the council and citizens of Portsmouth to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their son, Prince George sending their warmest thanks and best wishes.

The Lord Mayor proposed and the Council agreed to vary the order of the agenda to allow item 5(a) (deputations from the public under Standing Order No 24) for items on the remainder of the agenda to be dealt with before the agenda item dealing with the petition on Palmerston Road pedestrianisation.

**81. Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24**

Two deputations were made on notice of motion 10(d). The first deputation was made by Ms Ruth Harris, Branch Secretary of the CWU. The second deputation was made by Mr Paul Carpenter, CWU South East Regional Secretary. Both deputees spoke against the privatisation of Royal Mail and therefore in favour of the notice of motion set out at agenda item 10(d).

The Lord Mayor thanked the deputees.

**82. Petition on Palmerston Road Pedestrianisation**

The Lord Mayor advised that as an Executive (Cabinet) matter, the full council is precluded from determining the issues raised in petitions although the issues can be debated. Linda Symes, the petition organiser, presented the petition as it appears on the meeting agenda.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That standing orders be suspended for the duration of this item in order to allow those people who had asked to make deputations on this matter to have unlimited time to speak. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

The City Solicitor advised that there were deputations on this item all of which were in favour of the petition. The first deputation was made by Ms Rosemary Devonald. The second deputation was made by Mr Yusuf Ali. The third deputation was made by Mr Tony Brown. The fourth deputation was made by Ms Sophie Curtis.

The Lord Mayor thanked the deputees.

A technical note concerning Portsmouth Southsea town centre improvements was circulated.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Mike Hancock  
Seconded by Councillor Jason Fazackarley

That the petition response headed Administration Response to Palmerston Road Deputation as circulated in the chamber be approved.

As amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That Council welcomes the petition. It notes the concerns raised by local businesses and local residents alike that pedestrianisation has changed the character of Palmerston Road South and that it is no longer a shopping street. It further notes how limited the consultation was that took place before the introduction of the scheme.

Whilst it is appreciated that the Cabinet is responsible for the implementation of road schemes, Full Council requests the Cabinet review the Palmerston Road South closure in the light of this petition.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Luke Stubbs was LOST.

Upon being put to the vote, the petition response, proposed by Councillor Mike Hancock was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the City Council recognises that the core shopping areas in many cities are in one place, whilst in Portsmouth it is divided into three - Commercial Road, Gunwharf and Southsea. The City**

**Council endorses the three centre strategy of supporting Commercial Road, Gunwharf and Southsea.**

**The City Council recognises the huge changes taking place in retailing across the UK with large numbers of shops becoming empty and the challenges to town centre retailing from both out of town centres and internet retailing. A recent survey indicates that 14% of shop premises in the country are empty.**

**The City Council recognises that within Southsea there are real pressures because of commercial decisions being made by the large operators on a national basis. This will present a real challenge to shopping in retail in Southsea. The shopping experience is usually made on foot and has to be attractive if it is to attract shoppers from outside of the city to come or to divert the City shoppers away from out of city destinations.**

**The City Council has invested £600,000 in Palmerston Road (north) and £450,000 in Palmerston Road (south) to help improve the retail shopping environment. The City Council notes the 'anchor role' that the new Southsea Library plays in the retail environment and the success of events such as the Food Festival, the Farmers Market and the Love Southsea Market.**

**The City Council recognises the advice from the Town Centre Manager that unless the offer is further improved in Southsea then retailing is at risk. It also recognises that the advice from the Transport Department that re-using the current road in Palmerston Road (south) for vehicles all through the day should be subject to a safety audit.**

**The pedestrianised areas of Commercial Road, Gunwharf and Palmerston Road north all work well with a low number of empty shops. The City Council recognises, however, that the current part pedestrianisation of Palmerston Road has caused confusion for both pedestrians and motorists and that this situation needs to be addressed.**

**The City Council also recognises that there has been extensive consultations with residents, business and transport providers over several years on this issue. The most recent public consultation which went to 6000 local homes produced a response of 18% of residents asking for traffic to be reinstated on the roads and 49% asking for the roads to be fully pedestrianised.**

**The City Council notes that there has been a 6% reduction in crime in Southern Portsmouth over the last six months and that the number of incidents in Southsea remains well below that in the City Centre. The City Council acknowledges the concerns of local people and is working with businesses and the Police to reduce this further.**

**The City Council therefore asks the Cabinet to work with the bus operators to find alternative routes for buses so they do not use Palmerston Road (south), a road where there are no bus stops, and**

**requests the Cabinet to bring forward a report on the possibility of full pedestrianisation of the road with a physical barrier across it from 11am each day.**

**83. Questions from the Public under Standing Order No 25**

There was one question from the public under Standing Order No 25.

Question 1 from Mr Les Cummings - about the serious case review on Child D and supplementary questions - were answered by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson.

The meeting adjourned at 4.45 pm.

The meeting resumed at 4.58 pm.

**84. Appointments**

There were no appointments.

**85. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

**86. Recommendations from Cabinet from its Meeting held on 7 October 2013**

The following minutes were approved unopposed:-

Minute 69 - Adoption of Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan

Minute 71 - Treasury Management Outturn 2012/13

Minute 73 - Budget and Performance Monitoring 2013/14 (First Quarter)

It was noted that a supplementary note dated 10 October on the Children and Education forecast position was previously circulated.

Minute 74 - Revenue Outturn 2012/13 Final Accounts

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the recommendations set out in Cabinet minute 74 be approved.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett

Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That recommendation (3) be amended to read:

The sum of £4,775,000 be transferred to the Revenue Reserve for Capital to supplement the Capital Resources available in order to accelerate the Council's current strategy to drive economic growth and jobs within the City and £225,000 be set aside to support the voluntary sector organisations over the next 3 years at a rate of £75,000 per year.

Following debate upon the amendment standing in the name of Councillor John Ferrett being put to the vote this was LOST. Upon the proposal standing in the name of Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that:**

**(1) The final outturn position for 2012/13 (subject to audit) be noted in respect of the General Fund, Collection Fund and Housing Revenue Account**

**(2) That the following reduction in the 2013/14 cash limits related to the "Claw back" of overspendings in 2012/13 are noted:**

**Children & Education £3,000  
Leader £3,000**

**(3) The sum of £5,000,000 be transferred to the Revenue Reserve for Capital to supplement the Capital Resources available in order to accelerate the Council's current strategy to drive economic growth and jobs within the City**

**(4) The sum of £439,000 be transferred from General Reserves to the Medium Term Resource Strategy Reserve in order to replenish the reserve to a level that is sufficient to finance future spend to save schemes, feasibility studies and staff redundancy costs.**

**(5) In the event that the external auditors require any adjustments to the Final Accounts for 2012/13 that alter the overall net improvement in the Council's position from £5,439,000, the Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer be authorised to, in the first instance, adjust the transfer to the Medium Term Resource Strategy Reserve accordingly and, if necessary, the transfer to the Revenue Reserve for Capital for any remaining sum.**

**87. Recommendations from Governance & Audit & Standards Committee from its Meeting held on 26 September 2013**

In response to a point that was raised, the City Solicitor undertook to look into the feasibility of making agencies that work for the city council comply with PCC's gifts and hospitality protocol. The following minute was approved unopposed:

Minute 59 - Gifts and Hospitality Protocol.

## 88. Notices of Motion

The Lord Mayor advised that there were five notices of motion before council today.

(a) It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the notice of motion set out at agenda item 10(a) be discussed today. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the notice of motion be adopted by council.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Winnington  
Seconded by Councillor Phillip Smith

That the following amendment to notice of motion 10(a) be made:

To insert the following at the end of paragraph 1

It would also threaten existing thriving secondary shopping streets across the city such as Allaway Avenue, Tangier Road and Elm Grove.

To delete the second paragraph and replace with the wording

This ill thought out Conservative proposal has been shamefully supported in action by their local party colleagues who have ignored clear opportunities to oppose this kind of development. This has been clearly demonstrated by Conservative Group deputy leader Councillor Luke Stubbs regrettably saying as quoted in the Portsmouth News on 21 August 2012, that he wants 'to let shops in out-of-centre locations be converted to housing' so accepting the principles of Eric Pickles' approach.

To delete third paragraph and replace with

This Council therefore resolves to support the City Plan that protects local shops from top down attack by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and recognises that the Leader of the Council and MP for Portsmouth South have already responded to the government consultation regarding the proposed Permitted Development rights on that basis. This Council strongly calls upon the MP for Portsmouth North to follow their lead.

To add an additional final paragraph

This Council reasserts its strong support for the approach adopted by its Planning Committee, to consider shop to residential planning applications in areas that fall outside the designated 'Town Centre' areas in the City Plan on their own merits while supporting local businesses.

Upon the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Matthew Winnington being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

Upon the substantive notice of motion being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the notice of motion set out below be adopted by Council**

**The government is considering extending Permitted Development Rights to allow the conversion of small shops to housing without planning consent. If adopted, this policy would strip the council of the planning powers needed to maintain roads such as Albert Road and Cosham High Street as primarily commercial in nature. It would also threaten existing thriving secondary shopping streets across the city such as Allaway Avenue, Tangier Road and Elm Grove.**

**This ill thought out Conservative proposal has been shamefully supported in action by their local party colleagues who have ignored clear opportunities to oppose this kind of development. This has been clearly demonstrated by Conservative Group deputy leader Councillor Luke Stubbs regrettably saying as quoted in the Portsmouth News on 21 August 2012, that he wants 'to let shops in out-of-centre locations be converted to housing' so accepting the principles of Eric Pickles' approach.**

**This Council therefore resolves to support the City Plan that protects local shops from top down attack by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and recognises that the Leader of the Council and MP for Portsmouth South have already responded to the government consultation regarding the proposed Permitted Development rights on that basis. This Council strongly calls upon the MP for Portsmouth North to follow their lead.**

**This Council reasserts its strong support for the approach adopted by its Planning Committee, to consider shop to residential planning applications in areas that fall outside the designated 'Town Centre' areas in the City Plan on their own merits while supporting local businesses.**

(b) It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs



Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the notice of motion set out at agenda item 10(b) be discussed today. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Luke Stubbs  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the notice of motion be adopted by council.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Terry Hall

That the motion be amended by deleting all words after the word "property" in line 4 of paragraph 1 and replaced with the following:

The City Council will facilitate a meeting between Tesco and the land owner so that the Tesco offer to provide a fence is able to progress.

Councillor Luke Stubbs said that he was happy to accept the amendment.

Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote this was unanimously CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the notice of motion set out below be adopted by council:**

**A new Tesco store opened earlier this year in the former Cumberland Service Station in Eastney Road. During the process, the planning agent of company made a non-binding written commitment to improving fencing to the rear of the property.**

**The City Council will facilitate a meeting between Tesco and the land owner so that the Tesco offer to provide a fence is able to progress.**

(c) It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the notice of motion set out at agenda item 10(c) be debated today. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett

Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the notice of motion be adopted by council.

Following debate upon being put to the vote this was LOST.

**RESOLVED that notice of motion 10(c) be not adopted.**

(d) It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett

Seconded by Councillor Aiden Gray

That the notice of motion set out at agenda item 10(d) be debated today. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett

Seconded by Councillor Aiden Gray

That the notice of motion be adopted by council.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders

Seconded by Councillor Jason Fazackarley

That after paragraph 3 the following words be inserted to create a new paragraph 4 and 5:

Council notes that, under the last Labour Government 2500 post offices were closed including 13 within Portsmouth. Under the current government only 120 in the UK have closed and none in Portsmouth. The City Council notes that the former Labour MP for Portsmouth North actively voted to endorse the post office closure scheme whilst an MP. Council condemns that action.

Council also notes that Labour Government's proposals to privatise Royal Mail were detailed under the leadership of Peter Mandelson in the Department of Business. Council notes, in contrast, the current government's proposal has given a 10% stake in the new company to workers of the Royal Mail.

The remaining paragraphs from the original motion to then follow

Following debate it was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That council now move to a vote. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

Upon the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Darren Sanders being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that In July this year the Business Secretary, Vince Cable, announced the privatisation of Royal Mail, selling off a stake of between 50.1 and 70%.**

**Royal Mail is a thriving, profitable business which last year made a profit of £430m and is a major employer in Portsmouth.**

**Privatisation could endanger the financial stability of many of the country's 11,500 Post Offices by hastening their separation from Royal Mail. Those who most need Royal Mail will be most vulnerable to any changes. The National Federation of Sub-Postmasters described privatisation of Royal Mail as, "A reckless gamble" that could put the future of Post Offices at risk.**

**Council notes that, under the last Labour Government 2500 post offices were closed including 13 within Portsmouth. Under the current government only 120 in the UK have closed and none in Portsmouth. The City Council notes that the former Labour MP for Portsmouth North actively voted to endorse the post office closure scheme whilst an MP. Council condemns that action.**

**Council also notes that Labour Government's proposals to privatise Royal Mail were detailed under the leadership of Peter Mandelson in the Department of Business. Council notes, in contrast, the current government's proposal has given a 10% stake in the new company to workers of the Royal Mail.**

**This council therefore opposes the privatisation of Royal Mail as set out in the Postal Services Act 2011.**

**Royal Mail is a Great British institution which should be protected and allowed to continue thriving in the public sector, providing vital services for our communities.**

**This motion calls on the Council Leader to write to the Business Secretary asking for guarantees to be put in place to ensure the future stability of the services provided by Royal Mail, specifically:**

- **Introduce price controls – Stamp prices have risen by 30% in the last 2 years. Further price rises should be kept to a minimum.**
- **Ensure Royal Mail services continue to be provided through Post Offices beyond 2022 – The agreement between Royal Mail**

**and the Post Office is due to expire in 2022 and can be reviewed sooner.**

- **Guarantee the universal postal service beyond 2015 – The universal service obligation is only guaranteed to last until 2015 when it is due for review.**

(e) It was

Proposed by Councillor Alistair Thompson  
Seconded by Councillor Frank Jonas

That the notice of motion set out at agenda item 10(e) be debated today. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Jason Fazackarley  
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That after the words "The City Council" in the first line of the first paragraph, delete the remainder of the motion and replace with the following wording -

notes the decision by Senior Traffic & Transportation Managers to redeploy a School Crossing Patrol Officer (SCPO) from the signalised pedestrian crossing at London Road, near to Merrivale Road to a different location in the north of the city.

The Council notes that this decision was based on their professional judgement and that such a redeployment was necessitated in the interests of child safety. The Council also notes that the individual SCPO concerned was consulted and raised no objection.

There was no decision taken by the Cabinet member for Traffic & Transportation regarding this move, which was a purely operational decision taken by Officers.

It is further noted by the Council that there are presently a number of SCPOs vacancies for which the Traffic & Transportation Service is seeking to recruit suitable applicants.

The vacancy at the London Road crossing, created by this particular redeployment, will be filled once a suitable applicant comes forward.

Councillor Thompson said that he was happy to accept the amendment provided that the wording in the first sentence of the second paragraph finished after the word "judgement". This was agreed.

Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** that the city council notes the decision by Senior Traffic & Transportation Managers to redeploy a School Crossing Patrol Officer (SCPO) from the signalised pedestrian crossing at London Road, near to Merrivale Road to a different location in the north of the city.

The Council notes that this decision was based on their professional judgement. The Council also notes that the individual SCPO concerned was consulted and raised no objection.

There was no decision taken by the Cabinet member for Traffic & Transportation regarding this move, which was a purely operational decision taken by Officers.

It is further noted by the Council that there are presently a number of SCPOs vacancies for which the Traffic & Transportation Service is seeking to recruit suitable applicants.

The vacancy at the London Road crossing, created by this particular redeployment, will be filled once a suitable applicant comes forward.

**89. Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17**

The Lord Mayor proposed that the questions could either be deferred to the next meeting or be dealt with by written response.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Terry Hall  
Seconded by Councillor David Fuller

That the questions be dealt with by way of full written answers rather than by debating them today.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** that written answers to the seven questions that had been previously circulated be answered by way of written answers to be circulated after the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm.

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Lord Mayor