

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at the Guildhall,  
Portsmouth on Tuesday 9 July 2013 at 2.00 pm.

**Council Members Present**

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

Councillors

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

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

Councillor Aiden Gray declared a personal interest in agenda item 9(a) in that he is the commercial manager for Santander Bank.

**67 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 June 2013**

It was

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

That

- (1) the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2013 approved by the council at the last meeting be amended; and
- (2) the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED that**

- (1) **the minutes of the meeting on 20 May 2013 (approved by council at the last meeting) be amended to correct an inaccuracy subsequently discovered, namely to record that Councillor Phil Smith replaced Councillor Caroline Scott as a full member of the Langstone Harbour Board, with Councillor Scott taking Councillor Smith's place on the board as a standing deputy (minute 51 refers); and**
- (2) **the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

**68 Communications and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry Hall. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Michael Andrewes, Councillor Luke Stubbs and Councillor Steve Wemyss.

The Lord Mayor advised members of the recent death of Commander Eddie Grenfell but said she was heartened by the fact that before his death he had been honoured to receive the inaugural Churchill Award in recognition of his efforts to secure fellow Arctic Convoy veterans a medal and had received a civic award from the city council at the last annual council meeting. His funeral takes place on Thursday 11 July from 11.00 am till noon at the cathedral.

The Lord Mayor also announced Portsmouth City Council's recent success in the Caen 10K running race - Courants de la Liberté which has resulted in the Council receiving a trophy. The Lord Mayor invited members of the team who were present in the chamber to come forward to appear in a photograph with the Lord Mayor in recognition of their achievement.

**69 Deputations from the Public under Standing Order No 24**

The City Solicitor advised that three deputations had been requested by members of the public. The first deputation was from Mr Jim Fleming speaking against agenda item 9(a). The second deputation was made by Mr Bagshaw in support of agenda item 9(c). The third deputation was made by Mr Murphy of Unite Union in support of agenda item 9(d).

**70 Questions from the Public under Standing Order No 25**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**71 Appointments**

There were no appointments.

**72 Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

**73 Recommendations from Governance & Audit & Standards Committee from its meeting held on 27 June 2013**

The following minute was approved unopposed:-

Minute 43 - Health Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

**Minute 38 - Modifications to the Petitions Scheme**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Michael Andrewes

Seconded by Councillor Phil Smith

That the recommendation set out in Governance & Audit & Standards Committee minute 38 be approved.

Following debate, upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the petition scheme be changed so that Petitions for debate submitted with the support of at least 500 signatures, be reported to and considered by the relevant decision making Body of the Council, (or the Full Council if the petitioner so wishes even if the Full Council is not the relevant decision making body). This is on the basis that the Local Authority through any part of its political management structure (eg Full Council, Cabinet or Portfolio holder) has not already considered the matter which is the subject of the petition within the preceding 24 months of its submission.**
- 2. That further to 1. above, for petitions received on matters that have been considered by the Local Authority within the preceding 24 months following submission, at least 1000 signatures would be required to trigger a debate by the appropriate decision making Body of the Council, including the Full Council, if the petitioner so wishes, even if the Full Council is not the relevant decision making body.**
- 3. That the City Solicitor be authorised to make the requisite changes to the scheme and associated supporting documents to reflect the above:**
- 4. That Standing Order 13 (f) be amended by the inclusion of the following words in brackets after "receive and debate written petitions" (submitted from the public at least 12 days before the meeting and which contain at least 500 signatures and are on issues either (a) within the power of Full Council or, (b) the petitioner has requested it be debated by Full Council even if Full Council is not the decision making body; this is on the basis that the Local Authority, through any part of its political management structure, has not previously considered the matter which is the subject of the petition within the preceding 24 months following submission.**

**That for petitions concerning issues which the Local Authority has already considered within the preceding 24 months following petition submission, at least 1000 signatures would be required to trigger a Council debate if the matter is within the powers of the Full Council, or the petitioner so requests.**

**(Full Council debates will commence with the lead petitioner being given 6 minutes to present their petition, followed by the Administration proposing its response to the petition and the normal rules of debate applying).**

**74 Recommendations from Employment Committee meeting held on 18 June 2013**

The following minute was approved unopposed.

Minute 35 - Approval of Offer Package for Director of Public Health Role

**75 Notices of Motion**

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

(a) It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the notice of motion set out at agenda item 9(a) be discussed today. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the notice of motion be adopted by council.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett  
Seconded by Councillor Ken Ferrett

That the motion be amended in paragraph 2 after "transactions" insert "between financial institutions".

At the end of paragraph 3 add "we regret the coalition government's refusal to consider supporting anything other than a globally agreed financial transactions tax". In paragraph 4 after "the city council resolves" insert "to seek the support of other local authorities through the Local Government Association for the principle of a financial transactions tax and".

Following debate upon the amendment standing in the name of Councillor John Ferrett being put to the vote this was LOST.

Upon the original notice of motion standing in the name of Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

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

**Portsmouth City Council acknowledges that its ability to provide high quality services to residents of the City has been limited by financial constraints. It recognises that these result, in large part, from financial crises and instability which have affected this country for the last six years.**

**Recognising that financial stability is necessary if services to the community are to be funded to former levels, the City Council supports the principle of a Financial Transactions Tax being imposed on all transactions above an agreed threshold. Such a tax should be designed to encourage long term investment, be a disincentive to short term financial movements and reduce exchange rate volatility.**

**The Portsmouth City Council believes that the tax needs to be set at a rate which achieves these objectives but maintains the strength of the UK financial services sector. The tax should therefore be developed within the context of international agreements such as the EU, the EEA and the IMF.**

**The City Council resolves that the Leader of the City Council writes to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister to set out our views on this issue.**

(b) It was

Proposed by Councillor John Ferrett  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That the notice of motion set out at agenda item 9(b) be discussed 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.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Seconded by Councillor Mike Hancock

"That the motion be amended by deleting all after the word "objectives" and replace with: the city council notes that if Portsmouth is to win additional funding from outside of the city, bids to outside organisations have to be submitted. Not all bids will be successful, but by not applying the City is guaranteed to win no additional money from outside of Portsmouth. The City Council notes successful recent bids for:

- 1 million euros from the EU to celebrate with Caen the 70th Anniversary of D-Day.
- £11M towards the re-building of the Northern Road Bridge in Cosham.
- £22M towards the construction of a new junction on the M275 at Tipner and the building of a 663 car park and ride scheme.
- £5M from Sport England towards the redevelopment of the Mountbatten Centre.
- £1.33M from the Lawn Tennis Association for development at Hilsea and other City locations.
- £270,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to celebrate Charles Dickens Bicentenary.
- £60,000 from the Environment Agency for Baffins Pond improvements.
- £200,000 from the Coastal Community Fund towards the Hot Walls.
- £750,000 from PUSH for the New Theatre Royal, plus an extra £999,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £100,000 from the Art Council of England towards the rebuilding of the New Theatre Royal.
- £600,000 towards Bransbury Park Sports from Barclays.
- £5M towards a successful Local Sustainable Transport Fund, from Department of Transport.

And many other successful bids.

The City Council condemns the negative and anti-entrepreneurial spirit shown by both Cllr Donna Jones and Cllr John Ferrett in presenting their motion and by so doing, giving the appearance that they oppose bidding for funding for Portsmouth from outside of the City."

Following debate upon being put to the vote the amendment standing in the name of Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson was CARRIED. Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the City Council notes the recent unsuccessful City of Culture bid. Furthermore, the Council also notes the recently established practice of congratulating Cabinet Members for perceived success in delivering objectives.**

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The City Council condemns the negative and anti-entrepreneurial spirit shown by both Cllr Donna Jones and Cllr John Ferrett in presenting their motion and by so doing, giving the appearance that they oppose bidding for funding for Portsmouth from outside of the City.

(c) It was

Proposed by Councillor Steve Wemyss  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

That notice of motion (c) should not be debated today, but stand referred and this was Agreed.

It was then

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Mike Hancock

That the issue be referred direct to Healthwatch. Upon being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the issues included in notice of motion (c) be referred to Healthwatch with a report back to council if Healthwatch is unable to undertake the referral.**

(d) It was

Proposed by Councillor Aiden Gray  
Seconded by Councillor Ken Ferrett

That the notice of motion set out at agenda item 9(d) be debated today. Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Aiden Gray  
Seconded by Councillor Ken Ferrett

That the notice of motion set out in agenda item 9(d) be adopted by council.

As an amendment it was

Proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders  
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That all the words in the motion after the words "central government" in the first line of paragraph 2 be deleted and replaced with

"to extend the principle of the Local Housing Allowance, introduced by the previous Labour Government, to those in Social housing, cannot guarantee affected tenants an affordable alternative. If the consequence of tenants running up arrears is that they face eviction, the council may well face higher costs rehousing those who are displaced by the so called 'bedroom tax'.

Council recognises and welcomes the work done by the Housing Options team and the staff of the Revenues and Benefits team in providing practical assistance to people actually and potentially affected by the Local Housing Allowance and by its extension to the social housing sector.



Council requests Cabinet to examine the following matters in order to establish whether further measures are needed to mitigate hardship to both private and social tenants and to prevent additional economic burdens for council tax payers.

1. The policy and procedures for managing council tenancy rent arrears in order to minimise the requirement for evictions.
2. The procedures for advising tenants of suitable alternative properties and maximising the choices available to them.
3. The implementation of the Housing Hardship Fund, recently established by the Council.
4. The adequacy of the means by which the Council advises tenants in both the private and social rental sectors of the advice service provided by bodies such as Citizens Advice, the You Trust, and the Hampshire Credit Union.
5. The procedures for co-ordinating with housing associations to ensure the optimum availability of housing options for social housing tenants.
6. The effectiveness of the Local Housing Allowance and the Under-Occupation of Social Housing procedures in ensuring the provision of adequate housing for the residents of the city.
7. The scope for building more council housing in order to provide the flexibility required as a result of demographic change in our city."

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 UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED that under occupation of Social Housing "commonly known as the "Bedroom Tax"**

**"The decision by Central Government to extend the principle of the Local Housing Allowance, introduced by the previous Labour Government, to those in Social housing, cannot guarantee affected tenants an affordable alternative. If the consequence of tenants running up arrears is that they face eviction, the council may well face higher costs rehousing those who are displaced by the so called 'bedroom tax'.**

**Council recognises and welcomes the work done by the Housing Options team and the staff of the Revenues and Benefits team in providing practical assistance to people actually and potentially affected by the Local Housing Allowance and by its extension to the social housing sector.**

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4. The adequacy of the means by which the Council advises tenants in both the private and social rental sectors of the advice service provided by bodies such as Citizens Advice, the You Trust, and the Hampshire Credit Union.
5. The procedures for co-ordinating with housing associations to ensure the optimum availability of housing options for social housing tenants.
6. The effectiveness of the Local Housing Allowance and the Under-Occupation of Social Housing procedures in ensuring the provision of adequate housing for the residents of the city.
7. The scope for building more council housing in order to provide the flexibility required as a result of demographic change in our city.

## 76 Questions from Members under Standing Order No 17

The Lord Mayor advised that there were four questions under Standing Order 17 that had previously been circulated.

**Question No 1** was from Councillor David Horne

"What was the total amount spent by Portsmouth on the bid that failed for the UK City of Culture and from what budget did it come?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport, Councillor Lee Hunt.

**Question No 2** was from Councillor Luke Stubbs

"Does the Cabinet Member endorse the use of land at Marine Court as the start point of the annual nude cycle ride?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport, Councillor Lee Hunt.

**Question No 3** was from Councillor David Horne

"What services have now been transferred from other budget headings to the Housing Revenue Account and the value for each of the services for the years 2012/13 and 2013/14?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Darren Sanders.

**Question No 4** was from Councillor Luke Stubbs

"Is the Locksway Road roundabout safe?"

This and supplementary questions were answered by the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation, Councillor Jason Fazackarley.

**77 Date of 2014 Mayor Making/Annual Council meeting**

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Hugh Mason

That the date of the 2014 Mayor-making and Annual Council is changed to 3 June 2014.

Upon being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that the date of the 2014 Mayor Making and Annual Council meeting be 3 June 2014.**

The meeting concluded at 6.42 pm.

Lord Mayor