

Minutes of the Meeting of East Cambridgeshire
District Council held in the Council Chamber,
The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on Tuesday
21 April 2015 at 6.00pm

P R E S E N T

Councillor Allen Alderson	Councillor Richard Hobbs
Councillor Ian Allen	Councillor Bill Hunt
Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith	Councillor Tom Hunt
Councillor David Ambrose Smith	Councillor Tom Kerby
Councillor Sue Austen	Councillor Chris Morris
Councillor Anna Bailey	Councillor Neil Morrison
Councillor Tony Cornell (Chairman)	Councillor James Palmer
Councillor Lorna Dupré	Councillor Tony Parramint
Councillor Lavinia Edwards	Councillor Charles Roberts
Councillor Kevin Ellis	Councillor Hamish Ross
Councillor Lis Every	Councillor Mike Rouse
Councillor Jeremy Friend-Smith	Councillor Joshua Schumann
Sheila Friend-Smith MBE	Councillor Robert Stevens
Councillor Tony Goodge	Councillor Hazel Williams MBE
Councillor Elaine Griffin-Singh	Councillor Gareth Wilson
Councillor Lindsey Harris	Councillor Pauline Wilson
	Councillor Andy Wright

9 members of the public were in attendance at the meeting

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting, the Chairman announced the passing of a former District Councillor for the Cheveley Ward, Mrs Sylvia Horwood-Smart. The Chairman, Councillor Rouse and Councillor Sheila Friend-Smith spoke on Mrs Horwood-Smart's outstanding service on the Council and to the local community and one minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

82. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The following question was asked by Mr Andrew Cogan of Upware:

'How many people are now waiting for Social Housing on the Council's Housing Register or Sanctuary Housing's Lists in the District?'

Officers advised Mr Cogan that 1,029 people were currently waiting for Social Housing on all relevant registers within the District and a further 150 applications were pending.

83. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michael Allan (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Derrick Beckett, Councillor David Brown, Councillor Colin Fordham, Councillor Philip Read, Councillor Sue Willows.

84. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Palmer declared an interest on Agenda item 9 on the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan – Version for Adoption and stated that he would leave the meeting for this item.

Councillor Gareth Wilson declared a Personal Interest in respect of Agenda items 7 and 14 on Community Transport as Treasurer of Dial-a-Ride.

Councillor David Ambrose-Smith declared an interest on Agenda item 12 on CIL - Littleport Schools Allocation and stated that he would take no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Every declared an Interest in respect of Agenda items 7 and 14 on Community Transport as a Trustee of ESACT.

85. **MINUTES**

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

86. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

Additional Agenda Item 15 – Recording of thanks to Retiring Councillors

Bearing in mind that this was the last full Council meeting prior to the District Council Elections, the Chairman stated that he would be allowing an additional Agenda item 15 at the end of the Agenda to record the Council's thanks to retiring Councillors.

The Beeches, Isleham new Community Centre - Opening Ceremony

In his absence, the Chairman had been asked by Councillor Beckett to extend an invitation to all Members to attend the Opening Ceremony of the new Community Centre, The Beeches, Isleham on Saturday 2nd May 2015 at 12.30pm.

Recycling Reward Scheme and Golden Carton Award

The Chairman stated that he was very pleased to announce the success of the Council's Waste and Recycling Team in two national initiatives. Firstly, they had received a grant of £197,608 from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as a result of a successful bid for the Recycling Reward Scheme.

In addition, the Team recently had won the splendid Golden Carton Award which was displayed to the Council. The Golden Carton Award was for increasing kerbside recycling of cartons by more than any other council last year.

On behalf of all Members of the Council, the Chairman formally expressed congratulations to Dave White, Waste Services Team Leader, and the Waste and Recycling Team for their outstanding achievements.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Dave White then gave a brief presentation on the Recycling Reward Scheme.

Councillors James Palmer and Gareth Wilson commended the excellent work of Dave White and his Team and the outstanding improvement in recycling performance achieved by the Council and the Members of Council acknowledged this with a round of applause.

87. **PETITIONS**

No Petitions had been received.

88. **MOTIONS**

Community Transport

The following Motion was proposed by Cllr James Palmer and seconded by Cllr Charles Roberts:

This Council regrets the decision by Ely and Soham Dial a Ride (ESDAR) to cease its operations from 31 March 2015 despite the Council's decision to allocate funding of £15,000 in 2015/16.

Nevertheless, the Council welcomes the continuation of this important service, by the setting up of a new organisation, through the Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT). In recognition of this recent development, the Council agrees to reallocate the £5,000 grant to Ely and Soham Association for Community Transport (ESACT) in 2015/16.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Palmer stated that it was a housekeeping measure following the disbanding of ESDAR and

commencement of a new operation. Councillor Palmer was pleased that the improved financial position of the Council meant that it could fund such initiatives.

Councillor Williams questioned if FACT would be providing a service in the southern area of the District close to Newmarket. Councillor Palmer stated that FACT did not cover that area at present, but it could be lobbied to provide a service in the area and then the new Council from May could consider providing funding for such an extension to the service.

Councillor Pauline Wilson expressed her support for the motion but stated that she was disappointed that it had taken so long for the Council to support Dial-a-Ride. She hoped that ESACT would not merely receive one year's funding but that it would be an ongoing commitment.

Councillor Bill Hunt commented that if the Lib Dems formed the next Council administration, they could make a commitment to ongoing funding. However, the current administration had agreed to provide funding for the year.

It was resolved:

On being put to the vote, the motion was supported.

89. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

There were no questions from Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2.

90. **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL PLAN – VERSION FOR ADOPTION**

Councillor James Palmer left the meeting for the duration of this item

Council considered a report, P239, previously circulated, requesting Council to consider the adoption of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 to provide a Planning framework for the District up to 2031.

Richard Kay, Strategic Planning Manager, explained that this was the final stage in the long process of the preparation of the Local Plan and that statutorily the Council only had the option of adopting or not adopting the Local Plan at this stage and could not make any further substantial amendments to it. The Local Plan had gone through a rigorous consultation process and Inspector's examination.

Councillor Schumann arrived at the meeting at 6.35pm.

Mr Kay stated that Members had pointed out some minor typographical and factual corrections that could be amended under the statutory rules. In that connection, Councillor Williams pointed out that Swaffham Bulbeck no longer had a Retained Fire Station.

The recommendations in the Officer's report were moved by Councillor Ellis and seconded by Councillor Bill Hunt.

Councillor Allen stated that, whilst not taking the course of action of an aggrieved party detailed in paragraph 3.16 of the Officer's report, he would not be voting to adopt the Local Plan and gave the following speech to explain his reasons:

'I accept that the production of a Local Plan over a period of years cannot hope to keep up with current economic and political circumstances – the passing of this Plan will at least serve to illustrate the shortfalls of the process and the hypocrisy of those that have pushed for some of the policies, while ignoring more pressing needs.

The presumption in favour of sustainable development at the heart of the Plan supported by the coalition government, and supposedly softened by the localisation of the vision process, is being tested by Gladmans as we speak. Remember that NPPF is a political choice implemented by both parties that are represented here – responsibility needs to be acknowledged and blame or praise apportioned according to your viewpoint.

The whole growth agenda that is behind the Plan is I believe flawed, elements that are proposed have already been superseded by events – the Ely North employment allocation has now been downgraded to the low hundreds but the allocation of 3,000 houses remains. Out-commuting is mentioned as a serious issue and the northern extension has singularly failed to address this – but the targets remain intact. People were consulted on the proposals and expect delivery.

Similarly, we have targets for affordable housing of 30-40%, but at North Ely are proposed at 15% if we are lucky. The question raised under Public Question Time showed that 1,000 plus people were currently waiting for Social Housing.

Please refer to pages 44 and 45 of the Local Plan. The introductory paragraph 4.4.1 states that "affordable housing should also include provision to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households." Also at paragraph 4.4.6 Policy HOU 3 states that "affordable housing contributions will be sought on developments of 5 or more dwellings." This has now gone up to 10 and seems to have been overtaken by political events.

I have heard Conservative Councillors such as Councillors Alderson and Rouse state that they support affordable housing provision and policy HOU3 states that affordable houses will be available to eligible households at an affordable cost for the life of the properties. How do those Councillors square that with their party's desire to somehow lever out of Housing Association ownership houses that should be for rent in perpetuity for private sale at a taxpayer subsidised reduction of £77,000 per house? Is there is an

element of double-speak in this Plan – do we all need reminding that this is austerity Britain, there are many people who will never be able to purchase who rent in the private sector at higher rates.

Perhaps Councillor Tom Hunt who has stated that Stretham CLT houses will be available to purchase from renting in due course would like to extend that offer to all private tenants in the interests of equality of opportunity?

To sum up, I see this Plan as a gallant attempt to produce some benefits for East Cambs residents but much of it - Octagon Park, affordable housing policy, 12 unhealthy food outlets on the proposed leisure centre footprint, and a vision process weakened by the NPPF core policy of I have to say “unsustainable development” - is being seriously undermined even before it is passed.

I hope the new Council can live by its better aspirations and note that the principles of the Plan have met with public consultation and inspector approval - the question is whether the new Members can deliver on those aims.'

Councillor Kerby commented that Councillor Morrison and himself had assisted a Fordham resident to get an area of land adopted in the Local Plan.

Councillor Alderson commented that the Conservative Party was a broad church and that members may not necessarily agree with every stated policy. Housing was a social issue with many aspects and he was in favour of housing being as affordable as possible and not necessarily in favour of the proposed extension of the right to buy. Councillor Alderson stated that he wanted both affordable housing and housing to rent.

Councillor Gareth Wilson thanked the previous Strategic Planning Manager, Katie Child, and her Team for their work in producing the Local Plan and commented that, whilst it may have flaws, it was trying to take the authority forward. This Council was ahead of many other Councils and he hoped that adoption of the Plan would stop other appeals such as Gladmans.

Councillor Stevens stated that he would be voting in favour of adoption. He would be encouraging Parish Councils to acknowledge the need for affordable housing and to identify suitable sites, as there was a need for such housing to enable young people to remain in the villages where their family lived. There was often local opposition to exception sites for affordable housing outside of the village envelope, but this mechanism needed to be used to secure such housing.

Councillor Rouse expressed his support for social and affordable housing and hoped that this could be delivered via CLTs. This would be one of the biggest challenges for the new Council. The Local Plan needed to be adopted so that the Council was not left in limbo and had a sound basis on

which it could take decisions. There would soon be a new Council and new Government and the new Council could undertake an extensive review of the Local Plan in the future.

Councillor Tom Hunt endorsed Councillor Rouse's comments and stated that the Plan had already undergone extensive consultations and had a challenging Inspector. There were aspects of the Localism Act that some Members may not agree with, but the Council needed to operate within a framework to avoid another Gladmans. It should also acknowledge what had already been achieved and move forward.

Councillor Schumann stated that North Ely still included an employment allocation.

Councillor Roberts left the meeting at 6.56pm.

Councillor Schumann also commented that it was difficult to prepare a Plan with commonsense written into it, but the Planning professionals would use a commonsense approach in its application. Affordable housing would always be a contentious issue, but the Plan allowed for a variety of methods for affordable housing delivery, including exception sites and CLTs.

Councillor Roberts returned to the meeting at 6.58pm.

Councillor Schumann acknowledged that the Plan was not perfect, but was a starting block which could be reviewed.

Councillor Bill Hunt endorsed Councillor Gareth Wilson's comments that adoption of the Plan would provide the Council with protection from some of the more unacceptable development proposals. Similarly Councillor Stevens had made some valid points regarding the need for affordable housing for young people to stay in their local villages. Councillor Allen appeared to be unique in not agreeing with the accepted view amongst Members that adoption of the Local Plan was required to afford the Council the protection it needed.

Councillor Allen responded by stating that he did not believe that any more vexatious Gladmans style appeals would be received in the next three weeks before the new Council was formed and that the new Council should be allowed to decide on adoption of the Plan.

Councillor Ellis stated that protection was required now and, therefore, it was important to adopt the Plan and then the new Council could review it.

Jeremy Friend-Smith stated that he supported the adoption of the Plan as considerable work had been undertaken already to improve on the current situation.

Councillor Ross referred to another correction to page 254 of the Plan to refer to the fact that Soham had 3 primary schools.

It was resolved:

1. Council notes at Appendix 1, the conclusions of the independent Inspector and accepts all the recommendations he makes.
2. Council adopts as a development plan document the Local Plan (Appendix 2) which incorporates all the 'main modifications' (listed within Appendix 1) as recommended by the Inspector and all the 'additional (minor) modifications' (listed at Appendix 3) and, further, delegates to officers prior to the publication of the Local Plan the correction of any further spelling or grammatical errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.
3. Council delegates to officers the publication of an updated Policies Map, with such a Map (including the use of Inset Maps) illustrating geographically the application of the policies in the adopted development plan, ensuring that all recommendations made by the Inspector which relate to the Policies Map are incorporated in the published version.
4. Council acknowledges that in adopting the Local Plan, it automatically revokes the East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy (adopted October 2009) and remaining saved policies from the East Cambridgeshire District Local Plan (2000).

The meeting was adjourned at 7.06pm for a comfort break and re-convened at 7.12pm.

91. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) – AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION 123 LIST**

Council considered a report, P240 previously circulated, detailing proposed amendments to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 list (R123 list), namely the inclusion of new infrastructure projects. The Corporate Unit Manager explained the 3 North Ely, 2 District and 4 major projects proposed for inclusion on the R123 list. The Corporate Unit Manager also explained that the Joint Member and Officer Steering Group set up to assess bids for major projects against an agreed scoring criteria had recognised that stakeholders needed greater clarity and information to enable more detailed bids to be submitted. Officers had agreed to hold a seminar in the near future which will set out the application process and the level of information that will be needed in order for a bid to be successful.

The recommendation in the Officer report was proposed by Councillor Palmer and seconded by Councillor Roberts.

The following amendment then was proposed by Councillor Gareth Wilson and seconded by Councillor Austen:

Add:

- 2.2 The Council instructs the Corporate Unit Manager to support Parish Councils in further developing major projects as outlined in Appendix 3 with a view to their future inclusion on the Regulation 123 list.
- 2.3 That Council receive regular reports to facilitate the inclusion of major projects from Parish Councils on the Regulation 123 list, when appropriate.

In proposing the amendment, Councillor Gareth Wilson explained that he was grateful for the Corporate Unit Manager's explanation of the proposed improvements to the process for bids for major projects which had generated his proposed amendment. A number of Parishes had not been successful in their bids due to not being aware of the information required and the scoring criteria, but he was glad that a compromise solution now had been reached in order that they could provide the additional information required. Councillor Wilson did not want bidders having to wait 6 months or a year to have their project assessed and proposed for inclusion on the R123 list, but wanted them brought forward when bids were ready.

Councillor Roberts supported the amendment, and commended officers for finding a solution before Members.

Councillor Allen referred to the 1,000 people waiting for Social Housing and the fact that CIL could not be used for affordable housing provision. Therefore, he questioned if the balance was correct between CIL allocations and affordable housing provisions from developments. If the Council took less money for CIL allocations, it could ask for greater affordable housing provisions from developments to provide homes for people on lower incomes.

Councillor Kerby stated that improvements to leisure facilities were required throughout the District as well as the provision of a District-wide Leisure Centre at Ely. The Corporate Unit Manager explained that, on the advice of the Principal Leisure and Community Services Officer, it had been agreed to await the outcome of the review of Leisure provision within the District before including other leisure facilities on the R123 list.

Councillor Dupré expressed her support for the amendment which recognised the fact that bidders were not aware of the information required when submitting bids. She also expressed her support for the Lode to Quay Cycle Path and the Staploe Medical Centre but was disappointed that the bid for dualling of the A10 had been delayed since the project would not be delivered in the next 3-5 years.

Councillor Rouse commented that some schemes should be on the County Council's minor highways list for delivery, rather than being funded by the District Council. Councillor Rouse stated that heath provision was important, including projects such as the Country Park which would promote a healthy environment and activities for local people.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was declared to be carried.

Speaking on the substantive motion, Councillor Stevens commented that cycle paths were useful for both leisure and travel to work. He also was glad that unsuccessful Parish bids were to get another opportunity and assistance to submit additional information.

Councillor Jeremy Friend-Smith stated that he was pleased to see Ely Southern Bypass on the R123 list, but that he hoped that this would not jeopardise improvements elsewhere.

Councillor Bailey supported the inclusion of a provision for Health Facilities and highlighted a typographical error on the R123 list at Appendix 1.

Councillor Bill Hunt stated that the Council should be wary of including things on the R123 list that were the responsibility of the County Council such as highways schemes that they should be undertaking. However, the 2 station car parks would assist workers, residents and help to address the issues of parking in Potters Lane and Dovehouse Close.

In response to a question by Councillor Schumann, the Corporate Unit Manager confirmed that both CIL and S106 funding could not be secured for the same project.

Councillor Schumann commented that he was not as pleased as other Members to see the Lode to Quay Cycle Path on the R123 list, as it previously had been stated that this project was fully funded then subsequently there was a shortfall once there was the opportunity for funding from the R123 list.

Councillor Alderson supported the comments of other speakers that this Council should not be funding projects that were the responsibility of the County Council. Councillor Alderson and Councillor Williams referred to the bid from Reach Parish Council relating to the Swaffham Prior Primary School extension in Appendix 3 of the report.

Councillor Williams commented that partnership working was now a key area for all tiers of local government and other public sector bodies and, whilst this Council should not take on County Council responsibilities, it was necessary to acknowledge the difficult financial position faced by all authorities and look how best to spend the available resources to get the required quality local facilities and services.

Councillor Ross supported the inclusion of the Staploe Medical Centre and Soham Railway Station on the R123 list, bearing in mind the significant housing growth in Soham and the pressures that this put on local infrastructure and facilities.

Councillor Bailey left the meeting at 7.54pm.

It was resolved:

1. That the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 list (R123 list), as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.
2. That the Council instructs the Corporate Unit Manager to support Parish Councils in further developing major projects as outlined in Appendix 3 to the submitted report, with a view to their future inclusion on the Regulation 123 list.
3. That Council receive regular reports to facilitate the inclusion of major projects from Parish Councils on the Regulation 123 list, when appropriate.

92. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) – NORTH ELY ALLOCATION**

Council considered a report, P241 previously circulated, proposing CIL allocations for the North Ely development.

Councillor David Ambrose-Smith left the meeting at 8.02pm.

Councillor Allen reiterated that more affordable housing provision could be negotiated if the CIL allocations were less. Therefore, the Council was prioritising 'nice' projects over the real needs of local residents.

Councillor David Ambrose-Smith returned to the meeting at 8.04pm.

In response to a question by Councillor Kerby, the Corporate Unit Manager explained why an allocation for the Country Park was not being sought from Endurance Estates.

Councillor Gareth Wilson stated that the CIL percentage allocations and affordable housing provision for the North Ely development had been agreed and CIL could not be used for affordable housing.

Councillor Wright left the meeting at 8.06pm.

Councillor Gareth Wilson commented that the Council could change its mind on what it spent CIL monies on if the R123 list was changed. However, this would not affect the affordable housing provision.

Councillor Wright returned to the meeting at 8.08pm.

Councillor Allen referred to Lib Dem literature that expressed concerns at the 15% affordable housing provision for North Ely but commented that the Planning policies had been set by the Coalition Government, so this was also the responsibility of Councillors in this Chamber.

It was resolved:

That the CIL allocations for the North Ely development set out in Table 1 of the submitted report be approved.

93. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) – LITTLEPORT SCHOOLS ALLOCATION**

Council considered a report, P242 previously circulated, proposing the allocation of £20,000 to Littleport Schools from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.

Councillor David Ambrose-Smith did not speak or vote on this item.

It was resolved:

That the allocation of £20,000 to Littleport Schools from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts be approved.

94. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) – EXPENDITURE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

Council considered a report, P243 previously circulated, proposing new arrangements for the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions. An amended version of the officer recommendations in the submitted report to allow the Principal Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution were tabled at the meeting.

The Corporate Unit Manager explained that the main purpose of the revised governance arrangements was to allow Council to approve the R123 list, as required to do by law, but to alter the financial thresholds for the major and strategic projects categories and give delegated authority to Corporate Governance and Finance Committee to allocate CIL receipts to major and strategic projects included on the R123 list. It also was proposed to remove the category of local projects, since this Council now was required to pass 15% of all CIL receipts to the City/Town/Parish Council where development generating CIL had occurred (the Meaningful Proportion). Therefore, City/Town/Parish Councils now received CIL receipts directly to spend on mitigating the impact from growth in their area.

Councillor Roberts left the meeting at 8.14pm and did not return.

Councillor Ellis moved and Councillor Palmer seconded the amended officer recommendations.

Councillor Christine Ambrose-Smith left the meeting at 8.15pm.

Councillor Dupré stated that the financial thresholds for the major and strategic projects needed to be amended to ensure that there was no gap between them and that the wording relating to the process for requesting CIL contributions to be allocated to a project in Appendix 1 needed to be clarified.

Councillor Bailey returned to the meeting at 8.17pm.

Councillor Dupré also expressed concern at the removal of the local projects category and proposed the following amendment that was seconded by Councillor Williams:

‘That Council agrees to retain the local projects category with an upper threshold of £50,000.’

Councillor Christine Ambrose-Smith returned to the meeting at 8.20pm.

Councillor Hobbs and Schumann stated that they could not support the amendment as funding of this nature was already provided by the Community Facilities Small Villages Grant Scheme. Councillor Williams commented that this funding pot was very small and was insufficient to meet all of the funding requests.

Councillor Williams also queried why in the event that there was any surplus in the administration costs, the surplus would benefit the strategic projects category only and not be split equally between the two categories. The Corporate Unit Manager agreed to address this.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was declared to be lost.

The motion then was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

It was resolved:

1. That approval be given to the deletion of the CIL Annual Delivery Plan.
2. That approval be given to the new governance arrangements for the allocation of CIL contributions set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report and the Principal Solicitor and Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Council’s Constitution.

95. **ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY**

Council received a report, P244 previously circulated, regarding action taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency regarding Community Transport.

It was resolved:

That the report be noted.

96. **RECORDING OF THANKS TO RETIRING COUNCILLORS**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Richard Hobbs stated that there were 10 current Councillors not standing for re-election: Councillors Allen, Cornell, Ellis, Jeremy and Sheila Friend-Smith, Kerby, Parramint, Read, Stevens and Willows.

Councillor Hobbs stated that Councillors Ellis, Kerby and Willows all had been elected in 2011. Councillor Hobbs commented on Councillor Ellis' assistance to him on the cinema and sports centre projects and his work as a recycling champion for the Council.

Councillor Hobbs also referred to Councillor Stevens elected in 2007 and to his recent memorable Council speech on wind turbines.

Councillor Hobbs highlighted Councillor Parramint's service since 2003 as a past Chairman of Council and of various Committees, as well recalling that he had once flown back from a holiday abroad for a Council meeting.

Councillor Hobbs stated that Councillor Allen had served on the Council for 16 years since 1999 and had provided a unique and individual input and perspective to the Council that would be sorely missed.

Councillor Jeremy Friend-Smith also had served for 16 years and had been a Chairman of Council and recently assisted Councillor Hobbs on the review of public conveniences within the District.

Councillor Sheila Friend-Smith had served for 24 years since 1991 and had been Chairman of Council for the Millennium. She was a great community Councillor and advocate for a range of projects such as the Princess of Wales Hospital and Jubilee Gardens and her service to the community had been recognised with an MBE.

Councillor Hobbs paid tribute to one of the Council's longest serving Councillors, Councillor Philip Read, who first had been elected in 1973 and had 34 years service with the Council. Councillor Read had been a long-standing Chairman of the Planning Committee and was a great stalwart and

credit to this Council. Councillor Hobbs expressed his best wishes to him in his recovery.

Finally, Councillor Hobbs paid tribute to the current Chairman of Council, Councillor Tony Cornell, elected in 2007.

On behalf of the Council, Councillor Hobbs placed on record the Council's thanks for the service to the Council of those Councillors not standing for re-election and expressed best wishes to them for the future. Members then showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

The meeting concluded at 8.35pm.

Chairman.....

Date 28 May 2015