



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HART DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY, FLEET ON THURSDAY 20TH MAY, 2009 AT 7.00 PM

Geoff Bonner
Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

AGENDA

**COPIES OF THIS AGENDA ARE AVAILABLE IN
LARGE PRINT AND BRAILLE ON REQUEST**

PRAYERS

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, prayers will be conducted to mark the start of the new Municipal Year.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman from among the Councillors of the District.

2. MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 29th April 2010. **(Paper A)**

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL)

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

8. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

To elect the Leader of the Council.

Following the Leader’s election, he or she will be invited to appoint the Members of the Cabinet.

Note: In accordance with page B.14, paragraph 7.08 of the Constitution, the Cabinet does not have to be compliant with political balance rules in Section 15 of the Local Government Act 1989.

9. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

To appoint Members to serve on the following Committees:

(THE FIGURES ARE BASED ON **PROVISIONAL** GROUPS)

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>CCH</u>	<u>Total</u>
Audit*	3	1	1	5
Licensing	6	3	1	10
Planning**	10	5	3	18
Staffing	3	1	1	5
Standards***	3	1	1	5
Overview & Scrutiny	6	3	2	11

Notes:

* In accordance with page B.17, paragraph 9B.02 of the Constitution, no Members of the Cabinet will be Members of the Audit Committee.

** It is Council policy that membership of the Planning Committee will comprise the maximum of one representative from each Ward, provided this is consistent with the rules on political balance. However, if a Member from a particular Ward is unwilling or unable to serve, a Member from the adjoining Ward may be selected in their place.

*** Whilst it is not a statutory requirement for the Standards Committee to be proportionate (page B.16, paragraph 9A.02 of the Constitution refers), Standards Board guidance indicates that a proportionate Committee is to be preferred.

**** A Member of the Cabinet may not also be a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

10. ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

The Chairman will take nominations for Chairmen of each of the Committees, and Members of each Committee will elect its Chairman for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The Committee will elect their Vice-Chairman at their first meeting.

11. ANNUAL REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the 2009/10 Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Neighbour, will present the Committee's Annual Report, in accordance with page B.11, paragraph 6.6 of the Constitution.

12. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

Date of Despatch: 11th May 2010

ANNUAL COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday 20th May 2010 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Wheale- (Chairman)

Ambler	Evans	Neighbour
Appleton	Glen	Parker
Axam	Haffey	Radley J E
Bailey	Harward	Radley J R
Barrell	Healey	Simmons
Billings	Henderson	Simpson
Blewett	Hunt	Singh
Butler C	Ive	Southern
Butler G	Kennett	Street
Cockarill	Kinnell	
Crookes	Maughan	
Davies	Murr	

Officers Present:

Geoff Bonner	-	Chief Executive
Rod Hursthouse	-	Monitoring Officer
Emma Broom	-	Corporate Director
Tricia Jackson	-	Senior Committee Services Officer
Andrew Tiffin	-	Electoral and Registration Services Manager
Gill Chapman	-	Committee Services Officer

PRAYERS

The Chairman led a short prayer to mark the commencement of the new Municipal Year.

I. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Ive was proposed by Councillor Neighbour and seconded by Councillor Crookes as Chairman of the Council.

No other nominations having been received, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ive be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Chairman of the Council, having made and subscribed the required Declaration of Acceptance of Office, then took the Chair and thanked the Council for the honour

bestowed on him. He thanked Councillor Wheale for all her hard work in raising money for her charities and for raising the profile of Hart throughout the county. Councillor Ive also referred to Councillor Wheale's impartiality in chairing the Council meetings and he intended to follow her example. The Chairman had been delighted to assist Councillor Wheale in his capacity of Vice-Chairman by attending functions on her behalf, especially Yateley Industries.

The new Chairman presented Councillor Wheale with a Past-Chairman's badge and Chairman's Award.

Councillor Wheale responded by saying how quickly the year had gone and how much she had enjoyed it, even though at the start of it she had broken her foot.. She wished to thank all those who had supported her events and the team of people who had helped in the organisation especially for the Charity Dinner when the Harlington Centre had been transported into Mackie's Lounge. Councillor Wheale had been delighted to be able to reward some of the many volunteers around the district at the Volunteer Evening and hoped Councillor Ive would continue with this event.

Councillor Wheale especially paid tribute to her daughter who had been a tremendous help and thanked Councillor Ive for his support and help during the year. Finally, she was pleased to report that £12,883.68 had been raised for her three charities.

Councillors Parker, Crookes, James Radley, Neighbour, Blewett and Glen all paid tribute to Councillor Wheale for her chairmanship, sense of style and humour, recognition of volunteers, and for the way she had focused her charity events.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 29th April 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Gorys.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL)

No declarations of interest were made.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the new Municipal Year and congratulated those recently elected. He thought it would be a very challenging year ahead with the financial situation and hoped the Council could approach it in a professional manner with some interesting debates.

He wished to thank those Members who had not been re-elected and intended to invite them to a future Council meeting so that they could be thanked personally for their hard work.

Councillor Ive stated that in his position as Chairman he intended to enjoy rather than endure his term of office, but at the same time taking it very seriously. He also intended to set up a Chairman's blog (electronic diary) in an attempt to get closer to the residents. The Council already had an award winning website courtesy of Richard Menhinick. It was the Chairman's intention to encourage more residents to get involved in becoming councillors and also a commitment to the safety of the community.

Councillor Ive would continue to support the Volunteer Awards. His main charity this year would be Help for Heroes which reflected the District's links with RAF Odiham and Gibraltar Barracks. The Chairman also had another charity which was to support a severely disabled young man, the son of the Officer in Charge of Yateley Fire Station.

In addition, the Chairman intended to invite the Vice-Chairman to nominate a charity.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive reported that the following persons were elected at the election of District Councillors on 6th May 2010:

Ward	Person Elected	Term of Office Expires
CHURCH CROOKHAM EAST	GILL BUTLER (CCH)	2014
CHURCH CROOKHAM WEST	SIMON RORY AMBLER (CCH)	2014
CRONDALL	CHRIS SIMMONS (Con)	2014
FLEET CENTRAL	GAVIN HARRY EVANS (Con)	2014
FLEET PONDTAIL	SHARYN WHEALE (Con)	2014
FLEET NORTH	STEPHEN GEORGE PARKER (Con)	2014
FLEET WEST	RICHARD JOSEPH APPLETON (Con)	2014
HARTLEY WINTNEY	TIM SOUTHERN (Con)	2014
HOOK	JONATHAN GLEN (Con)	2014
LONG SUTTON	JOHN RICHARD KENNETT (Con)	2014
FROGMORE & DARBY GREEN	BOB HARWARD (Lib Dem)	2014
YATELEY NORTH	COLIN IVE (Lib Dem)	2014

7. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Kennett was proposed by Councillor Henderson and seconded by Councillor Crookes, as Vice-Chairman of the Council.

No other nominations having been received, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Kennett be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Vice-Chairman of the Council, having made and subscribed the required Declaration of Acceptance of Office, then took the Vice-Chairman's Chair.

8. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Crookes was proposed by Councillor Singh and seconded by Councillor Henderson.

No other nominations having been received, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Crookes be appointed as Leader of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Crookes thanked the Council for the confidence shown in him and stated that the year ahead would again be very challenging for the Council not only because of self-imposed problems each year with the financial constraints, but also because of the new government.

Councillor Crookes outlined a summary of government proposals which included major changes to the planning system (abolition of GOSE), greater devolution to local government, review of local government finance (possible council tax freeze for at least one year) and changes to local government administration and audit (abolition of Comprehensive Area Assessment and Standards Board regime).

Councillor Crookes announced his Cabinet as follows:

Portfolio	Councillor
Deputy Leader and Environment	Parker
Planning	Appleton
Leisure & Recreation	Kinnell
Community Safety including Licensing	Singh
Housing and Health	Butler (C)

Note: Councillor Hunt entered the meeting at 7.25pm.

9. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Crookes proposed that the Licensing Committee membership be increased from 10 to 11 with the additional place being allocated to Community Campaign Hart in

order to increase the working capacity of the Committee particularly in dealing with hearings.

RESOLVED

That the membership of the Licensing Committee be increased to 11, and that for the purposes of Part I of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the allocation of Members and seats on the Committees of the Council be as follows:

Committee	Seats	Conservatives	Lib Dem	CCH
Planning	18	Appleton Evans Gorys Henderson Kennett Maughan Parker Simmons Southern Wheale	Blewett Billings Cockarill Simpson Street	Ambler Axam Radley J E
Licensing	11	Butler (C) Davies Evans Healey Henderson Kennett	Harward Ive Murr	Butler (G) Radley (J R)
Audit	5	Barrell Davies Healey	Bailey	Axam
Staffing	5	Barrell Crookes Kennett	Billings	Butler (G)
Standards	5	Glen Davies Haffey	Ive	Radley (J R)
Overview & Scrutiny	11	Barrell Davies Haffey Healey Hunt Southern Wheale	Murr Neighbour Street	Axam Radley (J E)

10. ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Members of the Committees established under Minute No 9 above elected their Chairmen for the ensuing Municipal Year:

RESOLVED

Planning Committee	-	Councillor Cockarill
Licensing Committee	-	Councillor Davies
Audit Committee	-	Councillor Bailey
Staffing Committee	-	Councillor Crookes
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	-	Councillor Neighbour
Standards Committee	-	To be elected at its first meeting

11. ANNUAL REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2009/10, Councillor Neighbour, presented his annual report to the Council. (Attached as an Appendix).

12. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

This item was deferred to the June Council meeting.

**13. URGENT ITEM
APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Chairman is of the opinion that this item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, pursuant to Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government act 1972, because of the need to appoint a Parish representative on the Standards Committee as a statutory requirement.

Council received a report from the Monitoring Officer who outlined the reason for the appointment of a Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee which had arisen as a result of the retirement of Mr John Fielding from the Parish Council movement as from 10th May 2010.

RESOLVED

That the Council appoint Mr John Keane as a Parish Council representative on the Standards Committee.

Note: Councillor Glen wished it recorded that he had voted against the above resolution.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Annual Report of Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2009/10

It has been a very busy year on Overview & Scrutiny, we started with the incumbent committee minus Councillor Kennett who had been elevated to the executive and replaced by Councillor C. Butler.

We decided to focus our main review on the Housing Service as many members had picked up feedback during the elections about poor perceptions of the service, particularly with regard to affordable housing allocations. We were also aware that there would be a need to overview the bedding in of the Capita contract and that the Council would become responsible for conducting public scrutiny of the Crime and Disorder Partnership in Hart.

Our partnership scrutiny continues to add value to engagement with regard to Flooding (Environment Agency, Thames Water and Hampshire Highways), Public Transport (South West Trains and *now* Network Rail) as well as the new powers to hold the Crime and Disorder Partnership to account. We continue to maintain and build good working relationships with these agencies to ensure that the people of the district are represented in holding their services to account.

As usual the committee was an active partner in monitoring the councils' performance and spending through the Scrutiny Service Boards as well as monitoring performance indicators and budgets quarterly in committee. The budget round started with a review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and once again I believe the executive found the Scrutiny Committee to be a good sounding board whilst preparing the budget.

This year saw our first end of year review presentation from Capita with regard to the Revenues and Benefits Service. Members found this useful and reassuring and look forward to repeating the process for the full set of outsourced services provided by Capita. It should not go without noting our satisfaction of Capita personnel to make themselves available and provide very complete data.

One unforeseen item was the severe weather in the New Year which had a big impact on the Waste Collection service. The officers worked hard to bring a paper within weeks of this to outline what had worked and what could be improved as well as future mitigation.

Throughout the year we were also kept informed on future service options on both Leisure and Waste Collection services.

As I stated the main review this year was conducted within the Housing service. The working group was chaired by Councillor James Radley and received notable help from Gill Chapman and Nigel Preston. A survey was carried out with recent users of the service and a large amount of data was assimilated. The year ended with a report from the group as well as a paper from Housing recommending changes in the way homes are allocated from a points system to a banding system. The committee was very happy with the proposals.

2009/10 has been a very busy year and I would like to thank all the members and officers who rolled their sleeves up and helped to achieve so much.

Councillor David Neighbour
Chair Overview & Scrutiny
Hart District Council.