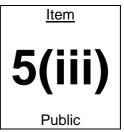


Committee and Date

COUNCIL

12 May 2011



MINUTES

OF AN

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

HELD ON 17 MARCH 2011 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT:

Mr P Adams	Mrs P A Dee	Mrs E M Nicholls
Mr A Bannerman	Mr A Durnell	Mr M J Owen JP
Mrs B J Baker	Mr R A Evans	Mr W M Parr
Mr T Barker	Mr E J Everall	Mr M G Pate
Mrs J B Barrow	Mr J A Gibson	Mr P F Phillips
Mr K R Barrow	Mr J B Gillow	Mr M T Price
Mr T Bebb	Mr N J Hartin	Mr D W L Roberts
Mr M Bennett	Mrs E A Hartley	Mrs D M Shineton
Mr T H Biggins	Mr R Huffer	Mr J Tandy
Ms K Burgoyne	Mrs T Huffer	Mr M Taylor-Smith
Mr V Bushell JP	Mr V J Hunt	Mrs R Taylor-Smith
Mr G H L Butler	Mr J Hurst-Knight	Mr G F Tonkinson
Mrs A J Caesar-Homden	Mrs J Jones	Mr A E Walpole
Mrs K D Calder	Mr S P A Jones	Mr S J West
Mr S Charmley	Mr J M W Kenny	Mr M Whiteman OBE
Mr J E Clarke	Mrs H M Kidd	Mrs C Wild
Mr G L Dakin	Mr D G Lloyd MBE	Mr B B Williams RD
Mr S Davenport	Mr C J Mellings	Mr M Williams
Mr A B Davies	Mr A N Mosley	Mrs T Woodward
Mr T Davies	Mrs C M A Motley	Mr M L Wood

157. APOLOGIES

The Chief Executive reported apologies for absence had been received from Mr W Benyon, Mrs A M Chebsey, Mr D W Evans, Mr R Hughes, Dr J E Jones, Mr C Lea, Mr D J Minnery, Mrs M Mullock, Mr P A Nutting, Mrs E A Parsons, Mr K Roberts, Mr R Tindall, Mr L Winwood and M P A D Wynn

158. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

159. NHS REORGANISATION

The Speaker opened the meeting by questioning the need for the meeting when the reasons stated in the summons today - to discuss at full council the consultation by Sath on their proposals – had been rejected by the Council as recently the 24 February.

He advised that he had given the request from the Leader of the Liberal Democrats Nigel Hartin, serious consideration, but had rejected it for two reasons.

First, it was an echo of what had been considered at Council only four days earlier. Secondly, the Leader had given an assurance that members would be invited to attend and speak at the extra Cabinet meeting devoted to the consultation on the proposed reconfiguration of Health Services in Shropshire that took place on 9 March.

The Speaker stated that many members, plus members of the public had contributed to what proved to be a valuable debate which had been reflected in the Cabinet's response. Constitutionally, the Council had absolutely no power to amend, reject ,or ratify the decision of Cabinet, as Part 3 stated: Formal responses on behalf of the Council to consultation by other bodies on matters that affect the Council as a whole or have widespread effect across the Council, shall be the responsibility of Cabinet.

This interpretation has been confirmed by the Council's chief legal officer, but if any member or group of members wished to respond differently they could of course make personal representations. The Cabinet's response had been copied to all members and could not now be changed.

All of these facts had been made known in advance of the request being made. Further, the agenda made it clear that there was no provision for questions or statement from members or the public. Neither was there a motion, due notice of which had been given in the summons, before the Council and as a matter of courtesy this was pointed out to Cllr Hartin. Therefore in the absence of a valid motion within the constitutional remit of the Council, there was no opportunity for a further debate of the subject.

Referring to the suggestion from the Liberal Democrats that there needed to be a reconsideration of the Council's constitution, the Speaker gave an assurance that the next meeting of the Political Structures Monitoring Group would give urgent consideration to the issue of calling an Extraordinary Meeting right on the heels of a full Council so members did not find themselves in this position again. He added that

all public bodies must work within their constitution and this included Shropshire Council. In response to the Speaker's invitation, the Leader then explained in detail how the Cabinet had dealt with this matter.

The Speaker then concluded matters by stating that, because there was no motion to debate or to vote on, he was declaring the Extraordinary Meeting closed.

Speaker
Dated
(The meeting closed at 10.15 a.m.)