

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**26<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2008.

**PRESENT:**

**Councillor Q R H Dodd (Chairman), Councillor C Legg (Vice-Chairman).**

Councillors: K Armstrong-Braun, J B Attridge, S R Baker, D Barratt, G H Bateman, R C Bithell, C S Carver, Mrs J C Cattermoul, E G Cooke, D L Cox, Mrs R Dolphin, B Dunn, Mrs C A Ellis, E F Evans, J E Falshaw, Ms E V Gay, F Gillmore, R J T Guest, Ms A M Halford, R G Hampson, G Hardcastle, P G Heesom, M Higham, Mrs C Hinds, R Hughes, H T Isherwood, R Johnson, Mrs C M Jones, R B Jones, Mrs S Jones, R P Macfarlane, D I Mackie, Mrs D L Mackie, Mrs N M Matthews, D Macfarlane, Mrs A Minshull, W Mullin, E W Owen, M J Peers, P R Pemberton, N Phillips, H G Roberts, I B Roberts, Mrs C A Thomas, D T Williams, D E Wisinger, A Woolley, M G Wright and Ms H Yale.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors L A Aldridge, P J Curtis, R Davies, Mrs A J Davies-Cooke, A G Diskin, Mrs G D Diskin, C J Dolphin, H T Howorth, Mrs N Humphreys, G James, Mrs N M Jones, Mrs H J McGuill, T Newhouse, M A Reece, L A Sharps, A P Shotton and N R Steele-Mortimer.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, County Finance Officer, County Legal and Democratic Services Officer, Acting Director of Community and Housing, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Director of ICT and Customer Services, Assistant Director of Financial Management, Chief Regeneration Officer and Head of Committee, Members and Electoral Services.

**13. PRAYERS**

The Chairman's Chaplain, the Reverend Anthapurusha conducted prayers at the commencement of the meeting.

**14. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the following Minutes of the meetings of the Council be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman:-

- a) Ordinary Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2008
- b) Annual Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **Minute No.10 - Former Councillor Elvet Matthews**

The Chairman responded to an enquiry from the Leader of the Council that it was his recollection that it was intended to invite Mr Matthews to County Hall and that no decision had been made by the Council to send him a letter. This was still the situation and it was also agreed that a similar invitation should be extended to former Councillor John Ovens.

### **Minute No.8 (d) – Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Standing Committees**

The County Legal and Democratic Services Officer referred to the decision of the Council to appoint Councillor Adele Davies-Cooke as Vice Chairman of the Social and Health Overview Scrutiny Committee and her subsequent resignation from that position. It was agreed that Councillor Hilary Isherwood be the new Vice-Chairman.

### **Minute No 8 (i) – Standards Committee**

The County Legal and Democratic Services Officer referred to Resolution (b) and explained to Members that the reference to Councillor D Mackie as a nomination to the Standards Committee should be corrected to Councillor M Peers and this was agreed.

## **15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The County Legal and Democratic Services Officer responded to a question regarding Declarations of Interest in respect of Councillors who were Members of the Clwyd Pension Fund. He advised Members that under the new Code of Conduct, if they were a member of the pension fund panel or were a contributor to the pension fund they would need to declare a personal interest but they would be able to stay in the chamber and vote on any matters raised as their interests would not be prejudicial.

The following Councillors then declared personal interests:-

Councillors J B Attridge, D Barratt, R C Bithell, Mrs J C Cattermoul, E F Evans, Mrs C Hinds, Mrs S Jones, Mrs A Minshull, H G Roberts and I B Roberts.

## **16. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08**

A report of the County Finance Officer, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, was submitted. The County Finance Officer presented the report the purpose of which was to advise on the process for the Council to receive a recommendation from the Audit Committee the previous day in relation to the draft Statement of Accounts 2007/08. A supplementary report had been tabled at the commencement of

the meeting which advised the Council of the comments and recommendations of the Audit Committee in relation to the draft Statement of Accounts 2007/08.

The County Finance Officer thanked Members for their attendance and referred to the recommendation from the Audit Committee which had resolved to recommend adoption and approval of the draft Statement of Accounts 2007/08 to this meeting of the Council. A number of Members had attended training sessions with the Assistant Director over the previous 2-3 weeks and it was hoped that these sessions had been helpful to Members. Reference was also made to the "drop-in" sessions that had also been arranged. It was hoped that these had been beneficial for new Councillors who were being asked to approve the draft Statement of Accounts in relation to the previous County Council.

The County Finance Officer then made a presentation on the draft Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 and explained that this was a draft at this stage with the final version to be considered by the Audit Committee and County Council in September following the external audit. She thanked all Members and Directors and their staff together with the staff in her own department for the preparation of the draft Statement of Accounts.

The County Finance Officer then referred to the much earlier timescale that had to be complied with when compared to previous years. The presentation outlined the work to date and the process that would follow. Once approval had been made by the Council the Pension Fund Accounts would be audited by PWC commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> June, the Council Accounts would be audited by PWC commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July and the findings would be reported to the Audit Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> September with those recommendations being submitted to County Council on 25<sup>th</sup> September, with the final statement published on 30<sup>th</sup> September. A Public Notice had been given that the Accounts were "on deposit" and had been open to inspection by the public.

The County Finance Officer then referred to specific sections of the Statement in relation to accounting policies which were on pages 3-8, the net General Fund Surplus of £5.419m on page 17, the Balance Sheet on page 19 and to note 30 on the Provisions being down by £1.8m and note 33 on the General Fund Balances being up by £5.6m and the HRA by £0.08m. Details on the HRA were contained on pages 49-52, the Group Accounts on pages 53-59 and the Clwyd Pension Fund Accounts on pages 60-68.

The Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor I B Roberts, moved the recommendations of the report and thanked all staff in a number of departments and particularly the Finance staff for the work undertaken in bringing together the Statement of Accounts for consideration at this meeting and this was duly seconded by the Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor W Mullin.

A number of questions were raised by Members which were duly answered by the Officers present, and it was,

**RESOLVED:**

- a) That the comments of the Audit Committee be noted
- b) That the recommendation from the Audit Committee be received
- c) That the Draft Statement of Accounts 2007/08 be approved and adopted.

**17. DURATION OF MEEETING**

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and ended at 2.45 pm.

**18. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were 2 members of the public present.

.....  
Chairman

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

<b>FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008</b>
----------------------------------	--------------	----------------------------------

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
J B Attridge	Clwyd Pension Fund	15
D Barratt	Clwyd Pension Fund	15
R C Bithell	Clwyd Pension Fund	15
Mrs J C Cattermoul	Clwyd Pension Fund	15
E F Evans	Clwyd Pension Fund	15
Mrs C Hinds	Clwyd Pension Fund	15
Mrs S Jones	Clwyd Pension Fund	15
Mrs A Minshull	Clwyd Pension Fund	15
H G Roberts	Clwyd Pension Fund	15
I B Roberts	Clwyd Pension Fund	15