

**ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 12 MAY 2009**

Present:- Councillor R M Lemon – Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, S Anjum, K R Artus, S Barker,
E L Bellingham-Smith, C A Cant, R H Chamberlain,
R P Chambers, J F Cheetham, R Clover, J E Davey, C D Down, K
L Eden, M L Foley, E J Godwin, E Gower, E W Hicks, S J Howell,
J E Hudson, D M Jones, A J Ketteridge, T P Knight,
J I Loughlin, H J Mason, J E Menell, D J Morson, D G Perry, J A
Redfern, H S Rolfe, J Salmon, S V Schneider, G Sell,
R D Sherer, C C Smith, A D Walters, A M Wattebot, L A Wells and
P A Wilcock.

Officers in attendance:- J Mitchell (Chief Executive), M Perry (Assistant Chief
Executive), M Cox (Democratic Services officer) and A Webb
(Director of Central Services).

C1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

At the last meeting, it had been proposed and seconded that Councillor A D Walters be elected Chairman of the Council. There being no other nominations, Councillor Walters was declared elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

C2 STATUTORY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Chairman signed the Statutory Declaration of acceptance of Office. Councillor Walters thanked Councillor Lemon for his year of service and presented him with a portrait photograph which would be hung in the Council Chamber, alongside those of previous chairmen and also presented him with a past Chairman's badge.

Councillor Walters said it was a privilege to be elected Chairman and he would do his best to uphold the high standards of the previous chairmen. He thanked the retiring Chairman for the exemplary way that he had carried out his role and during a very challenging time he had always managed to remain calm and positive. He had represented the Council at various events in a competent and diligent manner and had been a great ambassador for the district.

Councillor Lemon thanked Councillor Walters for his words and for all the support he had given him over the past year. He said he had had a wonderful year having attended over 130 events. He had particularly enjoyed attending meetings of the many small societies and had seen first hand the importance of the many volunteers in the district.

He thanked his wife and Janine Corbey, his PA for the tremendous support that they had given him over the year and presented them with a gift as a token of his appreciation. He also thanked the Committee and Electoral Services Manager, Peter Snow for helping with the smooth running of the Council meetings and to

the Chief Executive and all the council staff for their assistance. Finally, he thanked all Members of the Council for electing and supporting him.

He reminded members that his charity for the year had been the St Clare Hospice and he was pleased to report that he had now raised over £5,000 with the help of members and staff. He concluded that he had enjoyed his year immensely and thanked the Council for giving him this honour.

C3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

At the last meeting, Councillor S V Schneider had been nominated as Vice-Chairman of the Council. There being no other nominations, Councillor Schneider was declared Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

C4 STATUTORY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Schneider thanked Members for the honour of appointing her to this position and signed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

C5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Dean, A Dean, M Miller, D Sadler and A Yarwood.

Councillor Chambers declared a personal interest as a member of Essex County Council and as Chairman of the Essex Police Authority.

C6 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Chambers proposed and Councillor Cheetham seconded that Councillor A J Ketteridge be appointed as Leader of the Council. There being no other nominations, Councillor Ketteridge was declared elected as Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

C7 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor A J Ketteridge proposed, and Councillor T P Knight seconded, that Councillor J F Cheetham be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council. There being no other nominations, Councillor Cheetham was declared elected as Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

C8 MEMBERS' QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Chamberlain asked the Chairman of the Development Control Committee about the application for a wind turbine at Linton Farm that was due to be determined by the Development Control Committee. He asked for a

breakdown of the representations received and a timetable for determining the application. He also enquired about the steps being taken to liaise with South Cambridgeshire concerning the concurrent application for the turbines proposed in that district. He requested reassurance that the full concerns of local residents and the parish council, over a whole range of issues, would be taken into account.

Councillor Cheetham responded that the Council had so far received 1061 representations against the application and 15 in support. The timetable had not yet been set for determining the application although an advanced report would be considered at the Development Control Committee on 20 May. Officers were working with South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Development Control Committee would have the opportunity to comment on the South Cambridgeshire proposal. She reassured members that the committee would look at the full range of planning issues associated with the proposal. Also, members of Development Control Committee, the Leader of the Council and the district members for Ashdon and Great Chesterford would be visiting a similar type of wind turbine in north Norfolk the following day and would also be talking to the council members that had granted the permission.

Councillor Wilcock asked the Leader of the Council about disabled parking at the council offices. He thought that the disabled bays were too far away from the front of the building. He also cited a recent incident when an ambulance had been unable to negotiate around the turning circle and he asked for a review of the parking arrangements at the front of the building. The Leader replied that minor remedial work had been undertaken around the turning circle and two bollards had been removed. He confirmed that he would be happy to look at Councillor Wilcock's suggestions.

C9 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2009, having been received, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C10 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Councillor Walters gave notice that during his year of office he would be supporting the charity Accuro and more specifically the under 19 leisure scheme which provided leisure and social opportunities for young people with a disability resident in Uttlesford.

He informed members that the Council would be raising a flag to mark Armed Forces day at 10.30am on 22 June at the Council Offices, Saffron Walden.

C11 **LEADER'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Councillor Ketteridge started by thanking the outgoing Chairman and his wife for being excellent ambassadors for the district.

He said that this was the second year of the Administration's term and after the first traumatic year the council had another year of operating within budget. This had been thanks to the efforts of the management team, the input of the Voluntary Improvement Board and the cooperation of staff. However, the Council was still facing significant financial challenges due to a reduction in central funding and the economic downturn. To that end the Strategic Management Board had agreed a new budgetary control reporting framework. With effect from July, the Heads of Division would review their budgets on a monthly basis and produce a forecast outturn and variance report to the Strategic Management Board. The General Fund, HRA and Capital Budgets would be reported to each meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee. Each spending committee would receive reports of their own budgets in September and January and at the other committees on an exception basis.

He mentioned matters that were due to come up during the next year, including a new date for the Stansted Inquiry and the eco town decision. He said that by the next Annual Council a general election may well have taken place and this would impact on local authorities. He hoped for greater autonomy and for a more equitable sharing of the available comprehensive spending review money.

C12 **POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council was asked to consider the allocation of seats on its committees in accordance with the principles of proportionality set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Members were reminded that it had been agreed at the last Annual meeting to allocate two seats on the Development Control Committee to the Independent Group thus increasing by one the total number of seats available on those committees subject to balance requirements. Members agreed that this arrangement could continue.

RESOLVED (with no Members voting against) that the arrangements for the allocation of seats set out in the report be approved.

C13 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES FOR 2009/10**

The Council was invited to appoint members to each of its committees for the year 2009/10. It was noted that there were two proposed changes to the previous year's committee numbers; to increase Performance Select Committee to 9 members and reduce the Scrutiny Committee to 10 members.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the allocation of places on committees for 2009/10 be made according to the list below;
- 2 the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees be as noted;
- 3 the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the North and South forum be appointed according to the list below;

Committees	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Finance and Administration (14)	Chambers (c) Davey Eden (vc) Jones Ketteridge Knight Rolfe Sherer Walters	Clover A Dean Sell Wilcock	Lemon
Environment (15)	Barker (c) Sherer Artus Chamberlain Cheetham Down Hicks Howell (vc) Mason	Cant C M Dean Smith Wattebot Yarwood	Godwin
Community and Housing (15)	Anjum Chamberlain (c) Bellingham-Smith Howell Menell Miller Redfern (vc) Schneider Sadler	Foley Gower Hudson Morson Sell	Abrahams
Development Control (15)	Cheetham (c) Down Eden Menell Miller Perry Salmon Wells	Cant Clover C Dean Loughlin Smith	Godwin (vc) Abrahams
Licensing (11)	Hicks (c) Artus Bellingham-Smith Mason Perry (vc) Redfern Walters	Hudson Loughlin Morson	Lemon
Performance Select (9)	Rolfe (c) Barker (vc) Davey Ketteridge	Foley Wilcock	Lemon

	Knight Salmon		
Scrutiny (10)	Anjum Chambers Jones Rolfe Schneider Wells	A Dean (c) Sell (vc) Wattebot Yarwood	
Standards (4)	Down Eden	Cant	Lemon
Staff Appeals (8)	Anjum Hicks Jones Wells	Cant Loughlin Gower	Abrahams
Appointments (5)	Chambers Ketteridge Redfern	Cant	Godwin
Joint Parking Partnership (2)	Barker Chamberlain		

NORTH FORUM	SOUTH FORUM
Abrahams	Artus
Anjum	Baker
Chamberlain	Bellingham- Smith
Chambers	Cant
Eden	Cheetham
Foley	Clover
Howell	Davey
Ketteridge	Dean
Knight	Dean
Mason	Down
Menell (c)	Godwin
Perry	Gower
Redfern	Hicks (vc)
Rolfe	Hudson
Sadler (vc)	Lemon
Schneider	Loughlin
Walters	Jones (c)
Wattebot	Miller
Wilcock	Morson
Yarwood.	Salmon
	Sell
	Sherer
	Smith
	Wells

REVIEW AND APPOINTMENT OF TASK GROUPS FOR 2009/10

Members noted that there was a requirement for the Council to review all working groups and task groups at the Annual meeting. A report was submitted

detailing the terms of reference of all such groups and suggesting future action. A number of the groups were dealing with ongoing issues and it was suggested that these be re designated as a working group. A separate list was tabled of nominations for all working groups during 2009/10 and, where appropriate, the nominated chairman of each group.

RESOLVED that the recommendations in the tabled report be approved and the allocation of seats be made according to the table below.

Task/Working Group	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
Community Achievement (6)	Menell (c) Redfern Schneider	C Dean Gower	Abrahams
Constitution Working Group(8)	Chamberlain Ketteridge (c) Menell Rolfe Schneider	C Dean Morson	Godwin
Electoral Arrangements Working Group (5)	Chamberlain Ketteridge Salmon	Wilcock	Godwin
Housing Initiatives Working Group (6)	Bellingham-Smith Chamberlain (c) Menell Schneider	Hudson Morson	
IT Working Group (5)	Artus Howell (c) Sadler	Hudson	Lemon
Local Joint Committee (3)	Chambers Ketteridge	Loughlin	
Local Development Framework Working Group(6)	Cheetham Ketteridge (c) Rolfe	Cant Loughlin	Godwin
Museum Management Working Party (4)	Chamberlain Eden (c) Schneider	Morson	
Museum Resource Centre (5)	Chambers Eden (c) Schneider	Morson	Lemon
Olympic working group(6)	Cheetham Howell	Clover Morson	Godwin Lemon
Risk Management Steering Group (2)	Sherer (c)	Clover	
Strategic Partnership Reference Group (6)	Chamberlain Menell Rolfe	C Dean Morson	Lemon
Saffron Walden Town Centre Working Group (8)	Anjum Perry Redfern Page 7	Wilcock Yarwood	

	Rolfe Sadler Walters (c)		
Sheltered Housing working Group (5)	Bellingham – Smith Redfern Schneider	Hudson Morson	
Stansted Airport Advisory Panel (11)	Artus Cheetham Jones (c) Perry Wells	Cant A Dean Sell Wilcock	Godwin Lemon
Uttlesford Transport Forum (5)	Bellingham- Smith Cheetham Eden	C Dean	Lemon
Waste Strategy working Group (6)	Barker (c) Cheetham Down	Cant C Dean	Godwin

C15

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that the following members be appointed to represent the Council on outside bodies for 2009/10:

Name of organisation	Number appointed	Representatives 2009/10
Alzheimers Disease Society - Uttlesford Branch	1	Cllr Hicks
Birchanger Wood Management Committee	1	Cllr Godwin
Board of Turpins Indoor Bowling Club	2	Cllr Ketteridge Cllr Eden
British Red Cross Society - Essex Branch	1	Cllr Cant
Business Development Services (North West Essex)	1	Cllr Sell
Campaign to Protect Rural Essex	1	Cllr Chambers
Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership	1	Cllr Menell
Committee of the Friends of the Maltings (The Dunmow Maltings Preservation Trust)	1	Cllr Clover
Council for Voluntary Service - Uttlesford	1	Cllr Bellingham-Smith
Crawley Prize Endowment Charity	2	Cllr Chambers Cllr Loughlin
Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme	1	Cllr Godwin

Dunmow Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr Cant
Dunmow Museum Management Committee	1	Cllr Clover
Dunmow Society - Executive Committee	1	Cllr Hicks
Dunmow Town Strategy Group – Management Committee	1	Cllr Davey
East of England Regional Assembly	1	Cllr Cheetham
Essex County Strategic Partnership	1	Cllr Ketteridge
Essex Local Government Association	1	Cllr Ketteridge (Sub cllr Cheetham)
Friends of Bridge End Gardens	1	Cllr Morson
Greater Cambridge Partnership	1	Cllr Rolfe
Local Government Association		
- General Assembly	1	Cllr Ketteridge
- Rural Commission	2	Cllr Barker
-		Cllr Howell
- Rural Community Partnership	1	Cllr Barker
Museums in Essex Committee	1	Cllr Eden
Parking and Traffic Regulation outside London Adjudication Joint Committee	1	Cllr Barker
Saffron Walden Arts Trust	1	Cllr Chambers
Saffron Walden Cinema	1	Cllr Eden
Saffron Walden Day Centre Management Cttee	1	Cllr Rolfe
Saffron Walden Initiative Partnership Board	1	Cllr Rolfe
Saffron Walden Museum Society	1	Cllr Eden
Stansted Airport Community Trust	1	Cllr Walters
Stansted Airport Consultative Committee	1	Cllr Cheetham (Sub cllr Wilcock)
Stansted Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr C Dean
Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group	1	Cllr Cheetham (sub Cllr Wilcock)
Supporting People - Essex Commissioning Body	1	Cllr Redfern
Takeley Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr Cheetham
Thaxted Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr Wattebot

Thaxted Guildhall Management Committee	2	Cllr Foley Cllr Wattebot
Uttlesford Buffy Bus Association	1	Cllr Schneider
Uttlesford Carers	1	Cllr Bellingham-Smith
Uttlesford Citizens' Advice Bureau	1	Cllr Knight
Uttlesford Futures	4	Cllr C Dean Cllr Lemon Cllr Menell Cllr Rolfe
- Safer and healthier Communities	2	Cllr Menell Cllr Sadler
- Road Safety Sub group	1	Cllr Bellingham – Smith
- Youth Initiatives working group	2	Cllr Sherer Cllr Yarwood
Uttlesford Community Travel	1	Cllr Wilcock
Uttlesford Over Sixties Association	1	Cllr Ketteridge
Uttlesford Police and Community Consultative Group	2	Cllr Clover Cllr Barker
Waste Management Advisory Board	1	Cllr Barker (Sub Cllr Cheetham)
West Essex Area Highways Panel	1	Cllr Salmon

C16

NOTICE OF MOTION

Members considered the following Notice of Motion that had been proposed by Councillor Wilcock and seconded by Councillor Gower:

‘That Uttlesford District Council note the increased anxiety regarding the fate of honey bees in this area, and that being mainly a rural community, the council be aware of a number of facts, and spread their concerns as widely as possible.

This Council notes that honeybees are dying in great numbers in USA, Europe and now in the UK. The British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) conducted a study of their members last winter and found that 30% of colonies had died (normal losses are about 5-10%). These losses are now reaching the levels experienced in the USA where the phenomenon has been called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). The symptoms here are slightly different but it is believed that the underlying causes may be similar.

The likely candidates are

a) the Varroa mite, that has recently started to attack European honey bees and has resulted in the loss of virtually all wild colonies of honey bees,

b) Nosema, a microsporidium that has jumped species on to our honey bees in the last 20 years and a collection of viruses that are vectored by these two pathogens.

The problems are compounded by a lack of medication for these diseases and a lack of understanding on how they affect the bee and how to protect honeybees. The BBKA is running a campaign to require the government to invest more into research into this problem and to help beekeepers maintain healthy and productive colonies.

Honeybees contribute over £165 million to the agricultural economy of this country through pollination. This equates to over £600 per hive of bees. Beekeeping is predominantly an amateur activity in UK and virtually none of the pollination benefit is derived by beekeepers. The Government spends only £1.5 million pa on bee health. Of this, £1.3 million pays for a statutory inspection service and only £200,000 is left for investigations. The BBKA has developed a programme of research over the next five years that would require a modest £1.6 million. The Government has refused to consider this work and hides behind a Bee Health Strategy document that is out for consultation. The government, parliament, researchers and beekeepers all know this work is important and if not conducted could result in a collapse of pollination stocks in the country. The minister even stated in parliament that if nothing was done we could lose all our honeybees within 10 years and yet he was not prepared to find any money for the vital research programme.

It is proposed that Uttlesford District Council note the concerns of the BBKA and agree to press this government to wake up to the crisis and allocate sufficient funds to research programmes identified by the BBKA. “

Councillor Wilcock said that he had put forward the motion to put pressure on the Government to support research programmes, but he would ask other members who had more knowledge in this field to make further comments.

Councillor Lemon understood that the Government had announced £2m towards the research and with other funding there was now around £10 million available. He was pleased that this motion had been put forward as it highlighted something that was a very real problem and could have a devastating effect on agriculture in this country. Cllr Menell said that the Environment Group of Uttlesford Futures had already taken this on board and had written to Sir Alan Haselhurst and Defra. Members suggested an article in Uttlesford Life to get this information out to the general public and on a more practical level giving advice on the types of habitats and plants that would encourage bees.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm.

