

Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council

Taunton Deane Borough Council

At a meeting of the Taunton Deane Borough Council held in the Principal Committee Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton on 13 November 2006 at 7.10 pm.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Hindley)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Hayward)
Councillors Beaven, Mrs Biscoe, Bishop, Bowrah, Mrs Bradley, Cavill, Miss Cavill, Clark, Coles, Croad, Davies, Denington, Durdan, Edwards, Floyd, Garner, Guerrier, Hall, Henley, C Hill, Mrs M J Hill, Lees, Leighton, Mrs Lewin-Harris, Lisgo, Meikle, Morrell, Mullins, Murphy, Paul, Phillips, Slattery, Mrs Smith, P Smith, Stone, Stuart-Thorn, Vail, Watson, Wedderkopp, Williams and Mrs Wilson.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 October 2006, copies having been sent to each Member, were signed by the Mayor.

2. Apologies

Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Govier, Mrs Marie Hill, House, Prior-Sankey, Weston and Mrs Whitmarsh.

3. Public Question Time

- (i) Paul Partington asked a series of seven questions regarding removing litter and fly tipping from the highway, public places and housing land.

Councillor Mrs Bradley replied that she would seek Officers' advice on the questions raised by Mr Partington and would pass the information on.

- (ii) Nigel Behan, Branch Secretary, Somerset Branch, UNISON, referred to the previous discussion of the Executive and asked that the Council worked to ensure the retention of Council housing.

Councillor Garner replied that he felt that the tenants were now entitled to exercise their democratic right and vote on this issue. However, the Council would focus its attention on finding alternatives if a "No" vote was returned.

- (iii) Patricia Rowe, of Tenant's Against Transfer, responded to discussion at the Executive Committee and gave details of the source of information obtained in a leaflet circulated by her organisation. She

asked that the ballot be undertaken fairly and the views of tenants respected.

Councillor Garner thanked Ms Rowe for clarification of her sources and assured her that the views of the tenants would be respected.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors N Cavill and Mrs C Biscoe both declared personal but not prejudicial interests as members of the Shadow Housing Board.

5. Housing Transfer Ballot

This issue had been discussed in some detail at a meeting of the Executive which had taken place immediately before the meeting. Further consideration was given to the options available to the Council in view of the latest and most up to date information regarding the opinions of its tenants.

RESOLVED unanimously that the Council proceed to Stage Two of the formal Housing Stock Transfer by carrying out a ballot of its tenants on whether Taunton Deane Borough Council transfer its homes to Deane Housing Ltd.

(The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.)