

CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY 1 MAY 2012 AT 6.45 PM

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Earp), Councillors Allison, Bainbridge, Bell, Betton, Bloxham, Boaden, Bowditch, Bowman (S), Mrs Bradley, Cape, Mrs Clarke, Clarke (M), Collier, Ellis, Mrs Farmer, Ms Franklin, Mrs Geddes, Glover, Graham, Harid, Hendry, Layden, Lishman, Mrs Luckley, Mrs Mallinson, Mallinson (J), McDevitt, Mitchelson, Morton, Nedved, Mrs Parsons, Ms Patrick, Mrs Prest, Ms Quilter, Mrs Riddle, Mrs Robson, Mrs Rutherford, Scarborough, Mrs Southward, Stothard, Mrs Vasey, Mrs Warwick, Watson, Weber, Whalen and Wilson

C.69/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Atkinson, Mrs Bowman and Craig.

C.70/12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the City Council held on 23 February; 23 February and 6 March 2012 were received and signed as a true record of the meetings.

C.71/12 PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the Agenda be agreed as circulated.

C.72/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

C.73/12 ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) The Mayor

It was with great sadness that The Mayor reported the sudden death on 7 April 2012 of Councillor Joseph Norman David Weedall.

He informed the meeting that Councillor Weedall was elected to the Border Rural District Council in 1967 and then subsequently to Carlisle City Council following local government reorganisation in 1974. He was the Council's longest serving Councillor and a former Mayor of the City (1979-80).

The Mayor added that Councillor Weedall was a former Teacher, along with his wife Noleen, a keen sportsman and would be sadly missed by all.

Members stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Councillor Weedall.

Speaking on behalf of the Labour Group, the Labour Party and the whole Council, Councillor Hendry paid tribute to a friend, colleague, gifted teacher, talented football coach, and a very special family man. He emphasised the dedication which Councillor Weedall had displayed to Carlisle and, in particular, to the Harraby community, which spanned generations of families. He would therefore be thoroughly missed by all.

Councillor Collier remembered Councillor Weedall's good sense of humour and acts of kindness during their early days on the Council. Councillor Collier added that he was a character and a gentleman and would be sadly missed.

On behalf of the Conservative Group and the City Council, Councillor Mitchelson also wished to pay tribute to a colourful character, well liked by all. Councillor Mitchelson had engaged with Councillor Weedall both formally and informally and felt that his passing was a great loss to all.

Councillor Weber stated that he had known Councillor Weedall on a personal basis for many years. He paid tribute to the dedicated work undertaken by Councillor Weedall on behalf of the Harraby community, which included regular Councillors' Surgeries.

Councillor Weber added that Councillor Weedall had been particularly passionate about the Co-operative movement project in Harraby and wished to continue to see its completion.

Councillor Allison stood to endorse the sentiments expressed above, commenting that Councillor Weedall was a nice man, thoroughly respected, and would be greatly missed.

The Mayor then announced that Councillor Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Mitchelson had recently undergone surgery. On behalf of the Council he wished them both a very speedy recovery.

(b) The Leader of the Council

There were no announcements from the Leader.

(c) Members of the Executive

There were no announcements from Members of the Executive.

(d) Town Clerk and Chief Executive

There were no announcements from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

C.74/12 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.1, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by members of the public.

C.75/12 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 10.11 the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no petitions or deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

C.76/12 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 11.2, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no questions had been submitted on notice by Members of the Council.

C.77/12 EXECUTIVE

Councillor Mitchelson moved and Councillor Mallinson (J) seconded the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 12 March and 5 April 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 12 March and 5 April 2012 be received and adopted.

C.78/12 PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORTS

Copies of reports from the following Portfolio Holders had been circulated prior to the meeting:

Leader's Portfolio
Governance and Resources
Community Engagement
Economic Development
Environment and Housing
Performance and Development

In moving his report, Councillor Mitchelson referred to the very successful and welcome return of the Pirelli International Rally to Carlisle on Friday 27 April 2012. Councillor Mitchelson added that, subsequent to preparation of his report, Members had been provided with full details of Carlisle's participation in the 2012 Tour of Britain Cycle Race which would profile the City and bring economic benefit to Carlisle.

In moving his report, Councillor Mallinson (J) drew Members' attention to the successful retention of Lexcel accreditation by Legal Services. He felt this was an excellent result and wished to give due recognition and congratulations to the Director of Governance and his Team.

Councillor Mrs Riddle commented that she was really pleased with progress on the Cumbria Compact, as detailed within the Community Engagement Portfolio Holder's report. She felt that the City Council should be commended for moving the initiative forward.

In response to a question from Councillor Betton concerning his previous motion on the Olympic Games Torch (Minute C.64/12 refers), Councillor Mrs Geddes said that the Motion had been fully dealt with. She had spoken to Officers with regard to clearing up litter and gave an assurance that would be done.

Councillor Weber noted that a number of verges were being improved as part of highway improvements, but did not believe that Arnside Road was included in that work. He expressed the hope that work could also be undertaken on that road.

Councillor Mrs Prest expressed thanks to Councillor Bloxham and the Council for the work undertaken to improve the surface of the car park at Talkin Tarn.

The Mayor also wished to thank the Team responsible for the city centre clean up, commenting that positive feedback had been received in that regard.

In response, Councillor Bloxham indicated that he would make enquiries regarding the inclusion of Arnside Road in the verge improvement works.

Councillor Bloxham added that he too had received a number of compliments on the City Centre clean up. He felt that it was important that thanks were conveyed to the members of staff involved, and that had been done.

He also thanked Councillor Mrs Prest for her comments, advising that the work referred to had been undertaken at no cost to the City Council.

RESOLVED – (1) That the reports of the Portfolio Holders be received.

(2) That the Environment and Housing Portfolio Holder investigate whether verge improvement works could also be undertaken on Arnside Road.

**C.79/12 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES AND CHAIRMEN'S
REPORTS**

(a) Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Luckley moved and Councillor Glover seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 22 March 2012 be received and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Luckley also presented her Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 22 March 2012 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(b) Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Layden moved and Councillor Allison seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 29 March 2012 be received and adopted.

Councillor Layden also presented his Chairman's Report and responded to a question from Councillor Ellis concerning proceedings during the Panel's consideration of a report regarding Welfare Reform and the Localisation of Council Tax Support.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 29 March 2012 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

(c) Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Mrs Rutherford moved and Councillor Mrs Farmer seconded that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 22 February and 5 April 2012 be received and adopted.

Councillor Mrs Rutherford also presented her Chairman's Report.

Councillor Glover paid tribute to the work undertaken by Councillor Mrs Rutherford over the years and, in particular, to her Chairmanship of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel. He had personally gained a great deal from Councillor Mrs Rutherford's knowledge and experience and believed that she had served the Council well.

Councillor Hendry endorsed the sentiments expressed by Councillor Glover.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 22 February and 5 April 2012 together with the Chairman's Report be received and adopted.

C.80/12 SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of Report OS.13/12 enclosing the Annual Report of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function for 2011/12 had been circulated, together with excerpts from the Minutes of the Community; Resources; and Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

Councillor Mrs Rutherford moved the report and its recommendations.

Whilst seconding the report, Councillor Layden paid tribute to the proactive leadership provided by Councillor Mrs Rutherford and wished her well for the future.

Councillor Bloxham also paid tribute to the contribution which Councillor Mrs Rutherford had made to the City of Carlisle during her time as a Councillor and, more particularly, her time on Scrutiny and the Development Control Committee. He was very grateful for her support and that of ex-Councillor Paul Im Thurn at the time of the introduction of alternate weekly refuse collections.

Councillor Mrs Rutherford addressed the Council and expressed appreciation and thanks to Members for their kind words. She thanked Members and Officers (past and present) and, in particular, the previous Overview and Scrutiny Team for their support. On a personal note, Councillor Mrs Rutherford thanked the Scrutiny Officer for her support over the past year.

RESOLVED – That the Annual Report of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function for 2011/12 be received.

C.81/12 REGULATORY PANEL

Councillor Morton moved and Councillor Mrs Parsons seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 14 March 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Panel held on 14 March 2012 be received and adopted.

C.82/12 LICENSING COMMITTEE

Councillor Morton moved and Councillor Mrs Parsons seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 14 March 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 14 March 2012 be received and adopted.

C.83/12 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Parsons moved and Councillor Scarborough seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 7 and 9 March 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Development Control Committee held on 7 and 9 March 2012 be received and adopted.

C.84/12 APPEALS PANEL

Councillor Collier moved and Councillor Graham seconded the receipt and adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of Appeals Panel 1 held on 29 February 2012.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of Appeals Panel 1 held on 29 February 2012 be received and adopted.

C.85/12 NOTICE OF MOTION

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 12, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive reported that no Motions had been submitted on notice by Members of the Council.

C.86/12 PROPOSALS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN RELATION TO THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

EX.017/12 and EX.043/12 – Interim Planning Statement

Pursuant to Minute EX.017/12 and EX.043/12, consideration was given to a recommendation from the Executive regarding the Interim Planning Statement - Housing. A copy of Report ED.20/12 and relevant Minute Extracts had been circulated.

Councillor Bloxham moved and Councillor Mitchelson seconded the recommendation that the City Council adopt the Interim Planning Statement as a material planning consideration to be used when considering planning applications.

RESOLVED – That the City Council adopted the Interim Planning Statement as a material planning consideration to be used when considering planning applications.

C.87/12 REFERENCE FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Minute AUC.25/12, Councillor Mrs Mallinson presented the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for the municipal year 2011/12.

She drew Members' attention to Minute Excerpt AUC.25/12, emphasising the importance of the Audit Committee and its work, which had been noted and commented upon by the Audit Commission's Audit Manager.

In conclusion, Councillor Mrs Mallinson expressed grateful thanks to the Audit Commission, Members of the Audit Committee, Internal Audit and Officers for the work which they had undertaken over the last year.

Councillor Ms Patrick seconded the report.

RESOLVED – That the Council noted and accepted the Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2011/12.

C.88/12 OPERATION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO CALL-IN AND URGENCY ANNUAL REPORT

Pursuant to Procedure Rule 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Director of Governance reported GD.24/12 on the Operation of Call-in and Urgency Procedures over the last year.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the current procedures on the operation of call-in and urgency be continued.

C.89/12 COMMUNICATIONS – RETIRING COUNCILLORS

The Mayor reported that Councillors Mrs Farmer and Mrs Rutherford would not be standing for re-election in the forthcoming elections.

The Mayor advised that Councillor Mrs Rutherford had completed 18 years service with the authority, including membership of the Housing Committee, Development Control Committee, and the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

He further paid tribute to the work which Councillor Mrs Farmer had carried out on behalf of the Council and for the valuable contribution which she had made to the City of Carlisle during her time as a Councillor and more particularly her periods of service on the Learning and Development Working Group and Development Control Committee, and as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

The Mayor extended best wishes to the Members for the future.

Councillor Hendry stood in support of the sentiments expressed, and wished the Councillors all the best for the future.

On behalf of the Conservative Group and the City Council, Councillor Mitchelson commented upon the conscientious work undertaken by Councillor Mrs Rutherford over the years.

He added that Councillor Mrs Farmer was a dedicated leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and had worked tirelessly on behalf of the residents of Morton.

In conclusion, Councillor Mitchelson said that both Members should be praised for their dedication and for the sacrifices they had made in undertaking their roles as Councillors. He wished them well.

Councillor Mrs Luckley endorsed all that had been said, adding her thanks and best wishes.

Councillor Mrs Farmer then expressed thanks to Members for their kind words. She added that the authority was blessed with very professional Officers and wished to place on record her appreciation for the support provided during her time on the Council.

C.90/12 CONCLUSION

This being the final meeting of the City Council in the municipal year 2011/12, the Mayor invited all Members of the Council and Officers to join him for refreshments at the conclusion of the meeting.

(The meeting ended at 7.30 pm)