

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL27 April 2006 at 7.30 p.m.The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Mrs F.J. Barden) in the Chair

Members of the
Council present:

Councillors A. Alderson, Mrs F.M. Angell, J.R. Ashmore, Mrs F.J. Barden, Mrs P.I. Broadhead, J. Broadhead, M.J. Brown, Ms D.V. Clarke, A.J. Davis, J.B. Dean, J.M. Edwards, J.R. Furey, Mrs C.E. Gant, Mrs E. Gill, Mrs L.M. Gillham, P.A. Greenwood, J.E. Haas, R.K. Habgood, Ms R.E. Haylor, Miss M.N. Heath, Mrs S.E. Jacobs, Mrs C.Y. Jones, C. Knight, H.W.V. Meares, Prof. A.M. Moore, C.J. Norman, Mrs J. Norman, D.W. Parr, R.J. Ray, B.J. Relph, Mrs. M. Roberts, Ms C.M. Simmons, N. Thewlis, P.J. Waddell, J.R. Whiteley and G.B. Woodger.

Members of the
Council absent:

Councillors Mrs Y.P. Lay, C.J. Ruane, A.P. Tollett and P.B. Tuley

694. RETIRING MEMBERS

As this was the last Council Meeting before the election on 4 May 2006, the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, bid farewell to those Members who had resigned or were not standing for re-election, namely Councillors Habgood, Jones and Whiteley, and former Councillors Pate and Walmsley.

Former Councillor K.J.T. Walmsley was first elected in 2000, representing Englefield Green East. He had served as a Member of Englefield Green Committee (2000 – 2006), Economic Development Committee (2001 – 2004), and Review Board (2002/03 and 2004/05), and Member Working Group - Local Government Act (2000/01).

Councillor Mrs C.Y. Jones was first elected in 1998, representing Englefield Green (East 1998 - 2000 and West 2001 - 2006) and had been a pro-active Member of the Leisure and Environment Committee (Vice-Chairman in 2002 - 2004), Member of Englefield Green Committee (1998 – 2006) and Licensing Committee (2003 – 2006). Councillor Mrs Jones had also represented the Council on Egham Chamber of Commerce (1998 – 2002) Runnymede District Youth Committee (2001 – 2005) Duke of Edinburgh Award Forum (2001 – 2006) Runnymede Association of Voluntary Services (2003 – 2006) Services for Young People (2004/05). She had been a Governor of Strode's College (2001 – 2003). Councillor Mrs Jones had served as Mayor in 2004/05 with distinction and success. She had been a runner up in the national Mayor of the Year Award in 2005.

Councillor J.R. Whiteley was first elected in 1992, representing Virginia Water. He had served on the former Environmental Services Committee (1992 – 2000) Highways and Works Committee (1992 – 1996) Licensing Committee (1996 - 2000 and 2003 – 2006) Planning Committee (1994 – 2006) Cabrera Trust Management Committee (1992 – 2006) and Riverside Walk Advisory Committee (1994 – 2006). Councillor Whiteley had represented the Council on Windsor Theatre Fund Committee (1997 – 2000), Library Services Consultative Meeting (1995 – 1999), Egham Police and Community Partnership Group (2001 – 2006) Basingstoke Canal JMC (2005/06) and Surrey Heathland Management Project (2004 – 2006). He had also been a Governor of Christchurch C of E First School (1997 – 2001).

Councillor R.K. Habgood was first elected in 1992, representing Foxhills Ward. He had served as Chairman of the former Highways and Works Committee (1994 – 2000), Economic Development Committee (2001/02) Corporate Management Committee (2003 – 2005), Leisure and Environment Committee and Chertsey Meads Management Liaison Group (2005/06). Councillor Habgood had been Leader of the Council (2003 – 2005) and had served as a Council representative on Fair Oaks Airfield Joint Consultative Committee (1996 – 2003) SEERA (2002 – 2006) Runnymede Local Strategic Partnership (2004 – 2006) and Surrey Local Government Association (2004/05). He had also been Governor of Christchurch C of E Middle and Marshfields C of E Primary Schools (1997/98).

Former Councillor R. Pate was first elected in 1987, representing the Hythe Ward. He had served as a Member of Housing and Community Services Committee (1991 – 1998 then again from 2004 – 2006) Planning Committee (1992 – 2006), Licensing Committee (2005/06) and various Sub-

Committees including Care in the Community (1997/98) Local Plan and Contracts (1997 – 2000) External Appointments (1997 – 2003) and Licensing (2005/06). He had served as a Council representative on North West Surrey Community Health Council (from 2001 until its demise in 2003), Age Concern Runnymede and Age Concern Surrey (2001 – 2006) and was a Governor of Hythe County Primary School (1997 – 2000).

The Mayor thanked the Councillors for their service to the Council. The Leader of the Council also expressed his thanks to the retiring Councillors for their commitment to the Council and residents of the Borough. The Leader of the Labour Group also paid tribute to former Councillor Pate.

The retiring Members present and former Councillor Pate thanked the Mayor and Leader of the Council for their kind words and also expressed their appreciation to the Chief Executive Officer and all Officers of the Council for the support given to them during their respective terms of office. The Mayor presented a suitable gift to each of those who had served for twelve years or more.

695. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 16 February 2006 and 7 March 2006 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

696. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Y.P. Lay, C.J. Ruane, A.P. Tollett, and P.B. Tuley.

697. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that her Charity Ball had been a success and had raised in excess of £8,775. The Mayor thanked Councillors and local businesses for their support. The Mayor also thanked Councillor J. Broadhead, who dressed as St. George and led the singing at the Ball. The Mayor was also keen to see St. George's Day promoted more actively in the Borough next year.

The Mayoral Charity Golf Day held at Hoebridge Golf Club on 7 April had raised £664 and the Mayor thanked Councillor Ms R. Haylor for organising it.

The final total of funds raised for the Mayoral charities would be given at the Annual Council Meeting in May.

Finally, the Mayor had felt particularly honoured to have been invited to the Maundy Service at Guildford Cathedral and the presentation of Maundy Money by Her Majesty, The Queen.

698. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT: SITE COMPARISON EXERCISE

RESOLVED that -

the recommendation of the Planning Committee as set out in paragraph 572, on page 898 (Minutes of 1 March 2006) be approved.

699. DECANTING OF PINEFIELDS SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEME, ADDLESTONE - CAPITAL ESTIMATE

RESOLVED that -

the recommendation of the Corporate Management Committee as set out in paragraph 662(i), on page 990 (Minutes of 30 March 2006) be approved.

700. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION

The Council considered a recommendation on the above-mentioned Annual Report from the Review Board which had met on 20 April 2006.

Various points and suggestions were made by Members on some of the issues referred to in the Annual Report and these would be addressed in a report to the next meeting of the Review Board in July 2006. The points made were as follows:-

- i) consideration should be given to revisions to the policy on provision of garden waste collection bags to allow for one or two bags to be purchased instead of the currently supplied three bags;
- ii) Council participation in the Local Committee of the County Council should be actively progressed;
- iii) action was required to address the findings of a recent survey which found that 24% of respondents were in fuel poverty and would struggle financially to heat their homes;
- iv) details were required on what action the Council was taking to mitigate and alleviate poor air quality in the Borough;
- v) representations needed to be made to the Planning Inspectorate over length of time enforcement appeals were taking to be processed;
- vi) the loss of the out-of-hours (evenings and weekends) call out service provided by Enforcement Staff needed to be reviewed;
- vii) details were required of progress made by Network Rail on improvements to signalling so as to improve traffic flow at the six level crossings in the Borough; and
- viii) consideration should be given to the use of yellow buses/Council Community vehicles, in conjunction with Surrey County Council, to provide young people with affordable public transport in the evenings.

RESOLVED that -

the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny function be received and approved.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.17pm)