

## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

### COUNCIL - 17 DECEMBER 2001

**PRESENT:** The Mayor (Councillor JR Cocker) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs P M Williams)

#### Councillors

R L Abbey	M Groves	G D Mitchell
Mrs F E F Anderson	P J Hackett	I M Moon
C Blakeley	J Hale	R K Moon
M A Bridson	Mrs J Hall	W D Nock
S A Brown	T Harney	R G Paterson
D W Christian	A C Hodson	A Pritchard
I O Coates	S A Holbrook	E D Prout
P J Corcoran	T A Irving	P T C Reisdorf
J A Crabtree	J M Jackson	Mrs L A Rennie
B J Cummings	P S C Johnson	D E Roberts
W J Davies	L C Jones	A C Robinson
P L Davies	A E R Jones	S L Rowlands
G Davies	Mrs H J Jones	KC Shaughnessy
A C Dow	S E Kelly	H Smith
D M Elderton	D T Knowles	P A Smith
G J Ellis	I Lewis	W W Smith
S Foulkes	H G Lloyd	J V Stapleton
P N Gilchrist	Mrs J McKelvie	J L Thornton
B Gilfoyle	A M McLaughlin	G C J Watt
J E Green	M McLaughlin	A P Witter
M J Green	Mrs C M Meaden	Mrs K Wood

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M J Moore

#### 45. **TRIBUTES**

The Council stood in silent tribute to the memory of former members - Mr James Waugh (who represented North Bromborough ward on the former Bebington MBC, 1963-67), Mrs Eva Garnett (member of the former Wallasey CBC and Mayoress of Wallasey in 1966/67), Honorary Alderman Frank Theaker (former member and alderman of Bebington Borough Council, councillor for the Bebington Ward on Wirral Borough Council, 1973-84 and Mayor of Wirral in 1980/81) and Mr Michael J Ebbs (councillor for the Liscard Ward, 1973-88 and 1992-96) - and Mr Kenneth ("Monty") Lea (Mayor's Consort, 1996/97).

#### 46. **CLAIRE HOUSE**

The Mayor introduced Ms Margaret Davies, who spoke about Claire House, the Wirral children's hospice named after Clare Caine, which had opened in 1998 and offered support to 130 terminally ill children and their families. The hospice was

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run by dedicated specialist staff, supported by over 100 volunteers, and relied for its funding needs of over £100,000 a month on the proceeds of 13 charity shops and voluntary donations (including the support they received as one of the main beneficiaries in 2001/02 from the Mayor's Charity Fund).

She urged members of the Council to take advantage of regular open days to visit Clare House and see for themselves the facilities provided for the children and their families.

### 47 PETITIONS

The Mayor received petitions submitted by -

- (a) Councillor Margaret Green on behalf of residents of Berrylands Road, Moreton, requesting that consideration be given to building an access road;
- (b) Councillor Blakeley on behalf of residents of Heathmore Road, Moreton, calling for the introduction of traffic calming measures;
- (c) Councillor Irving on behalf of local residents, calling for the urgent introduction of traffic calming measures in Zig-Zag Road, New Brighton;
- (d) Councillor Isabel Moon on behalf of residents of Spital and Bebington concerned about the unacceptable level of graffiti and general untidiness of the area;
- (e) Councillor Mrs Wood on behalf of members of the Harrison Park Bowling Club and local residents, calling for the replacement of the Pavilion at Harrison Park, Wallasey;
- (f) Councillor Mrs Wood on behalf of residents of the Village Estate, Wallasey Village, concerned about the parking of cars near the narrow estate entrance, and calling for the introduction of parking controls;
- (g) Councillor Robert Moon on behalf of residents of Bromborough, objecting to the withdrawal of bus service 202 without consultation or prior notice;
- (h) Councillor Reisdorf, on behalf of 191 local residents, calling for improved facilities for the use of skateboards in the Greasby area.

**Resolved - That the petitions be received and referred to the appropriate Chief Officers in accordance with Standing Order 35.**

### 48. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 October 2001, having been supplied to all members of the Council, it was -

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**Resolved - That the minutes be approved and adopted.**

49. **PROCEDURE**

Moved by Councillor Hale  
Seconded by Councillor J E Green

"That paragraphs (1) and (4) of Standing Order 8 be suspended or varied as necessary to allow consideration to be given by the Council to the following Notice of Motion:-

'(1) That this Council believes that the Mersey Tunnels should be part of the national road system and funded in the same way as any other motorway or road from general taxation.

(2) Pending the Government adopting such a view, any charges to tunnel users should not include any amounts to be used for other public transport purposes as this would be equivalent to a new tax on tunnel users which would bear disproportionately on Wirral residents and businesses."

**The procedural motion was put and lost (19:46)**

50. **AMENDMENTS**

The following amendments to Volumes 4/4A/4B of the Proceedings of the Cabinet and Committees were accepted and agreed by the Council:-

Cabinet (13/12/01) - minute 434 p 1300  
Education and Lifelong Learning - Budget Monitoring, 2001/02:

After the word "Education" in the third line of the recommendation, delete the words "and Cultural Services Department" and substitute "budget".

Planning (15/11/01) - minute 344 p 1175  
20016880 - Former "Michelle Flowers", 766 Borough Road, Tranmere - Change of Use to Hot Food Takeaway:

In the third paragraph of the preamble, delete the words "by Councillor Holbrook".

51. **PROCEEDINGS OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

Moved by Councillor Foulkes  
Seconded by Councillor P L Davies

"That, subject to the amendments previously agreed and any objections that may be upheld, the Proceedings of the Cabinet and Committees specified in the

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summons, insofar as they contain recommendations be approved and adopted, and insofar as they contain matters delegated by the Council to committees be received or noted."

Councillor Dow advised that he had some concerns as to the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Culture and Community Services Select Committee held on 17 October 2001 (Leisure Centre Catering) which he would raise in detail at the next meeting.

### **Resolved -**

**(1) That, subject to the amendments contained in minute 50 above and any objections which may be upheld, the Proceedings of Cabinet and Committees specified below, insofar as they contain recommendations to the Council be approved and adopted (see paragraph (2) below), and insofar as they contain matters referred to the Ratification Committee or the Ratification Committee (Social Services) or matters delegated by the Council to committees be received or noted.**

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Cabinet	17 October, 1, 14 and 29 November, and 13 December 2001.
Ratification	22 October, 5 and 19 November and 3 December 2001.
Ratification (Social Services)	5 and 19 November 2001.
Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes	12 and 28 November 2001.
Pensions	14 November 2001.
Planning	18 October and 15 November 2001.
Standards	3 December 2001.
Central Services	4 December 2001.
Culture and Community Services	17 October, and 7 and 28 November 2001.
Economic Regeneration and Community Planning	31 October and 20 November 2001.
Education and Lifelong Learning	1 and 27 November 2001.
Environment and Planning Strategy	29 October and 26 November 2001.
Finance, Best Value and Construction Services	26 November 2001.
Housing and Community Safety	13 November 2001.
Social and Health Services	27 November 2001.
Social Inclusion	5 November 2001.
Transportation and Infrastructure	6 and 13 November 2001.

**(2) That the recommendations and reports specifically referred to this meeting be approved in relation to the following matters:-**

**(a) Cabinet (17/10/01) minute 322 - Wirral Library Plan;**

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- (b) Cabinet (29/11/01) minute 408 - Calculation of Council Tax Base, 2002/03;**
- (c) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 424 - Review of Boundaries - Determination of Council Size;**
- (d) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 426 - Finance Department Service Plan, 2002 to 2005;**
- (e) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 427 - Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Rate Relief and Hardship;**
- (f) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 428 - National Non-Domestic Rate - Cost of Collection Grant;**
- (g) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 429 - Central Telephones;**
- (h) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 430 - Merseyside Residuary Debt Fund;**
- (i) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 431 - External Audit Fees;**
- (j) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 434 - Education Budget Monitoring, 2001/02;**
- (k) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 440 - Planning and Economic Development Department - Departmental Service Plan (Economic Regeneration);**
- (l) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 455 - Engineers Departmental Service Plan 2001-06 and Budget 2002/03;**
- (m) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 456 - Property Services Departmental Service Plan 2002/03;**
- (n) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 457 - Borough Solicitor and Secretary's Departmental Service Plan;**
- (o) Cabinet (13/12/01) minute 458 - Personnel and Policy Department - Service Development Plan.**

With regard to paragraph (2) (l), see minutes 54 and 55 below.

**52. QUESTIONS**

In accordance with Standing Order 11 and the appendix to Standing Order 5 (1) (j), the relevant Cabinet members and Committee Chairs or joint authority spokespersons took questions from two members of the public and from councillors on the following matters:-

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<u>Minute</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Questioner(s)</u>
<b>(a) Education and Lifelong Learning (Councillor P L Davies):</b>		
-----	Trespass on School Premises (Bebington)	Mr W McMillan
Cabinet - Minute 435 p 1301	Departmental Service Plan - Wirral Schools' GCSE Successes	Councillor Groves
Cabinet - Minute 435 p 1301	Departmental Service Plan - Leasowe Nursery School - Early Excellence Centre	Councillor Abbey
<b>(b) Finance, Best Value and Construction Services (Councillor Brown):</b>		
Minute 77 p 1253	Electronic Government	Councillor Stapleton
<b>(c) Housing and Community Safety (Councillor George Davies):</b>		
-----	Youth Councils	Mr R Wood (Noctorum);
<b>(d) Merseyside Police Authority (Councillor Walter Smith):</b>		
-----	Recruitment of Officers	Councillor Gilchrist;
<b>(e) Social Inclusion (Councillor P A Smith):</b>		
Minute p 1279-82	Day Services for Working Age Adults with Mental Health Needs, Physical Disabilities and Learning Disabilities/Housing and Support Services for Young People in Wirral/Youth Offending Team Progress Update - Role of Social Inclusion Select Committee.	Councillor Mrs Rennie

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53. **PROCEDURE**

Moved by Councillor Lloyd  
Seconded by Councillor Foulkes

"That Standing Order 18 (Voting) be suspended as necessary to enable voting to take place by a show of hands, and items 1 and 3 on the published list of objections (Engineers Departmental Service Plan 2001-06 and Budget 2002/03) be the subject of one debate, but with separate votes on each objection."

**The procedural motion was agreed without a vote.**

54. **CABINET (13/12/01) - MINUTE 455 P 1312 - ENGINEERS DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE PLAN 2001-06 AND BUDGET 2002/03**

Moved by Councillor Cummings  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson

That minute 455 be amended by the deletion of paragraph (2) of the recommendation and the substitution of:-

"(2) This Council notes that in 2001/02 the Labour administration is spending £509,700 less than its Highways SSA of £9,157,000, and further notes that it is Labour's intention to reduce the amount spent on highways maintenance by £500,000 for 2002/03.

(3) The Council is opposed to any reductions within the coast protection/drainage, traffic/traffic signals and highways improvement elements of the highways budget as such reductions could only:-

(a) lead to further public dissatisfaction with the roads and pavements within the Borough;

(b) further add to the £28m needed to bring Wirral's highways and street lighting infrastructure up to a reasonable standard;

(c) further increase the £7.5m that Labour has taken from highways maintenance in real terms since the Labour budget of 1996/97.

(4) Council therefore calls for a report to be prepared, exploring options on ways to redress the balance to bring highways budget expenditure up to the Government's SSA figure."

Following a debate and Councillor Harry Smith having replied, **the motion was put and carried (33:32).**

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**Resolved** - That minute 455 (2) (Cabinet - 13/12/01) be amended accordingly.

(See also minute 55 below)

55. **CABINET (13/12/01) - MINUTE 455 P 1312 - ENGINEERS DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE PLAN 2001-06 AND BUDGET 2002/03**

Moved by Councillor Mitchell  
Seconded by Councillor Kelly

That minute 455 be amended by the deletion of part (2) of the recommendation and the substitution of:-

"(2) This Council:

(a) opposes further cuts in the highways budget, since these would be compounded in future years;

(b) seeks to try to redress the balance to bring budget expenditure nearer to the Government's SSA figure;

(c) recommends to the Council an examination of non-statutory items to find the funding required to bring expenditure up to the Government's SSA figure".

Following a debate (see minute 53 above) and Councillor Harry Smith having replied, **the motion was put and carried (33:32).**

**Resolved** - That minute 455 (2) (Cabinet - 13/12/01), as amended, be further amended accordingly.

(See also minute 54 above)

56. **CABINET (13/12/01) - MINUTE 440 P 1304 - PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE PLAN (ECONOMIC REGENERATION)**

Moved by Councillor Hale  
Seconded by Councillor Elderton

That minute 440 be amended by the deletion of paragraph (2) of the recommendation and the substitution of:-

"(2) That, subject to the Council's approval, the saving of £40,000 identified in the Departmental Service Plan in respect of the closure of the Brussels office be approved.



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(3) That this Council does not accept the proposed reduction of £35,000 in grants to the voluntary sector without being informed of exactly what the impact would be and whether any particular organisation might suffer as a consequence.

(4) That this Council does not accept the proposed reduction of £35,000 in the budget for Wirral Direct because it believes that it is more appropriate for it to expand its activities in the current economic climate."

Following a debate and Councillor Hackett having replied, **the motion was put and lost (19:45).**

**Resolved - That minute 440 (Cabinet - 13/12/01) be confirmed.**

57. **CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - MINUTE 26 P 1185 - CALL-IN PROCEDURE - LEISURE CENTRE CATERING**

In accordance with Standing Order 12 (2) the Council considered a minority report, moved by Councillor Pritchard and seconded by Councillor Mrs Wood, opposing the decision of the Culture and Community Services Select Committee (minute 26 - 17/10/01) to support the decision of the Ratification Committee relating to leisure centre catering (minute 251 refers).

Following a debate and Councillor Christian having replied, **the motion was put and lost (21:44).**

**Resolved - That the minority report be not accepted, and minute 26 (Culture and Community Services - 17/10/01) be confirmed.**

58. **PLANNING (18/10/01) - MINUTE 272 P 1120 - APP/2001/6108/D - OVERSTRAND, 3-5 PENRHOS ROAD, HOYLAKES - EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS TO FORM THREE APARTMENTS AND TWO HOUSES**

Moved by Councillor Ellis  
Seconded by Councillor Mrs H J Jones

"That this Council notes with concern the decision taken by the majority of the Planning Committee members at the meeting on 18 October with regard to this application, in that -

(a) approval of the application allows for an un-neighbourly form of development by reason of size and siting, which creates an overbearing effect to adjacent properties;

(b) approval of the application results in the destruction of the visual amenity of the local Conservation Area by reason of its forward projection from other surrounding properties which would be clearly visible from the beach."

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Following a debate and Councillor Corcoran having replied, **the motion was put and lost (18:46).**

**Resolved - That the comment in relation to minute 272 (Planning - 18/10/01) be not accepted.**

### 59. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Borough Solicitor and Secretary advised of changes in committee membership proposed by the Labour Group. in accordance with Standing Order 25 (5).

**Resolved -**

**(1) In accordance with Standing Order 25 (5), the following changes affecting Labour representation on the various committees specified below be approved:-**

**(a) Central Services Select Committee - Councillor W D Nock to replace Councillor A C Dow;**

**(b) Culture and Community Services Select Committee - Councillor D E Roberts to replace Councillor A C Dow;**

**(c) Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee - Councillor P J Corcoran to replace Councillor A C Dow;**

**(d) Planning Committee - Councillor I O Coates to replace Councillor A C Dow.**

**(2) That Councillor T A Irving be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee in place of Councillor Dow.**