

# Full Council

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2006

At 7.00pm in The Council Chamber, Grosvenor House, George Street, Corby

---

**Present:** Councillor J O'Neill (Mayor)  
Councillors Addison, Boyd, Fawcett, Forshaw, Gordon, Harley, Heggs, Kane, Latta, Massie, McEwan, Noble, Pengelly, Rodden, Scott, Stanbra and Wade.

*(Prior to the commencement of the formal agenda Full Council observed one minutes silence out of respect for Mrs J Thomson (an employee of the Council) who had died in service and out of respect for the mother of Cllr R Beeby who had also died recently).*

## 20. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beeby, Jackson, Woolmer, Rutt, Howard, Bromhall and Beattie.

## 21. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal interests they may have in the business to be discussed and/or indicate whether this was prejudicial or non-prejudicial, the nature of the interest and whether they intended participating in the relevant agenda item.

Councillor Latta declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any discussions relating to Hackney Carriage Licences.

Councillor Fawcett declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any discussions relating to the Care and Repair Service.

Councillor McEwan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any discussions relating to the Danesholme Regeneration Project.

Councillor Pengelly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any discussions relating to the Rockingham Triangle Complex or the Council's Warden Service.

Councillor Kane declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any discussions relating to the Rockingham Triangle Complex.

Councillor Rodden declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2006, Paragraph 23.

Councillor Heggs drew Full Council's attention to any declarations made by him within the Minutes contained in the Agenda document.

## 22. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Council was asked to confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006 copies of which had been distributed to Members.

### **RESOLVED that: -**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006 be agreed as a correct record.

## 23. Mayor's Announcements

There were no announcements to be made.

**24. Petitions**

No petitions had been received.

**25. Public Question Time**

A question had been submitted by Mr T McGurn in relation to the Priors Hall Golf Complex.

Mr McGurn drew Full Council's attention to concerns relating to the operation of the new drainage and sprinkler system installed at the complex. Mr McGurn stressed that his concerns did not relate to the Culture and Leisure Service, but the performance of the Council's Technical Services Section.

Mr McGurn stated that a considerable investment had been made in the new drainage and sprinkler system, however, this had not been properly functioning for several months. Mr McGurn also raised concerns about possible effect on the Health and Safety of staff and users at the facility, given the problems with the system and possible side effects on the operation of the water supply to the Club House.

Mr McGurn stated that he had raised his concerns over a period of time with Officers of the Council. He felt that the performance of the Council's Technical Services Section in this matter was poor.

Councillor Fawcett (Leader of the Council) responded to Mr McGurn's concerns. Councillor Fawcett agreed that the ongoing situation at the Golf Course was unacceptable and agreed that there was no excuse for the disappointing performance of the Council in this matter.

Councillor Fawcett assured Mr McGurn that matters were now in hand to rectify this situation, although work was unlikely to commence until the Autumn. Councillor Fawcett apologised to Mr McGurn and other users of the facility for any inconvenience caused.

The Mayor thanked Mr McGurn for bringing this matter to the attention of Full Council.

**26. Minutes of Committee and Panel Meetings**

**26.1 Development Control Committee**

Councillor Latta presented the minutes of the Development Control Committee meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

**RESOLVED that: -**

The minutes of the meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006 be received.

**26.2 Licensing and Regulation Committee**

Councillor Beattie presented the summary minutes of the Licensing and Regulation Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2006.

**RESOLVED that: -**

The summary minutes of the meeting be received.

**26.3 Local Plan Committee**

Councillor Kane presented the minutes of the Local Plan Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

**RESOLVED that: -**

The minutes of the meeting be received.

**26.4 One Corby Policy Committee**

Councillor Fawcett presented the minutes of the One Corby Policy Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

**RESOLVED that: -**

The minutes of the meeting be received.

**26.5 Audit and Governance Committee**

Councillor McEwan presented the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

**RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the meeting be received.

**26.6 Parklands Gateway Committee**

Councillor Pengelly presented the minutes of the Parklands Gateway Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

**RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the meeting be received.

**26.7 Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Councillor Harley presented the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2006 and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2006.

**RESOLVED that:-**

The minutes of the meetings be received.

**27. Motions**

No Motions had been received.

**28. Scheme of Delegation**

Council were being requested to approve a revised Scheme of Delegation for Council Officers.

The Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented the report and drew Members attention to the Appendix, which comprised of a revised Scheme of Delegation for Officers.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services explained to Council that there was a need to review the current Scheme in light of changes to the management structure within the Authority. In addition, he explained that there had been a request to revise the format and in light of changes to the Council's Financial Rules, there was a need to review certain Delegations.

If the revised Scheme of Delegation was approved by Members, it would be included in an update version of the Council's Constitution. The report before Members concluded by stressing the need for the revision of the Scheme of Delegation to ensure that the Council had a Scheme that reflected its new structures, that was clear, workable and maximised the potential for the Council both to earn income and deliver services for the community.

**RESOLVED that:-**

The revision to the Scheme of Delegation for Council Officers as circulated with the report, be approved.

*(Cllr W Latta left the meeting at this point).*

## **29. Hackney Carriage Fares – Annual Increase 2006**

Full Council considered a report in relation to a request to increase Hackney Carriage Fares for the period 2006-2007 following the receipt of a written request from the Corby Hackney Owners Association.

The report before Full Council had been considered by the One Corby Policy Committee on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2006. Concerns had been expressed by Members at that meeting relating to some of the statistical information included and it was felt appropriate to defer a decision at that stage and refer the matter to Full Council for determination.

Prior to consideration of the Officer's report, Full Council received a brief presentation from Mr Walker on behalf of the Corby Hackney Owners Association. Mr Walker briefly summarised the position of the Association and the request that was being made. He stressed that if the increase requested was approved by Council this would effectively leave the Association's Members in a status quo situation, ensuring that increased costs could be met.

Mr Walker stressed that the Association were not seeking to increase profits with the request but to ensure that additional costs in fuel and other expenditure could be met. The Association were requesting that any increases come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006.

The Mayor thanked Mr Walker for his presentation.

The Head of Environmental Quality presented his report to Full Council. The report summarised the request made by the Corby Hackney Owners Association and concluded by recommending to Members that Option 1 detailed within the report be approved.

Option 1 related to a reduction in the yardage/metreage on the fares table of 10% for 2006. Under this proposal, the yardage for the basic flag rate of £1.60 would reduce from 837 yards to 753 yards and the yardage for each 10p increment would reduce from 134 yards to 121 yards. Appendices summarising the position were included with the report.

It was noted that the Association had last been granted a fare increase by the Council in 2005 on the basis of an increase in the basic flag rate from £1.50 to £1.60 with other additional issues added. The Association had now submitted their proposals for this year's fares increase and the Council needed to consider and agree the level of increase for Hackney Carriage fares to be imposed for 2006/2007, having regard to the content of the Officers report.

Full Council discussed the issues raised within the report. Whilst noting that there had been increases in running costs for the Association's members, concern was expressed by a number of Members of the potential impact on users of the service. Particularly those with low income and those who could not readily access one of the local bus routes.

Following discussion, the following alternative recommendation to that contained within the Officers report, was duly **MOVED** and **SECONDED**.

The amendment read -

1. that the basic flag rate (starting fare) remain at £1.60;
2. that a 5% decrease in yardage be agreed;

3. Officers be requested to meet with the Association's representatives to discuss the possibility of the introduction of a formula agreement to be used in future years for potential increases in Hackney Carriage fares.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- i) the basic flag rate (starting fare) remain at £1.60 for 2006/2007;
- ii) there should be a 5% decrease in yardage;
- iii) Officers of the Council meet with the Hackney Carriage Owners Association's representatives to discuss the possibility of the introduction of a formula agreement with respect to future increases in Hackney Carriage fares.

*(Cllr W Latta rejoined the meeting at this point).*

**30. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**RESOLVED that: -**

the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following reports on the grounds that they contain exempt information as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

One Corby Policy Committee Minutes – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006

**31. One Corby Policy Committee Minutes – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

The Chair of the One Corby Policy Committee confirmed in relation to questions from the floor that the total sum to be received by the Council for the sale of bungalows and land at Cottingham Road, Corby was as stated within the minutes.

The Chair of Committee also confirmed that the One Corby Policy Committee had, at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2006 agreed revisions to the Council's recycling collection policy which would ultimately result in an enhanced service being offered to members of the public.

The Chair confirmed that the figure of £213,925 mentioned within the Committee's minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006, would not be spent by the Council.

**32. Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.