



CITY OF GLOUCESTER

Council Meeting
12 July 1995 at the
Council Chamber, North
Warehouse at 14.30 hours.

AT A MEETING of the **COUNCIL** of the **CITY OF GLOUCESTER** held at the North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester on Wednesday 12 July 1995 at 14.30 hours.

PRESENT : Cllrs. Mrs Workman (Mayor), Richards (Sheriff and Deputy Mayor), Stephens (Leader of the Council), Pullon, Potts, Durrant, Welshman, Mrs Gould, Holmes, Neary, Duncan, Meredith, Cook, O'Neill, Colley, Garwood, Hart, Mrs Orr, Miss Tracey, Evans, Dobbins, Ms Francis, Hanks, McLellan, Mrs Smith, Trehearne, Cahill, Mrs Gillespie, Green, Haines, Ms Holman, Lawlor, Munisamy, Mrs Parry.

APOLOGIES : Cllr. Gravells

15. PRAYERS

Prayers were offered by the Rev'd D. Sawyer.

16. BRISTOL ROAD/CLIFTON ROAD PROBATION HOSTEL HOUSING COMMITTEE - 6 JUNE 1995 - MINUTE 13

Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council) was permitted by the Mayor to make a statement in which he updated Members on the current position regarding the proposals for the replacement of the Glyndhurst Hostel on Bristol Road.

Councillor Stephens stated that in the light of continuing discussions between the City Council and the Probation Service, the decision had been reached to not proceed any further with the proposals to relocate the Glyndhurst Hostel onto land owned by the City Council at Bristol Road/Clifton Road. As background information to this decision, Councillor Stephens referred to considerable expressions of anxiety and fears among the local residents, particularly in the vicinity of the proposed site for the replacement hostel. He felt that whilst

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the Council was happy for the Probation Hostel to be relocated, that under no circumstances was the Council prepared to see it turned at some future date into a bail hostel or to be used as a residential centre for people who would be either charged with, or convicted of, serious sexual or violent offences.

In the light of the views of the public referred to above, Councillor Stephens stated that Members of the Highways and Planning Committee would be aware of an amendment moved by the Vice Chairman of the Housing Committee seeking, through the planning process, to limit the future use of the site by means of a Section 106 Agreement. Further, it had been his intention to move an amendment at the Council meeting that afternoon, further seeking to strengthen the position by a covenant on the land transfer, that would ensure its future use only as a probation hostel. Also, the proposed covenant would exclude any future use as a bail hostel or for use as a residence for people who had convictions for, or charges of, sexual or violent criminal offences.

Councillor Stephens informed the Council that the wording of both the Section 106 Agreement and a suitable covenant had been agreed with the Gloucestershire Probation Service.

However, it had become clear that the Home Office, who would be financing the project, were not willing to accept any such covenant. Accordingly, against that background and in the light of the Council's previously stated position not to proceed with the land transfer unless there was an agreement, the Probation Services had agreed that the project should no longer proceed.

Councillor Stephens indicated that later in the meeting, there would be an amendment proposed to the Minutes of the Housing Committee to reflect the position as outlined above.

17. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Mayor stated that she would like to be addressed as "Madam Mayor" during her term of office.
2. The Mayor stated that the Mayor of Trier was that day concluding a visit to the City during which much had been achieved in discussions between the Civic leaders.
3. The Mayor indicated that in the light of the statement made by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council) and particular public interest in the proposed location of the Probation Hostel, the Minutes of the Housing Committee of 6 June 1995 would be brought forward and dealt with first under Item 5 in the Order of Procedure.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 22 May 1995 be approved.

19. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public.

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20. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Mrs E.M. Scarlett of the Parliament Street Residents' Association handed to the Mayor a petition from residents of Parliament Street objecting to the proposal to re-route buses and other traffic along Parliament Street as part of the proposed Northgate Street/Southgate Street pedestrianisation scheme.

The Mayor accepted the petition and referred it to the Chairman of the Highways and Planning Committee for reference to that Committee.

21. SUBSTITUTE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE CITY COUNCIL AREA FOR 1995/96

Moved by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council), seconded by Councillor Durrant.

RESOLVED

1. That it be noted that for the year 1995/96, the Gloucestershire County Council has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Precepting Authority		Gloucestershire County Council					
		Valuation Bands					
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
287.67	335.61	383.56	431.50	527.39	623.28	719.17	863.01

2. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts determined by the Council at its meeting on 23 February 1995 and the amounts specified in Resolution 1 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 1995/96 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of the Council's Area			Parish of Quedgeley				
			Valuation Bands				
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
369.62	431.22	492.83	554.42	677.63	800.83	924.04	1108.85

All other parts of the Council's area

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
352.73	411.52	470.31	529.09	646.67	764.24	881.83	1058.19

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22. QUESTION TIME

Moved by the Mayor and seconded by Councillor Durrant.

RESOLVED

That a period of 5 minutes be now set aside for the answering of the undermentioned question not relating to any Minutes of the Committees to be considered later at this meeting.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Question by Councillor McLellan

“Does the Chairman of Health & Environmental Services Committee agree with me that the growth of weeds on pavements and in street gullies makes the City look a much poorer place. Can he further advise whether pavements and streets were treated with a weed killer substance as per the contract, and if so why this has not been effective. Finally can he advise me what he proposes to do to rectify the present unsatisfactory situation in many parts of the City.”

Chairman’s Reply

“Thank you. The first part of the question Madam Mayor, does the Chairman agree with me, yes I do. The growth of weeds on pavements and street gullies does make the City look a much poorer place and that is why it is exactly put in the contract to start with, it shouldn’t happen. The new five year Street Cleaning Contract awarded to Gloucester City Services commenced full operation on 1 June 1995 after the usual 8 week contract initial period. This contract requires the contractor to implement a work plan for the removal of pavement weeds by a combination of both twice annually herbicide spray and physical removal of weeds by street cleaning operatives as part of their cleaning duties every two weeks in the outer area, and daily in the central area. This should ensure that the street cleaning standard required by the Council, through the contract with the Council, is achieved.

It is acknowledged that some areas of the City have evidence of pavement weeds which should be removed. These areas have either not been herbicide treated or not effectively treated by the street cleaning operatives. The contractor will shortly be providing the client with details of the street cleaning workplan and this will ensure early identification of those areas in the City that require attention to achieve contract standards. The effectiveness of the herbicide used in the treatment of pavement weeds or the twice annual application is not the primary issue. Both the client and Gloucester City Services contractors have contributed, together with ADAS and Severn Trent, to the Council’s herbicide policy.

With the terminating of the old frequency based Street Cleaning Contract on 31 March 1995 and commencement of the new qualitative based code of practice Street Cleaning Contract post-commissioning period on 1 June 1995, there will inevitably be some operational difficulties requiring close co-operation between client and contractor. It is expected that these difficulties will not be repeated.”

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Supplementary question by Councillor McLellan

“I note the reply, but I am not impressed by the level and standard of service over the last year and hope these would improve in the forthcoming year.”

Chairman’s Reply

“Yes, the situation will improve next year, and the issue was, prior to the early part of this year, that the contract was put out on a frequency based concern, which meant that the street cleaning had to be done at certain times during the year. We now have the qualitative based Code of Practice where weeds should have been removed if and when they arise. What we are seeing at the moment is just one or two difficulties during this initial period. I hope that the difficulties would not be repeated throughout the rest of this year and certainly next year as well.”

23. HOUSING COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor Mrs Smith, seconded by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council).

That the Minutes of the Housing Committee of 22 May, 6 June and 12 June 1995 be approved, adopted and confirmed, subject to the deletion of the Resolutions to Minute 13 (Public Question Time and Bristol Road/Clifton Road Probation Hostel) and the substitution of the following therefor:-

- “1. That the Council does not proceed with the Probation Hostel proposal in the light of the Home Office decision not to accept a disposal subject to a restriction limiting the use of the Hostel.
2. That the Officers report back to the next meeting of the Housing Committee on other possible uses for this site and development opportunities.”

Amendment carried, many votes for, lesser number against.

The Motion, as amended, therefore became the substantive Motion.

Moved by Councillor Mrs Gould, seconded by Councillor Welshman.

That the substantive Motion be amended by the addition of the following words:-

“Subject to the deletion of the words “Barton Street” in Resolution 1 to Minute 22 (Living Over the Shop), and the substitution of the words “City Centre” therefor.”

Amendment lost, 13 votes for, 20 against.

Motion, as amended, carried.

(NOTE: Councillors Holmes (Chairman) and Munisamy declared an interest in the matters above relating to Minute 13 and took no part in the discussion and did not vote thereon.)

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24. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council), seconded by Councillor Durrant.

That with the exception of Minute 49.1 (Non-Domestic Rates - Hardship Claim), the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of 22 May, 22 June and 12 July 1995 and the Joint Policy and Resources Committee of Cheltenham Borough Council and the City Council of 24 May 1995 be approved, adopted and confirmed subject to the existing resolution to Minute 34 (Budget Forecast 1996/97) being numbered 1 and the addition of the following Resolutions:-

- “2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to identify appropriate individuals, independent from the Council and from different sectors of the community, to advise on appropriate allowances for councillors within available national guidance and in comparison with similar non-executive functions elsewhere.
3. That the Chief Executive be instructed to report the findings of this study to Policy and Resources Committee at the earliest opportunity.
4. That any costs incurred in the study be met at the Chief Executive's discretion from contingencies.”

Moved by Councillor Mrs Gould, seconded by Councillor Welshman.

That the Motion be amended by the addition of the following words:-

Subject to the deletion of the words “Performance Review Sub Committee and other Members” in Resolution 2 to Minute 28 (Members’ Protocol) and the substitution of the words “relevant Committee and appropriate Ward Councillors” therefor.

Amendment carried, many votes for, lesser number against.

The Motion, as amended, thereupon became the substantive Motion.

Moved by Councillor Pullon, seconded by Councillor Hart.

That the substantive Motion be amended by the addition of the following:-

Subject to the addition of the following Resolutions 3 and 4 to Minute 27 (Good Citizens’ Award):-

- “3. That in recognition of the long and distinguished service of former Councillors Norman Partridge and Terry Wathen, the Council places on record its appreciation of the service of these two Councillors and resolves to award the Civic Medal to Norman Partridge and to make a posthumous award of the Civic Medal to Terry Wathen.
4. That the awards be made by the Mayor at a Civic Reception to be hosted by the Council, to which all former Mayors and Sheriffs shall be invited.”

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Motion carried, many votes for, none against.

The Motion, as further amended, thereupon became the substantive Motion.

Moved by Councillor Mrs Gould, seconded by Councillor Welshman.

That the substantive Motion be amended by the addition of the following words:-

Subject to the addition of the following Resolution 3 to Minute 29 (Local Government Information Unit - Affiliation):-

“3. That the three representatives referred to in Resolution 2 above, be one Member nominated by each of the three political groups, together with one Officer.”

Amendment carried, many votes for, lesser number against.

The Motion, as further amended, thereupon became the final substantive Motion which was put and carried.

25. DISTRICT PLAN SUB COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor Durrant, seconded by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council).

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the District Plan Sub Committee of 21 June 1995 be received.

26. HACKNEY CARRIAGE SUB COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Trehearne

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Hackney Carriage Sub Committee of 12 June 1995 be received.

27. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Trehearne.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 22 May and 19 June 1995 be approved, adopted and confirmed, subject to the substitution in Minute 20 (Recycling Centre - Shopping Parade, Roman Way, Abbeymead) of the name “Mead Road” for “Roman Way” in the heading to the Minute and the substitution of the name “Abbeymead Avenue” with “Mead Road” in the Resolution.

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28. HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor Durrant, seconded by Councillor Hanks.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Highways and Planning Committee of 22 May, 14 June and 5 July 1995 be approved, adopted and confirmed.

29. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council), seconded by Councillor Meredith.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee of 22 May and 8 June 1995 be approved, adopted and confirmed, subject to the deletion of the name of Councillor Mrs Gould from the list of Council representatives detailed in the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Employees General and Staff Joint Meeting held on 18 May 1995.

30. LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor Duncan, seconded by Councillor Dobbins.

That the Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee of 22 May and 15 June 1995 be approved, adopted and confirmed.

Moved by Councillor McLellan, seconded by Councillor Ms Francis.

That the Motion be amended by the addition of the following words:-

Subject to the deletion of Resolution 2 to Minute 11 (Dog Fouling on Parks and Playing Fields) and the substitution of the following therefor:-

“2. That this Council affirms the principle of introducing Poop Scoop By-laws in parks and open spaces, their introduction to be the subject of a report to the first Leisure Services Committee meeting of 1996, which would outline resource implications and draft by-laws; this would also allow time for the implications to be assessed of any legislation which might be enacted.”

Amendment lost, 13 votes for, more against.

Motion carried.

31. NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor Potts, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gillespie.

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RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Nomination Committee of 22 May 1995 be approved, adopted and confirmed, subject to the substitution of “rejected” for “accepted” in the Resolution to Minute 3 (Notice of Motion - Gloucestershire Home Safety Check Scheme).

32. PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor Potts, seconded by Councillor Durrant.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning Sub Committee of 25 April, 23 May and 27 June 1995 noting the following corrections to the Minutes in that Minute 18 (Planning Applications) of 23 May 1995, the name of Councillor Hanks should be deleted from the note at the foot of that Minute, and that in Minute 19 (Minutes) of 27 June 1995, the name of Councillor Durrant should be substituted for Councillor Hanks.

33. PERFORMANCE REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor McLellan, seconded by Councillor Munisamy.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Performance Review Sub Committee of 22 May and 7 June 1995 be approved, adopted and confirmed.

**34. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED)
EXEMPT INFORMATION - SCHEDULE 12A
EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

That pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded during the consideration of Minute No. 49(1) (Non-Domestic Rates - Hardship Claim) of the Policy and Resources Committee of 22 June 1995 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7 and 8 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**35. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 22 JUNE 1995
MINUTE 49(1) - NON-DOMESTIC RATES - HARDSHIP CLAIM**

Moved by Councillor Stephens (Leader of the Council), seconded by Councillor Durrant.

That Minute 49.1 of the Policy and Resources Committee of 22 June 1995 be approved, adopted and confirmed.

Moved by Councillor Welshman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gould.

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That the Motion be amended by the addition of the following words:-

Subject to the addition of the words “appeal be allowed” after “Mrs M.A.R.” in the second line of the resolution.

Amendment lost, 4 votes for, more against.

Motion carried.

(NOTE: Councillor Potts declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during its consideration.)

Time of commencement: 14.30 hours

Time of conclusion: 20.10 hours

Chairman