

COUNCIL
8 December 1999
(7.00 p.m. to 8.05 p.m.)

PRESENT:-

Chair:- The Mayor of Thurrock, Councillor Carl Morris

Councillors:- Andrews, Barrett, Barron, Barton, Bennett, Mrs. Betts, Bingley, Clarke, Cooper, Davis, Diss, Garner, Gillam, Gooding, Gupta, Hooper, M.B. Jones, Mrs. M.S. Jones, Kent, Kirkwood, Lawrence, Lee, Maynard, Dr. McMahon, McPherson, Moore, Norris, Nuss, O'Kane, Palmer, Price, Mrs. Revell, P. Rice, Sear, Slocock, Smith, Southam, Timms, Vesey, Warren, Watts and Williams.

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor G. Rice.

48. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR OTHER INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

49. MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting held on 20th October, 1999 were presented.

RESOLVED:- That

the minutes be received and approved subject to:

- (1) the addition of Councillors Barton and Cooper to the list of those present; and**

- (2) the deletion of the last paragraph marked by an asterisk on Minute 44 Conservative Group Committee Membership (p466).

Action:- Democratic Services

50. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mrs. Irene Archibald - Died 8 November, 1999

It was with sadness and regret that the Mayor announced the death of Councillor Irene Archibald on 8 November, 1999.

Councillor Irene Archibald had worked very hard for the communities of Thurrock and Basildon, as well as for the Labour Party over many years, before she became a Councillor for the Homesteads Ward on 1st May 1997.

He knew that she was highly regarded by colleagues and by all those who came into contact with her. He would remember her as a kind and considerate person, who went about her work with a quiet and dignified efficiency.

She left her husband Councillor Bill Archibald and family and everyone's thoughts were with them at this difficult time.

Councillors Mrs. Betts, Smith, Gillam and Andrews also spoke of the untimely death of Councillor Mrs. Irene Archibald and of her dedication to the people of Thurrock, and particularly the Homesteads Ward. Her death had been a shock to everyone and she would be sorely missed by the people of Thurrock and colleagues alike.

In tribute and as a mark of respect, the Council meeting stood for a minute silence.

Thurrock Community Chest

The Mayor was pleased to report that the first of the mini prize draws for the Thurrock Community Chest had now taken place. The prizes had been claimed and the winning tickets returned to the community chest. A little under £5,000 in the fund had come from the draw, with another £5,000 having been raised by voluntary organisations.

Torch Light Parade

The Mayor also referred to the Torch Light Parade that had taken place on Saturday 4 December, 1999. Despite the bitterly cold weather, the parade was a huge success. He thanked Joan Kelleher for the idea and her colleagues Kevin Smith and Lesley Chalk for

organising the event. He also thanked the carnival associations and all the other organisations that participated in making the event so successful. The Mayor very much hoped that it would become an annual municipal event.

Millennium Ball

The Mayor gave notice that the Millennium Ball would be held on Friday 28th January 2000 at the Civic Hall. Tickets were £10 per person including a buffet and all proceeds would go to the Thurrock Community Chest.

Mayor's Banquet

The Mayor's Banquet would be held at the House of Commons on Saturday 8th April 2000 and tickets would be £75 per head. The price included return coach, a tour of parliament, meal and wine. Proceeds would go to the Thurrock Community Chest.

Children's Promise

The Mayor urged colleagues and officers to join him and his wife in supporting the Children's Promise appeal by donating their last hours pay for this millennium. The money raised would go to children's charities.

51. PRIDE IN THURROCK'S LAST MILLENNIUM

Jonathan Catton, Heritage and Museum Officer, gave a presentation on Pride in Thurrock's Last Millennium.

He began by taking a heritage route to demonstrate how Thurrock was growing and featuring on the 'map' more often. He referred to how Thurrock had been inhabited from earliest times and went on to list some of the themes that illustrated the diverse history of the Borough. These ranged from the numerous listed buildings and structures to the sites of special scientific interest and the 650 archaeological sites in Thurrock. In addition, he spoke of the local history society and the numerous community organisations that added to the heritage of the Borough.

Mr. Catton spoke of how local folklore was attributed to places in the Borough and of the building of the Dartford River and Tunnel crossings. He also referred to the number of films and television programmes that had been filmed in Thurrock.

A number of famous people had originated in Thurrock, including the earliest named citizens, Mucca and Fobber, from which the place names Mucking and Fobbing had derived and of Henry de Gray, a

French Knight, who purchased Grays Thurrock in 1195 from Issac the Jew. Daniel Defoe, a local brick and tile manufacturer, and the author of 'Robinson Crusoe' lived on the Chadwell-St-Mary marshes and Count Dracula lived in Purfleet for a short while.

Some famous events had also taken place in the Borough, such as Queen Elizabeth I's eve of Armada invasion speech at West Tilbury in 1588 and the first Zeppelin to be shot down, partly by Purfleet Gunners in World War 1, in 1916.

Various philanthropists had funded schools and hospitals in the area, such as William Palmer, John Passmore Edwards and Andrew Carnegie.

Farming, the wool trade, gravel and clay extraction, explosives, chalk and lime extraction, edible oil, margarine, soap, lard and steel drum and shoe production had all contributed to the Borough's industrial heritage. The Grays Co-operative movement and the coming of the railways had also added to this heritage.

Thurrock had many international connections and was the first contact for many Caribbean workers arriving on the 'Windrush' in the early 1960s. Several place names from Thurrock were found across the world and Dutch and Czechoslovakian workers had contributed to the economic viability of Thurrock.

Many residents had lost their lives in both World Wars and conflicts around the world, whilst Thurrock boasted a military set of buildings protecting the capital against river borne attack such as the Tilbury and Coalhouse Forts.

The local government heritage of Thurrock had begun with the Saxon Chafford Hundred and the Barstable Hundred and the Lord of the Manor's right over such things as taxation and having a pillory, ducking stool and whipping post. Parish Councils took over many of these roles, including the ability to employ a Beadle and ale tasters. Eventually Urban District Councils for Purfleet, Grays, Orsett and Tilbury were inaugurated, with the Thurrock Urban District Council being formed in 1936. Borough status was achieved in 1974, and Unitary status in 1998.

He finished by talking briefly about how heritage could help Thurrock pride and that the many historic treasures of the Borough could be used to help promote the economy, education and future well-being of Thurrock.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Catton for his very succinct and interesting presentation. Councillor Andrews also congratulated Mr. Catton on the presentation and suggested that Mr. Catton produce the presentation in booklet form for sale in the Borough.

52. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions received.

53. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

1. The Minutes of the meeting of Environmental Services Committee held on 2 November, 1999 were presented.

RESOLVED:- That

the Minutes be received.

2. The Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 9 November, 1999 were presented.

RESOLVED:- That

the Minutes be received.

3. The Minutes of the meeting of the Learning Services Committee held on 16 November, 1999 were presented.

RESOLVED:- That

the Minutes be received, subject to the following amendment to Minute 108 (2) of Learning Services 16 November 1999 that East Tilbury Infant School Governor appointment should read Mrs. Sheppard and not Mrs. Sear.

Action:- Democratic Services

4. The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 23 November and 8 December, 1999 were presented.

RESOLVED:- That

1. **the Minutes be received, subject to the following amendment to Minute 93(5) of P&R 23 November 1999 that Councillor Mrs. Betts replace Councillor Price on the Education Budget Task Group and that there be no representation from the Learning Services Committee; and**
2. **The following Members be appointed to the Modernisation Agenda and Political Structure Task Group: Councillors Barron, Mrs Betts, Fish, Gooding, Mrs M S Jones, Kent, Maynard, O'Kane, Price, Slocock, Smith and Watts. (Minute 92 of P&R of 23 November 1999 refers)**

Action:- Democratic Services

5. The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Board held on 14 October, 4 and 25 November, 1999 were presented.

RESOLVED:- That

the Minutes be received.

6. The Minutes of the meeting of the DSO Board held on 21 October, 1999 were presented.

RESOLVED:- That

the Minutes be received.

7. The Minutes of the meeting of the Education Review Board held on 18 November, 1999 were presented.

RESOLVED:- That

the Minutes be received.

8. The Minutes of the meetings of the Legal Review Board held on 21 and 27 October and 10 November, 1999 were presented.

RESOLVED:- That

the Minutes be received.

9. The Minutes of the meeting of the Special Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 December, 1999 were presented.

RESOLVED:- That

the Minutes be received.

54. LABOUR GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with Standing Order 5(1), it was proposed by Councillor Smith and duly seconded

“That the representation of the Labour Group on Committee/Boards and any other bodies constituted by the Council or any of its Committee be amended as follows:

a) Community Services Committee

**Councillor Barton to be removed from the Committee.
Councillor Southam to replace Councillor Barton on the Committee.**

b) Environmental Services Committee

**Councillor Southam to be removed from the Committee.
Councillor Barton to replace Councillor Southam on the Committee.**

Councillor Evans to be removed from the Committee.

Councillor Clarke to act as Vice-Chair (Cleaning and Greening) until May, 2000.

c) Planning Board

Councillor Southam to stand down as Vice-Chair of Planning Board.

Councillor Clarke to be appointed as Vice-Chair.

Councillor Evans to be removed from the Board.

d) Community Safety Board

Councillor Norris to be appointed as Chair.

Councillor Barrett to be appointed as Vice-Chair.

e) **DSO Board**

Councillor Evans to be removed from the Board.

Action:- Democratic Services

55. BASILDON, BRENTWOOD AND THURROCK COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

This item had been deferred from the last Council meeting, when Council had been advised that Councillor M B Jones had resigned as one of the Council's representatives on the Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock Community Health Council. Since then, Councillor Williams had also resigned as one of the Council's representatives.

The Council was asked to nominate two replacement representatives to serve for the remainder of the terms of office expiring May, 2002.

RESOLVED:- That

Ms Val Cook replace Councillor M B Jones and Mrs Denise Cooper replace Councillor Williams for the remainder of the terms of office expiring May, 2002.

Action:- Democratic Services

56. EAST TILBURY RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY

The Council was advised of the need to appoint a Trustee to the East Tilbury Relief in Need Charity following the death of Mr William Smith-Allen. The Council was asked to nominate a replacement Trustee to serve for a four year period expiring 8 December, 2003.

RESOLVED:- That

Mr Robert Folkard replace Mr William Smith-Allen as a Trustee to the East Tilbury Relief in Need Charity and that the Council's condolences be sent to the family of Mr Smith-Allen at their loss.

Action:- Democratic Services

57. WILLIAM PALMER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Council was advised that Councillor Clarke's term of office as a nominated Trustee to William Palmer College Educational Trust would expire on 22 February, 2000. The Council was asked to re-appoint

Councillor Clarke to serve for the next term of office expiring on 22 February, 2004.

RESOLVED:- That

Councillor Clarke be re-appointed to serve for the next term of office expiring on 22 February, 2004.

Action:- Democratic Services

58. PERSONAL STATEMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS GILLAM, MRS. REVELL AND VESEY

The Mayor allowed Councillors Gillam, Mrs. Revell and Vesey to make personal statements on their positions within the authority.

MAYOR