

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
Havering Town Hall  
2 June 2011 (7.30pm – 8.25pm)**

**Present:**

**COUNCILLORS:**

**Conservative Group** Frederick Thompson (in the Chair), Becky Bennett, Robert Benham, Osman Dervish, Steven Kelly, Eric Munday, Roger Ramsey and Michael White

**Residents' Group** Clarence Barrett and Gillian Ford

**Labour Group** +Denis O'Flynn

**Independent Residents' Group** Jeffrey Tucker

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Keith Darvill (+Councillor Denis O'Flynn substituted) and Councillor Paul McGeary

Councillor Michael Deon Burton was also present at the meeting

The Chairman reminded Members of the action to be taken in an emergency.

**48 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**49 MINUTES OF THE ADJUDICATION AND REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**50 MINUTES OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 July and 18 August 2010 were agreed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

**51 WEBCASTING – RENEWAL OF SERVICE CONTRACT**

The Committee was reminded that a decision was now needed concerning the webcasting provision as a contract break was due in September. Members considered whether the cost of webcasting was reasonable and whether it met

its objective of providing a reasonable mechanism for the Council to engage with the public. The consensus was that it was becoming so.

A Member asked about the number of “hits” by the public and was informed that the most recent information showed some 460 views of live broadcasts (both Council and Cabinet) and around 4,500 visits to view archived material. The Member further asked whether that volume represented value for money and a number of Members expressed the opinion that, in comparison with the cost involved with the previous system of Area Committees, it was and that, over time the number of visits to the site would increase as more people learned about it.

A Member asked whether webcasting might not be more effective if it was extended to cover all meetings held in public. In reply it was pointed out that this would develop over time, possibly with the exception of the Regulatory Services Committee and of quasi-judicial meetings.

Members discussed how to ensure that the best could be obtained from the provision and were informed that a benchmarking exercise could be undertaken to see how this was being delivered in other councils. In answer to a question concerning what the charges covered, Members were informed that Council-owned equipment was being used, but all the records and support were off-site.

Staff were encouraged to seek to negotiate a reduction in the cost of the current service and to circulate a report on the usage statistics to members.

#### **RESOLVED:**

##### **That**

1. The continued use of web casting as a tool in the Council’s programme of community engagement be approved.
2. The Head of Communications be authorised to continue broadcasting meetings of the Council, Cabinet and Ask the Cabinet over the internet, together with other sessions of interest where this has been agreed with the relevant Chairman or Cabinet Member other than the Regulatory Services Committee.
3. The cost-effectiveness of webcasting be monitored and that periodic bench-marking exercises be undertaken to ensure that the Council’s webcasting provision continued to deliver a service to the public consistent with good practice.

## **52 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee received the details of appointments required to outside bodies for the forthcoming year. Members noted that a number of organisations were no longer supported and that membership would not be required. Appointments were made as detailed in appendix 1 to these minutes.

A Member proposed that Councillor David Durant be appointed to the Damyns

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Hall Aerodrome Joint Consultative Committee on the grounds that this appointment had in the past come from that Ward. There was no seconder for this proposal.

It was proposed that Councillor Michael Deon Burton be appointed to the Orchard village Neighbourhood Management Board on the grounds of his being a Ward Councillor for that area. In addition, it was stated that Councillor Burton had previously been appointed to the Board but that he had wrongly been removed from it by the Management Board, and his place subsequently wrongly allocated to an Administration councillor. Members discussed this matter and a vote was taken on whether the Administration nominations for appointment should be accepted. The nominations were **ACCEPTED** by 11 votes to 1:

**In favour:**

Councillors: Benham, Bennett, Dervish, Kelly, Munday, Ramsey, Thompson, White, Barrett, Ford and O'Flynn.

**Against:**

Councillor Tucker.

**RESOLVED:****That**

- 1 (a) The appointments to the organisations referred to in the report for the period until the meeting that dealt with appointments for the municipal year 2012/13 (or such other period as may be relevant in any specific case) be confirmed.
- (b) Where the appointment was executive, the Leader be recommended to confirm that the appointment be made.
- 2 Where the Council's representative (or any deputy or alternative representative where applicable) was unable to attend a particular meeting and the constitutional arrangements of the body in question so permitted, that representative may mandate the Chair of the meeting to exercise a proxy vote.
- 3 The Council's voting rights at the General Assembly of the Local Government Association be exercised by Councillor Michael White (5 votes) and Councillor Clarence Barrett (1 vote) (or their respective nominees in the event either is unable to vote in person).

**53 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

*This report was submitted with the agreement of the Chairman as an urgent matter, pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972*

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The Committee was invited to appoint the chairmen and vice chairmen of the Adjudication and Review and Appointments sub committees. Members were reminded that the Sub Committees needed to be politically balanced, but that membership was not restricted to the members of the Governance Committee. They were also reminded that the Adjudication and Review Sub Committee ought to remain at its current number (10) because of the need to provide for hearings panels. Both Sub Committees would only meet in future when there was business for them to transact.

For the Adjudication and Review Sub Committee, it was proposed that Councillor Osman Dervish be appointed Chairman and Councillor Frederick Thompson be appointed as Vice Chairman.

Councillor Rebecca Bennett was proposed for Chairman of the Appointments Sub Committee and Councillor Michael White as Vice Chairman.

Councillor Barbara Matthews was nominated for the position of Opposition Vice Chairman for the Adjudication and Review Sub Committee.

Councillor Michael Deon Burton was proposed for appointment as Chairman of the Adjudication and Review Sub Committee, but in the absence of a seconder, this nomination failed.

The other nominations were then agreed by 11 votes to 1.

In favour:

Councillors: Benham, Bennett, Dervish, Kelly, Munday, Ramsey, Thompson, White, Barrett, Ford and O'Flynn.

Against:

Councillor Tucker.

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**CHAIRMAN**  
**5 July 2011**