

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2007**

Present: Cllr P La Broy - Mayor

Cllrs J Blatchford, J Bryson, P Dolphin, L Emo, E Greenwold, L Moores,  
P Moores, F Partridge, H Partridge, L Sharratt

Mrs C Kett – Town Clerk

Ms K Tebbey – Ashfords Solicitors

3 electors present

**C/137/07**

**To receive and accept apologies for absence**

Cllrs W B Garvie, H Phillips, R Rowland, N Tucker

**C/138/07**

**Members Declaration of Interests**

Personal and prejudicial interests were declared by:-

***Cllrs F Partridge & H Partridge*** – former trustees of Bude-Stratton Heritage Trust (BSHT). Cllr F Partridge stated that advice had been sought regarding the position of Cllr H Partridge and himself. Under Section 12(2) of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (as adopted by BSTC on 07/06/07) they would remain in the room for the duration of C/139/07 in order to provide any factual information that the Council may require

Personal interest was declared by:-

***Cllr P Dolphin, E Greenwold, P La Broy, L Moores & P Moores L Sharratt***  
as members of BSTC – the subject of the Public Interest Report (PIR)

**C/139/07**

**Maximum 15 minutes for electors present to put questions or make observations concerning the business of the Council**

**Resolved: That Standing Orders be suspended**

The matters raised by electors present included:-

- alleged inaccuracies contained in the Public Interest Report (PIR) prepared by the District Auditor
- trivial mistakes in the procedure of Bude-Stratton Heritage Trust (BSHT) which had been “blown out of all sense of proportion”
- explanation as to the expenditure of some of BSHT monies
- the possibility that, as a result of the events of the past few years the public would, in the future, be discouraged from assisting BSTC
- the purpose of and need for the meeting
- given the change in membership of the Council, the ability of those present to decide upon what action to take when they had not been members when the events to which the PIR related had taken place

**Resolved: That Standing Orders be resumed**

As per the previously declared interests Cllr F Partridge and Cllr H Partridge left the room at the conclusion of C/139/07

**C/140/07**

**To receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 October 2007**

**Resolved: That the minutes be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.**

C/141/07

**To receive & consider the Public Interest Report (PIR) issued by the District Auditor in June 2007 pursuant to Section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998. The Council is required to decide:-**

- (i) whether the report requires the Council to take any action or whether any recommendations made in it are accepted**

Ms Tebbey discussed in detail with the meeting the points raised by the District Auditor in the PIR (attached to these minutes – Appendix 1) viz:-

- The Council exceeded its statutory powers
- Procedural deficiency in decision-making
- The involvement of members with prejudicial interests

Members then went on to discuss in detail the objections raised by the objector and the decisions of the District Auditor as contained in the PIR and the “Decision Letter and Statement of Reasons” (attached to these minutes (Appendix 2)).

- (ii) what, if any, action is to be taken in response to the report or recommendations made in it**

Members considered the recommendations of the District Auditor and considered further whether any additional steps were required by the Council for the future. One member noted that the content of agendas and summons had become more comprehensive and clear.

**Resolved: That the Council notes and accepts the content of the Public Interest Report**

**Resolved: That in relation to the recommendations contained at paragraph 31 of the PIR, that -**

- (a) the Council noted that procedures for issuing summonses had already been reviewed; and**

- (b) in relation to the Code of Conduct, some members of the Town Council had already received training in relation to the new Code of Conduct. Further training will be arranged within the next three months for those who had not yet done so**

For: 8 votes    Against: 0 votes    Abstained: 1 vote  
Cllr J Bryson requested that her abstention be noted

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.10pm

SIGNED: .....DATED:.....