

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13 September 2016 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 1.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Michael Waine – in the Chair

Councillors:

Lynda Atkins	Janet Godden	David Nimmo Smith
Jamila Azad	Mark Gray	Zoé Patrick
David Bartholomew	Patrick Greene	Glynis Phillips
Mike Beal	Tim Hallchurch MBE	Susanna Pressel
Maurice Billington	Pete Handley	Laura Price
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Jenny Hannaby	Anne Purse
Kevin Bulmer	Nick Hards	G.A. Reynolds
Nick Carter	Neville F. Harris	Alison Rooke
Louise Chapman	Steve Harrod	Rodney Rose
Mark Cherry	Mrs Judith Heathcoat	Gillian Sanders
John Christie	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	John Sanders
Sam Coates	John Howson	Les Sibley
Yvonne Constance OBE	Ian Hudspeth	Roz Smith
Steve Curran	Bob Johnston	Lawrie Stratford
Surinder Dhesi	Stewart Lilly	John Tanner
Arash Fatemian	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Melinda Tilley
Neil Fawcett	Sandy Lovatt	Richard Webber
Jean Fooks	Mark Lygo	David Williams
Mrs C. Fulljames	Kieron Mallon	David Wilmshurst
Anthony Gearing	James Mills	

The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

52/16 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 July 2016 were approved and signed subject to changing 10.00 am to 10.30 am in the resolution of Minute 39/16.

53/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Langridge, Mathew and Owen.

54/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE

(Agenda Item 3)

Councillor James Mills declared an interest in Agenda Items 6 and 16 (Motion from Councillor David Williams) by virtue of his membership of WODC and Oxfordshire Growth Board.

55/16 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman reported as follows:

Council sent its condolences to the families of those lost at Didcot Power Station collapse. Tribute was paid to Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, the Coroner's Service and the local community for their efforts in very difficult circumstances.

Council sent their condolences to the family of former Monitoring Officer of the City Council Jeremy Thomas.

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman were participating in the Maggie Culture Crawl in aid of the Maggie Centre at the Churchill hospital, Oxford. Gift Aid Envelopes had been circulated and a just Giving page had been set up should members wish to support the cause.

The Chairman reminded members that, following consultation with the Group Leaders, Council would finish at 1.00 pm, so that all members could attend the Unitary Debate at the extraordinary meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee.

56/16 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 8)

23 questions with notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and the supplementary questions and answers (where asked) are set out in Annex 1 to the Minutes.

In relation to question 1 (Question from Councillor John Tanner to Councillor David Nimmo Smith), Councillor Nimmo Smith gave an assurance to keep the public and members informed prior to any future plans for Folly Bridge.

In relation to Question 5 (Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Nimmo Smith) Councillor Nimmo Smith undertook to provide Councillor Howson with a written answer to the question of why no modelling was undertaken and how people were to get into Oxford whilst works were being carried out.

In relation to Question 16 (Question from Councillor Dhesi to Councillor Nimmo Smith) Councillor Nimmo Smith undertook to provide Councillor

Dhesi with a written answer detailing how much the community pay back scheme was used for cutting back overgrown hedges etc.

In relation to Question 18 (Question from Councillor Nick Hards to Councillor Melinda Tilley) Councillor Tilley undertook to provide Councillor Hards with a written answer detailing whether there were still any children waiting for a place at Great Western Park.

57/16 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 9)

The Council received the report of the Cabinet.

58/16 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2015/16 OUTTURN

(Agenda Item 10)

The Council had before them a report by the Chief Finance Officer (CC10) which set out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the financial year 2015/16 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator Outturn, Investment Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

Councillor Stratford moved and Councillor Hudspeth seconded the recommendations set out in the report and on the face of the agenda. In moving the report, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Lawrie Stratford paid tribute to the Treasury Management Team for their work over the past year and on an excellent report.

During debate, Councillor Roz Smith questioned whether decisions on the transition fund would be going through delegated decisions and if so, where those decisions would be reported to. In response, Councillor Stratford undertook to provide her with a written answer to the question.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: (nem con) to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2015/16.

59/16 REVISED MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2017/18 - 2019/20

(Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Stratford moved and Councillor Hudspeth seconded the recommendations set out in the report and on the face of the agenda. In moving the report, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Lawrie Stratford paid tribute to the Finance Team for their work over the past year and on an excellent report.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried by 45 votes to 10, with 4 abstentions.

RESOLVED: (45 votes to 10, 4 abstentions) to approve the:

- (a) revised Medium Term Financial Plan for 2017/18 to 2019/20; and
- (b) four year Efficiency Plan for 2016/17 to 2019/20 including the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts strategy for 2016/17 for onward submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

60/16 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WAINE

(Agenda Item 19)

The Chairman sought the approval of Council to move the following motion which had received cross party support without debate. The motion was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: (unanimously)

“We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. We believe that hate crimes have no place in our country, whether they are based on Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Age, Disability or Gender Identity. Oxfordshire County Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We reassure all people living in Oxfordshire that they are valued members of our community.”

61/16 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GILL SANDERS

(Agenda Item 12)

Councillor Gill Sanders moved and Councillor Howson seconded the following motion:

“Oxfordshire County Council was one of the first local authorities in the country to decide on the abolition of grammar schools and to end the horrendous process of selection that divided children at the age of 11 into those who could go to grammar schools and those who were condemned to attend secondary modern schools where even the brightest children were not challenged and encouraged to progress.

This Council should not support going back to the old system that was so rightly rejected by this Council in the past and asks the Cabinet to reject any proposal to invoke this incredibly retrograde step to reintroduce grammar schools into Oxfordshire.”

During debate, Councillor Tanner moved and Councillor Azad seconded that the question be now put.

The motion was put to the vote and was lost by 26 votes to 19.

Following debate, the substantive motion was put to the vote and was carried by 37 votes to 14, with 9 abstentions.

RESOLVED: accordingly.

62/16 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY

(Agenda Item 13)

Councillor Lilly moved and Councillor Greene seconded the following motion:

“The A34 Trunk Road is a major economic artery, not only for Oxfordshire, but also for the neighbouring counties of Berkshire and Hampshire. I believe it is this Council’s responsibility and duty to instigate and create strong representation with our adjoining Council colleagues, local Members of Parliament and other relevant groups, to focus upon the current and serious inadequacies of this highway. Commercial and residential development within Oxfordshire is growing significantly and Highways Agency admits the highway to be at virtual capacity now. Too serious incidents have taken place over the last five years and we are all aware of the recent tragedy when a Mother and three children were killed, plus several serious injuries.

Records show approximately 70 serious hospitalised injuries and 10 fatalities in the last five years (excluding the last four months’ statistics). In all 499 incidents and 757 casualties have occurred in this period.

Council asks that the leader of the Council writes to the Minister of Transport, the Right Hon Chris Grayling MP, Highways England, the Treasury and the CLG to collectively create an early strategy and budget, for addressing the ever increasing dangers of this road. This is now impacting on the commercial growth and prosperity of Oxfordshire as the reputation of this road is becoming well-known, but for the very wrong reasons. I fear the county’s economy could also decline because this highway is becoming unable to cope.”

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: accordingly.

63/16 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BOB JOHNSTON

(Agenda Item 14)

Councillor Johnston moved and Councillor Rose seconded the following motion:

“A new fast rail service to go from Bristol to Swindon, Grove/Wantage and Milton Keynes will improve the cost/benefit ratio for the new station at Wantage/Grove. County officers are asked to discuss with Network Rail and the DfT for the inclusion of a station at Wantage/Grove into the funding during Network Rail's next control period starting in 2019 with a view to the

.....

station being opened by the end of the control period. The station will reduce wear and tear on local roads and reduce commuting time between the rapidly growing communities in South Oxfordshire. It will also improve access to skills and education for both 16 - 19's and adults living in those parts of the County.

Council calls on the officers to investigate the cost and partnership funding available to develop the business case and identify the county funding contribution required for the business case. In doing so they should co-operate with similar efforts in Wiltshire and elsewhere.”

Following debate, the Motion was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: accordingly.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing