

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 17 May 2022 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 11.40 am

Present:

Councillor John Howson – in the Chair

Councillors:

Susanna Pressel	Nick Field-Johnson	Michael O'Connor
Juliette Ash	Donna Ford	Michele Paule
Brad Baines	Andrew Gant	Glynis Phillips
David Bartholomew	Stefan Gawrysiak	Sally Povolotsky
Tim Bearder	Andy Graham	Eddie Reeves
Robin Bennett	Kate Gregory	G.A. Reynolds
Felix Bloomfield	Jane Hanna OBE	Judy Roberts
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Jenny Hannaby	David Rouane
Kevin Bulmer	Charlie Hicks	Geoff Saul
Nigel Champken-Woods	Tony Ilott	Les Sibley
Mark Cherry	Bob Johnston	Nigel Simpson
Andrew Coles	Liz Leffman	Roz Smith
Yvonne Constance OBE	Nick Leverton	Ian Snowdon
Imade Edosomwan	Dr Nathan Ley	Dr Pete Sudbury
Duncan Enright	Mark Lygo	Bethia Thomas
Mohamed Fadlalla	Kieron Mallon	Michael Waine
Arash Fatemian	Ian Middleton	Liam Walker
Neil Fawcett	Freddie van Mierlo	Richard Webber
Ted Fenton	Calum Miller	

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.

34/22 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE 2022/23 COUNCIL YEAR

(Agenda Item 1)

Before nominations were invited for the office of Chair of the Council, Councillor John Howson (the retiring Chairman) took the opportunity to reflect on his year in office as Chair of the Council, and in particular his civic duties promoting Oxfordshire County Council and meeting a broad spectrum of people across the County. He thanked those who had acted as his consorts and drivers during the year, and Anita Bradley the Monitoring Officer and Sara Lenihan, his personal assistant for their guidance and support. He thanked the Vice-Chairman (Councillor Pressel) for deputising

for him on a number of occasions. He was proud that the Council had raised the flag of Ukraine above County Hall and of the work the Council was doing to support displaced people from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Councillors Leffman, Brighthouse and Reeves paid tribute to the outgoing Chair thanking him for his fairness, hard work, and effort over the year.

The Monitoring Officer, Anita Bradley then invited nominations for the office of Chair of the Council for the 2022/23 Council Year

Councillor Brighthouse moved and Councillor Leffman seconded that Councillor Susanna Pressel be elected as Chair of the Council for the 2022/23 Council Year.

There being no other nominations and no dissent, Councillor Pressel was duly declared elected by a show of hands (nem con). Upon election, Councillor Pressel read out and signed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office

RESOLVED: (nem con) that Councillor Susanna Pressel be elected as Chair for the 2022/23 Council Year.

35/22 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE 2022/23 COUNCIL YEAR

(Agenda Item 2)

The Chair called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chair.

Councillor Reeves moved and Councillor Ash seconded that Councillor Felix Bloomfield be elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2021/22 Council Year. There being no other nominations and no dissent, Councillor Felix Bloomfield was duly declared elected by a show of hands (nem con) Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2022/23 Council Year. He read out and signed the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

RESOLVED: (nem con) that Councillor Felix Bloomfield be elected Vice-Chair for the 2022/23 Civic Year.

36/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 3)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Banfield, Corkin, Haywood, Levy, Murphy and Rooke

37/22 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 5)

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2022 were amended as follows:-

7/22 Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council Section 113 Agreement

The minute to remove the statement by Cllr Leffman that Cherwell District Council had decided to cease the Section 113 agreement.

19/22 Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

In relation to question 2 (Cllr Eddie Reeves to Cllr Liz Leffman) Cllr Leffman reiterated that the 4 complaints against the Cabinet member for Highways Management were all on the same issue which had been resolved

In relation to question 12 (Cllr Stefan Gawrysiak to Cllr Calum Miller), Cllr Miller said that officers were in the process of providing a full overview of the assets of the County Council and undertook to provide a further written answer on the plans for the repair of various council properties once this review is completed later this year

and signed as a correct record.

38/22 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 8)

Council received the report of the Cabinet

In relation to a question from Cllr Bob Johnston, Cllr Pete Sudbury said that the Tree Policy did include climate resilience and UK grown trees. Trees needed to provide food, timber or natural habitats

In relation to a question from Cllr Charlie Hicks, Cllr Sudbury confirmed that the next policy to be considered would be for verges and footpaths.

Cllr Sudbury then updated members on the Council's response to the current position regarding climate change

In relation to questions from Cllr John Howson and Cllr Nick Field-Johnson, Cllr Enright said that a list of organisations to be included in the Highways Work Bonds would need to be considered and Cllr Bearder explained the current position on the parishes being considered of 20 mph schemes. The request for a full schedule of parishes would be considered.

39/22 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 9)

Council had before it the Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee which summarised the work that had been undertaken both as a Committee and through the support of the Audit Group in 2021/22. Councillor Roz Smith moved and Councillor Brad Baines seconded that the Council receive the report.

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

RESOLVED: (nem con) to receive the report.

40/22 COMMITTEES AND REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

(Agenda Item 10)

The Council was required by the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 to review the political balance on its committees on an annual basis. The Council had before it a report which set out how the rules operate and sought approval for adjustments which were necessary to achieve the balance across and within committees to comply with the rules. The Council also had before it Annex 2 which set out the political balance on the committees and Annex 3 showing the membership of all committees, together with a number of additional changes set out in the schedule of business for the meeting.

Councillor Susanna Pressel moved, and Cllr John Howson seconded that the recommendations set out in the report and on the face of the Agenda be adopted.

Councillor Leffman informed the Council of the following additional changes:-

Councillor Johnston to replace Councillor Rouane on Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Rouane to remain on Planning and Regulation Committee

Councillor Rooke to replace Councillor Gant on the Joint Shared Services and Personnel Committee

Councillor Brighouse informed the Council of the following additional changes:-

Councillor Paule to replace Councillor O'Connor on Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor O'Connor to replace Councillor Barfield on People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: (nem con)

- (a) To confirm the political balance on committees shown in Annex 2 to the report;
- (b) To appoint to committees the councillors and co-opted members shown in Annex 3 subject to the changes reported at the Meeting

41/22 COMMITTEE DATES 2022/23

(Agenda Item 11)

Council had before it a schedule of committee dates for the 2022/23 Council Year which had been approved at its meeting on 2 November 2021. The schedule had been drawn up to reflect the various rules regarding frequency of meetings set out in the Council's Constitution

RESOLVED to note the schedule of dates of committees in 2022/23 subject to the following amendments:-

- a) The start time of Council meetings to be 10.30am
- b) The start time of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be 10.00am

42/22 CABINET MEMBERSHIP AND DELEGATION OF CABINET FUNCTIONS

(Agenda Item 12)

Under the Council's constitution, the Leader of the Council was required to inform the Annual Meeting of the Council of the delegations she had made in relation to the functions of the cabinet. Council had before it a report (appended to the Schedule of Business) which confirmed changes to the appointments to the Adult Social Care, Community Services and Safety and Highways Management portfolios

RESOLVED (nem con) to:

- a) note the names of the people appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council for the coming year and their respective portfolios (shown below);

Leader – Liz Leffman

Deputy Leader – Liz Brighthouse

Cabinet Member for:

Corporate Services – Glynis Phillips

Community Services and Safety – Jenny Hannaby

Climate Change Delivery and Environment – Pete Sudbury

Travel and Development Strategy – Duncan Enright

Highways Management – Andrew Gant

Finance – Calum Miller

Adult Social Care – Tim Bearder

Public Health & Equalities – Mark Lygo

b) note Councillor Eddie Reeves as Leader of the Opposition

c) note that Councillor Donna Ford had been given responsibility for both the Corporate Services and Community Services and Safety portfolios in the Shadow Cabinet

43/22 DISPENSATIONS

(Agenda Item 13)

Council had before it a report proposing a number of general dispensations under the Localism Act 2011, such dispensations to remain in force for a period of three years, in the interests of good governance and the effective conduct of public affairs.

Councillor Liz Brighouse moved and Councillor John Howson seconded an amendment proposing the inclusion of school meals and school transport in the list of dispensations.

RESOLVED:- (on a motion by Councillor Susanna Pressel and seconded by Councillor Felix Bloomfield and carried nem con) to

- a) approve, under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, the general dispensations, listed at paragraph 7 of this report, with the addition of school meals and school transport, for all elected and co-opted voting Members of Oxfordshire County Council;
- b) agree that those general dispensations should remain in force for a period of three years;
- c) agree that the granting of individual dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Code of Conduct be delegated to the Monitoring Officer

..... in the Chair

Date of signing