

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 14 February 2017 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 4.50 pm.

Present:

Councillor Michael Waine – in the Chair

Councillors:

Lynda Atkins	Janet Godden	James Mills
Jamila Azad	Mark Gray	David Nimmo Smith
David Bartholomew	Patrick Greene	Neil Owen
Mike Beal	Tim Hallchurch MBE	Zoé Patrick
Maurice Billington	Pete Handley	Glynis Phillips
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Jenny Hannaby	Susanna Pressel
Kevin Bulmer	Nick Hards	Laura Price
Nick Carter	Neville F. Harris	Anne Purse
Louise Chapman	Steve Harrod	Alison Rooke
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	Charles Mathew	

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.

98/17 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 December 2016 were approved and signed.

99/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Langridge, Reynolds and Rose.

100/17 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman reported as follows:

Council paid tribute to Chief Fire Officer Dave Etheridge OBE, who had announced his retirement after a distinguished 32 year career in the County Council's Fire and Rescue Service. He is also President of The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA). Dave Etheridge OBE would retire from his role on 31 March 2017, to coincide with his final day as the President of CFOA. Council sent best wishes for his future.

Council paid tribute to honour the memory of Former Alderman David Buckle, County Councillor who had sadly passed away over the weekend of 21st-22nd January 2017. The title of Honorary Alderman had been conferred upon the then former Councillor Buckle in May 2013, in recognition of his having made a significant contribution to the Oxfordshire County Council. Alderman Buckle had also a member of the Labour Group, representing the Wood Farm division from May 1989. He served as Chairman of the Council from July 1996 until 12th May 1998, continuing to serve as a member of Council until June 2001, when he stood down.

101/17 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 5)

Members noted that Councillor Hudspeth had given notice of the following change to portfolio responsibilities in accordance with Council Procedure Rules Part 4.2 Para 1.2.4, to take effect from Tuesday 10 January 2017:

The following addition to the portfolio responsibility of Councillor Judith Heathcoat, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care:

Champion for Mental Health.

This progressed the Council resolution in November to sign up to the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge which requires a lead member for mental health to be in place.

102/17 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 6)

The Council received the following Public Address:

Rachael Scott-Hunter spoke against the proposals to stop financially supporting day support centres. She referred to her experience as a parent caring for a severely disabled adult daughter and the importance to her of Kidlington Day Centre which she had attended for the past 26 years and was a totally safe space and respected her physical and mental needs. Changes would bring about anxiety, stress and challenging behaviours. Her daughter would be separated from friends and would be sent to an inappropriate hub

with elderly patients. She believed the proposals were against basic human rights. She urged Council to put themselves into her daughter's shoes.

Ted Cooper resident of Witney expressed the disquiet of users of his local centre in Witney. He expressed his dismay that no one from the Council had visited the centre and that users had not been directly consulted. There were particular concerns around transport. He believed that some elderly people would not be able to manage the online registration process and that booking a seat a week in advance was not practicable and that the time allowed at the centre due to transport limited integration within the centre. He urged the Council to consider making some small changes, particularly around transport, to make the proposals workable.

Maggie Swain, Chair of the October Club Management Committee emphasised the value of the Wantage & Grove Independent Day Centre which provided support in a small local group particularly for those with Alzheimer's/dementia who would struggle with transport and responded better in a smaller less busy environment. The safe and stimulating environment was available to people 5 days a week for 6 hours and enabled people to remain at home longer and provided essential respite for careers. She believed that closing clubs such as this one would be at high cost to the Council and the NHS. She urged the Council to consider the detrimental effect of losing the support of volunteers and voluntary groups for the future.

103/17 PAY POLICY STATEMENT - REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda Item 7)

The Council had before them the report of the Remuneration Committee (CC7) which updated the Council's Pay Policy Statement and set out future proposals of the Remuneration Committee in relation to this area.

RESOLVED: (on a Motion by Councillor Hudspeth, seconded by Councillor Webber and carried nem con) to:

- (a) receive the report of the Remuneration Committee;
- (b) approve the revised Pay Policy Statement at Annex 2 to this report.

104/17 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(Agenda Item 8)

The Council had before them a report which following a senior management review and consultation with the Cabinet recommended the appointment of Peter Clerk to the post of Chief Executive of Oxfordshire County Council.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Hudspeth, seconded by Councillor Heathcoat and carried nem con) to approve the appointment of Peter Clark to the post of Chief Executive with effect from 14 February 2017.

105/17 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING 2017/18 - 2020/21

(Agenda Item 9)

The Council had before it a report (CC9) which outlined the service & resource planning process for 2107/18 to 2020/21, including the Leader of the Council's overview (section 1) the Council Vision (section 2) the Director of Finance's statutory report (section 3) and the Budget Strategy and Capital Programme (Section 4)

Under Section 25 of the Local government Act 2003, the Director of Finance was required to report on the robustness of the estimates made in determining the council tax requirement and on the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. The assessment was set out in section 3 of the report. Council was required to have due regard to this report when making their decisions on the budget.

The Council also had before it budget proposals in the form of: Amendments by the Labour Group to the Cabinet's Revenue Budget (CC9 Labour), Amendments by the Liberal Democrat Group to the Cabinet's Revenue Budget (CC9 Lib Dem) and Amendments by the Green Group to the Cabinet's Revenue Budget (CC9 Green) (Additional Papers). and the schedule of Business, which contained an Erratum Pack and corrected Green Group Amendment. All papers could be found on the Council's Website.

With the consent of Council, Councillor Hudspeth moved an Alteration to the Cabinet Budget Proposals (CPR 17.5.1) as set out in the Schedule of Business. The Motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

Councillor Hudspeth then moved and Councillor Stratford seconded the Cabinet's recommendations on Service & Resource Planning 2017/18 – 2020/21. In moving the motion, Councillor Hudspeth paid tribute to Lorna Baxter and Katie Jurczynsyn for all their work in preparing the budget.

Councillor Brighouse moved and Councillor Hards seconded an amendment to the Cabinet's budget as set out in the Additional Papers (CC9 Labour). Councillor Brighouse thanked the Director of Finance and her team for their help and support.

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was lost by 41 votes to 17.

Councillor Webber moved and Councillor Fawcett seconded an amendment to the Cabinet's budget as set out in the Additional Papers (CC9 Lib Dem). In moving his motion, Councillor Webber paid tribute to Lorna Baxter and her team for their help and support.

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was lost by 44 votes to 12, with 3 abstentions.

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With the consent of Council, Councillor Williams moved and Councillor Coates seconded an amended version of his amendment to the Cabinet's budget as set out in the Erratum to the Schedule of Business. Councillor Williams paid tribute to the Finance Team.

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was lost by 56 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

Members of the Cabinet then gave an overview of the areas of the Budget falling under their responsibility.

Following a lengthy debate, the substantive motion was put to the vote and was carried by 31 votes to 29.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing