

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 2 April 2013 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 3.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Don Seale – in the Chair

Councillors:

Tim Hallchurch MBE	Tony Harbour	John Sanders
M. Altaf-Khan	David Harvey	Larry Sanders
Alan Armitage	Steve Hayward	Bill Service
Lynda Atkins	Mrs J. Heathcoat	Dave Sexon
Marilyn Badcock	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	Chip Sherwood
Mike Badcock	Ian Hudspeth	C.H. Shouler
Norman Bolster	Ray Jelf	Dr Peter Skolar
Liz Brighouse OBE	Stewart Lilly	Roz Smith
Iain Brown	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Val Smith
Nick Carter	A.M. Lovatt	Richard Stevens
Jim Couchman	Kieron Mallon	Keith Strangwood
Tony Crabbe	Charles Mathew	Lawrie Stratford
Roy Darke	Caroline Newton	John Tanner
Arash Fatemian	David Nimmo-Smith	Alan Thompson
Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor	Zoé Patrick	Melinda Tilley
Jean Fooks	Susanna Pressel	David Turner
Anthony Gearing	Anne Purse	Nicholas P. Turner
Janet Godden	G.A. Reynolds	Michael Waine
Patrick Greene	David Robertson	David Wilmshurst
Jenny Hannaby	Gillian Sanders	

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.

10/13 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

Councillor David Turner moved and Councillor Godden seconded that the words “following debate” be removed from the penultimate paragraph of Minute 9/13.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was lost by 43 votes to 9.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of held on 19 February 2013 were approved and signed subject to the following amendment:

Minute 9/13 Page 5, 3rd paragraph – replace Councillor Alan Armitage with Councillor Roz Smith.

11/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Billington, Chapman, Mrs Fulljames, Jones, Malik, Mitchell, Rose and Viney.

12/13 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 6)

The following public addresses were received by Council:

Ms Julie Maberley addressed the Council on behalf of the Wantage & Grove Campaign Group in support of the Motion From Councillor Zoe Patrick, requesting that the Council find an urgent solution to the issue.

Mrs Julia Wells addressed the Council on behalf of Swyncombe Parish Council in support of the Motion from Councillor Tony Crabbe, requesting future joint working when planning future events.

Mr David Hammond, Chairman of Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council addressed the Council in support of the Motion from Councillor Tony Crabbe and the earlier address by Mrs Wells. He urged the Council to consider the large amount of disruption the event caused to many householders and businesses in the area.

13/13 INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAKING EMERGENCY DECISIONS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

(Agenda Item 8)

The Council had before them a report which sought approval for interim arrangements for taking emergency decisions immediately following the County Council Elections on 2 May 2013.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Seale, seconded by Councillor Hallchurch and carried nem con) to agree a temporary variation to Part 7.3 of the Constitution Specific Powers and Functions of Particular Officers with effect that from 7 May 2013 to 14 May 2013 paragraph 6.3 (c) is to be read as follows:-

“(c) Any function of the Cabinet or of a Council committee or sub-committee, after consultation with the appropriate Director and thereafter with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council.”

14/13 IMPROVED MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND STREAMLINED GOVERNANCE: GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(Agenda Item 9)

The Council considered a report (CC9) which set out the findings of a cross party working group set up by the Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to review the Council's governance arrangements.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Lindsay-Gale, seconded by Councillor David Turner and carried by 55 vote to 2, with 1 abstention) to:

- (a) endorse the proposals for new governance arrangements outlined in this report in paragraphs 5 to 24;
- (b) agree that any approved governance arrangements be reviewed twelve months after coming into effect;
- (c) note the establishment of a Health and Wellbeing Board for Oxfordshire and approve the outline terms of reference at Annex 3;
- (d) ask the Monitoring Officer to make the consequential amendments to the Constitution to reflect these changes;
- (e) note the additional Constitutional updates at Annex 4.

15/13 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 10)

The Council had before them the report of the Cabinet Meetings held on 18 December 2012, 29 January, 26 February and 19 March 2013 (CC10).

In relation to paragraph 12 (Statutory Notice: Proposal to Expand Windmill Primary School, Oxford) (Question from Councillor Roz Smith) Councillor Tilley undertook to ask Councillor Rose to provide a written response to the question on when the traffic review report of the school would be available for local member consideration.

16/13 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 11)

The Council had before them the Annual Report of the Council's Audit & Governance Committee (CC11).

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Wilmshurst, seconded by Councillor Mathew and carried nem con) to receive the report.

17/13 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 12)

The Council had before them a number of Questions received with notice from members of the Council (Annex 2 to the Schedule of Business).

10 Questions with notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and the supplementary questions and answers (where asked) will be set out in Annex 1 to the Minutes.

In relation to Question 8 (Question from Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Rodney Rose) Councillor Hudspeth undertook to provide Councillor Smith with a written answer to the question of why green travel plans were not taken into account.

18/13 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE PURSE

(Agenda Item 13)

Councillor Purse moved and Councillor Fooks seconded the following motion:

“This Council is responsible for maintaining Oxfordshire’s roads, but there is great concern about the time taken and the standard of repair. It is acknowledged that the winter of heavy rain and freezing temperatures has caused a considerable increase in the problems, but we cannot continue with dangerous holes left for longer than the 28 days required, or holes filled to a such a poor standard that further repairs are needed shortly afterwards.

People are damaging their vehicles, motorcycles and cycles on our roads, but find it hard to get recompense since it is impossible to prove which pothole was reported when in a situation where many roads have repeated holes and repeated repairs. This Council calls upon the Cabinet to require our contractors to meet their obligation on highways repairs and so ensure our roads are fit for the public to travel on.”

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was lost by 41 votes to 17, with 3 abstentions.

19/13 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER

(Agenda Item 14)

Councillor Tanner moved and Councillor Brighouse seconded the following motion:

“This Council regrets the £10 million of public money lost on the failed Cogges Link, the collapse of the recycling centre strategy, the failure to tackle delays in hospital to home transfer and the continued under performance of too many Oxfordshire schools. We urge the Cabinet, within existing budgets, to provide youth workers for every area of the County, to provide accessible transport for elderly and disabled people, to safeguard Oxfordshire's children's centres and to pay at least the Living Wage to all County Council staff and contracted employees.”

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was lost by 44 votes to 7, with 9 abstentions.

20/13 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY

(Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Lilly moved and Councillor Gearing seconded the following motion:

“This Council welcomes the news of the “City Deal”, and its significant benefits to all of Oxfordshire. This success in moving to the next stage recognises the tremendous efforts of this Council & it’s staff in the valuable contribution that Oxfordshire can and will make to bringing the country’s economy out of recession. Government clearly recognises that this authority has worked tirelessly in recent years to promote the County for economic growth. The University, the Science Vale Enterprise Zone, and the people of Oxfordshire now have exciting futures. Developing the detail of proposal will ensure that Oxfordshire’s important infrastructure will be able to progress and also provide much needed additional employment.

This Council wishes the next administration to build upon this success and commit to continued partnership working with the City and district councils, business community and universities in developing the deal.”

Councillor Val Smith moved and Councillor Tanner seconded the following amendment shown in bold italic:

“This Council welcomes the news of the “City Deal”, and its significant benefits to all of Oxfordshire. This success in moving to the next stage recognises the tremendous efforts of this Council & it’s staff in the valuable contribution that Oxfordshire can and will make to bringing the country’s economy out of recession. Government clearly recognises that this authority has worked tirelessly in recent years to promote the County for economic growth. The University, the Science Vale Enterprise Zone, and the people of Oxfordshire now have exciting futures. Developing the detail of proposal will ensure that Oxfordshire’s important infrastructure will be able to progress and also provide much needed additional employment.

This Council wishes the next administration to build upon this success and commit to continued partnership working with the City and district councils, business community and universities in developing the deal.”

This Council also recognises that for the people of Oxfordshire to take up new exciting possibilities brought about by economic growth that more Homes are needed and will they work (as they do already) with the Districts to ensure this happens - particular in areas like Grenoble Road in SODC. An important aspect of growth in the City is reducing the travel to work numbers. Grenoble Road will do this.”

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was lost by 46 votes to 7, with 6 abstentions.

Councillor Fooks then moved and Councillor Purse seconded the following amendment shown in bold italics and strikethrough:

“This Council welcomes the news of the “City Deal”, and its significant benefits to all of Oxfordshire. This success in moving to the next stage recognises the tremendous efforts of this Council & its staff in the valuable contribution that Oxfordshire can and will make to bringing the country’s economy out of recession. Government clearly recognises that this authority has worked tirelessly in recent years to promote the County for economic growth. The University, the Science Vale Enterprise Zone, and the people of Oxfordshire now have exciting futures. Developing the detail of ***the proposals following public consultation*** will ensure that Oxfordshire’s important infrastructure will be able to progress and also provide much needed additional employment.

This Council wishes the next administration to build upon this success and commit to continued partnership working with the City and district councils, business community and universities in developing the deal.”

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was lost by 37 votes to 16, with 3 abstentions.

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

RESOLVED: (nem con)

“This Council welcomes the news of the “City Deal”, and its significant benefits to all of Oxfordshire. This success in moving to the next stage recognises the tremendous efforts of this Council & it’s staff in the valuable contribution that Oxfordshire can and will make to bringing the country’s economy out of recession. Government clearly recognises that this authority has worked tirelessly in recent years to promote the County for economic growth. The University, the Science Vale Enterprise Zone, and the people of Oxfordshire now have exciting futures. Developing the detail of proposal will ensure that Oxfordshire’s important infrastructure will be able to progress and also provide much needed additional employment.

This Council wishes the next administration to build upon this success and commit to continued partnership working with the City and district councils, business community and universities in developing the deal.”

21/13 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS ZOE PATRICK, TONY CRABBE, JENNY HANNABY, KEITH MITCHELL, STEWART LILLY AND LARRY SANDERS

The time being 3.30 pm the meeting closed and the motions from Councillors Patrick, Crabbe, Hannaby, Mitchell, Lilly and Larry Sanders were considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1.

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CC1

..... in the Chair

Date of signing