

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 1 April 2014 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 3.40 pm.

Present:

Councillor Tim Hallchurch MBE – in the Chair

Councillors:

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

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.

9/14 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2014 were approved and signed, subject to the addition of the following recorded vote directly prior to the resolution on page 6 of the minutes:

“The Chairman standing in his seat required a name vote in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.4.1. Voting was as follows:

Councillors voting for the motion (30)

Bartholomew, Billington, Bulmer, Carter, Chapman, Constance, Fatemian, Gearing, Gray, Greene, Hallchurch, Heathcoat, Hibbert-Biles, Hoare, Hudspeth, Langridge, Lilly, Lindsay-Gale, Lovatt, Mallon, Mathew, Nimmo Smith, Owen, Reynolds, Rose, Sibley, Stratford, Tilley, Waine and Wilmshurst.

Councillors voting against the motion (27)

Azad, Beal, Brighthouse, Cherry, Christie, Coates, Fawcett, Fooks, Godden, Hannaby, Hards, Harris, Howson, Johnston, Lygo, Patrick, Phillips, Pressel, Price, Purse, Rooke, G Sanders, J Sanders, R Smith, Tanner, Webber and Williams.

It was accordingly:"

10/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bulmer, Godden and Nimmo-Smith.

11/14 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman reported as follows:

Council congratulated and welcomed new County Councillor for the Charlgrove & Watlington Division – Councillor Steve Harrod.

The death of Honorary Alderman Charles Shouler, who was a County Councillor for the Bicester South Division 1989 - 2013, died on 20 March 2013. Councillors Hudspeth, Brighthouse, Patrick and Mrs Fulljames paid tribute to the former County Councillor and Honorary Alderman. The Council then observed a Minute's Silence in his memory.

Members' attention was drawn to the Governance Review Questionnaire currently being undertaken by the Monitoring Officer, with a request to members to take part.

The Chairman thanked all staff who were involved in the organisation of the Chairman's Charity Dinner.

12/14 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 5)

RESOLVED:

(a) to note the following appointments:

- (i) replace Councillor Beal with Councillor John Christie on the Employees Joint Consultative Committee;
 - (ii) replace Councillor David Bartholomew with Councillor Sandy Lovatt on the Education Scrutiny Committee;
 - (iii) Report of the Returning Officer at Annex 3 to the Schedule of Business.
- (b) to approve the following appointment:
- (i) replace Susanna Pressel with Councillor Nick Hards on the Audit & Governance Committee.

13/14 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 8)

22 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 1 (Question from Councillor Lilly to Councillor Carter) Councillor Carter undertook to provide Councillor Lilly with a written answer detailing what other invest-to-save energy projects were currently being considered.

In relation to Question 19 (Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Tilley) Councillor Tilley undertook to ask the School's Forum about the Sparsity Factor.

In relation to Question 21 (Question from Councillor Patrick to Councillor Nimmo Smith) Councillor Hudspeth undertook to provide Councillor Patrick with a copy of the Transport Audit for Witney with a break down of how subsidy was divided.

14/14 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

(Agenda Item 9)

The Council had before them a report (CC9) which, consequent on the changes to the Council's governance arrangements which came into effect following the May 2013 elections, considered the matter of allowances that should be payable under them.

Councillor Hudspeth moved and Councillor Rose seconded a motion to move the recommendations as set out in the report CC9 and on the face of the Agenda.

With the agreement of Council, Councillor Pressel withdrew her amendment detailed in Annex 1 to the Schedule of Business.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was agreed by 55 votes to 3.

RESOLVED: (by 55 votes to 3) to adopt the recommendations as set out in the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

15/14 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2014/15-2017/18

(Agenda Item 10)

The Council had before them a report (CC10) which provided the Council with the proposed Corporate Plan for 2014/15-2017/18. This is one of the plans and strategies that forms the policy framework and requires full Council approval.

The Performance Scrutiny Committee had submitted comments to the Cabinet, who had approved the draft on 18 March 2014, subject to some minor amendments to reflect the comments from the scrutiny committee. These amendments were reflected in the draft before the Council

Councillor Chapman moved and Councillor Hudspeth seconded a motion to move the recommendations as set out on the face of the Agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried by 46 votes to 16.

RESOLVED: (by 46 votes to 16) to approve the Corporate Plan 2014/15-2017/18.

16/14 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 11)

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

Councillor Wilmshurst moved and Councillor Mathew seconded a motion to move the recommendation as set out on the face of the Agenda

During debate, Councillor Wilmshurst undertook to provide Councillor Harris with further detail on the internal control actions agreed – referred to on page 5 of the report.

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

RESOLVED: (nem con) to receive the report.

17/14 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 12)

The Council received the report of the Cabinet.

In relation to paragraph 6 (The proposed Home to School Transport Policy) (Question from Councillor Howson) Councillor Tilley undertook to invite group leaders to a meeting to discuss the issue of spare capacity of all schools in Oxfordshire with a view to writing to the Secretary of State to ensure that where a school of any description had spare capacity then that capacity should be offered to the County to reduce unnecessary transport costs arising from the refusal to allow the County access to the school's spare places.

18/14 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ARASH FATEMIAN

(Agenda Item 13)

Councillor Fatemian moved and Councillor Lilly seconded the following motion:

“The recent flooding in our County posed very real and difficult challenges to the people of Oxfordshire. The efforts and achievements of our staff - and of our communities - in responding to those challenges was an impressive testament both to public service and to community support. Many people devoted long hours and hard work to keeping people safe and informed. It represented the best of Oxfordshire.

Consequently this Council applauds the efforts and achievements of everyone who worked so hard to alleviate the flooding this winter.”

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

RESOLVED: Accordingly.

19/14 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR JEAN FOOKS

(Agenda Item 14)

Councillor Fooks moved and Councillor Rooke seconded the following motion:

“Council notes :

- Air pollution has a detrimental effect on health;
- Traffic is the main source of pollution from NOx and particulates in Oxford and other town centres in Oxfordshire.

Council recognises that transport is essential to enable people to move around the County but also recognises that Oxfordshire County Council has a duty of care to protect the health of its residents.

Council therefore recommends that:

- The Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board recognises the significance of air quality as an outcome indicator in Oxfordshire, and addresses the issue by including air quality within the Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;

- the impact on the health of Oxfordshire residents, from NOx and particulates, should be considered as new large developments are proposed and new transport strategies developed. This is immediately relevant in the development of LTP4, the updated Oxford Transport Strategy and the Westgate and Northern Gateway developments;
- all transport strategies should include an emphasis on the possible use of pollution-free fuels, freight consolidation strategies and alternative transport modes such as cycling to reduce health risks to residents and visitors alike.

Council further asks the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider Air Quality and its effects on Health as soon as possible.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried by 34 votes to 2, with 25 abstentions.

RESOLVED: Accordingly.

20/14 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL

(Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Pressel moved and Councillor Hudspeth seconded the following motion:

"The floods in January 2014 affected many Oxfordshire households very badly and caused chaos for traffic in many parts of the County. In the City alone they are estimated to have cost the country's economy about £40 million. We are told that it costs 8 times more to deal with the aftermath of flooding than it does to prevent floods, therefore Council:

- urges the Leader to write to the government, asking them to reach an urgent decision on contributing a substantial sum to the cost of the western conveyance channel/Oxford relief channel;
- urges our partners and local businesses also to contribute;
- urges Thames Water to carry out work as soon as possible to prevent or at least reduce the amount of sewage overflow that occurs when the level of the groundwater is high; and
- urges the Environment Agency and other partners to continue to carry out other projects that will help to retain water further upstream, if this can be done without flooding homes."

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried by 56 votes to 1.

RESOLVED: Accordingly.

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**21/14 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS(X2), J SANDERS,
BEAL AND PHILLIPS**

(Agenda Item 16)

The time being 3.40 pm the meeting closed and therefore motions 16 to 20 were considered to be dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing