

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 16 May 2017 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 12.45 pm.

Present:

Councillor Zoé Patrick – in the Chair

Councillors:

Sobia Afridi	Stefan Gawrysiak	Glynis Phillips
Lynda Atkins	Mark Gray	Susanna Pressel
Jamila Begum Azad	Pete Handley	Laura Price
Hannah Banfield	Jenny Hannaby	Eddie Reeves
David Bartholomew	Neville F. Harris	G.A. Reynolds
Maurice Billington	Steve Harrod	Alison Rooke
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Mrs Judith Heathcoat	Gill Sanders
Kevin Bulmer	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	John Sanders
Nick Carter	John Howson	Les Sibley
Mark Cherry	Ian Hudspeth	Emily Smith
Dr Simon Clarke	Tony Ilott	Alan Thompson
Yvonne Constance OBE	Bob Johnston	Roz Smith
Helen Evans	Liz Leffman	Michael Waive
Arash Fatemian	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Lawrie Stratford
Neil Fawcett	Mark Lygo	Liam Walker
Nicholas Field-Johnson	Kieron Mallon	Richard Webber
Mike Fox-Davies	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.

122/17 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2017/18 COUNCIL YEAR

(Agenda Item 1)

Before inviting nominations for the office of Chairman of the Council, Councillor Michael Waive (the retiring Chairman) took the opportunity to reflect on his year in office as Chairman of the Council, and in particular his civic duties promoting Oxfordshire County Council and meeting a broad spectrum of staff. He thanked the Vice-chairman (Councillor Patrick) for her support and friendship throughout the year. He then presented his wife, his personal assistant (Sara Lenihan) and Tim Stimpson with small gifts as a token of his appreciation for their help and support during the Year.

Councillors Hudspeth, Brighthouse, Webber and Atkins paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman thanking him for his hard work and effort over the year and in particular his Championing of the children of the County.

The Monitoring Officer, Nick Graham then invited nominations for the office of Chairman of the Council for the 2017/18 Council Year.

Councillor Webber moved and Councillor Hudspeth seconded that Councillor Patrick be elected as Chairman of the Council for the 2017/18 Council Year.

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

RESOLVED: (nem con) that Councillor Zoe Patrick be elected as Chairman of the Council for the 2017/18 Council Year.

123/17 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2017/18 COUNCIL YEAR

(Agenda Item 2)

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

Councillor Brighthouse moved and Councillor Hudspeth seconded that Councillor Gill Sanders be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2017/18 Council Year. There being no other nominations and no dissent, Councillor Gill Sanders was duly declared elected by a show of hands (nem con) Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2017/18 Council Year. She read out and signed the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Gill Sanders be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council of the 2017/18 Council Year.

124/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported as follows:

Council paid tribute and held a minute's silence in Memory of Mike Allsopp, Former County Councillor of the Faringdon Division.

Council congratulated Councillor Arash Fatemian on the birth of his son.

Members were reminded that an Extraordinary Meeting and a group photo was scheduled to take place following lunch at 2.00 pm.

125/17 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 3)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2017 were approved and signed.

126/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Agenda Item 5)

The Chairman reminded members of the need to return the forms for notifying financial and other interests (the Register of Members Interests form) within 28 days of the date of election – i.e. by Thursday, 1st June at the latest, as failure to do so could be subject to formal investigation as a criminal offence. Returning councillors also needed to confirm in writing that their current registration was up to date and correct. An email would suffice by way of a declaration to this effect.

127/17 RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

(Agenda Item 6)

The Council had before them a report by the Returning Officer setting out the results of the election of Councillors on 4 May 2017.

Councillor Harris indicated that that he would wish to see more detail in future returning Officer reports such as failed candidates and number of Oxfordshire County Council Staff who had worked on the elections.

Members paid tribute to Rodney Rose for his many years on the Council and in particular his contribution as Deputy Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED:

- (a) to note the Returning Officer Report; and
- (b) ask the Chairman to send a card on behalf of the Council to thank Rodney Rose for his service to Oxfordshire County Council and to send him it's very best wishes for the future.

128/17 OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATION

(Agenda Item 7)

The Council had before them a report by the Monitoring Officer (CC7) which set out the proposed changes to the Council's Officer Scheme of Delegation set out in the Constitution.

During debate, Members indicated that at some point in the future they would like a full Review of the Constitution.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Patrick, seconded by Councillor Gill Sanders and carried nem con) to note the proposed amendments to Article 13 and to Part 7.2 of the Constitution and to approve the Scheme of Officer Delegation (Part 7.3) as amended.

129/17 REVISED COMMITTEE DATES FOLLOWING THE ELECTION

(Agenda Item 8)

The Council had before them a revised meetings schedule for 2017/18 which had been drawn up to reflect the decision taken in light of the general election, to only hold essential meetings during the purdah period. The report also sought agreement to a request received from the district councils to bring forward the budget meeting of full Council to facilitate their budget setting processes.

Councillor Patrick moved and Councillor Gill Sanders seconded that the recommendations set out in the report and on the face of the Agenda be adopted.

During debate, Members expressed disappointment that a meeting fell within the half term when there had been an agreement to avoid school holidays where possible.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried by 38 votes to 15, with 9 abstentions.

RESOLVED: (by 38 votes to 15, 9 abstentions) to note the revised schedule of meetings and to agree to waive Rule 2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules to allow the February 2018 budget meeting of full Council to be held on 13 February.

130/17 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 9)

(1) The Office of Leader of the Council

Councillor Heathcoat moved and Councillor Fatemian seconded Councillor Ian Hudspeth for the Office of Leader of the Council.

The Motion was put to the vote and was carried by 33 votes to 15, with 15 abstentions.

RESOLVED: to elect Councillor Ian Hudspeth as Leader of the Council.

(2) to note (nem con) the following appointments to the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council for the coming year and their respective portfolios as follows;

Ian Hudspeth	Leader
Mrs J Heathcoat	Deputy Leader
Lawrie Stratford	Adult Social Care
Steve Harrod	Children & Family
Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Property, Cultural & Community Services

Yvonne Constance	Environment
David Bartholomew	Finance
Hilary Hibbert-Biles	Public Health & Education
Mark Gray	Local Communities

..... (3) The Office of Leader of the Opposition

RESOLVED: to note that Councillor Brighthouse was the Leader of the Opposition.

131/17 REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

(Agenda Item 10)

The Council had before them a report CC10 which summarised the rules for the political balance on Scrutiny and other committees, together with Annex 2 confirming the political balance on the committees and Annex 3, showing the membership of all committees.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Patrick, seconded by Councillor Gill Sanders and carried by 62 votes to 1) to:

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

132/17 SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - ANNUAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 11)

The Council had before them the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee (CC11) which set out the activity of the Council’s three scrutiny committees; Performance Scrutiny, Education Scrutiny and Health Overview & Scrutiny and the Cabinet Advisory Groups. The report highlighted the work carried out by each Committee to scrutinise service activity and performance as well as Cabinet decisions taken over the past year.

Councillor Brighthouse moved and Councillor Constance seconded that Council receive the Annual Report of the scrutiny committees.

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

RESOLVED: Accordingly.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing