

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18 May 2021 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.45 pm.

Present:

Councillor John Howson – in the Chair

Councillors:

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

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 and Schedule of Business, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

30/21 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2021/22 COUNCIL YEAR

(Agenda Item 1)

Before inviting nominations for the office of Chair of the Council, Councillor Les Sibley (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 Howson), his Personal Assistant (Sara Lenihan) and Tim Stimpson for their support throughout the

year. He then presented his wife and Consort with some flowers as a token of his appreciation for their help and support during the Year.

Councillors Leffman, Brighthouse, Reeves and Sudbury and paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman 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 2021/22 Council Year.

Councillor Leffman moved and Councillor Brighthouse seconded that Councillor John Howson be elected as Chair of the Council for the 2021/22 Council Year.

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

RESOLVED: (nem con) that Councillor John Howson be elected as Chair of the Council for the 2021/22 Council Year.

31/21 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2021/22 COUNCIL YEAR

(Agenda Item 2)

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

Councillor Brighthouse moved and Councillor Leffman seconded that Councillor Susanna Pressel be elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2021/22 Council Year. There being no other nominations and no dissent, Councillor Susanna Pressel was duly declared elected by a show of hands (nem con) Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2021/22 Council Year. She read out and signed the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

RESOLVED: (nem con) that Councillor Susanna Pressel be elected Vice-Chair of the Council of the 2021/22 Council Year.

32/21 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 5)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 March 2021 and 7 April 2021 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

33/21 CONSTITUTION CHANGES TO REFLECT RETURN TO PHYSICAL MEETINGS

(Agenda Item 6)

The Government had confirmed that The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and

Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 had not been extended to apply to meetings from 7 May onwards. The regulations had allowed the virtual meetings held in the past 12 months.

Council had before it a report, which set out for information proposed temporary changes to the Constitution necessary for the effective running of physical meetings during the restrictions brought about by the corona virus pandemic.

During debate, Members expressed concern regarding the proposed September Review Date. In response, the Monitoring Officer undertook to bring a report back to the July Meeting of Council.

RESOLVED: (on a Motion by Councillor John Howson, seconded by Councillor Susanna Pressel and carried nem con) to:

- (a) note the amendments to the Constitution that the Monitoring Officer has made to ensure the safe return to physical meeting whilst covid restrictions remain;
- (b) agree that the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Chairman of the Council be authorised to make changes to the meetings process and, as necessary, the Constitution in the light of practical experience of meetings during covid restrictions and in the light of changing circumstances; and
- (c) that the position be reviewed before the Council meeting on 14 September 2021.

34/21 OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATION

(Agenda Item 7)

At its Annual Meeting, Council was required to agree the officer scheme of delegation within the Council's Constitution. The Scheme of Officer Delegation was contained in Part 7.1 of the Council's Constitution. The Scheme itself gave delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service, directors and other chief officers whose titles and/or areas of responsibility are set out in Part 2, Article 13 of the Constitution. 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.

The Monitoring Officer reported that new urgency provision had been included for the Head of Paid Service and the emergency powers to the Head of Paid Service and that the Head of Paid Service, in so acting, would be guided by budget and the policy framework, would consult the other Statutory Officers before acting and would report, in writing, as soon as practicable to the body which would otherwise have been required to give the necessary authority to act.

RESOLVED: (on a Motion by Councillor John Howson, seconded by Councillor Susanna Pressel and carried nem con) to approve the Officer

Scheme of Delegation (Part 7.1 of the Constitution) as in Annex 2 to the report.

35/21 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 8)

Council had before it the following appointments for Consideration:

(1) The Office of Leader of the Council

Councillor Brighthouse moved and Councillor Pressel seconded Councillor Liz Leffman for the Office of Leader of the Council.

Councillor Arash Fatemian made a statement paying tribute to the past Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Hudspeth.

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

RESOLVED: (nem con) to elect Councillor Liz Leffman as Leader of the Council.

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

Leader – Cllr Liz Leffman

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services – Liz Brighthouse

Cabinet Member for:

Corporate Services – Glynis Phillips

Community Services and Safety – Neil Fawcett

Climate Change Delivery and Environment – Pete Sudbury

Travel and Development Strategy – Duncan Enright

Highway Management – Tim Bearder

Finance – Calum Miller

Adult Social Care – Jenny Hannaby

Public Health & Equality – Damian Haywood

(3) The Office of Leader of the Opposition

RESOLVED: to note that Councillor Eddie Reeves as the Leader of the Opposition.

36/21 REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

(Agenda Item 9)

The Council had before it 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.

To enable the groups to report on Political Balance and Membership of the Committees (Annex 3 (including Annex 2)), the Meeting was adjourned from 11.18 am to 12.21 pm. Following the adjournment, the Council confirmed the political balance of the Council and appointed to the formal Meetings of the Council (Annex 3), as set out in Annex 1 to the Minutes.

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 any changes reported at the meeting.

Annex 2 and Annex 3

Liberal Democrat Green Alliance: 24; Conservative Independent Alliance: 23; Labour and Co-Operative Party Group 15; plus 1 Independent

Main Committees	LiDemGnAI	CIA	Lab & Co-Op	
Audit & Governance Committee(9)	4	3	2	
	Roz Smith Ch	Jane Murphy	Brad Baines D-Ch	
	Dan Levy	Donna Ford	Michael O'Connor	
	Judy Roberts	Nick Leverton		
	Ian Middleton			
Pension Fund Committee (5)	2	2	1	
	Bob Johnston	Nick Field Johnson	Name to be supplied	
	Richard Webber	Kevin Bulmer		
Planning & Regulation Committee (12)	4	4	3	
	Richard Webber D-Ch	Les Sibley	Geoff Saul Ch	
	Judy Roberts	Felix Bloomfield	Mohamed Fadlalla	
	David Rouane	Ian Snowdon	Imade Edosomwan	

CC1

	Robin Bennett	Yvonne Constance		
1 unallocated seat to be offered to the Independent Member				
Remuneration Committee (6)	2	2	1	1
	Liz Leffman Ch	Eddie Reeves	Liz Brighthouse D-Ch	
	Alison Rooke	Jane Murphy		
1 unallocated seat to be offered to the Independent Member				
Education Scrutiny (7)	3	2	2	
	Kate Gregory D-Ch	Michael Waine Ch	Charlie Hicks	
	Andy Graham	Nigel Simpson	Susanna Pressel	
	Bethia Thomas			
HOSC (7)	3	2	2	
	Jane Hanna	Arash Fatemian	Imade Edosomwan	
	Freddie Van Miero	Nigel Champken Woods	Charlie Hicks	
	Nathan Ley			
Horton HOSC (8)	2	4	2	
	Freddie Van Mierlo	Arash Fatemian	Geoff Saul	
	Jane Hanna	Nigel Champken Woods	Hannah Banfield	
		Kieron Mallon		
		Eddie Reeves		
Performance Scrutiny (10)	4	4	2	
	Dan Levy	Eddie Reeves Ch	Brad Baines	

CC1

	Andrew Gant	Juliette Ash	Michael O'Connor D-Ch	
	Ian Middleton	Liam Walker		
	Sally Povolotsky	Name to be supplied		
Joint Shared Services & Personnel Committee (5)	2	2	1	
	Liz Leffman	Nick Leverton	Liz Brighthouse	
	Andrew Gant	Eddie Reeves		

Other Appointments - Proportionality is not mandatory but is usually applied where representation is 3 and over. The balance below sets out the arithmetic calculation.

These appointments delegated to MO in consultation with Group Leaders

Joint Partnership Working Group	5	2	2	1	5	0
OCC and Teachers Joint Consultative Committee	5	2	2	1	5	0
OCC and Employees Joint Consultative Committee	7	3	3	2	8	Decision required on the distribution of the 7 seats
OCC Joint Consultative Committee for Uniformed Members of the Fire Service	7	3	3	2	8	Decision required on the distribution of the 7 seats
Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel	1					
Oxfordshire Growth Board (OGB) Scrutiny Panel	3	1	1	1		Should not be a member of the Executive
OGB JSSP Sub Group	1(and substitute)					To be notified by

CC1

						Leader
OGB Infrastructure Sub-Group	1(and substitute)					To be notified by Leader
OGB Housing Sub-Group	1(and substitute)					To be notified by Leader
OGB Environment Sub-Group	1(and substitute)					Cabinet Member with responsibility for Environment

..... in the Chair

Date of signing