

## **Cherwell District Council**

### **Council**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 21 October 2013 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Lawrie Stratford (Chairman)  
Councillor Kieron Mallon (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ken Atack  
Councillor Alyas Ahmed  
Councillor Andrew Beere  
Councillor Maurice Billington  
Councillor Fred Blackwell  
Councillor Norman Bolster  
Councillor Ann Bonner  
Councillor Mark Cherry  
Councillor Colin Clarke  
Councillor Margaret Cullip  
Councillor Surinder Dhesi  
Councillor John Donaldson  
Councillor Diana Edwards  
Councillor Tim Emptage  
Councillor Andrew Fulljames  
Councillor Michael Gibbard  
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE  
Councillor Simon Holland  
Councillor Alastair Milne Home  
Councillor Russell Hurle  
Councillor Tony Ilott  
Councillor Ray Jelf  
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes  
Councillor James Macnamara  
Councillor Melanie Magee  
Councillor P A O'Sullivan  
Councillor D M Pickford  
Councillor Lynn Pratt  
Councillor Neil Prestidge  
Councillor Nigel Randall  
Councillor G A Reynolds  
Councillor Alaric Rose  
Councillor Gordon Ross  
Councillor Les Sibley  
Councillor Rose Stratford  
Councillor Lynda Thirzie Smart  
Councillor Nicholas Turner  
Councillor Douglas Webb  
Councillor Douglas Williamson  
Councillor Barry Wood  
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Also Present: Chief Constable Sara Thornton, Thames Valley Police  
Superintendent Colin Paine, Thames Valley Police

Apologies for absence: Councillor Chris Heath  
Councillor David Hughes  
Councillor Nicholas Mawer  
Councillor Nigel Morris  
Councillor Jon O'Neill  
Councillor Daniel Sames  
Councillor Trevor Stevens

Officers: Sue Smith, Chief Executive  
Calvin Bell, Director of Development  
Karen Curtin, Director (Bicester)  
Ian Davies, Director of Community and Environment  
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer  
Adrian Colwell, Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy  
James Doble, Democratic and Elections Manager

## 31 **Declarations of Interest**

Members declared interests with regard to the following agenda items:

### **11. The Draft Submission Local Plan**

Councillor Nicholas Turner, Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, as leaseholder of Drayton Leisure Golf Course and Drayton Farm.

## 32 **Communications**

### **Banbury Ruscote By-election**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Mark Cherry to the Council following his election at the Banbury Ruscote by-election.

### **Director (Bicester)**

The Chairman welcomed Karen Curtin to her first meeting in her new role as Director (Bicester).

### **Independent Remuneration Panel Survey**

The Chairman advised Council that copies of the Independent Remuneration Panel survey had been placed on their desks and he requested members to complete it and return it to the Democratic and Elections team.

33 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

34 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

35 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36 **Thames Valley Police - Address by Chief Constable**

The Chairman welcomed Sara Thornton, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and Cherwell Local Area Commander Superintendent Colin Paine to the meeting.

Chief Constable Thornton addressed the meeting regarding policing in Thames Valley. A number of Members asked questions and answers were duly provided.

In the course of discussion it was agreed that written answers would be provided with regard to the contractual arrangements regarding the driver awareness scheme and whether there were any cases regarding female genital mutilation currently under investigation.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Constable and Superintendent Paine.

37 **Minutes**

a) **Minutes of the Executive, Lead Member Decisions and Executive Decisions made under Special Urgency**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive and Lead Member decisions as set out in the Minute Book be received and that it be noted that since the last meeting of Council, no decisions had been taken that was subject to the special urgency provisions of the Constitution.

b) **Minutes of Committees**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of Committees as set out in the Minute Book be received.

38

## **Questions**

### **a) Written Questions**

There were no written questions.

### **b) Questions to the Leader of the Council**

Questions were asked and answers received on the following issues:

Graven Hill and application of Crichel Down: Councillor Sibley

School bus charges: Councillor Macnamara

Contracts with building companies who blacklist employees who raise health and safety concerns: Councillor Cherry

Removal of Dagnall Surgery at Horton Hospital: Councillor Dhesi

Scrutiny Review of Wind Turbine Policy: Councillor Macnamara

### **c) Questions to Committee Chairmen on the minutes**

There were no questions to Committee Chairman on the minutes of meetings.

**(Councillor Nicholas Turner left the meeting)**

39

## **Motions**

There were no motions.

40

## **The Draft Submission Local Plan**

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy submitted a report to endorse the draft Submission Local Plan for the Cherwell District for submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, which was presented and proposed by Councillor Gibbard.

Council discussed the Draft Local Plan Submission at length and it was made known by the Leader of the Council that no group whip was in place with regard to the adoption of the plan.

The recommendations as set out in the report were proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the draft Submission Local Plan be endorsed for submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
- (2) That it be noted that the Infrastructure tables in the draft Local Plan are to be replaced in due course by a full Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) prior to Examination.

- (3) That approval of the IDP, minor text changes (including updating the thematic maps and final Monitoring Framework) to the draft Submission Local Plan text be delegated to the Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning and its transfer in its publication format for Submission.

**(Councillor Nicholas Turner rejoined the meeting)**

#### 41 **Appointments to Labour Group Vacancies on Committees**

Following the Banbury Ruscote By-election, the Leader of the Labour Group notified Council of his group's appointments to the Labour Group Vacancies on Committees following the resignation of Councillor Patrick Cartledge.

##### **Resolved**

That Councillor Mark Cherry be appointed to Labour Group vacancies on the following committees:

- Joint Appeals Panel
- Council and Employee Joint Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Standards Committee (Substitute)

#### 42 **Graven Hill Policy Framework**

The Director (Bicester) submitted a report which sought Council approval to add the potential acquisition and redevelopment of Graven Hill into the Policy Framework and to make available the capital sums required as part of the budget.

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That the potential acquisition and redevelopment of Graven Hill be added into the Policy Framework and make available the capital sums required as part of the budget be made available.
- (2) That Officers be requested to prepare a business case outlining the full implications of the potential acquisition together with a detailed analysis of the capital sums required to be brought to the December Executive to enable the Executive to make an informed decision with regards to the potential acquisition and redevelopment of this site.

#### 43 **East West Local Rail Contribution**

The Director of Development submitted a report for Council to agree the level of local contribution to be made towards the construction of East West Rail. In the course of discussion the Leader of the Council agreed to provide Councillor Woodcock, Leader of the Labour Group with the cost/benefits of the scheme.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the recommendation of the Executive to approve a local contribution of £4.353m towards the delivery of East West Rail be agreed.

44 **Revised Scheme of Officer Delegations**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report to enable the Council to adopt a revised scheme of officer delegations that reflects the recent revision to various Head of Service responsibilities.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the revised scheme of officer delegations (annex to the minutes as set out in the minute book) be adopted with immediate effect.
- (2) That the Head of Law and Governance be delegated to make any future amendments to the scheme that are consequential on the current allocation of service responsibilities being revised, new service responsibilities being introduced or post titles changing.

45 **Calendar of Meetings January to September 2014**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting Council to consider revisions to the calendar of meetings for municipal year 2013/14 for the period January to April 2014 and the municipal year 2014/15 for the period May to September 2014.

In the course of discussion it was agreed that the date of the proposed reserve Council meeting in January should be forwarded to all members and the dates of the Parish liaison meetings also circulated.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the revised calendar of meetings for the municipal years 2013/14 and 2014/15 for the period January to September 2014 be approved.

46 **Cherwell Boundary Review Council Size Submission and Community Governance Review Update**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought agreement of the council size submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and to resolution of an outstanding issue regarding the Community Governance Review.

In the course of debate Councillor Tim Emptage, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group requested that it be recorded that whilst his group would have preferred a lower council size they would support the proposed council

size submission, however his group did not feel able to support the retention of election by thirds, due to the costs believed to be in the region of £200,000 to £250,000 that could be saved from moving to all out elections in the period 2017 to 2020.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That Cherwell District Council retain election by thirds.
- (2) That the proposed Council size be 48 Members.
- (3) That the Council Size submission be approved.
- (4) That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to make any necessary amendments to the Council Size submission prior to submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in light of the resolutions of Council.
- (5) That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Boundary Review Working Group, to respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England "minded to" council size if it is 48 members and if it is a different number delegate authority to the Chief Executive to call an extraordinary meeting of Council.
- (6) That the update on the Community Governance Review be noted and the Head of Law and Governance be given delegated authority to finalise the Cherwell (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2013 once consultation with Bicester Town Council and Bicester District Councillors has concluded on 13 November 2013.

47

### **Questions on Exempt Minutes**

There were no questions on exempt minutes.

The meeting ended at 9.12 pm

Chairman:

Date: