

Cherwell District Council

Council

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Full Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA, on 7 February 2022 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Hannah Banfield (Chair)
Councillor Les Sibley (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Andrew Beere
Councillor Nathan Bignell
Councillor Maurice Billington
Councillor Mike Bishop
Councillor John Broad
Councillor Hugo Brown
Councillor Phil Chapman
Councillor Mark Cherry
Councillor Colin Clarke
Councillor Patrick Clarke
Councillor Ian Corkin
Councillor Nick Cotter
Councillor Sandy Dallimore
Councillor John Donaldson
Councillor Matt Hodgson
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Shaida Hussain
Councillor Tony Ilott
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Andrew McHugh
Councillor Tony Mephram
Councillor Ian Middleton
Councillor Perran Moon
Councillor Richard Mould
Councillor Adam Nell
Councillor Cassi Perry
Councillor Lynn Pratt
Councillor George Reynolds
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Dan Sames
Councillor Jason Slaymaker
Councillor Dorothy Walker
Councillor Tom Wallis
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Lucinda Wing
Councillor Barry Wood
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Conrad Copeland
Councillor Carmen Griffiths
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Simon Holland
Councillor Kieron Mallon
Councillor Katherine Tyson
Councillor Fraser Webster
Councillor Bryn Williams

Officers:

Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive
Steve Jorden, Corporate Director Commercial Development, Assets & Investment
Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Anita Bradley, Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Nathan Elvery, Interim Chief Operating Officer
Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance & Deputy S151 Officer
Shahin Ismail, Recommended appointee as Interim Monitoring Officer
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

60 **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed Members, officers and the press and public to the extraordinary Council meeting.

The Chair welcomed Nathan Elvery, interim Chief Operating Officer, and Shahin Ismail, recommended appointee as interim Monitoring Officer, to their first meeting at Cherwell District Council.

61 **Declarations of Interest**

8. Appointment of Interim Monitoring Officer.

Shahin Ismail, Declaration, as she was to be proposed to be appointed Monitoring Officer for Cherwell District Council on an interim basis and would leave the meeting for the duration of the item.

9. Appointment of Section 151 Officer.

Michael Furness, Declaration, as he was to be proposed to be appointed Section 151 Officer for Cherwell District Council and would leave the meeting for the duration of the item.

62 **Communications**

The Chair made the following announcements:

Extraordinary Council meeting

The Chair reminded Members that as this was an extraordinary meeting, the minutes of committees were not taken and there were no questions or motions on the agenda. These items would be included on the agenda at the next scheduled Council meeting on Monday 28 February.

Addressing Council, length of speeches and voting

The Chair reminded Members of the length of speeches and the approach he would apply with regards seconders speaking on reports and motions.

Members' Pigeon Holes

The Chair reminded Members to check their pigeon hole and remove any post.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

64 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

65 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

66 **Section 113 Agreement Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council**

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Council to agree the arrangements to end the formal partnership arrangements between Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

Resolved

Subject to no amendments to the proposed recommendations when considered at Oxfordshire County Council's Full Council meeting on 8 February 2022:

- (1) That the s.113 partnership with Oxfordshire County Council be terminated.

- (2) That Oxfordshire County Council be formally notified of Cherwell District Council's decision to give 6 months' notice of its intention to terminate the s.113 Agreement dated 31 August 2018 regarding joint working between the two authorities.
- (3) That the ongoing role of the Joint Shared Services and Personnel Committee (JSSP) in providing suitable oversight and decision-taking concerning the termination of the s.113 Agreement be agreed.
- (4) That a revised Terms of Reference for the JSSP (Annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be adopted.
- (5) That the Partnership Working Group be disbanded and the conclusion of its business be noted.
- (6) That the Chief Executive of Cherwell District Council be instructed to work alongside Oxfordshire County Council officers to establish a Joint Officer Transition Working Group
- (7) That the Financial Principles for the termination of the s.113 Agreement (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be adopted.
- (8) That amendments to the existing dispute resolution process as set out in the Annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book) be agreed.
- (9) That the Monitoring Officer be requested to undertake a review of the existing Scheme of Delegation to ensure that decision making is both effective and efficient.
- (10) That responsibility be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to undertake amendments to the Council's Constitution to reflect the resolutions arising from this report to Council.
- (11) That it be agreed to keep the best interests of its mutual residents at the centre of its decision making, endeavouring to ensure that such actions will not be to their detriment.

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Appointment of Interim Monitoring Officer

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Council to appoint a Monitoring Officer on an interim basis in place of Anita Bradley, Director of Law and Governance, in light of the end of formal partnership working arrangements between Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

On behalf of Council, the Chair thanked Anita Bradley for her services and diligence as the council's Monitoring Officer over the past thirteen months.

Resolved

- (1) That Shahin Ismail be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer on an interim basis with effect from 9 February 2022.

Following her appointment and return to the Chamber, Shahin Ismail addressed Council, thanked Members for her appointment and commented that she was looking forward to working with them.

68 **Appointment of Section 151 Officer**

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Council to appoint a Section 151 (S151) Officer in place of Lorna Baxter, in light of the end of formal partnership working arrangements between Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

On behalf of Council, the Chair thanked Lorna Baxter for her hard work and service as the council's Section 151 Officer over the past two years.

Resolved

- (1) That Michael Furness be appointed as the Council's Section 151 Officer with effect from 9 February 2022.

Following his appointment and return to the Chamber, Michael Furness addressed Council, thanked Members for appointing him as Section 151 Officer and that he was looking forward to his new role.

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm

Chairman:

Date: