

## CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Cherwell District Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, on 14 May 2008 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Atkinson, Ahmed, Billington, Blackwell, Bolster, Bonner, Clarke, Cotter, Cullip, Dhesi, Edwards, A Fulljames, C Fulljames, Gibbard, Godwin, Hallchurch, Heath, Hughes, Hurle, Ilott, Irvine, Macnamara, Mallon, Mawer, Milne Home, Morris, O'Sullivan, Pack, Parish, Pickford, Prestidge, Rae, Reynolds, Robbins, Sames, Sibley, Smithson, Stevens, Steward, Strangwood, L Stratford, R Stratford, Thirzie Smart, Tompson, Turner, Webb, Weir, Wood and Wyse.

Officers: Mary Harpley (Chief Executive)  
Julie Evans (Strategic Director Customer Service and Resources)  
Ian Davies (Strategic Director Planning, Housing and Economy)  
John Hoad (Strategic Director Environment and Community)  
Mike Carroll (Head of Improvement)  
Liz Howlett (Head of Legal and Democratic Services)  
James Doble (Democratic, Scrutiny and Elections Manager)  
Jo Smith (Communications Manager)  
Catherine Phythian (Scrutiny Officer)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Annaly, Attack, Donaldson, Hughes, Strangwood, Steward and Pack

### **MATTERS NOT OF AN EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL NATURE**

#### **C. 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **C.2 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 April 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **C. 3 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

The outgoing Chairman of the Council Councillor Rose Stratford presided for the consideration of this matter.

It was moved by Councillor Wood, and seconded by Councillor Reynolds, that Councillor Andrew Fulljames be elected Chairman of the Council for 2008/09. There were no other nominations and, accordingly, it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Andrew Fulljames be elected Chairman of the Council for 2008/09.

(Councillor Andrew Fulljames made his declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair.)

**C. 4 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

It was moved by Councillor Wood, and seconded by Councillor Reynolds, that Councillor Diane Edwards be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2008/09. There were no other nominations and, accordingly, it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Diane Edwards be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2008/09.

(Councillor Diane Edwards made her declaration of acceptance of office.)

**C.3 OUTGOING CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman of the Council presented Councillor Rose Stratford with her past Chairman's badge as a token of the Council's appreciation of her term of office as Chairman. The Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Leader of the Labour Group paid tribute to Councillor Rose Stratford for the way she had fulfilled the role and duties of Chairman.

Councillor Rose Stratford then reported on the highlights of her year of office.

**C. 4 CHAIRMAN'S CONSORT**

The Chairman of the Council named his wife, Councillor Catherine Fulljames, as his consort for the ensuing year.

**C.5 RESULT OF ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTION OF POLITICAL GROUPS**

The Chief Executive reported on the results of the District Council Elections held on 1 May 2008 where the following Councillors were elected:

Adderbury	-	Richard Charles Atkinson (Conservative)
Banbury Calthorpe	-	Alastair John Milne Home (Conservative)
Banbury Easington	-	Charles Frederick Blackwell (Conservative)
Banbury Grimsbury and Castle	-	Carole Ann Bonner (Conservative)
Banbury Hardwick	-	John Alexander Donaldson (Conservative)
Banbury Hardwick	-	Anthony Stuart Ilott (Conservative)
Banbury Neithrop	-	Martin Patrick Weir (Conservative)
Banbury Ruscote	-	Patricia Ann Tompson (Conservative)
Bicester East	-	Lawrence David Stratford (Conservative)
Bicester North	-	Nicholas David Mawer (Conservative)
Bicester South	-	Daniel Edward Sames (Conservative)
Bicester Town	-	Deborah Margaret Pickford (Conservative)
Bicester West	-	Russell Bernard Hurle (Conservative)
Bloxham and Bodicote	-	Lynda Thirzie Smart (Conservative)
Caversfield	-	Catherine Ann Fulljames (Conservative)
Kidlington South	-	Maurice Vincent Billington (Conservative)
Launton	-	David Leonard Hughes (Conservative)
Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton	-	Trevor John Stevens (Conservative)

The Chairman of the Council congratulated all those recently elected, and welcomed the newly elected Members to their first meeting of the Council.

It was also noted that the formal notification of the Constitution of the Political Groups, on which the political balance on Committees had been recommended, was as follows:-

Conservative Group - 46 Members  
Labour Group - 2 Members  
Liberal Democrat Group - 4 Members

It was further noted that notification had been given that the names of the Leaders of the Political Groups were as follows:-

Conservative Group - Councillor Wood  
Labour Group - Councillor Parish  
Liberal Democrat Group - Councillor Cotter

**C.6 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was noted that, as there had been no change in the political control of the Council, or to the leadership of the controlling Political Group, then, in accordance with Article 7.03 of the Council Constitution, Councillor Wood continued to hold the office of Leader of the Council.

**C. 7 DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

With reference to Executive Procedure Rule 1.2 ii) the Leader of the Council reported that he had appointed Councillor Reynolds as Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

**C. 8 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIOS**

The Executive Leader submitted a report inviting the Council to consider proposed changes to the Executive Portfolios and his thinking on the collective responsibilities of the Executive and the individual responsibilities of Portfolio Holders. The proposed changes created a new, discrete Portfolio for Urban and Rural Services (which was formerly included in the Community, Recreation and Health Portfolio); a special responsibility for Climate Change (attached this year to the Communications and PR Portfolio), removing this from the former Environment Portfolio and a Community, Health and Environment Portfolio, which retained the responsibilities of the former Community, Recreation and Health Portfolio, less Urban and Rural Services, and took in the former Environment Portfolio, less Climate Change.

The Executive Leader moved, and Councillor Reynolds seconded, the recommendations set out in the report. Accordingly, it was

**RESOLVED**

(1) that the nine Executive Portfolios as set out below be approved:

- Policy and Community Planning (Leader)
- Community, Health and Environment (Deputy Leader)

- Communications and Public Relations (with Special Responsibility for Climate Change)
- Customer Service and ICT
- Economic Development and Estates
- Organisational Development and Improvement
- Planning and Housing
- Resources
- Urban and Rural Services

(2) that the Chief Executive and Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Executive Leader, be authorised to make all appropriate amendments to the Constitution.

C. 9

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE AND ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS**

With reference to Executive Procedure Rule 1.2 i) the Executive Leader reported that the membership of the Executive, and the allocation of the various portfolios for 2008/09, was as follows

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
Policy and Community Planning (Leader)	Wood
Community, Health and Environment (Deputy Leader)	Reynolds
Communications and Public Relations (with Special Responsibility for Climate Change)	Mallon
Customer Service and ICT	Turner
Economic Development and Estates	Bolster
Organisational Development and Improvement	Miss Pickford
Planning and Housing	Gibbard
Resources	Macnamara
Urban and Rural Services	Morris

C. 10 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES****(a) Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group**

The Leader of the Council outlined that he was proposing that no appointments be made to Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group at this time, pending the consideration of the operation of Overview and Scrutiny in the coming months which was likely to propose amendments to the current structure;

**RESOLVED** that no appointments be made to Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group at this time, pending the consideration of the operation of Overview and Scrutiny.

**(b) Standards Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the representation of the Political Groups on the Standards Committee (which is not subject to the political balance requirements) be as follows:-

Con: 6                      Lab: 1                      LD: 1                      Total: 8

**(c) Division of Representation on other Committees**

**RESOLVED** that, for the purposes of Section 15(3) to 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the representation of the Political Groups on the other Committees to be appointed for 2008/09, being so far as is reasonably practicable a division of representation of the Groups which satisfies the principles set out in Section 15(5) be as follows:-

<b>Committees</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Environment and Community Select Committee	12	1	1	14
Development, Customer Service and Resources Select Committee	11	2	1	14
Planning Committee	16	1	1	18
Licensing Committee & Service Appeals Panel	11	0	1	12
Personnel and General Committee	11	0	1	12
Council and Emp. Joint Committee	11	0	1	12
PRP and Appeals Panel	9	0	1	10
Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee	9	0	1	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>102</b>

<b>Aggregate Entitlement</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Adjustment Required</b>	<b>- 1</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>0</b>	

C. 11 **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES**

(a) **Board of Charter Community Housing**

**RESOLVED** that the following Members be appointed to serve on the Board of Charter Community Housing for 2008/09:-

- From the Conservative Group - Councillors Donaldson, Glibbard and Mrs Stratford  
From the Labour Group - Councillor Sibley.

(b) **County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs Stratford be appointed to serve on the County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2008/09.

C. 12 **RETURN OF ATTENDANCES**

The Council received and noted a report showing the number of attendances of Members at meetings of the Executive and various Committees during 2007/08.

C.13 **THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND – THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007 AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE’S TERMS OF REFERENCE (RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS (SCHEME OF REFERENCE AND DELEGATION))**

It was outlined that as a result of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act changes were required to the terms of reference of the Standards Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Wood, and seconded by Councillor Reynolds, that the recommendations as set out in the report be adopted

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the amendments to the Responsibility for Functions (Scheme of Reference and Delegation) relating to the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee as set out in Annex 1 to these minutes be approved.
- (2) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to prepare the necessary operating procedures for the implementation of the new local filtering regime once the awaited guidance and advice is published by the Standards Board.

C.14

**QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.5**

A question, relating to the 'purdah' period during elections, had been put by Councillor Reynolds in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5, and was tabled, together with the reply from the Leader of the Council. The Leader of the Council answered a supplementary question put by Councillor Reynolds.

The meeting ended at 7.42 pm.

**(Note:** at the conclusion of the Council meeting, various Committees met to appoint their Chairman and Vice-Chairman and to conduct any other business as specified.)