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Cherwell District Council

Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 19 May 2015 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Melanie Magee (Chairman) Councillor Chris Heath (Vice-Chairman) Councillor Ken Atack **Councillor Andrew Beere Councillor Claire Bell Councillor Maurice Billington** Councillor Fred Blackwell **Councillor Norman Bolster Councillor Mark Cherry** Councillor Colin Clarke Councillor Ian Corkin Councillor Surinder Dhesi Councillor John Donaldson **Councillor Michael Gibbard Councillor Carmen Griffiths Councillor David Hughes Councillor Russell Hurle** Councillor Tony llott Councillor Ray Jelf **Councillor Matt Johnstone** Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes Councillor James Macnamara Councillor Kieron Mallon **Councillor Nicholas Mawer Councillor Alastair Milne Home Councillor Richard Mould** Councillor D M Pickford **Councillor James Porter Councillor Lynn Pratt Councillor Neil Prestidge Councillor Nigel Randall** Councillor G A Reynolds **Councillor Barry Richards Councillor Sandra Rhodes** Councillor Dan Sames **Councillor Les Sibley Councillor Trevor Stevens** Councillor Lawrie Stratford Councillor Rose Stratford Councillor Lynda Thirzie Smart **Councillor Nicholas Turner** Councillor Douglas Webb **Councillor Bryn Williams** Councillor Douglas Williamson

Councillor Barry Wood Councillor Sean Woodcock

Apologies for absence:	Councillor Ann Bonner Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE Councillor Simon Holland Councillor Nigel Morris
Officers:	Sue Smith, Chief Executive

Calvin Bell, Director of Development Karen Curtin, Commercial Director (Bicester) Ian Davies, Director of Community and Environment Martin Henry, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer Natasha Clark, Team Leader, Democratic and Elections

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all Members and guests to the meeting.

Following the recent election, the Chairman thanked former Councillors Edwards, Andrew Fulljames, O'Neill and Rose for their service to the district during their time as councillors.

2 Councillor Ann Bonner

The Chairman reported that Councillor Ann Bonner had submitted apologies for the meeting and requested a leave of absence for six months due to ill health.

Resolved

That Councillor Ann Bonner be granted a leave of absence for six months.

3 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations were made:

15. Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 - Mandatory Standing Orders re Dismissal of Statutory Officers.

Sue Smith, Declaration, as the report affected her contract of employment as a statutory officer and would leave the meeting for the duration of the item.

Martin Henry, Declaration, as the report affected his contract of employment as a statutory officer and would leave the meeting for the duration of the item. Kevin Lane, Declaration, as the report affected his contract of employment as a statutory officer and would leave the meeting for the duration of the item.

Communications

4

Recording at meetings

The Chairman advised the meeting that under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 members of the public were permitted to film, broadcast and report on the meeting, subject to the efficient running of the meeting not being affected.

Annual Council

The Chairman reminded Members that by convention the minutes of Committees, questions, petitions and motions were not taken at Annual Council and these, if any, would be considered at the next meeting.

Due to a printing error, a revised agenda front sheet had been tabled. The Group nominations to committees for the coming year had also been tabled.

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman advised Members that a copy of the events attended by himself or the Vice-Chairman had been tabled.

Planning Training, Thursday 21 May 2015

The Chairman advised Members that Planning Training would be taking place at 1.30pm on Thursday 21 May 2015. It was a requirement for all Members who sit on Planning Committee to have attended training. New members and substitutes on the Committee should attend the training and other Committee Members are encouraged to attend as a refresher.

The training was open to all Members irrespective of whether they sat on Planning Committee and would hopefully prove helpful for the many questions they were likely to receive from constituents about Planning on an on-going basis.

Finance Training, Tuesday 26 May 2015

The Chairman advised Members that training on Local Government Finance would be held on Tuesday 26 May at 6pm in place of the Budget Planning Meeting. All Members were welcome to attend the session which would be led by the Director of Resources.

Post

5

The Chairman reminded Members to collect post from pigeon holes after the meeting.

Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

6 Minutes of Council

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7 Election of Chairman for the Municipal Year 2015/16

(The outgoing Chairman, Councillor Alastair Milne Home, presided for the consideration of this matter and those preceding)

It was moved by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Reynolds, that Councillor Melanie Magee be elected as Chairman for the municipal year 2015/16. There were no other nominations.

Resolved

(1) That Councillor Melanie Magee be elected Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2015/16.

8 Investiture of Chairman

Councillor Melanie Magee, having made and signed the required Declaration of Acceptance of Office was invested with the Chairman's Chain and took the Chair,

9 Chairman's Address

Councillor Melanie Magee thanked members for her appointment and addressed the Council. She reported that her chosen charity for this year was SeeSaw, which provides grief support for children and young people in Oxfordshire. Her consorts for the year would be her husband, David Magee and her daughter, Dannie Magee.

10 Vote of Thanks to Immediate Past Chairman

The Chairman of the Council presented Councillor Milne Home with a gift and his past Chairman's badge as a token of his term of office.

Members paid tribute to Councillor Milne Home and thanked him for the dedication he had shown representing the Council, the services he had rendered to the District and the gracious way he had presided over the deliberations of Council during his year of office.

11 **Past Chairman's Response**

Councillor Alastair Milne Home addressed Council to report on his term of office.

Councillor Milne Home reported that he had attended numerous and varied functions during his term of office and hosted events to raise money for his chosen charities. Councillor Milne Home presented cheques to representatives from the Let's Play Project in Banbury and the Royal National Institute of Lifeboats (RNLI).

Councillor Milne Home paid particular thanks to Gillian Milne Home, his consort for the year and Liz Matthews, the Chairman's PA and presented them with a token of his appreciation.

12 Election of Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2015/16

It was moved by Councillor Wood and seconded by Councillor Reynolds, that Councillor Chris Heath be elected as Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2015/16. There were no other nominations.

Resolved

(1) That Councillor Chris Heath be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2015/16.

13 Investiture of Vice-Chairman

Councillor Chris Heath, having made and signed the required Declaration of Acceptance of Office was invested with the Vice-Chairman's Chain.

14 Annual Council Business Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report which presented the results of the 7 May 2015 district elections, the constitution of Political Groups, requested Members to note the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Executive for the Municipal Year 2015/16 and to consider and agree the suggested constitution of Committees for the Municipal year 2015/2016.

Resolved

(1) That the results of the District elections held on 7 May 2015 be noted:

Ambrosden and Chesterton – Councillor Lynn Pratt Banbury Easington – Councillor Nigel Morris Banbury Grimsbury and Castle – Councillor Andrew Beere Banbury Hardwick - Councillor Nicholas Turner Banbury Ruscote – Councillor Mark Cherry Bicester East – Councillor Rose Stratford Bicester North – Councillor Melanie Magee Bicester South – Councillor James Porter Bicester Town – Councillor Richard Mould Council - 19 May 2015

Bicester West – Councillor Les Sibley Caversfield (By-election) – Councillor Ian Corkin Cropredy – Councillor Ken Atack Hook Norton – Councillor Ray Jelf Kidlington North – Councillor Sandra Rhodes Kidlington South – Councillor Neil Prestidge The Astons and Heyfords – Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton - Councillor Michael Gibbard

- (2) That the constitution of Political Groups (41 Conservatives, 7 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent) and notification of Group Leaders: Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Conservative Group and Leader of the Council and Councillor Sean Woodcock, Leader of the Labour Group and Leader of the Opposition, be noted.
- (3) That the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council, the membership of the Executive and the Executive Portfolios for 2015/16 be noted.

Lead Member Portfolio	Councillor
Leader of the Council (Responsibility for Eco Town/Garden Town including Graven Hill, policy, partnerships, Law and Governance, Human Resources, Communications, Performance and Programme Management)	Councillor Barry Wood
Deputy Leader of the Council (Responsibility for Leisure, Car parks, customer service and Museum)	Councillor George Reynolds
Lead Member for Public Protection	Councillor Tony llott
Lead Member for Housing	Councillor John Donaldson
Lead Member for Clean and Green	Councillor Debbie Pickford
Lead Member for Banbury Futures (Responsible for Brighter Futures and Banbury Projects Board)	Councillor Kieron Mallon
Lead Member for Change Management, Joint Working and IT	Councillor Nicholas Turner
Lead Member for Financial Management	Councillor Ken Atack

Lead Member for Estates and the Economy	Councillor Norman Bolster
Lood Member for Dianning	Councillor Michael Cibberd
Lead Member for Planning	Councillor Michael Gibbard

(4) That the allocation of seats on committees that were subject to the political balance requirements be agreed:

	TOTAL	CON	LAB
Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee	8	7	1
Appeals Panel	10	8	2
Budget Planning Committee	12	10	2
Joint Appeals Panel	3	2	1
Joint Commissioning Committee	4	3	1
Joint Scrutiny Committee	5	4	1
Licensing Committee	12	10	2
Overview & Scrutiny	12	10	2
Personnel Committee	12	10	2
Planning Committee	18	15	3
Standards Committee	8	7	1
Proportional Total by Committee	100	86	18
Aggregate Entitlement	100	89*	15*
Adjustment Required	-	+3	-3

(5) That the allocation of seats on committees not subject to political balance requirements be noted:

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	TOTAL	CON	LAB	LD
Council and Employee Joint	12	10	2	0
Joint Arrangements Steering Group	5	4	1	0

(6) That members (and where appropriate, substitute members) be appointed to serve on each of the committees and other bodies as set out below in accordance with the nominations made by political groups:

Proportional Committees

Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Membership (8 members with unnamed substitutes)

Conservative (7)

Labour (1) Cllr Barry Richards

Cllr Colin Clarke Cllr Ray Jelf Cllr Mike Kerford-Byrnes Cllr Nicholas Mawer Cllr Lawrie Stratford Cllr Rose Stratford Cllr Barry Wood

Appeals Panel

Membership (10 members with no substitutes)

Conservative (9)

Labour (1)¹ Cllr Andrew Beere

Cllr Fred Blackwell Cllr Timothy Hallchurch Cllr Russell Hurle Cllr Tony llott Cllr Ray Jelf Cllr James Macnamara Cllr Richard Mould Cllr Douglas Webb

Budget Planning Committee

¹ One seat from Labour Group to Conservative Group as per PR calculation requirements

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Membership (12 members with unnamed substitutes)

Conservative (10)

Labour (2)

Cllr Ken Atack Cllr Colin Clarke Cllr Ian Corkin **Cllr Carmen Griffiths Cllr Russell Hurle Cllr Mike Kerford-Byrnes Cllr Nicholas Mawer Cllr Nigel Randall Cllr Douglas Webb Cllr Barry Wood**

Cllr Barry Richards Cllr Sean Woodcock

Joint Appeals Panel

Membership (3 seats, 2 named substitutes)

Conservative (2)	Labour (1)	
Cllr Fred Blackwell	Cllr Andrew Beere	
Cllr James Macnamara		

Substitutes

Conservative (1) **Cllr Colin Clarke**

Labour (1) **Cllr Matt Johnstone**

Joint Commissioning Committee

Membership (4 members, unnamed substitutes)

Conservative (3)

Labour (1)

Cllr Ken Atack Cllr George Reynolds **Cllr Nicholas Turner**

Cllr Barry Richards

Joint Scrutiny Committee

Membership (5 members, unnamed substitutes)

Conservative (4)

Labour (1)

Cllr David Hughes Cllr Lynn Pratt **Cllr Sandra Rhodes** **Cllr Sean Woodcock**

Cllr Bryn Williams

Licensing Committee

Membership (12 seats and 5 substitutes based on proportional representation with each represented party having at least 1 substitute)

Conservative (11)

Labour (1)²

Cllr Matt Johnstone

Cllr Fred Blackwell Cllr Colin Clarke

- Cllr Michael Gibbard
- Cllr Tony llott Cllr Ray Jelf
- Cllr Richard Mould
- Cllr George Reynolds
- Cllr Lawrie Stratford
- Cllr Rose Stratford

Cllr Douglas Webb

Cllr Bryn Williams

Substitutes Conservative (4)³

Labour (1) Cllr Andrew Beere

Cllr David Hughes Cllr Alistair Milne Home Cllr Debbie Pickford Vacant

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership (12 members with unnamed substitutes)

Conservative (10)

Cllr Lynn Pratt

Cllr Neil Prestidge

Cllr Timothy Hallchurch Cllr Chris Heath Cllr David Hughes Cllr Alistair Milne Home Cllr James Porter Labour (1)

Cllr Claire Bell Cllr Matt Johnstone

² 1 seat from Labour Group given to Conservative Group as per PR calculation requirements

³ The Conservative Group has appointed 4 of their 5 permitted substitutes

Cllr Sandra Rhodes Cllr Lawrie Stratford Cllr Bryn Williams

Personnel Committee

Membership (12 members, unnamed substitutes who shall not be members of the Appeals Panel)

Labour (2)

Cllr Andrew Beere

Cllr Mark Cherry

Conservative (10)

Cllr Ken Atack

Cllr Norman Bolster

Cllr Ian Corkin

Cllr Melanie Magee

Cllr James Porter

Cllr Lynn Pratt

Cllr George Reynolds

Cllr Lynda Thirzie Smart

Cllr Bryn Williams

Cllr Barry Wood

Planning Committee

Membership (18 members, 12 named substitutes)

Conservative (16)

Cllr Fred Blackwell Cllr Colin Clarke Cllr Michael Gibbard Cllr Chris Heath Cllr David Hughes Cllr Russell Hurle Cllr Mike Kerford-Byrnes Cllr James Macnamara Cllr Alistair Milne Home Cllr Richard Mould Cllr Lynn Pratt **Cllr Nigel Randall**

Labour $(2)^4$

Cllr Matt Johnstone Cllr Barry Richards

Cllr George Reynolds

⁴ 1 seat from Labour Group given to Conservative Group as per PR calculation requirements

Cllr Trevor Stevens Cllr Lawrie Stratford Cllr Rose Stratford

Substitutes Conservative (11)⁵

Cllr Ken Atack Cllr Carmen Griffiths Cllr Tim Hallchurch Cllr Debbie Pickford Cllr James Porter Cllr Sandra Rhodes Cllr Nicholas Turner Cllr Bryn Williams Cllr Barry Wood Vacant Vacant Labour (1) Cllr Andrew Beere

Standards Committee

Membership (8 members, 8 substitute members) Conservative (7) Labour (1)

Cllr Fred Blackwell Cllr Chris Heath Cllr Simon Holland Cllr James Macnamara Cllr Richard Mould Cllr Lawrie Stratford Cllr Rose Stratford

Substitutes Conservative (7)⁶

Cllr Ken Atack Cllr Timothy Hallchurch Cllr Russell Hurle Cllr Lynda Thirzie Smart Cllr Barry Wood

Labour (1)

Cllr Andrew Beere

Cllr Matt Johnstone

⁵ The Conservative Group has appointed 9 of their 11 permitted substitutes

⁶ The Conservative Group has appointed 5 of their 7 permitted substitutes

Vacant Vacant

Non-Proportional Committees

Council and Employee Joint Committee⁷

Membership (12 seats) Conservative (10)

Labour (2)

Cllr Ian Corkin Cllr Melanie Magee Cllr Kieron Mallon Cllr Nicholas Mawer Cllr James Porter Cllr Lynn Pratt Cllr Nigel Randell Cllr Sandra Rhodes Cllr Bryn Williams

Cllr Barry Woods

Cllr Surinder Dhesi Cllr Mark Cherry

Joint Arrangements Steering Group

Membership (5 members, 3 substitutes)

Conservative (4) Cllr Ken Atack Cllr Norman Bolster Cllr Nicholas Turner Cllr Barry Wood Substitutes Conservative (2) Cllr Michael Gibbard Cllr Barry Wood

Cllr Sean Woodcock

Labour (1)

Labour (1) Cllr Barry Richards

(7) That Councillor Kieron Mallon be appointed as Cherwell District Council's representative to the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel.

⁷ This Committee is subject to review later on this agenda

(8) That Councillor George Reynolds be appointed as Cherwell District Council's representative to the Police and Crime Commissioner Scrutiny Panel.

15 Joint Councils Employee Engagement Committee

The Chief Executive submitted a report which recommended the implementation of the Joint Councils Employee Engagement Committee to undertake consultation and engagement with employees on behalf of Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Council as set out in the final business case for joint working agreed by both authorities at their Council Meetings in February 2015.

Resolved

- (1) That following adoption of the final business case for joint working by Council in February 2015 and a period of consultation with the relevant Trade Union Representatives, subject to South Northamptonshire Council resolving in similar terms:
 - The Joint Councils Employee Engagement Committee be established with the terms of reference as set out in the Final Business Case 'Developing the Approach to Joint Working and the Delivery of Local Authority Services' agreed by Council in February 2015 (and annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book)
 - 2) The existing arrangements for employee consultation (the Council and Employee Joint Committee at Cherwell District Council and the Council and Employee Local Joint Committee at South Northamptonshire Council) be disbanded.
- (2) That the allocation of seats on the Committee and the membership of the Committee be agreed as follows:

	TOTAL	CON	LAB
Joint Councils Employee Engagement Committee	3	2	1

Allocation of Seats of Non-Proportional Committee

Membership of Non-Proportional Committees

Joint Councils Employee Engagement Committee

Membership (3 seats, unnamed substitutes)Conservative (2)Labour (1)

Cllr Nicholas Turner

Cllr Barry Wood

Cllr Surinder Dhesi

16 Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 - Mandatory Standing Orders re Dismissal of Statutory Officers

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report to enable the Council to comply with the legal obligation imposed upon it to incorporate new constitutional provisions dealing with the dismissal of statutory officers for alleged misconduct, to approve the composition of the required Panel to be introduced as part of the process and to delegate authority to appropriate officers to appoint the Panel and arrange meetings (if necessary).

Resolved

- (1) That the inclusion of the procedure (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) as part of the Officer Employment Procedure Rules in the Council's constitution be approved and it be noted note that the Head of Law and Governance has exercised his delegated authority to make consequential amendments to the constitution as necessary to reflect the requirements contained in the Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 ("the 2015 Regulations).
- (2) That the constitution of the Panel as solely comprising the independent persons appointed by this Council and South Northamptonshire Council pursuant to section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 be approved.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Head of Law and Governance (or one of the Deputy Monitoring Officers should the Head of Law and Governance be the subject of the relevant disciplinary action) to appoint the Panel and convene meetings of it in the event that this ever becomes necessary.
- (4) That it be noted that the Head of Transformation would automatically amend the Joint Local Discipline and Dismissal Guide for Statutory Officers and that she had already taken steps to amend the contracts of employment of the statutory officers as necessary to reflect the changes introduced by the 2015 Regulations.

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The meeting ended at 7.30 pm

Chairman:

Date:

Minute Item 16

APPENDIX 1

- 1. In the following paragraphs—
- (a) *"the 2011 Act"* means the Localism Act 2011
- (b) *"chief finance officer", "disciplinary action", "head of the Council's paid service"* and *"monitoring officer"* have the same meaning as in regulation 2 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001;
- *(c) "independent person"* means a person appointed under section 28(7) of the 2011 Act;
- (d) *"local government elector"* means a person registered as a local government elector in the register of electors in the Council's area in accordance with the Representation of the People Acts;
- (e) *"the Panel"* means a committee appointed by the Council under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the purposes of advising the Council on matters relating to the dismissal of relevant officers of the Council;
- (f) *"relevant meeting"* means a meeting of the Council to consider whether or not to approve a proposal to dismiss a relevant officer; and
- (g) *"relevant officer"* means the chief finance officer, head of the Council's paid service or monitoring officer, as the case may be.
- 2. A relevant officer may not be dismissed by the Council unless the procedure set out in the following paragraphs is complied with.
- 3. The Council must invite relevant independent persons to be considered for appointment to the Panel, with a view to appointing at least two such persons to the Panel.
- 4. In paragraph 3"relevant independent person" means any independent person who has been appointed by the Council or, South Northamptonshire Council or where there are fewer than two such persons, such independent persons as have been appointed by another council or councils as the Council considers appropriate.
- 5. Subject to paragraph 6, the Council must appoint to the Panel such relevant independent persons who have accepted an invitation issued in accordance with paragraph 3 in accordance with the following priority order—
- (a) a relevant independent person who has been appointed by the Council and who is a local government elector;
- (b) any other relevant independent person who has been appointed by the Council;

- (c) a relevant independent person who has been appointed by another council or councils.
- 6. The Council is not required to appoint more than two relevant independent persons in accordance with paragraph 5 but may do so.
- 7. The Council must appoint any Panel at least 20 working days before the relevant meeting.
- 8. Before the taking of a vote at the relevant meeting on whether or not to approve such a dismissal, the Council must take into account, in particular—
- (a) any advice, views or recommendations of the Panel;
- (b) the conclusions of any investigation into the proposed dismissal; and
- (c) any representations from the relevant officer.
- 9. Any remuneration, allowances or fees paid by the Council to an independent person appointed to the Panel must not exceed the level of remuneration, allowances or fees payable to that independent person in respect of that person's role as independent person under the 2011 Act.