

Cherwell District Council

Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 1 November 2011 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE (Chairman)
Councillor Colin Clarke (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ken Atack
Councillor Alyas Ahmed
Councillor Andrew Beere
Councillor Maurice Billington
Councillor Norman Bolster
Councillor Ann Bonner
Councillor Mrs Diana Edwards
Councillor Tim Emptage
Councillor Andrew Fulljames
Councillor Mrs Catherine Fulljames
Councillor Michael Gibbard
Councillor Alastair Milne Home
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Russell Hurle
Councillor Tony Ilott
Councillor Victoria Irvine
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Melanie Magee
Councillor Kieron Mallon
Councillor Nigel Morris
Councillor George Parish
Councillor Lynn Pratt
Councillor G A Reynolds
Councillor Alaric Rose
Councillor Daniel Sames
Councillor Leslie F Sibley
Councillor Trevor Stevens
Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Councillor Rose Stratford
Councillor Patricia Tompson
Councillor Nicholas Turner
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Douglas Williamson
Councillor Barry Wood

Apologies
for
absence: Councillor Rick Atkinson
Councillor Fred Blackwell
Councillor Patrick Cartledge
Councillor Margaret Cullip

Councillor Simon Holland
Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor P A O'Sullivan
Councillor D M Pickford
Councillor Neil Prestidge
Councillor Lynda Thirzie Smart
Councillor Martin Weir

Officers: Sue Smith, Chief Executive
Calvin Bell, Director of Development
Ian Davies, Director of Community and Environment
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer
Karen Curtin, Head of Finance and Procurement
James Doble, Democratic, Scrutiny and Elections Manager

44 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

45 **Communications**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Melanie Magee to her first council meeting following her recent election at the Bicester North By-election in September.

The Chairman reported that he had received the sad news that Councillor Diana Dallyn, Vice-Chairman of South Northamptonshire Council had passed away. Council joined the Chairman in sending condolences to her family and colleagues at South Northamptonshire Council.

The Chairman also advised members that the Chief Constable would be attending the next meeting of Council on 8 December to make a presentation and answer any questions.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

47 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

48 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

49 **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, one Executive decision 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.

50 **Questions**

a) **Written Questions**

A written question was submitted by Councillor Beere regarding the number of residents claiming housing benefit within the district compared with 12 months ago. A written answer was provided that confirmed claims had increased by 2.8%. By way of a supplementary question Councillor Beere asked whether it would be possible for a list of social housing rent arrears to be published. In reply Councillor Wood stated that he was not sure if the Council had this information and would ask officers to let Council Beere know if this would be possible.

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

Questions were asked and answers received in the following issues:

Waste Recycling Centre: Councillor Emptage
Discount on unoccupied properties: Councillor Williamson
Return of Icelandic investments: Councillor Lawrie Stratford

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

There were no questions to the Committee Chairman on minutes.

51 **Motions**

There were no motions.

52

Parliamentary Boundary Review

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought consideration of the proposals of the Parliamentary Boundary Review and agreement of the council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the Oxfordshire County Boundary Review.

Resolved

- (1) That the response on the Parliamentary Boundary Review which proposes the transfer of the Ambrosden & Chesterton and Launton wards of Cherwell District to the Henley constituency be endorsed.
- (2) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the member working group, be delegated authority to finalise the Council's submission to the Boundary Commission for England.
- (3) That the member working group be requested to continue to meet as required to consider issues emerging from the on-going County and Parliamentary boundary reviews.

53

Proportionality and Committee Membership

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought agreement to the amended constitution of Committees for Municipal Year 2011/12 and advised Council of political group nominations following the results of the Bicester North By-election.

Resolved

- (1) That the allocation of the seats on the Committees that are subject to the political balance requirements be agreed as set out in the table below following the results of the Bicester North by-election.

Allocation of Seats to Proportional Committee

	TOTAL	CON	LAB	LD
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12	10	1	1
Resources and Performance Board	12	10	1	1
Planning Committee	18	16	1	1
Personnel Committee	12	10	1	1
Licensing Committee	12	10	1	1
Appeals Panel	10	9*	1	0*

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Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee	8	7	1	0
Joint Personnel Committee	5	4	1	0
Joint Appeals Committee	3	2	1	0
Proportional Total by Committee	92	77	9	6
Aggregate Entitlement	92	78	9	5
Adjustment Required		+1	0	-1

(Liberal Democrat seat to Conservative Group on Appeals Panel, agreed May 2011)

Allocation of Seats to Non Proportional Committees

	TOTAL	CON	LAB	LD
Standards Committee	8	6	1	1
Council and Employee Joint Committee	12	10	1	1
Joint Arrangements Steering Group	5	4	1	0

(2) Appoint Members to serve on each of the Committees set out in Table 2 below in accordance with the nominations made by the Political Groups.

(3)

		Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board	Appeals Panel	Council & Employee Joint Committee	Planning Committee
Remove	Members	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy	-
	Substitute	-	-	-	Vacancy
Add	Members	Cllr Magee	Cllr Magee	Cllr Magee	-
	Substitute	-	-	-	Cllr Magee

Declaration of Local Nature Reserve - Adderbury Lakes

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report to enable Members to decide whether to delegate authority to the Executive to consider requests from Parish Councils to delegate to them the power to establish Local Nature Reserves

Resolved

- (1) That the Executive Lead Member be given delegated authority to consider requests from Parish Councils to delegate to them the power to establish local nature reserves.

The meeting ended at 7.02 pm

Chairman:

Date: