

Cherwell District Council

Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote,
Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 16 July 2012 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Colin Clarke (Chairman)
Councillor Lawrie Stratford (Vice-Chairman)
(in the Chair for Minute 26)

Councillor Ken Atack
Councillor Alyas Ahmed
Councillor Andrew Beere
Councillor Maurice Billington
Councillor Fred Blackwell
Councillor Norman Bolster
Councillor Ann Bonner
Councillor Patrick Cartledge
Councillor Margaret Cullip
Councillor Surinder Dhesi
Councillor John Donaldson
Councillor Mrs Diana Edwards
Councillor Tim Emptage
Councillor Andrew Fulljames
Councillor Michael Gibbard
Councillor Simon Holland
Councillor Alastair Milne Home
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Tony Ilott
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Melanie Magee
Councillor Kieron Mallon
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Nigel Morris
Councillor Jon O'Neill
Councillor P A O'Sullivan
Councillor George Parish
Councillor D M Pickford
Councillor Nigel Randall
Councillor G A Reynolds
Councillor Alaric Rose
Councillor Daniel Sames
Councillor Leslie F Sibley
Councillor Trevor Stevens
Councillor Rose Stratford
Councillor Lynda Thirzie Smart
Councillor Nicholas Turner
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Douglas Williamson
Councillor Barry Wood
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Apologies for absence: Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Russell Hurle
Councillor Victoria Irvine
Councillor Lynn Pratt
Councillor Neil Prestidge

Officers: Sue Smith, Chief Executive
Ian Davies, Director of Community and Environment
Martin Henry, Director of Resources / Section 151 Officer
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer
James Doble, Democratic and Elections Manager

18 **Declarations of Interest**

Members declared interests with regard to the following agenda items:

10. Chairman's Allowance.

Councillor Colin Clarke, Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, as Chairman of Council for the municipal year for 2012/13 and therefore a potential recipient of the Chairman's allowance should the payment of one be agreed.

Councillor Lawrie Stratford, Conflict, as Vice-Chairman of Council for 2012/13, which by convention becomes Chairman the following year. Whilst this did not provide a conflict currently, due to the potential conflict Councillor Stratford confirmed he would remain in the meeting but would abstain from voting.

19 **Communications**

The Chairman reported that it was his sad duty to advise Members that David Maxwell Turner former County and District Councillor and father of Councillor Nicholas Turner had passed away yesterday. Council observed a period of silence in memory of former Councillor David Turner.

Councillor Wood, Leader of Council and Councillor Cartledge, Leader of the Opposition both paid tribute to David Maxwell Turner.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

21 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

22 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23 **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, there had been no decisions that were 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.

24 **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:

Maternity facilities at the Horton Hospital: Councillor Cartledge
Flood Insurance and DEFRA: Councillor Cartledge
Olympic Torch Relay in the Cherwell District: Councillor Turner
Member Champions: Councillor Macnamara
Roll out of Brighter Futures across district: Councillor Macnamara
Council Tax Benefit Reforms: Councillor Beere
Council newspapers: Councillor Dhesi
Housing under occupation: Councillor Woodcock
Congratulating Sir Tony Baldry: Councillor Mallon
Bicester Town Centre Redevelopment: Councillor Hughes

RAF Bicester: Councillor Sames
Public amenity tip Bicester area: Councillor Sibley
Free School Upper Heyford: Councillor Sibley
Orchard Way Development: Councillor Cartledge
Free School Upper Heyford: Councillor Macnamara

c) Questions to Committee Chairmen on the minutes

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

25 **Motions**

There were no motions.

26 **Chairman's Allowance**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report which sought to consideration of the recommendations of the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board in relation to the proposal to pay an allowance to the Chairman of Cherwell District Council.

It was agreed that standing orders be waived for the duration of this agenda item to allow the Head of Law and Governance to provide clarification on allowances and the validity of a proposed amendment.

In the course of debate views both for and against the proposal were expressed, however it was noted that the proposals had been given detailed consideration by the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board and had cross party support.

Resolved

- (1) That an allowance of £2000 be paid to the Chairman of the Council with effect from the municipal year 2012/13.
- (2) That the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board recommendations detailed below be agreed:
 - (1) That an allowance of £2000 be paid to the Chairman of Cherwell District Council for the municipal year 2012/13 with immediate effect
 - (2) That the scheme of reference for the Chairman's allowance (annex to the minutes, as set out in the minute book) be adopted.
 - (3) That officers be requested to review the Chairman's budget operating period so that it is aligned with the municipal year as opposed to the financial year.

Ratification of Standards Arrangements

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report to enable Council to ensure compliance with the Localism Act 2011 by ratifying the code of conduct previously adopted at the May 2012 Council meeting. The report also sought confirmation of the arrangements for the handling of complaints alleging misconduct by District, Town and Parish Councillors that had been prepared by the Head of Law and Governance pursuant to delegated authority previously granted.

Resolved

- (1) That the arrangements for dealing with complaints of Councillor misconduct (annex to the minutes as set out in the minute book) be approved.
- (2) That the adoption of the code of conduct (annex to the minutes as set out in the minute book) previously resolved at the May 2012 Council meeting be approved.
- (3) That the intention of the Head of Law and Governance to bring a report to the October meeting of Council to seek approval to the appointment of two independent persons to the Standards Committee and possible revisions to the adopted code of conduct be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm

Chairman:

Date: