

## **Cherwell District Council**

### **Council**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 17 December 2012 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Colin Clarke (Chairman)  
Councillor Lawrie Stratford (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ken Atack  
Councillor Alyas Ahmed  
Councillor Andrew Beere  
Councillor Maurice Billington  
Councillor Fred Blackwell  
Councillor Norman Bolster  
Councillor Ann Bonner  
Councillor Surinder Dhesi  
Councillor John Donaldson  
Councillor Mrs Diana Edwards  
Councillor Tim Emptage  
Councillor Andrew Fulljames  
Councillor Michael Gibbard  
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE  
Councillor Simon Holland  
Councillor Alastair Milne Home  
Councillor Chris Heath  
Councillor David Hughes  
Councillor Tony Ilott  
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes  
Councillor Kieron Mallon  
Councillor Nicholas Mawer  
Councillor Nigel Morris  
Councillor P A O'Sullivan  
Councillor D M Pickford  
Councillor Lynn Pratt  
Councillor Neil Prestidge  
Councillor Nigel Randall  
Councillor G A Reynolds  
Councillor Daniel Sames  
Councillor Trevor Stevens  
Councillor Rose Stratford  
Councillor Lynda Thirzie Smart  
Councillor Nicholas Turner  
Councillor Douglas Williamson  
Councillor Barry Wood  
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Also Present: Sara Thornton, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police  
Andy Boyd, Cherwell Local Area Commander

Apologies  
for  
absence: Councillor Patrick Cartledge  
Councillor Margaret Cullip  
Councillor Russell Hurle  
Councillor Victoria Irvine  
Councillor James Macnamara  
Councillor Melanie Magee  
Councillor Jon O'Neill  
Councillor Alaric Rose  
Councillor Leslie F Sibley  
Councillor Douglas Webb

Officers: Sue Smith, Chief Executive  
Calvin Bell, Director of Development  
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

41 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

42 **Communications**

**Councillor Gordon Ross**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Gordon Ross who had been elected in the recent by-election for Banbury Ruscote Ward.

**Council Tax Setting 2013/14**

The Chairman reported it had become necessary to arrange some extra meetings of Council to deal with the complexities of Council Tax setting this year. He had therefore agreed to call a meeting on Monday 21 January at 6.30pm to consider: the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax Base.

Additionally as there could be a delay in the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner setting the precept, it may not be available for the scheduled for 25 February 2013, If this were the case, on the advice of the Monitoring officer and Section 151 Officer it was planned to adjourn the council tax setting item at the 25 February meeting to Friday 1 March 2013 at 4pm, which was the last possible date for setting the precept so that billing could take place.

## **Engagements**

The Chairman reported that a list of engagements he had attended had been included in the agenda.

### **Councillor Simon Holland**

On the request of the Chairman Council agreed that a leave of absence for up to 6 months be granted to Councillor Simon Holland for personal reasons.

### 43 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

### 44 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

### 45 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 46 **Thames Valley Police - Address by Chief Constable**

The Chairman welcomed Sara Thornton, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and Cherwell Local Area Commander Superintendent Andy Boyd to the meeting.

Chief Constable Thornton addressed the meeting regarding policing in Thames Valley. A number of Members asked questions and answers were duly provided.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Constable and Superintendent Boyd.

### 47 **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, two decisions had been taken that were subject to the special urgency procedures where 28 days notice was not given, they related to a land negotiations update report and the Oxford and Central Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes and south East Midlands City Deals

**b) Minutes of Committees**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of Committees as set out in the Minute Book be received.

48

**Questions**

**a) Written Questions**

A written question was submitted by Councillor Beere with regard to flood prevention at Banbury Canalside, an answer was provided by the Executive Lead Member Councillor Gibbard.

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

Questions were asked and answers received on the following issues:

Living Wage: Councillor Ross

Capital Spending in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington per head of population:

Councillor Emptage

Storm Drains and Flooding: Councillor Woodcock

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

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

49

**Motions**

There were no motions.

50

**Appointments to Committees**

The Chairman noted that the Proper Officer had received notification that the Labour Group wished to appoint Councillor Ross to the committee places left vacant by Councillor Parish. Due to an administrative error they had been incorrectly set out on the agenda front page.

**Resolved**

That Councillor Ross be appointed as a committee member on Planning and Licensing Committees and as a substitute on Joint Personnel Committee.

51

**Community Governance Review 2012**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which updated Members on progress of the Community Governance Review, to outline timetables for consultation

and consideration of responses and to appoint a Working Group to carry out detailed work on the Review.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with Group Leaders, to appoint two Members per Political Group to a Community Governance Review Working Group.
- (3) That the Head of Law and Governance be given delegated authority to arrange dates of meetings for the Working Group.

52 **Adoption of Joint Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report which sought adoption of a common set of Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules for Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Council in order to ensure that the joint procurement and accountancy teams were working to a common set of rules and procedures and to mitigate the risk arising from having different procedural rules at the two Councils.

**Resolved**

That subject to South Northamptonshire Council resolving in similar terms at its meeting on 19 December 2012,:

- (1) The joint Contract Procedure Rules (annex to these minutes as set out in the minute book) be adopted.
- (2) The joint Financial Procedure Rules (annex to these minutes as set out in the minute book) be adopted.

53 **Calendar of Meetings Municipal Year 2013/14**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report which sought consideration of the calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2013/14.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2013/14 (annex to the minutes as set out in the minute book) be approved.

54 **Developments in Elections and Electoral Registration - Update Report**

The Chief Executive as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer submitted a report which updated Members on the changes in electoral registration and the annual canvass and sought seek delegated power for the

Chief Executive to resource Individual Electoral Registration in light of these developments.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the further developments in the electoral and electoral registration programme to 2015 be noted and it be agreed that Council receives future reports as appropriate.
- (2) That the publication of the Electoral Registration and Administration Bill be noted.
- (3) That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to recruit and appoint a 0.5 FTE Project Co-ordinator from May 2013 and processing and canvass staff as required in order to meet the new statutory requirements placed upon the Council with the costs being shared between this Council and South Northamptonshire Council.

The meeting ended at 7.44 pm

Chairman:

Date: