

Cherwell District Council

Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 19 December 2016 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Chris Heath (Chairman)
Councillor Maurice Billington (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor David Anderson
Councillor Ken Attack
Councillor Hannah Banfield
Councillor Andrew Beere
Councillor Mike Bishop
Councillor Hugo Brown
Councillor Mark Cherry
Councillor Colin Clarke
Councillor Ian Corkin
Councillor Surinder Dhesi
Councillor John Donaldson
Councillor Sean Gaul
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Simon Holland
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Shaida Hussain
Councillor Tony Ilott
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Councillor Jolanta Lis
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Kieron Mallon
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Andrew McHugh
Councillor Alastair Milne-Home
Councillor Nigel Morris
Councillor Richard Mould
Councillor Lynn Pratt
Councillor Neil Prestidge
Councillor G A Reynolds
Councillor Sandra Rhodes
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Dan Sames
Councillor Les Sibley
Councillor Nicholas Turner
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Bryn Williams
Councillor Barry Wood
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Apologies for Councillor Claire Bell
Councillor Nick Cotter

absence: Councillor Carmen Griffiths
Councillor D M Pickford
Councillor Nigel Simpson
Councillor Jason Slaymaker
Councillor Tom Wallis

Officers: Sue Smith, Chief Executive
Scott Barnes, Director of Strategy and Commissioning
Karen Curtin, Commercial Director
Ian Davies, Director of Operational Delivery
Paul Sutton, Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer
Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance / Monitoring Officer
Natasha Clark, Interim Democratic and Elections Manager

64 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

65 **Communications**

Former Councillor George Parish

The Chairman referred to former Cllr Parish who had sadly passed away on Saturday 26 November.

George served as a Labour member for the Banbury Ruscote ward between May 1990 and October 2012 when he stood down and was Chairman of Cherwell District Council for the municipal year 2010/11. George was also a Banbury Town councillor and served as Banbury Town Mayor in 1995 to 1996.

It was however probably his work outside of public office for which he was so well known. George was Chairman of the Keep the Horton General campaign leading the campaign against the downgrading of services at the Horton Hospital.

Councillor Woodcock, Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Wood, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Conservative Group and a number of other members paid tribute to former Councillor Parish.

The meeting observed a period of silence.

Recording at meetings

The Chairman advised that 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.

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman advised Council that a copy of the events attended by myself or the Vice-Chairman was published as supplement to the main agenda pack.

Post

The Chairman reminded Members to collect any post from pigeon holes. The last post of 2016 would be sent out this Friday and no further mail would be sent out until the first week of January.

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

The Chairman advised Members that there no petition but one request to address the meeting had been received, from Mr John Broad, on agenda item 13, Re-adoption of Policy Bicester 13 of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 and he would be called to speak at the start of that item.

67 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

68 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2016 and the special meeting held on 8 November 2016 were agreed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

69 **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 to report that since the last meeting of Council on 17 October 2016, one decision has been taken by the Executive which was not included in the 28 day notice on the following item: Banbury Business Improvement District (BID)

b) **Minutes of Committees**

Resolved

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

70 **Questions**

a) **Written Questions**

The Chairman advised Council that one written question had been submitted with advance notice in accordance with the Constitution. The question was from Councillor Woodcock and addressed to the Lead Member for Estates and the Economy, Councillor Pratt, and was in relation to the Solihull Partnership. A written answer had been tabled at the meeting (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book).

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Woodcock asked if the Lead Member for Estates and the Economy could confirm that there is a contract with penalty clauses in place with the Partnership.

In response, the Lead Member for Estates and the Economy advised that she would send a written response to Councillor Woodcock.

b) Questions to the Leader of the Council

Questions were asked and answers received on the following issues:

Councillor Beere: Clause 4 of Neighbourhood Planning Bill currently going through Parliament

Councillor Dhesi: leaves blocking drains

Councillor Banfield: Rough sleepers in Banbury

Councillor Hussain: Health inequalities in Oxfordshire, teenage drinking in Banbury, any plans to introduce recommendation, reinforce policy

Councillor Richards: Car parking

Councillor Cherry: Possibility for payment for collection of garden waste

c) Questions to Committee Chairmen on the minutes

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

Motions

a) Parking at the John Radcliffe (JR) Hospital in Oxford

It was moved by Councillor Mallon, and seconded by Councillor Woodcock, that the following motion be adopted:

“Council notes the recent media coverage and casework of Councillors concerning the pressures on parking at the John Radcliffe (JR) Hospital in Oxford. Council finds the present situation unacceptable and is dismayed at the knock-on effect this is having on those who need to visit the JR. Council further notes that these pressures have already been, and will be further exasperated by the centralisation of services from local hospitals, such as maternity services from the Horton Hospital in Banbury to the JR. Cherwell District Council demands that no further services are centralised from any local hospitals across the county due to the distressing parking circumstances. Council further calls on the County Council the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee and the Clinical Commissioning Group to take this into account in their deliberations and outcomes.”

The motion was debated and subsequently agreed.

b) Oxfordshire Unitary Authority

It was moved by Councillor Wood, and seconded by Councillor Reynolds, that the following motion be adopted:

“This Council believes that Cherwell District Council has an excellent record of serving the residents of North Oxfordshire. The Council notes that Buckinghamshire County Council has written to the Secretary of State looking to dissolve Bucks Districts in favour of a County Unitary. The Council therefore RESOLVES to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State and the Permanent Secretary at DCLG making it clear that Cherwell District Council would not support a move to an Oxfordshire Unitary Council.

The letter can however indicate a willingness to consider a change in the status of the Oxfordshire Growth Board into a Combined Authority (with an elected Mayor if that is required by Government) so long as this can be linked to a meaningful “devolution deal” that has clear benefits for the District.

The letter should go on to detail the joint arrangements between Cherwell and South Northants, the benefits achieved, and the complexities and costs of unravelling them.”

The motion was debated and subsequently agreed.

Resolved

- (1) That the following motion, relating to parking at the John Radcliffe (JR) Hospital in Oxford, be adopted:

“Council notes the recent media coverage and casework of Councillors concerning the pressures on parking at the John Radcliffe (JR) Hospital in Oxford. Council finds the present situation unacceptable and is dismayed at the knock-on effect this is having on those who need to visit the JR. Council further notes that these pressures have already been, and will be further exasperated by the centralisation of services from local hospitals, such as maternity services from the Horton Hospital in Banbury to the JR. Cherwell District Council demands that no further services are centralised from any local hospitals across the county due to the distressing parking circumstances. Council further calls on the County Council the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee and the Clinical Commissioning Group to take this into account in their deliberations and outcomes.”

- (2) That the following motion, relating to an Oxfordshire Unitary Council, be adopted:

“This Council believes that Cherwell District Council has an excellent record of serving the residents of North Oxfordshire. The Council notes that Buckinghamshire County Council has written to the Secretary of State looking to dissolve Bucks Districts in favour of a County Unitary. The Council therefore RESOLVES to instruct the Chief Executive to

write to the Secretary of State and the Permanent Secretary at DCLG making it clear that Cherwell District Council would not support a move to an Oxfordshire Unitary Council.

The letter can however indicate a willingness to consider a change in the status of the Oxfordshire Growth Board into a Combined Authority (with an elected Mayor if that is required by Government) so long as this can be linked to a meaningful “devolution deal” that has clear benefits for the District.

The letter should go on to detail the joint arrangements between Cherwell and South Northants, the benefits achieved, and the complexities and costs of unravelling them.”

72 **'Making'(Adoption) of the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan**

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy submitted a report to propose the Council ‘makes’ (adopts) the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan following a recommendation to make the Neighbourhood Plan by the Executive at its meeting on 5 December 2016.

Resolved

- (1) That the referendum result of the 3 November 2016 where 97% of those who voted were in favour of the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan which is above the required 50% be noted.
- (2) That it be resolved that Cherwell District Council as the local planning authority ‘make’ the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan so that it is part of the statutory Development Plan for the District.
- (3) That the issuing and publication of a decision statement stating that Cherwell District Council has resolved to make the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan be approved.
- (4) That authorisation be given to the Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy for the correction of any spelling, grammatical or typographical errors, and the undertaking of any minor presentational improvements, prior to the Plan being published by Council.

73 **Adoption of the Banbury Vision and Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy submitted a report which proposed the Council adopts the Banbury Vision & Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) following a recommendation to adopt the Banbury Vision & Masterplan by the Executive at its meeting on 5 December 2016.

Resolved

- (1) That the Banbury Vision and Masterplan (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be adopted.
- (2) That the Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy be authorised to publish an Adoption Statement and if necessary to make any further minor changes to the Masterplan before it is published.

74 **Kidlington Framework Masterplan**

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy submitted a report to seek adoption of the Kidlington Framework Masterplan.

Resolved

- (1) That the Kidlington Framework Masterplan (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 subject to any necessary minor and presentational changes authority for which is delegated to the Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy.
- (2) That the Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy be authorised to publish an Adoption Statement.

75 **Re-adoption of Policy Bicester 13 of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031**

Prior to consideration of the item, Mr John Broad, on behalf of the Save Gavray Meadows Campaign, addressed the meeting.

The Head of Strategic Planning and the Economy submitted a report to seek re-adoption of Policy Bicester 13 of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 in accordance with a Court Order and an associated addendum to the Local Plan Inspector's Report.

Resolved

- (1) That the Court Judgment, Court Order and addendum to the Local Plan Inspector's report (annexes to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be noted.
- (2) That the Council adopts Policy Bicester 13 of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) in precise accordance with the addendum to the Local Plan Inspector's Report dated 18 May 2016 and the Court Order dated 19 February 2016 (annexes to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book).
- (3) That, upon adoption by the Council, Policy Bicester 13 be inserted as modified into the published Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1).

76 **Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017-2018 and Council Tax Discounts 2017-2018**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report to provide members with an update on the consultation process that has taken place on the proposals for a Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017-2018 and to seek approval for a Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the year 2017-2018 on the recommendation of the Executive and Budget Planning Committee.

The report also provided members with an update of Council Tax discounts and seek approval for the Council Tax discounts for the year 2017-18.

Resolved

- (1) That a Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for the year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 as set out in the annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book) be approved and implemented with effect from 1 April 2017.
- (2) That delegated authority be granted to the Section 151 Officer to make further amendments to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Regulations up to and including 31 January 2017 in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Management.
- (3) That, having given due consideration, the following level of Council Tax discounts for 2017-2018 be approved:
 - Retain the discount for second homes at zero
 - Retain the discount for empty homes (unoccupied and substantially unfurnished) at 25% for 6 months and thereafter at zero.
 - Retain the discount for empty homes undergoing major repair at 25% for 12 months and thereafter at zero.
 - Retain the empty homes premium of an additional 50% for properties that have remained empty for more than 2 years.

77 **Community Governance Review Update**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which provided an update on the Community Governance Review (CGR) to be undertaken and requested that an amended Terms of Reference document be approved.

Resolved

- (1) That the amended Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to amend the timetable for the Review, if required

78 **Calendar of Meetings 2017-2018 and Draft Calendar of Meetings 2018-2019**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report to consider the calendars of meetings for the municipal year 2017/18 and draft calendars for the municipal year 2018/19.

Resolved

- (1) That the calendar of meetings for Cherwell District Council (CDC) for the municipal year 2017/18 (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) and the draft calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2018/19 (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.
- (2) That, subject to similar agreement by South Northamptonshire Council, the joint committees calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2017/18 (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) and the draft joint committees calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2018/19 (annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book) be approved.

79 **Amendments to Committee Membership**

Council was asked to note amendment to Committee membership made by the Conservative Group.

Resolved

- (1) That the following amendments to Committee membership made by the Conservative Group be noted:

Joint Commissioning Committee

Remove Councillor Nicholas Turner, add Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes

Joint Councils Employee Engagement Committee

Remove Councillor Nicholas Turner, add Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes

80 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There being no questions on exempt minutes it was not necessary to exclude the press and public.

81 **Questions on Exempt Minutes**

There were no questions on exempt minutes.

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The meeting ended at 9.15 pm

Chairman:

Date: