

Cherwell District Council

Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Spiceball Leisure Centre, Cherwell Drive, Banbury OX16 2BW, on 19 July 2021 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Hannah Banfield (Chair)
Councillor Les Sibley (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Andrew Beere
Councillor Nathan Bignell
Councillor Hugo Brown
Councillor Phil Chapman
Councillor Mark Cherry
Councillor Colin Clarke
Councillor Patrick Clarke
Councillor Ian Corkin
Councillor Sandy Dallimore
Councillor John Donaldson
Councillor Carmen Griffiths
Councillor Matt Hodgson
Councillor David Hughes
Councillor Shaida Hussain
Councillor Tony Ilott
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Councillor Nicholas Mawer
Councillor Andrew McHugh
Councillor Tony Mephram
Councillor Ian Middleton
Councillor Perran Moon
Councillor Richard Mould
Councillor Cassi Perry
Councillor Lynn Pratt
Councillor George Reynolds
Councillor Barry Richards
Councillor Dorothy Walker
Councillor Bryn Williams
Councillor Lucinda Wing
Councillor Barry Wood
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Maurice Billington
Councillor Mike Bishop
Councillor John Broad
Councillor Conrad Copeland
Councillor Nick Cotter

Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Simon Holland
Councillor Kieron Mallon
Councillor Adam Nell
Councillor Dan Sames
Councillor Jason Slaymaker
Councillor Katherine Tyson
Councillor Tom Wallis
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Fraser Webster

Officers:

Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive
Anita Bradley, Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

17 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

18 **Communications**

Chair's Announcements

Chair's Engagements

A copy of the events the Chair or Vice-Chairman had attended was published with the agenda.

Member Briefings

Following an extensive induction and Member briefings during the past two months, the programme for the autumn was being drafted and Members should send any suggestions for briefing topics to the Democratic and Elections Team.

Information on online Safeguarding training, which it was important all councillors complete, would be emailed to councillors in due course.

Length of Speeches and Voting

Proposers of motions may speak for up to 5 minutes, and all other speakers may speak for up to 3 minutes. As there was no countdown clock, the Governance and Elections Manager would be monitoring the length of speeches and will give a 30 second warning when you are coming to your time limit. Voting would be by clear raising of hand for, against or to abstain.

Leader of the Council's, Councillor Wood, Announcements

Deputy Leader Appointment

The Leader of the Council advised Council that Councillor Ian Corkin had been appointed Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group and was therefore Deputy Leader of Executive and the Council.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

20 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

21 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22 **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 at which this was reported, 22 February 2021, four key and/or exempt decisions have been taken by the Executive which were not included in the 28 day notice relating to: Lease for Waterside Development; Consideration of the Oxford to Cambridge ARC Principles; Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire; and, Public Sector Decarbonisation.

b) **Minutes of Committees**

Resolved

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

23 **Questions**

a) **Written Questions**

The Chairman advised Council that one written question addressed to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Wood, had been submitted with advance notice in accordance with the Constitution and had been published with the agenda. A response to the question had been published as a supplement to the agenda (and are an annex to the Minutes as set out in the Minute Book).

The question was from Councillor Beere in relation to the Environment Agency Flood Risk Survey. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Beere referred to the recent flooding in Germany and the Benelux countries and asked the Leader if would write to the embassies on behalf of the Council extending sympathies to the affected communities. The Leader agreed to the request.

b) Questions to the Leader of the Council

Questions were asked and answers received on the following issues:

Councillor Middleton: Use of herbicides across the district, including by the council's landscape contractor

Councillor Middleton: the council's approach to the 19 July easing of lockdown measures in its own offices and premises

Councillor Woodcock: Member training

Councillor Broad: Oxfordshire Plan 2050

c) Questions to Committee Chairmen on the Minutes

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

24 Parliamentary Boundary Review and Cherwell District Wide Community Governance Review

The Chief Executive submitted a report to advise Council of the 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review; to seek agreement to conduct a district wide Community Governance Review; to request the establishment of a Parliamentary Boundary and Community Governance Review Working Group to consider issues from the Parliamentary Boundary review and the Community Governance Review.

Resolved

- (1) That it be agreed to establish a Parliamentary Boundary and Community Governance Review (PBCGR) Working Group.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders/ Spokesperson, to appoint three members from the Conservative Group, two members from the Labour Group, two members from the Progressive Oxfordshire Group and one member from the Independent Group to the Working Group.

- (3) That it be agreed that Cherwell District Council submit a response to the Parliamentary Boundary Review and authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Member Working Group, to finalise the Council's first consultation submission on the Parliamentary Boundary review to the Boundary Commission for England.
- (4) That it be agreed to undertake a district wide Community Governance Review and the next steps be endorsed

25

Standards Arrangements - Independent Persons

The Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer submitted a report to delegate authority to the standards committee, supported by the director of law and governance & monitoring officer, to agree the process for and to undertake the recruitment of three independent persons for recommendation to the 13 December 2021 council meeting. To extend the terms of the current independent persons pending the recruitment process.

Resolved

- (1) That responsibility be delegated to the Standards Committee to agree the process for and to undertake the recruitment of three Independent Persons for recommendation to the 13 December 2021 Council meeting.
- (2) That the appointments of Mr Graham Matthews, Mr Tom Edwards and Mr Stuart Green as Independent Persons be extended to the 13 December 2021 Council meeting.

26

Capital Programme Amendments

The Director of Finance submitted a report to seek Council's approval to amend the Capital Programme for 2021/22 in line with the Financial Regulations.

Resolved

- (1) That the inclusion of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme into the Capital Programme at a cost of £5.987m funded by Government grant be approved.
- (2) That the inclusion of the Garden Town scheme for Banbury Road Roundabout into the Capital Programme at a cost of £4.550m funded by Government grant be approved.
- (3) That it be agreed to vire £75k from the Finance System Project to the iTrent payroll project.

27 **Treasury Management Outturn Report - 2020-21**

The Director of Finance submitted a report to receive information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy and Prudential Indicators for 2020-21 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the 2020-21 Treasury Management Outturn Report be noted.

28 **Amendment to Committee Membership**

The Chairman invited the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Wood, to advise Council of the amendments to Conservative Group committee membership.

Resolved

- (1) That the following change of Conservative Group committee membership be noted:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Remove: Councillor Maurice Billington

Add: Councillor David Hughes

29 **Motions**

The Chairman advised that one motion had been submitted. No amendments to the motions had been submitted and, in line with the Constitution, no amendments to the motion were now permitted.

'Fire and Rehire'

It was proposed by Councillor Richards and seconded by Councillor Woodcock that the following motion be adopted.

"Cherwell District Council condemns the use of 'Fire and Rehire' by any employers in the Cherwell District and

- Calls upon the Members of Parliament representing Cherwell residents (John Howell, Layla Moran and Victoria Prentis) to support Barry Gardiner's Private Member's Bill and do all in their power to make this practice unlawful, and
- Cherwell District Council resolves not to procure any goods or services from companies that have sought to gain commercial advantage by using or threatening to use this unscrupulous practice."

No amendments to the motion having been proposed, the motion was debated as submitted. In the course of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Corkin and seconded by Councillor Woodcock that a recorded vote be taken. Having been proposed and seconded, a recorded vote was duly taken, and Members voted as follows:

Councillor Hannah Banfield	For
Councillor Andrew Beere	For
Councillor Nathan Bignell	Against
Councillor John Broad	For
Councillor Hugo Brown	Against
Councillor Phil Chapman	Against
Councillor Mark Cherry	For
Councillor Colin Clarke	Against
Councillor Patrick Clarke	Against
Councillor Ian Corkin	Against
Councillor Sandy Dallimore	Against
Councillor John Donaldson	Against
Councillor Carmen Griffiths	Against
Councillor Matt Hodgson	For
Councillor David Hughes	Against
Councillor Shaida Hussain	For
Councillor Tony Ilott	Against
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes	Against
Councillor Andrew McHugh	Against
Councillor Tony Mephram	Against
Councillor Ian Middleton	For
Councillor Perran Moon	For
Councillor Richard Mould	Against
Councillor Cassi Perry	For
Councillor Lynn Pratt	Against
Councillor George Reynolds	Against
Councillor Barry Richards	For
Councillor Les Sibley	For
Councillor Dorothy Walker	For
Councillor Bryn Williams	Against

Councillor Lucinda Wing	Against
Councillor Barry Wood	Against
Councillor Sean Woodcock	For

The vote was lost and the motion therefore fell.

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm

Chairman:

Date: