

## **Cherwell District Council**

### **Council**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA, on 19 April 2010 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Mrs Diana Edwards (Chairman)  
Councillor George Parish (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ken Atack  
Councillor Alyas Ahmed  
Councillor Maurice Billington  
Councillor Fred Blackwell  
Councillor Norman Bolster  
Councillor Ann Bonner  
Councillor Colin Clarke  
Councillor Nick Cotter  
Councillor Margaret Cullip  
Councillor John Donaldson  
Councillor Andrew Fulljames  
Councillor Mrs Catherine Fulljames  
Councillor Michael Gibbard  
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE  
Councillor Eric Heath  
Councillor Alastair Milne Home  
Councillor David Hughes  
Councillor Russell Hurle  
Councillor Tony Ilott  
Councillor Victoria Irvine  
Councillor Kieron Mallon  
Councillor Nicholas Mawer  
Councillor Nigel Morris  
Councillor D M Pickford  
Councillor Neil Prestidge  
Councillor Devena Rae  
Councillor G A Reynolds  
Councillor Daniel Sames  
Councillor Leslie F Sibley  
Councillor Chris Smithson  
Councillor Trevor Stevens  
Councillor Carol Steward  
Councillor Keith Strangwood  
Councillor Lawrie Stratford  
Councillor Rose Stratford  
Councillor Lynda Thirzie Smart  
Councillor Patricia Tompson  
Councillor Nicholas Turner  
Councillor Douglas Webb  
Councillor Martin Weir  
Councillor Douglas Williamson  
Councillor Barry Wood

Also Present: Francis Habgood, Deputy Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police  
Commander Superintendent Howard Stone, Thames Valley Police  
Inspectors Neville Clayton (North Cherwell), Thames Valley Police  
Martin Percival (South Cherwell), Thames Valley Police

Apologies for absence: Councillor Rick Atkinson  
Councillor Luke Annaly  
Councillor James Macnamara  
Councillor P A O'Sullivan  
Councillor John Wyse

Officers: Mary Harpley, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service  
Ian Davies, Strategic Director - Environment and Community  
John Hoad, Strategic Director - Planning, Housing and Economy  
Martin Henry, Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer  
Liz Howlett, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer  
Natasha Clark, Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

#### 74 **Declarations of Interest**

Members declared the following general declarations:

Councillor Alyas Ahmed, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Ann Bonner, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor G A Reynolds, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Keith Strangwood, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Kieron Mallon, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Lawrie Stratford, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Maurice Billington, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Michael Gibbard, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Mrs Catherine Fulljames, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Nicholas Turner, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Norman Bolster, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE, Personal, as a County Councillor due to the County Council having a land interest at Gowell's Farm.

Councillor Barry Wood, Personal, as persons known to him have an interest in land in the area of, but outside the eco zone.

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## **Communications**

### **Former District Councillors Elsie Milne and John Harper**

The Chairman noted the sad passing of former District Councillors Elsie Milne and John Harper. Mrs Milne served as a Cherwell Councillor from 1998 – 2006. Mr Harper served as a Cherwell Councillor from 2000–2008 and as Chairman from 2006 –2007. Members of the Council joined the Chairman in remembering Mrs Milne and Mr Harper's service to the Council and the District by observing a one minute's silence.

### **Councillor John Wyse**

The Chairman noted that Councillor Wyse was not at the meeting as he was undergoing medical treatment. Members joined the Chairman in wishing him well.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That Councillor John Wyse be granted a six month attendance dispensation with effect from 28 July 2010.

### **Councillor Paul O'Sullivan**

The Chairman reported that Councillor O'Sullivan had recently been involved in a car accident and was at home recovering. Members joined the Chairman in wishing him well.

### **Local Council Shadowing Programme**

The Chairman presented certificates to Sarah Jordan and David Smith who had successfully completed the Local Councillor Shadowing Programme. The Chairman reported that Jessica Lake had also completed the Programme but was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. The Chairman also thanked Councillors Rose Stratford, Lawrie Stratford, Carol Steward, George Parish, Norman Bolster and Barry Wood who had taken part in the programme.

### **Chairman's Dinner**

The Chairman thanked members for the support they had given at her recent dinner and reported that just over £3,000 had been raised in aid of her chosen charities.

## **Elections**

The Chairman of the Council supported by many Members paid tribute to Councillors Eric Heath and Devena Rae who were standing down at the forthcoming election. Councillor Eric Heath and Councillor Nick Cotter, on behalf of Councillor Devena Rae, thanked members for their kind words.

The Chairman thanked Councillors Alyas Ahmed, Norman Bolster, Colin Clarke, Margaret Cullip, Tony Ilott, James Macnamara, Kieron Mallon, Paul O'Sullivan, George Parish, George Reynolds, Douglas Webb, Douglas Williamson, and Barry Wood for their service to the Council and wished them well in the forthcoming election.

## **Councillor Fred Blackwell**

The Chairman supported by the Leader of the Council paid tribute to Councillor Blackwell who was celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> year of local government service in 2010. The Leader noted that Councillor Blackwell was a former Council Chairman and had made many valuable contributions to the Council, especially as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

## **Section 151 Officer**

At the Chairman's request, the Chief Executive reported that Cherwell District Council had finalised arrangements to share a Section 151 Officer with South Northamptonshire District Council. Martin Henry would be the Council's Chief Finance Officer and designated Section 151 Officer until 28 February 2011.

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

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

## 77 **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

## 78 **Thames Valley Police - Chief Constable Address**

The Chairman welcomed Francis Habgood, the Deputy Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, Cherwell Commander Superintendent Howard Stone and Inspectors Neville Clayton (North Cherwell) and Martin Percival (South Cherwell) to the meeting.

Deputy Chief Constable Francis Habgood addressed the meeting regarding the strategy for policing in Thames Valley 2010-2011. A number of Members asked questions and answers were duly provided.

The Chairman thanked Deputy Chief Constable Francis Habgood, Cherwell Commander Superintendent Howard Stone, Inspector Neville Clayton and Inspector Martin Percival.

79 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of Council held on 23 February 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

80 **Minutes**

a) **Minutes of the Executive, Portfolio Holder Decisions and Executive Decisions made under Special Urgency**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive and Portfolio Holder 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.

81 **Questions**

a) **Written Questions**

Four questions relating to the cost of the Standards Committee in 2008-9 and 2009-10, the possibility of surcharging Parish Councils and repetitive complaints had been submitted by Councillor Reynolds and were tabled together with the reply from the Leader of the Council.

The Leader answered a supplementary question put by Councillor Reynolds.

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

Questions were asked and answers received on the following issues:

Bicester Community Hospital project: Councillor Sibley  
North West Bicester Eco-town project: Councillor Cotter

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

There were no questions to Committee Chairmen on the minutes.

82 **Motions**

There were no motions.

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### **Constitution Update**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report to Council which sought approval of amendments and updates to the Council's constitution.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the changes to the scheme of delegation detailed in the report be approved and to delegate to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services the detailed reallocation of powers reflecting the recent review of the Extended Management Team and the retirement of the Head of Safer Communities and Community Development.
- (2) That the revised Proper Officer provisions be approved.
- (3) That the changes to the Contract Procedure Rules be approved.
- (4) That the revised and updated Finance Procedure Rules be approved.

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### **Standards Committee - Appointment of Parish Representative**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report to appoint a parish representative to the Standards Committee to fill a vacancy.

#### **Resolved**

- (5) That David Carr be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee as Parish Representative to take effect following the parish elections 2010.

The Chairman thanked Mr Frewer and Mr Lane who had both resigned from the Standards Committee for all their hard work.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm

Chairman:

Date: