

Cherwell District Council

Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held as a virtual meeting, on 19 October 2020 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor David Hughes (Chairman)
Councillor Hannah Banfield (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Andrew Beere
Councillor Nathan Bignell
Councillor Maurice Billington
Councillor Mike Bishop
Councillor John Broad
Councillor Hugo Brown
Councillor Phil Chapman
Councillor Mark Cherry
Councillor Colin Clarke
Councillor Conrad Copeland
Councillor Ian Corkin
Councillor Nick Cotter
Councillor Surinder Dhesi
Councillor John Donaldson
Councillor Sean Gaul
Councillor Carmen Griffiths
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE
Councillor Shaida Hussain
Councillor Tony Ilott
Councillor Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Councillor James Macnamara
Councillor Kieron Mallon
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 Les Sibley
Councillor Jason Slaymaker
Councillor Katherine Tyson
Councillor Douglas Webb
Councillor Fraser Webster
Councillor Bryn Williams
Councillor Lucinda Wing
Councillor Barry Wood

Councillor Sean Woodcock

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Chris Heath
Councillor Simon Holland
Councillor Dan Sames
Councillor Tom Wallis

Officers:

Yvonne Rees, Chief Executive
Steve Jordan, Corporate Director Commercial Development, Assets & Investment & (Interim) Monitoring Officer
Stephen Chandler, Corporate Director Adults & Housing Services
Lorna Baxter, Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Sukdave Ghuman, Head of Legal Services
Richard Hawtin, Team Leader Property & Contracts
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

37 **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed councillors, officers and members of the public and press to the virtual meeting of Full Council.

The Chairman introduced the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Hannah Banfield, and explained that if he had any technical issues and had to drop out of the meeting, Councillor Banfield would take the Chair until he was reconnected.

38 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

39 **Communications**

Housekeeping

The Chairman reminded Members of the protocol and etiquette for virtual meetings.

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

The Chairman advised the meeting that there were no petitions but there was one request to address the meeting, on agenda item 9 in relation to the Badger Culling motion. The public speaker would be able to speak for up to 5 minutes and would be called to address the meeting prior to the motion being debated by Council.

41 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

42 **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

43 **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, 20 July 2020, one key decision has been taken which was not included in the 28 day notice relating to The Musketeer, Banbury.

b) Minutes of Committees

Resolved

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

44 **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:

Councillor Middleton: Response to questions at the September Special Council meeting

Councillor Billington: Bollard in Kidlington

Councillor Dhesi: Banbury market place car park

c) Questions to Committee Chairmen on the Minutes

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

Motions

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

Badger Culling

The Chairman invited Julia Hammett, Chair of Oxfordshire Badger Group, who had registered to speak on the motion to address Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Middleton and seconded by Councillor Copeland that the following motion be adopted.

“At the beginning of September, Natural England began licencing the culling of badgers in Oxfordshire.

Evidence suggests that only 5.7% of incidences of bovine tuberculosis is caused by badgers. An independent review said that badger culling can only have a "modest" effect in reducing tuberculosis in cattle, and urged the government to accelerate the development of non-lethal controls and an increased focus on cow to cow transmission.

Whilst we need to support our farming communities in tackling Bovine TB, this council believes that the mass slaughter of badgers without a proven scientific rationale is unjustified. The extermination of a native species against the advice of major wildlife organisations is also incompatible with the council's environmental policies.

At least 30% of all badgers shot will be cage trapped and could instead be vaccinated which is a far cheaper, more humane, targeted and effective alternative. Shooting is more than seven times more expensive, less controllable and can actually disperse an infected population over a wider range.

This council therefore resolves :

1. That the leader write to DEFRA expressing our opposition to the badger cull across Oxfordshire.
2. Not to permit the culling of badgers on any land owned or controlled by the council
3. To instead allow and support participation in licenced badger vaccination programmes on council owned or controlled land where these are applied for
4. To encourage all parish councils in Cherwell to take the same approach on their land”

No amendments to the motion having been proposed, the motion was debated as submitted and on being put to the vote was lost and therefore fell.

- 46 **Constitution Review**
- The Corporate Director – Commercial Development, Assets And Investment & Monitoring Officer submitted a report for Council to agree a set of ‘areas for further consideration’ in the Council’s Constitution as part of a focused Constitution Review.

Resolved

- (1) That, having given due consideration, the areas for further consideration as set out in the Annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book) be endorsed.
- (2) That the establishment of politically balanced, informal cross-party working group to review the proposed changes on the basis outlined in the Annex to the Minutes (as set out in the Minute Book) be agreed.

- 47 **Community Governance Review for Adderbury - Results of First Consultation and Draft Recommendations**

The Chief Executive submitted a report to advise Council of the results of the first consultation stage of the Community Governance Review (CGR) for Adderbury.

The report also sought consideration of the draft recommendations of the CGR Working Group that will form the basis of the second consultation stage, which would run from 2 November 2020 to 4 January 2021.

Resolved

- (1) That the results of the first consultation stage of the Adderbury Community Governance Review be noted.
- (2) That the draft recommendation that no separation of Adderbury Parish Council take place, and that consideration be given to the number of parish councillors on the parish and creating two wards for Adderbury Parish Council be approved.

- 48 **Local Government Ombudsman Annual Report 2019/20**

The Corporate Director Commercial Development, Assets and Investments & Monitoring Officer to provide council with the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman’s annual report on Cherwell District Council for the financial year 2019/20.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted.

Calendar of Meetings 2021/2022

The Corporate Director Commercial Development, Assets and Investment & Monitoring Officer submitted a report for Council to consider the calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2021/2022.

The Chairman advised that an updated version of the proposed meeting calendar had been circulated as a supplement to the main agenda.

Resolved

- (1) That the calendar of meetings for Cherwell District Council for the municipal year 2021/2022 (Annex to the Minutes as set out in Minute Book).

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm

Chairman:

Date: