

**Minutes of a meeting of Annual Council  
held on Wednesday, 11th May, 2022  
from 7.00 - 7.27 pm**

**Present:** M Belsey (Chairman)  
P Coote (Vice-Chair)

J Ash-Edwards	S Ellis	J Mockford
J Belsey	A Eves	A Peacock
A Boutrup	B Forbes	C Phillips
P Brown	L Gibbs	M Pulfer
H Brunsdon	I Gibson	R Salisbury
P Chapman	J Henwood	A Sparasci
R Clarke	S Hicks	L Stockwell
E Coe-	T Hussain	D Sweatman
Gunnell White	R Jackson	C Trumble
R Cromie	J Knight	N Walker
J Dabell	C Laband	R Webb
R de Mierre	Andrew Lea	N Webster
B Dempsey	Anthea Lea	R Whittaker
J Edwards	J Llewellyn-Burke	
R Eggleston		

**Absent:** Councillors G Allen, R Bates, A Bennett, L Bennett, P Bradbury, R Cartwright, M Cornish, S Hatton, S Hillier, G Marsh and S Smith

**1 OPENING PRAYER.**

The Vice-Chairman read the opening prayer.

**2 TO ELECT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL.**

The Legal Officer asked for nominations for Chairman.

Councillor Coote nominated Councillor Margaret Belsey for Chairman of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Ash Edwards. As there were no other nominations, Councillor Margaret Belsey was confirmed as Chairman of the Council for 2022/23.

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor Margaret Belsey be elected Chairman of the Council for the 2022/23 Council year.

**3 TO APPOINT THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL.**

The Chairman nominated Councillor Coote for Vice-Chairman of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Webster. As there were no other nominations, Councillor Coote was confirmed as Vice-Chairman for 2022/23.

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor Coote be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2022/23 Council year.

**4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

In accepting the continuation of her role, the Chairman thanked fellow Councillors and stated that it was a privilege and honour to be re-elected. She confirmed that she will continue to support Kangaroos, her chosen charity for this year.

The Chairman drew Member's attention to two posters they have been given (relating the Energy Rebate and Clair Hall) and asked for their support in placing them within their Wards to promote the information to residents.

The Chairman also acknowledged that Peter Stuart, Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer will be leaving the Council and invited comment from Group Leaders. The Leader along with the Deputy Group Leaders for the Green and Liberal Democrat parties and the Leader of the Independent Group thanked Peter for his considerable service to the Council of over 30 years, noting his professionalism and extensive knowledge which has been of great benefit to residents and Members.

**5 TO NOTE THE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE CABINET AND FOR THE LEADER TO APPOINT THOSE MEMBERS.**

The Leader confirmed that the Cabinet will return to being composed of 7 Members. He thanked the current Members for their continued work and welcomed Councillor Cromie as the Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services.

The Chairman took Members to the recommendation to note the appointments which was agreed unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

That Council noted the following appointments:

Deputy Leader – Councillor J Belsey  
Cabinet Member for Community – Councillor Webster  
Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Net Zero – Councillor Hillier  
Cabinet Member for Planning – Councillor Salisbury  
Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parking – Councillor De Mierre  
Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services – Councillor Cromie

**6 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE NOMINATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES FOR 2022-23. (TO BE TABLED)**

The Chairman moved the item drawing Member's attention to the tabled report detailing the Nominations for Committees for the year 2022/23.

As there were no questions, the Chairman took Members to a vote on the recommendation to note the nominations, which was agreed unanimously.

## **RESOLVED**

The appointment of Members to Committees as set out below were noted:

### **Audit Committee (7 Members)**

Anne Boutrup	Judy Llewellyn-Burke
Matthew Cornish	Mike Pulfer
Ian Gibson	Lin Stockwell
Simon Hicks	

### **Licensing Committee (15 Members)**

Graham Allen	Anthea Lea
Matthew Cornish	Gary Marsh
John Dabell	Julie Mockford
Bruce Forbes	Samantha Smith
Lee Gibbs	Neville Walker
Janice Henwood	Roger Webb
Jim Knight	Norman Webster
Clive Laband	

### **Licensing Sub Committee A (5 Members)**

Graham Allen	Anthea Lea
Janice Henwood	Gary Marsh
Jim Knight	

### **Scrutiny Committee for Housing, Planning and Economic Growth (15 Members)**

Richard Bates	Janice Henwood
Paul Brown	Clive Laband
Margaret Belsey	Gary Marsh
Rod Clarke	Julie Mockford
Phillip Coote	Adam Peacock
Robert Eggleston	Neville Walker
Bruce Forbes	Rex Whittaker
Sue Hatton	

### **Scrutiny Committee for Community, Customer Services and Service Delivery (15 Members)**

Anne Boutrup	Ian Gibson
Roger Cartwright	Tofojjul Hussain
Peter Chapman	Anthea Lea
Rod Clarke	Judy Llewellyn-Burke
John Dabell	Mike Pulfer
Benedict Dempsey	Alexander Sparasci
Jenny Edwards	Dick Sweatman
Sandy Ellis	

### **Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Finance and Performance (15 Members)**

Alison Bennett	Andrew Lea
Heidi Brunsdon	Christopher Phillips
Phillip Coote	Mike Pulfer
Anne Eves	Samantha Smith
Janice Henwood	Lin Stockwell
Simon Hicks	Colin Trumble
Rodney Jackson	Rex Whittaker
Jim Knight	

### **District Planning Committee (12 Members)**

Richard Bates	Clive Laband
Phillip Coote	Gary Marsh
Anne Eves	Adam Peacock
Bruce Forbes	Dick Sweatman
Sue Hatton	Colin Trumble
Rodney Jackson	Rex Whittaker

### **Planning Committee (12 Members)**

Paul Brown	Tofojjul Hussain
Roger Cartwright	Gary Marsh
Phillip Coote	Christopher Phillips
John Dabell	Mike Pulfer
Robert Eggleston	Dick Sweatman
Bruce Forbes	Roger Webb

### **Standards Committee (6 MSDC Members)**

Alison Bennett	Emma Coe-Gunnell White
Pete Bradbury	Anne Eves
Rod Clarke	Samantha Smith

## **7 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER AND SECTION 151 OFFICER.**

Councillor Ash-Edwards moved the item. In seconding the item, Councillor John Belsey supported the appointment of Stephen Fitzgerald whilst also thanking the outgoing Section 151 Officer Peter Stuart for the work he has done in bringing the Council to the position which it is today.

As there were no questions, the Chairman took Members to a vote on the recommendation which was agreed unanimously.

### **RESOLVED**

Council agreed to appoint Stephen Fitzgerald as its interim S151 Officer, effective from 12 May 2022.

## **8 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2022-23.**

Councillor Webster moved the item noting that the Council carries out regular risk assessments to take reasonable steps to manage the risks of Covid and to reflect the public health guidelines and guidance that remains in place. He also acknowledged that Councillor Andrew Lea had proposed an amendment to the recommendation and Councillor Webster was happy to accept this amendment. This was seconded by Councillor Ash-Edwards.

Councillor Andrew Lea's amendment to the recommendation includes the following wording:

"From the 23rd May Council and committee meetings will be in the chamber. When due to Covid or other Health and Safety considerations it is not considered prudent to hold the meeting in the chamber, a report detailing the reasons and risk assessment will be presented to that meeting."

This was seconded by Councillor Stockwell. Members discussed the amendment and it was noted that bringing a report to the meeting would not change the circumstances of where that meeting was held. It was however hoped that in doing so it would make clear why a meeting might not be held in the Council Chamber and influence subsequent meetings. Members also discussed the timings of meetings when they return to the Chamber. The Chairman noted that this would be discussed with individual Chairman with Members advised of the outcome.

The Chairman took Members to a vote on the amendment which was agreed with 40 in favour and 3 abstentions.

On the substantive motion, a Member queried the maximum number of Members and Officers allowed in the Chamber and commented on the benefits of holding Scrutiny Committees in person. It was confirmed that the current maximum number of people in the Council Chamber is 24 but there is confidence that the full Council can be accommodated in the room from June. The amendment relates to all meetings however Scrutiny Committees can remain online at the individual Chairman's discretion.

The Chairman took Members to a vote on the recommendations as amended which were agreed unanimously.

### **RESOLVED**

Council agreed:

That the Programme (attached to the report as Appendix 1) and additional recommendation as stated above be approved.

The meeting finished at 7.27 pm

Chairman