

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY 20 MAY 2019
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR GUL NAWAZ

Present:

Councillors Aitken, Ali, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Barkham, Bashir, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Andrew Coles, Louise Coles, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Fower, John Fox, Judy Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Haynes, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Holdich, Howard, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Azher Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lamb, Lane, Lillis, Murphy, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Sandford, Seaton, Shaheed, Simons, Skibsted, Walsh, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin and Yurgutene.

5. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

6. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

7. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6 March 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2019 were approved as a true and accurate record.

8. Mayor's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Mayor.

9. Report of the Returning Officer

Members received a report which detailed the results of the Local Elections held on Thursday 2 May 2019.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council noted the results of the Local Elections held on Thursday 2 May 2019 (**Appendix 1** to the report).

10. Political Groups and Group Officers 2019 / 2020

A report detailing the membership of Political Groups and their Officers for the Municipal Year 2019 / 2020 was presented to Council.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council noted the membership of political groups (**Appendix 1** to the report) and their officers (**Appendix 2** to the report) for 2019 / 2020, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Bashir as Conservative Group Chief Whip.

11. Appointment of the Executive and the Leader's Scheme of Delegation

The Mayor introduced the item and invited nominations for the appointment of Leader of the Council. Councillor Holdich was nominated by Councillor Fitzgerald, and seconded by Councillor Hiller.

With no other nominations it was **RESOLVED** that the Council elected Councillor John Holdich as Leader of the Council for a period of four years.

Councillor Holdich addressed the Council to outline the priorities for the coming year and the Cabinet appointments for 2019 / 2020. He expressed his gratitude to those Members leaving the Cabinet and thanked them for their hard work. He explained that Cabinet roles had been modified to reflect the challenges the Council now faces and hoped that the Council would work together to confront key concerns such as environmental issues and climate change, homelessness and the formation of a new Business Improvement Centre.

The new Cabinet included:

- Councillor Wayne Fitzgerald - Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Integrated Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health
- Councillor Peter Hiller - Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Commercial Strategy and Investments
- Councillor Lynne Ayres - Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University
- Councillor Shazia Bashir - Cabinet Advisor for Children's Services
- Councillor David Seaton - Cabinet Member Finance
- Councillor Marco Cereste - Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment
- Councillor Mohammed Farooq - Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation
- Councillor Irene Walsh - Cabinet Member for Communities
- Councillor Steve Allen - Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

The Mayor invited Group Leaders and Members to comment on the proposals. Key points raised included that:

- Some Members agreed with the new Cabinet priorities and were pleased to see that Housing and Digital Transformation had been identified as key areas with their own portfolios within the new Cabinet make-up.
- It was hoped that improvements could be made in areas such as housing, the digital economy and the development of the new university.
- Some Members anticipated improvements in homelessness, education, the repayment of the Empower Loan and fly-tipping.
- Members agreed that consideration needed to be given to environmental concerns regarding air quality and transport.
- Some Members expressed a wish for all parties to work together to develop ideas to for Peterborough to compete as a future City of Culture.
- Members hoped to see a reduction in the sale of city assets.
- Comment was made that Enforcement Officers were needed across the city including areas of housing rather than only the City Centre.
- It was felt that investment was required across the city rather than only Bridge Street and the City Centre.
- Members considered that a Climate Emergency needed to be declared within Peterborough.
- Suggestion was made that infrastructure should be developed in conjunction with housing and attention given to the siting of schools to ensure the road systems

evolved at the same rate to avoid traffic congestion.

- It was noted that Cambridge City Council operated under a Committee system which was considered by some to be more accountable and open. Some Members stated they would like to see the same system introduced in Peterborough rather than the existing Cabinet system however others remembered it had not worked well for Peterborough when tried in the past.
- Members acknowledged the need to strengthen effective scrutiny.
- Members expressed regret at losing some long standing Members whose contributions would be missed.
- Members wished to work more closely with each other and the public.
- Members hoped the priorities of the Combined Authority would be more clearly defined and that Peterborough would receive its fair share of funding and attention.

Councillor Fitzgerald exercised his right to speak and advised that much was already being done on the issues raised. He invited Members to approach the Leader if they had any recommendations they would like to be considered, with particular reference to fly-tipping and the re-introduction of bulky waste collections and how this could be funded.

Councillor Holdich summed up and responded to comments made earlier. He also advised that becoming a City of Culture would require a budget of £5 million, which would need to be agreed upon by the Full Council. He reminded Members that a comprehensive review into fly-tipping had been conducted with the results due to be published shortly and that the university was being developed within the anticipated timeframe.

A vote was taken on the recommendations (32 voted in favour, 28 voted against, 0 abstained from voting).

Councillor For: Aitken, Allen, Ash, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Andy Coles, Louise Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lamb, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

Councillors Against: Ali, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Fower, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggan, Yasin, Yurgentene

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

Councillors Not Voting: Nil

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council:

1. Noted the appointment of the Cabinet and the Leader's Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members and officers (**Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** to the report).
2. Noted the appointments to the Shareholder Cabinet Sub-Committee (**Appendix 3** to the report).
3. Noted that the Constitution would be updated to include the Leader's Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members and officers (**Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** to the report).

12. Committee Structures 2019 / 2020

The current structure was proposed in accordance with Part 4, Section 1 of the Constitution which stated the Council must appoint at least one overview and scrutiny committee and other committees as it considered appropriate to deal with the matters that are neither reserved to Full Council nor are executive (Leader and Cabinet) functions. Two minor additions were proposed to the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee terms of reference, (as set out in red in **Appendix 1** of the report), following consultation with the Council's Planning Legal Officers.

Councillor Holdich moved the recommendations as detailed within the report.

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council:

1. Appointed the following Committees for the 2019 / 2020 municipal year:

Ordinary Committees subject to political balance seat allocations:

Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Health Scrutiny Committee
Children and Education Scrutiny Committee
Employment Committee
Licensing Committee (Regulatory)
Planning and Environmental Protection Committee
Appeals and Planning Review Committee
Audit Committee
Corporate Parenting Committee
Constitution and Ethics Committee

Other bodies to which Section 15 LGHA does not apply

Health and Wellbeing Board
Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003)

2. Agreed the committee terms of reference set out in the Regulatory Committee Functions and the Overview and Scrutiny Functions (**Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** to the report).

13. Political Balance and Allocation of Committee Seats

Councillor Holdich addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations detailed within the supplementary information pack and in so doing advised that the political balance and proportionality must be agreed each year and that Group Leaders had agreed the adjustments required.

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council:

1. Noted that there were 109 seats on committees.
2. Agreed the allocation of seats on those committee subject to political balance arrangements (**Appendix 1** to the report).
3. Agreed the allocation of seats on those committees not subject to political balance arrangements (**Appendix 2** to the report).

14. Appointments to Committees and Other Authorities

Councillor Holdich moved the recommendations as set out in the report and advised that all appointments had been proposed by Group Leaders. Members were asked to authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any changes throughout the year as requested by Group Leaders.

Councillor Fitzgerald seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

An **AMENDMENT** was proposed by Councillor Sandford as follows:

~~Appointed the Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the Council's committees (Appendix 1 to be tabled) Delegates authority to each of the Council's committees to elect their own Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2019/2020 municipal year and suspends standing order 24.8 in relation to the election of committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the 2019/2020 municipal year in order for these elections to be carried out by secret ballot, following a process to be agreed by the Monitoring Officer.~~

Councillor Shaz Nawaz seconded the amendment and reserved his right to speak.

Members debated the amendment and raised the following points:

- It was noted that this idea had been tried previously and was not felt to be successful however there were different Members now.
- Comment was made that the Scrutiny Chair should be a respected role and viewed as a key part in the decision making process and their appointment should not be influenced by political gain.
- Members felt that the committee would be able to propose the best person for the job.

Councillor Shaz Nawaz exercised his right to speak and emphasised the expertise amongst new Councillors recently elected. He stated that he wanted to ensure the most appropriate person was placed in the role of Chair, making full use of the expertise available, rather than appointments being driven by financial gain. He felt that past experience could be used to implement an improved system.

Councillor Holdich responded reiterating that permitting the committee to elect their own Chairs had not proved successful in the past and he did not feel it would work in the future.

A vote was taken on the amendment proposed by Councillor Sandford to the recommendation, as set out in the additional information pack (29 voted in favour, 31 voted against, 0 abstained from voting).

Councillor For: Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Fower, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggan, Yasin, Yurgentene

Councillors Against: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Andy Coles, Louise Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lamb, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

Councillors Not Voting: Nil

The amendment to the recommendation was **DEFEATED**.

The debate continued on the original motion and Members raised the following points:

- Members expressed their concern that, under the current recommendation, the only person who could select a Committee Chair was the Leader of the Council.
- Some Members expressed their satisfaction with the quality of committee Chairs and felt they had done an excellent job, although other Members felt this had not always been the case.
- It was suggested that Members would vote for the best Chair for the committee irrespective of party.
- It was noted that, for services in the city to be improved, all parties needed to work together and support the Chairs, however elected.
- Comment was made that no political party should be subject to abuse from other Members.
- For cross party committees to be successful, it was felt, Members needed to participate at meetings and be provided with the necessary information within appropriate timeframes to do so.

Councillor Fitzgerald exercised his right to speak and advised Council that the administration would carry out its policies and ideas and encouraged all Members to share any ideas for improvements to the city and to vote according to their conscience rather than party politics.

Councillor Holdich waived his right of reply.

A vote was taken on the recommendation (31 voted in favour, 29 voted against, 0 abstained from voting).

Councillor For: Aitken, Allen, Ayres, Bashir, Bisby, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Andy Coles, Louise Coles, Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Goodwin, Harper, Hiller, Holdich, Howard, Azher Iqbal, Lamb, Lane, Nadeem, Gul Nawaz, Over, Rush, Seaton, Simons, Walsh, Warren

Councillors Against: Ali, Ash, Barkham, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Day, Dowson, Ellis, Fower, Haynes, Hemraj, Hogg, Howell, Hussain, Amjad Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lillis, Murphy, Shaz Nawaz, Qayyum, Robinson, Sandford, Shaheed, Skibsted, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgentene

Councillors Abstaining: Nil

Councillors Not Voting: Nil

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council:

1. Agreed the appointments to those committees where the allocation of seats had been determined under Agenda Item 9 'Political Balance and Allocation of Committee Seats' (**Appendix 1** to the report).
2. Appointed the Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the Council's committees (**Appendix 1** to the report).
3. Confirmed the non-elected members of committees, as described at paragraphs 2.3 of the report.
4. Made the following appointments or nominations for the 2019 / 2020 municipal year:

- (a) Appointed the Leader of the Council to act as the Council's appointee to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and one substitute member (**Appendix 4** to the report).
 - (b) Nominated two members to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and two substitute members from the same political parties as those nominated (**Appendix 4** to the report).
 - (c) Nominated one member Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee and one substitute member from the same political party (**Appendix 4** to the report).
 - (d) Appointed three members to the Police and Crime Panel and three substitute members from the same political parties as those appointed (**Appendix 4** to the report).
 - (e) Appointed four members to the Fire Authority and four substitute members from the same political parties as those appointed (**Appendix 4** to the report).
5. Authorised the Monitoring Officer as Proper Officer, in respect of any other appointments to be made, to carry out the wishes of the Leaders of Political Groups in allocating members to committees or other authorities, and to appoint those members with effect from the date at which the Proper Officer was advised of the names of such members.

15. Calendar of Meetings 2019 / 2020

The Mayor advised that Council was requested to approve the calendar of meetings for 2019 / 2020 as outlined within the supplementary document pack.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council approved the Calendar of Meetings (**Appendix 1** to the report) for 2019 / 2020.

The Mayor
7.45pm – 9.25pm
20 May 2019