

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021
EAST OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR STEPHEN LANE

Present:

Councillors Ansar Ali, Imtiaz Ali, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Ayres, Barkham, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day, Dowson, Elsey, Mohammed Farooq, Saqib Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Haynes, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Howell, Ishfaq Hussain, Mahboob Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Knight, Lane, Moyo, Murphy, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Sainsbury, Sandford, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Tyler, Walsh, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

5. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bashir.

6. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

7. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 3 March 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2021 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 6 May 2021.

A vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) that the Council noted the results of the Local Elections held on Thursday 6 May 2021 (**Appendix 1** to the report).

10. Political Groups and Group Officers 2021/22

A report detailing the membership of Political Groups and their Officers for the Municipal Year 2021/22 was presented to Council.

A vote was taken and the Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to note the membership of political groups (**Appendix 1** of the report) and their officers (**Appendix 2** of the report) for 2020/22, subject to the following corrections:

- Councillor Bryan Tyler to be included in the Conservative Group list.

- Councillor Lynne Ayres to be listed as the Conservative Group Secretary.
- Councillor Kirsty Knight to be listed as the Green Group Secretary.

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 Fitzgerald was nominated by Councillor Allen, and seconded by Councillor Brown.

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

Councillor Fitzgerald addressed the Council to outline the priorities for the coming year and the Cabinet appointments for 2021/22. He explained that he had served as a Councillor since 2006, having lived in Peterborough for many years, and took on the role of Leader with great pride. In the past year and more the Council had faced some of its biggest challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, with officers putting in huge efforts to support the community, including providing £36 million worth of grants to local businesses, providing the Track and Trace service, providing grants to support those self-isolating, and now to trial work on the causes of COVID-19 transmission.

It was, Councillor Fitzgerald advised, now the Council's priority to return to "normal" and to "build back better". Plans for the university project continued, alongside work at Fletton Quays to provide a hotel and Government hub. The Station Quarter and Northminster had been identified for future areas of work to ensure that Peterborough was an attractive place to live and work. To assist with this the Council had successfully applied for New Towns Funds funding and intended to attract private investment.

Further plans included the establishment of a Housing Revenue Account, and an enhanced delivery of work on the Embankment. Progress was to be made on the establishment of a new theatre, with larger capacity, while also safeguarding local theatres and performance groups. A masterplan for the area was to be developed and widely consulted upon.

Councillor Fitzgerald announced that he would be commencing an online forum for the public to him questions. Work would also be undertaken to provide free bulky waste collection and tackle fly-tipping. The Council would also continue its efforts to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The new Cabinet included:

- Councillor Steve Allen - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities
- Councillor Irene Walsh - 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 Andy Coles - Cabinet Member for Finance
- Councillor Nigel Simons - Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment
- Councillor Marco Cereste - Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation
- Councillor Gul Nawaz - Cabinet Advisor for Community Cohesion
- Councillor Shazia Bashir - Cabinet Advisor for Public Health
- Councillor John Howard - Cabinet Advisor for Housing, Culture and Communities

- Councillor Ray Bisby - Cabinet Advisor for Children in Care

Councillor Allen seconded the recommendations and fully endorsed the programme set out by Councillor Fitzgerald, which was considered to be energetic and inspiring. It was further noted that the executive were committed to turning Peterborough into a city of culture, both in the general sense and with a bid for 'City of Culture' status.

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

- It was suggested that the newly-announced Cabinet should be more diverse.
- Comment was made in relation to the Council previously coming close to bankruptcy, along with feelings that the Council had neglected certain areas of the city.
- Some Members were disappointed that there was no specific Cabinet position dedicated to environmental issues.
- Comment was made that, with the political makeup of the Council, focus this year would be placed on the Werrington First group.
- In response to this, the Werrington First group advised that they would vote the way they felt appropriate.
- Members welcomed the merger of Adults Social Care and Health into one portfolio.
- Further comment was made that further work needed to be taken to implement policies, including with recycling levels, bulky waste, public transport, and the embankment masterplan.
- Members praised the work carried out on the COVID-19 vaccination programme.
- It was hoped that further progress council be made on the Council's environmental aims, food strategy, active travel choices, and accessibility.
- A query was raised as to why the movement of child safeguarding to the education scrutiny remit, as it was suggested that this would sit well within the health sphere, with several shared parameters.

Councillor Fitzgerald summed up and confirmed that he would be happy to set out his reasons for separating children's safeguarding from adults' safeguarding. It was further advised that the Conservative Group did not have any arrangement with Werrington First. Councillor Fitzgerald invited Members to approach him directly with any issues they have. Members were also advised that a masterplan for the embankment would be commissioned in the next 6 weeks.

A vote was taken and the Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

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

Councillor Sandford moved a motion without notice to suspend Standing Order 1.1.2 and Standing Order 19. Councillor Sandford advised that he wished to suspend these Standing Orders in order to move a motion to reverse changes made at the Council meeting on held on 3 March 2021 following a motion from Councillor Fitzgerald. The motion from Councillor Fitzgerald altered the process for submitted a motion and it was felt that there was no chance to properly debate these proposals at the March Council meeting. Councillor Sandford further considered that Council Standing Orders should be reviewed in order to allow amendments to the constitution to be considered at the Annual Council meeting.

Councillor Nawaz seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Members debated on the proposals. Key points raised included that:

- A Member noted that Councillor Fitzgerald's motion was brought before Council properly, was voted on, and was legal.
- It was suggested that being able to move an amendment to the constitution at Annual Council was a sensible move, and one that was available at other Councils.
- Some Members felt that Councillor's Fitzgerald's motion was not properly debated, and that the Constitution and Ethics Committee should review the proposals.
- It was suggested that the purpose of Councillor Fitzgerald's motion was to ensure that motions were able to be debated in greater depth.

Councillor Nawaz exercised his right to speak and suggested that the Council should be more open to revisiting this motion, as it had made the process for submitting motions more complex.

Councillor Sandford summed up and explained that while Councillor Fitzgerald's motion was submitted to Full Council properly, there was no chance for Members to debate it, and that this was not in line with the constitution.

A vote was taken on a motion without notice from Councillor Sandford to suspend Standing Order 1.1.2 and Standing Order 19 (28 voted in favour, 31 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) and the motion was **DEFEATED**.

12. Committee Structures 2021/22

Councillor Fitzgerald moved the recommendations as detailed within the additional information pack. Councillor Allen seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Fitzgerald then moved an amendment to the recommendation, in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board terms of reference, as detailed within the additional information pack. Councillor Allen seconded the amendment.

A vote was taken on the amendment to the recommendation from Councillor Fitzgerald (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) and the amendment was **CARRIED**.

A vote was taken on the recommendation as amended and the Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Appoint the following Committees for the 2021/2022 municipal year:

Ordinary Committees subject to political balance seat allocations:

Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Communities Scrutiny Committee
Adults and 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. Agree the committee terms of reference set out in the Regulatory Committee Functions and the Overview and Scrutiny Functions (**Appendix 1** and **revised Appendix 2** of the report), subject to the below alteration in the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference, Membership:
 - To remove, “The Leader of the Council – Chairman of the Board,” “Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health,” “Cabinet Member Communities,” and “An Opposition Councillor,”
 - To add, “Five Peterborough City Councillors, to be determined by the Leader of the Council.”

13. Political Balance and Allocation of Committee Seats

Councillor Fitzgerald addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations detailed within the report additional information. Councillor Allen seconded the recommendations.

A vote was taken and the Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Notes that there are 109 seats on committees
2. Agree the allocation of seats on those committees subject to political balance arrangements (**Appendix 1** of the report).
3. Agree the allocation of seats on those committees not subject to political balance arrangements (**Appendix 2** of the report).

14. Appointments to Committees and Other Authorities

Councillor Fitzgerald moved the recommendations as set out in the report. Councillor Allen seconded the recommendations.

A vote was taken and the Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Agree that appointments to those committees where the allocation of seats has been determined under Agenda item 9 (**Appendix 1** of the report).
2. Appoints the Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the Council’s committees (**Appendix 1** of the report).
3. Confirmed the non-elected members of committees, as described at paragraph 2.3 of the report.
4. Makes the following appointments or nominations for the 2021/2022 municipal year:
 - a) Appoint 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** of the report).
 - b) Nominate 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** of the report).
 - c) Nominate one member Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee and one substitute member from the same political party (**Appendix 4** of the report).
 - d) Appoint three members to the Police and Crime Panel and three substitute members from the same political parties as those appointed (**Appendix 4** of the report).
 - e) Appoint four members to the Fire Authority and four substitute members from the same political parties as those appointed (**Appendix 4** of the report).
5. Authorises 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 is advised of the names of such Members.

15. Calendar of Meetings 2021/2022

The Mayor advised that Council was requested to approve the calendar of meetings for 2021/2022 as outlined within the agenda pack.

A vote was taken and the Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to approve the Calendar of Meetings (**Appendix 1** of the report) for 2021/2022.

The Mayor
7.15pm – 8.26pm
26 May 2021