

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY 23 MAY 2021
SAND MARTIN HOUSE, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR ALAN DOWSON

Present:

Councillors Ansar Ali, Imtiaz Ali, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Ayres, Barkham, Bi, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Burbage, Casey, Cereste, Coles, Day, Dowson, Elsey, Mohammed Farooq, Saqib Farooq, Fitzgerald, John Fox, Judy Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Alison Jones, Dennis Jones, Knight, Lane, Moyo, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Perkins, Qayyum, Rangzeb, Ray, Robinson, Rush, Sabir, Sainsbury, Sandford, Seager, Shaheed, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Tyler, Warren, Wiggin, Yasin, Yurgutene

5. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hemraj, Councillor Howell, and Councillor Fenner.

6. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

7. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 2 March 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2022 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 5 May 2022.

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 5 May 2022 (Appendix 1 to the report).

10. Political Groups and Group Officers 2022/23

A report detailing the membership of Political Groups and their Officers for the Municipal Year 2022/23 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 2022/23, subject to the following alterations:

- Councillor Rangzeb's first name being corrected to Mohammed,
- The position of Conservative Group Deputy Group Leader being added, with Councillor Steve Allen as post-holder,
- The Green Group's Secretary post-holder is added, with Councillor Howell as post-holder, and
- The position of Lib Dem Group Chair is added, with Councillor Sandford as post-holder,
- Councillor Wiggin's name to be corrected, to be spelt without an 's'.

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

A report detailing the Leader's scheme of delegations was presented to Council.

Councillor Steve Allen moved that the appointment of Councillor Wayne Fitzgerald as Leader of the Council at the Annual Council meeting of 2021 for a period of four be noted. This was seconded by Councillor Coles.

A vote was taken and the Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to note the decision of Full Council on 26 May 2021 'to elect 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 executive positions for 2022/23. These included:

- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities
- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health
- Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport
- Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and University
- Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance
- Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment
- Cabinet Member for Digital Services and Transformation
- Cabinet Advisor to the Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities
- Cabinet Advisor for Community Cohesion
- Cabinet Advisor to the Cabinet Member for Childrens Services, Education, Skills and the University

Councillor Steve Allen seconded the recommendations.

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

- Group Leaders thanked those past Members who had not returned to the Council for this municipal year.
- Members were please at the inclusion of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee, and at the introduction of Climate Change in the Leader's delegations specifically.
- It was suggested that investment in skills development was needed in order for the city to grow.
- The Financial Sustainability Working Group was identified as a good start in the move towards more collaborative working.
- It was felt that transparency within Governance arrangements was perceived to be lacking and that this could be considered as part of the Governance Review.
- New Cabinet Members and Advisors were welcomed.
- Cabinet were urged to listened and consider the recommendations of Task and Finish Groups.

Councillor Steve Allen exercised his right to speak and advised that the Council was committed to growth and prosperity, but also to the provision of additional support for those who needed it.

Councillor Fitzgerald summed up and committee to holding a Group Leaders' meeting in relation to the HRA, following concerns raised about the progress of this scheme. Work was ongoing in relation to returning a number of services in-house. It was hoped that the work of the Financial Sustainability Working Group would be built on and that greater transparency could be incorporated into the decision making process.

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

1. Notes 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. Notes the appointments to the Shareholder Cabinet Committee (Appendix 3 to the report)
3. Notes that the Constitution will be updated to include the Leader's Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members and officers (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report), subject to the addition of a Cabinet Advisor position to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport.

12. Committee Structures 2022/23

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

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

1. Appoints the following Committees for the 2022/23 municipal year:

Ordinary Committees subject to political balance seat allocations:

Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee
Growth, Resources, and 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 Appendix 2 to the report).

13. Political Balance and Allocation of Committee Seats

Councillor Fitzgerald addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations detailed within the additional information pack. Councillor Steve 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 additional information pack and expressed disappointment that an amendment had been received, as provision had been made within his proposals for opposition Chair positions. Councillor Steve Allen seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Shaz Nawaz moved an amendment as set out in the additional information pack and advised that while conversations had been had with the Leader, it was felt only proper to have opposition Chairs on all committees given the fact that there were 32 opposition Councillors. This would allow all groups to share in the Council's roles and responsibilities and could reflect the diversity of the communities the Council represented. Councillor John Fox seconded the amendment.

Members debated the recommendation and the amendment, with the key points raised as follows:

- It was noted that one criticism from the Government reports was the lack of robust scrutiny, and that this would be addressed in part by the appointment of opposition scrutiny chairs.
- It was felt that opposition chairs would also further increase the transparency of decision making.
- As the ruling party was in a minority position, it was suggested that opposition chairs was fair and equitable.
- The willingness of the opposition to take on the role of Chair, if was felt, showed that they did possess the skills and expertise, and also the desire to take on the responsibility.
-

A vote was taken and the Council **RESOLVED** (29 voted in favour, 28 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) to accept the amendment to the recommendation moved by Councillor Shaz Nawaz.

A vote was taken and the Council **RESOLVED** (29 voted in favour, 28 voted against, 0 abstained from voting) to:

1. Agree that appointments to those committees where the allocation of seats had been determined under Agenda item 9 (Appendix 1 to the report).
2. Appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the Council's committees (~~Appendix 1 to be tabled~~), as follows:
 - Children and Education Scrutiny Committee – Chair: Lucinda Robinson, Vice Chair: Alan Dowson
 - Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee – Chair: Simon Barkham, Vice Chair: Ansar Ali

- Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee – Chair: Ikra Yasin, Vice Chair: Mohammed Jamil
 - Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee – Chair: Nicola Day, Vice Chair: Chris Wiggin
 - Corporate Parenting Committee – Chair: Dennis Jones, Vice Chair: Ikra Yasin
 - Employment Committee – Chair: Mohammed Jamil, Vice Chair: Alison Jones
 - Licensing Committee (Regulatory) – Chair: Chris Wiggin, Vice Chair: Sandra Bond
 - Planning & Environmental Protection Committee – Chair: Chris Harper, Vice Chair: Amjad Iqbal
 - Appeals and Planning Review Committee – Chair: Ansar Ali, Vice Chair: Mohammed Sabir
 - Constitution and Ethics Committee – Chair: Nick Sandford, Vice Chair: Mohammed Jamil
 - Audit Committee – Chair: Chris Brooks (Independent Co-opted Committee Member), Vice Chair: Imtiaz Ali
3. Confirm the non-elected members of committees, as described at paragraph 2.3 of the report.
 4. Make the following appointments or nominations for the 2022/2023 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 to 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 to 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 to 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 to the report).
 - e) Appoint four members to the Fire Authority and four substitute members from the same political parties as those appointed (Appendix 4 to the report).
 5. Appoint to the position of Armed Forces Champion, as set out at paragraph 2.7 of the report.
 6. Authorise 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. Appointments and Nominations to Outside Bodies

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

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

1. The appointments to outside bodies as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
and
2. The nominations to outside bodies as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, subject to the following alterations:
 - Councillor Rush to be nominated to the Italian Community Association; and
 - Councillor Andrew Bond to be nominated to the Werrington Neighbourhood Association.

16. Calendar of Meetings 2021/2022

The Mayor advised that Council was requested to approve the calendar of meetings for 2022/2023 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 2022/2023.

The Mayor
7.15pm – 8.15pm
23 May 2022