

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Council



held on Wednesday, 17 May 2017 at 7.00 pm
at the The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Mike Badcock (Chairman), Reg Waite (Vice-Chairman), Alice Badcock, Matthew Barber, Eric Batts, Ed Blagrove, Yvonne Constance, Roger Cox, Margaret Crick, Charlotte Dickson, St John Dickson, Debby Hallett, Robert Hall, Jenny Hannaby, Anthony Hayward, Dudley Hoddinott, Simon Howell, Vicky Jenkins, Bob Johnston, Mohinder Kainth, Monica Lovatt, Sandy Lovatt, Ben Mabbett, Chris McCarthy, Mike Murray, Chris Palmer, Helen Pighills, Judy Roberts, Robert Sharp, Janet Shelley, Emily Smith, Elaine Ware and Catherine Webber

Officers: Steven Corrigan, Susan Harbour, Margaret Reed and Mark Stone

Co.1 Election of a chairman

The outgoing chairman, Councillor Mike Badcock, reviewed his four years in office, particularly in regard to the civic events which he had attended on behalf of the council. He thanked those people who had assisted him in his time as chairman. He particularly thanked his wife, Marilyn Badcock, the officers in the civic office and democratic services and fellow councillors; particularly for supporting the proposal to offer the Freedom of the Vale to 3 and 4 Royal Logistic Corps Regiments and The Rifles.

He had attended 420 engagements during his time in office and raised £16,113 for his chosen charities including the Amber Phillpot Trust and the Riding for the Disabled Association during the last municipal year.

Councillor Matthew Barber, the leader of the council, thanked Councillor Mike Badcock for his tenure as chairman.

The outgoing chairman requested nominations for the role of chairman of the council.

The leader of the council, Councillor Matthew Barber, proposed current vice-chairman, Councillor Reg Waite.

Deputy leader, Councillor Roger Cox, seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED: to

elect Councillor Reg Waite as chairman of the council for the municipal year 2017/18.

Councillor Reg Waite read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office, and was presented with the chairman's chain of office. He presented Councillor Mike Badcock with the past chairman's badge.

Councillor Reg Waite confirmed that his wife Dee Waite would be his escort for the year and he presented her with the chairman's escort badge.

Councillor Reg Waite gave his acceptance speech and highlighted his charities: the Children's Air Ambulance and the Alzheimer's Society. These are national charities but relevant locally in the Vale of White Horse.

Councillor Reg Waite in the Chair.

Co.2 Appointment of a vice-chairman

Councillor Reg Waite proposed Councillor Monica Lovatt as vice chairman of the council for the 2017/18 municipal year.

Councillor Matthew Barber, leader of the council, seconded this proposal.

There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED: to

appoint Councillor Monica Lovatt as vice chairman of the council for the 2017/18 municipal year.

Councillor Reg Waite presented Councillor Monica Lovatt with the vice chairman's chain of office.

Councillor Monica Lovatt read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

Councillor Monica Lovatt's escort would be Councillor Sandy Lovatt and he was presented with the vice chairman's escort badge.

Co.3 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Stuart Davenport, Gervase Duffield, Katie Finch and Julia Reynolds.

Co.4 Minutes

RESOLVED: to

approve the minutes of the meetings held on 15 February and 8 March 2017 as a correct record and agree that the chairman sign them as such.

Council noted that:

There were instances in the minutes where there was an agreement to provide written responses. Democratic services would confirm that these had been followed up and posted on the website.

Co.5 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest

None.

Co.6 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

The chairman provided housekeeping information and invited councillors to join him for refreshments following the meeting.

Co.7 Public participation

None.

Co.8 Appointments to committees, panels and joint committees for 2017/18

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services on the appointment of those committees and joint committees which are required to be politically balanced; together with the Licensing Acts committee, the area committees and appointments to joint bodies.

RESOLVED: to

1. appoint the following committees and panels for the 2017/18 municipal year and to appoint the membership, substitutes and chairmen and vice-chairmen as indicated to sit on them (see table below);
2. (with no councillor voting against) allocate one of the Conservative Group's seats on the Corporate Services Joint Scrutiny committee to the Liberal Democrat Group.
3. appoint all local members representing the wards covered by the relevant area committees to those committees for the 2017/18 municipal year with the following chairmen:
 - Abingdon and North East – Ed Blagrove
 - Faringdon – Simon Howell
 - Wantage – St John Dickson
4. appoint Monica Lovatt as the council's representative on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
5. appoint Chris McCarthy as the council's representative on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel;
6. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to make appointments to any vacant committee or panel seat and substitute positions in accordance with the wishes of the relevant group leader;

7. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to amend the constitution as necessary to reflect the arrangements set out in the report of the head of legal and democratic services to the Council meeting on 17 May 2017.

Names	Planning Committee, 11 Members
Conservative (8)	Liberal Democrat (3)
Stuart Davenport	Jenny Hannaby
StJohn Dickson	Bob Johnston
Anthony Hayward	Catherine Webber
Robert Hall	
Sandy Lovatt (Chairman)	
Ben Mabbett	
Chris McCarthy	
Janet Shelley (Vice-Chairman)	
PREFERRED SUBSTITUTES	
Conservative (8)	Liberal Democrat (3)
Mike Badcock	Margaret Crick
Ed Blagrove	Helen Pighills
Yvonne Constance	Emily Smith
Gervase Duffield	
Vicky Jenkins	
Monica Lovatt	
Chris Palmer	
Julia Reynolds	

Names	Scrutiny Committee, 9 Members
Conservative (7)	Liberal Democrat (2)
Alice Badcock (Vice-Chairman)	Debby Hallett (Chairman)
Mike Badcock	Judy Roberts
Ed Blagrove	
Vicky Jenkins	
Mohinder Kainth	
Sandy Lovatt	
Chris Palmer	
PREFERRED SUBSTITUTES	
Conservative (7)	Liberal Democrat (3)
Yvonne Constance	Dudley Hoddinott
StJohn Dickson	Emily Smith
Simon Howell	Catherine Webber

Names	Scrutiny Committee, 9 Members
Monica Lovatt	
Ben Mabbett	
Chris McCarthy	
Reg Waite	

Names	Joint Scrutiny Committee, 5 Members
Conservative (4)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Alice Badcock	Debby Hallett (Co-Chairman)
Ed Blagrove	
Mohinder Kainth	
Chris Palmer	
PREFERRED SUBSTITUTES	
Conservative (4)	Liberal Democrat (3)
Mike Badcock	Dudley Hoddinott
Vicky Jenkins	Judy Roberts
Monica Lovatt	Emily Smith
Sandy Lovatt	

Names	Corporate Services Joint Scrutiny Committee, 2 Members
Conservative (1)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
Ed Blagrove	Debby Hallett
PREFERRED SUBSTITUTES	
Conservative (3)	Liberal Democrat (3)
Alice Badcock	Helen Pighills
Yvonne Constance	Judy Roberts
Chris Palmer	Emily Smith

Names	Joint Audit and Governance Committee, 4 Members
Conservative (3)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Simon Howell (Co-Chairman)	Dudley Hoddinott
Chris Palmer	
Henry Spencer	
PREFERRED SUBSTITUTES	
Conservative (3)	Liberal Democrat (3)

Ed Blagrove	Helen Pighills
Yvonne Constance	Judy Roberts
Reg Waite	Catherine Webber

Names	Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee, 6 Members
Conservative (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
Ed Blagrove	Debby Hallett
Yvonne Constance (Chairman)	
Charlotte Dickson	
Gervase Duffield	
Ben Mabbett	
PREFERRED SUBSTITUTES	
Conservative (5)	Liberal Democrat (3)
Matthew Barber	Margaret Crick
Stuart Davenport	Helen Pighills
StJohn Dickson	Bob Johnston
Janet Shelley	
Henry Spencer	

Names	Joint Staff Committee, 3 Members
Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Matthew Barber	Debby Hallett
Roger Cox	
SUBSTITUTES	
Conservative	Liberal Democrat
The Leader may be substituted by another Cabinet member. Other members of the Committee may be substituted by any member of that Council's political group (executive or non-executive).	

Names	General Licensing Committee, 12 Members
Conservative (9)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)
Mike Badcock	Margaret Crick
Eric Batts	Jenny Hannaby
Yvonne Constance	Dudley Hoddinott
Charlotte Dickson	
St John Dickson (Chairman)	
Robert Hall	
Chris McCarthy	

Names	General Licensing Committee, 12 Members
Julia Reynolds (Vice-Chairman)	
Reg Waite	
NO SUBSTITUTES	

Names	Licensing Acts Committee, 12 Members
Conservative (9)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)
Mike Badcock	Margaret Crick
Eric Batts	Jenny Hannaby
Yvonne Constance	Dudley Hoddinott
Charlotte Dickson	
St John Dickson (Chairman)	
Robert Hall	
Chris McCarthy	
Julia Reynolds (Vice-Chairman)	
Reg Waite	
NO SUBSTITUTES	

Names	Appeals Panel, 3 Members
Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
Matthew Barber	Debby Hallett
Roger Cox	
PREFERRED SUBSTITUTES	
Conservative (3)	Liberal Democrat (3)
Yvonne Constance	Jenny Hannaby
Charlotte Dickson	Bob Johnston
Elaine Ware	Judy Roberts

Co.9 Councillors' allowances scheme

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services and the recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel on a revised councillors' allowances scheme to run from 1 April 2017.

Councillor Matthew Barber proposed a motion to accept the recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out on the procedural notes, and on the agenda. However, concern was raised that the information on the appendix to the report included the names of councillors who responded and it was easy to attribute comments to them. Officers would discuss the matter with South East Employers and ensure that any comments provided at future reviews remained confidential.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Roger Cox.

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RESOLVED: to

1. accept the recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel;
2. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to finalise a councillors' allowances scheme based on the decision in 1 and to make any consequential amendments to the constitution;
3. agree that the revised scheme should apply from 1 April 2017 but that any reductions will take effect from 18 May 2017;
4. thank the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel for their work in reviewing the councillors' allowance scheme.

Co.10 Review of the council's constitution

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services and monitoring officer on proposed amendments to the council's constitution.

A motion, to approve the recommendations, was proposed by Councillor Debby Hallett and seconded by Councillor Yvonne Constance who were members of the joint constitution review group.

The review group was a cross party group, jointly with South Oxfordshire District Council.

The chairman thanked the review group for its work.

RESOLVED: to

1. agree to include a three minute restriction on the length of each public question or statement at the Scrutiny, Joint Audit and Governance, General Licensing, Licensing Acts and Joint Staff Committee;
2. agree that at special meetings questions and statements from members of the public must relate to the item due to be discussed;
3. amend delegation 1.6 to the head of planning as set out in paragraph 6 of the report of the head of legal and democratic services and monitoring officer to Council at its meeting on 17 May 2017;
4. include the delegation to the relevant head of service in respect of the council's grants policy in the council's constitution, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report of the head of legal and democratic services and monitoring officer to Council at its meeting on 17 May 2017;
5. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to amend the council's officer employment procedure rules, as set out in paragraph 11 of the head of legal and democratic services to this meeting, and to
6. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to make any minor or consequential amendments to the constitution for consistency and to reflect the councils' style guide.

Co.11 Extension of term of offices of independent persons for code of conduct matters

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services and monitoring officer on an extension to the term of office for the council's two independent persons Chris Smith and Martin Wright.

RESOLVED to:

authorise the Monitoring Officer to extend the terms of office of the council's independent persons, Chris Smith and Martin Wright, for code of conduct matters to 30 September 2019.

Co.12 Report of the leader of the council

The Local Plan part 2 consultation has now closed. The council is considering the responses and analysing the results. The final round of consultation is scheduled for later this year.

The leader was pleased to report that the council had received confirmation through the Housing Supply Statement that it now had a 6.7 year housing land supply.

The unitary proposal "Better Oxfordshire": the council has not yet received a decision from national government as there has been a delay due to the general election on 8 June.

Councillor Katie Finch has had a baby daughter. The Council wished her and her family the very best.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm