

Minutes

of the annual meeting of

Council

held on Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 7.00 pm

on the First floor, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB



Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Jerry Avery, Matthew Barber, Paul Barrow, Dr, Ron Batstone, Eric Batts, Nathan Boyd, Cheryl Briggs, Margaret Crick (Chair), Andy Foulsham, Simon Howell, Alison Jenner, Diana Lugova, Ben Mabbett, Patrick O'Leary, Janet Shelley, Emily Smith and Elaine Ware

Councillors in attendance remotely (not eligible to vote): Samantha Bowring, Andy Cooke, Andrew Crawford, Eric de la Harpe, Amos Duveen, Neil Fawcett, Hayleigh Gascoigne, David Grant, Debby Hallett, Jenny Hannaby, Bob Johnston, Robert Maddison, Sarah Medley, Helen Pighills, Mike Pighills, Judy Roberts, Bethia Thomas, Max Thompson, Catherine Webber and Richard Webber

Officers: Steven Corrigan, Steve Culliford (in person). Margaret Reed and Mark Stone (remotely)

Prior to the meeting Councillor Crick provided general housekeeping notices and reminded those councillors attending the meeting remotely that they could participate in the meeting but would not be permitted to vote.

Co.1 Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Shaw.

Co.2 Election of chair

Councillor Crick was nominated as chair for the 2021/22 municipal year.

RESOLVED: to elect Councillor Crick as chair of the council for the 2021/22 municipal year, until the next annual meeting of the Council in May 2022.

Councillor Crick signed her declaration of acceptance of office and made an acceptance speech.

Councillor Crick remained in the chair.

Co.3 Appointment of vice-chair

Councillor Avery was nominated as vice-chair for the 2021/22 municipal year.

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor Avery as vice-chair of the council for the 2021/22 municipal year, until the next annual meeting of the Council in May 2022.

Councillor Avery signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

Co.4 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 as a correct record and agree that the chair sign them as such.

Co.5 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest

Councillor Roberts declared that she had assisted the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with the development of the Cumnor Neighbourhood Development Plan and would not take part in the discussion or voting on agenda item 9.

Councillor Smith declared that she had helped start and write the North Hinksey Neighbourhood Development Plan and would not take part in the discussion or voting on agenda item 10.

Councillor Hallett declared that as one of the ward councillors she would not take part in the discussion or vote on agenda item 10.

Councillor Howell declared that he had limited engagement and involvement in the Shrivenham Neighbourhood Development Plan and would not take part in the discussion or vote on agenda item 11.

Co.6 Urgent business and chair's announcements

Councillor Crick, Chair of council, invited all those present to observe a minute's silence in memory of former councillors Roger Cox, Richard Farrell and John Woodford who had died since the last meeting of Council.

Councillors Barber, Crick and Thomas paid tribute to former Councillor Cox.

Councillors Fawcett, Medley and Richard Webber paid tribute to former Councillor Farrell.

Councillors Barber, Johnston and Roberts paid tribute to former Councillor Woodford.

Co.7 Public participation

No members of the public had registered to address Council.

Co.8 Appointments to committees, panels and joint committees for 2021/22

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

The chair referred to the following recommendation, circulated prior to the meeting, covering these appointments and to reflect the allocation of the vacant committee positions.

That for the 2021/22 municipal year Council:

1. appoints the committees and panels for the 2021/22 year and allocate seats to each political group as set out in the schedule circulated prior to the meeting;
2. appoints Cheryl Briggs to the Appeals Panel and General Licensing Committee;
3. allocates one of the Liberal Democrat Group's seats on the Planning Committee to Cheryl Briggs;
4. appoints councillors and substitutes to sit on the committees and panels as set out in the schedule circulated prior to the meeting;
5. appoints councillors to the Licensing Acts Committee as set out in the schedule circulated prior to the meeting;
6. appoints councillors to the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee as set out in the schedule circulated prior to the meeting;
7. appoints chairs and vice-chairs as set out in the schedule circulated prior to the meeting;
8. appoints all local members representing the wards covered by the relevant area committees to those committees for the 2021/22 municipal year with the following chairs:
 - Abingdon and North East – Andy Foulsham
 - Faringdon – David Grant
 - Wantage – Hayleigh Gascoigne
9. appoints Paul Barrow as the council's representative and Andy Foulsham as substitute on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
10. appoints Neil Fawcett as the council's representative and Jenny Hannaby as substitute on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel;
11. appoints Andy Cooke, Jenny Hannaby and Matt Barber to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel;
12. authorises the head of legal and democratic to make appointments to any vacant committee or panel seat and substitute positions in accordance with the wishes of the relevant group leader.

RESOLVED: to

1. appoint the following committees and panels for the 2021/22 municipal year and to appoint the membership, substitutes and chairs and vice-chairs as indicated to sit on them (see table below);

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Planning Committee, 9 Members		
Liberal Democrat (6)	Conservative (2)	Non-group councillor (1)
Ron Batstone	Ben Mabbett	Cheryl Briggs
Jenny Hannaby	Janet Shelley	
Diana Lugova		
Mike Pighills		
Val Shaw (Vice-Chair)		
Max Thompson (Chair)		
Preferred substitutes		
Liberal Democrat (6)	Conservative (3)	
Jerry Avery	Eric Batts	
Paul Barrow	Nathan Boyd	
Andy Cooke	Simon Howell	
Amos Duveen		
Hayleigh Gascoigne		
Alison Jenner		

Scrutiny Committee, 9 Members	
Liberal Democrat (7)	Conservative (2)
Jerry Avery	Ben Mabbett
Ron Batstone	Nathan Boyd (Chair)
Eric de la Harpe	
Hayleigh Gascoigne	
David Grant	
Max Thompson	
Patrick O'Leary	
Preferred substitutes	
Liberal Democrat (7)	Conservative (3)
Paul Barrow	Elaine Ware
Samantha Bowring	Eric Batts
Andy Foulsham	Janet Shelley
Alison Jenner	
Diana Lugova	
Sarah Medley	

Vacancy	
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Joint Scrutiny Committee, 5 Members	
Liberal Democrat (4)	Conservative (1)
Andy Cooke	Nathan Boyd (Co-Chair)
Amos Duveen	
Hayleigh Gascoigne	
David Grant	
Preferred substitutes	
Liberal Democrat (4)	Conservative (3)
Samantha Bowring	Elaine Ware
Andy Foulsham	Eric Batts
Alison Jenner	Janet Shelley
Max Thompson	

Joint Audit and Governance Committee, 4 Members	
Liberal Democrat (3)	Conservative (1)
Amos Duveen	Simon Howell
Andy Foulsham (Co-chair)	
Mike Pighills	
Preferred substitutes	
Liberal Democrat (3)	Conservative (3)
Andy Cooke	Elaine Ware
Eric de la Harpe	Nathan Boyd
Alison Jenner	Janet Shelley

Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee, 6 Members	
Liberal Democrat (5)	Conservative (1)
Paul Barrow	Janet Shelley
Ron Batstone (Chair)	
Alison Jenner	
Sarah Medley (Vice-Chair)	
Mike Pighills	

Preferred substitutes	
Liberal Democrat (5)	Conservative (3)
Rob Maddison	Simon Howell
Patrick O'Leary	Elaine Ware
Max Thompson	Eric Batts
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

Joint Staff Committee, 3 Members	
Liberal Democrat (2)	Conservative (1)
Debby Hallett	Elaine Ware
Emily Smith	
Substitutes	
The Leader may be substituted by another Cabinet member. Other members of the committee may be substituted by any other member of the council.	

General Licensing Committee, 12 Members		
Liberal Democrat (10)	Conservative (1)	Non-group councillor (1)
Jerry Avery	Matt Barber	Cheryl Briggs
Paul Barrow		
Ron Batstone (Vice-Chair)		
Margaret Crick		
Debby Hallett		
Alison Jenner (Chair)		
Diana Lugova		
Patrick O'Leary		
Val Shaw		
Richard Webber		
NO SUBSTITUTES		

Licensing Acts Committee, 12 Members		
Liberal Democrat (10)	Conservative (1)	Non-group

		councillor (1)
Jerry Avery	Matt Barber	Cheryl Briggs
Paul Barrow		
Ron Batstone (Vice-Chair)		
Margaret Crick		
Debby Hallett		
Alison Jenner (Chair)		
Dian Lugova		
Patrick O'Leary		
Val Shaw		
Richard Webber		
NO SUBSTITUTES		

Appeals Panel, 3 Members	
Liberal Democrat (2)	Non-group councillor (1)
Paul Barrow	Cheryl Briggs
Alison Jenner (Chair)	
PREFERRED SUBSTITUTES	
Liberal Democrat (3)	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, 7 Members	
Liberal Democrat (6)	Conservative (1)
Amos Duveen (Vice Chair)	Eric Batts
David Grant (Chair)	
Hayleigh Gascoigne	
Eric de la Harpe	
Alison Jenner	
Bob Johnston	
Preferred substitutes	
Liberal Democrat (6)	Conservative (3)
Ron Batstone	Nathan Boyd
Andy Foulsham	Simon Howell
Rob Maddison	Elaine Ware

Sarah Medley	
Mike Pighills	
Vacancy	

2. (with no councillor voting against) appoint Cheryl Briggs to the Appeals Panel and General Licensing Committee;
3. (with no councillor voting against) allocate one of the Liberal Democrat Group's seats on the Planning Committee to Cheryl Briggs;
4. appoint all local members representing the wards covered by the relevant area committees to those committees for the 2021/22 municipal year with the following chairs:
 - Abingdon and North East – Andy Foulsham
 - Faringdon – David Grant
 - Wantage – Hayleigh Gascoigne
5. appoint Paul Barrow as the council's representative and Andy Foulsham as substitute on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
6. appoint Neil Fawcett as the council's representative and Jenny Hannaby as substitute on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel;
7. appoint Andy Cooke, Jenny Hannaby and Matt Barber to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel;
8. authorise the head of legal and democratic to make appointments to any vacant committee or panel seat and substitute positions in accordance with the wishes of the relevant group leader.

Co.9 Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Roberts did not take part in the discussion or vote on this item – see minute 5.

Council considered the recommendation of Councillor Hallett, Cabinet member for corporate services and transformation, made on 11 May 2021, to make the Cumnor Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the development plan for Vale.

RESOLVED:

1. To make the Cumnor Neighbourhood Development Plan so that it continues to be part of the council's development plan.
2. To authorise the head of planning, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, the correction of any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

Co.10 North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Hallett and Smith did not take part in the discussion or vote on this item – see minute 5.

Council considered the recommendation of Councillor Thomas, Cabinet member for community engagement, made on 15 May 2021, to make the North Hinksey Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the development plan for Vale.

RESOLVED:

1. To make the North Hinksey Neighbourhood Development Plan so that it continues to be part of the council's development plan.
2. To authorise the head of planning, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, the correction of any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

Co.11 Shrivenham Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Howell did not take part in the discussion or vote on this item – see minute 5.

Council considered the recommendation of Councillor Hallett, Cabinet member for corporate services and transformation, made on 11 May 2021, to make the Shrivenham Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the development plan for Vale.

RESOLVED:

1. To make the Shrivenham Neighbourhood Development Plan so that it continues to be part of the council's development plan.
2. To authorise the head of planning, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, the correction of any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

Co.12 Coronavirus Regulations delegation

On 18 May 2020, the chief executive, under emergency powers authorised the head of housing and environment to enforce any requirements imposed by the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 and any regulations replacing, amending or supplementing them. This delegation applied until 6 May 2021.

Council was invited to authorise the head of housing and environment to exercise the council's powers and duties under any legislation relating to the control of Coronavirus, including taking enforcement action, service of notices, inspections, powers of entry, and the appointment of inspectors and to authorise the head of legal and democratic to include this delegation in the constitution.

RESOLVED: to

1. authorise the head of housing and environment to exercise the council's powers and duties under any legislation relating to the control of Coronavirus, including taking enforcement action, service of notices, inspections, powers of entry, and the appointment of inspectors;
2. authorise the head of legal and democratic to include this delegation in the constitution.

Co.13 Report of the leader of the council

Councillor Smith, Leader of the council, provided an update on a number of matters. The text of her address is available on the council's [website](#).

Council noted the details of an urgent decision taken by Councillor Smith, Leader of the council, to approve arrangements for the council to administer Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) grant funding to implement measures to support proactive containment and intervention to reduce Covid-19 outbreaks and the spread of infection. Council also noted an urgent decision taken by Councillor Thomas, Cabinet member for community engagement, to approve Vale of White Horse District Council's Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme – Round 3.

Co.14 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 as a correct record and agree that the chair sign them as such.

The meeting closed at 19:58