

Minutes

of the annual meeting of the

Council

held on Wednesday 20 May 2015 at 7.00 pm

at The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY



Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Mike Badcock, Alice Badcock, Eric Batts, Matthew Barber, Edward Blagrove, Yvonne Constance, Roger Cox, Margaret Crick, Stuart Davenport, Charlotte Dickson, St John Dickson, Gervase Duffield, Katie Finch, Robert Hall, Debby Hallett, Jenny Hannaby, Anthony Hayward, Dudley Hoddinott, Simon Howell, Bob Johnston, Monica Lovatt, Sandy Lovatt, Ben Mabbett, Mike Murray, Chris Palmer, Helen Pighills, Judy Roberts, Robert Sharp, Janet Shelley, Emily Smith, Reg Waite, Elaine Ware, Catherine Webber

Officers: David Buckle, Steven Corrigan, Susan Harbour, Margaret Reed and Anna Robinson

Number of members of the public: 4

Councillor Mike Badcock in the Chair for item 1.

Co.1 Election of chairman

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor Mike Badcock as chairman of the council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Badcock read out the oath of office, signed his declaration of acceptance of office and made an acceptance speech.

He welcomed newly elected councilors to the Council.

He thanked his escort, Councillor Marilyn Badcock, and Councillor Eric Batts, his Vice-Chairman for the past two years, for their support. He thanked Karen Claridge, Yvonne Cutler-Greaves, Clare Kingston and the Corporate Strategy team and Julia Leppard for their support in fund raising for his charities. £4,082.61 was raised for his chosen charities during the past year. He presented the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal with a cheque for £2,500 at the meeting. He advised that his charities for the forthcoming year were Helen and Douglas House and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Co.2 Appointment of vice-chairman

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor Reg Waite as Vice-Chairman of the council for the ensuing year.

The Chairman presented Councillor Reg Waite with the Vice-Chairman's chain of office.

Councillor Reg Waite read out the oath of office, signed his declaration of acceptance of office and made an acceptance speech.

Co.3 Apologies for absence

Councillors Vicky Jenkins, Mohinder Kainth, Chris McCarthy, Julia Reynolds and Henry Spencer sent their apologies for absence.

Co.4 Minutes

RESOLVED: to adopt as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 February 2015 and agree that the chairman signs them.

Co.5 Declarations of interest

None.

Co.6 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman thanked Councillor Jenny Hannaby for her attendance and assistance with fundraising for the Poppy Appeal at Dalton Barracks.

Co.7 Urgent business

The Chairman noted that the council's standing orders did not provide for public participation at the annual meeting of Council. However, with the agreement of Council he had agreed to take one item of business to consider a petition relating to the outdoor pool in Abingdon because consideration of this item at the next meeting in July would be beyond the consultation period.

Co.8 Petitions under standing order 13

None.

Co.9 Election of leader of Council

RESOLVED: to elect Councillor Matthew Barber as leader of the Council for a four year period ending on the day of the next post election annual meeting.

Councillor Matthew Barber appointed Councillor Roger Cox as the deputy leader of Council and Councillors Eric Batts, Charlotte Dickson, Sandy Lovatt, Mohinder Kainth, Mike Murray and Elaine Ware as Cabinet members with portfolios as follows:

Councillor Matthew Barber	Leader, finance, economic development and property
Councillor Eric Batts	HR and technical services
Councillor Roger Cox	Deputy Leader, planning (development management and enforcement), assets of community value, housing and environmental health
Councillor Charlotte Dickson	Leisure
Councillor Sandy Lovatt	Legal and democratic services, including community safety
Councillor Mohinder Kainth	IT
Councillor Mike Murray	Planning policy, including the local plan

The revised Leader's scheme of delegation is appended to these minutes.

Co.10 Appointments to committees, panels and joint committees for 2015/16

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, area committees and appointments to joint bodies.

RESOLVED: to

1. appoint the following committees and panels for the 2015/16 year and to appoint the membership, substitutes and chairmen and vice-chairmen as indicated to sit on them:

Names	Planning Committee, 11 Members
Conservative (8)	Liberal Democrat (3)
Eric Batts	Jenny Hannaby
Roger Cox	Bob Johnston
Stuart Davenport	Catherine Webber
Anthony Hayward	
Sandy Lovatt (Vice-Chairman)	
Chris McCarthy	
Robert Sharp (Chairman)	
Janet Shelley	
SUBSTITUTES: All other councillors from the relevant political group provided they have received the appropriate training.	

Names	Scrutiny Committee, 9 Members
Conservative (7)	Liberal Democrat (2)
Alice Badcock (Vice-Chairman)	Debby Hallett
Edward Blagrove	Judy Roberts (Chairman)
Katie Finch	
Vicky Jenkins	
Monica Lovatt	
Ben Mabbett	
Chris Palmer	
SUBSTITUTES: All other councillors from the relevant political group (not Cabinet members).	

Names	Joint Scrutiny Committee, 5 Members
Conservative (4)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Alice Badcock	Judy Roberts (Co-Chairman)
Katie Finch	
Monica Lovatt	
Ben Mabbett	
SUBSTITUTES: All other councillors from the relevant political group (not Cabinet members).	

Names	Joint Audit and Governance Committee, 4 Members
Conservative (3)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Simon Howell (Co-Chairman)	Dudley Hoddinott
Chris Palmer	
Henry Spencer	
SUBSTITUTES: All other councillors from the relevant political group.	

Names	Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee, 6 Members
Conservative (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
Edward Blagrove	Debby Hallett
Yvonne Constance (Chairman)	
Charlotte Dickson	
Gervase Duffield	
Ben Mabbett	
SUBSTITUTES: All other councillors from the relevant political group.	

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

Names	General Licensing Committee, 12 Members
Julia Reynolds	
Robert Sharp	
Reg Waite	
SUBSTITUTES: All other councillors from the relevant political group provided they have received the appropriate training.	

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

Names	Appeals Panel, 3 Members
Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)
Matthew Barber	Debby Hallett
Roger Cox	
SUBSTITUTES: All other councillors from the relevant political group.	

2. appoint all local members representing the wards covered by the relevant area committees as set out in the map attached to the report of the head of legal and democratic services to the annual meeting of Council on 20 May 2015 to those committees for the 2015/16 municipal year with the following chairmen and vice chairmen:
 - Abingdon – Mike Badcock (Chairman) Edward Blagrove (Vice-Chairman)
 - Faringdon – Simon Howell (Chairman) Eric Batts (Vice-Chairman)
 - Wantage – St John Dickson (Chairman) Ben Mabbett (Vice-Chairman)
3. appoint Monica Lovatt as the council's representative on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Gervase Duffield as substitute;
4. appoint Chris McCarthy as the council's representative and Sandy Lovatt as an observer substitute on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.

Co.11 Petition debate - Abingdon Outdoor Pool

Ms Naomi Richardson presented a petition to save the outdoor pool in Abingdon.

In her address she referred to the outdoor pool as a vital outdoor amenity for Abingdon and the surrounding area. She highlighted the health and safety benefits of providing an alternative swimming option to the River Thames, the health benefits for children and the wider economic benefits to the town arising from increased visitor numbers attracted to Abingdon by the outdoor pool.

Councillor Barber, Leader of the council, responded that there was no intention to close the facility. He reported that initial responses to the public consultation on the future of the Abbey Meadows indicated over 80% of respondents were in favour of retaining the outdoor pool. £500,000 of funding had been identified to invest in the future of Abbey Meadows.

A number of other councillors spoke in support of the facility and welcomed the petition. The pool was a popular attraction, required investment to undertake repairs and bring the facility up to date and was an asset to Abingdon.

Council agreed to refer the petition to Cabinet to consider as part of its deliberation on the future of Abbey Meadows.

RESOLVED: to refer the petition to Cabinet for consideration as part of its consideration on the future of Abbey Meadows.

Co.12 Report of the leader of the council

The leader of the council provided an update on the move to the temporary council offices in Milton Park and thanked officers for their continued positive reaction to the situation following the fire at the Crowmarsh council offices in January 2015.

In accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rules, Council noted that the following decisions were taken as a matter of urgency since the last Council meeting:

- on 23 February 2015 Councillor Mike Murray took a decision to undertake a Regulation 18 issues and scope consultation for the Science Vale Area Action Plan. The chairman of the scrutiny committee agreed to waive call-in to allow the consultation process to begin recognising that the committee had commented on the plan;
- on 13 March 2015 Councillor Matthew Barber took a decision to transfer £45,000 from the capital contingency budget within the provisional capital programme to the approved capital programme and to create a capital budget for the purchase of new polling booths for the May 2015 elections. The chairman of the scrutiny committee agreed to waive call-in to allow a formal order before the end of the financial year and to ensure delivery in time for the elections;
- on 17 March 2015 Councillor Matthew Barber took a decision to claim grant money from the Department of Communities and Local Government Building Foundations to fund the construction of the Milton Bioscience Research and Innovation Centre. The chairman of the scrutiny committee agreed to waive call-in because any delay caused by the call-in process could prejudice both the council's and the public's interests.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm