

# Council Agenda



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Date: 4 July 2023

Website: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

## Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 12 July 2023 at 7.00 pm  
The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Arran'.

Patrick Arran  
Head of Legal and Democratic

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# Agenda

## Open to the public including the press

### 1. Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

### 2. Minutes

(Pages 9 - 18)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the annual meeting held on 17 May and the special meeting held on 13 June 2023.

### 3. Declarations of interest

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests or any conflicts of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

### 4. Urgent business and chair's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chair.

### 5. Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

### 6. Petitions

To receive any petitions from the public.

### 7. Update on the council's Information Technology infrastructure

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 July 2023, considered a report on the current discussions relating to the councils' Information Technology arrangements.

The Cabinet [agenda](#) circulated to all members includes the relevant report.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. note the update set out in the head of corporate services' report to Cabinet on 3 July 2023;
2. reaffirm the council's intention to pursue a separate Microsoft Office 365 tenancy as part of the council's overall transformation programme and planned exit from the outsourced IT arrangements; and
3. authorise the deputy chief executive - transformation and operations, in consultation with the Cabinet member for corporate services, to take all necessary steps to implement the council's withdrawal from the shared M365 tenancy.

**CABINET RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

That a supplementary estimate of £326,000 be added to the 2023/24 revenue budget, funded as set out in the head of corporate services' report to Cabinet on 3 July 2023.

**8. Delivery and management arrangements for council-provided Local Authority Housing Fund and Service Family Accommodation housing**

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 July 2023, considered a report on the work being undertaken in relation to providing homes under Government schemes.

The Cabinet [agenda](#) circulated to all members includes the relevant report.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. note the approach proposed for the delivery and management of the properties under the Local Authority Housing Fund scheme, noting the risks, and approves officers to proceed;
2. note the proposed phase one staffing structure for the delivery and management of these properties alongside those purchased or managed under other arrangements;
3. approve a virement from Contingency of up to £100,000 to cover potential unbudgeted revenue expenditure;
4. authorise the head of development and corporate landlord, in consultation with the heads of finance, legal and democratic, and housing and environment, to approve the freehold or leasehold acquisition of property under the Local Authority Housing Fund scheme following appropriate due diligence;
5. note the financial and other risks presented by the decisions above, as set out in the report of the deputy chief executive – transformation and operations to Cabinet on 3 July 2023;
6. approve the approach proposed for the leasing and management of properties under the Service Family Accommodation scheme, noting the risks, and approve officers to proceed;

7. authorise the head of development and corporate landlord to agree terms and enter into the lease with the Ministry of Defence for Service Family Accommodation properties; and
8. authorise the deputy chief executive - transformation and operations to enter into a funding agreement with the Home Office, should the opportunity arise, to support delivery of the scheme.

**CABINET RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

To proceed the allocation of a capital budget envelope of £2.5 million, being the council's share of the purchase costs of properties bought under the Local Authority Housing Fund scheme.

## **9. Local Authority Housing Fund 2**

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 July 2023, considered a report on the additional grant funding made available under Local Authority Housing Fund 2 (LAHF 2) to support the provision of housing for the council's refugee accommodation programme and for accommodation for general homelessness use.

The Cabinet [agenda](#) circulated to all members includes the relevant report.

Cabinet resolved to accept the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' grant of £680,000 (indicative Local Authority Housing Fund 2 allocation) to deliver four homes that meet the eligibility criteria outlined within the Local Authority Housing Fund 2 prospectus, and to authorise the deputy chief executive – transformation and operations to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, which sets out the understanding between both parties for the use of funding.

**CABINET RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

To add £1.7 million to the capital programme, part funded by Local Authority Housing Fund 2 funding of £680,000, to purchase 4 homes under this scheme.

## **10. Report of the leader of the council**

To receive the report of the leader.

## **11. Questions on notice**

To receive questions from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 33.

### **A. Question from Councillor Emily Smith to Councillor Sue Caul, Cabinet member for affordable housing, development and infrastructure**

Oxfordshire Community Land Trust (CLT) have worked with our council for around 15

years to bring forward Oxfordshire's first CLT housing scheme in Dean Court, Cumnor. Councillor Roberts, who worked for many years to push this scheme forward, and I were at the groundbreaking and in June at the opening. It is incredibly exciting to see the building almost finished and people from the Vale's housing register able to move into this truly affordable and low carbon housing. But it took such a long time to get to this point.

The Local Government Association is working with the national Community Land Trust and Localis on some research on how we can speed up the process and make it easier for CLT schemes, like the one in Dean Court easier to achieve, but local action and commitment is also required.

Could the Cabinet member confirm that Community Land Trust schemes will be supported by this administration, and what is being done locally to ensure more schemes like the wonderful Crofts Court can come forward more quickly in the Vale?

**B. Question from Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Neil Fawcett, Cabinet member for strategic partnerships and place**

This council became a partner to the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme in 2014, under a different administration, when it was just an idea. Now, 8+ years later, when the details are clear, affected parishes in Vale have formally objected to the current plan. Thousands of objectors have signed a local petition (Save Hinksey Meadows) calling for a public inquiry on the scheme. Now that much more is known about the costs/benefits, environmental damage and transport disruption, what is council actively doing to protect our district's irreplaceable habitats in Hinksey Meadow and the quality of life of our residents?

**C. Question from Councillor Hayleigh Gascoigne to Councillor Andy Crawford, Cabinet member for finance and property**

I note that on 23 June, there was an agenda item on the Great Western Park GP surgery at the meeting of Vale's Cabinet. I'm glad the item was brought to Cabinet, but it was made confidential. This topic is important to the local public. What updates can be shared publicly as to the progress on the plans to provide a GP surgery on Great Western Park?

**D. Question from Councillor Mark Coleman to Councillor Helen Pighills, Cabinet member for community health and wellbeing**

I was recently invited to a meeting which was focused on housing and the military; what the military provided, and what the district council's responsibilities were to families of serving personnel and those who have left the service at the end of their enlistment.

I would like to understand our responsibilities as a district council to residents, including their families, who have served in the armed forces and are leaving for other reasons, for example medical, administrative and disciplinary discharge. At the meeting, a spouse described her distress when her then husband was subject to disciplinary action, which resulted in his discharge from the service. She did not know where to turn for advice, or support, to find housing for her young family. Can you explain our position in these circumstances?

**E. Question from Councillor Katherine Foxhall to the Councillor Bethia Thomas, Leader of the council**

In December 2022, Oxfordshire County Council paused the HIF2 road scheme between Witney and Oxford in response to escalating costs. Since then, inflation has remained high, and interest rates have risen five times, from 3% to 5%, with 6% an increasingly likely scenario. Moreover, in its report released on 28 June 2023 the government's Climate Change Committee urged a systematic review of all current and future road-building projects, and to allow only schemes that "meaningfully support cost-effective delivery of Net Zero and climate adaptation to go ahead."

Does the Leader believe that the HIF1 scheme around Didcot meets these criteria, and can she confirm that our District Council is being kept informed of any proposed major changes or re-scoping related to the delivery of the HIF1 roads scheme?

Given current financial pressures has she sought – or will she seek – assurances from OCC that elements of the plans to deliver active travel, public transport and environmental mitigation will be prioritised and their delivery guaranteed, and that serious contingency plans are being developed, and independent advice sought, in the best short and long-term interests of Vale's residents and businesses?

**F. Question from Councillor Cheryl Briggs to Councillor Bethia Thomas, Leader of the council**

As the Bank of England raised interest rates again, widespread concerns have been aired about the "mortgage time bomb" which is anticipated as homeowners and landlords face very significant increases in their mortgage costs as fixed rate mortgage deals come to an end. How is the council planning ahead for the expected increased housing need from district residents struggling with big rises in mortgage or private rental costs over the next couple of years?

**G. Question from Councillor Sarah James to Councillor Bethia Thomas, Leader of the council**

Our Corporate Plan and our Climate Action Plan quite rightly commit us to strong and rapid action to tackle Climate Change and I know that this is an important priority for the administration. They include a target to reduce the council's own carbon emissions by 75% by 2025.

Can you update us please on what percentage of carbon emissions reductions have been achieved to date, and on the plans in place to achieve the targeted 75% reduction?

## **12. Motions on notice**

To consider motions from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 38.

A. Motion to be proposed by Councillor James Cox, seconder to be notified:

Council Notes:

- In the latest available figures published by the ONS, The Vale of White Horse had the highest number of recorded deaths by suicide in Oxfordshire and with a rate higher than the national average.
- 2021 (the last available data year) had the highest number of deaths by suicide since records began in 2001.
- Suicide is a public health matter and every death should be considered preventable.
- The cost of living crisis is already taking a huge toll on people's mental health. Research by the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute says that people are already feeling the crisis
- In August 2022, CEOs of multiple mental health organisations, including Mind and Samaritans, wrote to the Prime Minister noting an increase in calls and enquiries related to financial concerns and proposed a national suicide prevention strategy.

Council resolves to:

1. Join the Zero Suicide Alliance network.
2. Promote existing safeguarding and suicide prevention training and resources to all council workers and signpost to the councils wellbeing pages and Mental Health First Aiders,
3. Include appropriate signposting to suicide prevention and/or mental health support in cost of living material, on the online community hub, and in arrears letters.
4. For the Council Leader to write to local MPs informing them of the situation and asking them to lobby for the implementation of a national suicide prevention strategy.

- B. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Ron Batstone, seconded by Councillor Andy Cooke:

This council is alarmed at the significant numbers of sewage flooding incidents affecting local foul and surface water systems and notes that investment does not appear to have been forthcoming from Thames Water to resolve capacity or maintenance issues to ensure that adequate sewerage systems are provided within a reasonable timeframe.

The impact of this lack of investment in the sewerage system has ranged from pipe bursts, blockages and backing up, affecting local households and buildings through to the significant (and rising) levels of raw sewage in chalk streams and local rivers. In some cases, raw sewage has been measured and monitored to be flowing into local rivers in the Vale for days on end.

This situation has now been exacerbated and brought into sharp focus in light of the recent news surrounding Thames Water in terms of its debt, financial instability and the sudden resignation of their CEO,

Council believes:

The sewerage system should have adequate capacity to ensure that local rivers and watercourses have a high water quality, minimal pollution and enhance our natural environment. They should meet the minimum standards 24/7 with accurate monitoring to demonstrate that this is being achieved.

Thames Water Limited, or in the event it has to take the company into public ownership, the Government should urgently invest in new capacity to stop sewage outflows into our water courses.

The planning system should ensure that new houses can only be occupied once sufficient capacity in the local sewerage network is in place.

Council resolves to:

1. Consider options, as part of the current Local Plan review, to ensure that adequate sewerage capacity is in place to avoid the discharge of raw sewage into rivers and watercourses before new homes are occupied and that this should be made a condition of planning consent.
2. Ask the Scrutiny Committee to consider this issue and seek to identify ways to hold Thames Water Limited to account for their infrastructure maintenance, development, progress, leak and progress against their Management Plan and planning responses
3. Ask the Leader of the Council to continue to meet with and lobby Thames Water Limited to improve their performance.
4. Ask local MPs to support national legislation to significantly speed up investment in sewerage capacity and to hold water companies to account when they fail.
5. Ask the newly appointed Nature Recovery Champion to continue to monitor local sewage discharges and related data and report on it regularly to the Leader.

### **13. Exclusion of the public, including the press**

To consider whether to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended on the grounds that:

- (i) it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and
- (ii) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **14. Delivery and management arrangements for council-provided Local Authority Housing Fund and Service Family Accommodation housing - exempt appendices**

Appendices 2, 2A and 3 of the report of the deputy chief executive – transformation contain exempt information. Prior to any questions or discussion on the content of these appendices, Council will be invited to consider the exclusion of any public or press in attendance at the meeting as set out at agenda item 13.



# Minutes

of the annual meeting of the

# Council



held on Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 7.00 pm  
at The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BX

**Present:**

Councillors: Paul Barrow, Ron Batstone, Kiera Bentley, Cheryl Briggs, Sue Caul, Robert Clegg, Mark Coleman, Andy Cooke, James Cox, Andy Crawford, Eric de la Harpe, Debra Dewhurst, Amos Duveen, Lucy Edwards, Neil Fawcett, Oliver Forder, Andy Foulsham, Katherine Foxhall, Hayleigh Gascoigne, Debby Hallett, Jenny Hannaby, Scott Houghton, Sarah James, Diana Lugova, Robert Maddison, Patrick O'Leary, Viral Patel, Helen Pighills, Mike Pighills, Sally Povolotsky, Jill Rayner, Judy Roberts, Val Shaw, Andrew Skinner, Emily Smith, Bethia Thomas and Max Thompson

Officers: Officers: Patrick Arran, Head of Legal & Democratic and Monitoring Officer, Emily Barry, Democratic Services Officer, Steven Corrigan, Democratic Services Manager, and Mark Stone, Chief Executive

## 1. Apologies for absence

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

## 2. Election of Chair

Margaret Crick in the Chair for item 1, as the current Chair of council, to preside over the election of the Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Margaret Crick thanked officers and councillors for their support during her time as Chair of council for the past four years and highlighted some of the events she had attended. Councillors Briggs and Thomas made statements in support of Margaret Crick's role of Chair of the council.

Councillor Povolotsky was nominated as chair for the 2023/24 municipal year. Councillor Thomas as proposer and Councillor Cooke as seconder spoke in support of the nomination.

**RESOLVED:** to elect Councillor Povolotsky as Chair of the council for the 2023/24 municipal year, until the next annual meeting of the Council in May 2024.

Margaret Crick presented Councillor Povolotsky with the chain of office.

Councillor Povolotsky signed her declaration of acceptance of office and made an acceptance speech thanking those councillors who had either stood down or were not re-elected at the May election for their service to the council.

Councillor Povolotsky presented Margaret Crick with the past chair's badge.

Councillor Povolotsky in the chair.

### **3. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

Councillor Bentley was nominated as vice-chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Councillor Thomas as proposer and Councillor Cooke as seconder spoke in support of the nomination.

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Councillor Bentley as Vice-Chair of the council for the 2023/24 municipal year, until the next annual meeting of the Council in May 2024.

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

### **4. Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2023 as a correct record and agree that the Chair sign them as such.

### **5. Declarations of interest**

None.

### **6. Urgent business and chair's announcements**

There were no items of urgent business.

Councillor Povolotsky advised that she would not designate any Chair's charities for the forthcoming year. However, she would, with the assistance of the Vice-Chair, generate funds via a number of Chair's charitable events towards a chair's community fund from which local charities could bid for funds.

### **7. Appointment to committees, panels and joint committees for 2023/24**

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 at the meeting, covering these appointments and to reflect the allocation of the vacant committee position:

That for the 2023/24 municipal year Council

1. appoints the committees and panels for the 2023/24 year and allocate seats to each political group as set out in the schedule circulated prior to the meeting;

2. appoints councillors and substitutes to sit on the committees and panels as set out in the schedule circulated prior to the meeting;
3. appoints councillors to the Licensing Acts Committee as set out in the schedule circulated prior to the meeting;
4. appoints councillors to the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee as set out in the schedule circulated prior to the meeting;
5. appoints chairs and vice-chairs as set out in the schedule circulated prior to the meeting;
6. appoints all local members representing the wards covered by the relevant area committees to those committees for the 2023/24 municipal year – Abingdon and North East, Faringdon and Wantage;
7. appoints Paul Barrow as the council’s representative and Diana Lugova as substitute on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
8. appoints Neil Fawcett as the council’s representative and Helen Pighills as substitute on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel;
9. appoints Emily Smith, Judy Roberts and Andy Cooke to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel;
10. 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:**

That for the 2023/24 municipal year to:

1. appoint the following committees and panels for the 2023/24 municipal year and to appoint the membership, substitutes and chairs and vice-chairs as indicated to sit on them (see table below);

<b>Planning Committee, 9 Members</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (8)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
Ron Batstone	Cheryl Briggs
Jenny Hannaby	
Diana Lugova	
Rob Maddison	
Mike Pighills	
Jill Rayner	
Val Shaw (Vice-Chair)	
Max Thompson (Chair)	
<b>Preferred substitutes</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (8)</b>	<b>Green (3)</b>
Paul Barrow	Katherine Foxhall
Robert Clegg	Sarah James

Andy Cooke	Viral Patel
Lucy Edwards	
Oliver Forder	
Hayleigh Gascoigne	
Scott Houghton	
Emily Smith	

<b>Scrutiny Committee, 9 Members</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (8)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
Ron Batstone	Katherine Foxhall (Chair)
James Cox	
Amos Duveen	
Oliver Forder	
Hayleigh Gascoigne	
Rob Maddison	
Sally Povolotsky	
Judy Roberts (Vice-Chair)	
<b>Preferred substitutes</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (8)</b>	<b>Green (3)</b>
Paul Barrow	Viral Patel
Kiera Bentley	Sarah James
Eric de la Harpe	Cheryl Briggs
Lucy Edwards	
Diana Lugova	
Emily Smith	
Max Thompson	

<b>Joint Scrutiny Committee, 5 Members</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (4)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
Andy Cooke	Katherine Foxhall (Co-Chair)
Lucy Edwards	
Judy Roberts	
Andrew Skinner	
<b>Preferred substitutes</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (4)</b>	<b>Green (3)</b>

<b>Joint Scrutiny Committee, 5 Members</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (4)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
Kiera Bentley	Sarah James
Diana Lugova	Viral Patel
Patrick O'Leary	Cheryl Briggs
Max Thompson	

<b>Joint Audit and Governance Committee, 4 Members</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (4)</b>	
Oliver Forder	
Judy Roberts	
Andrew Skinner	
Emily Smith (Co-Chair)	
<b>Preferred substitutes</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (4)</b>	
Andy Cooke	
Eric de la Harpe	
Jenny Hannaby	
Mike Pighills	

<b>Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee, 6 Members</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (5)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
Sally Povolotsky	Cheryl Briggs
Diana Lugova (Vice-Chair)	
Oliver Forder (Chair)	
Eric de la Harpe	
Max Thompson	
<b>Preferred substitutes</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (5)</b>	<b>Green (3)</b>
Ron Batstone	Katherine Foxhall
Scott Houghton	Sarah James
Rob Maddison	Viral Patel
Patrick O'Leary	
Mike Pighills	

### Joint Staff Committee, 5 Members

<b>Liberal Democrat (4)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
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Sue Caul	Viral Patel
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Neil Fawcett	
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Debby Hallett	
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Bethia Thomas	
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<b>Substitutes</b>	
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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

<b>Liberal Democrat (11)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
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Paul Barrow	Cheryl Briggs
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Ron Batstone (Chair)	
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Kiera Bentley	
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Oliver Forder	
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Jenny Hannaby	
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Diana Lugova	
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Patrick O'Leary (Vice-Chair)	
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Judy Roberts	
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Val Shaw	
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Andrew Skinner	
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Richard Webber	
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<b>NO SUBSTITUTES</b>	
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### Licensing Acts Committee, 12 Members

<b>Liberal Democrat (11)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
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Paul Barrow	Cheryl Briggs
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Ron Batstone (Chair)	
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Kiera Bentley	
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Oliver Forder	
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Jenny Hannaby	
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Diana Lugova	
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Patrick O'Leary (Vice-Chair)	
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Judy Roberts	
Val Shaw	
Andrew Skinner	
Richard Webber	
<b>NO SUBSTITUTES</b>	

<b>Appeals Panel, 3 Members</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (3)</b>	
Paul Barrow	
Rob Clegg (Chair)	
Jill Rayner	
<b>PREFERRED SUBSTITUTES</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (3)</b>	
Debby Hallett	
Val Shaw	
Richard Webber	

<b>Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, 7 Members</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (6)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
Robert Clegg	Sarah James
James Cox	
Eric de la Harpe (Vice Chair)	
Hayleigh Gascoigne (Chair)	
Scott Houghton	
Sally Povolotsky	
<b>Preferred substitutes</b>	
<b>Liberal Democrat (6)</b>	<b>Green (3)</b>
Ron Batstone	Cheryl Briggs
Amos Duveen	Katherine Foxhall
Lucy Edwards	Viral Patel
Rob Maddison	
Mike Pighills	
Jill Rayner	

2. appoint all local members representing the wards covered by the relevant area committees to those committees for the 2023/24 municipal year – Abingdon and North East, Faringdon and Wantage;

3. appoint Paul Barrow as the council's representative and Diana Lugova as substitute on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
4. appoint Neil Fawcett as the council's representative and Helen Pighills as substitute on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel;
5. appoint Emily Smith, Judy Roberts and Andy Cooke to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Scrutiny Panel;
6. 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.

## **8. Election of leader of the council**

**RESOLVED:** to elect Councillor Thomas as leader of the council for a four-year period ending on the day of the next post-election annual meeting in 2027.

Councillor Thomas invited each of the Cabinet members to introduce themselves and give details of their portfolios as set out below:

Councillor Fawcett: Deputy Council Leader and strategic partnerships and place

Councillor Caul: Affordable housing, development and infrastructure

Councillor Coleman: Environmental services and waste

Councillor Crawford: Finance and property

Councillor Dewhurst: Leisure centres and community buildings

Councillor Foulsham: Planning and development management

Councillor Hallett: Corporate services, governance, policy and transformation

Councillor Helen Pighills: Community health and wellbeing

## **9. Allowances for Independent Persons**

Council considered the report of the head of legal and democratic covering the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the payment of an allowance to the Independent Person on the Joint Audit and Governance Committee and those Independent Persons who assist the monitoring officer with code of conduct matters.

**RESOLVED:** to

1. agree that an allowance of £1,768 per annum be paid to the independent member of the Joint Audit and Governance Committee with effect from the date of the appointment, the cost shared equally with Vale of White Horse District Council;
2. agree that an allowance of £583 per annum be paid to each independent person appointed by the head of legal and democratic to assist in dealing with code of conduct matters, the cost shared equally with Vale of White Horse District Council, and to be backdated to 1 April 2023;
3. agree that the allowances above be subject to annual increases in line with the increase in allowances paid to councillors; and
4. authorise the head of legal and democratic to update the councillors' allowances scheme to make reference to the allowances to independent persons set out above.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm

Chair:

Date:



# Minutes

of a special meeting of the

## Council



held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 6.30 pm  
at the Meeting Room 1, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE

### Open to the public, including the press

#### Present:

Councillors: Sally Povolotsky (Chair), Kiera Bentley (Vice-Chair), Ron Batstone, Cheryl Briggs, James Cox, Debra Dewhurst, Neil Fawcett, Katherine Foxhall, Hayleigh Gascoigne, Debby Hallett, Scott Houghton, Diana Lugova, Patrick O'Leary and Max Thompson

Officers: Patrick Arran, Head of Legal and Democratic, and Steven Corrigan, Democratic Services Manager

#### 10. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Caul, Clegg, Coleman, Cooke, Crawford, de la Harpe, Duveen, Edwards, Forder, Foulsham, Hannaby, James, Maddison, Patel, Helen Pighills, Mike Pighills, Rayner, Roberts, Shaw, Skinner, Smith, Thomas and Webber.

#### 11. Declarations of interest

Councillor Bentley declared an interest as a member of East Challow Parish Council.

#### 12. Urgent business and chair's announcements

None.

#### 13. Public participation

None.

#### 14. Making the East Challow Neighbourhood Development Plan

Council considered the recommendation of Councillor Hallett, Cabinet member for corporate services, governance, policy and transformation, made on 30 May 2023, to make the East Challow Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the development plan for Vale of White Horse.

Councillor Barrow, the local ward member, addressed Council remotely in support of the adoption of the Plan.

The Chair of council thanked the local community of East Challow for their work in progressing the Plan.

**RESOLVED:** to

1. make the East Challow Neighbourhood Development Plan, so that it becomes part of the council's development plan.
2. authorise the head of policy and programmes, in consultation with the Cabinet member for corporate services, governance, policy and transformation and in agreement with the Qualifying Body – East Challow Parish Council, to correct any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

Chair:

Date: