

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber - Shire Hall, Taunton, on Wednesday, 26 April 2017 at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr M Adkins, Cllr J Bailey, Cllr A Bown, Cllr R Brown, Cllr P Burridge-Clayton, Cllr S Coles, Cllr S Crabb, Cllr H Davies, Cllr A Dimmick, Cllr J Dyke, Cllr J Edney, Cllr D Fothergill, Cllr A Gloak, Cllr A Govier, Cllr D Greene, Cllr A Groskop, Cllr D Hall, Cllr P Ham, Cllr M Healey, Cllr D Hill, Cllr James Hunt, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr C Lawrence (Chairman), Cllr C Le Hardy, Cllr M Lewis, Cllr J Lock, Cllr T Lock, Cllr D Loveridge, Cllr T Napper, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr G Noel (Vice-Chairman), Cllr J Osman, Cllr J Parham, Cllr N Pearson, Cllr H Prior-Sankey, Cllr L Redman, Cllr M Rigby, Cllr D Ruddle, Cllr J Shortland, Cllr H Siggs, Cllr W Wallace, Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr J Woodman, Cllr N Woollcombe-Adams and Cllr D Yeomans

Apologies for absence: Cllr J Clayton, Cllr J Denbee, Cllr M Fysh, Cllr R Henley, Cllr A Horsfall, Cllr L Oliver, Cllr D Tanswell, Cllr T Venner, Cllr L Vjeh and Cllr D Wedderkopp

270 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

Declarations of Interest were made as set out in Appendix A to these minutes and Members' written notifications of interests were affixed to the Notice board at the back of the Council Chamber for the duration of the meeting.

271 **Minutes from the meeting held on 15 February 2017** - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes, including attached Appendices, of the meeting of Council held on 15 February 2017 were signed as a correct record.

272 **Chairman's Announcements**

(1) The Chairman paid respects to Mr David Carter who died recently. He was the Head Teacher at St Bartholomew's First School in Crewkerne. The Chairman noted that she would be writing to Mr Carter's family.

(2) The Chairman paid respects to Mr Brian Cresswell, Taunton's 'man of music', who died recently. The Chairman noted that she would be writing to Mr Cresswell's family.

(3) The Chairman noted the following County Councillors who were not standing for re-election:

- Michael Adkins, Conservative Councillor for Taunton North (first elected: 2015, years of service: 2)
- John Bailey, Liberal Democrat Councillor for Martock (first elected: 2009, years of service: 8)
- Justine Clayton, Liberal Democrat Councillor for Bishops Hull and Taunton West (first elected: 2013, years of service: 4)
- John Denbee, Conservative Councillor for Brent (first elected: 2011, years of service: 6)

- John Dyke, Liberal Democrat Councillor for Crewkerne (first elected: 2001, years of service: 16)
- John Edney, Conservative Councillor for Cannington (first elected: 2001, years of service: 16)
- Marcus Fysh, Conservative Councillor for Coker (first elected: 2013, years of service: 4)
- Alan Gloak, Liberal Democrat Councillor for Glastonbury (first elected: 2001, years of service: 16)
- Dawn Hill, Conservative Councillor for Cheddar (first elected: 2005, years of service: 12)
- Jill Shortland, Liberal Democrat Councillor for Chard South (first elected: 1993, years of service: 24)
- Harvey Siggs, Conservative Councillor for Mendip Hills (first elected: 2005, years of service: 12)
- Danny Wedderkopp, Liberal Democrat Councillor for Rowbarton & Staplegrove (first elected: 2009, years of service: 8)
- Nigel Woolcombe-Adams, Conservative Councillor for Mendip South (first elected: 2013, years of service: 4)
- Derek Yeomans, Conservative Councillor for Curry Rivel & Langport (first elected: 2001, years of service: 16)

273 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

1) Public Questions / Statements / Petitions (under 5000 signatures): Notice was received of questions / statements / petitions regarding:

Public Questions / Statements:

1. The Future of the recently Transferred Learning Disability Provider Service (LDPS) to Dimensions UK Ltd (Discovery)

From Nigel Behan

Response from Cllr William Wallace – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

2. County Farms

From Sue Osborne

Response from Cllr Harvey Siggs – Cabinet Member for Resources

Full details of the questions and answers given at the meeting and / or in writing following the meeting are set out in Appendix B to these Minutes.

274 Report of the Monitoring Officer - Agenda Item 5

(1) The Council considered a report (Paper 5) from the Monitoring Officer, including recommendations from the Standards Committee and the Constitution Committee seeking Council approval for: the proposed amalgamation of the Standards and Constitution Committees; the request that all Members undertake Code of Conduct training; the appointment of Strategic

Finance Managers Martin Gerrish and Martin Young as deputy Section 151 Officers; and to note progress on the review of the Scheme of Members allowances.

(2) The Monitoring Officer informed Council that the proposed amalgamation of the Standards and Constitution Committees would be brought to the Council's May meeting for formal consideration, and further highlighted the excellent response from members to the questionnaire and member interviews undertaken by the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel. He passed on the Panel's thanks to the members for this input into the Panel's evidence gathering phase.

(3) The Chairman of the Standards Committee, Cllr Alan Gloak thanked Members of the Committee and officers of the Council. Cllr Gloak further noted it had been a privilege to chair the Standards Committee for 8 years and to be a Member of the Council for the past 16 years.

(4) During debate on the item the following issue was raised: the Independent Remuneration Panel questionnaire and interviews where Cllr Jane Lock paid tribute to the work being undertaken by the Panel.

(5) The recommendations within the report were proposed by Cllr John Osman and seconded by Cllr Alan Gloak.

(6) The Council RESOLVED unanimously to adopt the following recommendations, to:

1. Note the recommendations from the Standards and Constitution Committees for the proposed amalgamation of the two Committees to form a single Constitution and Standards Committee and to refer them to the new Council for consideration in May 2017 – paragraphs 3.1.4(2) and 3.1.5 refer.
2. Agree that all members are requested to undertake the Code of Conduct training being provided as part of the induction of the new Council and that all Group Leaders are asked to encourage their members to do so – section 3.2 refers.
3. Appoint Martin Gerrish and Martin Young, Strategic Managers in Finance, as Deputy Section 151 Officers in accordance with section 3.3 of this report.
4. Note the progress with the review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances which will lead to the recommendation of the adoption of a revised Scheme to Council in July 2017 – section 3.4 of the report and Appendix A refers.

275 **Report of the HR Policy Committee** - Agenda Item 6

(1) The Council considered a report (Paper 6) from the Chairman of the HR Policy Committee seeking Council approval for the revised Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18.

(2) The recommendations within the report were proposed by Cllr Anna Groskop and seconded by Cllr Harvey Siggs.

(3) Cllr Groskop thanked all Members who had attended meetings of the Committee.

(4) The Council RESOLVED unanimously to approve the revised Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 as recommended by the HR Policy Committee.

276 Report of the Leader and Cabinet - Items for Information - Agenda Item 7

(1) The Council considered a report (Paper 7) introduced by the Leader of Council that summarised the key decisions taken by the Leader and Cabinet Members between 4 February 2017 and 13 April 2017, together with the items of business discussed at the Cabinet Meetings on 20 February 2017, 15 March 2017 and 12 April 2017.

(2) The Council received the Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities at this point in the meeting (Paper 13) detailing key activities and achievements from the last year of those services that fall under his Cabinet responsibilities. Cllr Osman thanked all Members, his Cabinet and all Council officers for their work, and thanked the Chief Executive for his support and guidance

(3) Cllr Osman added to his report, highlighting the following points: the Council's willingness to listen to Somerset's residents; the success of the Glastonbury Access Hub; the return of Contact Centre staff to the Council; over 7000 residents have responded to Council consultations; the importance of sharing information across the public sector; and the work of the Communications Team including Your Somerset, Travel Somerset and the fostering campaign.

(4) The Council received the Annual Report of the Leader of the Council at this point in the meeting (Paper 12) detailing key activities and achievements from the last year of those services that fall under his Cabinet responsibilities.

(5) Cllr Osman further added to his report, highlighting the following points: setting the Council's budget; the Council's vision projects; ensuring the County prospers; the work of the Economic Development Team; the importance of income generation; staff awards; recent OFSTED monitoring visits and the importance of continued Member involvement; Devolution proposals; the work of the Somerset Rivers Authority; and the Hinkley Point C development. In conclusion Cllr Osman noted that the last 4 years had been successful, and that the Council was striving to be excellent in everything it does.

(6) Cllr Jane Lock thanked Cllr Osman, all Council Officers, and the Chairman, and noted the importance of working with all Members.

(7) Cllr Christopher Le Hardy informed Council that the Armed Forces Community Covenant had received a grant of £190k to assist with understanding and promotion of the Armed Forces, bringing Somerset's total grant award to over £600k. Cllr Le Hardy further thanked Council officers, Julian Gale and Chris Phillips for their work.

(8) Cllr David Hall responded to written questions from Cllr Alan Dimmick regarding the Cabinet Member decision Approval to Accept DfT C-ITS Challenge Award, and Cllr Alan Gloak regarding the adoption of a Bee and Natural Pollinators Protection Plan.

(9) Cllr David Hall and Cllr Terry Napper thanked Cllr Gloak for his work as a County Councillor and wished him well in his retirement.

(10) Cllr William Wallace responded to questions asked at the meeting by Cllr Sam Crabb regarding Fiveways Resource Centre, and undertook to provide a written response.

(11) Cllr Harvey Siggs responded to a question asked at the meeting by Cllr Sam Crabb regarding budget monitoring timescales.

(12) Cllr Harvey Siggs highlighted that he had enjoyed his 12 years as a County Councillor.

(13) Cllr William Wallace responded to questions asked at the meeting by Cllr Jane Lock regarding Learning Disability Provider Service staff identification badges, and Cllr Alan Gloak regarding the future of the Beckery Resource Centre, undertaking to provide written responses.

Full details of the questions and answers given at the meeting and / or in writing following the meeting are set out in Appendix C to these Minutes.

277 Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee for Policies, Adults and Health - Agenda Item 8

(1) The Council received the report (Paper 8) from the Chairman of the Scrutiny for Polices, Adults and Health Committee, Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey.

(2) Cllr Prior-Sankey thanked Cllr John Parham for his work as the Committee Vice-Chairman, and thanked Committee Members and Officers for their work. Cllr Prior-Sankey further noted that it had been a pleasure to chair the Committee.

(3) Cllr John Parham thanked Cllr Prior-Sankey, noted that the Council has responsibility for scrutinising all health services and asked the new Council ensures that members of the Committee receive sufficient training on health services to enable them to scrutinise this complicated area of the Council's responsibilities effectively

(4) Cllr Hugh Davies thanked Members of the Committee for their work, with particular reference to Williton and Minehead hospitals.

278 Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee for Polices, Children and Families - Agenda Item 9

(1) The Council received the report (Paper 9) from the Chairman of the Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee, Cllr Leigh Redman.

(2) Cllr Redman thanked officers, Members of the Committee and Cllr David Huxtable for his work as the Committee Vice-Chairman.

279 Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place - Agenda Item 10

(1) The Council received the report (Paper 10) from the Chairman of the Scrutiny for Policies and Place Committee, Cllr Tony Lock.

(2) Cllr Lock thanked officers, Members of the Committee and Cllr Mike Lewis for his work as the Committee Vice-Chairman.

(3) Cllr Mike Lewis thanked Cllr Lock for his non-partisan Chairmanship, and thanked officers for their support.

280 Annual Report of the Audit Committee - Agenda Item 11

(1) The Council received the report (Paper 11) from the Chairman of the Audit Committee, Cllr Dawn Hill.

(2) Cllr Hill noted that it had been a privilege to be the Audit Committee Chairman, and thanked Committee Members, the internal auditors South West Audit Partnership and the external auditors Grant Thornton.

(3) Cllr Dean Ruddle, Cllr Sam Crabb and Cllr Simon Coles thanked Cllr Hill, and Council officers.

281 Annual Report of the Leader of the Council - Agenda Item 12

The Council considered the report under agenda item 7, Report of the Leader and Cabinet – Items for Information – minute AK278 refers.

282 Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities - Agenda Item 13

The Council considered the report under agenda item 7, Report of the Leader and Cabinet – Items for Information – minute AK278 refers.

283 Leader of the Council's Final Remarks - Agenda Item 14

Cllr John Osman thanked all retiring Members for their work, and offered his best wishes to all Members standing for re-election. Cllr Osman further thanked Cllr Graham Noel for his work as Vice Chairman of the Council, and Cllr Christine Lawrence for her work as Chairman of the Council.

284 Chairman's Final Remarks and Closure - Agenda Item 15

Cllr Christine Lawrence thanked the Monitoring Officer, the County Solicitor, the Chief Executive, and the Vice-Chairman of the Council. Cllr Lawrence noted that: she had attended 157 formal events and had met some wonderful people; the Chairman's Charities had now raised over £50k; and there was now a

Somerset bell at St Mary's Parish Church. Cllr Lawrence highlighted the work of the Council Chaplin's, and offered them her thanks.

CHAIRMAN