

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber - Shire Hall, Taunton, on Wednesday 24 May 2017 at 11.00 am

Present: Cllr C Aparicio Paul, Cllr M Best, Cllr N Bloomfield, Cllr A Bown, Cllr A Broom, Cllr P Burridge-Clayton (Vice-Chairman), Cllr M Caswell, Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr S Coles, Cllr A Dance, Cllr H Davies, Cllr M Dimery, Cllr B Filmer, Cllr D Fothergill, Cllr G Frascini, Cllr A Govier, Cllr A Groskop, Cllr D Hall, Cllr P Ham, Cllr M Healey, Cllr James Hunt, Cllr John Hunt, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr M Keating, Cllr A Kendall, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr M Lewis, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr J Lock, Cllr T Lock, Cllr D Loveridge, Cllr T Munt, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr L Oliver, Cllr J Parham, Cllr H Prior-Sankey, Cllr M Pullin, Cllr F Purbrick, Cllr L Redman, Cllr B Revans, Cllr M Rigby, Cllr D Ruddle, Cllr N Taylor, Cllr J Thorne, Cllr G Verdon, Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr W Wallace (Chairman), Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr J Williams, Cllr R Williams and Cllr J Woodman

Apologies for absence: Cllr N Hewitt-Cooper and Cllr T Napper

1 **Election of Chairman** - Agenda Item 1

(1) Cllr Christine Lawrence welcomed all Members to the meeting, thanked the Vice-Chairman, the Monitoring Officer and the County Solicitor, and thanked the Council for the honour of being Chairman. Cllr Lawrence further informed the Council that Cllr Terry Napper was making good progress following a recent operation, and made reference to the recent events in Manchester.

(2) Cllr Lawrence invited nominations for the election of the Chairman of the County Council, and on the nomination of Cllr David Fothergill, seconded by Cllr Leigh Redman, Cllr William Wallace was elected as Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year. Cllr Wallace accepted the Chain of Office, made the statutory declaration of office, took the Chair and thanked Members of the Council for electing him.

(3) Cllr Wallace paid tribute to the former Chairman of the Council, Cllr Lawrence, and presented her with a gift to commemorate her time in office from 2015 to 2017.

2 **Appointment of Vice-Chairman** - Agenda Item 2

(1) On the motion of Cllr David Fothergill, seconded by Cllr Jane Lock, Cllr Peter Burridge-Clayton was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. Cllr Burridge-Clayton made the statutory declaration of office and took the Chair.

(2) Cllr William Wallace welcomed new Members to the Council, requested that there be no repetition at meetings, clarified when applause at meetings was appropriate, and asked Members not to use mobile phones during public meetings.

(3) With the Chairman's permission Cllr Dave Loveridge informed the Council of Cllr Terry Napper's current condition; Cllr Loveridge further noted that he would offer Cllr Napper the Council's best wishes.

3 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 3

Apologies for absence were received from:
Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper
Cllr Terry Napper

Cllr David Fothergill further informed the Council that Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper had been awarded a gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

4 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 4

Members' written notifications of interests were affixed to the Notice Board at the back of the Council Chamber for the duration of the meeting.

5 Minutes from the meeting held on 26 April 2017 - Agenda Item 5

The Minutes, including attached Appendices, of the meeting of Council held on 26 April 2017 were signed as a correct record.

6 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 6

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

1. County Council Meeting Venues

From Andrew Lee

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

2. A303 Improvements

From Andrew Lee

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

3. Highways England A358 and M5 Junction Proposal

From David Orr

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

4. A303 / A358 Road Proposal

From Patricia Power

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

5. A303 / A358 Road Proposal

From Nigel Power

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

6. Highways England proposals for the A358 Southfields to Taunton

From Mike Farrell – Stoke St Mary Parish Council

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

7. A358 Dualling (Southfields to M5)

From Rob Hossell

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

8. A358

From Michael Baddeley

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

9. The proposed A358 dualling scheme

From Dr Gary Cox

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

10. University for Somerset

From Alan Dimmick

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

11. Council Finances

From Cllr Alan Dimmick

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

12. The Future of the Recently Transferred Learning Disability Provider Service (LDPS) to Dimensions UK Limited (Discovery)

From Nigel Behan – Unite

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

13. County Farms

From Sue Osbourne

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

14. Carbon Emissions and Environmental Sustainability / Social Care Funding / County Councillors

From Alan Debenham

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

15. Special School Funding

From Rebecca Bartley

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

Member Questions:

1. County Hall Restaurant

From Liz Leyshon

Response from Cllr David Hall – Interim Leader of the Council

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

7 Report of the Monitoring Officer - Agenda Item 7

(1) The Council considered a report (Paper 7) from the Monitoring Officer which set out the decisions on appointments and procedural matters as required by the Constitution to be made by the County Council.

(2) The Monitoring Officer introduced the report and highlighted: the supplementary paper Appendix A included additional recommendations; Appendix A, Annex A which detailed the allocation of Committee places; it was proposed that political proportionality be waived for appointments to the Constitution and Standards Committee, but this required no votes to be registered against the proposal ; it was further proposed Cllr Hugh Davies be appointed to the Somerset Buildings and Preservation Trust; and that the proposed amendments to the Contract Standing Orders ensured legal compliance and best practice.

(3)The recommendations in the report were proposed by Cllr David Hall and seconded by Cllr Jane Lock.

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

- (1) Support the Administration’s proposal to appoint Councillor David Fothergill as the Leader of the Council for 2017-21.
- (2) Approve the County Council Appointments Schedule to the report - (Annex A to Appendix A), to include, as necessary, summary revised terms of reference, and operational arrangements including delegations for the Council and its committees.
- (3) Approve the Full Council meeting dates set out in Appendix A, section 3.5.
- (4) Approve the proposal for the establishment of a Constitution and Standards Committee with the terms of reference and operational arrangements proposed in this report – see Annex B to Appendix A.
- (5) Approve the revised ‘hearing panel’ arrangements for the hearing of complaints against members and co-opted members – see Appendix A section 3.3.

- (6) Agree that aside from the changes to the committee structure outlined above that the Council's existing committee structure and operational arrangements should continue unchanged including the Scheme of Delegation contained in the Constitution – see Appendix A section 3.4.
- (7) Approve the revised Contract Standing Orders set out as Appendix B to item 7 as recommended by the Constitution Committee from its April meeting.
- (8) Approve the appointments to internal groups, partnerships and outside bodies as set out in Annex A to Appendix A as amended by the inclusion of the appointment of Cllr Hugh Davies to the Somerset Buildings and Preservation Trust.
- (9) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer authority:
 - (i) In consultation with the Group Leaders, to make in-year amendments to committee and other appointments which are the responsibility of the Council including those to be detailed in Appendix A – this delegation to last until May 2021. Where changes to committee appointments are required then appointments will be made in accordance with the wishes of the group leader. Other appointments will only be referred to Full Council for confirmation in the event that group leaders are not in agreement with the proposed appointment;
 - (ii) In consultation with the Group Leaders and committee chairmen, to agree the detailed calendar of meetings of committees / sub-committees of the Council for 2017/18;
- (10) To approve the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) for any new equivalent SRA qualifying posts created in 1 above that fit within the existing SRA bandings scheme, pending the Council considering recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the review of the Members' Allowances Scheme in July 2017.
- (11) Note that any further amendments to the Constitution required as a result of the approval of the above recommendations will be brought to the Council for approval in July following consideration by the Constitution and Standards Committee.

8 Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board - Agenda Item 8

(1) The Council considered a report (Paper 8) from the Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Board, Jill Shortland.

(2) Cllr David Fothergill introduced the report, highlighting Jill Shortland's future role as the Independent Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board.

(3) Jill Shortland thanked the Leader and the Council for proposing her appointment as the Independent Chair, noting: the dedication of the previous Chair; successes over the past year; the importance of Member training; Corporate Parent champions; and the roles of the Somerset In Care Council

and the Somerset Leaving Care Council. Jill Shortland further highlighted the recommendations in the report, emphasising that young people leaving care need housing and employment.

(4) Cllr Frances Nicholson – Cabinet Member for Children and Families welcomed Jill Shortland as the Independent Chair.

(5) The recommendations in the report were proposed by Cllr Frances Nicholson and seconded by Cllr Leigh Redman.

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

- Recommend Corporate Parenting Board training to be mandatory for all Councillors.
- Recommend that signed up councillors who do not attend Corporate Parenting Board meetings for three consecutive months are reported to Group Leads.
- Recommend Cabinet appoint District Councillor representation on the Corporate Parenting Board to provide support on housing and leisure issues.

The Council further resolved to appoint Cllr Jill Shortland as the independent Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board.

9 **Chairman's Announcements** - Agenda Item 9

(1) The Chairman noted: the importance of cross-party working; and the continuation of the Chairman's charities fundraising with a renewed focus on charities supporting Learning Disabilities and dementia.

10 **Leader's Announcements** - Agenda Item 10

(1) The Leader thanked Members for the trust placed in him, and noted that He would work hard and champion the authority.

(2) The Leader noted the recent terrorist attack in Manchester, paying Respects to those who had lost their lives, and adding his own condemnation of those who seek to gain through violence. The Leader further offered the Council's support to the people of Manchester.

(3) The Leader: offered his congratulations to Cllr William Wallace, the 30th Chairman of the County Council; welcomed Cllr Peter Burrige-Clayton as the Vice-Chairman; thanked Cllr Christine Lawrence; noted the money raised for the Chairman's Charities; thanked previous Members who were not re-elected, including Richard Brown, Christopher Le Hardy, Sam Crabb and John Osman; welcomed the new Green Party Members; highlighted the progress made by Children's Services; welcomed Cllr David Huxtable, Cllr John Woodman and Cllr Christine Lawrence to the Cabinet; highlighted the four Junior Cabinet Member appointments and noted that these roles would help to enable development, growth and succession planning; informed the Council of his previous employment background and noted that he had previously been both

the Chairman of the Council and a Cabinet Member; and noted the importance of cross party cooperation.

(4) The Leader highlighted: the Conservative Party Manifesto; noting that: he would deliver a clear plan for Somerset; the wish to keep Council Tax low; empowering local communities; building new schools and community hubs; flood defences; superfast broadband; recycling; and the importance of listening to Somerset's residents.

(5) In summary the Leader called on all Members to represent the Council, their respective divisions, communities, and residents.

CHAIRMAN