

## SWT Full Council - 22 May 2019

Present:

Councillors Benet Allen, Lee Baker, Marcus Barr, Mark Blaker, Paul Bolton, Chris Booth, Sue Buller, Norman Cavill, Simon Coles, Dixie Darch, Hugh Davies, Kelly Durdan, Caroline Ellis, Habib Farbahi, Ed Firmin, Andrew Govier, Roger Habgood, Andrew Hadley, John Hassall, Ross Henley, Catherine Herbert, Marcia Hill, Martin Hill, John Hunt, Marcus Kravis, Richard Lees, Sue Lees, Libby Lisgo, Mark Lithgow, Janet Lloyd, Dave Mansell, Andy Milne, Chris Morgan, Simon Nicholls, Craig Palmer, Martin Peters, Peter Pilkington, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Andy Pritchard, Steven Pugsley, Mike Rigby, Federica Smith-Roberts, Francesca Smith, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Phil Stone, Nick Thwaites, Anthony Trollope-Bellew, Ray Tully, Terry Venner, Sarah Wakefield, Alan Wedderkopp, Danny Wedderkopp, Brenda Weston, Keith Wheatley, Loretta Whetlor and Gwil Wren

Officers: Shirlene Adam, Jo Comer, Paul Fitzgerald, James Hassett, Marcus Prouse and Amy Tregellas

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

### 1. **Election of Chair**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Hazel Ruth Prior-Sankey be elected Chair of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Prior-Sankey signed and made the declaration of acceptance of office, and thanked Councillors for their support.

A moment's silence was then undertaken at the behest of the Chair for the memory of former Councillor and Mayor of Taunton Deane Bob Bowrah BEM.

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

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Simon Adrien Paulian Coles be appointed Vice-Chair for the ensuing Municipal year.

Councillor Coles signed and made the declaration of acceptance of office, and thanked Councillors for their support.

### 3. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors J Adkins, I Aldridge and D Durdan.

### 4. **Declarations of Interest**

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

Name	Minute No.	Description of Interest	Reason	Action Taken
Cllr L Baker	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee & Cheddon Fitzpaine	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Barr	All Items	Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Blaker	All Items	Wiveliscombe	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr P Bolton	All Items	Minehead	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr C Booth	All Items	Wellington & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr N Cavill	All Items	West Monkton	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr S Coles	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr H Davies	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr C Ellis	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr A Govier	All Items	SCC & Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr C Herbert	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr Mrs Hill	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr J Hunt	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr R Lees	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr S Lees	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Lisgo	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Lithgow	All Items	Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr J Lloyd	All Items	Wellington & Sampford Arundel	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Mansell	All Items	Wiveliscombe	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr A Milne	All Items	Porlock	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr C Morgan	All Items	Stogursey	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr S Nicholls	All Items	Comeytrove	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr C Palmer	All Items	Minehead	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Peters	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr P Pilkington	All Items	Timberscombe	Personal	Spoke and Voted

Cllr H Prior-Sankey	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Rigby	All Items	SCC & Bishops Lydeard	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith-Roberts	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr V Stock-Williams	All Items	Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr R Tully	All Items	West Monkton	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr T Venner	All Items	Minehead	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr A Wedderkopp	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Wedderkopp	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr B Weston	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Whetlor	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr G Wren	All Items	Clerk to Milverton PC	Personal	Spoke and Voted

5. **Minutes of the final meetings of the Shadow Full Council, Taunton Deane Borough Full Council and West Somerset Full Council**

(Minutes of the meeting of Shadow Full Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Full Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were circulated with the agenda)

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of Shadow Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 be noted.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of Taunton Deane Borough Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 be noted.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of West Somerset Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 be noted, with the amendment of reference to a statement by the Leader of the Opposition to be inserted at the request of Councillor Pilkington.

6. **Receive any communications or announcements from the Chair of the Council**

The Chair read out the Chairman's announcements, and advised that as a mode of address 'Chair' or 'Chairman' would be acceptable and there was no need to prefix with 'Madam'.

Councillor Roger Habgood was invited to give a statement on the Somerset West and Taunton Charity Walk that was held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Around forty members of staff took part in an eighteen mile walk from The Deane House in

Taunton to West Somerset House in Williton along the Quantock Way, to mark the coming together of the two Councils. He was pleased to be able to report that over one thousand pounds had been raised for Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment (S.U.R.E). The thanks of the Council would go to those whose efforts were made in organising the event.

7. **Election of the Leader of the Council**

**RESOLVED** that the appointment of Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts as Leader of the Council be confirmed for a four year term of office.

8. **Receive any communications or announcements from the Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts thanked Councillors for their support and stated that it was an honour to have been elected as the Leader of this new Council. She stated that there was much to achieve over the next four years but this was both challenging and exciting. She expressed a wish to work with each and every one of the Councillors to achieve more together for the areas we loved throughout this new District. She believed in honesty, openness and transparency, principles that were at the core of everything that we did. She affirmed that she was looking forward to working together with the great staff at the Council. She introduced her new team of Executive Councillors;

**DEPUTY LEADER & COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE:** Councillor Benet Allen

**COMMUNITY:** Councillor Chris Booth

**HOUSING:** Councillor Fran Smith

**CORPORATE RESOURCES:** Councillor Ross Henley

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION:** Councillor Mike Rigby

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES:** Councillor Alan Wedderkopp

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Councillor Peter Pilkington

**ASSET MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Councillor Habib Farbahi

**SPORTS, PARKS AND LEISURE:** Councillor Richard Lees

9. **Election of the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Gwilym Wren be elected the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Wren congratulated Councillor Smith-Roberts on her election as Leader of the Council, and looked forward to working closely over the next four years to take forward the whole area and make a considerable difference, with Scrutiny to have a key part in that.

10. **Public Participation**

(a) Mr Alan Debenham asked the following questions:-

- (i) As was unanimously agreed by the ex-Taunton Deane Council in October 2018, the name of the new merged council was wrong and an insult to Taunton, our County Town and Principal Urban Area, and the undemocratically determined "Somerset West and Taunton Council" name, demoting Taunton to secondary and inferior status, should be changed as soon as possible to the obvious "Taunton Deane and West Somerset Council". To stop this ill-conceived mistake living on in history any further, could this new merged Council now take this necessary name-changing action forthwith?
- (ii) Previous to the establishment of the new Council, regarding the undeveloped Firepool site in Taunton, the building of a hotel there using Council funding to the tune of a mooted £16 million was strongly opposed by all Liberal Democrat Councillors, most other non-Tory Councillors and many local residents and businesses, despite which the ex-Tory administration ploughed ahead regardless. Can I assume, as do many local residents, that his newly elected Council will now revoke this whole ex-Tory hotel proposal forthwith and replace it with a much more positive and meaningful alternative?  
In line with the recently resolved declaration of "Climate Emergency" by the Shadow Council, could this be the construction of a visitors' centre for "PEACE" ( People's Environmental Action for Climate Emergency ) which would incorporate lively hands-on educational experiences, backed by a full library of publications and displays etc. like the WeTheCurious centre in Bristol Harbour Side - of course, plus a visitors 'promotional' vegetarian cafe-restaurant overlooking the river, a cycling centre, and a general repair and waste reduction-recycling large workshop?
- (iii) Until the onset of Westminster Tory mania for local government to adopt the very anti-democratic organisational practice of cabinet and mayoral single-party domination, in Taunton Deane and for other councils we had the far more democratic and easily run committee system – with every councillor involved in spending decisions relating to their chosen field of interest or speciality.

Surely now is the time to fully consider a return to this well understood, easily managed, and far more democratic committee system, giving every Councillor a distinct fairly equal role to play? Equally, within this renovated committee system the overall strategy-setting and financially controlling Executive Committee should comprise multi-party representation, as it used to, with seats allocated roughly pro rata to whole Council totals commanded by each party/group.

- (iv) The massacre of staff by the ex-Tory administration has left several departments struggling to efficiently fulfil their duties, especially in Planning and Building Control, and therefore, in the name of good management, I ask the new administration to conduct a thorough staffing review ASAP to redress these failings.

Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts thanked Alan Debenham for advance notice of his questions. She replied as follows:-

- (i) With regard to question (i) and the name of the Council the Leader appreciated the comments that had been made and that they had also been raised with her separately by others. However at present this administration had a lot to achieve and there was a need to focus on ensuring residents and businesses were receiving the services they expected.
- (ii) With regard to question (iv) in relation to Staffing, it was recognised there had been teething problems in the establishment of this Council and the staff were doing a brilliant job in the circumstances whilst services had been affected. The new administration was going to be working with the Chief Executive and his team to stabilise those services and ensure that residents received what they expected.
- (iii) With regard to question (iii) the 'committee system' way of working was going to be looked at but under the establishment of this new Council this could not be implemented within the first twelve months regardless.

Councillor Farbahi replied in relation to question (ii) on Firepool and assured the Council that the Hotel Venture on Firepool would not be progressed. He did not believe in playing monopoly with taxpayers money and that there was a belief that the sums were too tight and the money could be better used elsewhere.

- (b) Mr Sigurd Reimers made the following statement:-

Chair, Councillors, Officers and members of the public. Taunton Extinction Rebellion welcomes this opportunity to address you on the urgent issue of climate disaster. We are aware that a number of other local environment groups share our concerns. Today it is just eighty days since your predecessors declared a Climate Emergency, and the clock is ticking. We have three simple demands of

governments, including yourselves. First, to tell the truth about Climate Change. Second, to act now. Finally, to establish a Citizen's Assembly, to enable us to deal with the climate disaster that we are all facing. Our request of you today is to declare your intent to form a Citizen's Assembly and rapidly to take the necessary steps to achieve this. We realize that for such a motion to be passed by this Council, might require you to move beyond conventional ways of working. However, now that you, in common with many other Council's across the country have declared such a Climate Emergency, we believe it falls to you to take this further step. We consider that establishing a Citizen's Assembly represents a unique opportunity for you as our Council to establish a clear pathway for governing, and for ensuring that this area faces up to its responsibility, indeed our climate disaster and other linked environmental issues.

Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts thanked Sigurd Reimers for his question and responded that as the questioner was aware that the Council had declared a Climate Emergency, which was cross party and proposed by Councillor Mansell and seconded by herself. The new administration had taken that and put this issue at the core of what we do by appointing a Climate Change Executive Member. The Leader was interested in the Citizens Assembly proposal and would discuss this further with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change.

(c) Mr Jefferson Horsley asked the following questions:-

- (i) Can I congratulate all successful councillors on winning the newly contested wards on the revised boundaries? I have in mind especially the Leader of the Council who has the daunting challenge of implementing the Liberal Democrat manifesto against the background of even further diminishing resources and increasing responsibilities thrust upon it by central government and the continuation of austerity for public services making the delivery even more difficult?
- (ii) However, can she reassure me that as I was one of the co-sponsors to the Climate Emergency Motion unanimously passed at the Shadow Council on 21 February 2019, she will use all her endeavours to ensure that the new administration will focus on this as its top priority? Since 21 February the Extinction Rebellion has highlighted that there is no alternative than to act now against Global Heating. Will she therefore bring forward the goals of both lowering Carbon Emissions and the burning of fossil fuels? Will she bring forward the use of Renewable Energy targets by a combination of lower demand for consumption of damaging products and the acceleration of the targets for the use of sustainable energy from 2050 to 2035? Can she confirm that Recommendation 7 of the original motion namely to set aside a budget of £75,000 with £50,000 coming from general reserves and £25,000 from the HRA Maintenance Budget will be used for this purpose? Does she agree that hope is needed to attain these goals as has been pointed out by the extraordinary work undertaken by Greta Thunberg if we are to avoid the possibility of Global Heating making Planet Earth becoming uninhabitable for humans by the year 2070?

- (iii) Can she also explain to the public why so much money is still being spent on the Firepool site by grassing over areas when it could inhibit the attainment of the wider goal of becoming the centre of excellence for Taunton to continue its leadership on becoming a centre of learning for reducing our dependence on Plastic and the damage it is doing to the environment as highlighted by the Blue Planet series on BBC by David Attenborough? Has she considered putting all these items on hold especially when the sums involved of some £750,000 as per an officer report sent out on 15 March 2019 could well hold back the ambitious plans for Taunton to triumph as the county town of Somerset which all councillors should aspire to?

Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts thanked Jefferson Horsley for advance notice of his questions. She replied as follows:-

- (i) With regard to question (ii), the questioner was assured that the Leader held a strong environmental stance personally, and in the manifesto this was at the core, and we have now brought in a Climate Change Executive Member. We would now need to develop a Strategy to implement that and put the environment at the core of everything that the Council undertook. If it was a case of requiring more funding, then that would be brought back to Council for a further decision.
- (ii) With regard to question (iii) on the Firepool site, a Strategy was being developed and the detail was being worked on for the long term aspirations there. In the meantime, the funding given under the previous administration to build the access road and early works. The grassing over was a temporary community space whilst this detail was being developed.

Councillor Pilkington replied that Climate Change was going to be taken very seriously and everything would be looked at with that focus, and plans would be forthcoming.

In relation to Mr Reimers statement, he felt that Councillors were all citizens as well and he would be willing to work with existing and new groups in Somerset going forward on this policy, but the input of the people would be particularly important.

- (d) Mr Nigel Behan asked the following questions:-

In the Somerset West and Taunton Constitution - Access to Information Procedure Rules Part A – General

It is stated that:

“3. Rights to Attend Meetings

3.1 Members of the public and media are welcome and encouraged to attend all meetings, subject only to the exceptions in this Constitution.

3.2 The rights at 3.1 are without prejudice to the Council's power to suppress or prevent disorderly conduct or other misbehaviour at any meeting.

3.3 Third-party recording (including filming, audio recording and photography) is permitted of the public sessions of formal decision-making Council meetings subject to any reasonable protocols that may be in place."

And the Agenda of the meeting points out:

"Please note that this meeting will be recorded. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy. Therefore unless you are advised otherwise, by entering the Council Chamber and speaking during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the officer as detailed above."

"The Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014, which apply to England, give rights to members of the press and public to:

- use modern technology and communication methods such as filming, audio-recording, blogging and tweeting to report the proceedings of the meetings of their councils and other local government bodies
- see information relating to significant decisions made outside meetings by officers acting under a general or specific delegated power"

And in the Summary and Explanation of the Council's Constitution it is noted:

"The overriding duty of Councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them."

- (i) Does the New Council intend to post the audio recordings of meetings on the website and retain the recording - after the minutes of meeting(s) are agreed – on the Council System's and the website? There was some controversy at Somerset County Council last week about Audio Recordings of meetings. The Somerset County Gazette reported on it.
- (ii) How will Citizens, Electors, Residents and Council Taxpayers etc. who don't have access to private transport and live on Bus Route 25 (Taunton-Milverton-Wiveliscombe-Dulverton) for example, be able to attend Meetings like this one – the last bus from Taunton Rail Station is at 17:52 to Dulverton? This meeting was scheduled to start at 18:15.

- (iii) Will/ how the New SWT Council webcast Council Meetings to make them more accessible, inclusive, transparent and improve democratic accountability?

Councillor Federica Smith-Roberts thanked Mr Behan for advance notice of his questions. She replied that she wholeheartedly agreed that if you want an honest, open and transparent Council and if you wanted greater public engagement audio recording and livestreaming was the way to go to show people the background to the decisions we take. At the moment the Local Democracy Reporter scheme was one way for people to have that insight. The Leader confirmed that the procurement process for the provision of the Audio-visual Kit to enable this Council to webcast. In terms of the bus route she could not comment as this was outside of this Council's control, however if the aforementioned measures were brought in this could lead to greater engagement.

11. **To receive any questions from Councillors in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13**

The Chair invited Councillor John Hunt to make his statement.

With the Climate Emergency having been declared it was particularly pleasing to see an Executive Member for Climate Change. As an Independent Councillor he did not see himself as being in opposition to the administration, and was happy to work with all Members and Officers to better the lives of those he represented and those throughout the District. He was pleased to hear the Hotel was to be stopped.

The continuance of Taunton's Park and Ride was a concern. The arrangement between SWT Council and Somerset County Council was due to expire in four months' time and a new agreement needed to be established sooner rather than later. He'd also ask for the service to be extended to weekends. If we really wanted to discourage cars from clogging up our County Town, enable people to get to their place of employment and enable easy access to Musgrove Park Hospital, it is clear this service needed to be continued and extended. The environment would suffer as well as people's health as well as gridlock caused by extra cars.

Taunton did not have the infrastructure to cope without the Park and Ride. This is clearly a priority and he was confident a successful solution could be found, and was willing to work with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport to keep this service going. Without it, we could not call ourselves a Garden Town and if we were serious about the environment this would be a no-brainer.

Councillor Mike Rigby, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation responded and thanked Cllr Hunt for his question. We would work very hard to keep the Park and Ride going. As was known the County Council last year felt it no longer had the resources to continue operating the service and the then

Taunton Deane Borough Council stepped in with a twelve month funding offer to keep the service going. We now had a four month period to find a sustainable long-term arrangement for the future of the Taunton Park and Ride. The conversations had already started between the District, County and Bus Operator and meetings were arranged. There had seemed to be an increase in usage recently which was good and would put the service on a more sustainable footing. An update report would be forthcoming in due course. It was a priority for him and the administration as a whole.

## 12. **Council Committees for 2019/2020 and their Terms of Reference**

Councillors considered the report to decide which Committees to establish for the Municipal Year and to decide their size and terms of reference. The numerical allocation of seats to political groups on Committees in accordance with the political balance rules had been calculated and they had made their proposed appointments to the Committees.

- Scrutiny Committee
- Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
- Planning Committee
- Licensing Committee
- Employment Committee

During the discussion of this item, Members made comments and statements and asked questions which included:-

- Councillor Lisgo raised a question as to whether the Scrutiny arrangements were appropriate and whether they would be looked at, as under the former Taunton Deane Borough Council there had been two Scrutiny Committees, and under the new administration's desire to look at Climate Change in depth this could take up a lot of time in itself.
- Councillor Mansell and Weston supported Councillor Lisgo's comments but Councillor Weston also suggested a committee focused entirely on Climate Change and its cross-cutting impact.
- Councillor Mansell referred back to his motion passed earlier in the year on the Climate Emergency Declaration which did make reference to a Working Group being set up which would need to be established.
- The Monitoring Officer advised that the government had just released some new statutory guidance on Scrutiny which we would be planning to report back to Councillors on Scrutiny at the earliest opportunity.
- The Leader, Councillor Smith-Roberts, sympathised with the Councillors concerns having chaired Scrutiny previously, the time it takes to properly debate issues. She would speak to the Leadership team and the Monitoring Officer to keep a track on this and see if it is working or not.

**RESOLVED** that the nominations for Committee seats made by the political groups be ratified and that the composition of the Committees be as detailed below.

<p><b>Scrutiny Committee = 15 seats</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr Keith Wheatley (LD)</li> <li>2. Cllr Philip Stone (LD)</li> <li>3. Cllr Hazel Prior-Sankey (LD)</li> <li>4. Cllr Marcus Kravis (LD)</li> <li>5. Cllr Sue Lees (LD)</li> <li>6. Cllr Danny Wedderkopp (LD)</li> <li>7. Cllr Sue Buller (LD)</li> <li>8. Cllr John Hassall (LD)</li> <li>9. Cllr Gwilym Wren (I)</li> <li>10. Cllr David Mansell (I)</li> <li>11. Cllr John Hunt (I)</li> <li>12. Cllr Ian Aldridge (I)</li> <li>13. Cllr Nick Thwaites (C)</li> <li>14. Cllr Norman Cavill (C)</li> <li>15. Cllr Libby Lisgo (Lab)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Audit, Governance and Standards Committee = 11 seats (plus 2 Independent people and 2 Town and Parish Council representatives)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr Dixie Darch (LD)</li> <li>2. Cllr Sue Buller (LD)</li> <li>3. Cllr Sarah Wakefield (LD)</li> <li>4. Cllr Lee Baker (LD)</li> <li>5. Cllr Caroline Ellis (LD)</li> <li>6. Cllr Simon Coles (LD)</li> <li>7. Cllr Janet Lloyd (I)</li> <li>8. Cllr Hugh Davies (I)</li> <li>9. Cllr Terry Venner (I)</li> <li>10. Cllr Vivienne Stock-Williams (C)</li> <li>11. Cllr Steven Pugsley (C)</li> <li>12. Independent Person – Anne Elder</li> <li>13. Independent Person - Vacant</li> <li>14. Town &amp; Parish Representative – Bryn Wilson</li> <li>15. Town &amp; Parish Representative – Sally de Renzy-Martin</li> </ol>
<p><b>Planning Committee = 15 seats</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr Simon Coles (LD)</li> <li>2. Cllr Marcia Hill (LD)</li> <li>3. Cllr Mark Lithgow (LD)</li> <li>4. Cllr Martin Hill (LD)</li> <li>5. Cllr Sue Buller (LD)</li> <li>6. Cllr Simon Nicholls (LD)</li> <li>7. Cllr Ray Tully (LD)</li> <li>8. Cllr Ed Firmin (LD)</li> <li>9. Cllr Gwilym Wren (I)</li> <li>10. Cllr Ian Aldridge (I)</li> <li>11. Cllr Jean Adkins (I)</li> <li>12. Cllr Janet Lloyd (I)</li> <li>13. Cllr Christopher Morgan (C)</li> <li>14. Cllr Roger Habgood (C)</li> <li>15. Cllr Brenda Weston (Lab)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Licensing Committee = 15 seats</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr Martin Peters (LD)</li> <li>2. Cllr Ray Tully (LD)</li> <li>3. Cllr Marcus Kravis (LD)</li> <li>4. Cllr Sue Lees (LD)</li> <li>5. Cllr Caroline Ellis (LD)</li> <li>6. Cllr Sarah Wakefield (LD)</li> <li>7. Cllr Marcia Hill (LD)</li> <li>8. Cllr Kelly Durdan (I)</li> <li>9. Cllr Marcus Barr (I)</li> <li>10. Cllr Loretta Whetlor (I)</li> <li>11. Cllr Paul Bolton (I)</li> <li>12. Cllr Andrew Hadley (C)</li> <li>13. Cllr Catherine Herbert (C)</li> <li>14. Cllr Andy Milne (C)</li> <li>15. Cllr Libby Lisgo (Lab)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Employment Committee</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts (LD)</li> <li>2. Cllr Ross Henley (LD)</li> <li>3. Cllr Lee Baker (LD)</li> <li>4. Cllr Sue Buller (LD)</li> <li>5. Cllr Gwilym Wren (I)</li> <li>6. Cllr Craig Palmer (I)</li> <li>7. Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew (C)</li> </ol>	

Planning Substitutes: Cllr A Govier (LAB) Cllr J Hassall (LD) Cllr Caroline Ellis (LD) Cllr Sarah Wakefield (LD) Cllr Andy Pritchard (I) Cllr John Hunt (I) Cllr Loretta Whetlor (I) Cllr Craig Palmer (I) Cllr Dave Mansell (I) Cllr Andrew Hadley (C) Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew (C)

Independent Person: By law the Council is required to appoint an Independent Person to work with the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee on complaints about Councillors. Louise Somerville

Independent Members for Audit, Governance and Standards Committee: Anne Elder wishes to continue as an Independent Member of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee. There will be one vacancy – it is recommended that the Council advertise for this position Town and Parish Council reps for the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee:

The former Town and Parish Reps were contacted to see if they wanted to be on the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and all responded positively. It is suggested that 'first come, first served' basis be applied and that Bryn Wilson and Sally de Renzy-Martin be appointed from the list below: 1. Bryn Wilson – Wiveliscombe Parish Council 2. Sally de Renzy-Martin – Watchet Parish Council 3. John Davis – Cutcombe Parish Council 4. Mike Marshall – Ruishton Parish Council 5. Penny Webber – Selworthy and Minehead Without Parish Council

### 13. **Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Councillors considered the report that had been circulated, which was a known list of those outside bodies that Councillors had served on from both Councils in the previous quadrennium.

During the discussion of this item, Members made comments and statements and asked questions which included:-

- Councillor Gwil Wren queried the mechanism for getting members of the Independent Group onto various bodies
- Councillor Smith-Roberts was happy to work with Group Leaders on this issue and get those with the best skill-set assigned and fill those vacancies. She was keen for those on Outside Bodies to report back to this Council on their activities which had not taken place previously.

**RESOLVED** that the Members appointed to serve on Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2019-2020 be as follows, with the caveat that a final complete confirmatory report was to come back to the next Ordinary Meeting of Full Council:

- Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel – Cllr C Booth
- Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership Management Group – Cllr R Henley
- Blackdown Hills Joint Partnership Advisory Committee – Cllr R Henley
- Brewhouse Theatre Board Meetings – Cllr N Cavill
- District Councils Network Assembly Representative – Cllr F Smith-Roberts

- ENGAGE – West Somerset Voluntary Sector Development Agency – Cllr B Allen
- Exmoor National Park Authority – TBC
- Friends of Konigslutter – Cllr D Durdan
- Friends of Vivary Park – Cllr R Lees
- Harbour Board – Cllr A Wedderkopp, Cllr P Pilkington, Cllr L Whetlor & Cllr A Hadley
- Hestercombe Gardens Trust – Cllr Marcia Hill
- Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group – Cllr M Rigby, Cllr P Pilkington, Cllr C Morgan, Cllr L Whetlor
- Heart of the South West LEP Joint Committee – Cllr F Smith-Roberts
- Local Government Association General Assembly – Cllr R Henley & Cllr J Hassall
- Management Committee of Broadlands – VACANCY
- MATA Regal Theatre Co. Ltd – Cllr B Allen
- Minehead BID Board – To Be Confirmed
- Minehead Coastal Communities Team – Cllr H Farbahi (PFH), Cllr M Rigby, Cllr P Pilkington, Cllr C Palmer, 1 VACANCY
- Minehead EYE Management Committee – Cllr B Allen
- Monitoring and Evaluation Group – West Somerset Sports and Leisure – Cllr R Lees
- Parrett Catchment Project Management Committee – Cllr P Stone
- Parrett Internal Drainage Board – Cllr D Durdan & Cllr P Stone
- Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee – Cllr A Trollope-Bellew & Cllr G Wren & Cllr D Darch & Cllr H Davies
- Rural Services Network – Cllr M Blaker
- Safer Somerset Partnership – Cllr C Booth
- Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant Champion and Partnership – Cllr A Milne
- Somerset Biodiversity Steering Group – Cllr G Wren
- Somerset Building Control Partnership – Cllr H Farbahi & Cllr A Wedderkopp
- Somerset Building Preservation Trust – Cllr Marcia Hill & Cllr S Coles
- Somerset Growth Board – Cllr H Farbahi
- Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board – Cllr C Booth
- Joint Scrutiny Panel of Somerset Waste Board – Cllr J Hassall & Cllr A Trollope-Bellew
- Somerset Levels and Moors Local Action For Rural Communities (LARC) Executive Board - VACANCY
- Somerset Local Access Forum – No rep required until 2023
- Somerset Pensions Committee – Cllr R Henley
- Somerset Passenger Transport Forum – Cllr J Hassall
- Somerset Playing Fields Association – Cllr R Lees
- Somerset Primary Care Trust – Cllr C Ellis

- Somerset Rivers Authority - Cllr F Smith-Roberts
- Somerset Rivers Authority Scrutiny Panel – Cllr S Coles (Cllr L Lisgo alternate)
- Somerset Strategic Housing Partnership – Cllr F Smith
- Somerset Waste Board – Cllr A Wedderkopp & Cllr D Mansell
- Somerset Water Management Board – Cllr D Durdan
- Somerset Waterways Advisory Committee – Cllr A Wedderkopp & Cllr D Durdan
- Somerset West Private Sector Housing Partnership – Cllr F Smith
- South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) Members Meeting & Board – Cllr S Lees & Cllr R Henley
- South West Councils Employers Panel – Cllr R Henley
- South West Councils Membership Representative – Cllr F Smith-Roberts
- Tacchi-Morris Management Committee – Cllr R Tully & Cllr N Cavill
- Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust – Foundation Trust Council of Governors - VACANCY
- Taunton Aid in Sickness Fund – Cllr R Lees
- Taunton Deane Bowling Club – Cllr F Smith
- Taunton Deane District Citizens Advice Bureau – Cllr S Lees
- Taunton Deane Domestic Abuse Forum – Cllr C Booth
- Taunton Garden Town Cultural Forum – Cllr B Allen & Cllr N Cavill
- Taunton Heritage Trust – Cllr A Pritchard & Cllr L Lisgo (Cllr R Habgood - Heritage Champion)
- Taunton Strategic Advisory Board – Cllr F Smith-Roberts
- The Albemarle Centre – Cllr C Ellis & Cllr Marcia Hill
- The Making It Local – Blackdown Hills and East Devon Local Action Group – Cllr R Henley
- Visit Exmoor Executive Board – Cllr P Pilkington & Cllr H Farbahi
- Watchet Coastal Communities Team – Cllr P Pilkington & Cllr L Whetlor
- Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee – Cllr L Whetlor
- West Somerset Advice Bureau – Cllr I Aldridge Dep: Cllr P Pilkington
- West Somerset Flood Group – Cllr Pilkington to Chair
- West Somerset Railway Partnership Development Group – Cllr B Allen & Cllr J Hassall.

14. **Meetings Timetable for 2019/2020**

**RESOLVED** that the Committee Meetings Timetable for 2019/2020 was approved with the caveat that the Planning Committee timings were to be reviewed in due course.

15. **To authorise the sealing or signing of documents to give effect to any decisions taken**

**RESOLVED** that the Common Seal of Somerset West and Taunton Council be authorised.

(The Meeting ended at 7.15 pm)