

SWT Annual Council - 24 May 2022

Present: Councillors Ian Aldridge, Benet Allen, Lee Baker, Marcus Barr, Mark Blaker, Chris Booth, Sue Buller, Norman Cavill, Simon Coles, Dixie Darch, Hugh Davies, Tom Deakin, Dave Durdan, Kelly Durdan, Caroline Ellis, Habib Farbahi, Ed Firmin, Steve Griffiths, Roger Habgood, Andrew Hadley, Barrie Hall, John Hassall, Nicole Hawkins, Ross Henley, Marcia Hill, John Hunt, Dawn Johnson, Richard Lees, Sue Lees, Libby Lisgo, Janet Lloyd, Dave Mansell, Andy Milne, Simon Nicholls, Craig Palmer, Derek Perry, Martin Peters, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Andy Pritchard, Steven Pugsley, Mike Rigby, Francesca Smith, Federica Smith-Roberts, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Andrew Sully, Nick Thwaites, Terry Venner, Sarah Wakefield, Danny Wedderkopp, Brenda Weston, Loretta Whetlor and Gwil Wren

Officers: Lesley Dolan, Paul Fitzgerald, Chris Hall, Andrew Pritchard, Clare Rendell, Amy Tregellas, Kevin Williams and Paul Harding

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

1. Election of Chair

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

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved that Councillor Richard Lees be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing municipal year.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors A Govier, M Kravis, M Lithgow, A Trollope-Bellew and R Tully.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting of Full Council

(Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 29 March 2022 circulated with the agenda)

Resolved that the minutes of Full Council held 29 March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. 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	Reason	Action Taken
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		Interest		
Cllr I Aldridge	All Items	Williton	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Baker	All Items	SCC, Cheddon Fitzpaine & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Barr	All Items	SCC & Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr C Booth	All Items	Wellington and Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr N Cavill	All Items	SCC & West Monkton	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr S Coles	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Darch	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr H Davies	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr T Deakin	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr C Ellis	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr H Farbahi	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr A Hadley	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr R Henley	All Items	SCC & Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr Mrs Hill	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr J Hunt	All Items	SCC & Bishop's Hull	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Johnson	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 J Lloyd	All Items	Wellington & Sampford Arundel	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Mansell	All Items	SCC	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 D Perry	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Peters	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr H Prior-	All Items	SCC & Taunton	Personal	Spoke and Voted

Sankey		Charter Trustee		
Cllr S Pugsley	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Rigby	All Items	SCC & Bishops Lydeard	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith-Roberts	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr A Sully	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr N Thwaites	All Items	Dulverton	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr T Venner	All Items	Minehead	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr S Wakefield	All Items	SCC	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	SCC & Clerk to Milverton PC	Personal	Spoke and Voted

6. **Public Participation - To receive only in relation to the business for which the Extraordinary Meeting has been called any questions, statements or petitions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 14,15 and 16**

No members of the public had requested to speak on any item on the agenda.

7. **To receive any communications or announcements from the Chair of the Council**

The Chair of the Council highlighted the many celebrations being held across the District for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and urged Councillors to attend some of the events.

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

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements:-

- The Leader thanked Councillor Gwil Wren for all his work over the past three years as Group Leader of the Opposition and welcomed Councillor Loretta Whetlor to the role.
- The Leader gave an update on the Executive Members for the new Municipal Year.

9. **To receive only in relation to the business for which the Extraordinary Meeting has been called any questions from Councillors in accordance**

with Council Procedure Rule 13

No questions were received in relation to Procedure Rule 13.

10. Election of the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Resolved that Councillor Sue Buller be elected as Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

11. Election of the Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee

Resolved that Councillor Libby Lisgo be elected as Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

12. Somerset West and Taunton Council Committees, Terms of Reference, Committee Allocation and Appointments to Committees

The Group Leaders each gave a verbal update on some amendments they had made to the Committee Compositions.

Resolved that Full Council approved:

- a) The Committee structure as set out in articles in the Constitution as set out in Appendix A
- b) The size of each Committee as set out in section 4.3 of this report
- c) The Terms of Reference of those Committees as set out in Appendix B
- d) The numerical political allocation as set out in Appendix C
- e) The Councillor appointments to Committees as set out in Appendix D, as amended.

13. Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Group Leaders gave a verbal update on some amendments to the list of representatives on the Outside Bodies.

Resolved that Full Council agreed the Appointments of Representatives to Outside Bodies for 2022/2023 (attached as Appendix A, as amended).

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

Resolved that Full Council approved the list of officers delegated to sign and seal Council documents as per the Constitution's Scheme of Delegation.

15. Decision taken under the urgency rules regarding the Discretionary Council Tax Energy Payment Scheme

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors were happy to support the scheme.
- Councillors agreed that Central Government needed to do more to help residents with their energy bills.
- Councillors requested a summary of the scheme to be able to share with customers.
- Councillors thanked the officers for all their hard work.

Resolved that Full Council noted the decision made by the Chief Executive on 5 May 2022 under paragraph 5 of the Budget and Policy Framework within the Council's Constitution in relation to the use of the £292k funding received from Government.

16. **Formal delegation to the Parish Councils of Wellington, Pitminster and Milverton to determine specified types of planning application until 31 March 2023**

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Councillors were pleased that the relevant Parish Councils had been granted the delegation powers within the report.
- Councillors agreed that it was a good scheme which involved Parish Councils in the Planning process.
- Councillors were keen to carry the scheme forward into the New Unitary Council.
- Councillors agreed that planning training had helped in local planning decisions.
- Councillors highlighted that some Parishes should be added to the scheme.

Resolved that Full Council agreed the formal delegation to the Parish Councils of Wellington, Pitminster and Milverton under S101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and S1 of the Localism Act 2011 to determine specified types of planning application as set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report and included in a delegation agreement until 31 March 2023.

17. **Temporary Appointment of Members to Town and Parish Councils**

Resolved that Full Council approved:-

- a) Delegated the responsibility for the calling of any additional polls required after a Void Election where a Parish was inquorate to the Chief Executive as Returning Officer in line with the requirements of The Representation of the People Act 1983.
- b) Delegated the responsibility for making temporary appointments to inquorate Parish and Town Councils along with the making of the necessary Order to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders in line with the procedure set out in Appendix A.
- c) Approved the amendment of the Constitution to include the recommended delegations above at a) and b) as a function of the Chief Executive at 4.2 on Page 44 of the SWT Constitution under Responsibility for Functions.

(The Meeting ended at 6.50 pm)