



EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 12 September 2018 at 2.35pm

Shire Hall, Gloucester

Present

Cllr Matt Babbage	Cllr Stephen Hirst	Cllr Brian Robinson
Cllr Robert Bird	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Cllr Rachel Smith
Cllr Richard Boyles	Cllr Carole Allaway Martin	Cllr Vernon Smith
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Patrick Molyneux (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Lynden Stowe
Cllr Chris Coleman	Cllr Nigel Moor	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Dr John Cordwell	Cllr Graham Morgan	Cllr Robert Vines
Cllr Kevin Cromwell	Cllr David Norman MBE	Cllr Eva Ward
Cllr Stephen Davies	Cllr Brian Oosthuysen	Cllr Simon Wheeler
Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr Shaun Parsons	Cllr Jack Williams
Cllr Kate Haigh	Cllr Sajid Patel	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Terry Hale	Cllr Loraine Patrick	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE
Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr John Payne	Cllr Roger Wilson
Cllr Joe Harris	Cllr Alan Preest	Cllr Will Windsor-Clive
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Cllr Keith Rippington	
Cllr Colin Hay	Cllr Nigel Robbins OBE	

Apologies: Cllr Phil Awford, Honorary Alderman Bill Crowther, Cllr Bernard Fisher, Cllr Andrew Gravells, Cllr Jeremy Hilton, Honorary Alderman Bill Hobman, Cllr Dr Andrew Miller, Honorary Alderman Terence Parker, Cllr Steve Robinson, Honorary Alderman John Sewell, Honorary Alderman Gordon Shurmer, Cllr Klara Sudbury, Cllr Brian Tipper, Cllr Pam Tracey MBE, Honorary Alderman Mike Williams and Cllr Suzanne Williams

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A copy of the declarations of interest is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

66. CREATION OF CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Under Section 3.1.2 of Part 4 the Constitution, the following five members had called for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to consider the motion below:

Councillors Paul Hodgkinson, John Payne, Rachel Smith, Eva Ward and Lesley Williams.

The motion was proposed by Cllr Rachel Smith and seconded by Cllr Eva Ward.

This Council notes the recent global heatwave, which has seen record high temperatures across Europe and Africa.

This Council further notes that as we move into the future, the effects of climate change will increasingly impact on local authorities, particularly with regard to public health, highways management and infrastructure planning.

This Council therefore resolves to request the Leader of the Council to appoint an additional Cabinet Member (not a Cabinet Champion) with specific responsibility for mitigation and adaptation in response to climate change.

In presenting the motion, Cllr Smith thanked fellow members for requesting the Extraordinary Council Meeting and the Chairman for agreeing to hold the meeting. She believed that climate change was the biggest threat facing the Council and society. She referred to the rise in social care referrals as a result of the heat wave over the Summer months and the increased incidence of extreme weather events. She said that she was pleased that the Leader of the Council had recognised these concerns by appointing a Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning which gave greater coverage of climate change issues.

The following amendment proposed by Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader of the Council, (see highlighted text below) was accepted by the Council:

~~This Council notes the recent global heatwave, which has seen record high temperatures across Europe and Africa.~~

This Council further notes that as we move into the future, the effects of climate change are increasing adverse weather events and will continue to impact on local authorities, particularly with regard to public health, highways management, flooding and infrastructure planning.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

~~This Council therefore resolves to request the Leader of the Council to appoint an additional Cabinet Member (not a Cabinet Champion) with specific responsibility solely for mitigation and adaption in response to climate change.~~

This Council therefore welcomes the opportunity of demonstrating our support for creating a sustainable greener Gloucestershire, by ensuring we deliver the right growth, investment and planning.

This Council therefore supports the appointment of a Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning who will coordinate the county's strategies for a number of key fronts identified in Vision 2050 and through effective planning pursue a sustainable future for our county and environment.

Cllr Hawthorne advised that the change to portfolios and the increase in the membership of the Cabinet would become effective immediately. The new Cabinet Member would be Cllr Dave Norman who would have responsibility for Public Protection, Parking and Libraries. He said that the Council had been working closely with partners over the last two years in looking at the future of the county. He recognised that there was much more to do but the new Cabinet structure would allow a greater focus on Vision 2050 including climate change adaption.

Cllr Nigel Moor provided more information on his new role as Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning. He referred to the success of the LED street lighting project in reducing energy consumption, use of recycled material for resurfacing roads, flood prevention schemes across the county, the new energy from waste facility, increases in recycling rates, providing more electric car charging points and the steps taken to reduce single-use plastics. He stated that the Council was well ahead of target on reducing emissions on the Council's estate and buildings. He said that the Council was opposed to Government proposals to allow fracking applications to bypass the normal democratic process. He explained that the Council would take leadership on the 2050 Vision including climate adaption and reducing emissions.

Following a request, the Chairman agreed that questions could be asked of Cllr Moor about his new role. Cllr Moor said that there would be a carbon reduction target as part of the review of the Local Transport Plan and he would look to involve members in discussions around this. Referring to Vision 2050, he recognised the value of having a member event to consider the direction of the county once the findings of the Big Conversation were published. He undertook to provide members with more information on the Council's carbon reduction targets. He also agreed to update members regularly on progress with the roll out of electric vehicles.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, who had signed the request for an Extraordinary Council Meeting, thanked Cllr Smith for bringing the motion forward. He said that there was

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no doubt that climate change was a reality and he hoped that Cllr Moor would ensure that it was given the highest priority within the Council.

Other members expressed concern at the impact of climate change. They hoped that the Council could influence the planning process at district level to promote renewable energy and new technology like heat source pumps.

A member welcomed the additional Cabinet resource for environment matters but he said that he was concerned that practical solutions had been ignored over the years and instead there had been a focus on suffocating legislation. This had resulted in energy being much more expensive and excessive diesel pollution.

Cllr Eva Ward, who had seconded the original motion, believed that the appointment of a Cabinet Member with a stronger focus on climate change sent out a positive message from the Council. She said that she had confidence in Cllr Moor to take the climate change agenda forward. She stated that councillors were entrusted with the care of the county and the care of the planet.

In summing up, Cllr Smith welcomed the steps that were being taken to address climate change but she hoped that the Council could be even more ambitious in future.

RESOLVED that

This Council notes that as we move into the future, the effects of climate change are increasing adverse weather events and will continue to impact on local authorities, particularly with regard to public health, highways management, flooding and infrastructure planning.

This Council therefore welcomes the opportunity of demonstrating our support for creating a sustainable greener Gloucestershire, by ensuring we deliver the right growth, investment and planning.

This Council therefore supports the appointment of a Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning who will coordinate the county's strategies for a number of key fronts identified in Vision 2050 and through effective planning pursue a sustainable future for our county and environment.

The meeting ended at 3.30pm