



MINUTES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, 17 May 2017 at 10am

VENUE: Shire Hall, Gloucester

Present:

Cllr Phil Awford	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Cllr Steve Robinson
Cllr Matt Babbage	Cllr Stephen Hirst	Cllr Rachel Smith
Cllr Rob Bird	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Cllr Vernon Smith
Cllr Richard Boyles	Cllr Carole Allaway Martin	Cllr Lynden Stowe
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Andrew Miller	Cllr Klara Sudbury
Cllr Chris Coleman	Cllr Patrick Molyneux	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Kevin Cromwell	Cllr Nigel Moor	Cllr Brian Tipper
Cllr Stephen Davies	Cllr Graham Morgan	Cllr Pam Tracey MBE
Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr David Norman	Cllr Robert Vines
Cllr Bernard Fisher	Cllr Brian Oosthuysen	Cllr Eva Ward
Cllr Andrew Gravells (Vice-chairman)	Cllr Shaun Parsons (Chairman)	Cllr Simon Wheeler
Cllr Kate Haigh	Cllr Sajid Patel	Cllr Jack Williams
Cllr Terry Hale	Cllr Loraine Patrick	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr John Payne	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE
Cllr Joe Harris	Cllr Alan Preest	Cllr Suzanne Williams
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Cllr Nigel Robbins OBE	Cllr Roger Wilson
Cllr Colin Hay	Cllr Brian Robinson	Cllr Will Windsor-Clive

Apologies: Cllr Keith Rippington

Honorary Aldermen Bill Hobman and Terry Parker

27. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Colin Hay thanked members and officers for their support over the last year. He made special mention of Michelle Pidgeon in Democratic Services, who had provided day-to-day support to him in his role as Chairman, and Cllr Shaun Parsons, Vice-chairman of the Council, for his support over the course of the year.

He said that it had been a great honour to represent the Council at events across the county and events further afield. He said that Gloucestershire was a great county and the role of the Chairman was important for residents and businesses in promoting the county.

Cllr Hay stated that just before the start of the meeting John Thurston had presented the Council with a Gloucestershire Flag on behalf of the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire. He explained that green represented the trees of the Forest of Dean, blue represented the three rivers in the county and yellow represented the colour of the Cotswold stone. It was intended that the flag would be put up in the Council Chamber alongside the Union Jack. All councillors have been given lapel badges of the flag to wear.

Members paid tribute to Cllr Hay for his even-handed and non-partisan approach to chairing Council meetings.

Cllr Hay invited nominations for the position of Chairman of Council for 2017-18. Cllr Shaun Parsons was proposed and seconded.

There being no other nominations, it was:

RESOLVED that *Cllr Shaun Parsons be elected as Chairman of Council for the 2017-18 civic year.*

Cllr Parsons made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the Roll of Members as Chairman.

Cllr Parsons thanked members for their support. He said that it was a tremendous honour to be elected as Chairman of the County Council and he would do his very best to serve members equally and fairly.

28. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman invited nominations for Vice-chairman of Council for the 2017-18 civic year. Cllr Andrew Gravells and Cllr Colin Hay were proposed and seconded.

On being put to a vote, it was:

RESOLVED that *Cllr Andrew Gravells be appointed as Vice-chairman of Council for the 2017-18 civic year.*

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Cllr Gravells made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the Roll of Members as Vice-chairman.

Cllr Gravells thanked members for their support and said that he was looking forward to supporting Cllr Parsons as the Chairman of the Council.

29. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

31. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman invited nominations for Leader of the Council. Cllr Mark Hawthorne was proposed and seconded.

There being no other nominations, it was:

RESOLVED that Cllr Mark Hawthorne be appointed as Leader of the Council for the four year term of the Council.

Cllr Hawthorne stated that it was a great privilege to be re-appointed as Leader of the Council and he said that he would serve the Council to the best of his ability.

32. CABINET MEMBERSHIP

The Leader of the Council announced that he had appointed the following Cabinet members:

Cllr Theodoulou - Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Change

Cllr Vernon Smith – Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood

Cllr Nigel Moor – Cabinet Member for Fire, Planning and Infrastructure

Cllr Lynden Stowe – Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Growth

Cllr Roger Wilson – Cabinet Member for Vulnerable Adults and Commissioning

Cllr Kathy Williams – Cabinet Member for Long-term Care
Cllr Richard Boyles – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Cllr Tim Harman – Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities

Answering a question, the Leader of the Council explained that the special responsibility allowance for the new Cabinet position for Economy, Skills and Growth would be more than covered through the removal of the special responsibility allowances for the 'Shadows'. He said that the Shadow role had been necessary for the Council when there was no overall control but was not required for a majority administration.

33. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) **New Council**
The Chairman welcomed newly elected members and congratulated returning members on their re-election to the County Council.
- b) **IDAHOBIT**
The Chairman advised that 17 May was International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, a worldwide celebration of identities relating to sexuality and gender. The Council was marking the day by flying the rainbow pride flag above Shire Hall. Prism, the County Council's LGBT staff network, would be hosting a cake sale on the council chamber landing to raise money for two LGBT charities.
- c) **Gloucestershire 'One You' Pledge**
The Chairman invited members and staff to take up a four week pledge to move more, eat well and stress less. The campaign would start on Monday, 5 June for four weeks and encouraged everyone to make small behaviour changes to boost their health and wellbeing. More information would be provided in Members' Matter.
- d) **Member induction events**
The session on 18 May would cover post bag issues, schools, complaints, freedom of information and data protection, highways and local insight profiles. The session on 19 May was on effective communication and handling the media. Both newly elected and returning members were welcome to attend.
- e) **Members' Matter**
The Chairman reminded members to log into the Members' Matter website (login *dsu*, password *members17*) every week to find out about member

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events, tips on using their iPads, briefings on key issues and press releases. The Members' Matter email was sent out every Friday.

- f) Members' ICT
Council officers would be available after the meeting to provide advice and assistance.
- g) Football
The Chairman congratulated Forest Green Rovers Football Club on their promotion to the Football League.

34. PETITIONS

No petitions were presented.

35. POLITICAL BALANCE AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Members considered appointments to committees, Pension Board, Adoption Panel, Fostering Panel and Police and Crime Panel.

There was more than one nomination for the chairs of the following committees:

- o Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Brian Robinson and Cllr Joe Harris.
- o Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Carole Allaway Martin and Cllr Iain Dobie.
- o Audit and Governance Committee – Cllr Nigel Robbins and Cllr Brian Oosthuysen.

On being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED that

- a) *Members be appointed to the committees, Pensions Board, Adoption Panel, Fostering Panel and Police and Crime Panel as indicated in Appendix 1 to the minutes.*
- b) *The following chairs of committees be appointed:*

<i>Overview and Scrutiny Management</i>	<i>Cllr Patrick Molyneux</i>
<i>Children and Families</i>	<i>Cllr Brian Robinson</i>
<i>Economic Growth</i>	<i>Cllr Dave Norman</i>

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*Environment and Communities
Health and Care
Audit and Governance*

*Cllr Rob Bird
Cllr Carole Allaway Martin
Cllr Brian Oosthuysen*

36. INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Strategy and Challenge and Monitoring Officer relating to the appointment of Independent Persons. Independent Persons assisted the Monitoring Officer and the councillor-led Hearings Panel in determining if members or co-opted members who were subject to allegations of misconduct had broken the Council's Code of Conduct.

The Chairman thanked Tim Mead, Independent Person from 2013, who had stepped down from the role. He said that the Council would be writing to Tim formally to thank him.

A member requested that the vacant position be kept under review and that efforts be made to improve the gender balance when a new Independent Person was recruited.

RESOLVED to appoint Graham Baum and John Milner as Independent Persons for a further four years until May 2021.

37. POLITICAL ASSISTANTS

Cllr Jeremy Hilton, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest, left the meeting for this item.

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Strategy and Challenge and Monitoring Officer setting out the legal position regarding the appointment of Political Assistants.

Referring to paragraph 1.4 of the report, the Chairman advised that the Political Assistants worked under the direction of their Political Group Leader but were line managed within Democratic Services.

Cllr Lesley Williams and Cllr Rachel Smith advised that the Labour and Green members had formed a political group called the Labour and Green Cooperative Alliance. They explained that under the arrangement the Labour and Green members would work cooperatively but would continue to look at issues on an individual basis.

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RESOLVED to appoint political assistants for the following qualifying groups for the term of the Council:

Conservative Group – 31 members

Liberal Democrat Group – 14 members

Labour and Green Cooperative Alliance – 7 members

38. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED to approve the calendar of meetings for 2018 as shown at Appendix 2 to the minutes.

The meeting ended at 11.15am

CHAIRMAN