

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting of the
WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen,
Witney, on Wednesday 20 May 2015 at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: N A MacRae MBE (Chairman), Mrs M J Crossland (Vice Chairman), A J Adams, Mrs J C Baker, M A Barrett, A C Beaney, R J M Bishop, M Brennan, Mrs L C Carter, Mrs L J Chapman, A S Coles, J C Cooper, D A Cotterill, C Cottrell-Dormer, R A Courts, C G Dingwall, Mrs J M Doughty, H B Eaglestone, P Emery, D S T Enright, Mrs E H N Fenton, E J Fenton, S J Good, A M Graham, J Haine, P J Handley, A D Harvey, Miss G R Hill, H J Howard, E H James, P D Kelland, R A Langridge, Ms E P R Leffman, Mrs L E C Little, R D J McFarlane, J F Mills, T J Morris, B J Norton, T N Owen, Dr E M E Poskitt, A H K Postan, W D Robinson, G Saul, D A Snow and G H L Wall.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

By virtue of the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Mr MacRae took the Chair and invited nominations for the office of Chairman. It was:

RESOLVED: that Mr N A MacRae MBE be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Members for their support.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman invited nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

RESOLVED: that Mrs M J Crossland be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

The Vice-Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Members for their support.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2015, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N G Colston, P J G Dorward, T B Simcox, and B J Woodruff.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers relating to items to be considered at the meeting.

6. RECEIPT OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Councillors

Mr MacRae welcomed the newly elected and re-elected Councillors to the meeting and introduced the new councillors.

Thames Path National Trail Partnership

Mr Norton congratulated Councillor Steve Good on his appointment as Chairman of the Thames Path National Trail Partnership. Mr Good was the Council representative on the River Thames Alliance and the new partnership brought together many organisations with a wide range of responsibilities in respect of the River Thames.

The appointment was an opportunity to promote the Thames Path and encourage healthy activity. Mr Good had indicated his pride at being asked to head up the partnership and was looking forward to working with all partners in the project. Mr Norton highlighted that the organisation would be based in Eynsham.

Former Councillor Simon Hoare

Mr Norton reported that former Councillor Simon Hoare had been elected as Member of Parliament for the North Dorset constituency at the recent election with an increased majority of over 20,000. Mr Norton advised that he had passed on congratulations to Mr Hoare.

7. PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

There were no submissions from members of the public under the provisions of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

8. RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT ON ELECTIONS HELD ON 7 MAY 2015

The Council received and noted the report of the Returning Officer giving details of the results of the District Council elections held on 7 May 2015.

9. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

The Leader of the Council announced his appointment of the Deputy Leader and other Executive Members in accordance with Article 7.5 of the Constitution.

In doing so, Mr Norton advised that he had given a lot of thought to the membership of his new Executive in light of future developments such as the 2020 project and the likelihood of continued funding cuts; and indicated that he was increasing the Cabinet to seven members with his responsibilities staying as before.

Mr Norton reported that Councillor Colin Dingwall would have a portfolio with responsibility for Innovation and Shared Services including the 2020 Vision project, and that he had adjusted other portfolios to try and distribute the workload across Cabinet members more evenly. Councillor Richard Langridge would take on the Resources portfolio, which included Finance and Management. Councillor David Harvey would continue as Environment portfolio holder with Councillor Warwick Robinson taking responsibility for the Economy and Strategic Planning. Councillor Mills would be joining the Executive with responsibility for Leisure and Health and Councillor Robert Courts would be responsible for the Communities and Housing portfolio.

Mr Norton indicated that the Cabinet changes would put the council in a stronger position as the council moved forward with the 2020 Vision Programme of sharing services, the Local Plan and work with the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership. Mr Norton highlighted any cuts to services had been resisted through planned efficiencies and shared working programmes and having a strong Cabinet would help the council to continue to face external pressures with further austerity ahead.

Mr Norton advised that he had appointed Councillor Robinson as Deputy Leader as his portfolio covered a number of key areas and he was well placed to cover for Mr Norton as necessary.

10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The previously circulated report of the Chief Executive regarding the appointment of Committees of the Council was received and considered, as was a supplementary paper which was tabled arising from the formation of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council, and the consequent need to re-calculate the apportionment of committee seats under the political balance requirements.

Further to the supplementary report, Mr Norton advised that the Conservative Group would be taking an extra seat on the Economic and Social Overview & Scrutiny Committee and that, as a consequence, Councillor Snow, the Independent member, would be allocated a seat on the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees. In respect of the Licensing Committee it was proposed that this be established with a membership of eleven members with nine seats being allocated to the Conservative Group and one seat each to the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups.

Mr Norton then proposed the recommendations and this was seconded by Mr Dingwall and on being put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committees indicated in the original report be appointed, with the specified memberships;
- (b) That seats on those Committees be allocated to the political groups and the non-aligned member in accordance with the rules relating to political balance, and as indicated in the Table under paragraph 3.2 of the supplementary report, subject to the Conservative Group being allocated an additional seat on the Economic and Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to the Independent/non-aligned member being appointed to serve on the Environment and Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- (c) That Members of the political groups be appointed to each of the Committees in accordance with the wishes of the political groups;
- (d) That in accordance with, and subject to the exceptions in, Rule 4 of the Council Procedure Rules, all Members of each political group not appointed to a committee or sub-committee be named as alternate members for the member or members of that group who have been appointed to that committee or sub-committee;
- (e) That the Licensing Committee be re-constituted for 2015-2016, with a membership of 11; and
- (f) That the seats on the Licensing Committee be allocated to the political groups in accordance with the principles of political balance, and be filled in accordance with their wishes, with the Committee to comprise nine Conservative members and one each from the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups.

11. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM FOR THE ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: that Mr N A MacRae MBE be appointed Chairman pro-tem of the Council's Committees for those meetings to be held following this meeting.

12. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

The Council received and noted the report of the Chief Executive which gave details of documents numbered 11093 to 11099C.

The meeting closed at 2.15pm

CHAIRMAN

* Chairman
Vice Chairman

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES 2015/2016

**(CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL: N A MacRae *
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mrs M J Crossland #)**

CABINET (7)

Member	Area of Responsibility
B J Norton (Leader of the Council)	Leader of the Council: Policy Framework; Corporate Plan; Co-ordination of Executive functions; Public Relations; Emergency Planning; Oxfordshire Partnership Board; Oxfordshire Growth Board; Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership; Oxfordshire Leaders; Representation on Regional and National Bodies, including the Local Government Association and South East England Councils
R A Langridge	Resources: Finance and Management; Human Resources; Equalities and Diversity; Customer Services; Information Technology and services; Asset Management; Project Management; Procurement Champion; Broadband Champion; Council tax and Benefits
A D Harvey	Environment: Waste Collection and Recycling; Street Scene (Cleansing Litter and Grounds Maintenance); Flood Alleviation; Environmental Enforcement; Environmental Health; Environment and Waste Partnership; Health and Safety; Climate Change and Energy Advice; Green Deal Together; Licensing; Car Parking and Transport
J F Mills	Leisure and Health: Tourism; Visitor Information Centres; Sports and Leisure Facilities and Strategy; Arts and Sports Development/Grants; Village Hall Grants; Playground Grants; Lifelong Learning; Young Persons Champion; Community and Public Health; Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board; Elderly Persons Champion
R A Courts	Communities and Housing: Parish/Town Council Liaison; Support to the voluntary sector; Community Safety Partnerships; Crime and Disorder; Neighbourhood Policing; Scrutiny of Police and Crime Commissioner; Housing Allocations; Homelessness; Sheltered Housing Accommodation; Supporting People; Safeguarding
W D Robinson (Deputy Leader)	Strategic Planning and Economy: Regional Spatial Strategy; Local Plan; Government planning policies and guidance; Conservation and Design; Design and Historic Environment Champion for the District; Landscape/Biodiversity; Strategic Housing; Provision of Affordable Housing; Building Control; Economic Development; Rural Development; Business Liaison; Inward Investment
C G Dingwall	Innovation and Shared Services (to oversee implementation of 2020 Vision): 2020 Vision; Member of the 2020 Programme Board and Joint Committee; Shared Services; Efficiency Agenda; Corporate Improvement Plan; Councillor Development; Performance Management

Conservative		Labour	Liberal Democrat	Independent
AUDIT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (17)				
A J Adams * Mrs J C Baker M A Barrett N G Colston C G Dingwall	Mrs J M Doughty # H B Eaglestone P Emery E J Fenton Miss G R Hill	H J Howard Mrs L E C Little R D J McFarlane J F Mills	D S T Enright G Saul	A M Graham
MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (5)				
M Brennan S J Good #	E H James N A MacRae *		G Saul	
STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE (5)				
A J Adams A C Beaney R A Langridge #	N A MacRae * T N Owen (Standing Deputy)		J C Cooper	
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (7)				
Mrs L J Chapman # P Emery A D Harvey	R A Langridge * B J Norton W D Robinson		Ms E P R Leffman	
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE (24)				
M A Barrett A C Beaney R J M Bishop N G Colston D A Cotterill C Cottrell-Dormer Mrs M J Crossland	H B Eaglestone Mrs E H N Fenton S J Good J Haine * P J Handley H J Howard P D Kelland	R A Langridge T J Morris B J Norton T N Owen W D Robinson # T B Simcox	D S T Enright G Saul	A M Graham Dr E M E Poskitt
LOWLANDS				
M A Barrett Mrs M J Crossland # H B Eaglestone Mrs E H N Fenton	S J Good J Haine P J Handley H J Howard	P D Kelland R A Langridge B J Norton W D Robinson *	D S T Enright	

Conservative			Labour	Liberal Democrat	Independent
UPLANDS AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE					
A C Beaney	D A Cotterill #	T J Morris	G Saul	A M Graham	
R J M Bishop	C Cottrell-Dormer	T N Owen		Dr E M E Poskitt	
N G Colston	J Haine *	T B Simcox			
(Ex officio Non-Voting Member: (W D Robinson, Vice Chairman of Development Control Committee))					
URGENCY COMMITTEE (11)					
D A Cotterill	A D Harvey	B J Norton *	D S T Enright	J C Cooper	
Mrs M J Crossland	R A Langridge	T J Morris			
P J Handley	N A MacRae	W D Robinson #			
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (14)					
M A Barrett	H B Eaglestone	P D Kelland	Mrs L C Carter	J C Cooper	
A C Beaney	Mrs E H N Fenton #	Mrs L E C Little			
Mrs M J Crossland	J Haine	T N Owen			
Mrs J M Doughty	P J Handley *	B J Woodruff			
FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (14)					
A J Adams	P J G Dorward	T J Morris *	G Saul	Dr E M E Poskitt	D A Snow
Mrs J C Baker #	S J Good	A H K Postan			
D A Cotterill	H J Howard	G H L Wall			
C Cottrell-Dormer	E H James				
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (14)					
M A Barrett	P J G Dorward	Miss G R Hill	A S Coles	Ms E P R Leffman	D A Snow
R J M Bishop	H B Eaglestone	H J Howard			
M Brennan	P Emery #	A H K Postan			
D A Cotterill *	E J Fenton				
LICENSING COMMITTEE (11)					
M A Barrett	S J Good #	Mrs L E C Little	G Saul	Ms E P R Leffman	
Mrs J M Doughty	E H James	N A MacRae *			
H B Eaglestone	R A Langridge	A H K Postan			