

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 18 May 2016 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, R J M Bishop, M Brennan, Mrs L C Carter, Mrs L J Chapman, A S Coles, N G Colston, J C Cooper, D A Cotterill, C Cottrell-Dormer, R A Courts, C G Dingwall, P J G Dorward, Mrs J M Doughty, H B Eaglestone, P Emery, D S T Enright, Mrs E H N Fenton, E J Fenton, S J Good, J Haine, P J Handley, A D Harvey, Miss G R Hill, H J Howard, E H James, P D Kelland, R A Langridge, Mrs L E C Little, J F Mills, T J Morris, T N Owen, Dr E M E Poskitt, A H K Postan, W D Robinson, G Saul, T B Simcox, H E T St John, G H L Wall and B J Woodruff.

I. 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

Mr MacRae advised that responses to questions asked at the last meeting had been prepared and would be circulated to councillors in due course.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2016, 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 A C Beaney, A M Graham, Ms E P R Leffman, R D J McFarlane and Mrs C E Reynolds

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

6.1 New Councillors

Mr MacRae welcomed the newly elected and re-elected Councillors to the meeting and introduced Mr St John, the new member for North Leigh ward.

6.2 Sir Barry Norton

The Chairman reported that Sir Barry Norton had expressed his thanks to members and officers for their best wishes following his retirement from the council. A collection had been held and Sir Barry had been presented with a laptop.

6.3 Cokethorpe School

Mr MacRae reported that an event had recently been held in the Council Chamber with Year 6 pupils from Cokethorpe School holding a debate. Mr MacRae thanked Mr Cooper and Mr Enright, the opposition group leaders, for participating in the event and making it such a success.

6.4 Devolution Briefing

The Chairman reminded members that a briefing on devolution issues would be held on the rising of the Council meeting.

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 5 MAY 2016

Mr Cooper expressed his thanks to the Electoral Services team and all staff involved on the day and at the count for their hard work in ensuring that the election ran so well. Members associated themselves with Mr Cooper's comments.

The Council then received and noted the report of the Returning Officer giving details of the results of the District Council elections held on 5 May 2016.

9. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was proposed by Mr Courts and seconded by Mrs Baker that Mr Mills be elected Leader of the Council.

On being put to the vote it was unanimously:

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Article 7.4 of the Constitution, Mr J F Mills be elected as Leader of the Council, for the remainder of his current term of office as a Councillor, i.e. to May 2018.

Following his election as Leader, Mr Mills thanked Sir Barry for leaving such a strong legacy to build on particularly in light of the challenges ahead. He also advised that officers had been asked to prepare a report for consideration by members in respect of new ways of working.

Mr Mills thanked Members for their support and undertook to serve to the best of his ability on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council and the residents of the district.

10. 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.

Mr Mills advised that Mr Courts would retain his current portfolio but also become Deputy Leader of the Council. Mr Morris would be taking on the Resources portfolio with Mr Langridge

being responsible for Environment. Mrs Baker would be taking on Leisure and Health with Messrs Robinson and Dingwall retaining their current responsibilities.

Mr Harvey, the previous Environment portfolio holder, expressed his thanks to those officers that had supported him during his time on the Cabinet and as Chairman of the Environment scrutiny committee. Mr Harvey highlighted the achievements over that time and expressed his best wishes to Mr Mills in his role as Leader of the Council.

11. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The report of the Head of Paid Service regarding the appointment of Committees of the Council was received and considered.

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

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committees indicated in paragraph 3.2 of the report be appointed, with the specified membership;
- (b) That seats on those Committees be allocated to the political groups in accordance with the rules relating to political balance, and as indicated in the Table under paragraph 3.5 of the report;
- (c) That Members be appointed to each of the Committees in accordance with the wishes of the political groups as shown in the Appendix to these minutes;
- (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 seats on those Committees be allocated to the political groups in accordance with the rules relating to political balance, and as indicated in the Table under paragraph 3.2 of the report, subject to the Labour Group being allocated an additional seat on the Audit and General Purposes Committee and to the Liberal Democrat Group being allocated a seat on the Human Resources Committee;
- (f) That the Licensing Committee be re-constituted for 2016-2017, with a membership of 11; and
- (g) 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.

12. 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.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION – HONORARY ALDERMAN

The following motion had been received in the names of Mr J C Cooper and Mr R A Langridge namely:

“This Council recognises the outstanding service given to the Council and the people of West Oxfordshire by the former Leader of the Council, Sir Barry Norton. Council resolves (i) to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council to take place at 2 pm on Wednesday 29 June 2016 for the purpose of considering conferring on Sir Barry the title of Honorary Alderman, as allowed by s249 of the Local Government Act

1972; and (ii) that the ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for that date shall commence at 2:15 pm, or at the conclusion of the extraordinary meeting, whichever is the later”

Mr Cooper proposed the motion and this was seconded by Mr Langridge. Mr Langridge thanked Mr Cooper for bringing forward the motion and that it would be highly appropriate to bestow such an honour on Sir Barry.

On being put to the vote the motion

WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

The Council received and noted the report of the Chief Executive which gave details of documents numbered 11207 to 11212C.

The meeting closed at 2.13pm

CHAIRMAN

* Chairman
Vice Chairman

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES 2016/2017

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

CABINET (7)

Member	Area of Responsibility
J F Mills (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
T J Morris	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
R A Langridge	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
Mrs J C Baker	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 (Deputy Leader)	Communities and Housing: Parish/Town Council Liaison; Support to the voluntary sector; Assets of Community Value; 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	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
AUDIT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (17)				
A J Adams *	P Emery	Mrs L E C Little	D S T Enright	A M Graham
Mrs J C Baker	E J Fenton	R D J McFarlane	G Saul	
N G Colston	Miss G R Hill	A H K Postan		
C G Dingwall	H J Howard #	H E T St John		
H B Eaglestone	R A Langridge			
MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (5)				
M Brennan	E H James		G Saul	
S J Good #	N A MacRae *			
STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE (5)				
A J Adams	N A MacRae *			J C Cooper
A C Beaney	T N Owen			
R A Langridge #	(Standing Deputy)			
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (7)				
Mrs L J Chapman #	T J Morris			Ms E P R Leffman
R A Langridge *	Mrs C E Reynolds			
J F Mills	W D Robinson			
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE (24)				
M A Barrett	H B Eaglestone	R A Langridge	D S T Enright	A M Graham
A C Beaney	Mrs E H N Fenton	J F Mills	G Saul	Dr E M E Poskitt
R J M Bishop	S J Good	T N Owen		
N G Colston	J Haine *	A H K Postan		
D A Cotterill	P J Handley	W D Robinson #		
C Cottrell-Dormer	H J Howard	T B Simcox		
Mrs M J Crossland	P D Kelland			
LOWLANDS				
M A Barrett	S J Good	P D Kelland	D S T Enright	
Mrs M J Crossland #	J Haine	R A Langridge		
H B Eaglestone	P J Handley	J F Mills		
Mrs E H N Fenton	H J Howard	W D Robinson *		

UPLANDS AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

A C Beaney R J M Bishop N G Colston D A Cotterill # C Cottrell-Dormer	J Haine * T N Owen A H K Postan T B Simcox	G Saul	A M Graham Dr E M E Poskitt
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(Ex officio Non-Voting Member: (W D Robinson, Vice Chairman of Development Control Committee))

URGENCY COMMITTEE (11)

D A Cotterill Mrs M J Crossland P Emery	P J Handley R A Langridge N A MacRae	J F Mills * T J Morris W D Robinson #	D S T Enright	J C Cooper
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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (14)

M A Barrett A C Beaney Mrs M J Crossland Mrs J M Doughty	H B Eaglestone Mrs E H N Fenton # J Haine P J Handley *	P D Kelland Mrs L E C Little T N Owen B J Woodruff	Mrs L C Carter	J C Cooper
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FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (14)

A J Adams D A Cotterill C Cottrell-Dormer P J G Dorward	P Emery * S J Good A D Harvey H J Howard	E H James A H K Postan Mrs C E Reynolds G H L Wall #	G Saul	Dr E M E Poskitt
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ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (14)

R J M Bishop M Brennan D A Cotterill * P J G Dorward	H B Eaglestone P Emery Mrs E H N Fenton E J Fenton	Miss G R Hill H J Howard A H K Postan # Mrs C E Reynolds	A S Coles	Ms E P R Leffman
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LICENSING COMMITTEE (11)

H B Eaglestone Mrs E H N Fenton E J Fenton	S J Good # E H James R A Langridge	Mrs L E C Little N A MacRae * A H K Postan	G Saul	Ms E P R Leffman
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