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## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Council

Held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB  
at 1.45 pm on **Monday, 20 January 2025**

### PRESENT

Councillors: Elizabeth Poskitt (Chair), Joy Aitman, Lidia Arciszewska, Mike Baggaley, Andrew Beaney, Michael Brooker, Adam Clements, Julian Cooper, Duncan Enright, Roger Faulkner, Phil Godfrey, Andy Goodwin, Andy Graham, David Jackson, Nick Leverton, Dan Levy, Charlie Maynard, Stuart McCarroll, Michele Mead, David Melvin, Rosie Pearson, Geoff Saul, Tim Sumner and Mark Walker

Officers: Andrew Brown (Head of Democratic and Electoral Services), Andrea McCaskie (Director of Governance) and Anne Learmonth (Democratic Services Officer)

#### **CL.210 Apologies for Absence**

The Chair opened the meeting by stating that Council wished Councillor Martin McBride the best for his health.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Prosser, Adrian Walsh, Alaric Smith, Alex Wilson, Alistair Wray, Andrew Coles, Andrew Lyon, Carl Rylett, David Cooper, Edward James, Genny Early, Hugo Ashton, Jane Doughty, Liam Walker, Liz Leffman, Natalie King, Nigel Ridpath, Paul Marsh, Rachel Crouch, Ruth Smith, Sandra Simpson, Sarah Veasey, Steve Cosier Thomas Ashby and Martin McBride.

#### **CL.211 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

#### **CL.212 Participation of the Public**

There was no participation of the public.

#### **CL.213 Request for a Dispensation Pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972**

The purpose of the item was to determine whether a dispensation for Councillor Martin McBride may be granted under the provision of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Chair explained that Councillors are required to attend at least one meeting within a rolling six-month period under Section 85(1) Local Government Act 1972 (vacation of office by failure to attend meetings). Due to circumstances related to his health, Councillor Martin McBride had been unable to attend a meeting of the authority since 24 July 2024. The report proposed that the Council grants a dispensation to Councillor McBride in accordance with Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor Andy Graham proposed accepting the recommendations making reference to the reasons stated in the Chair's introduction.

Councillor Michelle Mead seconded the recommendation, stating that Councillor McBride was now recovering, and that the dispensation would allow him to recover fully before returning to his councillor duties. Councillor Mead stated that she was able to pass on any messages from Council to Councillor McBride as she was in regular contact with him.

Council

20/January2025

The Council voted on the recommendation I and unanimously agreed it.

RESOLVED: That Full Council approved a dispensation for Councillor Martin McBride in accordance with Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, on the grounds of ill-health.

The Meeting closed at 1.56 pm

CHAIR