

## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Council

Held at the Windrush Leisure Centre, Witan Way, Witney  
at 2.00 pm on **Wednesday, 19 May 2021**

#### PRESENT

Councillors: Councillor Harry Eaglestone (Chairman), Councillor Jane Doughty (Vice-Chair), Councillor Joy Aitman, Councillor Alaa Al-Yousuf, Councillor Luci Ashbourne, Councillor Andrew Beaney, Councillor Jill Bull, Councillor Mike Cahill, Councillor Laetisia Carter, Councillor Nathalie Chapple, Councillor Andrew Coles, Councillor Owen Collins, Councillor Julian Cooper, Councillor Suzi Coul, Councillor Maxine Crossland, Councillor Merylyn Davies, Councillor Duncan Enright, Councillor Ted Fenton, Councillor Andy Graham, Councillor Jeff Haine, Councillor David Harvey, Councillor Gill Hill, Councillor David Jackson, Councillor Liz Leffman, Councillor Nick Leverton, Councillor Dan Levy, Councillor Norman MacRae MBE, Councillor Martin McBride, Councillor Michele Mead, Councillor Elizabeth Poskitt, Councillor Alex Postan, Councillor Carl Rylett, Councillor Harry St John, Councillor Derek Cotterill, Councillor Rupert Dent, Councillor Colin Dingwall, Councillor Mark Johnson, Councillor Lysette Nicholls, Councillor Mathew Parkinson, Councillor Andrew Prosser, Councillor Dean Temple, Councillor Alex Wilson and Councillor Ben Woodruff

Officers: Elizabeth Griffiths (Chief Finance Officer, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer), Giles Hughes (Chief Executive) and Claire Hughes (Business Manager - Corporate Responsibility)

#### **CL.1 Election of Chairman**

The Chairman, Councillor Eaglestone welcomed everyone to the meeting and took the opportunity to thank everyone for their support during his time as in office. He wished the future Chairman and Vice Chairman the best of luck for their term.

Having asked for nominations, Councillor Mead proposed that Councillor Martin McBride be elected as West Oxfordshire District Council Chairman. This was seconded by Councillor Harvey.

There were no further nominations.

Therefore, it was

**Resolved** that Councillor Martin McBride be elected as Chairman.

#### **CL.2 Chairman to make declaration of Acceptance of Office**

The Chairman, Councillor McBride signed the declaration and took receipt of the chain of office. He thanked Councillor Eaglestone for seeing the Council through a particularly challenging twelve months.

#### **CL.3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

It was proposed, duly seconded and

**Resolved** that Councillor Alex Postan be elected as Vice-Chairman of the District Council.

#### **CL.4 Vice-Chairman to make declaration of Acceptance of Office**

The Vice-Chairman signed the declaration and took receipt of the chain of office. Councillor Postan thanked the retiring Vice-Chairman, Councillor Doughty for her work and support to the Chairman and wished her well in her new Cabinet role.

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**CL.5 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**CL.6 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jake Acock, Rosa Bolger, Steve Good, Andy Goodwin, Richard Langridge and Geoff Saul.

**CL.7 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**CL.8 Receipt of Announcements**

Councillor McBride addressed the meeting and welcomed all newly elected and returning Councillors. He introduced the new Members and advised which Wards they represented.

Councillor Mc Bride also thanked all those Councillors who had either not stood for re-election or had not been re-elected. In particular, he expressed his gratitude to former Councillor, Toby Morris who had contributed a great deal as Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance.

Finally, Councillor McBride reiterated his thanks to the previous Chairman, Councillor Eaglestone for his leadership over the past year, which had been difficult for everyone.

Councillor Graham addressed the meeting and also expressed his thanks to Councillor Eaglestone and Councillor Doughty for their dedication to the civic roles during their term.

The Leader, Councillor Mead, welcomed all Members and advised of the following changes to the Group Leaderships:

Councillor Laetisia Carter – Leader of the Labour Group;

Councillor Owen Collins – Deputy Leader of the Labour Group; and

Councillor Nathalie Chapple – Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Congratulations were also expressed to Councillor Liz Leffman who had been elected as Leader of Oxfordshire County Council.

**CL.9 Participation of the Public**

There was no participation of the public.

**CL.10 Returning Officer's Report on Elections held 6 May 2021**

Members received the Returning Officers report detailing the results of the elections held on 6 May 2021.

The report advised of the total number of votes received for each candidate in the individual Wards, along with the electorate and turnout percentage.

Having considered the report, Council

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

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#### **CL.11 Appointment of Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members**

The Leader, Councillor Mead, addressed the meeting and announced her appointment of the Deputy Leader, Councillor David Harvey. She went on to outline her Cabinet Members and the portfolio areas they would take responsibility for, as follows:

Councillor Suzi Coul – Finance

Councillor Norman MacRae – Environment

Councillor Merilyn Davies –Communities and Housing

Councillor Jeff Haine – Strategic Planning

Councillor David Harvey – Climate Change

Councillor Jane Doughty – Customer Delivery

#### **CL.12 Appointment of Committees 2021-2022**

Members received a report outlining the appointments to the Committees of the Council, in accordance with the Constitution and, where applicable, the rules relating to political balance.

Members noted that a revised membership of committees document had been circulated prior to the meeting and Councillor Mead proposed this, as laid out.

This was seconded by Councillor Harvey.

#### **Resolved that**

- (a) That the Committees indicated in paragraph 1.2 of the report be appointed, with the specified membership, for the period to the next annual meeting of the council;
- (b) That seats on those Committees be allocated to the political groups and the non-grouped members in accordance with the rules relating to political balance, and as indicated in the revised Table circulated prior to the meeting;
- (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, and with resolution (d) below;
- (d) That, as a consequence of the political balance figures and the foregoing decisions, the non-grouped members be allocated seats as follows:
  - Audit and General Purposes Committee – Councillor Richard Langridge
  - Development Control Committee – Councillor Richard Langridge
  - Urgency Committee – Councillor Richard Langridge
  - Economic and Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Andrew Prosser
  - Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Mike Cahill
  - Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Andrew Prosser
- (e) 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;

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- (f) That the Licensing Committee be re-constituted for 2021-2022, with a membership of 11;
- (g) That seats on the Licensing Committee be allocated to the political groups in accordance with the principles of political balance, and having regard to the information in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 of the report, and be filled in accordance with their wishes; and
- (h) That, from the non-grouped members, Councillor Mike Cahill be appointed to serve on the Licensing Committee.

**CL.13 Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Committees**

It was then proposed, duly seconded and

**Resolved** that the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen be elected for each of the Council's Committees for the municipal year 2021/2022:

Audit and General Purposes Committee	Councillor Alex Postan, Chairman
	Councillor Dan Levy, Vice-Chairman
Licensing Committee	Councillor Norman MacRae, Chairman
	Councillor Steve Good, Vice-Chairman
Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee	Councillor Norman MacRae, Chairman
	Councillor Steve Good, Vice-Chairman
Standards Sub-Committee	Councillor Norman MacRae, Chairman
	Councillor Andrew Beaney, Vice-Chairman
Development Control Committee	Councillor Jeff Haine, Chairman
	Councillor Ted Fenton, Vice-Chairman
Lowlands Planning Sub-Committee	Councillor Ted Fenton, Chairman
	Councillor Joy Aitman, Vice-Chairman
Uplands Planning Sub-Committee	Councillor Jeff Haine, Chairman
	Councillor Julian Cooper, Vice-Chairman
Urgency Committee	Councillor Michele Mead, Chairman
	Councillor David Harvey, Vice-Chairman
Economic & Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Andrew Beaney, Chairman
	Councillor Andy Graham, Vice-Chairman
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Alaa Al-Yousuf, Chairman
	Councillor Andrew Coles, Vice-

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	Chairman
Finance & Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Derek Cotterill, Chairman
	Councillor Geoff Saul, Vice-Chairman

The Meeting closed at 2.38 pm

CHAIRMAN