

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held at 11.00 am on Thursday, 18 May
2023

Present:

Members: Councillor J Birdi (Chair)

Councillor S Agboola	Councillor G Lloyd
Councillor N Akhtar	Councillor P Male
Councillor P Akhtar	Councillor A Masih
Councillor M Ali	Councillor K Maton
Councillor R Bailey	Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor L Bigham	Councillor C Miks
Councillor J Blundell	Councillor B Mosterman
Councillor R Brown	Councillor M Mutton
Councillor K Caan	Councillor S Nazir
Councillor G Duggins	Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor J Gardiner	Councillor E M Reeves
Councillor B Gittins	Councillor G Ridley
Councillor L Harvard	Councillor E Ruane
Councillor G Hayre	Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor P Hetherington	Councillor T Sawdon
Councillor A Hopkins	Councillor P Seaman
Councillor J Innes	Councillor R Simpson
Councillor T Jandu	Councillor B Singh
Councillor A Jobbar	Councillor R Singh
Councillor A Kaur	Councillor R Thay
Councillor S Keough	Councillor CE Thomas
Councillor R Lakha	Councillor A Tucker
Councillor R Lancaster	Councillor D Welsh
Councillor M Lapsa	
Councillor J Lepoidevin	

Honorary Alderman D Chater, H Fitzpatrick, M Hammon, A Lucas, K Mulhall, H Noonan, T Skipper and K Taylor

Apologies: Councillor F Abbott, S Gray, M Heaven, T Khan and AS Khan

Public Business

1. Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor

Russell Plester, Headteacher at Finham Park 2

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent sad death of Russell Plester, Headteacher at Finham Park 2. Mr Plester had been Headteacher at Finham Park 2 since its opening in 2015 and was a hugely popular and well-respected colleague.

Thoughts and best wishes were offered to his family and Members noted that a letter of condolence had been sent to them on behalf of the City Council.

2. **Election of the Chair of the Council (being the Lord Mayor of the City)**

It was moved by Councillor G Ridley, seconded by Councillor T Jandu and supported by Councillor G Duggins, that Councillor Jaswant Singh Birdi be elected as Chair of the Council (being the Lord Mayor of the City) for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED that Councillor Jaswant Singh Birdi be elected as Chair of the Council for the 2023/24 municipal year, having made the declaration of office prescribed by the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having been invested with the Lord Mayor's Chain of Office.

3. **The Lord Mayor's Address**

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Birdi, addressed the City Council.

4. **Vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor**

A vote of thanks for the retiring Lord Mayor, Councillor Kevin Maton, was moved by Councillor P Seaman, seconded by Councillor B Gittins and supported by Councillor G Ridley.

Councillor Maton responded to the vote of thanks.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the warmest thanks of the Council are due and are thereby given to Councillor Kevin Maton for the zeal and impartiality with which he has discharged the arduous duties of the office of Lord Mayor during the year 2022/23; and

(2) That a copy of this resolution, under the Common Seal, be presented to Councillor Kevin Maton and Mrs Angela Maton.

5. **Election of the Vice-Chair of the Council (being the Deputy Lord Mayor of the City)**

It was moved by Councillor P Hetherington, seconded by Councillor M Ali and supported by Councillor G Ridley that Councillor Mal Mutton be elected as Vice Chair of the Council (being the Deputy Lord Mayor of the City) for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mal Mutton be elected as Vice Chair of the Council for the 2023/24 Municipal Year, having made the declaration of office prescribed by the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having been invested with the Deputy Lord Mayor's Badge.

6. **To receive a report of the Leader of the Council on the composition of the Cabinet and the appointment of Deputy Cabinet Members and allocation of Executive Functions within the Cabinet**

The City Council received a report of the Leader, Councillor G Duggins, together with a Statement, which confirmed the composition of the Cabinet, the appointment of Deputy Cabinet Members and the allocation of executive portfolios/functions within the Cabinet (detailed below):

CABINET PORTFOLIOS 2023/24

Member	Portfolio
<p>The Leader Policy and Leadership Councillor G Duggins</p>	<p>One Coventry Council Plan City of Culture 2021 Legacy Scrutiny External relations / public relations Chair of Cabinet / Management Board meetings Emergency Planning Regional Matters West Midlands Combined Authority Corporate Governance Information Management and Governance Risk Management Political Management</p>
<p>The Deputy Leader Policing and Equalities Councillor AS Khan Deputy Cabinet Member Councillor P Akhtar</p>	<p>Community Safety Community Cohesion Public Protection and Licensing Prosecution and Enforcement Democratic Services, including Lord Mayor's Electoral Services Equalities Legal Services Training (Members) Constitutional Matters Domestic Violence and Sexual Exploitation Local Policing Media Strategy Events and Parks International Liaison and diplomacy Peace, reconciliation and twinning Deputising on Leader Items</p>
<p>Cabinet Member Strategic Finance and Resources Councillor R Brown</p>	<p>Strategic Finance Medium Term Financial Strategy Budget Setting External Resources Operational Finance incl. Revenues and Benefits Service Transformation and value for money Procurement Human Resources Organisational Development Key Staff Recruitment and Retention Customer Services Health and Safety Pensions Digital Strategy</p>

Member	Portfolio
Cabinet Member Children and Young People Councillor P Seaman Deputy Cabinet Member Councillor A Jobbar	Children and Families Children and Young People's Social Care Child Exploitation Young People Youth Offending Service Safeguarding *S19 Children Act 2004 Lead Member Fostering and Adoption Corporate Parenting
Cabinet Member Education and Skills Councillor K Sandhu	Post 16 Education and Training Schools Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability Libraries Adult Education Higher and Further Education (incl. Universities) Skills and Employability
Cabinet Member Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change Councillor J O'Boyle	Economic Development City Centre (Regeneration) International Trade and Inward Investment Commercial and Operational Property (including catering) Growth Company Urban Regeneration Transportation Tourism and Marketing Sustainability and climate change Social Enterprise Strategy
Cabinet Member City Services Councillor P Hetherton Deputy Cabinet Member Councillor G Lloyd	Highways, Drainage and Lighting Licensing Policy (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire) Public Realm Street Services (Ground Maintenance, Refuse (domestic and commercial), Street Cleaning) Waste Management Flood Management Environment Bereavement Services Traffic Management and Road Safety Parking Policy and Operations Information Technology

Member	Portfolio
Cabinet Member Adult Services Councillor L Bigham Deputy Cabinet Member Councillor S Nazir	Social Care for Adults and Older People Better Care Fund Transforming Care Carers Adult Safeguarding Adult social care integration with health Loneliness Armed Forces Champion
Cabinet Member Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing Councillor K Caan Deputy Cabinet Member Councillor G Hayre	Health Strategy and Policy Integrated Care Systems Health Inequalities and Marmot Air Quality Local Health Economy Public Health Sexual Health Teenage Pregnancies Mental Health Poverty Fuel Poverty Sport, Physical Activity and Parks
Cabinet Member Housing and Communities Councillor D Welsh Deputy Cabinet Member Councillor S Agboola	Archives Arts Heritage Museums Conservation Mutuals Community and Voluntary Sector Relations Community Centres Refugees and Asylum Seekers Welfare Advice Services Housing and Homelessness Planning Policy

*Cabinet Member Children and Young People is designated as the Lead Member for Children's Services as required by Section 19 of the Children's Act 2004

7. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

8. **Return of persons elected as Councillors for the City on 4 May 2023**

The return of Councillors elected for the following Wards of the City on 4 May 2023 was reported:

Ward	Name	Political Party	Year of Retirement
BABLAKE	Tarlochan Singh Jandu	Conservative	2026
BINLEY AND WILLENHALL	Ram Parkash Lakha	Labour	2026
CHEYLESMORE	Richard James Brown	Labour	2026
EARLSDON	Becky Gittins	Labour	2026
FOLESHILL	Abdul Salam Khan	Labour	2026
HENLEY	Patricia Seaman	Labour	2026
HOLBROOK	Esther Mary Reeves	Green	2026
LONGFORD	Linda Joyce Bigham	Labour	2026
LOWER STOKE	John Douglas McNicholas	Labour	2026
RADFORD	Maya Ali	Labour	2026
SHERBOURNE	Gavin Lloyd	Labour	2026
ST MICHAEL'S	Jim O'Boyle	Labour	2026
UPPER STOKE	Amirjit Kaur	Labour	2026
WAINBODY	Tim Sawdon	Conservative	2026
WESTWOOD	Marcus Edgar Lapsa	Conservative	2026
WHOBBERLEY	Pervez Akhtar	Labour	2026
WOODLANDS	Peter Roger Male	Conservative	2026
WYKEN	Robert Richard Thay	Labour	2026

9. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

10. **Matters for Determination for the City Council**

The Council considered the following documents which were tabled at the meeting:

- (i) Details of Licensing and Regulatory Committee, Planning Committee, Health and Wellbeing Board, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, Scrutiny Boards, Audit and Procurement Committee, Ethics Committee, Coventry Shareholder Committee, Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and such other Committees as the Council considers appropriate, to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions as set out in the Constitution. This also includes the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair of those bodies
- (ii) The size and terms of reference for those Boards and Committee (as set out in the Constitution).
- (iii) The allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules.
- (iv) The nominations of Councillors to serve on each Scrutiny Board, Committee and Cabinet Advisory Panel.
- (v) The nominations and appointments to outside bodies.
- (vi) The programme of ordinary meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny Boards, Committee and Advisory Panels for 2023/24 including the date and time of the next Annual Meeting and the scheme of delegations as set out in the Constitution.

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the allocation of seats, appointments and programme of meetings together with the appointments to outside bodies (as appended to these minutes) and agree the scheme of delegations as set out in the Constitution.

11. If required, to consider any changes to the Constitution or any other matters arising from the Annual Meeting decisions and appointments

There were no other matters arising.

(Meeting closed at 12.15 pm)