

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held at 11.00 am on Thursday, 18 May
2017

Present:

Members:

Lord Mayor (Councillor T Skipper)
Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor J Blundell)

Councillor F Abbott	Councillor M Lapsa
Councillor N Akhtar	Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor P Akhtar	Councillor P Male
Councillor R Ali	Councillor K Maton
Councillor A Andrews	Councillor T Mayer
Councillor R Bailey	Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor S Bains	Councillor C Miks
Councillor L Bigham	Councillor K Mulhall
Councillor J Birdi	Councillor J Mutton
Councillor R Brown	Councillor M Mutton
Councillor K Caan	Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor J Clifford	Councillor G Ridley
Councillor G Crookes	Councillor T Sawdon
Councillor G Duggins	Councillor P Seaman
Councillor M Hammon	Councillor B Singh
Councillor J Innes	Councillor R Singh
Councillor B Kaur	Councillor D Skinner
Councillor L Kelly	Councillor K Taylor
Councillor D Kershaw	Councillor R Thay
Councillor T Khan	Councillor C Thomas
Councillor A Khan	Councillor S Walsh
Councillor R Lakha	Councillor D Welsh
Councillor R Lancaster	Councillor G Williams

Honorary Alderman D Batten, S Collins, H Fitzpatrick, J Gazey, A Waugh

Apologies: Councillors D Gannon, A Lucas, H Sweet and E Ruane

Public Business

1. Correspondence and Announcements of the Lord Mayor

(a) Death of Former Lord Mayor – Nick Nolan

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of former Lord Mayor Nick Nolan. Nick had been a city councillor for 24 years representing Holbrooks Ward. He had been Chair and Vice Chair of various Committees including Social Services, Transportation and Highways, Leisure Services, Development and Economy Policy Co-ordinating Committee and Social Affairs Policy Co-ordinating Committee. Nick became Leader of the Council and Chair of the Cabinet in May 2000 and was Lord Mayor in 1994/1995.

Members of the Council paid tribute to Nick and to his contribution to the City

Council.

(b) Retirement of the City's Honorary Recorder, His Honour Judge Richard Griffith-Jones

The Lord Mayor referred to the forthcoming retirement of his Honour Judge Richard Griffith-Jones who formally retires as a circuit judge for Coventry Crown Court at the end of June 2017. This would require him to retire as the City's Honorary Recorder.

Judge Griffith-Jones was appointed to the position in April 2011 and has taken part in the many civic events and ceremonial occasions since that time and Chaired the Good Citizen's Advisory Panel.

The Lord Mayor on behalf of the City Council, thanked him for his contribution to the City and wished him a long and happy retirement.

(c) Retirement of the City's Sword and Mace Bearer, Gary Breakwell

The Lord Mayor referred to the retirement of Gary Breakwell, one of the City's Sword and Mace Bearers who formally retires after the ceremony. Gary had undertaken his role for 17 years since 2000 and had taken part on the many ceremonial occasions since that time.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the City Council thanked Gary for his service to the City and wished him a long and happy retirement.

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

It was moved by Councillor M Mutton and seconded by Councillor Mulhall that Councillor Tony Skipper be elected as Chair of the Council (being the Lord Mayor of the City) for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED that Councillor Tony Skipper be elected as Chair of the Council for the 2017/18 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 and Robe.

3. The Lord Mayor's Address

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

4. Vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor

A vote of thanks for the retiring Lord Mayor, Councillor Lindsley Harvard, was moved by Councillor Bigham and seconded by Councillor Duggins.

Councillor Harvard responded to the vote of thanks.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the warmest thanks of the Council were due and were thereby given to Councillor Lindsley Harvard for the zeal and impartiality with which he has discharged the arduous duties of the office of Lord Mayor during the year 2017/18; and

(2) That a copy of this resolution, under the common seal, be presented to Councillor Lindsley Harvard.

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

It was moved by Councillor Sawdon and seconded by Councillor Crookes that Councillor John Blundell be elected as Vice Chair of the Council (being the Deputy Lord Mayor of the City) for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED that Councillor John Blundell be elected as Vice Chair of the Council for the 2017/18 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 and Robe.

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 Duggins, which confirmed the composition of the Cabinet and the allocation of executive portfolios/functions within the Cabinet (detailed below):

Member	Portfolio
The Leader Policy and Leadership Councillor Duggins	Council Plan Scrutiny External relations / public relations Image and reputation Chair of Cabinet / Management Board meetings Emergency Planning Regional Matters West Midlands Combined Authority Corporate Governance Information Management and Governance Risk Management
The Deputy Leader Policing and Equalities Councillor A Khan Deputy Cabinet Member Councillor P Akhtar	Community Safety Community Cohesion Public Protection and Licensing Democratic Services, including Lord Mayor's Electoral Services Equalities Legal Services Training (Members) Constitutional Matters and Political Management Domestic Violence and Sexual Exploitation

	<p>Local Policing Local Enterprise Partnership Media Strategy Events International Liaison Deputising on Leader Items</p>
<p>Cabinet Member Strategic Finance and Resources Councillor J Mutton</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 Key Staff Recruitment and Retention Information Technology and Customer Services Health and Safety Pensions</p>
<p>Cabinet Member Children and Young People Councillor Ruane Deputy Cabinet Member Councillor B Kaur</p>	<p>Children and Families Children and Young People's Social Care Child Sexual Exploitation Young People Youth Offending Service Safeguarding *S19 Children Act 2004 Lead Member Fostering and Adoption Corporate Parenting</p>
<p>Cabinet Member Education and Skills Councillor Maton</p>	<p>Post 16 Education and Training Schools Early Years Libraries Adult Education Higher and Further Education (incl. Universities) Skills and Employability</p>
<p>Cabinet Member Jobs and Regeneration Councillor O'Boyle Deputy Cabinet Member Councillor Welsh</p>	<p>Economic Development City Centre International Trade and Inward Investment Commercial and Operational Property Urban Regeneration Transportation Tourism and Marketing Climate Change Strategy and Development Energy Policy, Conservation and Renewables Sustainability Digital Strategy</p>
<p>Cabinet Member</p>	<p>Highways, Drainage and Lighting</p>

<p>City Services</p> <p>Councillor Innes</p> <p>Deputy Cabinet Member</p> <p>Councillor Lakha</p>	<p>Licensing Policy (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire)</p> <p>Public Realm</p> <p>Street Services (Ground Maintenance, Refuse (domestic and commercial), (Street Cleaning)</p> <p>Waste Management</p> <p>Flood Management</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>Bereavement Services</p> <p>Traffic Management and Road Safety</p>
<p>Cabinet Member</p> <p>Adult Services</p> <p>Councillor Abbott</p>	<p>Social Care for Adults, Older People and People with Disabilities</p> <p>Carers</p> <p>Sustainability and Transformation Plans</p>
<p>Cabinet Member</p> <p>Public Health and Sport</p> <p>Councillor K Caan</p> <p>Deputy Cabinet Member</p> <p>Councillor R Ali</p>	<p>Health Strategy and Policy</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <p>Health Inequalities</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <p>Local Health Economy</p> <p>Public Health</p> <p>Sexual Health</p> <p>Teenage Pregnancies</p> <p>Mental Health</p> <p>Fuel Poverty</p> <p>Sport</p> <p>Parks</p>
<p>Cabinet Member</p> <p>Community Development</p> <p>Councillor Bigham</p> <p>Deputy Cabinet Member</p> <p>Councillor Thomas</p>	<p>Archives</p> <p>Arts</p> <p>Heritage</p> <p>Museums</p> <p>Conservation</p> <p>Social Enterprise Strategy</p> <p>Catering</p> <p>Mutuals</p> <p>Community and Third Sector Relations</p> <p>City of Culture Bid</p> <p>Community Centres</p> <p>Refugees and Asylum Seekers</p> <p>Voluntary Sector</p> <p>Welfare Advice Services</p> <p>Housing and Homelessness</p> <p>Planning</p>

*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 Extraordinary and ordinary meetings held on 14 March 2017 were signed as true records.

8. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

9. Matters for Determination by the City Council

The Council considered and approved 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 and other such Committee 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 included 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 2017/18 including the date and time of the next Annual Meeting.

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the allocation of seats, appointments and programme of meetings as appended to these minutes.

10. Appointment of Honorary Recorder

The Council considered a report which sought approval to appoint a new Honorary Recorder for the City of Coventry following the forthcoming retirement of the current holder of the role, His Honour Judge Griffith-Jones (Minute 1(b) above refers).

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the appointment of His Honour Judge Andrew Lockhart QC to the role of Honorary Recorder for the City of Coventry with effect from 1 July 2017.

11. Appointment of Independent Persons to the Ethics Committee

The Council considered a report which sought approval to the appointment of independent persons to the Ethics Committee.

The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to appoint at least one independent

person whose views will be sought when making decisions about allegations that councillors have breached the Council's Code of Conduct. In addition, all councils were required to have access to at least two independent persons when considering disciplinary action against statutory officers. The position is a voluntary one.

The Council's first independent person resigned in July 2016. The Ethics Committee at its meeting on 16 September authorised officers to advertise for applications for the role of independent person. Five applications were received and four applicants interviewed by a panel of councillors on 18 April 2017. While it was originally envisaged that up to three independent persons would be appointed, the interviewing panel felt that all four applicants had different qualities and skills which would benefit the Council in meeting its legal duty to uphold and promote high standards of ethical behaviour among elected and co-opted members.

The appointment of independent persons must by law be approved by a majority of elected members.

RESOLVED that the City Council approve the appointment of Steve Atkinson, Ann Barton, Ruth Wills and Peter Wiseman as Independent Persons under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 with immediate effect.

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

This item was not required.

(Meeting closed at 12.30 pm)