

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday 24th May 2012 at 6.30 p.m. at 'The Place', Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire

PRESENT:

Councillors M.J. Smith (Mayor) , R.K. Austin, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, F.M. Bould, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, E.A. Clare, S. Davies, B.H. Duce, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, C.B.A. Elliot, A.R.H. England, N.A.M. England, R.C. Evans, I.T.W. Fletcher, V.A. Fletcher, G.M. Green, E.J. Greenaway, K.R. Guy, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, M.G. Ion, A.S. Jhavar, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, J. Loveridge, A.A. Mackenzie, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, W.A.M. McClements, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray, R.A. Overton. F.R. Picken, G.C.W. Reynolds, S. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota, J.M. Seymour, R.J. Sloan, C.F. Smith, A.J. Stanton, B.J. Thompson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.R.W. White.

1. WELCOME FROM MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed civic dignitaries, Members and invited guests to the Annual Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin. He began the meeting by asking Members and guests to observe 1 minutes silence to mark the passing of both RAF Corporal Brent McCarthy from Priorslee, who lost his life in Afghanistan on 12 May and former Councillor for Haygate ward, Rosemary Chaplin who had passed away on 11 May.

2. DECLARATION

Councillor C.N. Mason read the following declaration:

"Colleagues, aware of our responsibilities to promote democracy and the well-being of all local people, on behalf of the Council, I make this re-commitment to our office as elected representatives.

Elected to serve the public good, we recognise that public office is a privilege granted by the people and not a right.

We, elected representatives of the people of Telford & Wrekin, declare that we will, to the best of our ability, uphold the Council's constitution and serve the community above any private or personal interest."

Members signified their affirmation of the Declaration.

3. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor C.B.A. Elliott, seconded by Councillor S. Davies that Councillor K.R. Guy be appointed as Mayor of the Council.

Councillor S. Bentley moved that Councillor M.J. Smith be appointed Mayor, this was seconded by Councillor M.B. Hosken. Councillor Smith, although honoured and surprised to be nominated, asked Members to note that it was traditional practice for the Deputy Mayor to move in to the Mayoral role and that he could not accept the nomination. A vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor K.R. Guy be appointed as Mayor of the Council for the municipal year 2012-13.

4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor M.J. Smith, seconded by Councillor R.K. Austin, that Councillor L.A. Murray be appointed as Deputy Mayor. A vote was taken and it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor L.A. Murray be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the Council for the municipal year 2012-13.

5. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR & MAYORESS

A vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor M.J. Smith, was proposed by Councillor E.A. Clare and seconded by Councillor C.F. Smith. Councillor Smith told the meeting that the retiring Mayor had carried out his Mayoral role with dedication and panache. A number of other Members also paid tribute to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress, Mrs. Christine Smith, for all their hard work in representing the Borough over the past year.

RESOLVED – that the Council recorded its thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor M.J. Smith, and to the retiring Mayoress, Mrs. Christine Smith, for their service over the 2012-13 term of office.

6. REPLY TO VOTE OF THANKS

In response, the retiring Mayor thanked his Deputy Mayor, fellow Members and Mayoral staff for their support during the year. He told Members that it had been an enjoyable and rewarding year. He had been privileged to serve the Borough. In particular, he wished to thank his wife and Mayoress, Mrs Christine Smith, for her invaluable help and constant support. The Mayor's chosen charitable appeals had raised around £7.3k. Pat Grubb, Chairman of Diabetes UK (Telford branch) received a cheque for this amount from the retiring Mayor.

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors D.G. Davies, A.A. Meredith and R.G. Scammell.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3rd May, 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Councillor K.J. Guy, told the meeting that it was a great honour to be Mayor of the Borough. He thanked the outgoing Mayor for passing on his invaluable knowledge and experience of the Mayoral role. Within his first month of office the Mayor would have the privilege of welcoming both the Queen and the Olympic flame. A large part of the Mayoral year would be dedicated to raising funds for the Mayor's chosen charity, the paediatrics ward of Princess Royal Hospital. Funds would be raised to enhance the educational and play area at the hospital site. He looked forward to working with Mr. Adrian Osborne of Shrewsbury & Telford NHS Trust throughout the year.

Alongside the ceremonial role there was also the equally important role of chairing Council meetings, ensuring that meetings were conducted in a civilised and constructive manner. In closing, he reminded Members that it was the duty of the Council to serve the people of the Borough and, in doing so, to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities were looked after in difficult economic times. The hard working residents of the Borough would continue to receive every possible opportunity to succeed and emerge from this period, stronger and more prosperous.

11. APPOINTMENT OF CABINET

Councillor K.S. Sahota, leader of the Council, welcomed Members and guests to the Annual meeting and notified the meeting of Cabinet appointments.

Councillor Sahota discussed reconfiguration proposals for Shropshire hospitals, announcing that a full business case for the £35m proposals had been approved by the Midlands and East Strategic Health Authority. The plans by Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust would see women and children's services centred at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital, while acute surgery would be based at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

He congratulated AFC Telford on maintaining their status in the Blue Square Premier League He urged residents to line the streets when the Olympic torch arrived in the Borough on 30 May and wished the GB Olympic team the best of luck. He highlighted some of the key milestones and achievements of the Co-operative Council, these included:

- Sustainable staff accommodation plan
- Reduction in inherited capital debt
- Largest ever budget consultation process
- Appointment of a Director of Children's Services
- Reductions in senior management and in back office costs

- Procurement savings
- Voluntary 10% cut in Cabinet Member allowances
- Ice Rink refurbishment
- Investment in 6 new schools
- Regeneration of Brookside, Hadley, Oakengates
- £18m spent on road improvements
- Committing funding towards the stabilisation of The Gorge

RESOLVED – that the Membership of the Cabinet, as notified by Councillor K.S. Sahota, be appointed for the municipal year 2012-13 as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

12. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, BOARDS, ETC.

Proposals for the appointment of Committees, Commissions and Boards, etc. in accordance with the political balance of the Council had been submitted. A vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED – that the internal bodies for the municipal year 2012-13, (including the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen) be appointed as set out in Appendix 2 to these Minutes.

13. WEST MERCIA POLICE & CRIME PANEL (PCP)

The report of the Assistant Director: Law, Democracy & Public Protection, attached at Appendix D, sought approval for the establishment, proposed membership and arrangements of a West Mercia Police & Crime Panel (PCP) as a joint committee of the 10 principal local authorities in the West Mercia Police Force area, to be administered by Worcestershire County Council as the lead authority.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill which had received Royal Assent on 15th November 2011 set out provisions for Police and Crime Commissioners to be directly elected in force areas across England and Wales. A Police and Crime Panel, comprised of local councillors and independent members, would also be established in every force area, including West Mercia, to scrutinise the performance of the Commissioner, providing both support and challenge. The intention was that the Panels would operate in shadow form from summer 2012 in advance of the election of the Commissioners in November 2012.

The Mayor noted that 2 nominations had been made to serve on the Panel. The nominated persons were Councillors C.B.A. Elliott and R.K. Austin. A vote was taken and it was approved that Councillors Elliott and Austin be appointed to serve on the PCP.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the establishment of a West Mercia Police and Crime Panel (PCP) as a joint committee of the 10 principal local authorities in the West Mercia Police Force area, to be administered by Worcestershire County**

Council as the lead authority be approved.

- b) That the proposed membership of the Panel, as shown at paragraph 5.4 of the report, the Panel arrangements and any consequential actions required under the Act be approved.**
- c) That the Managing Director be authorised to agree the final details of the proposals in consultation with the Leader.**
- d) That Councillors C.B.A. Elliott and R.K. Austin be appointed to represent Telford & Wrekin Council on the West Mercia Police & Crime Panel (PCP)**

14. PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

An amended programme of ordinary meeting was tabled at the meeting. The programme of dates for ordinary meetings of the Council for 2012/13 would be as follows:

2012	2013
Thursday 12 July * Thursday 13 September Thursday 22 November	Thursday 24 January Thursday 7 March Thursday 2 May

Councillor I.T.W. Fletcher asked the Mayor if consideration could be given to moving the date of the proposed 12 July * Council meeting. The Queen, as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations would be visiting RAF Cosford on that day and Councillor Fletcher believed that a number of Members may want to attend such an important event.

The Mayor told Councillor Fletcher that he understood that arrangements had been made for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to brief Members on that date, prior to the Council meeting. These arrangements had been made prior to the announcement of a Royal visit. However, the Mayor would of course look at this issue and notify Members if it was possible to reschedule the July 12 meeting.

Mayor:

Date:

The meeting ended at 7.43 p.m.

APPENDIX 1

Cabinet Member	Area of Responsibility
Cllr Kuldip Sahota	Leader
Cllr Richard Overton	Deputy Leader with special responsibility for Borough Town Development & Public Health
Cllr Paul Watling	Children, Young People & Families
Cllr Shaun Davies	Neighbourhood Services & Co-operative Council
Cllr Liz Clare	Adult & Social Care
Cllr Charles Smith	Housing, Regeneration & Economic Development
Cllr Arnold England	Leisure & Wellbeing
Cllr Bill McClements	Resources & Service Delivery
Cllr Hilda Rhodes	Transport & Community Protection

Cllr Clive Elliott: Lead Member – Communications & Tourism (Ex-officio and without remuneration)

APPENDIX 2

GOVERNANCE

Standards Committee – 7 Seats	
Cllr S. Davies (Lab) – Vice Chair (w/e from 1/7/12) Cllr R.C. Evans (Lab) – Chair (w/e from 1/7/12) Cllr T.J. Hope (Con) Cllr M.B. Hosken (Con) Cllr A.D. McClements (Lab) Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab) Cllr A.J. Stanton (Con)	

Audit Committee – 7 Seats	
Cllr R.K. Austin (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr I.T.W. Fletcher (Con) Cllr A.A. Meredith (Con) Cllr S.A.W. Reynolds (Lab) Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab) - Chair Cllr W.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/I) Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab)	

Council Constitution Committee – 7 Seats	
Cllr A.J. Eade (Con) Cllr I.T.W. Fletcher (Con) Cllr G.M. Green (Lib Dem/I) Cllr F.R. Picken (Lab) Cllr K.S. Sahota (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab) Cllr M.J. Smith (Lab) - Chair	

Boundary Review Committee - 7 Seats	
Cllr K.T. Blundell (Lib Dem/I) Cllr S. Davies (Lab) Cllr N.A. Dugmore (Con) Cllr A.J. Eade (Con) Cllr A.D. McClements (Lab) Cllr R.A. Overton (Lab) Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab) – Chair	

REGULATORY

Plans Board – 9 Seats	
Cllr N.A. Dugmore (Con) Cllr I.T.W. Fletcher (Con) Cllr R.T. Kiernan (Con) Cllr J. Loveridge (Lab) Cllr J.C. Minor (Lab) – Chair Cllr G.C.W. Reynolds (Lab) Cllr S.A.W. Reynolds (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr M.J. Smith (Lab) Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab)	<u>Lab Subs</u> Cllr F.M. Bould Cllr A.S. Jhawar Cllr A.A. Mackenzie Cllr L.A. Murray Cllr R.J. Sloan Cllr B.J. Thompson <u>Cons Subs</u> Cllr V.A. Fletcher Cllr A.A. Meredith Cllr C.P.R. Mollett

Licensing Committee – 10 Seats	
Cllr B.H. Duce (Lab) Cllr T.J. Hope (Con) Cllr A.A. Mackenzie (Lab) Cllr C.N. Mason (Lab) – Chair Cllr L.A. Murray (Lab) Cllr F.R. Picken (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr R.G. Scammell (Con) Cllr J.M. Seymour (Con) Cllr B.J. Thompson (Lab) Cllr K.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/I)	

SCRUTINY

Scrutiny Management Board – 7 Seats	
Cllr V.A. Fletcher (Con) Cllr M.G. Ion (Lab) Cllr A.D. McClements (Lab) Cllr C.P.R. Mollett (Con) Cllr S.A.W. Reynolds (Lab) Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab) Cllr D.R.W. White (Lab) – Chair	

Scrutiny Committee – Finance & Budget – 8 Seats	
Cllr R.K. Austin (Lab) Cllr R.C. Evans (Lab) Cllr A. Lawrence (Con) Cllr C.P.R. Mollett (Con) Cllr S.A.W. Reynolds (Lab) - Chair Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab) Cllr M.J. Smith (Lab) Cllr A.J. Stanton (Con)	

Scrutiny Committee – Children & Young People – 8 Seats	
Cllr S.P. Burrell (Con) Cllr G.M. Green (Lib Dem/I) Cllr E.J. Greenaway (Con) Cllr M.G. Ion (Lab) - Chair Cllr J. Loveridge (Lab) Cllr A.A. Mackenzie (Lab) Cllr M.J. Smith (Lab) Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab)	

Scrutiny Committee – Co-operative & Community – 8 Seats	
Cllr N.A.M. England (Lab) Cllr E.J. Greenaway (Con) Cllr T.J. Hope (Con) Cllr A.S. Jhawar (Lab) Cllr J. Loveridge (Lab) Cllr A.D. McClements (Lab) – Chair Cllr G.C.W. Reynolds (Lab) Cllr K.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/I)	

Scrutiny Committee – Health & Adult Social Care – 8 Seats	
Cllr V.A. Fletcher (Con) Cllr J. Loveridge (Lab) Cllr A.A. Meredith (Con) Cllr J.C. Minor (Lab) Cllr F.R. Picken (Lab) Cllr J.M. Seymour (Con) Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab) Cllr D.R.W. White (Lab) – Chair	

**Scrutiny Committee – Housing, Economy & Infrastructure –
8 Seats**

Cllr F.M. Bould (Lab)
 Cllr E.J. Carter (Con)
 Cllr C.N. Mason (Lab)
 Cllr C.P.R. Mollett (Con)
 Cllr F.R. Picken (Lab)
 Cllr J.M. Seymour (Con)
 Cllr K.L. Tomlinson (Lib Dem/I)
Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab) – Chair

Joint Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee – 3 Seats

Cllr V.A. Fletcher (Con)
 Cllr J.C. Minor (Lab)
Cllr D.R.W. White (Lab) – Chair

PERSONNEL

Appeals Committee – 7 Seats

Cllr C.B.A. Elliott (Lab)
 Cllr R.C. Evans (Lab)
Cllr G.M. Green (Lib Dem/I) – Chair
 Cllr A. Lawrence (Con)
 Cllr A.A. Meredith (Con)
Cllr M.J. Smith (Lab) – Vice-Chair
 Cllr C.R. Turley (Lab)

Lab Subs

Cllr E.A. Clare
 Cllr B.H. Duce
 Vacancy
 Vacancy

Con Subs

Cllr S.P. Burrell
 Cllr S. Bentley

Personnel Board – 7 Seats

Cllr S.P. Burrell (Con)
 Cllr A.J. Eade (Con)
 Cllr R.C. Evans (Lab)
 Cllr W.A.M. McClements (Lab)
Cllr R.A. Overton (Lab) – Vice Chair
Cllr K.S. Sahota (Lab) – Chair
 Cllr C.F. Smith (Lab)

Employee JICF – 7 Seats	
Cllr K.T. Blundell (Lib Dem/I) Cllr S.P. Burrell (Con) Cllr A.J. Eade (Con) Cllr W.A.M. McClements (Lab) Cllr R.A. Overton (Lab) – Vice Chair Cllr K.S. Sahota (Lab) – Chair Cllr R.J. Sloan (Lab)	<u>Lab Subs</u> Cllr R.C. Evans Cllr F.R. Picken

OTHER

Combined Fire Authority	
Cllr K.T. Blundell (Lib Dem/I)* Cllr F.M. Bould (Lab) Cllr E.J. Carter (Con) Cllr R.T. Kiernan (Con) Cllr G.C.W. Reynolds (Lab) Cllr B.J. Thompson (Lab)	

*N.B This is a seat allocated to the Labour Group under political balance rules, but has been “gifted” to Cllr Blundell

Telford & Wrekin Parishes Forum – 8 Seats	
Cllr S. Bentley (Con) Cllr S. Davies (Lab) Cllr N.A. Dugmore (Con) Cllr A.R.H. England (Lab) Cllr M.B. Hosken (Con) Cllr J. Loveridge (Lab) Cllr C.N. Mason (Lab) Cllr B.J. Thompson (Lab)	

Development Plan Steering Group – 7 Seats	
Cllr R.K. Austin (Lab) Cllr S. Bentley (Con) Cllr E.J. Carter (Con) Cllr G.M. Green (Lib Dem/I) Cllr F.R. Picken (Lab) Cllr H. Rhodes (Lab) Cllr C.F. Smith (Lab) - Chair	