

## **BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday 21 May 2015 at 6.30pm at 'The Place', Oakengates, Telford, Shropshire**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillors J.C. Ashford, S.L. Barnes, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell, M. Boylan, A.J. Burford, S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, L.D. Carter, E.A. Clare, G.K. Cook, S. Davies, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, A.R.H. England, N.A.M. England, R.C. Evans, I.T.W. Fletcher, V.A. Fletcher, J.A. Francis, C.A. Furnival, E.J. Greenaway, K.R. Guy, M.B. Hosken, J. Jones, A. Lawrence, J. Loveridge, N.C. Lowery, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, A.A. Meredith, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, L.A. Murray (Mayor), T.J. Nelson, R.A. Overton, J. Pinter, G.C.W. Reynolds, S.A.W. Reynolds, S.J. Reynolds, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota (Leader), P.J. Scott, J.M. Seymour, R.J. Sloan, C.F. Smith (Speaker), M.J. Smith, B.D. Tillotson, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, C.R. Turley, P.R. Watling and D.G. Wright.

#### **1. WELCOME FROM MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed civic dignitaries, Members and invited guests to the Annual Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin. In particular he noted the presence of Lord & Lady Grocott; Lucy Allan MP and Freemen of the Borough Mrs Elizabeth Holt DL and Lieutenant Colonel Nick Jenkins representing The Rifles.

#### **2. DECLARATION**

Councillor A J Burford 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 M J Smith, seconded by Councillor R J Sloan, that Councillor L A Murray be elected as Mayor of the Council. Councillor A J Eade moved, seconded by Councillor I T W Fletcher that Councillor J A Francis be elected as Mayor. Following a vote it was :

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor L A Murray be elected as Mayor of the Council for the municipal year 2015/16.

**4. ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

It was moved by Councillor S A W Reynolds, seconded by Councillor E A Clare, that Councillor C F Smith be elected as Speaker of the Council. It was moved by Councillor N A Dugmore, seconded by Councillor J M Seymour that Councillor S Bentley be elected as Speaker. A vote was taken and it was:

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor C F Smith be elected as Speaker of the Council for the municipal year 2015/16.

**5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER**

It was moved by Councillor M J Smith, seconded by Councillor J Pinter, that Councillor R J Sloan be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Council. It was moved by Councillor S Bentley, seconded by Councillor J M Seymour, that Councillor I T W Fletcher be elected as Deputy Speaker. A vote was taken and it was:

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor R J Sloan be appointed as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the municipal year 2015/16.

**6. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

It was moved by Councillor S Davies, seconded by Councillor A J Burford, that Councillor J Pinter be appointed as Deputy Mayor. It was moved by Councillor E J Carter, seconded by Councillor N A Dugmore, that Councillor A A Meredith be appointed as Deputy Mayor. A vote was taken and it was:

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor J Pinter be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the Council for the municipal year 2015/16.

**7. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR & MAYORESS**

A vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor M J Smith and Mrs Christine Smith, was proposed by Councillor E A Clare and seconded by Councillor R J Sloan. A number of other Members also paid tribute to the retiring Mayor for all his 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 for his service over the 2014/15 term of office.

**8. REPLY TO VOTE OF THANKS**

In response, the retiring Mayor thanked his wife Christine, the Deputy Mayor and Mayoral staff for their support during the year.

Over £8500 had been raised during the year for the Mayor's chosen charity, Arthritis Care. The Mayor had been overwhelmed by the support received during his year in

office and had very much enjoyed another term as Mayor, serving the Borough's communities.

#### **9. ELECTION OF LEADER**

It was moved by Councillor R A Overton, seconded by Councillor S Davies, that Councillor K S Sahota be elected Leader of the Council for a four year term of office. It was moved by Councillor S Bentley, seconded by Councillor N A Dugmore, that Councillor A J Eade be elected Leader of the Council for a four year term. Following a vote it was:

**RESOLVED – that Councillor K S Sahota be elected as Leader of the Council for a four year term of office from 2015/16 to 2018/19**

#### **10. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER**

The Speaker confirmed that the Leader was appointing Councillor R A Overton as Deputy Leader for a four year term of office.

**RESOLVED – that Councillor R A Overton be appointed Deputy Leader for a four year period 2015/16 to 2018/19**

#### **11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor R.T. Kiernan.

#### **12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **13. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 March 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.**

#### **14. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor, Councillor L A Murray, told the meeting that he was very much looking to serving the Borough for another year as Mayor following his previous work as Mayor in 2013/14. He had selected three charitable causes. They were the Samaritans, Multiple Sclerosis care and Cottage Care.

Councillor K S Sahota, Leader of the Council, welcomed all guests and councillors to the meeting. He told the meeting that all Council's faced a difficult year ahead with continued budget reductions. His administration had worked hard to minimise the effect of the last five years' £70m budget reductions on front line services in the Borough. 1200 posts had been cut, Senior management costs reduced by 50% and

Cabinet Members had voluntarily reduced their allowances by 10% during the previous administration and would continue to do so. The Council had continued to support business and jobs. Councillor Sahota noted the significant successes of the previous four years. The Telford Loyalty Card, the Ice Rink refurbishment, the introduction of small business loans, the Southwater development, the £1m Pride fund, one of the first Council commercial Solar farms and winning the bid to bring the MOD logistics centre to Telford. Youth unemployment had been reduced and the Council continued to work hard to reduce it further.

For the future, he urged all councillors to work together for the benefit of the community. It was vital to recognise and support the work of staff, volunteers and carers throughout the Borough. Protecting 24/7 Accident & Emergency services at the Princess Royal Hospital was a priority. He paid tribute to David Wright, former MP for Telford, who had served the town admirably over 14 years. He looked forward to working with Lucy Allan, the new MP for Telford to serve the interests of the residents of the Borough.

Councillor A J Eade, leader of the Conservative group, noted that his party had attracted more votes across the Borough. He would work together to benefit the community but felt that the approach to planning needed to change radically. Development of green field sites should be stopped and the Council should consult and listen to local communities.

Councillor W L Tomlinson agreed that the green spaces of the Borough had been threatened too much. He called on the government to change planning policy to reduce the rush of planning applications. He would work with all groups to benefit the Borough.

## **15. 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.

**RESOLVED** – that the Membership of the Cabinet, as notified by Councillor K S Sahota, be appointed for the municipal year 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

## **16. 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.

**RESOLVED** – that the internal bodies for the municipal year 2015/16 (including the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen) be appointed as set out in Appendix 2 to these Minutes.

**17. PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

The programme of dates for ordinary meetings of the Council for 2014/15 would be as follows:

Thursday, 9 July 2015 at The Whitehouse Hotel, Wellington

Thursday, 24 September 2015 at TCAT, Wellington

Thursday, 26 November 2014 at The Place, Oakengates

Thursday, 21 January 2015 at The Place, Oakengates

Thursday 3 March at The Place, Oakengates

Thursday, 5 May 2015 at The Place, Oakengates

The meeting ended at 8.02 pm

**Mayor:** .....

**Date:** .....

<b>APPOINTMENT OF CABINET FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR</b>
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<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility</b>
Cllr K S Sahota	Leader
Cllr R A Overton	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Housing
Cllr L D Carter	Council Finance & Service Delivery
Cllr E A Clare	Leisure & Culture
Cllr S Davies	Business, Neighbourhood & Customer Service
Cllr A R H England	Adult Social Care
Cllr A D McClements	Communities, Regeneration & Transport
Cllr G C W Reynolds	Employment & Skills
Cllr P R Watling	Children, Young People & Families

**GOVERNANCE**

<b>Standards Committee – 8 Seats</b>	
Cllr A J Burford (Lab) Cllr N A M England (Lab) <b>Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) – Vice Chair</b> <b>Cllr M J Smith (Lab) – Chair</b> Cllr P J Scott (Lib Dem/Ind) Conservative Nominee Conservative Nominee Conservative Nominee	

<b>Audit Committee – 8 Seats</b>	
Cllr I T W Fletcher (Con) Cllr K R Guy (Lab) Cllr A Lawrence (Con) Cllr S A W Reynolds (Lab) <b>Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) – Chair</b> <b>Cllr C F Smith (Lab) – Vice Chair</b> Cllr D G Wright (Con) Cllr W L Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Ind)	

<b>Council Constitution Committee – 8 Seats</b>	
Cllr A J Eade (Con) Cllr I T W Fletcher (Con) Cllr R A Overton (Lab) Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) <b>Cllr C F Smith (Lab) – Vice Chair</b> <b>Cllr M J Smith (Lab) – Chair</b> Cllr W L Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Ind) Conservative Nominee	

<b>Boundary Review Committee – 8 seats</b>	
Cllr E J Carter (Con) Cllr A J Eade (Con) Cllr K R Guy (Lab) <b>Cllr R A Overton (Lab) – Vice Chair</b> Cllr G C W Reynolds <b>Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) – Chair</b> Cllr K T Blundell (Lib Dem/Ind) Conservative Nominee	

## REGULATORY

<b>Planning Committee – 8 Seats</b>	
Cllr N A Dugmore (Con) Cllr E J Greenaway (Con) Cllr J Loveridge (Lab) Cllr N C Lowery (Con) <b>Cllr J C Minor (Lab) – Chair</b> Cllr M J Smith (Lab) <b>Cllr C R Turley (Lab) – Vice-Chair</b> Cllr P J Scott (Lib Dem/Ind)	<b><u>Labour Subs</u></b> Cllr K R Guy Cllr S A W Reynolds Cllr S J Reynolds Cllr H Rhodes  <b><u>Conservative Subs</u></b> Cllr I T W Fletcher Cllr R T Kiernan Cllr C P R Mollett

<b>Licensing Committee – 10 Seats</b>	
Cllr M Boylan (Con) Cllr G H Cook (Lab) Cllr I T W Fletcher (Con) Cllr J A Francis (Con) Cllr M B Hosken (Con) Cllr C N Mason (Lab) Cllr S J Reynolds (Lab) <b>Cllr H Rhodes (Lab) – Chair</b> Cllr J M Seymour (Con) <b>Cllr M J Smith (Lab) – Vice Chair</b>	<b><u>Labour Subs</u></b> Cllr J Jones Cllr J C Minor Cllr J A Pinter Cllr C F Smith Cllr C R Turley  <b><u>Conservative Subs</u></b> Cllr S P Burrell

## SCRUTINY

<b>Scrutiny Management Board – 8 Seats</b>	
Cllr S Bentley (Con) Cllr A J Burford (Lab) Cllr N A M England (Lab) Cllr V A Fletcher (Con) Cllr E J Greenaway (Con) Cllr K R Guy (Lab) <b>Cllr S A W Reynolds (Lab) - Chair</b> Cllr J M Seymour (Con)	

<b>Scrutiny Committee – Finance &amp; Enterprise – 8 Seats</b>	
Cllr S Bentley (Con) Cllr S P Burrell (Con) Cllr N A Dugmore (Con) Cllr R C Evans (Lab) <b>Cllr S A W Reynolds (Lab) – Chair</b> Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) Cllr C F Smith (Lab) Cllr D G Wright (Con)	

<b>Scrutiny Committee – Children &amp; Young People – 8 Seats</b>	
Cllr G H Cook (Lab) Cllr E J Greenaway (Con) <b>Cllr K R Guy (Lab) - Chair</b> Cllr J Loveridge (Lab) Cllr J A Pinter (Lab) Cllr K L Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Ind) Conservative Nominee Conservative Nominee	

<b>Scrutiny Committee – Customer, Community &amp; Partnership – 8 Seats</b>	
<b>Cllr N A M England (Lab) - Chair</b> Cllr K R Guy (Lab) Cllr S J Reynolds (Lab) Cllr J M Seymour (Con) Cllr C J Turley (Lab) Cllr P J Scott (Lib Dem/I) Conservative Nominee Conservative Nominee	

<b>Scrutiny Committee – Health &amp; Adult Care – 8 Seats</b>	
Cllr M Boylan (Con) <b>Cllr A J Burford (Lab) – Chair</b> Cllr V A Fletcher (Con) Cllr J Jones (Lab) Cllr J A Pinter (Lab) Cllr R J Sloan (Lab) Conservative Nominee Conservative Nominee	

<b>Joint Health &amp; Overview Scrutiny Committee – 3 Seats</b>	
<b>Cllr A J Burford (Lab) – Chair</b> Cllr V A Fletcher (Con) Cllr R J Sloan (Lab)	

**PERSONNEL**

<b>Appeals Committee – 8 Seats</b>	
Cllr J C Ashford (Con) <b>Cllr R C Evans (Lab) –Chair</b> Cllr J A Francis (Con) <b>Cllr K R Guy (Lab) – Vice Chair</b> Cllr C N Mason (Lab) Cllr A A Meredith (Con) Cllr C F Smith (Lab) Cllr K T Blundell (Lib Dem/Ind)	<b><u>Labour Subs</u></b> Cllr G H Cook Cllr H Rhodes Cllr M J Smith Cllr C R Turley  <b><u>Conservative Subs</u></b> Cllr S Bentley Cllr S P Burrell

<b>Personnel Committee – 8 Seats</b>	
Cllr S Bentley (Con) Cllr S Davies (Lab) Cllr N A Dugmore (Con) Cllr A J Eade (Con) Cllr K R Guy (Lab) <b>Cllr R A Overton (Lab) – Vice Chair</b> <b>Cllr K S Sahota (Lab) – Chair</b> Cllr K L Tomlinson (Lib Dem/Ind)	

## OTHER

<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Board – 14 Seats</b>	
Cllr E A Clare	Cabinet Member – Leisure & Culture
P Taylor	Interim Director: Health, Wellbeing & Care, TWC
Cllr A R H England	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care
D Evans	Chief Operating Officer, Telford & Wrekin CCG
Cllr K T Blundell	Lib Dem/Independent Group
D Harrison	Non-Executive Director, Telford & Wrekin CCG
<b>Dr M Innes – Vice Chair</b>	Chair, Telford & Wrekin CCG
L Johnston	Director for Children’s Services, TWC
<b>Cllr R A Overton – Chair</b>	Cabinet Member - Public Health
Cllr J M Seymour	Conservative Group
D Wickham	NHS Commissioning Board
Cllr P R Watling	Cabinet Member – Children, Young People & Families
E Noakes	Director of Public Health, TWC
J Chaplin	Healthwatch
J Tozer	Community Safety Partnership

<b>Combined Fire Authority</b>	
Cllr E J Carter (Con)	
Cllr I T W Fletcher (Con)	
Cllr R T Kiernan (Con)	
Cllr C N Mason (Lab)	
Cllr S J Reynolds (Lab)	
Cllr C R Turley (Lab)	