

COUNCIL

17 MAY 2022

PRESENT:

Councillors Gwilt (Chairman), Greatorex (Vice-Chair), Anketell, Baker, Ball, Banevicius, Barnett, Birch, Checkland, Cox, Eadie, Eagland, L Ennis, Evans, Humphreys, Lax, Leytham, A Little, E Little, Marshall, Matthews, Norman, Parton-Hughes, Powell, Pullen, Robertson, Salter, Silvester-Hall, Smith, Spruce, Mrs Tranter, Strachan, Tapper, Warburton, Warfield, Westwood, White, M Wilcox, S Wilcox and B Yeates

95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Cross, D Ennis, Grange, Ho, Ray and A Yeates.

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

97 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR (FOLLOWED BY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE)

It was proposed by Councillor Lax, seconded by Councillor Marshall and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Greatorex be elected Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Greatorex signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested with the Chairman's Chain and Badge of Office following which Ms Greatorex was invested with her Badge of Office. Councillor Greatorex then thanked Members for his election as Chair.

COUNCILLOR GREATOREX (CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL) IN THE CHAIR

98 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Marshall duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the sincere thanks of the Council be accorded to Councillor Gwilt and Mrs Gwilt for their services to the Council and the Community during the previous Municipal Year.

Councillor Gwilt and Mrs Gwilt were then presented with their replica badges of office and Councillor Gwilt thanked those who had supported him during his term of office.

99 TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2022 were approved as a correct record subject to the second line of Minute 83 being amended to read 'Councillor Robertson.'

100 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL FOR THE ENSUING YEAR (FOLLOWED BY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE)

It was proposed by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Powell and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Warburton be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Warburton signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Chairman invested Councillor Warburton and Mrs Warburton with their Badges of Office. Councillor Warburton then thanked Members for his appointment as Vice-Chair.

101 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chaplain

The Chair advised that the Reverend Ian Hayter would be his Chaplain.

Civic Service

The Chair announced that his Civic Service would be held on Sunday 26 June 2022 at Wade Street Church, Lichfield.

Easy IT

The Chair announced that he had created an unincorporated association called Easy IT which would help people access broadband and connect to WiFi.

John A Brookes

The Chair informed Members that former Councillor John A Brookes, more commonly known as Tony Brookes, had sadly passed away and led the Council in a Minutes' silence.

Members gave their condolences and remembered former Councillor Brookes and the contribution he had made to Fazeley and the wider District.

102 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON CABINET DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2022 AND CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

Councillor Pullen submitted his report on Cabinet Decisions.

In response to questions Councillor Pullen confirmed that the procurement plan included provision for local procurement and confirmed that the Local Plan was a required document that reflected the fact that housing was a necessity.

Councillor Ball questioned why the figure for affordable housing on strategic sites was 35% rather than the 40% that was discussed at a previous meeting. He also questioned whether Cabinet would consider using the local housing company to provide rented houses rather than reducing the cost of houses for sale.

Councillor Pullen advised that the figures were arrived at following a viability assessment undertaken by a Task Group. With regard to the company he advised he would look at any commercially viable endeavour that supports residents.

Councillor Robertson noted the re-appointment of a Member to Cabinet that had previously felt unable to support the direction being taken by the Local Plan. Councillor Pullen welcomed the re-appointment, and said he was pleased that there was unanimity in recognising the Local Plan as a critical document.

103 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & MEMBER STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Norman stated he was surprised at the external auditor's view of £100,000 being referred to as 'a small cost'.

Councillor White asked that there be a material amendment to the third paragraph of minute 106 to read 'a member' instead of 'members.'

It was proposed by Councillor Spruce, seconded by Councillor White and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Member Standards Committee held on 27 April 2022 be approved and adopted.

104 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Baker and

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 4 April 2022 be approved and adopted.

105 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF AUDIT AND MEMBER STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Spruce presented his report and praised the hard work of members of the committee. He additionally thanked the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive for their strong support.

It was proposed by Councillor Spruce, seconded by Councillor White and

RESOLVED: That the 'Annual Report of the Chair of Audit & Member Standards Committee' as submitted be approved

106 TO CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT THE MEETING OF CABINET ON 10 MAY 2022 IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPROPRIATION OF STYCHBROOK PARK

Councillor Norman was pleased to see the inclusion of the 1972 Local Government Act, Section 122.

Councillor Robertson commented that he wanted it on record that the reason why Birmingham Road Site and other brownfield sites in the district hadn't been chosen for the proposed leisure centre was due to matters of ownership and matters of affordability. He stated this reasoning had not been communicated clearly by LDC to residents, something which needs to be improved in the future.

Councillor Ball supported Councillor Robertson's comments.

Councillor Pullen commended the good work done by the Task Group and agreed that communications need to be improved

It was proposed by Councillor Pullen, seconded by Councillor Baker and

RESOLVED: That the that the recommendations of Cabinet made at

the meeting held on 11 May 2022 as set out in the report be approved.

107 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Norman praised the good scrutiny provided by the Committee and the hard work of its chair. He expressed his disappointment at the lack of members volunteering for Task Groups.

Councillor Gwilt commented that the money left in the Councillor Community Fund could be donated to Food Banks and put toward teaching people to cook. Councillor Robertson agreed with the allocation of the left-over funds to Food Banks but commented that the assertion that people who use food banks need to be taught to cook was wrong.

Councillor Cox and Tapper both supported the allocation of funds to Food Banks.

Councillor Leytham praised the hard work of Christine Lewis, governance officer, on her role governing Overview and Scrutiny Committee but stated that more support for this area is needed in order to run more than six Task Groups. Councillor Pullen agreed that this was a vital area, integral to the Council and two apprentices had been hired recently.

It was proposed by Councillor Leytham, seconded by Councillor M Wilcox and

RESOLVED: That the 'Annual Report of the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee' as submitted be approved'.

108 MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET, COMMITTEES, PANELS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS (INCLUDING ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND APPOINTMENTS BY POLITICAL GROUPS)

It was proposed by Councillor Pullen and seconded by Councillor Eadie "that the Membership of Cabinet, Committees and Panels including the allocation of seats and appointments by Political Groups as submitted be approved."

RESOLVED: (1) That the political allocation of seats on Committees and Panels be approved.

(2) That the appointments to the Cabinet be noted and the appointments to Committees and Panels be approved

(3) That the Constitution be amended to reflect any changes made

109 ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES, PANELS ETC.

It was proposed by Councillor Pullen and duly seconded by Councillor Eadie "that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees and Panels as submitted be approved."

It was then proposed by Councillor Pullen and seconded by Councillor Eadie that Councillor M. Wilcox be appointed as Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and Panels as submitted be approved.

(2) That Councillor M. Wilcox be appointed Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

110 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Pullen proposed that the appointment of representatives on outside bodies as submitted be approved. Councillor Cox asked that the list be amended to include Councillor Checkland as his substitute for the Staffordshire Police Fire and Crime Panel as previously agreed.

The appointments, as amended, were seconded by Councillor Eadie and it was

RESOLVED: That the appointments of representatives on outside bodies be approved.

111 QUESTIONS

Questions under Procedure Rule 11.2 for Council

Q1. Question from Councillor Norman to the Cabinet Member for Recycling

"I welcome Cllr Little to her new post and hope that she seeks assistance from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look at ways of improving the recycling rate for Lichfield District Council. To that end, will she consider other schemes run by more successful councils such as St Albans City and District Council that has a recycling rate of 64.2% compared to Lichfield's 45.9% and residual household waste of 335.50 kg per household compared to Lichfield's 528.70 kg and particularly to look at their weekly collection of kitchen waste that has contributed to this success?."

Response from the Cabinet Member for Recycling

"We are aware that LDC recycling rates have decreased over the years; we've got an ambitious 65% recycling rate which would make us number 1 in the country - the move to dual stream will help us reaching that figure. Cllr Norman you are correct that food waste would help in the reducing of the residual rates and in time further improve the recycling rates, in fact the proposed schemes from government would mandate the collection of kitchen waste. It has and will further be discussed whether we in fact wait for the mandating decision or whether we move to implement a food waste collection service early, I am sure scrutiny would be involved in the making of either of those decisions."

Supplementary Question from Councillor Norman to the Cabinet Member for Recycling

"I'm pleased that the Cabinet Member is ambitious to achieve the 65% recycling rate; I don't know if she's got a date in mind for this aspiration. But does she agree with me that we need a better communications plan to try to educate people in order to achieve this aspiration?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Recycling

"Yes, there is a communications plan which I will share with you."

(The Meeting closed at 7.25 pm)

CHAIRMAN