

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a special meeting of the Cherwell District Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, on 3 September 2001 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Fulljames (Chairman)

Councillors Billington, Blackwell, Bolster, Bullock, Dhesi, Doy, Mrs Edwards, A Fulljames, Ganter, Gasson, Green, Harper, Heath, Mrs Higham, Mrs Hodge, Hunter (Fringford), Hunter (Kirtlington), Justice, Laynes, Mrs MacLeod, Makepeace, Mallon, Mansell, Markham, Mrs Milne, Mold, O'Sullivan, Pack, Reynolds, Miss Smith, Spencer, Stansby, L Stratford, Mrs R Stratford, Vine, Witcher, Wyse and Mrs Young.

Officers: G J Handley (Chief Executive), L R Angel (District Treasurer), C Baynes (Head of Corporate Services), P W Rooke (Chief Administration Officer), I Davies (Head of Leisure Services), A Jones (Head of Planning and Development Services), Mrs E Edwards (Head of Environmental Services), C Lawrence (Personnel Manager), J Scarborough (Solicitor to the Council), Mrs A Davies (Corporate Strategy Manager) and J D Best (Senior Committee Administrator).

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Cartledge, Collins, Mrs Graham, Mrs Hastings, Mitchell, Payne and Strangwood.

A: MATTERS NOT OF AN EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL NATURE

C.34/01 CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL'S GUESTS

Prior to the commencement of business the Chairman introduced her two guests for the evening to Members of the Council namely Mr Hugo Brunner, the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire and Lady Sylvia McLintock, the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire.

C.35/01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 July 2001 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C.36/01 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Councillors Green and Mrs Young

The Chairman welcomed Councillors Green and Mrs Young to their first Council meeting following their recent illnesses.

(b) National Britain in Bloom Competition

The Chairman reported that both Banbury and Bicester had entered the Thames and Chiltern Regional round in the Large Town category of the Britain in Bloom competition. The judging had taken place on 19 July following which it had been announced that Banbury had gained first place with Bicester coming second just six points behind. Bicester, through its success in the previous year was assessed by the

judges for the National Competition (to be held on 6 August) and the Chairman wished Bicester every success in the National Finals the outcome of which would be known on 2 October 2001.

The Chairman also congratulated Banbury and Bicester Town Councils, everyone who had supported the initiative and the appropriate Cherwell officers who had coordinated the entries.

C.37/01 **MOTION STANDING ADJOURNED – ST MARY’S CHURCH APPEAL, BANBURY**

Under Minute C.27/01, the following motion submitted by Councillor Reynolds had stood adjourned at the last Council meeting to enable a report on the matter to be submitted to the Policy Committee:-

“This Council makes a donation to the St Mary’s Church Appeal in acknowledgement that the restoration is providing an auditorium suitable for a variety of uses”.

The motion had been considered at the special meeting of the Policy Committee on 13 August 2001. The recommendation of that Committee (to adopt the motion, to donate £50,000 and to approve a supplementary capital estimate of the aforementioned amount) was set out in Minute POL.33/01.

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Policy Committee in Minute POL.33/01 be approved and adopted.

C.38/01 **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

It was moved by the Chairman of the Committee (Councillor Blackwell), and seconded by Councillor O’Sullivan, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on 19 July 2001, be received.

The Council noted the decisions contained in Minutes D.21/01 to D.26/01 inclusive.

(Note: the Chairman of the Council indicated that if there were no questions on exempt Minute No. D.25/01 that Minute would be dealt with under Part I of the agenda so that there would be no requirement to exclude the public and press, as was usual, at the end of that part of the agenda. There were no questions and the aforementioned Minute was dealt with accordingly.)

C.39/01 **POLICY COMMITTEE (SPECIAL MEETING)**

It was moved by the Chairman of the Committee (Councillor Reynolds) and seconded by Councillor A Fulljames, that the Minutes of the special meeting of the Policy Committee held on 13 August 2001 be received (with the exception of Minute POL.33/01, which had been dealt with under Minute C.37/01 above).

RESOLVED that the recommendation in Minute POL.34/01 be adopted.

The Council noted the decisions contained in Minutes POL.35/01 to POL.43/01 inclusive.

(Note: the Chairman of the Council indicated that if there were no questions on exempt Minute Nos. POL.39/01 to POL.42/01 inclusive those Minutes would be dealt with under Part I of the agenda so that there would be no requirement to exclude the public and press, as was usual, at the end of that part of the agenda. There were no questions and the aforementioned Minutes were dealt with accordingly.)

C.40/01 **APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

It was moved by Councillor Reynolds and seconded by Councillor Markham, that those parts of the new Constitution which the Council is lawfully able to approve and adopt be so approved and adopted.

RESOLVED that those parts of the new Constitution which the Council is lawfully able to approve and adopt be so adopted.

(Notes:

- (1) Copies of the new Constitution had been sent to all Members of the Council together with, following the despatch of the Council agenda, the Financial Procedure Rules;
- (2) The Executive was to meet after this Meeting in order to formally approve and adopt those parts of the Constitution which related to the Executive.)

C.41/01 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE LEADER

Further to Minute C.25/01 Members were reminded that Councillor G A Reynolds had been nominated as the Executive Leader (Designate) at the meeting of the Council held on 16 July 2001.

It was then moved by the Chairman of the Council and seconded by Councillor A Fulljames that Councillor G A Reynolds be elected as Executive Leader.

There were no further nominations and accordingly it was

RESOLVED that Councillor G A Reynolds be elected as Executive Leader.

C.42/01 MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE AND ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS

The Executive Leader reported that the membership of the Executive and the allocation of the various portfolios would be as follows:-

Member	Portfolio
(Councillor Reynolds)	Policy
Councillor L Stratford	Community Planning, Corporate Strategy and IT
Councillor Mallon	Recreation
Councillor Blackwell	Development
Councillor Markham	Environmental
Councillor A Fulljames	Housing
Councillor Payne	Resources
Councillor Heath	Best Value

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

C.43/01 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Reynolds and seconded by Councillor Markham, and

RESOLVED

- (1) that, pursuant to the division of Political Group representation on Committees as agreed by the Council under Minute C.25/01, the following adjustments (proposed following consultation between the Group Leaders) be made in order to achieve the aggregate seating entitlement for each Group:-
 - (a) the reallocation of one Conservative Group seat on the Council and Employee Joint Committee to the Cherwell Independent Group;
 - (b) the reallocation of one Labour Group seat on the North Area Planning Committee to the Independent Socialist Member; and
 - (c) the reallocation of the Liberal Democrat Group seat on the Personnel and General Committee to the Independent Socialist Member; and
- (2) that the appointment of Members (and, where appropriate, Alternate Members) to serve on Committees for the remainder of 2001/02, shall be in accordance with the details set out in the schedule attached as Appendix A to these Minutes.

(Note: the appointments in Resolution (2) above take account of the wishes of the Independent Socialist Member (Councillor Humphries) for the seat on the North Area Planning Committee allocated to him, to be filled instead by Councillor Parish.)

C.44/01 **END OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 7.08 pm.