

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Cherwell District Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, on 23 June 2004 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Back, Bhart, Billington, Blackwell, Bolster, Bonner, Cartledge, Collins, Dhesi, Donaldson, Doy, Mrs Edwards, A Fulljames, Mrs C Fulljames, Gasson, Godwin, Hallchurch, Hanna, Harper, Mrs Hastings, Heath, Mrs Higham, Hornsby-Smith, Hughes, Hurle, Justice, MacLeod, Macnamara, Mallon, Mrs Milne, Milne Home, Morris, O'Sullivan, Pack, Parish, Miss Pickford, Mrs Pratt, Reynolds, Sames, Sibley, Stansby, Mrs R Stratford, Miss Thirzie Smart, Turner, Webb, Wood and Wyse.

Officers: G J Handley (Chief Executive), G Simcox (District Treasurer), C R 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), D Marriott (Property and Technical Services Manager), C Lawrence (Personnel Manager), M Whitfield (Head of ICT), Mrs P Wilkinson (Principal Solicitor), A Eastman (Principal Committee Administrator).

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Evans, Gilmore and Makepeace.

A: MATTERS NOT OF AN EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL NATURE

C.1/04 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The outgoing Chairman of the Council (Councillor Mrs Hastings) presided for the consideration of this matter.

It was moved by Councillor Reynolds, and seconded by Councillor Wood, that Councillor Heath be elected Chairman of the Council for 2004/05. There were no other nominations and, accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Heath be elected Chairman of the Council for 2004/05.

(Councillor Heath made his declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair.)

C.2/04 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Reynolds, and seconded by Councillor Wood, that Councillor Mrs Hastings be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2004/05. There were no other nominations and, accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Hastings be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2004/05.

(Councillor Mrs Hastings made her declaration of acceptance of office.)

C.3/04 OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the Council presented Councillor Mrs Hastings with a gift as a token of the Council's appreciation of her term of office as Chairman. The Political Group Leaders also paid tribute to Councillor Mrs Hastings for the way she had fulfilled the role and duties of Chairman during the last two years.

Councillor Mrs Hastings reported on her second year of office, and paid tribute to her Consort,
Mr David Markham.

C.4/04 **CHAIRMAN'S CONSORT**

The Chairman of the Council named his wife, Mrs Christine Heath, as his Consort.

C.5/04 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the meeting of the Council held on 19 April 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C.6/04 **RESULTS OF ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTION OF POLITICAL GROUPS**

The Chief Executive reported on the results of the District Council elections held on 10 June 2004 (details of which are set out in Appendix A to these Minutes). The Political Group Leaders paid tribute to the former Labour Group Leader, Bob Laynes, who had failed to retain his Kidlington South seat following 18 years service on the Council.

The Chief Executive also reported as follows on the formal notification of the constitution of Political Groups, on which the political balance on Committees had been recommended:-

Conservative Group	-	36 Members
Labour Group	-	10 Members
Liberal Democrat Group	-	4 Members

The Chief Executive further reported that he had been formally notified that the names of the Leaders of the Political Groups were as follows:-

Conservative Group	-	Councillor Wood
Labour Group	-	Councillor Hornsby-Smith
Liberal Democrat Group	-	Councillor Pack

C.7/04 **THE EXECUTIVE LEADER**

As there had been a change in the leadership of the controlling Political Group, then, in accordance with Article 7.03 of the Council Constitution, the Executive Leader (Councillor Reynolds) ceased to hold that office.

The two other Political Group Leaders paid tribute to Councillor Reynolds for his service to the Council during his term as Executive Leader. Councillor Reynolds reported on the Council's achievements during that period, and referred to his report for 2003/04, copies of which were available at the meeting.

It was then moved by Councillor Reynolds, and seconded by Councillor Heath, that Councillor Wood be elected as the Executive Leader. There were no other nominations and, accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Wood be elected as the Executive Leader.

C.8/04 **DEPUTY EXECUTIVE LEADER**

With reference to Executive Procedure Rule 1.2, the new Executive Leader reported that he had appointed Councillor Reynolds as Deputy Executive Leader.

C.9/04 **AMENDMENTS TO PORTFOLIOS**

It was moved by Councillor Wood, and seconded by Councillor Reynolds:-

- (a) that the number of portfolios be increased from 8 to 9, and that the title of each portfolio and the general terms of reference assigned thereto be in accordance with the details set out in Appendix B to these Minutes; and
- (b) that the Chief Executive and the Chief Administration Officer be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Executive Leader, to make all necessary changes to the Constitution generally, and to Responsibility for Functions in particular, to give effect to the portfolio amendments proposed in (a) above.

RESOLVED that the motion set out in (a) and (b) above be agreed.

C.10/04 **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 was as follows:-

PORTFOLIO	MEMBER
Policy and Community Planning	Councillor Wood
IT	Councillor Hallchurch
Development	Councillor Reynolds
Environment	Councillor Mallon
Recreation	Councillor Bolster
Housing	Councillor Macnamara
Resources	Councillor Gasson
Property and Regeneration Schemes	Councillor A Fulljames
Performance Improvement and Management	Councillor Hughes

The Executive Leader also thanked Councillor Blackwell for the considerable amount of work he had done as the previous Development Portfolio Holder, particularly in relation to the Cherwell Local Plan.

C.11/04 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES**

(a) **Division of Representation**

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

RESOLVED that, for the purposes of Section 15(3) to 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the representation of the Political Groups on the Committees to be appointed for 2004/05 shall be as set out in Appendix C to these Minutes, being so far as is reasonably practicable a division of representation of the Groups which satisfies the principles set out in Section 15(5).

(b) **Politically Balanced Committees**

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

RESOLVED that Members (and, where appropriate, alternate Members) be appointed to serve on each of the Committees set out in Appendix C to these Minutes, in accordance with the nominations made by the Political Groups, and set out in Appendix E to these Minutes.

(c) **Non Politically Balanced Committee (Standards Committee)**

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

RESOLVED that Members be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee as set out in Appendix D to these Minutes, in accordance with the nominations made by the Political Groups as set out in Appendix E to these Minutes.

C.12/04 **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD OF CHARTER COMMUNITY HOUSING**

It was moved by Councillor Wood, and seconded by Councillor Reynolds, that Councillors Billington, Mrs Hastings and Mrs Milne be appointed to serve on the Board of Charter Community Housing, for 2004/05.

It was further moved by Councillor Hornsby-Smith and seconded by Councillor Parish that Councillors Sibley and Stansby be appointed to serve on the said Board for 2004/05.

RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed to serve on the Board of Charter Community Housing for 2004/05:-

from the Conservative Group -	Councillors Billington, Mrs Hastings and Mrs Milne
from the Labour Group	- Councillors Sibley and Stansby

C.13/04 **RETURN OF ATTENDANCES**

The Council received and noted a report showing the number of attendances of Members at meetings of the Executive and Committees during 2004/05.

C.14/04 **END OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.

(Note:- at the conclusion of the Council meeting, various Committees met to appoint their Chairman and Vice Chairman).