

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Town Hall, Bideford

18 May 2015

PRESENT: Councillor M Langmead (Chair)
Councillor J Himan (Vice Chair)

Councillors: B Boundy, A J Boyle, DG Brenton, M Brown, K Carroll, PS Christie, R Darch, AL Dart, K Davis, GA Dezart, AJ Eastman, Z Gregorek, PJW Hackett, R Hancock, D Hurley, AT Inch, SG Inch, KJ James, TJ Johns, R Julian, J Langton-Lockton, PG Le Maistre, RA Lock, J Morrish, DAD McGeough, I Parker, PW Pennington, S Robinson, C Simmons, P Watson, J Whittaker, A Whittle and R Wiseman

ALSO PRESENT: J Wallace (Head of Paid Service)
J Hollis (Senior Solicitor)
S Hearse (Joint Head of Finance)
H Roper (Service Improvement Officer)
D Ainscough (Regulatory Services Manager)

S Cawsey and L Inch (Democratic Service Officers)

Approximately 25 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor B Hicks

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Nominations were invited for Chair of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Hurley that Councillor Langmead be elected Chair of the Council.

Resolved:

That Councillor Langmead be elected Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Langmead read and signed the acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

(Vote: For 21, Abstentions 14)

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Nominations were invited for Vice Chair of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Christie, seconded by Councillor Simmons that Councillor Dart be elected Vice Chair of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor Whittaker that Councillor Himan be elected Vice Chair of the Council.

Resolved:

That Councillor Himan be elected Vice Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

(Vote: Councillor Dart - For 16
Councillor Himan – For 19)

Councillor Himan read and signed the acceptance of Office.

Due to Councillor Langmead being unwell the Vice Chair, Councillor Himan, took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 30 March 2015 were presented.

Councillor Christie referred to minute item 116 - Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (CIL). He felt that the minutes should have included a more detailed explanation regarding CIL not covering the cost of infrastructure and this having to be covered by the Authority.

The Head of Paid Service advised that Devon County Council were responsible for the major infrastructure, ie roads, schools etc.

Councillor Pennington enquired as to whether a response letter had been received from Dr Alison Diamond. Enquiries to be made and if required a follow up letter to be sent.

It was proposed by Councillor Christie seconded by Councillor Brenton and -

Resolved: That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

(Vote: For 16, Abstentions 18)

5. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

- a) Mr M Pearce welcomed all new Members to the Council and stated that he hoped they would do their best for Torrridge during their term of office. He advised that his main concerns were:
- Regeneration
 - Income Regeneration
 - Younger generation – the need to help with jobs
- b) Mr R Johnson addressed the Committee regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule which was presented at the last Council meeting. He referred to his comments made at that meeting regarding the New Homes Bonus and noted that they had not been included in the Minutes as requested. He stated that monies needed to be put into infrastructure and stressed that it was important to ensure that the right decision was made at this time.
- c) Mr D Glaholm congratulated Members on their election to the Council. He addressed the meeting regarding promoting growth in the south west of England, and gave an example of possibly bringing back call centres to this area. He would like to see this included as an item on the Community & Resources Committee agenda.

6. CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER BUSINESS ESPECIALLY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIR

There were no items brought forward by the Chair.

7. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE A9

There were no questions.

8. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Nominations were invited for Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Morrish, seconded by Councillor Watson that Councillor Whittaker be elected Leader of the Council

Resolved:

That Councillor Whittaker be elected Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

(Vote: For 31, Abstentions 3)

9. ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Nominations were invited for Deputy Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Whittaker, seconded by Councillor Himan that Councillor Morrish be elected Deputy Leader of the Council.

Resolved:

That Councillor Morrish be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

(Vote: For 22, Abstentions 12)

10. TO CONFIRM SIZE OF COMMITTEES THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE AS SET OUT IN PART 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Senior Solicitor presented this item and advised it was a requirement that each year Members approve the allocation of seats on Committees, their Terms of Reference as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution and alternative arrangements, namely that proportional representation was not required for Licensing Committee, Standards Committee and Joint Local Plan Working Group.

It was proposed, seconded and -

Resolved:

That the number of seats assigned to each Committee as set out in the agenda and their Terms of Reference as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution be agreed, and that proportional representation not be required for the Licensing Committee, Standards Committee and the Joint Local Plan Working Group.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

11. TO AGREE THE NUMBERS OF SEATS ON THE COMMITTEES ALLOCATED TO EACH OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS

The Chair referred to the Committee Seats allocation set out on the tabled papers.

It was proposed by Councillor Whittaker seconded by Councillor Watson and

Resolved:

That the Members agree the seat allocation as stated on the tabled papers.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

12. TO AGREE (OR DELEGATE TO GROUP LEADERS TO AGREE) THE MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEES

The Head of Paid Service gave a brief update, following which it was suggested that this item be delegated to Group Leaders to agree.

It was proposed, seconded and -

Resolved:

That this item be delegated to Group Leaders to agree.

(Vote: Unanimous)

13. ELECTION OF CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS

a) Community & Resources Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Community & Resources Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor P Watson, seconded by Councillor D McGeough that Councillor J Whittaker be elected Chair of Community & Resources Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor J Whittaker be elected Chair of the Community & Resources Committee.

(Vote: For 27, Abstentions 7)

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chair of the Community & Resources Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor D McGeough, seconded by Councillor P Le Maistre that Councillor D Hurley be elected Vice Chair of Community & Resources Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor Hurley be elected Vice Chair of the Community & Resources Committee.

(Vote: For 21, Abstentions 13)

b) Audit & Governance Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor K Carroll seconded by Councillor I Parker that Councillor P Hackett be elected Chair of Audit and Governance Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor P Hackett be elected Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

(Vote: For 20, Abstentions 14)

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor J Whittaker, seconded by Councillor D Hurley that Councillor B Boundy be elected Vice Chair of Audit and Governance Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor B Boundy be elected Vice Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

(Vote: For 21, Abstentions 13)

c) Plans Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Plans Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor P Watson, seconded by Councillor J Whittaker that Councillor R Lock be elected Chair of Plans Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor R Lock be elected Chair of the Plans Committee.

(Vote: For 32, Abstentions 2)

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chair of the Plans Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor R Lock, seconded by Councillor J Whittaker that Councillor M Brown be elected Vice Chair of the Plans Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor M Brown be elected Vice Chair of the Plans Committee.

(Vote: For – unanimous)

d) Licensing Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Licensing Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor J Morrish, seconded by Councillor J Whittaker that Councillor AT Inch be elected Chair of the Licensing Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor AT Inch be elected Chair of the Licensing Committee.

(Vote: For 24, Abstentions 10)

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor D Hurley, seconded by Councillor J Whittaker that Councillor D McGeough be elected Vice Chair of Licensing Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor D McGeough be elected Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee.

(Vote: For 22, Abstentions 12)

e) Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor R Lock, seconded by Councillor J Himan that Councillor S Inch be elected Chair of External Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor S Inch be elected Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee.

(Vote: For 25, Abstentions 9)

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor J Whittaker, seconded by Councillor P Christie that Councillor P Pennington be elected Vice Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor P Pennington be elected Vice Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (External) Committee.

(Vote: For 33, Abstentions 1)

f) Overview & Scrutiny (Internal) Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (Internal) Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor J Morrish, seconded by Councillor R Lock that Councillor P Watson be elected Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (Internal) Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor P Watson be elected Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (Internal) Committee.

(Vote: For 23, Abstentions 11)

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (Internal) Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor P Christie, seconded by Councillor S Robinson that Councillor A Dart be elected Vice Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (Internal) Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor AT Inch, seconded by Councillor A Boyle that Councillor P Le Maistre be elected Vice Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (Internal) Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor P Le Maistre be elected Vice Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny (Internal) Committee.

(Vote:
Councillor A Dart – For 16
Councillor P Le Maistre – For 18)

g) Standards Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Standards Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor J Whittaker, seconded by Councillor A Eastman that Councillor P Le Maistre be elected Chair of the Standards Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor R Julian, seconded by Councillor K Davis that Councillor S Robinson be elected Chair of the Standards Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor P Le Maistre be elected Chair of the Standards Committee.

(Vote:

Councillor P Le Maistre - For 20

Councillor S Robinson – For 9

Abstentions 5)

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chair of the Standards Committee

It was proposed by Councillor J Morrish, seconded by Councillor K Davis that Councillor S Robinson be elected Vice Chair of the Standards Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor S Robinson be elected Vice Chair of the Standards Committee.

(Vote: For 30, Against 1, Abstentions 3)

14. TO AGREE THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION AS SET OUT IN PART 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Senior Solicitor explained this was a standing item requiring confirmation at every Annual General Meeting. He advised that no changes to the Scheme of Delegation had been made.

The Senior Solicitor was advised of an amendment to be made to 37 i) which referred to Head of Strategic Development and Planning (this post no longer exists). Confirmation was given by the Senior Solicitor that this item would be amended.

It was proposed, seconded and -

Resolved:

That the Scheme of Delegations be approved, subject to the above amendment.

Vote: (For 33, Abstentions 1)

15. SUBSTITUTION AT COMMITTEES – TO AGREE THE SUBSTITUTION SCHEME

The Constitution states that “this procedural rule shall be subject to review at each Annual Meeting of the Council and shall cease to apply unless the Council resolves it shall continue”.

Members referred to item A4.5 a) of the Agenda which states that Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members may not substitute on Community & Resources Committee and sought clarification from the Senior Solicitor.

Following an enquiry by Members, the Senior Solicitor confirmed that the Constitution states that Members must undertake the relevant training prior to sitting on Plans or Licensing Committee. Councillor Christie referred to National Legislation which states that a Group Leader can appoint any Member to a Committee without first having had the training. The Senior Solicitor addressed this issue.

Councillor Whittaker suggested that because of the query to A4.5 a) of the Agenda, this matter be deferred until the next Council meeting. The Senior Solicitor advised that if this matter was not approved at this meeting, there would be a period where no substitution scheme was in place.

It was proposed by Councillor Whittaker, seconded by Councillor A Inch and -

Resolved:

That this item be deferred until the next Full Council meeting for clarification on item A4.5 a) of the Agenda

Vote: (For 33, Abstentions 1)

16. APPOINTMENT (OR DELEGATE TO GROUP LEADERS TO AGREE) OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES/COMMUNITY GROUPS

Councillor Whittaker suggested that Group Leaders discuss the appointment of representatives on outside bodies.

It was proposed by Councillor Whittaker, seconded by Councillor AT Inch and -

Resolved:

That this item be delegated to Group Leaders to discuss the appointment of representatives to sit on outside bodies

Vote: (For - Unanimous)

17. APPROVE LEAD MEMBERS

Members agreed that this item be deferred to allow Group Leaders to discuss and change, if necessary, the role of Lead Members.

It was proposed by Councillor Whittaker, seconded by Councillor AT Inch and -

Resolved:

That this item be deferred until the next Full Council meeting for the reason as stated above

Vote: (For - unanimous)

It was proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Davis and –

Resolved:

That a Lead Member be appointed specifically for Housing.

(Vote: For – unanimous)

18. TRANSFORMING TORRIDGE

The Head of Paid Service gave a verbal update following the presentation given to Members at the Induction Day.

She advised that the Local Partnerships had now issued a draft Report where any issues arising will be corrected before the next meeting. A further update and presentation will be given at the next Full Council meeting.

It was asked if there is a timetable for staff moving from Bridge Buildings to Riverbank House. The Head of Paid Service advised that it was proposed all staff would be located at Riverbank House by April 2016.

19. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

20. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motion

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.45 pm.

Signed:

Date: