

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

16TH MAY 2017

Present:

Councillor Mark F Annett - Chairman
Councillor Julian Beale - Vice-Chairman

Councillors -

SI Andrews	SG Hirst
AW Berry	RC Hughes
AR Brassington	RL Hughes
T Cheung	Mrs SL Jepson
Sue Coakley	RG Keeling
Alison Coggins	Juliet Layton
PCB Coleman	MGE MacKenzie-Charrington
Andrew Doherty	Dilys Neill
RW Dutton	NJW Parsons
Jenny Forde	SDE Parsons
David Fowles	NP Robbins
C Hancock	Tina Stevenson
JA Harris	Lynden Stowe
M Harris	R Theodoulou
Maggie Heaven	LR Wilkins
Jenny Hincks	

Apologies:

Jim Parsons

CL.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest from Members under either the Code of Conduct or Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

There were no declarations of interest by Officers.

CL.2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Mark Annett explained that he was not seeking re-election as Chairman of the Council, and he thanked his Vice-Chairman; fellow Members; Mrs. Marie Whiteman; and other Officers for their support during his time as Chairman. In conclusion, Councillor Annett stated that it had been an honour to represent the Council in the County and the wider area.

The Head of Democratic Services reported/invited nominations for Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Julian Beale had been Proposed by Councillor RL Hughes and Seconded by Councillor MGE MacKenzie-Charrington.

In the absence of further nominations, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Julian Beale be elected Chairman of the Council, to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2018.

Notes:

- (i) Councillor Beale read out his Declaration of Office, which he duly signed.
- (ii) Councillor Beale then took the Chair.
- (iii) Councillor Beale started by welcoming Councillor Dilys Neill to her first Meeting of the Council following her recent illness. He thanked Members for electing him as Chairman of the Council and stated that he was conscious that representing a rural Ward in the north of the District meant that he had a lot to learn, particularly in respect of urban areas in the south of the District. In conclusion, he stated that he would be grateful to Members for their continued support.

CL.3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Head of Democratic Services reported/invited nominations.

Councillor M Harris had been Proposed by Councillor RC Hughes and Seconded by Councillor PCB Coleman.

Councillor David Fowles had been Proposed by Councillor RL Hughes and Seconded by Councillor SG Hirst.

Following a vote, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor David Fowles be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council, to hold Office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2017.

Notes:

- (i) Councillor Fowles then read out his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which he duly signed.
- (ii) Councillor Fowles stated that he considered Councillor M Harris to be a worthy opponent, for whom he had infinite respect, and that he would serve in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Council to the best of his abilities.

CL.4 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN, LEADER OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The Chairman of the Council reminded the Meeting that Councillor Lynden Stowe had decided to step down as Leader of the Council. The Chairman stated that Councillor Stowe had encouraged and supported him personally, and had rendered great service to the Council and the District. The Chairman considered that Councillor Stowe had been consistently careful and energetic in undertaking his duties, and he wished him well for the future.

In response, Councillor Stowe thanked Members and staff for all of their work during his time as Leader of the Council, making particular reference to Mr. David Neudegg; Mr. Frank Wilson; Mrs. Christine Gore; Mr. Ralph Young; Mrs. Jenny Poole; Mr. Nigel Adams; Mr. Derek Chiplin; Mrs. Bhavna Patel; Mr. Bob McNally; Mrs. Helen Argo; and Mrs. Marie Whiteman. Councillor Stowe also thanked current and former Cabinet colleagues who he considered to be exemplars of public service, making particular reference to Councillors NJW Parsons and Mrs. SL Jepson. Councillor Stowe considered this to be a 'good' Council which had achieved national recognition as one of the best in the country, and he hoped that the Council could build on that and get 'proper' local recognition. He stated that he had enjoyed his time as Leader and considered that the Council always met challenges face-on and had addressed most of those challenges well. Councillor Stowe's message to the Council was not to be afraid to take leaps of faith as, in his experience, they usually worked out well, and he concluded by reading out a Polish proverb.

On behalf of the staff, the Head of Paid Service stated that Councillor Stowe had been a strong Leader who had been the first to pay regard and express thanks to the staff, who appreciated that.

Councillor JA Harris, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, stated that he and Councillor Stowe had had, and still had, a number of differences over the years. Councillor Harris outlined some of Councillor Stowe's considerable achievements during his time as Leader of the Council, including the joint working initiatives and the setting-up of Ubico Ltd. Councillor Harris stated that he disagreed with Councillor Stowe's view of the Council's reputation but thanked him for his service as Leader of the Council, further stated that he hoped he enjoyed his new endeavours, and wished him the best of luck for the future.

The Vice-Chairman of the Council thanked Councillor Stowe, who he had worked closely with over a number of years, both within and outside the Council. The Vice-Chairman considered that Councillor Stowe had managed to balance the various challenges he had faced in life, and concluded by stating that he, personally, had learnt a lot from Councillor Stowe.

Councillor M Harris stated that he had first met Councillor Stowe in 2003 when Mrs. Julie Girling had still been the Leader of the Council, and he thanked Councillor Stowe for the opportunity given to him when he had been appointed as Chairman of the Cirencester Car Parking Project Board.

Councillor Juliet Layton stated that she had had a number of differences with Councillor Stowe, and expressed the hope that he would pass on the pledge he had made at the time of the District Council elections in 2015 regarding removal of the threat of a waste transfer station being established in South Cerney.

In response to that latter comment, Councillor Stowe stated that there were no on-going instructions to Officers in that respect, and that, as his Conservative Group colleagues had noticed the angst, in his opinion they would be unwise to go back on the pledge.

CL.5 RECORD OF ATTENDANCES

The Council received the Record of Attendances at Meetings during the past Council Year.

In updating the circulated report, it was reported that Councillor RW Dutton had substituted at the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 24th January 2017.

Councillor JA Harris, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, echoed the earlier comments by the Chairman of the Council to Councillor Dilys Neill. In response, Councillor Neill thanked Members for their support and patience during her recent illness.

CL.6 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman of the Council reported/invited nominations.

Councillor Mark Annett had been Proposed by Councillor Lynden Stowe and Seconded by Councillor RW Dutton.

In the absence of any further nominations, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mark F Annett be appointed Leader of the Council, to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2019.

Notes:

(i) It was noted that, by virtue of the Constitution, the Leader of the Council would also be Chairman of the Cabinet. It was also noted that, under the 'Strong Leader' executive arrangement, the Leader appointment was for the term of the Council rather than on an annual basis.

(ii) Councillor Annett thanked the Council for the confidence shown in appointing him as Leader, and stated that while it would be steep learning curve for him, he would do his best.

(iii) Councillor Stowe stated that Councillor Annett had been a good friend of his over many years, and that he considered Councillor Annett's hard work, dedication and sense of public duty to be an example to all. Councillor Stowe further stated that Councillor Annett had shown fortitude and common sense during his time as Chairman of the Council, and he hoped that the Council would benefit from his Leadership.

(iv) Councillor JA Harris welcomed Councillor Annett to his new post, stating that he had a 'big job' to do. Councillor Harris expressed his disappointment at not having been given any advance warning that Councillor Annett was going to be nominated as Leader, and he commented that Councillor Annett was the third consecutive Leader of the Council to represent the Chipping Campden Ward. Councillor Harris expressed the hope that Councillor Annett would seek to engage with colleague Members in the Liberal Democrat Group, particularly as Cirencester was facing the biggest challenges. Councillor Harris outlined a number of priorities he hoped Councillor Annett would address, including the issue of Ward Members being able to vote on the Chesterton development when that application came before the Council for determination; additional resources to ensure completion of the Local Plan; and car parking in Cirencester. Councillor Harris expressed the hope that Councillor Annett would have a fresh approach in his handling of Council business, and that he would divorce business interests from developments proposed across the District, including the Chesterton development. Councillor Harris stated that his Group would support Councillor Annett when there was agreement, but would be robust in its

opposition when there was no agreement, and he concluded by expressing the hope that Councillor Annett would deliver the change that the District was crying out for.

Councillor M Harris stated that, in his capacity as Mayor of Cirencester, he had had the pleasure of serving with Councillor Annett in his capacity as Chairman of this Council. Councillor Harris expressed his view that Councillor Annett would be a good Leader.

Councillor RL Hughes expressed his view that Councillor Annett would be an excellent Leader of the Council, and that there should be closer working with Liberal Democrat colleagues.

Councillor Juliet Layton congratulated Councillor Annett on his appointment as Leader of the Council. Councillor Layton referred to some of the tasks faced by the Council, including the Chesterton development; the Local Plan; and the 2020 Project, and expressed the hope that Councillor Annett would be supportive of the work carried out on behalf of the Council by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor PCB Coleman also congratulated Councillor Annett on his appointment as Leader of the Council, and expressed the hope that he would be open to suggestions from colleague Members. Councillor Coleman suggested that Councillor Annett should consider instigating Meetings between the Leaders of the two political groups on the Council and the Strategic Directors.

CL.7 APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET

It was noted that Councillor Mark F Annett, as Leader of the Council, had made the following Cabinet appointments for the 2017/18 Council Year:-

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Portfolio Area</u>
Mark F Annett	Resources
NJW Parsons (Deputy Leader)	Forward Planning
Sue Coakley	Environment
C Hancock	Enterprise and Partnerships
SG Hirst	Housing, Health and Leisure
MGE MacKenzie-Charrington	Planning Services and Cirencester Car Parking Project

The Leader explained that details of the Portfolio areas, including a breakdown of the responsibilities, would be circulated in due course.

CL.8 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council was requested to make appointments to the various Committees of the Council for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

Attention was drawn to the Briefing Note from the Head of Democratic Services, which set out the allocations of each of the political groups within the Council to the various Committee and it was

RESOLVED that the Committee appointments for 2016/17 be confirmed.

Record of Voting - for 32, against 0, abstentions 1, absent 1.

Note:

Details of the various appointments are set out in the Appendix to these Minutes.

CL.9 COUNCILLOR DILYS NEILL

This item was withdrawn from the Agenda at the Meeting.

CL.10 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that was urgent.

Note:

The Chairman reminded Members that all Committees would meet at the conclusion of the Council Meeting to make their respective Chairman/Vice-Chairman elections/appointments.

The Meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and closed at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman

(END)

APPENDIX 'A'

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES - COUNCIL YEAR 2017/18

PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Conservative Group Representation (10):

SI Andrews

AW Berry

Sue Coakley

Alison Coggins

RW Dutton

David Fowles

SG Hirst

RL Hughes

MGE MacKenzie-Charrington

Tina Stevenson

Liberal Democrat Group Representation (5):

AR Brassington

PCB Coleman

Andrew Doherty

M Harris

Juliet Layton

Total Members: 15

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Conservative Group Representation (4):

SI Andrews

RG Keeling

Jim Parsons

SDE Parsons

Liberal Democrat Group Representation (3):

Andrew Doherty

Jenny Forde

NP Robbins

Total Members: 7

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Conservative Group Representation (3):

AW Berry

R Theodoulou

LR Wilkins

Liberal Democrat Group Representation (2):

T Cheung

PCB Coleman

Total Members: 5

(END)