

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 8th May, 2014

Present:- **Councillors** Simon Allen, Patrick Anketell-Jones, Rob Appleyard, Sharon Ball, Tim Ball, Colin Barrett, Cherry Beath, David Bellotti, Sarah Bevan, Mathew Blankley, Lisa Brett, John Bull, Neil Butters, Bryan Chalker, Anthony Clarke, Nicholas Coombes, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Sally Davis, David Dixon, Peter Edwards, Michael Evans, Paul Fox, Andrew Furse, Charles Gerrish, Ian Gilchrist, Francine Haerberling, Alan Hale, Katie Hall, Liz Hardman, Steve Hedges, Eleanor Jackson, Les Kew, Dave Laming, Malcolm Lees, Marie Longstaff, Barry Macrae, David Martin, Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst MBE, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Douglas Nicol, Bryan Organ, Vic Pritchard, Liz Richardson, Manda Rigby, Caroline Roberts, Nigel Roberts, Dine Romero, Will Sandry, Brian Simmons, Kate Simmons, Jeremy Sparks, Ben Stevens, Roger Symonds, David Veale, Martin Veal, Geoff Ward, Tim Warren, Chris Watt and Brian Webber

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Douglas Deacon, Nathan Hartley and June Player

1 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out on the agenda.

2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2014/15

It was proposed by Councillor Tim Warren, seconded by Councillor Sarah Bevan and supported by Councillors Dave Laming and John Bull and

RESOLVED that Councillor Martin Veal be elected Chairman of the Council for the year 2014/15.

Councillor Veal made and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and received the chain of office from Councillor Neil Butters and presented the consort's badge to his wife, Sarah.

Councillor Veal then addressed the Council.

FROM THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS, COUNCILLOR MARTIN VEAL, AS CHAIRMAN, PRESIDED AT THE MEETING.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2014/15

It was proposed by Councillor Katie Hall, seconded by Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones and supported by Councillors Dave Laming and John Bull and

RESOLVED that Councillor Ian Gilchrist be elected Vice-Chairman for the Council year 2014/15.

Councillor Gilchrist made and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, received the chain of office from Councillor Veal and thanked the Council for his appointment.

4 MINUTES - 18TH FEBRUARY 2014

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Tim Warren, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of 18th February 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Councillor Martin Veal presented Councillor Neil Butters with his past Chairman's badge. Councillor Butters then presented the past Chairman's Consort's badge to his wife, Charlotte.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Tim Warren and supported by Councillors Dave Laming and John Bull and

RESOLVED that the Council places on record its appreciation of the services performed by Councillor Neil Butters in the office of Chairman of the Council for 2013/14.

Councillor Butters addressed the Council and, in so doing, thanked Members and officers for their support during his year in office. He outlined some of the highlights of his year, made reference to the charities he would continue to support and paid tribute to the support which he had received from Councillor Martin Veal in his role as Vice Chairman over the previous Council year. He wished him well for his term of office as Chairman. Councillor Butters also thanked his wife Charlotte for her support throughout his year as Chairman.

The Chairman then asked the Council to stand in silence as a mark of respect following the deaths of Councillor Gabriel Batt, former deputy Mayor of Bath Sheila Sheppard, former Bath City Councillor Brian Roper and former Bath City Councillor and Group Leader Tony Clark.

7 REPORT OF CHIEF OFFICER URGENT DECISION

The Council noted the urgent decision which had been taken by the Chief Executive since the last meeting of Council to approve amendments to the Public Rights of Way delegation scheme to include new statutory duties relating to landowner deposits. The updated scheme was contained within Appendix 2 to the annual business report.

This decision was deemed as urgent and was taken following consultation with Political Group Leaders, Strategic and Divisional Directors and the Monitoring Officer, in accordance with constitutional rule Part 4G, rule 3.

8 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES/PANELS ETC AND OTHER ANNUAL BUSINESS

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Dave Dixon, it was

RESOLVED to

1. Approve the structure for non-executive and regulatory decision making and Policy Development & Scrutiny working (set out in its current form in appendix 2 to the report);
2. Accordingly, appoint those bodies with membership, terms of reference and delegated powers as set out in the Constitution;
3. Note that the operation of the Parishes Liaison meeting (Terms of Reference attached as part of Appendix 2) will be reviewed if the outcome of the review of the Connecting Communities pilot project recommends rolling the programme out to other communities;
4. Approve the allocation of seats on those Committees and Panels (such seats to be filled in accordance with the nominations made by the political groups);
5. Note the current arrangements for chairing committees and panels (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report) and defer until the July Council meeting the review of such allocations;
6. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to fill any casual vacancies in membership of all the bodies constituted and vacancy in the office of Chair of such bodies in accordance with the wishes of the political groups;
7. Determine the bodies on which co-opted members are to have seats as either voting or non-voting members and appoint such members accordingly (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report);
8. Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairs of the Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels, to constitute and support any required Panel joint working as outlined in section 7 of the report;
9. Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make appointments on such outside bodies as are for the Council (rather than Cabinet) to fill;
10. Note the arrangements for the conduct of Cabinet business;

11. Note the calendar of meeting dates that has been prepared up to May 2015 which is available on the Council's website;
12. Note the changes that will be required to the Constitution with regard to voting at budget meetings, and filming at meetings, as set out in section 10 of the report;
13. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to make and publicise any amendment to the Council's Constitution required, or take any other necessary action, as a result of decisions taken at this meeting on this and other reports within the agenda, or otherwise as required by law;
14. Note that a formal review of political balance will take place at the July meeting; and
15. Agree that a cross-party working group (with a membership proportionate to the make-up of the Council) be established to consider, with officer support, options to strengthen community representation and civic governance within Bath, and to report back on these options, including a preferred option (with proposed Terms of Reference) to the July Council meeting, or if this is not possible than no later than the September Council meeting, for consideration.

[Note - the underlined wording in resolution 15 above was moved as an amendment by Councillor Ben Stevens, seconded by Councillor Tim Warren, and then accepted by the mover and seconder of the motion.]

9 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements were made by the following people;

- David Redgewell made a statement urging delivery of the Bath Transport Strategy and expressing concern about the removal of the Bus Gate which he said had taken place with no consultation. He described the city as being gridlocked – an unsustainable situation which needed addressing. A copy of the statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and is attached electronically to the minutes. The statement was referred to the Cabinet Member for Transport.
- Lesley Mansell, Chair of Radstock Town Council, made a statement regarding the hydrotherapy pool at the Connections Centre, Writhlington, Radstock. She called on the Council to take responsibility for the refurbishment of this valuable facility following its closure by Sirona Care and Health on health and safety grounds. In response to a question from Councillor Simon Allen asking if Ms Mansell was aware that he had met the Chief Executive of Sirona on site the previous day and had been told the nearest pool offering a similar service was 2.5 miles away. Ms Mansell responded that she hadn't known about the meeting but the pool to which Councillor Allen referred was fully booked. In response to a question from Councillor Eleanor Jackson enquiring whether

the pool could be used not only for those with a severe disability but also for the wider community with conditions such as arthritis, Ms Mansell responded that it would be a great idea as the pool was only used during the day and it would make sense to open it up more widely. The full statement can be viewed on the Council's Minute book and is attached electronically to the minutes. The statement was referred to the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing.

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm

Chairman

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services