

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Warwick District Council held at Town Hall, Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, on Wednesday 11 May 2022, at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Murphy (Chairman); Councillors Ashford, Bartlett, Barton, Boad, Cooke, Cullinan, Davison, Day, A Dearing, J Dearing, K Dickson, R Dickson, Falp, B Gifford, C Gifford, Grainger, Grey, Hales, Illingworth, Jacques, Kennedy, Kohler, Leigh-Hunt, Luckhurst, Mangat, Margrave, Matecki, Milton, Morris, Murphy, Noone, Norris, Quinney, Redford, Rhead, Roberts, Russell, Skinner, Syson, Tangri, Tracey and Wright.

1. **Election of Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Hales, seconded by Councillor Cullinan and

Resolved that Councillor Mangat be elected Chairman of Warwick District Council for the municipal year 2022/23.

Councillor Mangat made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Chairman of the Council and thanked Council for her election.

2. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Council**

It was proposed by Councillor B Gifford, seconded by Councillor Roberts and

Resolved that Councillor Syson be appointed Vice-Chairman of Warwick District Council for the municipal year 2022/23.

Councillor Syson made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Vice-Chairman of the Council and thanked Council for her election.

3. **Vote of Thanks for the Retiring Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Grainger, seconded by Councillor Noone and

Resolved that the appreciation of the Council be placed on record for the excellent services rendered by the retiring Chairman, Councillor Murphy, during the past year.

Councillor Murphy acknowledged the vote of thanks.

4. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Evans.

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 23 March 2022, subject to the inclusion of recording Councillor Barton being in attendance, were proposed, duly seconded taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. **Membership of the Cabinet**

Councillor Day informed the Council of the Councillors that the Cabinet would comprise of, as set out at Appendix 1 to the minutes.

7. **Appointments**

It was proposed by Councillor Mangat, duly seconded by Councillor Day and

Resolved that

- (a) the nominations for membership of the Committees, including substitute members, as revised by the addendum circulated before the meeting, including that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is not politically proportionate to the Council, as set out in Appendix 2 to the minutes, be approved;
- (b) the appointments to Working Parties and Forums, as revised by the addendum circulated before the meeting, 2022/2023, as set out at Appendix 3 to the minutes, be approved; and
- (c) the appointments to Champions' Roles and Outside Bodies, as revised by the addendum circulated before the meeting, which are not politically proportionate to the Council, as set out in Appendices 4(a) and 4(b) to the minutes, be approved.

8. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made

9. **Future Relationship with Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC)**

The Council considered recommendations from Cabinet of 11 May 2022. These were proposed by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Hales.

Councillors Kennedy, Cullinan, Grey, Davison, Kohler, Wright, Boad, Hales and Day all spoke on this item.

Resolved that

- (1) the formal submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to create a South Warwickshire District Council, be withdrawn;
- (2) work on the full-service integration of teams across Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils be ceased;
- (3) work on the identification of sharing civic and office accommodation between Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Council be ceased;

- (4) Council withdraws from the Joint Arrangements Steering Group;
- (5) the arrangements for the Joint Management Team be ended and that the Interim Senior Leadership Team structure, as set out at Appendix 5 to the minutes, be approved for use from 12 May 2022;
- (6) Andrew Rollins be appointed as interim Section 151 Officer;
- (7) Andrew Jones be appointed as the interim Monitoring Officer;
- (8) a further report setting out the proposed longer term management arrangements come forward for consideration by the autumn of this year;
- (9) a further report on the overall consequences of the end to the merger process and the implications for the Council going forward be prepared for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet;
- (10) the steps to advise and support staff especially those who had been in the first proposed service integration, be noted;
- (11) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to align the Officer Scheme of Delegation with the Interim Senior Leadership Team structure; and make any consequential amendments to the Constitution because of this report;
- (12) the work on the joint South Warwickshire Local Plan, Climate Change Action Programme and Joint South Warwickshire Economic Strategy will continue;
- (13) the closing of the Service Alignment Reserve with the funding contained therein transferred to the Service Transformation Reserve, be approved;
- (14) the Significant Business Risk Register be updated as a matter of priority in the light of the decision not to proceed with the merger with SDC; and
- (15) in the light of the cessation of the merger process with SDC, a further report on the work proposed and undertaken to re-establish the Council's position and "brand" as an employer with existing and potential employees be brought forward at the earliest opportunity.

10. **Cabinet Report**

The Cabinet report of the 20 April 2022 was proposed by Councillor Day, along with the additional recommendations in the addendum, seconded by Councillor Hales and

Resolved that the recommendations of the Cabinet of 20 April 2022, be approved.

11. **Amendments to the Constitution**

The proposals in respect of the remit of the Employment Committee and recommendation from the Standards Committee of 5 May 2022 were proposed by Councillor Margrave, seconded by Councillor Wright and

Resolved that the recommendations in respect of the two Committees be approved.

12. **Annual Reports of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committees**

The Annual report of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, along with the additional information in the addendum circulated ahead of the meeting, was proposed by Councillor Syson, seconded by Councillor Illingworth and

Resolved that the Annual report of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, as amended by the addendum, be approved.

13. **Annual Reports of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees**

The Annual report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, along with additional information in the addendum, were proposed by Councillor Milton, seconded by Councillor Jacques and

Resolved that the Annual report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as amended by the addendum, be approved.

14. **Common Seal**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Day and

Resolved that the Common Seal of Warwick District Council be affixed to such documents as it may be required for implementing decisions of the Council arrived at this day

(The meeting ended at 7.40pm)

CHAIR
27 July 2022