

County Council

Tuesday 16 May 2023

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Dave Humphreys (Chair), Councillor Christopher Kettle (Vice-Chair), Councillor Jo Barker, Councillor Richard Baxter-Payne, Councillor Brett Beetham, Councillor Margaret Bell, Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi, Councillor Sarah Boad, Councillor Barbara Brown, Councillor Peter Butlin, Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Councillor Jeff Clarke, Councillor John Cooke, Councillor Andy Crump, Councillor Yousef Dahmash, Councillor Piers Daniell, Councillor Tracey Drew, Councillor Judy Falp, Councillor Jenny Fradgley, Councillor Sarah Feeney, Councillor Bill Gifford, Councillor Clare Golby, Councillor Brian Hammersley, Councillor John Holland, Councillor Marian Humphreys, Councillor Andy Jenns, Councillor Kam Kaur, Councillor Justin Kerridge, Councillor Sue Markham, Councillor Jan Matecki, Councillor Sarah Millar, Councillor Chris Mills, Councillor Jeff Morgan, Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell, Councillor Bhagwant Singh Pandher, Councillor Daren Pemberton, Councillor Caroline Phillips, Councillor Wallace Redford, Councillor Will Roberts, Councillor Kate Rolfe, Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Councillor Isobel Seccombe OBE, Councillor Ian Shenton, Councillor Jill Simpson-Vince, Councillor Tim Sinclair, Councillor Richard Spencer, Councillor Heather Timms, Councillor Mandy Tromans, Councillor Robert Tromans, Councillor Martin Watson, Councillor Adrian Warwick and Councillor Andrew Wright

1. Election of Chair

Councillor Isobel Seccombe, seconded by Councillor John Cooke proposed that Councillor Christopher Kettle be elected as Chair of Council for the ensuing year.

There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

That Councillor Christopher Kettle be elected as Chair of Warwickshire County Council for the municipal year 2023/2024.

In accepting the position as Chair, Councillor Christopher Kettle noted that times had changed since his late father had been Chair and whilst there had been many changes in the county, the role of councillors was still to represent a diverse range of residents. He looked forward to the year ahead and shared some words in prayer that he hoped would provide some inspiration for the year ahead.

Vote of thanks to the retiring Chair

Councillor Christopher Kettle led a vote of thanks for the outgoing Chair, Councillor Dave Humphreys, who had taken on the role following the sad death of Councillor John Horner, conducting himself with a strong sense of leadership.

Councillor Peter Butlin thanked Councillor Humphreys for steering the Council throughout his year in office.

Councillor Marian Humphreys expressed her pride for the way her husband had conducted his year in office.

Councillor Isobel Seccombe noted that Councillor Humphreys had been Chair during a significant year which had seen the demise of Queen Elizabeth II and the coronation of King Charles III and that he had conducted himself without fault throughout. She expressed her gratitude.

In response, Councillor Humphreys reflected the diverse range of events he had attended during his year in office and highlighted some of the key memories he held. He expressed his thanks to Councillor Marian Humphreys for her support as his consort.

Resolved:

That the Council records its appreciation for Councillor Dave Humphreys service as Chair of the Council for 2022/23.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

Councillor Peter Butlin proposed that Councillor Jeff Clarke be elected Vice-Chair of Council for the ensuing year and was seconded by Councillor Jeff Clarke.

There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

That Councillor Jeff Morgan be elected as Vice-Chair of Warwickshire County Council for the municipal year 2023/2024.

3. General

(1) Apologies for Absence

Councillors Jackie Darcy, Pete Gilbert, Jack Kennaugh, Howard Roberts and Mejar Singh

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests

None.

(3) Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21 March 2023 were agreed as a true record.

(4) Chair's announcements

Celebration of 30 Years' Service – Councillor Jerry Roodhouse

The Chair drew attention to Councillor Jerry Roodhouse who was celebrating 30 years' since he was first elected to serve on the County Council. Councillor Roodhouse had been elected to represent Rugby Eastlands in May 1993 and had had a distinguished career in public service ever since. Councillor Kettle led the applause for Councillor Roodhouse's dedicated service to the county and extended thanks for his valuable contributions over the years. The Chair then invited members to extend their own congratulations:

Councillor Isobel Seccombe summed up Councillor Roodhouse with three words: fairness, knowledge and friendship. She shared how she had valued conversations with Councillor Roodhouse over the years and considered that the values shared by councillors were what made Warwickshire County Council strong.

Councillor Sarah Boad also reflected on Councillor Roodhouse's dedication and approach to his role and the contributions he had made, particularly in the field of health scrutiny.

Councillor John Holland shared congratulations for Councillor Roodhouse, especially noting his dedication to providing solutions for Warwickshire residents.

Councillor Sarah Feeney extended her gratitude to Councillor Roodhouse for his generosity of spirit and support to newly elected councillors in order to work together and achieve strong outcomes.

The Chair presented a Certificate of Long Service to Councillor Roodhouse.

Councillor Roodhouse thanked the Chamber and officers for their support and noted the wonderful spirit that existed in Warwickshire.

Death of former County Councillor Mick Jones

The Chairman informed Council of the recent passing of former County Councillor Mick Jones, from the Labour group, who had served as a Warwickshire County Councillor representing Nuneaton Galley Common between 2001 and 2008. Mick was also a former Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Councillor and Mayor of the Borough. The Chairman extended condolences to his family and friends and invited Councillors to pay tribute.

Councillor John Holland noted that Mick Jones had died unexpectedly. He reflected on his long service at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, the fundraising he had undertaken, and his cheerful, friendly approach. Councillor Holland also shared details of the memorial service due to take place on 2 June.

Councillor Isobel Seccombe noted the sadness she felt that very few of her group had known

Mick Jones. She stated that it was what each of us did in our time on earth that mattered, and that Mick Jones had lived his life to the full, with a great sense of humour and passion. Councillor Seccombe expressed condolences to his family and friends.

Councillor Caroline Phillips shared her personal memories of her friendship with Mick Jones and expressed her condolences to his family.

Councillor Sarah Boad considered that Mick Jones had a larger than life character and she had been saddened at the news of his passing. She shared commiserations with his family and friends.

Councillor Jeff Clarke note that Mick Jones had been a strong advocate for local residents and a stalwart political opponent. He had been a real gentleman and Councillor Clarke extended condolences to his wife and family.

Council stood for a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor Mick Jones.

4. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

Councillor Isobel Seccombe, Leader of the Council, moved that Council agree proposals tabled at the meeting with the following amendments:

- Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Cllr Penny-Anne O'Donnell to replace Piers Daniell.
- Adult Social Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Cllr Marian Humphreys to replace Rob Tromans

Councillor Peter Butlin, Deputy Leader, seconded the proposals, which were put to the vote and agreed as set out below.

Resolved:

1. That the Council confirms the Committee structure and delegations of non-executive functions to member bodies as set out in the Constitution
2. That the number of places on Council Committees be as follows

Committees	Con	Lab	LD	GR	WRA	Total
Audit & Standards Committee (6)	4	1	1			6
Regulatory Committee (12)	10	1			1	12
Staff & Pensions Committee (6)	4	1	1			6
Adult Social Care & Health (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Children and Young People (10)	8	1	1			10
Communities (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Resources and Fire & Rescue (10)	7	1	1	1		10
Political Balance Entitlement 2022	47	7	6	3	1	64

3. That the Council agrees the appointment of members to the Committees and other bodies as set below:

Opposition Group Spokespersons are indicated for Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Sp)

Committees	Con	Lab	LD	Green	WRA/Ind Vacancy	Total
Audit & Standards Committee (6 +2 co-optees, being J Bridgeman + R Edwards Zara)	John Cooke Brian Hammersley Ian Shenton Bhagwant Singh Pandher	Sarah Feeney	Bill Gifford			6
Regulatory Committee	Jill Simpson-Vince (C) John Cooke (VC) Jeff Clarke Dave Humphreys Jack Kennaugh Justin Kerridge Andy Jenns Chris Mills Ian Shenton Adrian Warwick	Caroline Phillips			Judy Falp	12
Staff and Pensions Committee	Yousef Dahmash (C) Brian Hammersley Chris Kettle Mandy Tromans	Sarah Millar	Bill Gifford (VC)			6
Adult Social Care & Health OSC	Jo Barker (C) John Cooke Andy Jenns Marian Humphreys Chris Mills Ian Shenton Mandy Tromans	John Holland (VC)	Kate Rolfe (Sp)	Tracey Drew (Sp)		10
Children & Young People OSC	Marian Humphreys (C) Clare Golby Penny Anne O'Donnell Chris Mills Justin Kerridge Brian Hammersley Jeff Morgan Jill Simpson-Vince	Barbara Brown (Sp)	Jerry Roodhouse (VC)			10

Committees	Con	Lab	LD	Green	WRA/Ind Vacancy	Total
Communities OSC	Jeff Clarke (C) Daren Pemberton Dave Humphreys Bhagwant Singh Pandher Pete Gilbert Mejar Singh Andrew Wright	Sarah Feeney (Sp)	Jenny Fradgley (Sp)	Jonathan Chilvers (VC)		10
Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC	Adrian Warwick (C) Parminder Singh Birdi (VC) Piers Daniell Ian Shenton Wallace Redford Rik Spencer Rob Tromans	Sarah Feeney (Sp)	Sarah Boad (Sp)	Will Roberts (Sp)		10
Joint Staff Negotiating Body (2) [*+ Leader Appointment x2]	+Izzi Seccombe +Yousef Dahmash	Barbara Brown	Bill Gifford			
Joint Teachers Negotiating Body (2) [*+ Leader Appointment x2]	+Kam Kaur +Yousef Dahmash	Barbara Brown	Bill Gifford			
Pension Fund Sub-Committee *appointments are made by Staff and Pensions Committee	Brian Hammersley Christopher Kettle Mandy Tromans	Sarah Millar	Bill Gifford			

Committees	Con	Lab	LD	Green	WRA/Ind Vacancy	Total
Pool of Members to sit on the Appointments Sub-Committees and Staff Appeals Sub-Committees.	Margaret Bell Parminder Singh Birdi Peter Butlin Jeff Clarke John Cooke Andy Crump Yousef Dahmash Piers Daniell Brian Hammersley Dave Humphreys Andy Jenns Kam Kaur Justin Kerridge Jan Matecki Jeff Morgan Penny-Anne O'Donnell Wallace Redford Izzi Seccombe Jill Simpson-Vince Mejar Singh Heather Timms Mandy Tromans Adrian Warwick Martin Watson	Barbara Brown Jackie D'Arcy Sarah Feeney John Holland Sarah Millar Caroline Phillips	Sarah Boad Bill Gifford Kate Rolfe Jerry Roodhouse	Tracey Drew		

4. That John Bridgeman be confirmed as the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee.

5. That the Council confirms/amends membership to the following bodies:

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Health and Wellbeing Board (4)	Margaret Bell Izzi Seccombe Sue Markham		Jerry Roodhouse
Joint Coventry & Warwickshire Health OSC (5)	Jo Barker John Cooke Chris Mills Andy Jenns	John Holland	
Corporate Parenting Panel (6)	Sue Markham (C) Penny-Anne O'Donnell Marian Humphreys Brett Beetham	Caroline Phillips	Jerry Roodhouse
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) (5)	Parminder Singh Birdi John Cooke Justin Kerridge	Barbara Brown	Sarah Boad

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Warwickshire Waste Partnership (5)	Heather Timms Andrew Wright Richard Baxter Payne Bhagwant Singh Pandher	Sarah Millar	
Horton Joint OSC (1)	Christopher Kettle		

6. That the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health is appointed as the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
7. That the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Director of Public Health and the Strategic Director for People continue as the Council's appointed nominees on the Integrated Care Partnership and the Strategic Director for People as the Council's appointed nominee on the Integrated Care Board
8. That the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Children's Services is appointed as the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel.
9. That the Council confirms/appoints to the Local Pension Board and to the Fire & Rescue Pension Board:

Local Pension Board	Fire & Rescue Pension Board
Keith Bray (Chair) - Independent Member	Martin Reohorn (Chair) - Independent Member
Jeff Carruthers – Scheme Employer Representative	Sally Waldron, Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Employers' Representative
Keith Francis – Scheme Employer Representative	Caroline Jones, Finance Portfolio Lead for Communities & Resources - Employers' Representative
Councillor Ian Shenton – Scheme Employer Representative	Councillor Brian Hammersley - Employers' Representative
Sean McGovern – Scheme Member Representative	Sian Marsh, Fire Brigades Union (Fire and Rescue) - Employees' Representative
Mike Snow – Scheme Member Representative	Paul Morley, Fire Officers Association - Employees' Representative
Vacant – Scheme Member Representative	Vacant - Employees' Representative

10. That the Council authorises the Chief Executive to agree the final appointments to the Police and Crime Panel in consultation with Group Leaders as she considers to be necessary to meet

the requirements of geographical and political proportionality required and to work with District and Borough representatives to achieve that end.

11. That the Council confirms/appoints to the following external bodies:

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
LGA (4)	Izzi Seccombe Peter Butlin	John Holland	Jerry Roodhouse
CCN (4)	Izzi Seccombe Peter Butlin	John Holland	Jerry Roodhouse
LGA Fire Commission (1)	Andy Crump		

12. That the Council confirms/appoints to the following Business Improvement Districts:

BID Leamington (1)	Sarah Boad
Rugby First Ltd (1)	Peter Butlin
Stratford BID (Stratford-upon-Avon) (1)	Tim Sinclair

13. That the Council confirms/appoints to the following Community Safety Partnerships

North Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (1)	Dave Humphreys
Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Safety Partnership (1)	Sue Markham
South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (2 – one from the Warwick area and one from the Stratford-upon-Avon area)	1. Wallace Redford 2. TBC
Rugby Community Safety Partnership (1)	Jill Simpson-Vince
Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (1)	Andy Crump

That Council confirms the delegations of non-executive functions to officers as set out in the Constitution subject to any amendments proposed and agreed at this meeting and authorises the Strategic Director for Resources to make such amendments to the Council's Constitution as may be required as a consequence of this and any other changes agreed at this meeting.

5. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/2023

Councillor Adrian Warwick, Chair of the Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee, proposed that the annual report be received by Council and was seconded by Councillor Jeff Clarke, Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairs of the Committees each highlighted the work of their Committee and paid tribute to the invaluable support provided by Officers and more particularly the Democratic Services Team. The support of Cabinet for the role of scrutiny was acknowledged together with the parity of esteem in which it was held.

Resolved:

That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23.

6. Annual Report of Call-in and Urgent Decisions 2022/2023

Councillor Isobel Seccombe presented the annual report on the use of the Council's urgency and call-in procedures, and noted that several urgent decisions had been required during the course of the year but that there had been limited use of the call-in process over the same period. Councillor Peter Butlin seconded the proposal to note the report echoing the view that the processes worked well.

Councillor Jonathan Chilvers noted that whilst it was important for the Council to be able to make decisions at pace it was also vital to maintain the democratic process wherever possible and ensure that sufficient notice was provided to enable queries or comments to be made ahead of decisions being made.

Resolved:

That Council note the report.

7. Education Capital Programme 2023/24

Councillor Kam Kaur (Portfolio Holder for Education) moved the recommendation as set out in the report. Councillor Peter Butlin seconded the recommendation. A short debate ensued during which Councillor Tracey Drew expressed her disappointment that costings for net zero had been delayed for the scheme and Councillor Clare Golby welcomed the investment in Education in her division.

In reply, Councillor Kaur noted that the scheme would increase capacity to meet demand for school places in the north of the county and whilst she took on board the concerns of Councillor Drew, the Council would strive to build to current building standards.

Resolved:

That Council agrees the addition of £2.714 million to the capital programme to deliver the scheme at Oak Wood Secondary School to be funded from the Department for Education (DfE) High Needs Grant and developer contributions.

8. Any Other items of Urgent Business

None.

The meeting rose at 11.28am

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Chair