

ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday 13th May 2002

PRESENT: The Lord Mayor (Councillor Sanders), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Christian), the Sheriff (Councillor Stannard), and Councillors Abbasi, Allison, Armitage, Baker, Beer, Brett, Susan Brown, Buckingham, Campbell, Clarkson, Cook, Craft, Darke, Florey, Fooks, Goddard, Hollander, Hollingsworth, Jan-Khan, Johnson, Beryl Keen, Bryan Keen, McAndrews, Mirza, Mughal, Muir, Palmer, Pressel, Price, Redman, Roaf, Rundle, Sargent, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Tall, Tanner, Tarver, Taylor, Turner and Woodin.

1. ELECTION OF LORD MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Smith, and seconded by Councillor Allison, and there being no other nomination, it was resolved unanimously that Councillor Sanders be elected Lord Mayor of the City for the Municipal Year 2002/2003. The Lord Mayor took the Chair and then made and subscribed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2. DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Cook, and seconded by Councillor Campbell, and there being no other nomination, it was resolved unanimously that Councillor Christian be elected Deputy Lord Mayor for the City for the Municipal Year 2002/2003. The Deputy Lord Mayor then made and subscribed the declaration of acceptance of office.

3. SHERIFF

It was proposed by Councillor Christian, and seconded by Councillor Brett, and there being no other nomination, it was resolved unanimously that Councillor Stannard be appointed Sheriff of the City and Conservator of Port Meadow and City Fisheries for the Municipal Year 2002/2003. The Sheriff then made and subscribed the declaration of acceptance of office.

4. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING LORD MAYOR

It was formerly proposed by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Fooks and the Council resolved to record a vote of thanks to Councillor Moss for his services as Lord Mayor of the City for the Municipal Year 2001/2002.

5. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING SHERIFF

It was formerly proposed by Councillor Clarkson, and seconded by Councillor Woodin, and Council resolved that a vote of thanks be recorded to Councillor Christian for her services as Sheriff of the City during the Municipal Year 2001/2002.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2002 were approved and signed as a correct record, subject to a correction to line 6 of the preamble to minute 401 (b) to read "reduced to £32,503" instead of "reduced by £32,503".

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bartleet, Stephen Brown and Paskins.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LORD MAYOR

(a) Election of Councillors - 2nd May 2002

Resolved to receive a report of the Head of the Modernisation Unit on the election of Councillors on 2nd May 2002.

(b) Referendum for an Elected Mayor - 2nd May 2002

Resolved to note the result of the referendum was as follows:-

Yes	-	14,692
No	-	18,686

and to agree to continue with the executive structure of Leader and Cabinet.

(c) New Members

Resolved:-

- (a) to welcome to their first meeting Councillors Abbasi, Armitage, Beer, Craft, Darke, Hollander, Jan-Khan, Mirza, Mughal, Muir, Palmer, Roaf, Rundle, Sargent, Simmons, Sinclair and Turner;
- (b) to welcome back to the Council Councillors Bryan Keen, Tanner and Taylor; and

- (c) to congratulate Councillor Bartleet on her election to the Council and on the birth of her baby since her election.

9. ELECTION OF LEADER

It was proposed by Councillor Price, and seconded by Councillor Stannard, and there being no other nomination, it was resolved, 25 members voting in favour and none against that Councillor Hollingsworth be elected Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 20002/2003.

10. DEPUTY LEADER

It was proposed by Councillor Price, and seconded by Councillor Smith, and there being no other nomination, it was resolved, 25 members voting in favour and none against that Councillor Baker be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 20002/2003.

11. APPOINTMENT OF DECISION MAKING BODIES AND AREA COMMITTEES FOR 2002/2003

In moving the report the Leader (Councillor Hollingsworth) said that the Labour Group's nominations to the Disciplinary and Grading Appeals Committee were Councillors Buckingham and Stannard.

The Chief Executive said that before the Disciplinary and Grading Appeals Committee could meet a change was required to the Constitution as it currently stated that a member of the Executive Board must serve on that Committee. She said the Head of the Modernisation Unit proposed to bring a report on the matter to a meeting of the Executive Board on 27th May 2002 and to a special meeting of Council on 30th May 2002.

Councillor Goddard, seconded by Councillor Tall, moved an amendment to recommendation (5) of the report that the words "and plus a member of the majority group who will chair meetings" be deleted from the resolution.

Councillor Goddard said the reason for his amendment was that it was essential scrutiny was independent of the Executive Board. The Liberal Democrat Group intended to provide constructive opposition and the Majority Group had nothing to fear from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. He objected to the Majority Group's proposal that one of its members be introduced to chair the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group. Scrutineers needed to be open minded and independent of the Executive Board.

In response the Leader (Councillor Hollingsworth) said to allow business to continue he would accept the amendment but would like further discussions with the Leader of the Opposition and the issue re-addressed at a future meeting of Council.

Councillor Woodin made a statement expressing his disappointment that all the seats on the Executive Board were to be allocated to members of the Majority Group with no representation from the Opposition Groups. He said the proposal ran contrary to public consultation which had supported a proportionally appointed Executive Board.

In response the Leader (Councillor Hollingsworth) said that effectively to deliver services to the people of Oxford the Majority Group believed ten different roles were required to be undertaken by ten different members of the Group. If, in the future, it was found that the roles changed, Council could at that time decide whether remaining seats should be allocated to members of the Opposition Groups.

Resolved:-

- (1) to note the political balance of the Council;
- (2) to appoint an Executive Board, to which the rules of proportionality shall not apply, with the membership set out in the Appendix to the report, and with the same terms of reference as previously agreed by Council as set out in the Council's Constitution;
- (3) to note a further report would follow on the role of portfolio holders;
- (4) to agree the terms of reference for the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and revised terms of reference for the Economic and Social Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in paragraph 3 of the report;
- (5) to agree to amend the Constitution so that membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group be the Chairs of the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- (6) to appoint the following Committees to remain in being until the next Annual Meeting, with the membership set out in the Appendix to the report, and subject to Councillors Buckingham and Stannard being added to the membership of the Disciplinary and Grading Appeals Committee, with the same terms of reference as previously agreed by Council and set out in the Council's Constitution, and to agree a pool of nominated substitutes for discrete inquiries of the Finance and Performance Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the Appendix to the report:-

Finance and Performance Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Economic and Social Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Strategic Development Control Committee

Audit Committee

Appointments Committee

Disciplinary Committee for Chief Officers & Heads of Service
Disciplinary and Grading Appeals Committee
Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Licensing Committee
Public Entertainment and other Licensing Committee

- (7) to appoint a Standards Committee, to remain in being until the next Annual meeting, to which the rules of proportionality shall not apply, with the same terms of reference as previously agreed by Council and set out in the Council's Constitution and with the following membership:-

- (i) three independent members:-

Mr. John Lay
Professor Diana Woodhouse
Mr. Christopher Turner

- (ii) one representative from each of the political groups represented on the Council in the past ten years:-

Councillor Stannard
Councillor Goddard
Green Group representative to be agreed
Conservative representative to be agreed

- (iii) Mr. J. Batey (representing the Parish Councils of Oxford)

- (8) to appoint the following area Committees, to remain in being until the next Annual Meeting, with the same terms of reference as previously agreed by Council and set out in the Council's Constitution, and to appoint those councillors representing the Wards covered by each Area Committee to them:-

Central, South and West Area Committee
Cowley Area Committee
East Area Parliament
Iffley Leys Area Committee
North Area Committee
North East Area Committee

- (9) to appoint a Grievance Panel, to remain in being until the next Annual Meeting, with the following membership:-

Council Representatives

Councillor Baker
Councillor Buckingham
Councillor Beer

Staff Side Representatives

Susan Daly, Lynn Hay, Karen Leese, Kam Raval, Malcolm Hart, Alan Cobb (Any three to attend meetings of the Panel)

12. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Resolved to reaffirm agreement to the scheme of delegation reproduced as Section 7 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 5.10 pm.