

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

13TH MAY 2014

Present:

Councillor Sir Edward Horsfall - Chairman
Councillor Clive Bennett - Vice-Chairman

Councillors -

Mark F Annett	RL Hughes
Julian Beale	Mrs. Sheila Jeffery
JGK Birch	Mrs. SL Jepson
DC Broad	Ms JM Layton
Sandra Carter	AJ Lichnowski
Sue Coakley	DJ Nash
PCB Coleman	Jim Parsons
RW Dutton	NJW Parsons
David Fowles	David Penman
BD Gibbs	Mrs. M Phillips
C Hancock	Mrs. MS Rickman
JA Harris	GM Selwyn
Mrs. DE Hicks	Lynden Stowe
SG Hirst	R Theodoulou
PR Hodgkinson	Mrs. CH Topple
RP Hooper	M Wardle
JP Hughes	

Apologies:

John Burgess	EGJ Jenkins
DE Collier	Mrs. Carolyn Nicolle
Mrs. VB Crosbie Dawson	Lee Searles
BS Dare	LR Wilkins
Mrs. JL Hincks	

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 Sir Edward Horsfall explained that he was not seeking re-election as Chairman of the Council. Councillor Horsfall said that it had been a privilege and pleasure to represent the Council as its Chairman over the past two years and he thanked his Vice-Chairman, Councillor Clive Bennett; fellow Members; Mrs. Marie Whiteman; Mr. Nigel Adams and staff in the Democratic

Services Section for all their support during his time as Chairman, both in respect of Meetings and his charitable functions. Councillor Horsfall reminded the Council that, to date, a sum of £8,000 had been raised for his two Charities - Gloucestershire Young Carers and The Stroke Association - and he expressed the hope that further sums would be raised following some forthcoming events.

Councillor Horsfall concluded by stating that he and his Vice-Chairman had represented the Council at over eighty different events during the past two years, and he had been fortunate to have been first elected Chairman of the Council during the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which was also the year that London had hosted the Summer Olympic Games.

In response, the Leader of the Council expressed thanks on behalf of the whole Council to Councillor Horsfall for his diligent and fair Chairmanship. The Leader considered that Councillor Horsfall to have been a marvellous Ambassador for the District and singled out the Olympic Torch events of 2012 as being significant occasions for the District. The Leader also congratulated Councillor Horsfall on his fundraising in respect of his two Charities, commenting that he had done much to raise awareness about, and the profile of Gloucestershire Young Carers.

The Chairman then reported/invited nominations for Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor Clive Bennett had been Proposed by Councillor Sir Edward Horsfall and Seconded by Councillor Mrs. SL Jepson.

In the absence of further nominations, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Clive Bennett be elected Chairman of the Council, to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2015.

Notes:

- (i) Councillor Bennett read out his Declaration of Office, which he duly signed.
- (ii) Councillor Bennett then took the Chair.
- (iii) Councillor Bennett thanked Members for electing him as Chairman of the Council, and he thanked Councillor Horsfall for the excellent job he had done representing the Council over the past two years. Councillor Bennett commented that he would be following in the footsteps of some illustrious past Chairmen and that it was almost forty years since, as a 'youngish' reporter, he had covered the first Annual Meeting of the Council, never dreaming at that time that he would one day be made Chairman himself.

Councillor Bennett explained that he intended to adopt a fairly relaxed style of chairing Meetings but reminded the Council that he was not a 'soft touch' and he expressed the hope that his colleagues would all behave responsibly and respectfully towards each other.

(iv) Councillor Bennett welcomed the Honorary Aldermen who were present, together with Lady Horsfall and others in the 'public gallery'. He also thanked Lady Horsfall for all her support during the period of Councillor Horsfall's Chairmanship of the Council.

CL.3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Head of Democratic Services reported/invited nominations.

Councillor Mark Annett had been Proposed by Councillor RW Dutton and Seconded by Councillor Clive Bennett.

In the absence of further nominations, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mark Annett be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council, to hold Office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2015.

Notes:

(i) Councillor Annett then read out his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which he duly signed.

(ii) Councillor Annett thanked Members for their confidence expressed in appointing him as Vice-Chairman, and stated that he looked forward to representing the Council, and supporting the Chairman, in the coming year.

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

There were no announcements from the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Council or the Head of Paid Service.

CL.5 RECORD OF ATTENDANCES

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

In updating the circulated report, the Head of Democratic Services reported that Councillor DJ Nash had attended twelve Meetings during the past year, (out of fourteen potential attendances) and apologised to Councillor Nash for the error.

CL.6 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was noted that, by virtue of Minute 7 of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 17th May 2011, Councillor Lynden Stowe had been elected to serve as Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2015 (such four-year appointment having been in accordance with the requirements of the 'Strong Leader' executive arrangement operated by the Council).

CL.7 APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET

It was noted that Councillor Lynden Stowe, as Leader of the Council, had made the following Cabinet appointments for the 2013/14 Council Year:-

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Portfolio Area</u>
NJW Parsons (Deputy Leader)	Forward Planning
John Burgess	Leisure and Support Services
David Fowles	Environment
C Hancock	Enterprise and Partnerships
Mrs. SL Jepson	Planning and Housing
Mrs. CH Topple	Health and Communities

A list of the Cabinet Member responsibilities had also been circulated, together with strategic relationships for which the various Cabinet Members would be responsible.

The Leader paid tribute to the work of Councillor BD Gibbs, who had stepped down as Cabinet Member for Customer Services. The Leader reminded the Council that, during his time as a Member of the Cabinet, Councillor Gibbs had had responsibility for various services, including Waste, Drainage, Customer Services, Car Parking, and Leisure and Cultural Services. The Leader added that Councillor Gibbs had played a significant role in the transfer of Leisure and Cultural Services to a Trust and reminded the Council that visitor figures at the Leisure Centres were increasing.

The Leader welcomed Councillor Hancock, who had been appointed as Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Partnerships. The Leader explained that he had considered reducing the Cabinet membership by one during the coming year. However, because of the significant amount work to be undertaken in respect of the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Public Health remit, the Leader had decided to retain the current capacity within the Cabinet for a further twelve months. The Leader concluded by explaining that he had made changes to some of the Cabinet Member responsibilities.

CL.8 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council was requested to make appointments to the various Committees of the Council for the 2014/15 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 Committees.

In updating his Briefing Note, the Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the Independent Councillors had not formed a 'political' group, and reported their Committee allocations for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

The Leader of the Council reported that discussions had been held in relation to the workload and current structure of the Licensing Committee and that those issues would be reviewed during the next year. In the meantime, the Conservative Group's Nominee for Chairman of that Committee had indicated that, if elected to serve as Chairman, he would only draw an amount equivalent to half of the Special Responsibility Allowance applicable to that position.

RESOLVED that the Committee appointments for 2014/15 be confirmed,

Record of Voting - for 34, against 1, abstentions 0, absent 9.

Note:

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

CL.9 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business that was urgent.

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 1.25 p.m. and closed at 1.44 p.m.

Chairman

(END)

APPENDIX A

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES - COUNCIL YEAR 2014/15

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Conservative Group Representation (9):

JGK Birch

DC Broad

Mrs. VB Crosbie Dawson

RW Dutton

BD Gibbs

RL Hughes

Mrs. SL Jepson

Mrs. Carolyn Nicolle

Mrs. M Phillips

Liberal Democrat Group Representation (4):

JA Harris

Ms JM Layton

AJ Lichnowski

Mrs. MS Rickman

Non-Aligned Member Representation (2):

Sue Coakley

RP Hooper

Total Members: 15

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Conservative Group Representation (10):

Mark F Annett

Julian Beale

DC Broad

Sandra Carter

Mrs. VB Crosbie Dawson

RW Dutton

Mrs. DE Hicks

Sir Edward Horsfall

Mrs. Carolyn Nicolle

David Penman

Liberal Democrat Group Representation (4):

JA Harris

Ms JM Layton

AJ Lichnowski

Mrs. MS Rickman

Non-Aligned Member Representation (1):

SG Hirst

Total Members: 15

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Conservative Group Representation (8):

Julian Beale

DE Collier

BS Dare

Mrs. Sheila Jeffery

Jim Parsons

David Penman

R Theodoulou

LR Wilkins

Liberal Democrat Group Representation (3):

PCB Coleman

PR Hodgkinson

DJ Nash

Non-Aligned Member Representation (2):

SG Hirst

M Wardle

Total Members: 13

(END)