

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

19TH MAY 2015

Present:

Councillor Clive Bennett - Retiring Chairman
(in the Chair)

Councillors -

SI Andrews	Mrs JM Heaven
Mark F Annett	Mrs JL Hincks
Julian Beale	SG Hirst
Miss AML Beccle	RC Hughes
AW Berry	RL Hughes
AR Brassington	Mrs SL Jepson
T Cheung	RG Keeling
Sue Coakley	Ms JM Layton
Miss AJ Coggins	Jim Parsons
BS Dare	NJW Parsons
RW Dutton	SDE Parsons
Mrs JC Forde	NP Robbins
David Fowles	Mrs TL Stevenson
C Hancock	Lynden Stowe
JA Harris	R Theodoulou
M Harris	LR Wilkins

Apologies:

PCB Coleman

MGE MacKenzie-Charrington

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

The retiring Chairman of the Council, Councillor Clive Bennett, welcomed the Honorary Aldermen and former Councillors who were present at the Meeting. He offered his congratulations to new and returning Members on their election to the Council and referred to the monies raised for his chosen charities, Garrison Girls and Scoo-b-doo. Councillor Bennett presented a cheque to Garrison Girls and explained that no representative from Scoo-b-doo had been able to be present at this Meeting.

Councillor Bennett had attended many functions during his year as Chairman of the Council and he commented that the Council was highly-regarded in and around Gloucestershire. Councillor Bennett considered this to be a tribute to the Council,

especially the staff, and he requested the Chief Executive to pass on his thanks to the staff for all their work. Councillor Bennett thanked his Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mark Annett; fellow Members; Mrs. Marie Whiteman; Mr. Nigel Adams and staff in the Democratic Services Section for all their support during his time as Chairman. Councillor Bennett also thanked his Wife, Mrs. Michelle Bennett, for her support during his twelve years as a Councillor and, particularly, during his time as Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the Council. Councillor Bennett stated that Councillors were elected to serve the District. He urged Members to act in the best interests of the District as a whole, and not parochially, and he concluded by reminding Members that the Council's motto was 'United we Serve'.

On behalf of the Council, Councillor Stowe thanked Councillor and Mrs. Bennett for their work in representing the Council over the past twelve months, commenting that Councillor Bennett had been a brilliant ambassador for the District and a fair Chairman.

Councillor JA Harris also thanked Councillor Bennett for his service over the past two years, firstly as Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the Council, particularly in keeping Meetings orderly.

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

Councillor Mark F Annett had been Proposed by Councillor SG Hirst and Seconded by Councillor David Fowles.

In the absence of further nominations, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mark F Annett be elected Chairman of the Council, to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2016.

Notes:

- (i) Councillor Annett read out his Declaration of Office, which he duly signed.
- (ii) Councillor Annett then took the Chair.
- (iii) Councillor Annett thanked Members for electing him as Chairman of the Council. He thanked Mr. and Mrs. Bennett for the excellent work they had done representing the Council and concluded by stating that he would do his best to undertake his responsibilities to the best of his ability.

CL.3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

The Head of Democratic Services reported/invited nominations.

Councillor Julian Beale had been Proposed by Councillor Mark F Annett and Seconded by Councillor Mrs. SL Jepson.

Councillor NP Robbins was Proposed by Councillor JA Harris and Seconded by Councillor Ms JM Layton.
Following a vote, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Julian Beale be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council, to hold Office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2016.

Notes:

- (i) Councillor Beale then read out his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which he duly signed.
- (ii) Councillor Beale thanked Members for their confidence expressed in appointing him as Vice-Chairman of the Council and stated that, going forward, he hoped the debates would be constructive.

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

Councillor Lynden Stowe congratulated Councillors Annett and Beale on their election/appointment as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council respectively.

Councillor Stowe stated that, whilst not wishing to pre-empt any decision(s) in respect of Agenda Items (9) and (10), a Member of the Conservative Group would be Proposed as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Notwithstanding this, Councillor Stowe would be prepared to consider a nomination from the Liberal Democrat Group for that position at the Annual Meeting in May 2016, subject to there being a more constructive and positive working relationship, with less conflict and no personal attacks on Members, during the current municipal year.

Councillor Stowe referred to the surplus in respect of parking fees paid in the 'free periods' during January and February 2015 and he suggested that consideration be given to donating some of that surplus towards the costs of a statue of 'Black Jack', which had been commissioned. Councillor Stowe considered a sum of £2,500 to be appropriate and he stated that this would be subject of a report for consideration by the relevant Cabinet Member in the next few weeks.

There were no announcements from the Chairman 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.

CL.6 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman of the Council reported/invited nominations.

Councillor Lynden Stowe had been Proposed by Councillor NJW Parsons and Seconded by Councillor R Theodoulou

In the absence of any further nominations, it was **RESOLVED that Councillor Lynden Stowe be appointed Leader of the Council, to hold Office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2019.**

Notes:

- (i) It was noted that, by virtue of the Constitution, the Leader of the Council would also be Chairman of the Cabinet. It was also noted that, under the 'Strong Leader'

executive arrangement, the Leader appointment was for the term of the Council rather than on an annual basis.

(ii) Councillor Stowe thanked Members for their support and stated that he was looking forward to working with his colleague Members in a more constructive environment.

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 2015/16 Council Year:-

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Portfolio Area</u>
NJW Parsons (Deputy Leader)	Forward Planning
Sue Coakley	Environment and Communities
C Hancock	Enterprise and Partnerships
Mrs. SL Jepson	Planning and Housing
To Be Confirmed	Health and Leisure

The Leader explained that he was likely to maintain the Cabinet at six Members and that details of the Portfolio areas, including a breakdown of the responsibilities, would be circulated in due course.

CL.8 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council was requested to make appointments to the various Committees of the Council for the 2015/16 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 Committee and it was

RESOLVED that the Committee appointments for 2015/16 be confirmed,

Record of Voting - for 32, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

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 12.00 p.m. and closed at 12.35 p.m.

Chairman

(END)

APPENDIX 'A'

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES - COUNCIL YEAR 2015/16

PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Conservative Group Representation (11):

Miss AML Beccle

AW Berry

Miss SM Coakley

Miss Alison Coggins

RW Dutton

JAD Fowles

SG Hirst

RL Hughes

Mrs SL Jepson

MGE Mackenzie-Charrington

Mrs TL Stevenson

Liberal Democrat Group Representation (4):

AR Brassington

JA Harris

M Harris

Ms JM Layton

Total Members: 15

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Conservative Group Representation (5):

SI Andrews

MJ Beale

RG Keeling

Jim Parsons

SDE Parsons

Liberal Democrat Group Representation (2):

JA Harris

NP Robbins

Total Members: 7

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Conservative Group Representation (3):

BS Dare

R Theodoulou

LR Wilkins

Liberal Democrat Group Representation (2):

PCB Coleman

T Cheung

Total Members: 5

(END)