

Council
15/May2024



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 15 May 2024

Members present:

Nikki Ind - Chair	Mark Harris – Vice-Chair	
Gina Blomefield	Angus Jenkinson	Tom Stowe
Claire Bloomer	Julia Judd	Jeremy Theyer
Ray Brassington	Juliet Layton	Clare Turner
Patrick Coleman	Andrew Maclean	Chris Twells
Daryl Corps	Mike McKeown	Michael Vann
David Cunningham	Dilys Neill	Jon Wareing
Tony Dale	Nigel Robbins	Ian Watson
Mike Evely	Gary Selwyn	Tristan Wilkinson
Joe Harris	Tony Slater	Len Wilkins
Paul Hodgkinson	Lisa Spivey	

Officers present:

Andrew Brown, Democratic Services Business Manager	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer
Caleb Harris, Senior Democratic Services Officer	Kira Thompson, Election and Democratic Services Support Assistant
Ana Prelici, Democratic Services Officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive

I Election of a Chair

The Vice-Chair of Council, Councillor Mark Harris introduced the meeting and the first item which was the election of a Chair of Council.

The Leader, Councillor Joe Harris nominated Councillor Ind. In doing so, he stated that Councillor Ind had been a fair handed Chair of Council and had chaired the meetings very well.

Councillor Layton seconded the proposal. Councillor Layton reaffirmed the comments by the Leader and also noted the work done in representing Cotswold District Council.

There were no further nominations for Chair of Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Nikki Ind be elected as Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2024/25.

Voting Record

29 For, 1 Against, 0 Abstentions, 4 Absent/Did not vote

Having been elected, Councillor Ind then signed her declaration of acceptance of office as Chair.

Election of a Chair (Resolution)		
RESOLVED: That Councillor Nikki Ind be elected as Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2024/25.		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Evely, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	29
Against	Chris Twells	1
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		
Absent/Did not vote: Councillors David Fowles, Helene Mansilla, Patrick Coleman and Roly Hughes		

2 Appointment of a Vice-Chair

The Chair presided over the next item which was the appointment of a Vice-Chair of Council.

Councillor Wilkinson proposed Councillor Mark Harris for Vice-Chair and in doing so noted his record as Vice-Chair over the previous civic year.

Councillor McKeown seconded the nomination of Councillor Mark Harris and reaffirmed the comments made by Councillor Wilkinson.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mark Harris be appointed as Vice-Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2024/25.

Voting Record

30 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention, 4 Absent/Did not vote

Appointment of a Vice-Chair (Resolution)		
RESOLVED: That Councillor Mark Harris be appointed as Vice-Chair of Council for the civic year 2024/25.		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Evely, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Chris Twells, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	30
Against	None	0
Conflict Of	None	0

Interests		
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

Absent/Did not vote: Councillors David Fowles, Helene Mansilla, Patrick Coleman and Roly Hughes

3 Announcements from the Chair, Leader of Chief Executive (if any)

The Chair made the following announcements:

- Councillor Ind thanked colleagues for their continued support in allowing her to be Chair of Cotswold District Council for another year. It was noted that it was a real privilege for her to be Chair and to make a difference for her community.
- Since the last Council meeting, the Chair confirmed that she had represented the Council on a number of visits: the Barn Theatre Gala Performance, Forest of Dean District Council charity dinner, Evesham civic service, the restaurant launch at the Stratton House Hotel and the Cirencester Town Council civic reception.
- It was noted that there had been a number of good briefings on Affordable Housing and Waste and Recycling Rezoning.
- Finally, the Chair announced that as part of the 50th Anniversary of Cotswold District Council she would walking The Cotswold Way this summer to raise money for three charities across the District. These were Cotswold Friends, the Churn Project, and Tetbury Area Youth and Community Trust. It was also noted that she would be donating her Councillor Allowances uplift across the three charities.

The Leader was then invited to give some announcements:

- The Leader congratulated Cllr Ind on her re-election as Chair.
- Congratulations to the Chief Executive were given on the birth of their new daughter.
- There was also a welcome given to Alan Hope as the new Strategic Housing Manager.
- There had been a number of issues around Member safety with vandalism of car tyres. It was noted there would be a review of member safety and the Leader reminded Members to be vigilant and to report any concerns as appropriate.
- The Leader then wished to talk about the following issues locally:
- Kingshill Meadow roundabout closure:
 - The County Council had now indicated that the roundabout would be reopened in June, which was welcomed.
 - There was a frustration amongst local people following poor communication and the time taken to get a solution in place.
 - The economic impact was tough on local businesses when important events like the Badminton Festival were taking place.
 - The Leader would write to the County Council on behalf of the Council on this and on the second issue of verge maintenance.

Verge maintenance

- Overgrown roundabouts locally were noted as a road safety hazard.
- Whilst enhanced biodiversity was important, it had to be done in a managed way.
- The District Council stood ready to assist but it was up to the County Council to lead as this was a highways issue.

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- A leaked document from the County Council outlined plans to build 142,000 dwellings across the District.
- It was recognised that these proposals would raise concerns in terms of the size of the increase in housing stock.
- The current proposals by the Council would require 3,300 homes to be built in addition to the 5,150 homes that already had permissions or had been allocated within the Local Plan. These proposals being far below the plans within the document.
- Cotswold District Council had been bound by confidentiality during private discussions on proposals so the leaking of the document raised questions to the County Council.
- It was affirmed that the Council could not support these proposals.
- It was outlined that the Council's policies were delivering genuinely affordable homes in a sustainable way which engages residents at every stage.

The Chief Executive was then invited to provide any announcements:

- The Chief Executive congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chair on their re-election.
- The Chief Executive thanked colleagues for their gifts and good wishes.
- Thanks were given to those staff involved in the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections to ensure they ran smoothly.
- The Chief Executive noted that he was looking forward to working with all colleagues.

4 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors David Fowles, Helene Mansilla, and Roly Hughes

Councillor Coleman had provided apologies offline to the Leader as he was running late but would be joining the meeting as soon as possible.

5 Declarations of Interest

There were none from Members or Officers present.

6 Announcement of the Leader on Cabinet appointments

The Leader then tabled the following Cabinet appointments:

Leader - Joe Harris

- Coordination of executive functions
- Policy framework including the corporate plan
- Publica
- Council communications
- Democratic services
- Housing and homelessness
- Clean and green campaign and street cleaning
- Town and parish council liaison

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Deputy Leader and Finance - Mike Every

- Financial strategy and management
- Property and assets
- Waste and recycling
- Revenues and benefits
- Grants
- Public toilets
- UBICO

Climate Change and Sustainability - Mike McKeown

- Climate and biodiversity emergency response
- Community energy
- Sustainable transport
- Retrofit
- Council sustainability

Economy and Council Transformation - Tony Dale

- Business transformation
- Local Enterprise Partnership and county-wide partnerships
- Economic development
- Tourism and visitor information centres
- Chamber of Commerce liaison
- Customer experience and channel shift

Planning and Regulatory Services - Juliet Layton

- Development management
- Forward planning and the local plan
- Heritage and design management
- Environmental and regulatory services
- Cotswold Water Park

Health, Leisure and Parking - Paul Hodgkinson

- Public and mental health
- Car parking operations and strategy
- Leisure and culture
- Museums
- Culture
- Young people

Communities and Public Safety - Lisa Spivey

- Improving social mobility and social isolation
- Flooding and sewage
- Safeguarding
- Domestic abuse
- Police liaison and crime
- Refugees
- Crowdfund Cotswold
- Member Development

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Cost of Living and Inclusion - Claire Bloomer

- Cost of living support
- Liaison with 3rd sector
- Diversity and inclusion
- Supporting women and minorities

The Leader in tabling the appointments made the following points:

- The Leader noted the work of Cabinet Members over the past civic year in delivering for Cotswold District Council.
- The Leader provided a summary of the portfolios being proposed and the work being done by each portfolio holder.
- The Cabinet was unchanged other than moving car parking operations and strategy to Councillor Hodgkinson's portfolio from Councillor Dale's portfolio. Councillor Hodgkinson would become the Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Parking. It was noted that this change would be important for working with Bourton-on-the-Water to facilitate a solution to the problem of coach parking.

Councillor Jenkinson asked the Leader of the Council about the responsibilities for housing and homelessness, and the current issues of funding affordable housing within the District where lower income residents were being asked to fund more affordable housing. The Leader replied that the issue needed to be taken offline to see what discussions could be had with the relevant government department. It was noted that the affordable housing situation in the UK was currently not acceptable and further action was needed to provide more affordable housing for residents.

Councillor Patrick Coleman joined the meeting during this item.

RESOLVED: Full Council NOTED the Cabinet appointments from the Leader

7 Appointment of Committees

This report set out those matters reserved to Council at its Annual Meeting:

- To make appointments to Committees for the Civic Year 2024/25.
- To make appointments to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of Committees for the Civic Year 2024/25.

The Chair noted that a revised terms of reference for the proposed Publica Review Working Group following input from the Chief Executive had been provided and that a revised Annex B table of appointments could be found on desks.

Councillor Joe Harris, as Leader of the Council, introduced the report and made the following points:

- The Leader wished to record his thanks to the Democratic Services team for all of their work in putting the report together and accommodating changes just before the meeting.

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- The Leader also noted the recommendations regarding the Constitution Working Group and the Publica Review Working Group terms of reference which needed to be agreed.

Councillor Patrick Coleman apologised for being late and raised that the Vice-Chair of Audit and Governance Committee should be Councillor Helene Mansilla. The Leader apologised as this was an error during some last-minute changes to group positions.

Councillor Every seconded the recommendations noting the revision from Councillor Coleman.

Voting Record

31 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions, 3 Absent/Did not vote

Appointment of Committees (Resolution)		
RESOLVED: That Full Council		
1. DETERMINED that, in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the Act”), the Council shall continue to apply the political balance provisions under the Act to committees as shown in Annex A;		
2. APPOINTED Councillors to serve on the Council’s Committees and working groups as set out in Annex B for a term of office expiring at the next Annual Meeting of the Council;		
3. APPOINTED Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the Council’s Committees and working groups as shown in Annex B;		
4. NOTED the arrangements for substitutions set out in part 4 of the report;		
5. AGREED to confirm the changes to the terms of reference to include substitute members for the Constitution Working Group;		
6. AGREED the draft terms of reference for the Publica Review Working Group set out in Annex B.		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Every, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Chris Twells, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	31
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		
Absent/Did not vote: Councillors David Fowles, Helene Mansilla, and Roly Hughes		

8 Appointment of Outside Bodies

This report provided Council with a list of appointments to Outside Bodies for the civic year 2024/25.

Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council, introduced the item and the nominations outlined in Annex A in the report, and made the following points:

- The Leader noted that some of the outside bodies had changed since the previous Annual Council.
- The Leader noted that the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel required to be politically balanced and therefore only certain groups could appoint to it.
- Some of the appointments were constitutional such as Publica (shareholder representative) and Ubico.
- The Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee and Gloucestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee required to be appointed by Council.

Councillor Mike Evemy formally seconded.

Councillor David Cunningham proposed the following amendment:

Nominate Councillor Daryl Corps to be the Council's representative on the Gloucestershire County Council Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Cunningham said that Councillor Corps was a businessman and a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee who would be appropriate to take this role.

Councillor Blomefield seconded this amendment and noted that Councillor Corps would be a good representative.

The Leader noted that it was felt to be discourteous that an amendment be presented without any prior representations made which would have been possible before the meeting. It was noted that there was past precedent for opposition councillors to be appointed to these committees. Councillor Stowe replied that the list of appointments had only been presented at the meeting and therefore there had not been sufficient chance to review them.

Councillor Cunningham as mover of the amendment noted that there were many changes to the business close to the meeting time, and that this could be done.

Voting Record

11 For, 18 Against, 2 Abstentions, 3 Absent/Did not vote

(Voting details for each Member can be found at the end of this item)

The amendment fell.

Council noted that economic growth was a cross-party issue and it was regrettable that a solution could not be found to accommodate cross-party appointments.

RESOLVED: That Full Council

1. Note the appointments to outside bodies by the Leader of the Council in respect of executive functions, as set out in Annex A Table 1;
2. Confirm the appointment of Councillor Angus Jenkinson to the Gloucestershire County Council Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee (substitute Councillor Patrick Coleman) and confirm the appointment of Councillor Dilys Neill to the Gloucestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (substitute Councillor David Fowles)..

Voting Record

23 For, 6 Against, 2 Abstentions, 3 Absent/Did not vote

Appointment of Outside Bodies - Conservative Group Amendment (Amendment)		
RESOLVED: That Council appoint Councillor Daryl Corps to the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee.		
For	Gina Blomefield, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Nikki Ind, Julia Judd, Nigel Robbins, Tony Slater, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Chris Twells and Len Wilkins	11
Against	Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Mike Evey, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Angus Jenkinson, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Gary Selwyn, Lisa Spivey, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson and Tristan Wilkinson	18
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	Andrew Maclean and Clare Turner	2
Rejected		

Absent/Did not vote: Councillors David Fowles, Helene Mansilla, and Roly Hughes

Appointment of Outside Bodies - Original Resolution (Resolution)		
RESOLVED: That Council		
1. NOTED the appointments to outside bodies by the Leader of the Council in respect of executive functions, as set out in Annex A Table 1;		
2. AGREED to confirm the appointments to the Gloucestershire County Council Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee and the Gloucestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Annex A Table 2.		
For	Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Mike Evey, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Lisa Spivey, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	23
Against	Gina Blomefield, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Slater, Tom Stowe and Jeremy Theyer	6
Conflict Of	None	0

Interests		
Abstain	Andrew Maclean and Chris Twells	2
Carried		
Absent/Did not vote: Councillors David Fowles, Helene Mansilla, and Roly Hughes		

9 Record of Attendance 2023/2024

The purpose of the report was to present the Councillors Record of Attendance for the Civic Year 2023/24.

The Leader introduced the report to Members which was just for noting and should be straightforward.

Councillor Watson noted that his name was missing from the record and this had been raised prior to the meeting. The Business Manager for Democratic Services confirmed this had been updated on the online papers and apologised for the oversight.

The Chair reminded the public that attendance records were available throughout the year on the Council's website.

RESOLVED: Full Council NOTED the report.

10 On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) Grant Offer

To acknowledge the successful grant application and consider the proposal for £383,200 to be included in the Capital Programme and approve the match funding of £191,600.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability, Councillor Mike McKeown, proposed the recommendations and made the following points:

- Climate Change impacts were getting worse at a rate faster than expected and action was needed.
- The single biggest contributor to Cotswold's carbon footprint was transport with 50% of all carbon emissions coming from cars.
- The transfer from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles was important.
- 30-40% of homes did not have off-street parking.
- The title of the grant which referred to 'on-street' charging points would be applied to 'off-street' car parks which the Council controlled.
- The £191,600 of government grant plus match funding would provide for 66 chargers across 11 car parks.
- The work would be done in consultation with Gloucestershire County Council.
- The officers were thanked for their work in obtaining the funding for the chargers.

Councillor Mike Every seconded the recommendations and made the following points:

- The capital programme needed to be updated as the grant award had come after the setting of the Budget for 2024/25 in February.
- Agreeing the recommendations would put £383,200 into the Capital Programme with half of the funds being match funding.
- The short timescale of 31 March 2025 was the deadline for chargers under the scheme to be installed and working.

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- The detailed business plans would come forward in July to allocate sites.

Council noted that the business cases would need to be approved by Cabinet to ensure they were financially sound against the backdrop of budget constraints.

Council highlighted that capital expenditure could have a lost opportunity cost if the return on investment was not sustainable.

Council asked if the Cabinet Member could provide a high-level overview of the business case and the realism of the timescales provided.

Councillor McKeown responded to the questions:

- The structure of the grant had been provided that the chargepoint operator Connected Kerb and the Distribution Network Operator would not get any funding if they didn't deliver. The Council continued to engage with Connected Kerb to ensure that delivery was provided.
- In respect of the business cases, officers would be providing a report to Members on the business cases details. However, other councils had similar models of deployment with varying tariff levels to offset operation costs.

Council noted the need for more charging sites for those without home chargers and the higher costs for using public chargers. Councillor McKeown recognised this difference and stated that officers were working on a dual-tariff scheme for those needing to charge in the evening.

The Deputy Chief Executive was invited to comment on the financial queries. It was noted by the Deputy Chief Executive that the robustness of the business case would involve the finance team looking at the cost of operating the chargers and any potential lost parking income. It was stated that an amended paragraph 4.2 of the Cabinet report had not been included in the Full Council report in error. This paragraph stated that:

A Cabinet report in June 2024 will include a detailed business case for each site and will make recommendations as to which sites would benefit from EVCPs including whether the full grant award is required should the business case for each car park not demonstrate best value, give rise to an ongoing subsidy from the Council, or where there are other operational or delivery challenges.

Council noted the scale of the crisis with increasing temperatures caused by climate change and the potential impact of the scheme on reducing emissions.

Council noted the advantage of slower electric vehicle chargers in helping to attract and keep tourists whilst they visit the District. It was also noted that slower chargers help to preserve the life of car batteries.

Council asked if the chargers would be spread out amongst the smaller rural communities and not just focussed on larger towns like Cirencester. Councillor McKeown confirmed the chargers would be spread out across the whole District but would not cover villages. It was noted that Town and Parish Councils may wish to access central government grant funding or any Community Infrastructure Levy funding available to install their own chargers for smaller rural communities.

Voting Record

31 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention, 3 Absent/Did not vote

On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) Grant Offer (Resolution)

RESOLVED: That Full Council

1. Acknowledge the successful grant application of £191,600;
2. APPROVED the On-Street capital scheme of £383,200 for inclusion in the Council's capital programme funded by £191,600 of external grant funding and CDC matched funding of £191,600.

For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Evemy, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Chris Twells, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	31
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

Absent/Did not vote: Councillors David Fowles, Helene Mansilla, and Roly Hughes

II Next meeting

The Chair announced that following the announcement of the 50th Anniversary celebrations being held at the Corinium Museum after the 25 September meeting, the Chair proposed moving the time of the meeting from 6pm to 2pm to accommodate this.

Councillor Stowe seconded the proposal. This proposal was put to the vote and agreed by Council.

RESOLVED: That Full Council move the 25 September meeting time to 2pm

The Chair in closing the meeting confirmed that the next meeting of the Full Council meeting would be on 17 July 2024 at 6pm.

Change of meeting time (Resolution)

RESOLVED: That Full Council amend the 25 September 2024 meeting time to start at 2pm.

For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Evemy, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	28
Against	None	0

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Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	Gary Selwyn, Chris Twells and Tristan Wilkinson	3
Carried		
Absent/Did not vote: Councillors David Fowles, Helene Mansilla, and Roly Hughes		

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 7.35 pm

Chair

(END)