



Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 31 July 2024

Members present:

Mark Harris - Vice Chair, in
the Chair
David Cunningham
Dilys Neill
Mike Evey
Joe Harris
Roly Hughes
Julia Judd
Juliet Layton
Andrew Maclean
Gina Blomefield

Claire Bloomer
Nigel Robbins
Gary Selwyn
Lisa Spivey
Patrick Coleman
Ray Brassington
Tom Stowe
Tony Slater
Helene Mansilla
Mike McKeown

David Fowles
Jeremy Theyer
Clare Turner
Michael Vann
Jon Wareing
Ian Watson
Daryl Corps
Len Wilkins
Paul Hodgkinson
Angus Jenkinson

Officers present:

Andrew Brown, Democratic Services Business
Manager
Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and
Development (Monitoring Officer)
Ana Prelici, Governance Officer
Robert Weaver, Chief Executive
Mandy Fathers, Business Manager for
Environmental, Welfare and Revenue Service

Claire Locke, Interim Executive Director
Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant
Kira Thompson, Election and Democratic
Services Support Assistant
Caleb Harris, Senior Democratic Services
Officer

12 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Chris Twells, Nikki Ind, Tony Dale and Tristan Wilkinson.

13 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Andrew Maclean noted his name on the report in respect of appointing a temporary Parish Council Member for Upper Rissington but it had been agreed that he had no pecuniary interest.

The Chair then made a statement regarding the Publica Review. The following points were made:

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The Publica Shareholder Councils had taken legal advice about whether officers employed by the Publica Group whose roles were in scope for the phase I transition to direct Council employment needed to declare an interest and/or leave the room.

Whilst officers do not have an “interest” in public-law decision making unlike the decision-makers (i.e. Councillors), there was a need to avoid the appearance of bias.

Therefore, officers employed by the Publica Group who were in scope for the phase I transition, such as Democratic Services officers, would leave the room for the duration of the item.

Any officers employed by the Publica Group who were acting as Deputy Statutory Officers or otherwise advising members in relation to the Publica Transition item were able to stay in the room. This was because, in the view of the Council’s Monitoring Officer, the need for Members to receive answers to questions outweighed the risk of any appearance of bias.

14 Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council meetings on 20 March 2024 and 15 May 2024 were considered as part of the published pack.

There were two minor typographical amendments raised by Councillor Neill were noted on 20 March 2024 minutes under the Chair Announcements item which would be updated.

Councillor David Fowles queried where the apologies were for the previous meeting on 15 May 2024. It was confirmed by email after the meeting that these were present in the document but were not in the usual place because of the format of the Annual Meeting agenda.

* Due to a technical error, Councillor Helene Mansilla’s vote was incorrectly noted electronically as ‘Against’ and was corrected verbally to ‘Abstain’.

Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 20 March 2024 (Resolution)		
RESOLVED: That subject to the amendments noted, the Full Council minutes on 20 March 2024 be APPROVED as a correct record.		
For	Gina Blomefield, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, Mike Every, David Fowles, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, 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 and Len Wilkins	26
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	Claire Bloomer, David Cunningham, Roly Hughes and Helene Mansilla	4
Carried		

Minutes of the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2024 (Resolution)		
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2024 be approved as		

a correct record.		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, Mike Evemy, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, 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 and Len Wilkins	26
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	David Cunningham, David Fowles, Roly Hughes and Helene Mansilla	4
Carried		

15 Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive (if any)

The Vice- Chair started this item by welcoming both Dr Roz Savage MP and Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP and congratulating them on their election to the South Cotswolds and North Cotswold parliamentary constituencies respectively. It was hoped that they could be present at a future Council meeting to engage with Members on national considerations.

The Vice-Chair read announcements on behalf of the Chair who was not able to be in attendance:

The Chair had been in attendance for a number of gatherings on behalf of the Council: Mayor of Evesham Gathering for Civic Leaders, D-Day and Armed Forces Day Commemorations and the Annual Kiribati Tungaru gathering in Chedworth Village Hall.

An update was given on the Chair's Cotswold Way Challenge Walk to commemorate 50 years of Cotswold District Council. 8 out of the 12 stages had been completed alongside other representatives from the charities supported, Council Officers and family members.

The Vice-Chair also noted the following announcements:

- The Unsung Heroes award would be launching for nominations on 1 August to recognise the contributions of volunteers in the District.
- There would be an event on 25 September 2024 for the 50th Anniversary of the Council. The Council delivered over 50 different services within the District that supported communities.

The Leader, Councillor Joe Harris, was then invited to make the following announcements:

- The Leader congratulated both Dr. Roz Savage and Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown on their election victories. The Leader also noted the importance of the General Election in engaging with residents and encouraging participation in democracy.
- The Leader noted the optimism regarding the new government and the need for the local government sector to be supported during the difficult financial challenges. There

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was a need for multi-year funding settlements to be able to make informed decisions on service delivery and capital investments.

- The Leader noted that the housing target from the Government had changed which would require 300 more homes to be built per year. In doing so, some points were noted in relation to housing.
 - Tough decisions were required with communities to deliver more homes to buy and to rent.
 - Affordable housing was required to help those in the District to support communities particularly for those like carers to support the ageing population.
 - The priority for the administration was to deliver more socially rented housing.
 - The Council needed to meet housing targets and if it failed to meet the requirements, the Council could lose control of where and how those homes were built.
 - The whole Council was committed to get feedback from residents but there needed to be honesty about the requirements being asked of the Council.
- There were three Olympians competing in the Paris Olympic Games from the Cotswolds: Laura Collett and Tom McEwen in Equestrian events and Alex Cohoon in the swimming events and the Leader wished to wish them the best of luck.

The Chief Executive was then invited to make any announcements:

- Congratulations were given to the MPs for the North and South Cotswolds on their election victories. Thanks was also given to the Elections Staff who worked so hard to deliver the process.
- Best wishes were given to the Chair, Councillor Nikki Ind's mother who was going in for a minor operation and was the reason for the Chair's absence.
- The Chief Executive wished to provide condolences to the friends and family following the tragic incidents in Southport.

16 Public Questions

The Vice-Chair then invited the first public speaker to ask their question.

Councillor Mike Cameron Davies of Sapperton Parish Council asked a question regarding waste collection issues. Whilst recognising that the recent round reorganisation was required for the Council's budget, it was felt that the Council did not take appropriate action to mitigate the impact on those affected. Frampton Mansell was used as an example of an area where bin collections had not been consistent to the new timetable. The question asked was if the Council agreed that this was a pretty poorly planned and executed change that should not be repeated, and what lessons have been learned from this?

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The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Mike Evemy, responded as the portfolio holder for waste and recycling and apologised to residents who had been inconvenienced from the changes. It was highlighted that officers within Publica and Ubico had been working hard on implementing the changes. It was affirmed that the planning work for the changes had been underway since November 2023, with the issues arising from the logistics implementing the change. There was a desire to minimise further disruptions on waste collections and it was noted that extra resources had been put in to the project. It was highlighted that missed bin collections had fallen week on week after an initial increase in missed bin collections.

A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Mike Cameron Davies about clarifying how the Council would proceed from here and work in a smarter way and how lessons would be learnt.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Evemy, stated that officers were to rectify any current issues and noted the complexities of the locations of properties in the District. Whilst stating that the change wasn't recognised as being a failure, there would be lessons to be learnt for any future changes required and that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would have a role in scrutinising any such changes.

Ben Eddols asked a public question regarding the proposed Stow and the Swells Neighbourhood Development Plan. It was highlighted that many volunteers' hours had been put into developing the plan since 2011 to improve the local community such as affordable housing, improving parking spaces and finding a permanent space for Stow Town Council. The main part of the plan had been rejected by the Inspector. In addition, Stow Town Council were currently in negotiations with Cotswold District Council regarding the future of the public toilets. It was felt that it was wrong that the residents should cover the £15,000 annual loss through the precept. It was asked why Stow Town Council should exist given the perceived lack of control over events in the communities.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Evemy, wished to pick up the point about the toilets. It was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had conducted a review through the Public Conveniences Working Group. The review had highlighted the need for the service to change and duplicate locations in one locality needed to be addressed. It was explained that discussions were taking place but there were constraints about what the Council could do on the future ownership of assets.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services, Councillor Juliet Layton, answered the point raised on the neighbourhood development plan and recognised the disappointment around the proposed developments being taken out by the examiner. It was noted that the Council and gone through a rigorous process and would go to a referendum in September. Councillor Layton commended the Town Council for their work on the rest of the plan, and said that conversations had been held with officers and the member for Stow around these issues.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Safety, Councillor Lisa Spivey, wished to pick up the point about communities not being heard and that frustration was understood. It was key that decentralisation of decisions takes place. It was noted that the Town and Parish Council forums did take place in order to engage Town and Parish Councils as the centre of their communities.

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Neil Backwith then asked a question about the impacts of the Council's Local Plan on Moreton-in-Marsh. It was noted that a locally organised poll of residents in Moreton-in-Marsh showed a 96% rejection of the proposed Local Plan Update. The question asked to Councillor Joe Harris was if the Council would withdraw the Local Plan and replace it or would it continue with the overdevelopment in Moreton-in-Marsh?

The Leader, Councillor Joe Harris, noted that the Council would not be withdrawing the Local Plan Update. It was noted that there was a consultation on some of the key elements of the proposals. It was stated that Moreton would get more housing in the future but that some of this housing would unlock better infrastructure in the town. It was highlighted that whilst it would be preferable to go with an infrastructure first approach, the current system for planning did not allow for this. It was confirmed that the Council would continue to work with local communities going forward on the Local Plan Update.

The Chair then indicated that the 15 minutes allocated for public speakers had been used, and that therefore the other public speakers present who wished to ask a question were encouraged to submit their questions to Cabinet Members directly and would get an answer from the Cabinet Members in writing.

Councillor David Fowles on a point of order asked whether the Vice-Chair knew under the system how many questions there would be and that it was disappointing for those members of the public who had travelled to the Chamber to ask a question. The Vice-Chair indicated he wasn't aware of how many questions were going to be asked, but advised Councillor Fowles that any procedural points could be discussed at the Constitution Working Group. It was highlighted that the packed agenda required the timings to be kept to.

17 Member Questions

Member Questions with written responses and supplementary responses are attached at the Annex A.

18 Publica Review - Detailed report

The purpose of the report was to consider the Detailed Transition Plan, to note its content and to approve the recommendations therein.

The Chair invited those Publica officers who felt that they should leave the room to do so.

The Chair then invited the Leader of the Council, Councillor Joe Harris, to introduce the item. The following points were made:

- There were concerns about the sovereignty of the Council over its staff and the attractiveness of the Council as an employer at the time of introducing Publica in 2017.
- The Leader noted his own vote against the establishment of Publica as an organisation at that time.
- The concerns were noted as being manifested as part of the Council's current day-to-day operations during his time as Leader.
- The misgivings around Publica were not a reflection on the staff who work hard at the Council across a range of areas who support people and businesses across the District.

- The Leader wished to thank all staff for their work and noted that they were the Council's greatest asset to deliver the Council's priorities.
- The Leader noted that the transition of services would put staff at the forefront of the process to ensure they can deliver to the best of their ability.
- Phase I would return staff to the Council and set the Council's brand and identity as it becomes a major employer in the District once again.
- The report outlined the need to define what success looks like for the Council and how the future of the Council's services would look.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were thanked for their work in scrutinising the report and providing constructive feedback. Following this, the Leader proposed an additional recommendation to the report which read as follows:

7. Note the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and therefore ask officers to work with members to clarify and define what success for the Council and continuing Publica will look like and the values that will underpin this success in order to improve efficiency and enhance services for residents, businesses and community organisations in the district.

- The Leader noted that a lot of the change required would take time but this was the beginning of the journey and the priority was to complete the Phase I transition of staff at pace.
- It was noted that the short-term and medium-term financial assumptions were clear but that unforeseen costs were possible and that mitigation measures would need to be prepared.
- It was highlighted that the transfer of staff would help to prepare the Council for the need to respond to the changes likely to take place in the local government sector.
- This was an opportunity to reset the Council as an employer and to ensure all employees feel valued and empowered in their roles.
- In the 50th Anniversary year of the Council, it was noted that this would be a significant moment in the history of the organisation.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Mike Every seconded the recommendations and made the following points:

- In previous years, outsourcing to the private sector and economies of scale was something that all councils were seeking to do. This was also supported by the UK Government at that time through grant funding.
- Previous arrangements at that time under GO (Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire) Shared Services included transactional services like HR and Payroll under this model.

- Publica was created in 2016 and went live in 2017, taking on the vast majority of services. It was highlighted that in hindsight this could have been seen as a step too far.
- The councils had been left with very little policy and strategic capabilities which made it hard to influence staffing structures and associated spending.
- The Publica Shareholder Councils all had individual circumstances within their own Districts which needed to be met through services. This had become particularly prevalent with the change of administrations in the Shareholder Councils.
- It was reiterated that it wasn't a criticism of the staff within Publica but rather of the model it was operated under.
- Following the review of services by Human Engine and the decisions taken to repatriate services to the Council, senior management in the Councils and Publica had been working closely with the Programme Director to drive the process.
- Publica as a company would still have a role within Council services which would need to be closely managed by the Council.
- The expected cost following the transition was estimated to be around £376,000 per annum which represented a 10% increase over the current cost within Publica. The key factor in this increase was the offering of all staff the Local Government Pension Scheme which the modelling assumed all staff would take up with few opting out.
- There were key principles for success in the Detailed Transition Plan and key performance indicators would be drawn up and monitored. These principles included enabling performance and value for money to be measured, simplify processes, manage resource deployment, and embed cost recovery in services.

Members made various comments around previous concerns of the financial impact of the transition of services. It was also noted that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had produced previous amendments which were rejected around monitoring the financial costs.

Council noted points raised that the Phase 1 and 2 transitions would have a long-term impact on the cost of delivering services and the scale of services provided.

Council noted that extra transparency around agency staff costs and the whole project costs would be of benefit as promised at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Council noted that Senior Management of the Council had worked very hard to deliver the change and to have an 'open-door' to Members for questions.

Council noted issues with staff recruitment because of Publica's lack of access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Council noted the findings of the Peer Review which had raised the original concerns around the Publica shared services model.

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Council noted that Publica did not need to be totally dismantled to deliver improvements and that any change would need to be done creatively.

The Leader in summing up made the following points:

Councillors across the political divide had shared frustrations around the operation of services under Publica.

The Leader was comfortable that the vast majority of the financial questions had been answered. There would be some unknowns but there was confidence in the work done by the Chief Finance Officer and the Programme Director.

There would be difficult decisions around staffing structures but the Council would have control over future requirements.

There was hope that the new UK Government would give long-term funding certainty, but this wasn't available right now.

It was stated that most councils were moving away from Teckal companies.

While the transition may provide challenges the Council would plan to mitigate these where possible.

It was stated that the transition of services in future years would likely be seen as a positive step for the District.

Publica Review Detailed Transition Plan (Resolution)

RESOLVED: That Full Council:

1. APPROVED the implementation of Phase I of the Publica Transition based on the Detailed Transition Plan and the phasing for the transition.
2. DELEGATED AUTHORITY to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the decision to deal with any final detail matters arising from the Detailed Transition Plan.
3. DELEGATED AUTHORITY to the Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer), in liaison with the Leader, to update the constitution by making any consequential changes required as a result of Phase I of the Publica Transition.
4. AGREED TO carry out a budget re-basing for the 2026/7 financial year so that the funding provided to Publica is proportionate to the services received.
5. NOTED that following the decision on Phase I, preparatory work for Phase 2 will commence and will be the subject of a separate report
6. NOTED the following as included in the Detailed Transition Plan;
Section 2: Transition Planning:
 - *Note the Design-Led principles*
 - *Note the Key Goals for Transition**Section 7: Modelling Assumptions and Outputs:*
 - *Note the cost modelling for Phase I.**Section 9: Post-Transition Support:*

· *Note the need for post-transition support.*

7. NOTED the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and therefore asks officers to work with members to clarify and define what success for the Council and continuing Publica will look like and the values that will underpin this success in order to improve efficiency and enhance services for residents, businesses and community organisations in the district.

For	Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Mike Every, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Roly Hughes, Angus Jenkinson, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Lisa Spivey, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing and Ian Watson	21
Against	Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, David Fowles, Julia Judd, Tony Slater, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer and Len Wilkins	8
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	Gina Blomefield	1
Carried		

19 Business And Planning Act 2020 - Update To Pavement Licensing Regime

The purpose of the report was for Full Council to consider the draft Pavement License Policy document for approval following the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act making permanent the pavement licensing regime.

Councillor Juliet Layton introduced the report and made the following points:

- The Planning and Licensing Committee as a consultee approved the draft policy at its meeting on 12 June 2024.
- The report contained the draft policy following the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act which made Pavement Licensing a permanent regime.
- The original regime was introduced in 2020 under the Business and Planning Act to extend the trading area for food and drink to outside spaces during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Businesses would need to apply to the Council for a licence to utilise this.
- The Council had issued 12 licences across the District.
- The draft policy reflected changes in legislation which included:
 - increasing the consultation period to 28 days
 - expanding licence validation to 24 months
 - increasing the capped fee to £500 and the renewal fee to £350.
- Expanding enforcement powers for the Council.

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- Licences granted prior to 30 March 2024 would be valid until the end of the expiration date.
- A cost recovery principle underpinned the draft policy with a new licence costing £185 for a new 24 months licence and £150 for a renewal.
- It was stated that this move would give certainty for business in the District.

Councillor Ray Brassington seconded and made the following points:

- Any objections to a pavement licence application would be reviewed by officers in consultation with himself as Chair of Planning and Licensing Committee.
- The change to a 28 day consultation period was welcomed to improve responses from the public.

Council noted the encouraging policy from the Covid Pandemic on pavement licensing for communities in an orderly way.

Council noted the entrepreneurs in the Cotswold using pavement licences which would be of benefit to businesses.

Council asked about the 14-day public consultation and how that was carried out. The Business Manager - Environmental, Welfare & Revenue Service answered and stated that Highways and other public bodies would be consulted. It was noted these applications were also posted online for residents to raise any objections. Council asked about the 28 day minimum consultation and whether this was enough time. The Business Manager answered that the statutory consultees did respond quite efficiently normally to these applications.

Council noted the clarity for businesses in the District that the policy would provide.

Business And Planning Act 2020 - Update To Pavement Licensing Regime (Resolution)		
RESOLVED: That Full Council: I. APPROVED the draft Pavement Licensing Policy and Fees, attached at Annex A.		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Mike Evely, David Fowles, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Roly Hughes, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	30
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0

20 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

The purpose of the report was to receive the annual report of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2023/24 Civic Year.

Councillor Blomefield as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee introduced the report:

- Thanked the members of the Committee who had contributed to the work of the Committee over the past year. Specifically Councillor Selwyn as Vice-Chair and Councillor Clare Turner who had stood in as a Vice-Chair.
- The Chair also thanked the officers involved in the running of the Committee.
- It was noted that this was the first time a report had been received by Full Council in respect of the work done by the Committee.
- The report highlighted the progress made by the Committee, in particular in relation to Task and Finish Groups and the special meeting held with Great Western Railway.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had also made a positive contribution through the recommendations to Cabinet. Many of these recommendations had been accepted as part of the recommendations.

Council noted thanks from Cabinet Members for the development of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to being an effective 'critical friend' of the Executive.

Council noted the difference made by Public Conveniences Working group in its work regarding the future of public conveniences through cross-party working.

Many Members commended the chairing skills of Councillor Blomefield in guiding the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and improving the work of the Committee.

It was highlighted that the questions by Committee members to Cabinet Members as the leading policy makers helped to examine proposals to Cabinet and Council.

Councillor Blomefield in summing up noted about liaising with the Leader and other Cabinet Members to discuss more in advance about the work of the Committee through work planning sessions.

RESOLVED: Full Council NOTED the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24.

21 Decision taken under Urgency Powers

The purpose of the report was for Council to note the decision taken by the Chief Executive using Urgency Powers.

The Leader, Councillor Joe Harris introduced the report and made the following points:

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- The Full Council meeting date had changed due to the General Election pre-election period which moved other meetings such as Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- As Full Council needs to agree its own meeting date changes and was unable to, the Chief Executive used the Urgency Powers within the Constitution to action the change.

There were no comments on this item.

RESOLVED: Full Council NOTED the decision taken.

22 Appointment and Remuneration of Independent Persons

The purpose of this report was to appoint Independent Persons for standards matters and approve allowances payable.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Joe Harris, introduced this item and made the following points:

- The Localism Act 2011 required that at least one independent member was appointed to assist the Monitoring Officer in assessing code of conduct complaints against District and Town and Parish Councillors.
- There had been an uptick in complaints, particularly in relation to Town and Parish Councillors.
- Independent persons could advise the Councillor accused of breaching the Code of Conduct and this was usually not required.
- The large increase in complaints required the Council to reinforce its arrangements for assessing these complaints.
- One of the Independent Members also sat on the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.
- Two of the Independent Persons would be re-appointed but two new Independent Persons would be appointed following a retirement. This followed a recruitment campaign and interview where Robert Cawley and Melvin Kenyon met the requirements needed.

The Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) was then invited to speak to the item and made the following points:

- The increase in complaints was highlighted in the report to the Audit and Governance Committee on 23 July 2024.
- The independent persons were important individuals to support the process for maintaining standards.

Councillor David Fowles seconded and noted the hard work of the Director of Governance and Development in dealing with complex cases. A question arose regarding the format of

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meetings with the independent persons given their distance from the area. The Director of Governance and Development noted that most of the contact was via video conference but for Standards Hearings, these would need to be held in person. It was also confirmed the mileage paid would be at the same rate as for Councillors.

Councillor Mike Evemy wished to note for the record that Michael Paget-Wilkes was known to him as he played in the same tennis club. However, he did not otherwise socialise with him and this would not be a pecuniary interest.

Appointment and Remuneration of Independent Persons (Resolution)

RESOLVED: That Full Council

1. **AGREED** to appoint Robert Cawley and Melvin Kenyon and re-appoint Michael Paget-Wilkes and Phyllida Pyper as Independent Members, effective from 1.08.2024. All appointments to be a maximum of four years i.e. to 31.07.2028;
2. **APPROVED** that the Independent Persons are paid an annual allowance of £1000 per annum on a monthly basis, plus a mileage allowance equivalent to the rate paid to elected Members;
3. **AUTHORISED** the Director of Governance & Development (Monitoring Officer) to commence a recruitment campaign prior to the expiration of current appointments and to enable reports to be presented on future appointments.

For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Mike Evemy, David Fowles, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Roly Hughes, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	30
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

23 Appointment of a Temporary Parish Council Member to Upper Rissington Parish Council

The purpose of the report was to appoint Independent Persons for standards matters, commence a subsequent recruitment campaign, and approve allowances payable.

The Leader, Councillor Joe Harris proposed the recommendations within the report and outlined the following points:

- Parish Councils must be quorate to operate and make decisions which meant a minimum of 3 Members or 1/3 of its membership.
- Section 91 of the Local Government Act dealt with situations where a Town/Parish Council becomes inquorate, making provisions for the District Council to co-opt a member of its own on to the Town or Parish Council.

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- Upper Rissington Parish Council was now inquorate after the resignation of several members of its own Council.
- Councillor Andrew Maclean would therefore be co-opted on to the Council in order for the Council to co-opt new members.
- The clerk of Upper Rissington Parish Council had advised that there was interest in the community and that it should be able to become quorate shortly.
- Council had approved a procedure in 2021 to allow appointments to be delegated to the Chief Executive in order for Council to co-opt.

Councillor Tom Stowe seconded the proposal and made the following points:

- Councillor Maclean was thanked for stepping up to the role.
- There was a question about problems in recruitment of Town and Parish Councils and whether this was a wider trend. The Director of Governance and Development replied anecdotally that there did seem to be a wider national trend in recruiting this voluntary role. It was also a prominent issue locally given that Cotswold had a large number of Town and Parish Councils in the District.

Councillor Maclean noted there was a large number of younger people in the village due to the siting of an ex-RAF base.

Appointment of Temporary Town or Parish Council Members (Resolution)

RESOLVED: That Full Council

1. AGREED to make an order under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act') appointing Councillor Andrew Maclean as a temporary member of Upper Rissington Parish Council enabling Upper Rissington Parish Council to become quorate;
2. NOTED that the appointment shall be effective until Upper Rissington Parish Council is quorate (i.e. it has four members of the Council in place, excepting the temporary appointee);
3. APPROVED the draft procedure at Annex A, delegating authority to the Monitoring Officer to make orders and make temporary appointments to Town/Parish Councils as required, under the powers in Section 91 of the Act.

For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Mike Evely, David Fowles, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Roly Hughes, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	29
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	Andrew Maclean	1

Carried

24 Notice of Motions

The one motion tabled was titled Cotswold Lakes.

Councillor Juliet Layton introduced the motion and made the following points:

- This motion was to ask that Council acknowledge the desire of the Cotswold Lakes Trust for the change of name from Cotswold Water Park to Cotswold Lakes. It would also formalise the name change within the constituent authorities of which Cotswold District Council was one.
- In April 2024, Councillor Layton and Councillor Every were invited as the local ward members to discuss with businesses and the Trust about changing the name along with Council tourism officers.
- The steering group had consulted Town and Parish Councils within the locality and all were supportive of the proposals.
- It was noted that about the named Cotswold Water Park caused some confusion.
- The decision had been taken by the Trust to market the area more appropriately.
- The motion was to formalise the name into the constituent authorities.

Councillor Mike Every seconded and made the following points:

- Councillor Every noted that other Councillors attended the meeting with the Trust to discuss the proposal.
- The motion was a public statement in supporting the change.
- The business involved would be changing its name to adapt to the new name as they recognised the benefits of doing so.
- New signs would be required over time and this would be done as signs were replaced in partnership.
- The Council would update its Local Plan and other documents to support this.

Council asked if there would be cost implications for Cotswold District Council. Councillor Every clarified that the signage change could cost some money, but this would need to be clarified as to which organisation owned the signs. There was a street signage budget and any old signs being replaced would be updated to the new name.

It was noted by the Vice-Chair that the name was changing anyway but it was whether the Council supported this change.

Council noted the importance of putting the Cotswold Lakes on the map in regarding to its landscape and the work of the Cotswold Lakes Trust.

It was highlighted that it was important to get the partner authorities and other parties required together to make the name change happen.

Cotswold Lakes (Motion)		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Mike Evemy, David Fowles, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Roly Hughes, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	30
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

25 Next meeting

The next meeting of Full Council was confirmed to be on 25 September 2024 at 2pm.

26 Matters exempt from publication

The Chair then moved the following motion which was seconded by Mike Evemy

RESOLVED: That Full Council exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of item 16 in accordance with provisions of section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Voting Record

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

To move into private session (Motion)		
RESOLVED: That Full Council exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of item 16 in accordance with provisions of section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Mike Evemy, David Fowles, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Roly Hughes, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	30
Against	None	0

Council
31/July2024

Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

27 Decision on future regeneration of The Old Station and Memorial Cottages, Cirencester

The purpose of the report was to consider the Asset Plans for the Old Station and Memorial Cottage buildings produced as part of the Council's Asset Management Strategy and consider disposal of these buildings in line with those Asset Plans.

Full Council discussed the report in private session.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Mike Evely and seconded by Councillor Joe Harris.

Decision on future regeneration of The Old Station and Memorial Cottages, Cirencester (Resolution)		
RESOLVED: That Full Council:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. AGREED that the Old Station and Old Memorial cottages are disposed of, as two separate assets, in line with the Asset Management Strategy adopted at Cabinet in May 2024 and the Asset Plans appended to this report.2. DELEGATED AUTHORITY to the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to approve the final terms of the sale including sale price.		
For	Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Mike Evely, David Fowles, Joe Harris, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Roly Hughes, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson and Len Wilkins	30
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 8.55 pm

Chair
(END)