



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

**Council**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Franklin's Gardens, Weedon Road, Northampton, NN5 5BG on Thursday 20 May 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present            Councillor Ann Addison (Chair)  
                      Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage (Vice-Chair)  
                      Councillor Jamal Alwahabi  
                      Councillor Rufia Ashraf  
                      Councillor Mohammed Azizur Rahman (Aziz)  
                      Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb  
                      Councillor Dermot Bambridge  
                      Councillor Harry Barrett  
                      Councillor William Barter  
                      Councillor Sally Beardsworth  
                      Councillor Phil Bignell  
                      Councillor Lizzy Bowen  
                      Councillor Rebecca Breese  
                      Councillor Adam Brown  
                      Councillor Michael Brown  
                      Councillor Muna Cali  
                      Councillor Alan Chantler  
                      Councillor Nazim Choudary  
                      Councillor Imran Ahmed Chowdhury BEM  
                      Councillor Paul Clark  
                      Councillor Stephen Clarke  
                      Councillor Maggie Clubley  
                      Councillor Fiona Cole  
                      Councillor Raymond Connolly  
                      Councillor Karen Cooper  
                      Councillor Daniel Cribbin  
                      Councillor Julie Davenport  
                      Councillor Janice Duffy  
                      Councillor Paul Dyball  
                      Councillor Gareth Eales  
                      Councillor Terrie Eales  
                      Councillor Alison Eastwood  
                      Councillor Louisa Fowler  
                      Councillor Rupert Frost  
                      Councillor Jo Gilford  
                      Councillor Terry Gilford  
                      Councillor Matt Golby  
                      Councillor Andrew Grant  
                      Councillor Mike Hallam  
                      Councillor Enam Haque  
                      Councillor Lauryn Harrington-Carter  
                      Councillor Jonathan Harris

Councillor Cheryl Hawes  
Councillor Rosie Herring  
Councillor Stephen Hibbert  
Councillor James Hill  
Councillor Nigel Hinch  
Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere  
Councillor Mark Hughes  
Councillor Rosie Humphreys  
Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift  
Councillor David James  
Councillor Koulla Jolley  
Councillor Paul Joyce  
Councillor Andrew Kilbride  
Councillor Anna King  
Councillor Jamie Lane  
Councillor Phil Larratt  
Councillor Daniel Marc Lister  
Councillor Malcolm Longley  
Councillor Greg Lunn  
Councillor Charles Manners  
Councillor Peter Matten  
Councillor Ian McCord  
Councillor Dennis Meredith  
Councillor Colin Morgan  
Councillor Charles Morton  
Councillor Jonathan Nunn  
Councillor Kevin Parker  
Councillor Suresh Patel  
Councillor Ken Pritchard  
Councillor Bob Purser  
Councillor Wendy Randall  
Councillor Emma Roberts  
Councillor Jake Roberts  
Councillor Sam Rumens  
Councillor Cathrine Russell  
Councillor Lisa Samiotis  
Councillor Brian Sargeant  
Councillor Sue Sharps  
Councillor John Shephard  
Councillor David Smith  
Councillor Zoe Smith  
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms  
Councillor Laura Stevenson  
Councillor Danielle Stone  
Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex  
Councillor Walter Tarasiewicz  
Councillor Mike Warren

Apologies for  
Absence: Councillor Fiona Baker  
Councillor Pinder Chauhan  
Councillor Penelope Flavell  
Councillor Winston Strachan

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chauhan, Strachan, Baker, Flavell and Stevenson.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **Election of Chair of West Northamptonshire Council**

Councillor Larratt expressed his thanks to Chris Millar for his contribution as Chair of West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority. He proposed that Councillor Ann Addison be elected Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council.

Councillor Lane seconded the proposition.

Upon a vote, the proposition was Carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Ann Addison be elected Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council for the year 2021-22.

4. **Election of Vice-Chair of West Northamptonshire Council**

Councillor Rumens proposed that Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage be elected as Vice-Chair of West Northamptonshire Council.

Councillor Kilbride seconded the proposition.

Upon a vote, the proposition was Carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Gonzalez De Savage be elected Vice-Chair of West Northamptonshire Council for the year 2021-22.

5. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chairman announced the sad passing of Alderman Gina Ogden in March 2021. She was a member of Northamptonshire County Council from 1967 to 2013 and at the time of her retirement, was the longest serving councillor in the county and one of

the longest serving in the country. Alderman Ogden is survived by her husband Michael, four children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**6. Appointment of Leader of the Council**

Councillor Brown proposed that Councillor Jonathan Nunn be appointed Leader of the Council.

Councillor King seconded the proposition.

Upon a vote, the proposition was Carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Jonathan Nunn be appointed Leader of the Council.

**7. Leader's Announcements**

The Leader congratulated Councillor Addison on her election as Chairman and thanked Councillor McCord for his commitment over the last 12 months as the Leader of West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority. He stated that the new council's success relied on respectful and supportive collaboration between elected members and also wider partners in the public and private sectors. The administration would hold in high regard scrutiny and committees and the Leader thanked members already giving their time and talent to committee work. He noted the creation of Assistant Cabinet Member roles which, whilst not an official part of the council's governance structure and receiving no additional allowance, the positions were given as a result of specialist knowledge in exchange for a firm commitment to support the portfolio area with their time and experience. The Leader confirmed that a motion would be brought to the next full Council meeting to declare, at the earliest opportunity, a climate emergency in line with the predecessor councils.

**8. Political Group Leadership, Committee Proportionality and Appointment of Members to Committees and other bodies**

The Chairman advised Council that an up-to-date list of committee appointments had been placed on desks.

The Leader of the Council presented a report which sought to advise of the names of the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the political groups and to confirm appointments to committee places and additional appointments contained within the report.

Councillor Brown seconded the report.

Councillor G Eales congratulated the Leader on his appointment and expressed his disappointment that there were no opposition members on the Children's Trust and hoped that further discussions would take place in respect of this. He further expressed concern over the Leader managing 2 portfolios, stating that regeneration should be a focus. Accommodation should be a priority so that sums of money did not continually need to be spent hiring venues for council meetings.

Councillor Beardsworth commented that the council must not forget past mistakes to ensure that they would not be made again in the future. She noted the hard work of officers during the pandemic and their work in setting up the new authority and expressed her gratitude in respect of this. She hoped that all members could work together for the benefit of their communities.

Councillor Meredith congratulated the Leader on his appointment and also expressed disappointment that there were no opposition members on the Children's Trust; he believed that backbench councillors should have been given the opportunity to be on the Trust. Councillor Meredith also stated his concern that there were no councillors on the Corporate Parenting Board.

Councillor Nunn commented that constitutional matters prevented opposition members from sitting on the Children's Board but asked members to judge him on what he had done recently to try to make it happen and hoped that all councillors were comfortable with what the Children's Trust was doing presently. Regular meetings with opposition members in respect of the Children's Trust had been agreed. The Leader advised of more work around the Cabinet but gave his assurance that Economic Regeneration and Development would not be a "poor relation".

In response to a question around opposition membership on the South Northamptonshire Local Area Planning Committee, the Monitoring Officer advised that this seat would rotate annually between the Liberal Democrat Group and Independent councillors, with the Liberal Democrats taking the seat for 2021-22.

Upon a vote, the recommendations contained within the report were agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

Council:

- i) Received the names of the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the political groups as set out at Appendix A of the report.
- ii) Agreed to constitute and decide on the allocation of places on committees between the political groups in accordance with the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as set out at paragraph 3.11.1 of the report.
- iii) Agreed to appoint Members to the various Committees as set out at Appendix A of the report.
- iv) Agreed to appoint Members to the various joint Committees as set out at Appendix A of the report.
- v) Agreed that the appointments to the Local Area Planning Committees are not politically balanced as they fall within the political balance exemption for area committees; but should reflect the political makeup of the relevant area.

- vi) Agreed that, the appointment to outside bodies is delegated to the Chief Executive, West Northamptonshire Council.
- vii) Confirmed the appointment of Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs and members.
- viii) Noted the members of the Executive set out at Appendix A of the report.

## 9. **Calendar of Meetings**

Councillor Patel presented a report which sought Council's approval of the calendar of meetings for the year 2021-2022

Councillor Chowdhury seconded the report.

Councillor Shephard commented that, despite the reference to 6pm in the report and in the calendar, there was no reference to timings within the Constitution and hoped that there would be no impediment for daytime meetings if it was required.

Councillor McCord advised that similar wording was included within the Constitution; alternative committee start times would be at the Chair's discretion.

Councillor J Gilford noted that the Council was striving to be open and transparent; daytime meetings would be a barrier towards this since most members of the public would struggle to attend them.

Upon a vote, the recommendations within the report were agreed.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the calendar of meetings for 2021/22 is approved.

## 10. **West Northamptonshire Council Constitution**

Councillor Brown presented a report which sought amendments to the constitution to enable decisions to be made which would be necessary for the delivery of services; and to identify the need for a further Constitutional review by the Democracy and Standards Committee to consider wider improvements to the Constitution.

Councillor Brown noted 2 alterations following publication of the report: the removal of paragraph 2.1.4 and to alter paragraph 2.1.5 to read "a further review of the Constitution and Member-Officer Protocol be carried out by the Democracy and Standards Committee and referred to a future meeting of the Council."

Councillor Nunn seconded the report.

Councillor Beardsworth stated her agreement with regular constitutional reviews.

Councillor Chantler voiced his support with the proposed amendment and expressed disappointment with the Member Enquiry service; he had been waiting a week for a response to an enquiry.

Councillor McCord supported the recommendations and welcomed a future review of the Constitution; however, he took issue with the vagueness of some parts, specifically around the definition of a Key Decision and “timely” in relation to member enquiries.

Councillor Roberts noted that she had made 5 enquiries to the Member Enquiry service so far and had received prompt responses to all.

Councillor Brown commented that Councillor Beardsworth was a valued member of the Constitution Task & Finish group and encouraged all members of the Democracy and Standards Committee to raise any issues regarding the Constitution that they felt needed reviewing. Members’ experiences so far were useful in respect of the Member Enquiry service and highlighted the need for a review and noted, in relation to Councillor McCord’s comment, that the Democracy & Standards Committee would set the SLAs that members deemed appropriate.

Upon a vote, the recommendations as altered were agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

Council agreed that:

- 1.2.1 The changes to the Constitution already made by the Monitoring Officer under her delegated power be noted;
- 2.1.2 The proposed changes to the Constitution set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed;
- 2.1.3 Delegated power be granted to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution to give effect to the agreements for joint arrangements with LGSS (Cambridgeshire, Bedford, Milton Keynes) Northampton Partnership Homes and North Northamptonshire Council.
- 2.1.4 A further review of the Constitution and Member Officer Protocol be carried out by the Democracy and Standards Committee and referred to a future meeting of Council.

11. **Ashton Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Breese presented a report which sought Council’s consideration of the outcome of the Referendum on the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan and to formally ‘make’ the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Clarke seconded the report.

Upon a vote, the recommendations contained within the report were agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

Council:

- a) Noted the Referendum result of the 06 May 2021, where 95.7% of those who voted, were in favour of the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan, which was above the required 50%;
- b) "Made' the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan, so that it has effect as part of the statutory Development Plan for the area;
- c) Approved the issuing and publication of a Decision Statement.
- d) Authorised the Assistant Director of Growth, Climate and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to finalise the necessary documents to support adoption including the Decision Statement (draft at Appendix C of the report) and to make such minor editorial corrections to the Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix A of the report) as deemed necessary ahead of publication.

12. **Urgent Business**

None.

The meeting closed at 7.08 pm

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_