

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

**Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices,
Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 21st May, 2019 at 7.30 pm**

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2019/20

RESOLVED: That Councillor Jean Green be elected Chairman of the Council to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council in 2020.

Councillor Jean Green then read and signed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Chief Executive (David Scholes) placed the chain of office upon her. Councillor Green thanked the Council for her election as Chairman and advised that her Consort for the year would be Mr James Graft.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Barnard, John Bishop, Faye Frost, Ben Lewis and Deepak Sangha.

3 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2019/20

RESOLVED: That Councillor Terry Tyler be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office until the next Annual meeting of the Council in 2020.

Councillor Terry Tyler then read and signed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Chairman (Councillor Jean Green) placed the chain of office upon him. Councillor Tyler thanked the Council for his election as Vice-Chairman.

4 MINUTES - 17 JANUARY 2019

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17 January 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

5 MINUTES - 7 FEBRUARY 2019

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 7 February 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

6 MINUTES - 20 MARCH 2019

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 March 2019 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Stears-Handscorn raised a Point of Order in that Paragraph 4.8.2 of the Constitution was unclear and this resulted in cancellation of the scheduled Full Council meeting due to take place on 4 April 2019.

He had sought assurances from Officers that in future all Group Leaders would be consulted prior to the cancellation of a Full Council meeting and had requested Officers to bring a report regarding consultation prior to cancellation of meetings.

7 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Audio Recording

The Chairman announced that, in accordance with Council policy, this meeting was being audio recorded. Members of the public and the press may use their devices to film/photograph, or do a sound recording of the meeting. Please do not use flash and disable any sound notifications that may emit from your device.

(2) Filming of Meeting

The Chairman reminded everyone present that this meeting was being filmed and that it was likely that participants in the meeting would be captured. Any member of the public who does not wish to be filmed should identify themselves to the Committee clerk.

(3) Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, who wished to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.

(4) Paperless Meetings

All meetings going forward would be paperless.

Members were advised that, prior to any meeting they should ensure that the agenda was downloaded onto the tablet. This would also ensure that if there were any updates required that this was completed prior to the tablet needing to be used at a particular meeting.

If Members had any issues with the tablets prior to a meeting they should contact IT in advance. However, IT support would be available in the refreshment area on the ground floor from 6pm prior to Council, Cabinet Planning and Overview and Scrutiny meetings.

IT support was available at the meeting tonight. If Members had any issues with their tablet during the meeting please indicate for assistance to one of the IT Team.

The late papers would be displayed on the screens around the Council Chamber.

(5) New Councillors

The Chairman congratulated and welcomed Councillors George Davies, Morgan Derbyshire, Keith Hoskins, Sam North, Sean Prendergast, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Carol Stanier, Kay Tart and Tom Tyson following their successful election on 2 May 2019.

(6) Re-elected Councillors

The Chairman congratulated Councillors David Barnard, Judi Billing, Jean Green, Tony Hunter, Steve Jarvis, Gerald Morris and Michael Muir who were successfully re-elected at the District Council Elections.

(7) Councillors who did not stand for re-election

The Chairman thanked those Councillors who did not stand for re-election for their work and effort, namely former Councillors Julian Cunningham, Nicola Harris, Cathryn Henry, Bernard Lovewell, Paul Marment, Janine Paterson and Harry Spencer-Smith.

(8) Councillors who were unsuccessful in seeking re-election

The Chairman thanked those Councillors who were unsuccessful at the District Council Elections for their work and effort, namely former Councillors Sarah Dingley and Lynda Needham.

Councillors David Levett, Martin Stears-Handscomb and Paul Clark paid tribute to former Councillor and Leader of the Council Lynda Needham.

(9) Register of Interests Forms

The Chairman advised that, as Members were aware, there had been some technical difficulties with the on-line completion of the Register of Interests form which Committee, Member and Scrutiny Services apologised for. The technical difficulties had now been resolved and the online version was now available.

Please remember that Members that are required by law to complete a Register of Interests form – these will need to be completed by the required deadline of 4 June 2019.

(10) Refreshments

All Councillors were invited to refreshments after the meeting in Committee Rooms 2/3.

(11) Order of Business

The Chairman advised that she was changing the order of business as follows:

Items 20 – Petition and 21 – Notice of Motion will be taken after item 12 – Appointment of Members of Cabinet.

8 DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 2 MAY 2019

RESOLVED: That the report of the Returning Officer be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To inform Members of the results of the District and Parish Council Elections held on 2 May 2019.

9 SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2019/20

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the following programme of ordinary meetings of the Council be approved for the Civic Year 2019/20:

 Thursday, 11 July 2019;
 Thursday, 12 September 2019;
 Thursday, 21 November 2019;
 Thursday, 6 February 2020;
 Thursday, 16 January 2020;
 Thursday, 2 April 2020.
- (2) That the Service Director – Legal be requested to present a report to Council regarding the Constitution
- (3) That, subject to the following, the Calendar of Meetings for 2019/20, as attached as Appendix A, be approved.
 - The Budget Workshops due to be held on 9 September 2019 and 4 November 2019 be retitled “Administration”
 - The Budget Workshops due to be held on 10 September 2019 and 6 November 2019 be retitled “Opposition”
 - An additional meeting of Council be held on or about 16 January 2020 (date to be confirmed).

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Members to agree a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2019/20.

10 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb be elected as Leader of the Council until Annual Council in May 2023.

11 APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Council noted that the Leader of the Council had appointed Councillor Paul Clark as Deputy Leader for the 2019/20 Civic Year.

12 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CABINET FOR 2019/20

RESOLVED: That it be noted that the following Members be appointed as Executive Members of the Cabinet for 2019/20 responsible for the following areas, and that the delegations for inclusion in the Council’s Constitution will be advised by the Leader and reported to the next meeting of Full Council:

Cabinet Member

Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb
 Councillor Paul Clark

Councillor Ian Albert
 Councillor Judi Billing
 Councillor Keith Hoskins
 Councillor Steve Jarvis
 Councillor Gary Grindal
 Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg

Portfolio

Leader and Cabinet Chairman
 Planning and Transport and Cabinet Vice-Chairman
 Finance and IT
 Community Engagement
 Enterprise and Co-Operative Development
 Environment and Leisure
 Housing & Environmental Health
 Recycling and Waste Management

13 PETITION

Gilly Chegwyn and Anni Sander presented a petition with approximately 520 signatures asking that North Hertfordshire District Council declare a Climate Emergency.

RESOLVED: That the petition presented be received.

14 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Stears-Handscomb called for a recorded vote.

The result of the vote was as follows:

For

Councillors: Ian Albert, Daniel Allen, Kate Aspinwall, Clare Billing, Judi Billing, Ruth Brown, Val Bryant, Paul Clark, San Collins, Bill Davidson, George Davies, Steve Deakin-Davies, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Morgan Derbyshire, Jean Green, Gary Grindal, Simon Harwood, Terry Hone, Keith Hoskins, Mike Hughson, Tony Hunter, Steve Jarvis, David Levett, Ian Mantle, Jim McNally, Ian Moody, Gerald Morris, Michael Muir, Lisa Nash, Sue Ngwala, Sam North, Helen Oliver, Sean Prendergast, Mike Rice, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Val Shanley, Carol Stanier, Martin Stears-Handscomb, Claire Strong, Kay Tart, Richard Thake, Terry Tyler and Tom Tyson.

TOTAL 43

Abstain

Councillor Michael Weeks

TOTAL 1

It was therefore:

RESOLVED:

Council notes that:

- (a) the recent 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report states that we have just 12 years to act on climate change if global temperature rises are to be kept within the recommended 1.5 degrees Celsius;
- (b) all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts on climate breakdown, and the governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. UK county, district and city councils need to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;
- (c) districts are well placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as their responsibility for planning policies opens up a range of sustainable transport, buildings and energy opportunities;

In light of the above, the Council therefore agrees to:

- (1) Join other councils in declaring a Climate Emergency;
- (2) Ask the Leader to write to the Secretary of State requesting that they provide the necessary powers and resources to make local action on climate change easier;

Tuesday, 21st May, 2019

- (3) Request that, in light of the IPCC report, officers review the council's Climate Change Policy with the aim of bringing a report to Council in autumn of 2019, after consideration by Overview and Scrutiny. The review should include an action plan to achieve a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030 and proposals for regular reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the progress with the plan;
- (4) Ask officers to ensure that, as the Council's policies are routinely reviewed, specific consideration is given to how policies and our related decisions and actions, affect our contribution to climate change, and where necessary, update these policies to reduce our impact wherever possible;
- (5) Ask officers to investigate the most appropriate training for Members and officers about how to promote carbon neutral policies for consideration by Council;
- (6) Continue to work with partners across the district, county and wide region to deliver widespread carbon reductions."

NB: A 5 minute comfort break was taken at this point in the meeting.

15 TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2019/20

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the seats allocated to each political party on the Committees to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applied and the seats allocated to each political party on the bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 did not apply be as set out in Appendix A to these Minutes; and
- (2) That Members be appointed to the various Committees and other bodies in accordance with the wishes of the individual groups, as detailed in Appendix B to these Minutes.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

16 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES FOR 2019/20

RESOLVED: That the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees for 2019/20 be appointed in accordance with the details set out in the Appendix C to these Minutes.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the provisions of Standing Order 4.8.1(a)(ix) of the Council's Constitution.

17 ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to enable the five Area Committees to meet to elect their respective Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for 2019/20.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.03pm

The meeting was reconvened at 9.10pm.

18 KEY DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES OF SPECIAL URGENCY

RESOLVED: That the report entitled Key Decisions – Annual Report on Cases of Special Urgency be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with Regulation 19 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

19 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2018/19 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the provisions of Standing Order 6.2.6 of the Council's Constitution.

20 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2018/19

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2018/19, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be received and noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To promote and maintain high standards of conduct and to demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical values.

21 NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES FOR 2019/20

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report regarding nominations to Outside Organisations, as submitted, be approved, with confirmation that:
 - (a) the Council's nominated representative on the British Schools Museum will be Councillor Val Bryant;
 - (b) the Council's nominated representative on the Chilterns Conservation Board will be Councillor Steve Jarvis;
 - (c) the Council's nominated representative on the Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee will be Councillor Sue Ngwala;
 - (d) the Council's nominated representative on Hitchin Cow Common Trust will be Councillor Ian Albert;
 - (e) the Council's nominated representative on the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation will be Councillor Helen Oliver;
 - (f) the Council's nominated representative on the London Luton Airport Consultative Committee will be Councillor Paul Clark;
 - (g) the Council's nominated representative on the North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum will be Councillor Adem Ruggiero-Cakir;
 - (h) the Council's nominated representative on the Police and Crime Panel will be Councillor Sam North;

Tuesday, 21st May, 2019

- (i) the Council's nominated substitute on the Police and Crime Panel will be Councillor Judi Billing;
 - (j) the Council's nominated representative on the Royston & District Sports Council will be Councillor Carol Stanier;
 - (k) the Council's nominated representatives on the Royston Town Twinning Association will be Councillors Ruth Brown and Jean Green;
 - (l) the Council's nominated representatives on the King George V Playing Fields User Group will be Councillors Ian Albert, Paul Clark and Simon Harwood;
- (2) That the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager be requested to investigate whether there are any requirements from the organisation regarding nominations to Royston First (BID);
- (3) That, subject to the findings of (2) above, the Council's nominated representative on the Royston First (BID) will be Councillor Ruth Brown;
- (4) That the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager be requested to investigate whether nominations are required for the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board and refer this to the next meeting of Full Council;
- (5) That the following organisations, that have either ceased to exist or no longer require nominations, be removed from the list of Outside Organisations:
- (i) Arts Council for North Herts
 - (ii) settle
 - (iii) Royston and District Volunteer Centre
 - (iv) Stevenage and North Herts Women's Resource Centre.
- (6) That the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager be requested to investigate whether the East and North Herts NHS Trust – Involvement Committee is still in operation:
- (7) That, subject to the findings regarding (6) above, the Council's nominated representative on the East and North Herts NHS Trust – Involvement Committee will be Councillor Lisa Nash;
- (8) That Political Group Leaders notify the Proper Officer of nominations to the remaining vacancies or any changes to the existing representatives on outside organisations.