

# Minutes

of the Meeting of

## The Council

### Tuesday, 14th May 2019

held at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 pm Meeting Concluded: 8.00 pm

#### Councillors:

A David Jolley (Chairman 2018/19)

P Reyna Knight (Vice-Chairman 2018/19)

P Marc Aplin

P Nigel Ashton

P Mike Bell

P Mike Bird

P Steve Bridger

P Peter Bryant

P Gill Bute

P Mark Canniford

P Ashley Cartman

P John Cato

P Caritas Charles

P Caroline Cherry

P James Clayton

P Sarah Codling

P Andy Cole

P Peter Crew

P John Crockford-Hawley

P Ciaran Cronnelly

P Mark Crosby

P Donald Davies

P Paul Gardner

P Catherine Gibbons

P Hugh Gregor

P Wendy Griggs

P Ann Harley

P Karin Haverson

P Sandra Hearne

P David Hitchins

P Steve Hogg

P Nicola Holland

P Ruth Jacobs

P Huw James

P Patrick Keating

P John Ley-Morgan

P Stuart McQuillan

P Ian Parker

P Robert Payne

P Marcia Pepperall

P Bridget Petty

P Lisa Pilgrim

P Terry Porter

P Geoffrey Richardson

P David Shopland

P Timothy Snaden

P Mike Solomon

P James Tonkin

P Stuart Treadaway

P Richard Tucker

P Richard Westwood

P Roz Willis

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

#### Officers in attendance:

Jo Walker (Chief Executive), Sheila Smith (Director of People and Communities), Andrew Burnett (Director of Public Health), Nicholas Brain (Head of Legal and

Democratic Services), Richard Penska (Interim Head of Finance), Joanne Butcher (Corporate Services), Michele Chesterman (Corporate Services), Sue Efford (Corporate Services), Alex Hearn (Development and Environment), Paul Morris (Corporate Services), Richard Turner (Corporate Services), John Wilkinson (Corporate Services)

**COU Vice-Chairman's Welcome**

**1**

In the absence of the Chairman, Reyna Knight, Vice-Chairman took the Chair. She welcomed new and re-elected councillors to the meeting. She reported apologies for absence from Honorary Alderman Howard Roberts and from David Jolley, Chairman of the Council.

**COU Election of the Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2019/20**  
**2 (Agenda Item 2)**

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Bell and

**Resolved:** that Councillor David Shopland be elected Chairman of the Council for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

Reyna Knight, the immediate past Vice-Chairman, invested Councillor Shopland as the new Chairman of the Council and presented him with the Chairman's Chain of Office. Mrs Shopland was presented with the Chairman's escort's badge.

**Councillor Shopland in the Chair**

Councillor Shopland made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and addressed the Council. He thanked councillors for the honour of electing him as Chairman. He would endeavour to undertake his role in a fair and impartial manner and looked forward to the goodwill and support of councillors to enable him to do so.

**COU Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

**3**

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Bell and

**Resolved:** that the Council place on record its sincere appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Council, and to North Somerset, by David Jolley as Chairman of the Council and by Reyna Knight as Vice-Chairman, and that similar sentiments be expressed to their escorts.

Reyna Knight addressed the Council and expressed her thanks and appreciation to all those who had helped and supported her during her term of office as Vice-Chairman. She congratulated Councillor Shopland on his election and extended her best wishes for his term of office.

**COU Appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year**  
**4 2019/20 (Agenda Item 3)**

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Tucker and

**Resolved:** that Councillor Richard Westwood be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

The Chairman of the Council invested Councillor Westwood as the Vice-Chairman of the Council and presented him with the Vice-Chairman's Badge of Office. Mrs Westwood was presented with the Vice-Chairman's escort's badge.

Councillor Westwood made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked councillors for the confidence they had placed in him.

**COU 5 Public Participation: Leonard Hurley, local resident - Public open space at rear of Brookfield Walk, Clevedon (Agenda Item 4)**

Mr Hurley addressed the Council on matters relating to public open space at the rear of Brookfield Walk, Clevedon. He referred to a petition on this matter presented to Council in November 2017 and to the important recreational area this offered to the people of Clevedon. He stressed that local residents did not wish to see this land developed and urged the Council to support its retention as public open space.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hurley for his address. The matter would be referred to the relevant Executive Member.

**COU 6 Public Participation: Anne Bunn, local resident - Public consultation and the current North Somerset Council website (Agenda Item 4)**

Ms Bunn addressed the Council on matters relating to public consultation and the current NSC website. She suggested it was difficult to find the right information on the website and that it required updating to reflect the new administration. She also made reference to economic regeneration of and raised concerns in relation to the future of Citizens Advice North Somerset, due to move from its current location at the Hub in Wadham Street shortly. She urged councillors to reconsider some of its previous decisions.

The Chairman thanked Ms Bunn for her address. The matter would be referred to the relevant Executive Member.

**COU 7 Public Participation: Alan Rice, local resident - The proposed closure of Clarence Park GP Surgery (Agenda Item 4)**

Mr Rice addressed the Council as Vice-Chair of the Clarence Park Patient Participation Group (PPG) on matters relating the proposed closure of Clarence Park GP Surgery. He referred to primary care provision and GP services in central ward Weston-super-Mare, and to proposals by the local clinical commissioning groups (BNSSG CCG) to close Clarence Park GP Surgery and to move patients to Graham Road GP Surgery. He advised that the PPG had made an appeal to the Secretary of State to prevent this move and he urged the Council to write to the Secretary of State to add weight to their cause.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rice for his address. The matter would be referred to the relevant Executive Member.

**COU 8 Public Participation: Valerie Donegan, local resident – Licensing scheme for landlords (Agenda Item 4)**

Ms Donegan addressed the Council on matters relating to the need for a licensing scheme to address the problem of rogue landlords. She referred to the unsuitable living conditions in which many tenants were expected to live and urged the Council introduce a licensing scheme to address these problems and to prosecute rogue landlords who failed to meet the necessary standards.

The Chairman thanked Ms Donegan for her address. The matter would be referred to the relevant Executive Member.

**COU 9 Public Participation: Jan Murray, local resident - Proposals in Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) for Strategic Development Locations of Churchill and Banwell (Agenda Item 4)**

Jan Murray addressed the Council on behalf of Churchill and Langford Residents Action Group (CALRAG) seeking the creation of a constructive working relationship with the new council regarding the proposals in the JSP for the Strategic Development Locations of Churchill (and Banwell). She outlined the proposal in the JSP for 2,800 houses close to Churchill and Langford, referred to as 'Mendip Spring Garden Village', and detailed CALRAGs concerns in relation to these proposals and the need to find an alternative solution. She extended an invitation to all councillors to attend a briefing meeting in Churchill to enable local residents to explain this highly complex plan from a residents' perspective.

The Chairman thanked Ms Murray for her address. The matter would be referred to the relevant Executive Member.

**COU 10 Declarations of Interest by Members (Agenda Item 6)**

None

**COU 11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2019 (Agenda Item 7)**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

**COU 12 Election of the Leader of the Council for a four-year term, 2019/20 – 2022/23 (Agenda Item 10)**

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Gibbons and

**Resolved:** that Councillor Davies be elected Leader of the Council for the four year term 2019/20 – 2022/23.

**COU 13 Political Balance for the Municipal Year 2019/20 (Agenda Item 11)**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported the Political Balance for the 2019/20 Municipal Year as follows -

Independent 17: Conservative 13: Liberal Democrat 11: Labour 6: Green 3

**Resolved:** that the political balance, as reported, be noted and approved as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

**COU 14 Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Political Groups for the Municipal Year 2019/20 (Agenda Item 11)**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Political Groups for 2019/20 as follows -

Independent Group: Councillor Davies, Councillor Solomon;  
Conservative Group: Councillor Ashton, Councillor Bryant;  
Liberal Democrat Group: Councillor Bell, Councillor Canniford;  
Labour Group: Councillor Gibbons, Councillor Westwood; and  
Green Group: Councillor Petty, Councillor McQuillan

**COU 15 Chairman's announcements (Agenda Item 12)**

**New Administration**

The Chairman referred to the outcome of the recent municipal elections and to the new administration now in place. He referred to the need to govern by consensus and expressed the hope that with trust and goodwill there was a bright future ahead.

**Civic Events**

The Chairman announced he would be holding a Civic Service and a Civic Evening (Carnival Night) during his term of office but he did not intend to provide refreshments for councillors after Council meetings other than on special occasions.

**Chaplain**

The Chairman confirmed he had not as yet made any arrangements to appoint a chaplain.

**COU 16 Leader's announcements (Agenda Item 13)**

The Leader thanked members for putting their trust in him as Leader of the Council. He welcomed new councillors and those who had been re-elected and thanked the voters of North Somerset for asking the Council to do something different. He thanked the staff for their excellent work and commitment. He also thanked Nick Brain and the elections team for all their hard work over the recent elections and wished them well for the forthcoming European elections.

**COU 17 Chief Executive's announcements (Agenda Item 14)**

On behalf of officers the Chief Executive thanked all those councillors who had served on the last Council for their years of service and commitment to the Council and the residents of North Somerset. She also extended a warm welcome to all members forming the new Council.

She expressed great sadness in informing councillors of the death of one of the Council's employees the previous evening in a road traffic accident. The member of staff had worked for the Council for 23 years and would be greatly missed by colleagues. She had written to the family to offer deepest sympathies on behalf of the Council.

**COU 18 Former Leader's Announcement**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Ashton congratulated all members of the new Council on winning their seats. He expressed sadness at the loss of good colleagues across the Council and was proud of the record of the previous Council which, in working with an excellent team of officers, had left North Somerset Council in good shape. He stated the Conservative group would continue to put forward suggestions in the interests of all residents, and would seek to work constructively with the new administration. He wished them well.

**COU 19 The Council's Constitution (Agenda Item 15)**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services drew members' attention to the latest version of the Constitution for approval and adoption.

Councillor Davies stated that he was happy to approve the constitution but gave notice that he intended to undertake a constitutional review. He had been asked to be more open and transparent and was looking to bring forward proposals to achieve that.

With reference to the current constitutional arrangements a member suggested the concentration of power that existed with the Leader and Executive model was undemocratic and did not provide for suitable challenge. It was suggested that any new system should invite and welcome challenge, and robust discussion on future arrangements was anticipated.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Crockford-Hawley and

**Resolved:** that the latest version of the Constitution 2015 (amended April 2019) be approved and adopted.

**COU 20 Constitutional appointments etc. (Agenda Item 16)**

The Leader announced there would be eight members of the Executive, including himself, but no Assistant Executive Members. He announced the members of the Executive, along with their indicative portfolios, as follows:

Donald Davies	Leader of the Council
Mike Bell	Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Ashley Cartman	Executive Member for Finance and Performance
James Tonkin	Executive Member for Planning and Transport
Bridget Petty	Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Environment
Mark Canniford	Executive Member for Business, Economy and Employment
Caritas Charles	Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism
Catherine Gibbons	Executive Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning

In discussing the constitutional appointments for the coming year he proposed that the existing arrangements for committees and panels be continued.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Bell and

**Resolved:**

(1) that subject to the changes referred to above, the existing arrangements for the Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the Committees be approved and that the following Chairmen be appointed for the 2019/20 municipal year -

**Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel**

Chairman: Councillor Crosby

**Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel**

Chairman: Councillor Griggs

**Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel**

Chairman: Councillor Bridger

**Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Chairman: Councillor Tucker

**Strategic Planning Economic Development and Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel**

Chairman: Councillor Crockford-Hawley

**Audit Committee**

Chairman: Councillor Cato

## **Planning and Regulatory Committee**

Chairman: Councillor Cole; and

(2) that Vice-Chairmen be appointed by each of the above committees/panels at their first meetings, and the remaining committees/bodies not dealt with above appoint their own Chairman and Vice-Chairman at their first meetings.

### **COU 21 Municipal Calendar 2019/20 (Agenda Item 17)**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented the report. It was noted that some of the earlier panel meetings scheduled for June may need to be put back to a later date, any changes to be agreed in consultation with the relevant Chairman.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Bell and

#### **Resolved:**

(1) that the draft Municipal Calendar for 2019/20 as attached to the report be approved; and

(2) that the Leader of the Council be authorised to approve any amendments not dealt with elsewhere as necessary.

### **COU 22 Appointments to Outside Bodies 2019/20 (Council) (Agenda Item 18)**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented the report. It was proposed that nominations to the Avon Fire Authority (4 members) and the Police and Crime Panel (2 members) be dealt with at this meeting, all others to be deferred for consideration at the next Council meeting on 25 June.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Bell and

#### **Resolved:**

(1) that the following nominations be made to the Avon Fire Authority and to the Police and Crime Panel for a four year term, in accordance with political balance:

#### **Avon Fire Authority**

Councillor Davies (Independent)  
Councillor Jacobs (Conservative)  
Councillor Payne (Liberal Democrat)  
Councillor Tucker (Labour)

#### **Police and Crime Panel**

Councillor Westwood (Labour) \* Independent Group nomination  
Councillor Willis (Conservative); and



(2) that the remaining outside body appointments be dealt with at the Council meeting on 25 June 2019.

**COU 23 Forward Plan dated 3 May 2019 (Agenda Item 19)**

The Leader presented the forward plan which would be reviewed in due course.

**Resolved:** that the Forward Plan be noted.

**COU 24 Question Time (Standing Order No. 18) (Agenda Item 21)**

Oral questions were directed to the Members concerned and the summary notes and the topics involved are in Appendix 1.

**COU 25 Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto: Avon Fire Authority (Agenda Item 24 (1))**

Councillor Davies gave an oral report on the matters discussed at the last meeting which had included a positive response from the LGA led peer review, approval of the draft service plan and details of risk based response times, with no response to automatic fire alarms unless other risk factors had been notified.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

**COU 26 Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto: West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 25 (2))**

Councillor Tonkin gave an oral report on the matters discussed at the last meeting on 27 February at City Hall that he had attended with Councillors Pepperall and Chris Blades. The main discussion had been on the lack of a bus strategy and issues around DDA compliance.

With reference to the above reports, a request was made for written reports to be provided with the agenda where possible to allow members the opportunity to read them in advance and raise questions at the meeting.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

**COU 27 Housing Infrastructure Fund (Forward Fund) Commissioning Plan Approval (Agenda Item 26)**

It was proposed this item be deferred to allow new members to be briefed before a decision was taken.

**Resolved:** that the report be deferred to a future meeting.

**COU 28 Recommissioning of the Adult Community Based Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service (Agenda Item 27)**

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Director of Public Health presented the report. He summarised the proposals for the recommissioning and re-procurement of the service and the associated timetable.

In discussing the report reference was made to the nature and wide spectrum of substance misuse and the benefits of early intervention in terms of health, demands on social care and crime reduction. Reference was made to the reduction year on year in the public health grant and the fewer resources now available to address the wide range of problems. Councillor Bell assured members that as Executive Member he would be re-evaluating current priorities to address the link between investment and results. He hoped to involve the Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel in shaping future services.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Davies and

**Resolved:** that the commissioning plan be approved to enable the recommissioning, including the re-procurement of the specialist adult community based drug and alcohol treatment and support service, to commence.

**COU 29 Parks and Street Cleaning Commissioning and Procurement Plan (Agenda Item 28)**

At the invitation of the Chairman, the representative of the Director of Corporate Services presented the report. She outlined the proposals for the re-provision of the parks and street cleaning services and the procurement timetable.

In discussing the report reference was made to the following issues: the need to improve current street cleaning across the district and adopt a more co-ordinated approach; the need for flexibility within the contract and the scope for working proactively with town and parish councils and local voluntary groups to harness their energies and enthusiasm; the benefits of re-evaluating the Council's relationship with the Business Improvement District (BID) in Weston-super-Mare given how integral street cleaning was to the vibrancy of the town centre and the High Street; the need to have regard to the recent climate emergency declaration within Council contracts; the importance of addressing the use of harmful herbicides as part of any future contract.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Charles, seconded by Councillor Davies and

**Resolved:**

(1) that it be agreed not to extend the current Parks and Street scene contract;

(2) that the services currently being provided under the Parks and Street Scene contract be split into two operational areas, that is 'grounds maintenance' and 'street cleansing/seafronts' and be procured as separate

contracts, with bidders to be given the option of offering a discount if awarded both contracts;

(3) that the new contract(s) will commence from 1 April 2020, upon termination of the current Parks and Street Scene contract; and

(4) that the Commissioning and Procurement routes set out in the report be approved.

**COU 30 Commissioning Plan for Appointment of a Developer in respect of the Development of the First Phase of the Council's Land at Parklands Village, Weston-super-Mare (Agenda Item 29)**

Councillor Canniford introduced the report. He explained the background to the report and the aim of bringing forward the first phase of development by appointing a developer to deliver the residential development once the infrastructure works had been completed. The costs of the procurement exercise would be covered by grant funding from Homes England.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the representative of the Director of Development and Environment presented the report.

In discussing the report reference was made to a range of issues to be considered as part of the procurement process including the following: options for dividing up the total number of dwellings into smaller contracts to attract local housebuilders; the importance of considering the carbon footprint of any offsite manufacturing of houses along with the energy performance of the proposed homes; the percentage of affordable housing to be included within the development and the mix of tenure; opportunities for including self-build housing as part of this development; the benefits of embracing new construction methods and providing diversity, creativity and variety in the planning of this area.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Canniford, seconded by Councillor Tonkin and

**Resolved:** that the Parklands Village Developer (Phase 1) Commissioning Plan be approved to proceed.

**COU 31 Chairman's notification of the appointment of a Chaplain and a Deputy Chaplain (Agenda Item 30)**

It was noted that no arrangements had yet been made to appoint a chaplain (see minute no. 15 above).

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Chairman

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**North Somerset Council  
Council Annual General Meeting, 14 May 2019  
Question Time (Agenda Item 21)**

**Question 1**

**From Councillor Bell**

**To Councillor Davies, Leader of the Council**

**Introduction of a Licensing Scheme for the Private Rented Sector to Challenge Rogue Landlords**

Councillor Bell asked the Leader to respond to the comments from the member of public who spoke under public participation on a licensing scheme for the private rented sector to challenge rogue landlords. He asked what the policy of the new administration was in respect of tackling this issue?

Councillor Davies thanked Councillor Bell for his question and responded that he had listened to the member of the public and sadly had heard similar stories all too frequently. He was more than happy to look again at promoting a licensing scheme for the private rented sector which was as rigorous as possible to tackle rogue landlords.

**Question 2**

**From Councillor Bridger**

**To Councillor Tonkin, Executive Member for Planning and Transport**

**Rural Bus Services**

Councillor Bridger asked the Executive Member if he agreed with him that just because rural bus services were not particularly profitable it should not mean that the Council shouldn't have the service?

He explained that due to changes in the First West of England bus routes and timetables on 28 April 2019 there was now no bus service between Yatton except the weekly 128 service. A Yatton to Clevedon service was a lifeline for many people and the removal of the X7 service had caused a lot of distress. He gave two examples – a pensioner having to pay £22 to pay for a return taxi fare to attend a weekly appointment at the Community Hospital; and a young woman unable to get to Castlewood to sign on at the Job Centre. Councillor Bridger felt it was unacceptable that many now had to beg others for lifts. He asked Councillor Tonkin if he would agree to meet with himself and Councillor Griggs as soon as possible to look at further options that might be open for the Council to resolve what he described as the current unacceptable situation.

Councillor Tonkin thanked Councillor Bridger for his question and responded that he had only been in post for a short period and was unable to answer his question at this time. He would respond to Councillor Bridger and looked forward to meeting with him and Councillor Griggs to discuss the issues in full.

### **Question 3**

**From Councillor Payne**

**To Councillor Canniford, Executive Member for Business, Economy and Environment**

#### **Parking in Weston Town Centre – Residents Parking Scheme**

Councillor Payne explained that during the recent elections parking in Weston town centre had been a major issue for local residents. He noted that many felt the previous administration had ignored the needs of the public. He asked if the new administration would consider the needs of the public and introduce a residents' permit parking scheme if appropriate?

Councillor Canniford thanked Councillor Payne for his question and assured him that the relevant members would be involved in the review of parking. He was fully aware that many residents had been affected and there would be an attempt to make the review more relevant, involving the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Policy and Scrutiny Panel fully in the process.

### **Question 4**

**From Councillor Willis**

**To Councillor Bell, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

#### **Voluntary Sector**

Councillor Willis passed her congratulations onto the new administration. She challenged the statement made by the speaker earlier in the meeting who had suggested there was only one voluntary organisation that helped people in Weston. She wished it to be noted that there were many voluntary organisations in the area.

Councillor Bell thanked Councillor Willis for her comments. He recognised the important role of the voluntary sector and believed the issue was that the Council needed a coherent strategy in respect of engagement, approach and sustainability of the voluntary sector in Weston. He was aware of the excellent work undertaken by such organisations and suggested there needed to be a clear link between the work of the Council and that undertaken by the voluntary sector and other external agencies such as the Police etc.

### **Question 5**

**From Councillor Keating**

**To Councillor Bell, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

## **Weston General Hospital – 24 Hour A&E**

Councillor Keating referred to concerns raised regarding healthcare across North Somerset and asked for an update on progress on securing a 24 hour A&E service at Weston General Hospital.

Councillor Bell responded that the future of Weston Hospital was vital to local residents. The Healthy Weston consultation had been put on hold over the election period and had now been extended until the middle of June. He encouraged all members to engage in the consultation process. The Council had recently agreed to send a letter to the BNSSG CCG expressing concerns at the proposals to downgrade A&E services.

He also picked up on the point made by the public speaker earlier in the meeting on GP surgeries. He suggested it was no good having a strategy in place for more GPs as part of the Healthy Weston proposals whilst reducing GP services and closing surgeries. He expresses the hope that all parties could work together and hold the CCG to account.