



## **COUNCIL**

**MEETING** : Thursday, 21st May 2015

**PRESENT** : Cllrs. Llewellyn (Mayor), Noakes (Sheriff & Deputy Mayor), James, Dallimore, Norman, Organ, Porter, Haigh, Hilton, McLellan, Smith, Hobbs, Lugg, C. Witts, Hanman, Lewis, Bhaimia, S. Witts, Field, Williams, Brown, Dee, Taylor, Beeley, Hansdot, Patel, Randle, Toleman, Chatterton, Pullen, Etheridge, Hampson, Norman and Pearsall

**Others in Attendance**

Martin Shields, Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods

Ross Cook, Corporate Director

Sue Mullins, Head of Legal and Policy Development

Anthony Wilson, Head of Planning

Tanya Davies, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

**APOLOGIES** : Cllrs. Gravells and Tracey

### **1. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS**

**Abbey**

Laura Pearsall  
(Conservative – 2016)

**Barton and Tredworth**

Sajid Patel  
(Conservative – 2016)

**Kingsholm and Wotton**

Sebastian Field  
(Liberal Democrat – 2016)

**Matson and Robinswood**

Kate Haigh  
(Labour – 2016)

**Quedgeley Fieldcourt**

Deb Llewellyn  
(Conservative – 2016)

**Westgate**

Paul Toleman  
(Conservative – 2016)

**Barnwood**

Tarren Randle  
(Conservative – 2016)

**Hucclecote**

Chris Etheridge  
(Conservative – 2016)

**Longlevens**

Kathy Williams  
(Conservative – 2016)

**Moreland**

Neil Hampson  
(Labour – 2016)

**Quedgeley Severn Vale**

Hannah Norman  
(Conservative – 2016)

**COUNCIL  
21.05.15**

**2. ELECTION OF MAYOR**

- 2.1 Moved by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Hilton.
- 2.2 **RESOLVED** - That Councillor Sebastian Field be elected Mayor of the City of Gloucester until the Annual Council Meeting in 2016.

**3. ELECTION OF SHERIFF AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

- 3.1 Moved by Councillor McLellan, seconded by Councillor C. Witts.
- 3.2 **RESOLVED** - That Councillor Jim Beeley be elected Sheriff and Deputy Mayor of the City of Gloucester until the Annual Council Meeting in 2016.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4.30pm for afternoon tea and reconvened at 5.30pm.**

**4. MINUTES**

- 4.1 **RESOLVED** – That, subject to the replacement of the word ‘Conservative’ with the words ‘Liberal Democrat’ at paragraph 106.7, the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2015, be approved and signed by the Mayor.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 5.1 Councillor Hilton declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 12, a report concerning the Adoption of the Constitution for 2015-16, as he was a Director of Gloucestershire Airport Limited.

**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS (COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 2(VII))**

- 6.1 There were no announcements.

**7. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

- 7.1 The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Leader of the Council.
- 7.2 Councillor Organ moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Pearsall:
- “That for the 2015-16 municipal year, Councillor James be elected Leader of the Council.”
- 7.3 Councillor Haigh (Leader of the Labour Group) stated that the Labour Group did not support the proposed appointment. She noted that the Administration would have to deliver on significant challenges in respect of regeneration objectives and financial management and advised that she would be monitoring support to the voluntary and community sector and the Council’s relationship with the County Council. She stated that opposition members would hold the Administration to account and oppose any proposals to change their rights under the Constitution.

**COUNCIL  
21.05.15**

- 7.4 Councillor Hilton (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) advised that the Liberal Democrat Group did not support the proposed appointment. He opposed proposals to end Group Leaders' meetings and verbal questions to Cabinet Members and warned emphasised the importance of cross-party agreement in respect of attracting investment and ensuring continuity.
- 7.5 Councillor Smith stated that proposals to abolish verbal questions to Cabinet Members was an erosion of democratic accountability and added that communication throughout the Council had not improved following the recommendations of the Peer Review.
- 7.6 Councillor Patel stated that verbal questions had been used to ask questions that could easily have been asked via email without the delay of waiting for a Council meeting.
- 7.7 Councillor Pullen stated that Members had a right to ask questions on behalf of the residents they represented.
- 7.8 Councillor James agreed that consensus on regeneration was important, but that Group Leaders' meetings were not utilised for that purpose; however, his door remained open for discussions with opposition Members. He stated that verbal questions to Cabinet Members did not benefit the Council and that business must be relevant; written questions would remain and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee still had an important role in scrutinising decisions.
- 7.9 **RESOLVED** - That for the 2015-16 municipal year, Councillor James be elected Leader of the Council.

Following election, the Leader of the Council advised of appointments to the Cabinet and allocations of portfolios as follows:

Councillor Paul James	Regeneration and Economy
Councillor Jennie Dallimore	Communities and Neighbourhoods
Councillor Lise Noakes	Culture and Leisure
Councillor David Norman	Performance and Resources
Councillor Colin Organ	Housing and Planning
Councillor Jim Porter	Environment

The Leader also advised the Council that he had appointed Councillor Dallimore as Deputy Leader of the Council to act in his absence.

**8. SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

- 8.1 Moved by Councillor James (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy), seconded by Councillor Dallimore (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods) –
- 8.2 **RESOLVED** - That Council Procedure Rules be suspended to allow the relevant officers to address the Council in respect of agenda items 11 (Adoption of the

**COUNCIL**  
**21.05.15**

Constitution for 2015-16) and 12 (Community Infrastructure Levy – Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule).

**9. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES, CONSULTATIVE FORUMS AND WORKING PARTIES AND NOMINATION FOR CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES AND VICE-CHAIRS FOR 2015/16**

- 9.1 The Council considered the Schedule of Appointments to Committees, Consultative Forums and Working Groups, and nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs for the municipal year 2015-16 (see Appendix 1). The appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs to committees would be made at the first meeting of each committee.
- 9.2 Councillor James moved the motion set out in the schedule, subject to the inclusion of Councillors Tracey and Randle as named substitutes for the Conservative Group in respect of the Planning Committee.
- 9.3 Councillor Dallimore seconded the motion.
- 9.4 Councillor Haigh moved an amendment to appoint Councillor Hampson as Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 9.5 Councillor James accepted the amendment.
- 9.6 Councillor Brown moved an amendment to appoint Councillor McLellan to the vacant position on the Licensing and Enforcement Committee and to replace Councillor Field on the Constitutional and Electoral Working Group.
- 9.7 Councillor James accepted the amendment.
- 9.8 **RESOLVED –**
- (1) The schedule of appointments of Members to Committees, Consultative Forums and Working Groups for 2015/16 be approved, subject to:
    - (i) the inclusion of Councillors Tracey and Randle as named substitutes for the Conservative Group in respect of the Planning Committee.
    - (ii) The appointment of Councillor McLellan to the vacant position on the Licensing and Enforcement Committee and to replace Councillor Field on the Constitutional and Electoral Working Group.
  - (2) In respect of the above, the Council, in accordance with Council Procedure Rules, appoint all Members as named deputies for all those meetings (with the exception of Cabinet, Planning Committee and Licensing and Enforcement Committee) to which the Member has not been appointed.
  - (3) That the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of Committees, as set out in the schedule, be noted and that each Committee at its first meeting in the new municipal year 2015/16 confirms and appoints its Chair and Vice Chair.

**COUNCIL**  
**21.05.15**

**10. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2015/16**

- 10.1 The Council considered the Schedule of Appointments to Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2015-16 (see Appendix 2).
- 10.2 Moved by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Dallimore:
- 10.3 **RESOLVED** - That the schedule of appointments to Outside Bodies be approved, subject to Councillor McLellan being appointed to the vacant position on the Environment and Ecology Forum.

**11. ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION FOR 2015-16**

- 11.1 Council considered a report of the Monitoring Officer concerning changes to and the adoption of the Council's Constitution for the municipal year 2015-16.
- 11.2 Councillor Taylor moved the recommendations set out in the report.
- 11.3 Councillor James seconded the motion.
- 11.4 Councillor Smith moved an amendment to remove references to a 'convenor' in the Members' Working Group Protocol in Part 5 of the Constitution; she considered that it suggested that Members would themselves be responsible for the administrative work associated with a Working Group.
- 11.5 Councillor Taylor accepted the amendment
- 11.6 Councillor Haigh emphasised the importance of respecting the Council's Constitution and consulting with the Constitutional and Electoral Working Group before significant changes were proposed.
- 11.7 Councillor Hobbs noted that additional budget would have to be found to fund the allowance for the sixth Cabinet portfolio and that the Scheme of Allowances would have to be amended.
- 11.8 Councillor James responded that the Leader of the Council was permitted to adjust to number of Cabinet Members at any time.
- 11.9 Councillor Taylor advised that the Administration would bring proposals for changes to the Council Procedure Rules to the next meeting of the Constitutional and Electoral Working Group.
- 11.10 **RESOLVED** - That, subject to the changes shown in Appendix 1 to the report and the removal of the references to a 'convenor' in the Members' Working Group Protocol, the Constitution be adopted for the municipal year 2015-16.

**COUNCIL  
21.05.15**

**12. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - PRELIMINARY DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE**

- 12.1 Council considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy seeking approval of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for public consultation purposes.
- 12.2 Councillor James moved the recommendations set out in the report.
- 12.3 Councillor Taylor seconded the motion.
- 12.4 Councillor McLellan expressed disappointment that, as it stood, CIL would be of little benefit to Gloucester and he hoped that the situation would change in the future.
- 12.5 Councillor Taylor noted that the report was considered by the Planning Committee and that there was discontent in respect of some of the land values. He acknowledged that Section 106 contributions were not being abolished entirely and that it was anticipated that the Joint Core Strategy would help bring in a an income for the CIL.
- 12.6 Councillor James advised that further viability work would take place and that the CIL would only be adopted if it was deemed that it would result in a suitable income, but excessive planning obligations that prevented development were not desirable.
- 12.7 **RESOLVED –**
- (1) That the publication of the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule for public consultation purposes be approved;
  - (2) That power be delegated to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy, to prepare the final consultation document.
  - (3) That power to approve further stages of public consultation on the Draft Charging Schedule be delegated to the Cabinet.

**Time of commencement: 15:00 hours**

**Time of conclusion: 18:30 hours**

**Chair**