

COUNCIL held at COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN, CB11 4ER on TUESDAY, 15 MAY 2018 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor G Sell (Chairman)

Councillors H Asker, G Barker, S Barker, R Chambers, J Davey, P Davies, A Dean, P Fairhurst, T Farthing, M Felton, M Foley, R Freeman, A Gerard, S Harris, E Hicks, S Howell, D Jones, T Knight, P Lees, M Lemon, B Light, J Lodge, J Loughlin, A Mills, S Morris, E Oliver, V Ranger, J Redfern, H Rolfe, H Ryles and L Wells

Officers in attendance: Dawn French (Chief Executive), R Dobson (Principal Democratic and Electoral Services Officer), Roger Harborough (Director - Public Services), Simon Pugh (Assistant Director - Governance and Legal Services, P Snow (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager) and Adrian Webb (Director – Finance and Corporate Services).

Also present: Gary Hyams (Support 4 Sight) and Grant Maton (Essex Wildlife Trust).

C1 REMARKS OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Sell introduced the meeting, and spoke about his year as Chairman. He said he was keenly aware of the work of the voluntary sector in the District, and had met many people in the District of great talent. This was not an easy time to be a councillor or to be the Chairman of a Council, and it was with mixed feelings he would be handing over to a successor. The civic role was important, and needed to be adequately resourced. Thanks were due to the Communication Team and to the Executive Support Team, and in particular to the Chairman's Executive Assistant. Councillor Sell also expressed his gratitude to the Chief Executive for her advice and support, to the Vice Chairman, for attending events on his behalf and to his wife for attending many events with him.

Councillor Sell presented cheques in the sum of £2,450 to each of the representatives of the two charities which he had supported, Essex Wildlife Trust and Support 4 Sight.

Councillor Sell then said he had a further duty to perform. The Council had been fortunate to retain for over 45 years the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager, Peter Snow, as no elections had gone wrong at Uttlesford District Council. On 21 June 2018, there would be a reception for him, and for Denise Greenwood and Val Rogacs, who were also retiring, at the Chesterford Research Park, to acknowledge their collective contribution of huge service to

the District Council. He invited members to show their appreciation for the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager.

Members gave a standing ovation.

Councillor Rolfe said the three officers mentioned had between them given 126 years of service. This was a fantastic achievement. Mr Snow had always shown absolute professionalism, unbiased management and instilled confidence that elections were correct. He wished him a happy retirement.

Councillor Lodge said that as a new and junior political leader he did not have the experience of Mr Snow's service over many years. Nevertheless, he had admiration for him. During his five years in local politics, Mr Snow had been a beacon of the organisation of political process. He had poured oil on troubled waters and kept truculent politicians in order. Councillor Lodge thanked him on behalf of his party for his impartial help and advice, and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Councillor Dean said he recalled Mr Snow's administration of the by election of a Stansted councillor, Ron Walton, many years ago. Ever since then, whatever the result was, all elections had been friendly. He welcomed the support that Mr Snow had given the Liberal Democrat group and wished him well.

Councillor Sell invited Councillor Chambers, as the longest-serving member, to speak.

Councillor Chambers said he had known Mr Snow a long time. He was the epitome of Uttlesford, always fair-handed and unbiased. He recollected his adroit performance in the staff versus members cricket matches. Councillor Chambers also remembered his own election and the kind words Mr Snow had said then, and thanked him for all he had done.

The Democratic and Electoral Services Manager said it was an honour to have served the Council. He thanked Members for their expressions of goodwill.

Councillor Sell called for nominations for the Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Rolfe nominated Councillor Wells. The nomination was seconded by Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Wells was duly elected as Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Rolfe thanked Councillor Sell for his excellent chairmanship during the past year, which he had accomplished with a and congratulated Councillor Wells.

Councillor Wells thanked Councillor Sell for having been an excellent Chairman.

Councillor Wells made the statutory declaration as Chairman of the Council for 2018/19.

C3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Wells called for nominations for the Vice Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Rolfe nominated Councillor G Barker. The nomination was seconded by Councillor Dean.

Councillor G Barker was duly appointed Vice Chairman of the Council.

C4 VICE CHAIRMAN'S STATUTORY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor G Barker made the statutory declaration as Vice Chairman of the Council for 2018/19.

C5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anjum, Artus, J Freeman, Goddard, Gordon, Hargreaves and LeCount.

C6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2018 were received and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting, subject to the following amendments.

(i) Minute C82 – Public Speaking – occupation of land at Stortford Road by travellers

To substitute for the phrase “temporary barriers had now been put up”, the phrase “temporary barriers would be put up”.

(ii) Minute C84 – Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2018

To substitute for the wording:

“Councillor Knight said that, while Minute 56 was accurate, it was not fully representative of the meeting. She asked whether members would agree to add a document to the Minutes amplifying the salient points reflecting on her career and integrity”,

the following wording:

“Councillor Knight said that Minute 56 was not fully representative of the meeting. She asked whether members would agree to add a document to the Minutes stating what she had actually said, as a summary was inadequate, given the fact that the matter reflected on her career and integrity.”

C7 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Wells said she had chosen as her charities Essex Air Ambulance, which provided free life-saving support in emergencies, and Addenbrookes Charitable Trust, which was an organization dedicated to making a difference over and above what the NHS could afford.

C8 POLITICAL BALANCE

Members considered the report on the review of political balance and allocation of places on the Council's committees.

Councillor Rolfe said the report before Council was self-explanatory. He drew attention to the fact that in relation to the Standards Committee, the allocation of places was for three members from each Group, on the basis set out in the report. He moved the recommendation.

Councillor Dean seconded the motion.

RESOLVED that the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats on the Council's committees be approved.

C9 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2018-19

Members received the nominations for the appointments of membership of committees, including Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and substitutes where indicated.

Councillor Lodge referred to the nomination for Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee. He proposed Councillor R Freeman to be Vice Chairman of that Committee. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Gerard.

Councillor Dean proposed Councillor Loughlin as Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee. The proposal was seconded by Councillor S Barker.

Councillor Mills said the Council should select the best candidate, and that as Councillor Loughlin had joined the Council in 2001, her experience was valuable to him as Chairman of the Planning Committee. He supported Councillor Loughlin. He thanked Councillor R Freeman and all other members of the Committee for their hard work.

The nomination being put to a vote, Councillor Loughlin was appointed Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee, with 22 votes for Councillor Loughlin and 7 votes for Councillor Freeman.

Councillor Rolfe said there had been no Substitute Members on the Standards Committee last year, but there was a nomination for Councillor LeCount from the Residents Group. He nominated Councillor Chambers as the Substitute Member for the Conservative Group.

Councillor Dean nominated Councillor Foley as the Substitute Member of the Standards Committee for the Liberal Democrat Group.

RESOLVED to appoint the committee membership, Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Substitute Members in accordance with the nominations made at the meeting and as indicated in the report (appended to these minutes).

C10 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

Members received a schedule of nominations of membership of working groups of the Council.

RESOLVED to appoint membership of working groups of the Council, including Chairmen and Vice Chairmen where indicated as set out in the report (appended to these minutes).

C11 ESSEX POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Nominations were received for the appointment of Councillor S Barker as a member of the Essex Police and Crime Panel, and of Councillor Ranger as a Substitute Member.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillors Barker and Ranger accordingly.

C12 DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

A report was received summarising the Leader's list setting out which individual members of the executive were responsible for the exercise of particular executive functions.

The report was noted.

C13 REPORTS FROM THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Councillors Howell, S Barker, Ryles Redfern and Ranger reported on the work undertaken in relation to their portfolios during the preceding administrative year.

Councillor Rolfe concluded reports from executive members with a summary of the areas addressed during 2017/18. He said work on the business described would continue during 2018/19, which would also include member development. He said the Council was efficient and robust, and was a council which cared. Good governance was a priority, and it was to the credit of the Chief Executive that corporate objectives were highly focused.

C14 QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Councillor Dean addressed the Leader. He said regarding the focus on litter-picking and the maintenance of the District, there were areas in his ward, such as Chapel Hill, where parked cars were preventing street cleaning, and where organic material accumulated. A greater effort needed to be made by both the District and Parish Council to discourage parking on such roads when the street cleansing vehicle was due to attend.

Councillor Rolfe said dialogue with Essex County Council was needed, as they were responsible. The community also had to play a part, and there was a role for educating people to stop throwing rubbish out of car windows.

Councillor Dean said the problem was not only irresponsible people but the accumulation of leaf mould.

Councillor Ranger suggested the Highways Rangers be asked to clear the leaf mould.

Councillor Foley asked the Leader regarding a plan to invest in a facility at Carver Barracks.

Councillor Rolfe said the Army had changed personnel and procedures, and the Council would only proceed with the investment if the money was protected. Members were working with the Army, but if the money could not be protected there was a problem.

Councillor Knight said on the subject of management of rubbish, there was a disgraceful area by the Gasworks where litter collected. Regarding the proposed investment at Carver Barracks, the Government, not the Army, changed the rules, as a result of which a new scrutiny process was being demanded, setting back the starting date. The Commanding Officer was trying to reach a deal and commit to a date, but the Army were now in a difficult position. The proposal for the running track was something the Council should do, but it would now require patience.

C15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman said the next meeting of the Council on 19 June 2018 would start at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

Schedules referred to at Minutes C9 and C10:

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

PLANNING

Chairman: Alan Mills
Vice-Chairman: Janice Loughlin

Robert Chambers	Eric Hicks
Howard Ryles	Mark Lemon
Paul Fairhurst	John Lodge
Richard Freeman	Lesley Wells

Substitutes:
Anthony Gerard Julie Redfern
Terry Farthing Geoffrey Sell
Garry LeCount

GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE

Chairman: Edward Oliver
Vice-Chairman: Derek Jones

Graham Barker	Neil Hargreaves
John Davey	Stephanie Harris
Geoffrey Sell	Garry LeCount
Jim Gordon	Barbara Light

Substitutes:
Aisha Anjum John Freeman
Alan Dean Mark Lemon

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Derek Jones
Vice - Chairman: Keith Artus

Alan Dean	Petrina Lees
Neil Hargreaves	Janice Loughlin
Tina Knight	Geoffrey Sell
Barbara Light	

Substitutes:
Robert Chambers Martin Foley

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Chairman: Robert Chambers
Vice-Chairman: Thom Goddard

Aisha Anjum	Jim Gordon
Graham Barker	Eric Hicks
John Davey	Sharon Morris
Anthony Gerard	Martin Foley

Substitutes:
Heather Asker Derek Jones
John Freeman Janice Loughlin
Richard Freeman

SCRUTINY

Chairman: Alan Dean
Vice-Chairman: Graham Barker

Heather Asker	Stephanie Harris
Robert Chambers	Garry LeCount
Paul Davies	Mark Lemon
John Davey	Barbara Light
	Edward Oliver

Substitutes:
Anthony Gerard Geoffrey Sell
Alan Mills Lesley Wells

Independent Members (non-voting)

Georgina Butcher-Doulton
David Pearl
Catherine Wellingbrook-Doswell

Garry LeCount

COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

LOCAL JOINT PANEL

Chairman: Howard Rolfe

Alan Dean
Sharon Morris

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Chairman: Mark Lemon

Martin Foley	Barbara Light
Paul Fairhurst	Julie Redfern
Marie Felton	
Stephanie Harris	