

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting of **Council**
held on Wednesday, 11th May, 2016 at The Tenants' Hall, Tatton Park,
Knutsford, WA16 6QN

PRESENT

Councillor H Gaddum (morning only)
Councillor O Hunter

Councillors C Andrew, A Arnold, D Bailey, Rachel Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, Baggott, P Bates, G Baxendale, M Beanland, D Bebbington, S Brookfield, E Brooks, D Brown, C Browne, B Burkhill, P Butterill, S Carter, J Clowes, S Corcoran, H Davenport, W S Davies, T Dean, B Dooley, L Durham, S Edgar, I Faseyi, P Findlow, R Fletcher, T Fox, D Flude, S Gardiner, L Gilbert, M Grant, P Groves, J Hammond, M Hardy, A Harewood, G Hayes, S Hogben, D Hough, J Jackson, L Jeuda, A Kolker, D Mahon, N Mannion, D Marren, A Martin, R Menlove, G Merry, A Moran, B Moran, D Newton, M Parsons, S Pochin, J Rhodes, B Roberts, M Sewart, M Simon, L Smetham, G Wait, B Walmsley, G M Walton, M Warren, M J Weatherill, H Wells-Bradshaw, J Weston, G Williams and J Wray

Apologies

Councillors G Barton, C Chapman, M Deakin, M Jones, J Macrae, S McGrory, H Murray, J Saunders, D Stockton, A Stott and L Wardlaw

1 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain said prayers at the request of the Mayor.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that Councillor Olivia Hunter and Councillor Arthur Moran had a personal interest in the election of Mayor and appointment of Deputy Mayor respectively.

There were no further declarations of interest.

4 ELECTION OF MAYOR 2016/17

Council was requested to elect a Mayor for the Borough of Cheshire East for 2016/17, who would also act as Chairman of the Council for that period.

It was proposed by Councillor Stewart Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Peter Groves, and: -

RESOLVED

That Councillor Olivia Hunter be elected Mayor of the Borough of Cheshire East for the year 2016/17 and appointed as Chairman of the Council for that period.

The Mayor was invested with her chain of office and then completed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the oath of loyalty.

The Mayor thanked the Council for electing her to this office and informed Members that her husband, Philip, was to be her Consort. He was then invested with the badge of office.

(Councillor Hunter, as Mayor, took the chair).

5 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2016/17

Council was requested to appoint a Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Cheshire East for the year 2016/17, who would also act as Vice-Chairman of the Council for that period.

It was proposed by Councillor Penny Butterill, seconded by Councillor David Marren, and:-

RESOLVED

That Councillor Arthur Moran be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Cheshire East for the year 2016/17 and as Vice-Chairman of the Council for that period.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the Council for appointing him to this office.

6 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Mayor announced that her Chaplain for the forthcoming Municipal Year would be Rev Philip Robinson and he stood forward and shook hands with the Mayor.

7 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor Rachel Bailey paid tribute to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Hilda Gaddum and Mrs Jane Gaddum for the dedicated work they had undertaken during their term of office.

The Mayor presented Councillor Gaddum with her Past Mayor's Medal.

8 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor stated that the Mayor Making Ceremony would come to an end to enable a number of Aldermen and Freemen to be appointed at a special

meeting of the Council and that the Annual Meeting would be adjourned and would be reconvened after the special meeting, and following lunch.

9 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned until 2.15pm, when the remaining items on the agenda would be considered.

10 CHESHIRE TOUR OF BRITAIN

Before the commencement of the reconvened meeting, an announcement was made in respect of the Cheshire Tour of Britain cycle race.

The official launch of the Tour of Britain Stage 3 had taken place on Friday 6 May at Tatton Park, Knutsford.

The Stage 3 leg of the Tour was due to take place on 6 September and would start in Congleton and wind its way across the Borough, before finishing at Tatton Park. As the largest free to attend sporting event in the country it promised to be an amazing spectacle and an opportunity for all of residents and businesses in the borough, as well as visitors to get involved.

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were updated.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no further declarations of interest.

13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 and 26 February 2016 be approved as a correct record.

14 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council congratulated the Mayor upon her election to the Mayoralty and Councillor Arthur Moran upon his appointment to the Deputy Mayoralty.

She then addressed Council and made a number of key points:-

1. She believed that the year would herald continued innovation and a focus on CE's Residents First principles.
2. The commitment she had made just two months ago was undiminished, to serve the Council and to deliver transparency and

fairness to its staff and residents and to work with business and deliver that vital partnership working across all areas of service be it Police, Health, Fire or the invaluable voluntary sector.

3. Seven years on the Council had revisited its Corporate Strategy and “Ambition for All” was the renewed concept of the Local Strategic Partnership. Partner Forums underpinned the key arenas of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board. As the recently elected Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, she particularly referenced its work in relation to the Better Care Fund, the responsible approach to joined up working and the patience and attention to detail of the lead officer, Caroline Baines. She was equally heartened by the manner in which it had embraced responsibility for the continuing improvement journey for the Children and Families Safeguarding Service. She referred to the positive Ofsted judgement of “requires improvement to be good” and the adoption service, which had been rightly recognised as good.
4. She referred to the number of Councillors who sat on Scrutiny Committees. Of the 82 Councillors, around 40 committed to this vital area of governance; a telling measure of the commitment made by Cheshire East Councillors, which she considered was reinforced by the recent Task and Finish reports received by Cabinet, in respect of, for example, section 106 agreements, apprentices or the rightful focus on appropriate funding of the award winning team who provided vital support to families who found themselves in a violent relationship. Under the leadership of Cllr Jos Saunders, Health Scrutiny had worked with the North West Ambulance Service, not least on the issue of response times in the rural borough. Recommendations had now been agreed and she hoped that a report in respect of this would be received by Cabinet in the fullness of time.
5. As she had announced in February, she believed that it was now the time to review the Council’s Scrutiny function, in order to free it up to deliver even more focussed Task and Finish forums. A group of Conservative members had shaped a potential model to come forward through the Council processes and ultimately for consideration by the Constitution Committee. She thanked Cllr Margaret Simon for her leadership and Cllr Gail Wait for her organisation in this matter.
6. With regard to the Cabinet membership, she asked officers to circulate the list of Portfolio Holder names and responsibilities. She had opted for a Cabinet of nine Members. She had, however, appointed an additional Deputy Cabinet Member. At this point, the Leader also put on record her thanks to Cllr Tony Dean for his work in regeneration and welcomed his agreement to serve on the energy company. She also welcomed a new Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance, Cllr Chris Andrew and for Health and Communities, Cllr Liz Wardlaw.
7. The Leader referred to the recent Cabinet meeting, where she had expressed thanks to the Council’s Directors, staff, residents and

Councillors for their engagement in Cheshire East throughout the political year and referred to a few of the achievements as follows:-

- Tatton Park - Such an appropriate and beautiful setting for our Annual Council Meeting; crowned Best Large Visitor Attraction in the Country.
 - Tour of Britain stage 3, with Tatton Park as a focal point.
 - Cheshire East's Libraries are No 1 for lending books and third lowest cost per head in the North West. From the most recent survey of customers 93% rated the service as good or very good.
 - There was a 24/7 single point access service for anyone affected by Domestic abuse and one of the first in commissioning a whole family model of service delivery in this area.
 - Crewe Lifestyle Centre – The official opening was to take place on May 26, by Sir Philip Craven.
 - HS2.
 - The award winning Crewe Green Link Road/aka David Whitby Way, and pinch point funded improvements which saw Jack Mills Way and the incredible difference at junction 16 of the A500 and M6.
 - Bollington - The best place to start a family.
 - Cheshire East was one of the first to ban payday loan websites and adverts on our computers in public buildings.
8. The Leader referred to the rightful focus on delivery of the leisure led option for Macclesfield continued. Cllr Ainsley Arnold took a shared responsibility, with Cllr Don Stockton, who focused on heritage, ably supported by the Heritage Champion Cllr Ellie Brookes. She believed that there was the opportunity for a 360 degree offer in Macclesfield of heritage, leisure and retail, along with 360 degree connectivity emanating from Crewe, with the opportunity of HS2 Hub Station modelled on 7 train stops per hour.
 9. She also referred to the commitment made by Cheshire East to new bus station for Crewe and the revamped Royal Arcade Development and the celebration of 18,000 + businesses in Cheshire East. She was just beginning to understand the diligence of the Council's team. In recent weeks she had visited, AO.com; Royal London; Alderley Park; shared in the 50th birthday celebratory lunch at Astra Zeneca, Hurdfield, recognising the phenomenal achievements in the discovery of drugs which made such a difference to the lives of all.
 10. Cheshire East had actively supported the creation of up to 800 jobs. Highlights were Autoliv, Congleton; Sanofi, Holmes Chapel; Wex in Crewe and not least Waters at Wilmslow.
 11. Skills and growth would continue to be a feature of Cllr Bailey's leadership. She thanked Cllr Paul Bates, Cllr Bernice Walmsley, Cllr Ellie Brookes and Julian Cobley for their tremendous work in setting up the Skills and Growth Company. She welcomed Cllr George Hayes as its new Chair and appreciated the experience that Cllr Sarah Pochin had brought, following a years work in EoTN.

12. Cheshire East Council was committed to working in partnership within and across the North West region, building stronger collaboration with Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington Borough Councils. She believed that a refresh of the Local Strategic Partnership was key to that strong working relationship with Police, Health, Fire and voluntary and business sectors. She welcomed and extended her congratulations to David Keane upon his election to the office of Police and Crime Commissioner for the Cheshire Police area and she was currently making arrangements to meet with him. She also thanked John Dwyer for his work since 2012.
13. Finally, the Leader reaffirmed her commitment to do all in her power to deliver for the Council, the residents and businesses of the borough.

15 POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

Consideration was given to a report inviting the Council to determine political group representation on the Council's Committees, in relation to the overall political composition of the Council.

An updated version of the Appendix to the report, showing the latest position regarding the proportional distribution of seats on Committees amongst the political groups, was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the political group representation, as set out in the updated Appendix 1 and the methods, calculations and conventions used in determining this, as outlined in the report, as circulated at the meeting and attached to these minutes at minute 15, be approved.

16 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

Consideration was given to a report relating to the review of the membership of the Council's decision-making and other bodies.

The nominations made by the Group Leaders to these bodies were listed in an appendix to the report, which was circulated at the meeting.

In proposing the nominations contained in the circulated Appendix, the Leader of the Council, Cllr Rachel Bailey, proposed the following changes to the nominations made by the Conservative group:-

Northern Planning Committee – Delete Cllr G Hayes and add Cllr P Findlow.

Staffing Committee – Add Cllr P Findlow, as substitute.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the above changes, the nominations made by the Group Leaders to the bodies listed in Appendix 1 to the report, as circulated at the meeting, be noted and agreed and that the bodies listed in Appendix 1 be approved.

(The Committee membership as approved by Council, is attached to these minutes at minute 16).

17 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

Consideration was given to the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the Council's decision making and other bodies.

The Political Group Leaders' nominations for Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the Council's decision-making and other bodies were circulated at the meeting at item 16.

In addition to the nominations circulated at item 16, the Independent group nominated Councillor C Browne as Chairman of the Northern Planning Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the Council's decision-making and other bodies, as circulated at the meeting and as attached to these minutes at minute 16, be appointed, including the appointment of Cllr C Browne as Vice-chairman of the Northern Planning Committee.

18 APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADOPTION AND FOSTERING PANEL

Consideration was given to appointments to the Adoption Panel and the Fostering Panel.

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor L Jeuda be appointed to the Adoption Panel.
2. That Councillor G Merry be appointed to the Fostering Panel.

19 APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY AND THE CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Consideration was given to appointments to the Cheshire Fire Authority and the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel.

RESOLVED

- 1 That Councillors D Marren, G Merry, J Saunders, M Simon, J Weatherill, D Bailey, D Flude and D Mahon be nominated to serve on the Cheshire Fire Authority.

- 2 That Councillors P Findlow, S Edgar and H Murray be nominated to serve on the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel, with Councillor G Walton as nominated substitute.

20 RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - ELENA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 May 2016, had considered the submission of a bid to the European Investment Bank for ELENA funding. ELENA was a funding stream launched by the European Commission at the end of 2009 with the aim of maximising investment in sustainable energy by helping to meet the technical support costs associated with energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Council was recommended to approve the submission of the bid to the European Investment Bank, who administered the ELENA funding on behalf of the European Commission, and to delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to sign the necessary declaration form on behalf of the Council; and to approve a Supplementary Revenue Estimate of 1,739,585 EUR (£1.4m at current exchange rates), fully funded by and subject to receipt of ELENA funding by the Council.

RESOLVED

1. That the submission of the bid to the European Investment Bank, who administer the ELENA funding on behalf of the European Commission, be approved and that authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer to sign the necessary declaration form on behalf of the Council.
2. That a Supplementary Revenue Estimate of 1,739,585 EUR (£1.4m at current exchange rates), fully funded by, and subject to receipt of ELENA funding by the Council be approved.

21 EXTENSION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Council was requested to extend the term of office for those eligible Independent Persons currently appointed to work with the Monitoring Officer and the Audit and Governance Committee on standards matters, in accordance with the Council's code of conduct procedure.

RESOLVED

That the term of office for Mr Peter Bryant and Mr Robert Fousert be extended from 30 June 2016 until 31 August 2016, or until the earlier appointment of successor Independent Persons.

22 BRENDA SMITH

Before closing the meeting, the Mayor announced that Brenda Smith, Director of Adult Care and Independent Living, would shortly be leaving the Council to work at Cumbria County Council. She asked Members to join her in showing their appreciation to Brenda by way of applause, for the exceptional service that she had provided to the Council during her period of employment.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 3.00 pm

Councillor H Gaddum (Chairman)
CHAIRMAN