

ANNUAL COUNCIL

19th May 2020

Present: **The Mayor, Councillor Ditta, in the Chair**

Councillors Allcott, A. Amos, Barnes, Bayliss, Gregson, Hodges, Mrs L. Hodgson, S. Hodgson, Mitchell, Squires, Stalker and Stephen

Apologies: **Councillors Agar, Altaf, B. Amos, Berry, Biggs, Bisset, Cawthorne, Collins, Cronin, Denham, Geraghty, Griffiths, Hassan, Johnson, Lamb, Laurenson, Mackay, Riaz, Roberts, Stafford, Stanley and Udall**

Prior to the Council meeting, which was held remotely, all Members of the Council who were present observed a minute's silence to pay tribute to all NHS staff, carers, key workers and citizens who had died as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and also to Mr Phil Carney, the husband of Councillor Pat Agar and a former Mayor's Consort, who had sadly passed away recently following a lengthy illness.

Imam Mohammad Asim Chisti offered prayers prior to the Council meeting.

1 ELECTION OF MAYOR

Nominations were sought for the position of Mayor. It was proposed by Councillor Stalker and seconded by Councillor Gregson that Councillor Hodges be nominated for the position of Mayor. Both Councillor Stalker and Councillor Gregson spoke in support of the nomination.

The Mayor asked for further nominations. No further nominations were proposed. On being put to the vote it was agreed and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Hodges be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

COUNCILLOR HODGES IN THE CHAIR

2 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayoral Theme

The Mayor announced that her theme for the year would be Mental Health Awareness.

Mayor's Charities

The Mayor announced that her charities would be Worcester Community Trust and Lightbox.

Mayor's Consort

The Mayor informed the Council that her consort would be her husband, Mr Dave Hodges, and on occasion one of their children, or grandchildren.

Mayor's Chaplain

The Mayor announced that her Chaplain would be Reverend Sarah Northall.

Mayor's Civic Service and Inaugural Banquet

The Mayor informed the Council that, due to the current circumstances, dates for these events would be announced in due course.

3 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor Bayliss proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Ditta, and paid tribute to his work during his year in office on behalf of the Council, in particular in bringing communities together. Councillor Gregson seconded the proposal and also expressed his thanks.

4 RESPONSE FROM RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor Ditta thanked the Council and summarised his year in office. He highlighted the work that had been done to support the Mayoral theme of bringing communities together. Major events including floods and the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on his year but he thanked everyone who had supported him, notably his wife Naseem and daughter Parveen as Consorts, David Blake, Claire Chaplin and the Democratic and Civic Services staff, and the whole of the Guildhall team for their daily support.

5 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Nominations were sought for the position of Deputy Mayor. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson and seconded by Councillor Bayliss that Councillor Stephen Hodgson be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor. Both Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson and Councillor Bayliss spoke in support of the nomination.

There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Stephen Hodgson be elected as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

7 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

8 APPOINTMENTS OF THE COUNCIL**Appointment of Leader of the Council**

Nominations were sought for the position of Leader of the Council. It was proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson that Councillor Bayliss be nominated for the position. Both Councillor Mitchell and Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson spoke in support of the nomination.

There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bayliss be elected as Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

Appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council

Nominations were sought for the position of Deputy Leader. It was proposed by Councillor Squires and seconded by Councillor Barnes that Councillor Gregson be nominated for the position of Deputy Leader. Councillor Squires, Councillor Barnes and Councillor Bayliss spoke in support of the proposal.

There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Gregson be elected as Deputy Leader for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

Appointment of Members to Committees and Sub-Committees and Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs Etc.

The Council considered appointments of Members to Policy Committees, Regulatory Committees, Joint Committees and Other Bodies. Group Leaders were invited to indicate any changes to the current schedule of appointments.

The following changes were proposed:

- Communities Committee – Councillor Ditta to replace Councillor Hassan
- Worcestershire Regulatory Services Board – Councillor Johnson to replace Councillor Griffiths
- Audit and Governance Committee – Councillor Barnes to replace Councillor Agar as Vice-Chair.

The above changes were unanimously agreed and it was

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the appointment of Members to Policy Committees, Regulatory Committees, Joint Committees and Other Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 of the minutes.

9 REPORT ON COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES 2019/20

In accordance with the Local Authority (Members' Allowances) Regulations, the Council received a report on allowances paid to Members in the financial year 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That the Council note the allowances paid to Members in the financial year 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1.

10 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2020/21

The Council received the Annual Report and Recommendations for 2020-21 of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for Members' Allowances.

The Chair and Vice-Chairs of Policy and Resources Committee proposed that, as this Annual Council Meeting was taking place remotely with reduced Member representation, the full recommendations of the IRP's Report should be considered by all Members at the Council Meeting on 30th September 2020, subject to any review of the current Government instructions and advice regarding the response to Covid-19.

It was proposed to agree an interim arrangement as from 1st April 2020, to ensure the Council's compliance with the Members' Allowances Regulations to have a Scheme of Allowances in place, until such time when a Council Meeting can be conducted with full Member representation.

The preferred option for the Level of Members' Allowances from 1st April 2020 recommended by Group Leaders was as follows:

1. The level of the Basic Allowance remains unchanged from level agreed by Council for 2019/20, being £4,386.
2. The multiplying factors applied to SRAs remain unchanged at the level agreed by Council for 2019/20. Therefore, the level of Special Responsibility Allowances also remains unchanged.
3. In acknowledgement that the Vice Chair role of Planning Committee and Licensing and Environmental Health Committee is essential in supporting the Chair in terms of the frequency, duration and potential complexity of applications and items that are considered. Therefore a new allowance and a multiplying factor of 0.5 of the Basic Allowance be introduced and awarded for Vice Chairs of Planning and Licensing and Environmental Health Committees.
4. The Mayor continues to receive an allowance based on a multiple of 1.0 of the level of the Basic Allowance agreed by Council at its Annual Meeting in May 2017 and has remained in place for subsequent years.

The Deputy Director – Governance spoke and explained the position with regard to Members' interests in considering the report. In summary, all Members were granted a dispensation to speak and vote when considering the Members' Allowances Scheme.

It was proposed by Councillor Bayliss and seconded by Councillor Gregson and on being put to the vote it was unanimously agreed and

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Council note the report and recommendations for 2020/21;**

2. That the Council agree to defer the consideration of the IRP's recommendation and any changes to the level of Members' Allowances for 2020/21 to the Council Meeting on 30th September 2020; and
3. That the Council agree the level of Members' Allowances and adopted a Scheme for Members' Allowances from 1st April 2020 as set out in Section 4 of the report.

11 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

The Council considered dates for Council and Committee meetings for 2020/21. The proposed schedule was enclosed with the agenda.

The Mayor explained that, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, it was likely that some of the meetings shown in the schedule would be cancelled or postponed.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree the dates for meetings of the Council until the end of May 2021, as set out in agenda item 11.

12 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 8.20p.m.

Chairman at the meeting on
14th July 2020

13 APPENDIX 1

Worcester City Council - Membership Schedule 2020/21

Leader/Deputy Leader/Mayor/Deputy Mayor

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	Marc Bayliss
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	Adrian Gregson
MAYOR	Jo Hodges
DEPUTY MAYOR	Stephen Hodgson

Policy Committees

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
POLICY & RESOURCES - MEMBERSHIP OF 13			
Councillor Bayliss (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Agar	Councillor Stephen (Chair)	
Councillor Geraghty	Councillor Berry		
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Riaz		
Councillor Mackay	Councillor Gregson (Vice-Chair)		
Councillor Mitchell	Councillor Hodges		
Councillor Stanley	Councillor Squires		
COMMUNITIES – MEMBERSHIP OF 12			
Councillor Alan Amos	Councillor Biggs	Councillor Bisset	
Councillor Ditta	Councillor Cawthorne		
Councillor Griffiths	Councillor Collins		
Councillor Stephen Hodgson	Councillor Denham (Vice-Chair)		
Councillor Johnson	Councillor Lamb		
Councillor Stanley (Chair)			

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
ENVIRONMENT – MEMBERSHIP OF 12			
Councillor Altaf	Councillor Biggs	Councillor Laurenson	Councillor Allcott
Councillor Bill Amos	Councillor Collins		
Councillor Griffiths	Councillor Stalker		
Councillor Roberts	Councillor Squires (Chair)		
Councillor Stafford (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Udall		
PLACE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB – MEMBERSHIP OF 7			
Councillor Stanley	Councillor Berry	Councillor Stephen	
Councillor Geraghty	Councillor Gregson (Vice-Chair)		
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson (Chair)	Councillor Squires		
INCOME GENERATION SUB – MEMBERSHIP OF 5			
Councillor Bayliss	Councillor Riaz (Chair)		
Councillor Mitchell	Councillor Agar		
Councillor Mackay (Vice-Chair)			
PERSONNEL & GENERAL PURPOSES SUB – MEMBERSHIP OF 7			
Councillor Bayliss (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Berry	Councillor Stephen (Chair)	
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Gregson (Vice-Chair)		
Councillor Mitchell	Councillor Squires		

Regulatory Committees

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
PLANNING - MEMBERSHIP OF 11			
Councillor Alan Amos	Councillor Agar (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Bisset	
Councillor Bill Amos	Councillor Berry		
Councillor Johnson	Councillor Cawthorne		
Councillor Hassan	Councillor Barnes		
Councillor Mitchell (Chair)	Councillor Hodges		
LICENSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – MEMBERSHIP OF 10			
Councillor Johnson	Councillor Cronin	Councillor Stephen	Councillor Allcott
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Squires		
Councillor Stafford	Councillor Stalker		
Councillor Griffiths (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Udall (Chair)		
AUDIT & GOVERNANCE – MEMBERSHIP OF 8			
Councillor Alan Amos (Chair)	Councillor Agar	Councillor Laurenson	
Councillor Hassan	Councillor Barnes (Vice-Chair)		
Councillor Stephen Hodgson	Councillor Udall		
Councillor Roberts			
STANDARDS – MEMBERSHIP OF 6 (plus up to 3 Co-opted Members and 4 Parish Council Representatives, 2 from each Parish Council)			
Councillor Mitchell	Councillor Hodges		
Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Lamb (Chair)		
Councillor Stanley	Councillor Barnes		
Independent Members			
Mr Ray Needham			
Parish Council Representatives			
St. Peter the Great Parish	-	Mr Roger Knight	
St. Peter the Great Parish	-	Mr Alan Tidy	

Warndon Parish	-	Mr Dave Carney	
Warndon Parish	-	Mrs Dawn Merriman	

Other Bodies

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
JOINT MUSEUMS COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP OF 2			
Councillor Johnson	Councillor Gregson		
WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES BOARD – MEMBERSHIP OF 2			
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Johnson	Councillor Squires		
JOINT CONSULTATIVE & SAFETY COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP OF 4			
CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson Councillor Bayliss	Councillor Gregson Councillor Squires		

Outside Bodies Supported by Worcester City Council

Conservation Advisory Panel

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Bill Amos Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson	Councillor Gregson		

Cemeteries and Crematorium Forum

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Councillor Alan Amos	Councillor Stalker		

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