

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 22nd May, 2023, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Present

Councillor R. Martin (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor G. Ali

“ B. Allen
“ A. Andrew
“ B. Bains
“ H. Bashir
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ P. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ S. Cheema
“ S.J. Cooper
“ S.K. Ditta
“ S. Elson
“ K. Ferguson
“ G. Flint
“ M. Follows
“ N. Gandham
“ A. Garcha
“ P. Gill
“ N. Gultasib
“ A. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ A.J. Hicken
“ C. Horton
“ A. Hussain
“ I. Hussain
“ K. Hussain
“ S. Hussain
“ T. Jukes
“ P. Kaur

Councillor R. Larden

“ N. Latham – Adj Council
“ E. Lee
“ F. Mazhar
“ R. K Mehmi
“ E. Morgan
“ K. Murphy
“ J. Murray
“ S. Nasreen
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ A. Nazir
“ A. Parkes
“ K. Pedley
“ G. Perry
“ W. Rasab
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ S. Samra
“ K. Sears
“ G. Singh Sohal – adj Council
“ P. Smith – adj Council
“ C.A. Statham
“ M.A. Statham
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ A. Underhill – adj Council
“ M. Ward
“ V.J. Waters
“ J. Whitehouse
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall

1. **Welcome to new members**

The Mayor extended a welcome to the newly elected members of the Council – Councillors Amandeep Garcha, Bobby Bains, Shakila Hussain, Tina Jukes, Connor Horton, Izzy Hussain, Ram Mehmi, Rob Larden and Simran Cheema.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Underhill, Latham and Singh Sohal.

****Note:** Councillors N. Latham, G. Singh Sohal, P. Smith and A. Underhill joined the adjourned meeting on 24th May, 2023.*

3. **Election of Mayor 2023/24**

It was **moved** by Councillor Andrew and seconded by Councillor Bird:

That Councillor Christopher Towe be elected Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2023/24.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Christopher Towe be elected Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2023/24.

The Council adjourned to enable the Mayor to put on the robes and chain.

Councillor Christopher Towe (Mayor) in the Chair

The Mayor read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the Council for the honour conferred upon him. In doing so the Mayor conveyed his thanks to Councillor Andrew and Councillor Bird for moving and seconding the motion. He stated that he had been a dedicated Councillor for Pheasey Park Farm for over 20 years and had always given his all to support residents and ensure that they receive the best service possible. He committed to apply this dedication in his role as Mayor.

4. **Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2023/24**

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Sears:

That Councillor Anthony Harris be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2023/24.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Anthony Harris be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2023/24.

5. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd February, 2023 and 17th April, 2023, copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record.

6. **Declarations of interest**

None.

7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

8. **Mayor's announcements**

(a) **Mayor's Chaplain**

The Mayor stated that the Reverend Jennifer Mayo and Reverend Chris Lane would be his Chaplains during his year of office.

(b) **Mayor's Civic Service**

The Mayor confirmed that a Civic Service would be intertwined with a Civic Carol Service and held on Sunday 10th December, 2023 at 10.45 at St. Matthews.

(c) **Charities**

The Mayor announced that monies raised during his year of office would be donated to the Black Country Toy Appeal, Acorns Hospice, Well Wishers and Walsall Community Network.

9. **Presentation of badges to retiring Mayor and Mayoresses**

The Chief Executive presented badges to the retiring Mayor and consorts – Councillor Martin and Jim Martin, Michelle Coles and Lucy Coles.

10. **Vote of thanks to retiring Mayor and Mayoress**

It was **moved** by Councillor Perry, seconded by Councillor Bird and:

Resolved

That this Council thank Councillor Martin for the contribution she has made as Mayor of Walsall MBC and to the people who live and work in the borough and that Jim Martin, Michelle Coles and Lucy Coles be thanked for their services as Mayors consorts.

Councillor Martin replied.

11. **Adjournment**

It was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That the Council adjourn until 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 24th May, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 7.07 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 24th May 2023

The Mayor reminded the meeting that 1 hours 53 minutes remained for business to be transacted.

12. **Election results – 4th May 2023**

The report was submitted.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

13. **Formation of political groups**

The report of the Chief Executive was circulated around the Council Chamber.

Resolved

That the receipt of returns from political groups be noted.

14. **Appointment of Leader of the Council**

The report was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Andrew, seconded by Councillor Perry and:

Resolved

That Councillor Bird be appointed Leader under the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

15. **Members appointed to the Executive**

A schedule of portfolio responsibilities was submitted.

Resolved

That the following Cabinet responsibilities for the municipal year 2023/24 be noted:

Description of portfolio	Names of portfolio holder
<p>Leader of the Council</p> <p><i>Council Plan Vision: Inequalities are reduced and all potential is maximised. Together we are committed to developing a healthier, cleaner and safer Walsall and creating an environment that provides opportunities for all residents, communities and businesses to fulfil their potential and thrive.</i></p> <p>Overall responsibility for Council policy and strategy, the Council Plan & Walsall 2040. Proud Promises, transformation, communications, marketing and brand, emergency planning, business insights and performance. Financial Planning, Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>Government relations and liaison with local MPs and West Midlands leaders. West Midlands Combined</p>	<p>Cllr Mike Bird</p>

Authority, Association of Black Country Authorities and Black Country Joint Committee.	
<p>Deputy Leader and Regeneration</p> <p><i>Supporting a dynamic, resilient and diverse economy where businesses invest and everyone has the right jobs and the right housing in the right place.</i></p> <p><i>Statutory Deputy Leader as required by Schedule A1 of Local Government Act 2000</i></p> <p>Regeneration, economic development, planning policy (inc Walsall Local Plan), Planning and Building control, Employment Growth, Skills, Strategic Housing (inc Housing Standards and Improvement), strategic use of assets, strategic traffic and transport, car parks. Programme Management & Delivery. Markets.</p>	Cllr Adrian Andrew
<p>Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities</p> <p><i>Children and young people grow up in connected communities and feel safe everywhere</i></p> <p><i>Our communities will be more resilient and supportive of each other</i></p> <p><i>Oversight role for all Cabinet portfolios</i></p> <p>Resilient Communities including locality co-ordination, community development and diversity, community associations, voluntary and community sectors, Community Safety, community cohesion, Safer Walsall Partnership. Community Protection inc Anti-Social behaviour, statutory nuisance and environmental crime enforcement. Environmental Health and Libraries</p> <p>Customer Access Management (external focus including aligning services delivered by voluntary and community sectors), Walsall Connected, Homelessness, Migrant Support and Housing Advice</p>	Cllr Garry Perry
<p>Education and Skills</p> <p><i>Education, training and skills enable people to contribute to their community and our economy</i></p> <p>Admissions and school place planning, quality and performance of schools and academies, governors of schools and governance, Early Years, Home Education, Alternative Provision, Access and Inclusion,</p>	Cllr Mark Statham

<p>Virtual School, Home to School Transport, Services to Children with Special Needs and disabilities and their families, Safeguarding. Walsall Learning Alliance. Ofsted and CQC inspections.</p> <p>Adult learning and Skills.</p>	
<p>Adult Social Care</p> <p><i>People can access support in their community to keep safe and well and remain independent at home</i></p> <p>Social Care services for older people and people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health needs. Supporting people. Health partnerships, ICB health interface lead, protection for vulnerable adults, transition arrangements between Children's and Adult Social Care. Adult social care commissioning, brokerage, market shaping and management.</p>	<p>Cllr Keir Pedley</p>
<p>Street Pride</p> <p><i>The people of Walsall feel safe in a cleaner, greener Borough</i></p> <p>Clean & Green Services (inc waste strategy, refuse management, street cleansing, grounds maintenance, countryside service, fleet services). Highways Maintenance, Pollution Control. Parking Enforcement, Road Safety, Traffic Management. Engineering</p>	<p>Cllr Kerry Murphy</p>
<p>Children</p> <p><i>Children and young people thrive emotionally, physical, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential</i></p> <p><i>Statutory role as Lead Member for Children's Services</i></p> <p>Services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, Family Safeguarding, involvement of children and young people, transition arrangements between Children's and Adult Social Care Walsall, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting. Ofsted and CQC inspections.</p> <p>Early Help, Family Hubs, Youth Justice, Children's Strategic Alliance and Performance Improvement</p>	<p>Cllr Stacie Elson</p>

<p>Customer</p> <p><i>The Council will deliver trusted, customer focused, and enabling services which are recognised by customers and our partners for the value they bring</i></p> <p>Customer Access Management (Internal Focus inc Customer Strategy and supporting processes to improve services to customers), Customer Experience Centre, Revenues and Benefits (Council tax and business rates), Household Support and Welfare</p>	<p>Cllr Gaz Ali</p>
<p>Internal Services</p> <p><i>We get things right, first time and make all services accessible and easy to use.</i></p> <p>HR, Organisational Development. Learning and development, workforce equalities. Administration and business support.</p> <p>Transformation and change delivery, digital operations and delivery, ICT, information governance.</p> <p>Financial management and accountancy, financial administration, systems and payroll. Internal Audit, risk and insurance. Treasury management. Corporate Landlord including facilities and asset management, catering, cleaning, caretaking.</p> <p>Governance, legal and assurance, Democratic Services, Elections and Mayoralty</p>	<p>Cllr Ken Ferguson</p>
<p>Wellbeing Leisure and Public Spaces</p> <p><i>People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life</i></p> <p>Public Health functions and activities including commissioning services that affect the long-term health of residents. Health protection for local outbreak management, healthy lifestyle, infection prevention and control, immunisation. Mental and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Leisure including Active Living Centres, Bereavement and Registration Services, Cemeteries and Crematoria. Culture services including the New Art Gallery, Walsall Arena and museums.</p> <p>Healthy spaces (parks and open spaces).</p>	<p>Cllr Gary Flint</p>

Climate change/net zero.	
Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board.	

16. **Constitution, Officer Scheme of Delegation and timetable of meetings 2023/24**

A report was submitted [annexed].

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird, seconded by Councillor Andrew and:

Resolved

That:-

1. The Parental Leave Policy for members be approved;
2. The updated Planning Guidance Protocol be approved;
3. The Timetable of meetings for the 2023/24 municipal year be approved;
4. The role of Cabinet Support Assistants be established, job descriptions approved and Part 9 of the Constitution updated; and
5. An Independent Remuneration Panel be convened to consider the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance to Cabinet Support Assistants and reported to a future meeting of Council.

17. **Future Governance of Corporate Parenting Board**

This item was withdrawn.

18. **Appointments to Committees**

A list of nominations from the political groups was circulated around the Council Chamber.

The list was **moved** by Councillor Bird, seconded by Councillor Andrew and:

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to Committees for the municipal year 2023/24:

Audit Committee

Councillors Bains, Harrison, Larden, Mehmi, Nawaz, Singh Sohal ,(1 Vacancy)
A. Green (Independent member), 2 Independent member vacancies.

Corporate Parenting Board

Councillors Elson, Hicken, Jukes, Latham, Waters, Worrall (1 Vacancy)

Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillors, Elson, Flint, Nawaz, Pedley

Licensing and Safety Committee

Councillors Bains, C. Bott, Cooper, Gandham, Gill, A. Hussain, K. Hussain, Kaur, Martin, Nasreen, Nawaz, Rasab, Sears, Worrall,

Personnel Committee

Councillors Andrew, Bird, Garcha, Gill, Gultasib, K. Hussain, Nawaz, Parkes, Whitehouse

Planning Committee

Councillors Bird, Bains, Bashir, P. Bott, Follows, Gandham, Garcha, Harris, Horton, A. Hussain, I. Hussain, K. Hussain, Larden, Martin, Murray, Nasreen, Nawaz, Samra, M. Statham, Waters.

Standards Committee

Councillors Allen, Andrew, Bashir, Burley, Follows, Lee, Martin, Nazir, Sears (1 vacancy)

Scrutiny Overview

Councillors Bains, P. Bott, Cooper Ditta, Follows, Hicken, K. Hussain, Murray, Nawaz, Sears, Singh Sohal.

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny

Councillors Garcha, Harrison, Hicken, Horton, Jukes, Latham, Nasreen, Rattigan, C. Statham, Whitehouse, (1 Vacancy)

Education Overview and Scrutiny

Councillors Ditta, Gill, I. Hussain, S. Hussain, Kaur, Latham, Morgan, Rattigan, Smith, Towe (1 Vacancy)

Economy and Environment

Councillors Allen, P Bott, Cheema, Cooper, Follows Gill, Kaur, Larden, Mazhar, Ward, Whitehouse

Social Care and Health

Councillors Gill, I. Hussain, K. Hussain, S. Hussain, Martin, Mehmi, Parkes, Rasab, Rattigan, Smith, Waters

19. Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird, seconded by Councillor Andrew and:

Resolved

That the following members be appointed Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees for 2023/24:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Audit	A. Green Independent Person	Councillor Singh Sohal
Corporate Parenting Board	Councillor Elson	Councillor Jukes
Health and Wellbeing Board	Councillor Flint	<i>To be appointed by Health and Wellbeing Board</i>
Licensing and Safety	Councillor Gandham	Councillor Cooper
Personnel	Councillor Bird	Councillor Andrew
Planning	Councillor Bird	Councillor M. Statham
Standards	Councillor Martin	Councillor Burley
Scrutiny Overview	Councillor Murray	Councillor Nawaz
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Hicken	Councillor Jukes

Education Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Ditta	Councillor Kaur
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Follows	Councillor Allen
Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor K. Hussain	Councillor Waters

20. **Appointment of representatives to outside bodies and charities**

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird, seconded by Councillor Andrew and:

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to the undermentioned bodies for the municipal year 2023/24 (unless otherwise stated):

(a) Outside bodies

Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee

Councillors Kaur (Lead) and Lee (Substitute)

Birmingham Airport Holdings Ltd

Councillor Bird

Black Country Cluster Board (NHS)

X1 Vacancy

Black Country Consortium

Councillor Bird and Andrew (Substitute)

Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee

Councillors Larden and S. Hussain (Deputy)

Forest of Mercia Advisory Group

X3 vacancies

Investigation of Air Pollution Standing Conference

Councillor Hicken

Joint Committee for Civil Parking Enforcement of Parking and Traffic Regulations

Councillor Bashir (x1 vacancy for Deputy Member)

Local Government Association – General Assembly

Councillors *Andrew (allocated 2 votes), Hicken, A. Nawaz and K. Hussain

Project WR2 Contract Management Board

Councillor Murphy

River Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

Councillors Murphy and Hicken (Deputy)

Steps to Work (Walsall) Limited

Councillor T. Jukes

Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillor H. Bashir (1 vacancy)

Walsall Museum and Art Galleries Development Trust

Councillor Follows

Walsall Society for the Blind

Councillors Towe and T. Jukes

West Midlands Growth Company

Councillor Andrew

West Midlands Combined Authority Board

Councillors Bird and Perry (Members) and Councillors Andrew and Murphy (substitutes).

West Midlands Combined Authority – Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Waters and Mehmi (Substitute)

West Midlands Combined Authority – Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee

Councillors Martin and Singh Sohal (Substitute)

West Midlands Combined Authority – Transport Delivery Committee (£)

Councillor Singh Sohal and A. Hussain

***Note:** Subject to agreement at the WMCA AGM in June, 2023, the Transport Delivery Committee and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee will merge to become a single 'Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee'.*

Members appointed to the WMCA TDC will be appointed as members of the newly formed Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

WMCA Investments Board

Councillor Andrew

WMCA Housing and Land Delivery Board

Councillor Bird

WMCA Economic Growth Board

Councillor Andrew

WMCA Wellbeing Board

Councillor Flint

WMCA Environment & Energy Board

Councillor Murphy

WMCA Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Councillor Waters

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillors Waters (To answer questions on the discharge of the functions of the Fire Authority) and C. Bott

West Midlands Pension Fund Committee

Councillor Bashir (X1 Vacancy)

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Councillors Perry and Rasab (Substitute)

West Midlands Shareholders Airport Committee

Councillor Kaur (x2 Observer vacancies)

West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Board

Councillor Nawaz

West Midlands Superannuation Committee, Investment Advisory Sub-Committee and Joint Consultative Panel

X2 vacancies

(b) Charities

Barr Beacon Trust

Councillors Andrew, Bird, Bains, Cooper, Kaur, Murphy, Pedley, Samra, Towe, Wilson,

Harper, Marsh and Crumps Almshouses

X1 vacancy

Henry Boys Almshouses

Councillor Nawaz

(c) Advisory and statutory bodies

Fostering Panel

Councillor Murphy

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Councillors I Hussain, F Mazhar, R K Mehmi, E Morgan, Singh Sohal, C Statham, M Statham.

Walsall Admission Forum

Councillor N. Latham (x1 vacancy)

The meeting terminated at 6.15 p.m.

Mayor:

Date: