



Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 20 May, 2024, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

## **Present**

### **Councillor C.D.D. Towe (Mayor) in the Chair**

Councillors: G. Ali  
A. Andrew  
B. Bains  
H. Bashir  
M.A. Bird  
C. Bott  
P. Bott  
R. Burley  
J. Chapman  
S. Cheema  
S.J. Cooper – Adj Council  
M. Coulson  
S.K. Ditta  
S. Elson  
K. Ferguson  
G. Flint  
M. Follows  
N. Gandham – Adj Council  
A. Garcha  
P. Gill – Adj Council  
N. Gultasib  
A. Harris  
L. Harrison  
A.J. Hicken  
A. Hussain  
I. Hussain  
K. Hussain  
S.B. Hussain  
T. Jukes  
P. Kaur  
R. Larden  
N. Latham  
E. Lee  
K. Margetts  
R. Martin  
R. K Mehmi  
E. Morgan  
K. Murphy  
J. Murray  
L. Nahal  
S. Nasreen  
A.A. Nawaz  
A. Parkes  
K. Pedley  
G. Perry  
W. Rasab  
L.J. Rattigan  
E. Russell  
S. Samra – Adj Council  
K. Sears  
G. Singh Sohal  
P. Smith – Adj Council  
C.A. Statham  
M.A. Statham  
M. Ward  
V.J. Waters  
J. Whitehouse  
T. Wilson

#### **1. Welcome to new members**

The Mayor extended a warm welcome to the newly elected members of the Council – Councillors Lucie Nahal, Michael Coulson, Jade Chapman, Eileen Russell, and Klara Margetts

## 2. **Apologies**

An apology was received on behalf of Councillors P. Gill.

*\*Note: Councillor Gill joined the adjourned meeting on 22 May, 2024.*

## 3. **Election of Mayor 2024/25**

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

That Councillor Anthony Harris be elected Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2024/25.

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

### **Resolved**

That Councillor Anthony Harris be elected as Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2024/25.

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

### **Councillor Anthony Harris (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 Bird and Councillor Sears for moving and seconding the motion. He stated that it was the pinnacle of his career as a showman and was proud of the opportunity to represent the residents as Mayor of Walsall. He thanked his family who had afforded him the time to carry out his duties as Councillor for over 20 years. The Mayor then thanked former and current Councillors and officers.

## 4. **Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2024/25**

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

That Councillor Louise Harrison be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2024/25.

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

### **Resolved**

That Councillor Louise Harrison be elected as Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2024/25.

*The Council adjourned to enable the Deputy Mayor to put on the robes and regalia.*

5. **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April, 2024, a copy having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record.

6. **Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor proceeded to make the following announcements and informed the meeting that he reserved the right to make a further announcement at the adjourned meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2024.

(a) **Mayor's Chaplain**

The Mayor stated that Reverend Emily Reynolds would be his Chaplain 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 8 December, 2024 at 10.45 at St Matthew's Church, Walsall.

(c) **Charities**

The Mayor announced that any monies raised during his year of office would be donated to the Guide Dogs, Well Wishers and Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

7. **Presentation of badges to retiring Mayor and Mayoress**

The Chief Executive presented badges to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress – Councillor Towe and Louisa Hughes.

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

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

**Resolved**

That this Council thank Councillor Towe for the contribution he has made as Mayor of Walsall MBC and to the people who live and work in the borough and that Louisa Hughes be thanked for her services as Mayoress.

Councillor Towe replied.

## 9. **Adjournment**

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

### **Resolved**

That the Council adjourn until 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 22 May, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 6.50 p.m.

## **Meeting reconvened at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 22 May, 2024**

The Mayor reminded the meeting that 2 hours and 10 minutes remained for business to be transacted.

## 10. **Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor referred to the death of former Councillor Gareth Illmann-Walker, a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from May 2011 to May 2015. The Mayor, Councillors Cheema, Nawaz, Bird and Andrew paid tribute to former Councillor Illmann-Walker, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

### **Resolved**

That this Council have heard with deep regret of the death of former Councillor Illmann-Walker, a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from May 2011 to May 2015 and places on record their appreciation of his services to the borough and expresses its condolences to his family at this sad time.

## 11. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

**Resolved**

There were no items in private session.

13. **Election results – 2 May, 2024**

The report was submitted.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

14. **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.

15. **Members appointed to the Executive**

A schedule of portfolio responsibilities was circulated around the Council Chamber.

**Resolved**

That the following Cabinet responsibilities for the municipal year 2024/25 be noted:

Description of portfolio	Names of portfolio holder
<p><b>Leader of the Council</b></p> <p><b><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></b></p> <p>Overall responsibility for Council policy and strategy, the Council Plan &amp; Walsall 2040. Proud Promises, transformation, communications, marketing and brand,</p>	<p><b>Cllr Mike Bird</b></p>

<p>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 Authority, Association of Black Country Authorities and Black Country Joint Committee.</p>	
<p><b>Deputy Leader and Regeneration</b></p> <p><b><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></b></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 &amp; Delivery. Markets.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Adrian Andrew</b></p>
<p><b>Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities</b></p> <p><b><i>Children and young people grow up in connected communities and feel safe everywhere</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Our communities will be more resilient and supportive of each other</i></b></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>	<p><b>Cllr Garry Perry</b></p>

<p><b>Education and Skills</b></p> <p><b><i>Education, training and skills enable people to contribute to their community and our economy</i></b></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, 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><b>Cllr Mark Statham</b></p>
<p><b>Adult Social Care</b></p> <p><b><i>People can access support in their community to keep safe and well and remain independent at home</i></b></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><b>Cllr Keir Pedley</b></p>
<p><b>Street Pride</b></p> <p><b><i>The people of Walsall feel safe in a cleaner, greener Borough</i></b></p> <p>Clean &amp; 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><b>Cllr Kerry Murphy</b></p>
<p><b>Children</b></p> <p><b><i>Children and young people thrive emotionally, physical, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential</i></b></p> <p><i>Statutory role as Lead Member for Children's Services</i></p>	<p><b>Cllr Stacie Elson</b></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><b>Customer</b></p> <p><b><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></b></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><b>Cllr Gaz Ali</b></p>
<p><b>Internal Services</b></p> <p><b><i>We get things right, first time and make all services accessible and easy to use.</i></b></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><b>Cllr Ken Ferguson</b></p>
<p><b>Wellbeing Leisure and Public Spaces</b></p> <p><b><i>People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life</i></b></p>	<p><b>Cllr Gary Flint</b></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>Climate change/net zero.</p> <p>Chair of Health &amp; Wellbeing Board.</p>	
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16. **Constitution and Timetable of meetings 2024/2025**

A report was submitted [annexed].

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

**Resolved**

That:-

1. The amendments to the following parts of the Constitution as detailed in **Appendix 1**, be approved:

(a) Part 3 – Responsibility for functions:

3.2 (6)	-	Audit Committee role and remit
3.2 (7)	-	Health and Wellbeing Board membership
3.5	-	Scheme of delegations to officers

(b) Part 5 – Codes and Protocols

5.19 - Flag Flying Protocol

2. The timetable of meetings for the municipal year 2024/2025 as set out in **Appendix 2** of the report be approved.

## 17. **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 2024/25:

#### **Audit Committee**

Councillors, Larden, Mehmi, Nawaz, Parkes, Singh Sohal, Waters (1 Vacancy)

A. Green (Independent member), (2 Independent member vacancies).

#### **Corporate Parenting Board**

Councillors Elson, Chapman, Ferguson, Hicken, Jukes, Nasreen (1 Vacancy)

#### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

Councillors Coulson, Elson, Flint, Pedley, Rasab

#### **Licensing and Safety Committee**

Councillors Ali, C. Bott, Cooper, Ferguson, A. Hussain, I. Hussain, K. Hussain, Mehmi, Nawaz, Parkes, Rasab, Samra, Sears, Ward.

#### **Personnel Committee**

Councillors Ali, Bains, Gill, Hicken, A. Hussain, Jukes, Nawaz, Rasab, Ward

#### **Planning Committee**

Councillors Bains, Bashir, Bird, P. Bott, Elson, Follows, Gill, A. Hussain, I. Hussain, K. Hussain, Margetts, Martin, Murray, Nahal, Nawaz, Parkes, Samra, Singh Sohal, M. Statham, Waters

#### **Standards Committee**

Councillors Andrew, Bashir, Burley, I. Hussain, Jukes, Larden, Martin, Rasab, Samra, Sears

#### **Scrutiny Overview**

Councillors Chapman, P. Bott, Follows, Hicken, K. Hussain, Latham, Murray, Sears, Singh Sohal, Ward, Waters

### **Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny**

Councillors Chapman, Harrison, Hicken, Jukes, Latham, Morgan, Nasreen, Rasab, Rattigan, C. Statham (1 Vacancy)

### **Education Overview and Scrutiny**

Councillors Ditta, Gultasib, Harrison, Hicken, S. Hussain, Latham, Rasab, Rattigan, Russell, Singh Sohal, Towe

### **Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny**

Councillors P. Bott, Cheema, Follows, Gill, Hassan, Hicken, I. Hussain, Larden, Margetts, Singh Sohal, Whitehouse

### **Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny**

Councillors Chapman, Coulson, K. Hussain, S. Hussain, Martin, Mehmi, Nawaz, Parkes, Rasab, Rattigan, Waters

## **18. Appointments 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 the municipal year 2024/25

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
Audit	Mr. A. Green (independent member)	S. Sohal
Corporate Parenting Board	S. Elson *The Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services is Chair	T. Jukes
Health and Wellbeing Board	W. Rasab Nominee of controlling group	*To be appointed by Health and Wellbeing Board
Licensing and Safety	K. Ferguson	S. Cooper

Personnel	B. Bains	P. Gill
Planning	M. Statham	J. Murray
Standards	R. Martin	T. Jukes
Scrutiny Overview	J. Murray	K. Hussain
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny	A. Hicken	E. Morgan
Education Overview and Scrutiny	N. Latham	C. Towe
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny	M. Follows	J. Whitehouse
Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny	K. Hussain	V. Waters

19. **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 2024/25 (unless otherwise stated):

**(a) Outside bodies**

**WMCA Transport Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillors A. Hussain and Singh Sohal

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillors Waters and Martin (Substitute)

**West Midlands Combined Authority – Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee**

Councillors R. Martin and Waters (Substitute)

**West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority**

Councillors Ferguson (nominated to answer questions on the discharge of the functions of the Fire Authority) and Cheema

**Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee**

Councillor Kaurs and Lee (Substitute)

**Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

Councillor Elson

**Local Government Association – General Assembly**

Councillors Hicken (allocated 2 votes), Cooper, Mehmi, and Nawaz

**Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee (PATROL AJC)**

Councillors Larden and Wilson (Substitute)

**Project W2R Contract Management Board**

Councillor Murphy

**River Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee**

Councillors Flint and Murphy (Deputy)

**Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau**

Councillors Ali and Russell

**Walsall Museum and Art Galleries Development Trust**

Councillor Follows

**Walsall Society for the Blind**

Councillors Hicken and Jukes

**West Midlands Employers (WME) Shareholder Board**

Councillor Andrew

**West Midlands Growth Company**

Councillor Andrew

### **West Midlands Combined Authority Board**

Councillors Andrew and Murphy (Members) and Councillors Flint and Elson (Substitutes)

### **WMCA Investments Board**

Councillor M. Statham

### **WMCA - West Midlands Investment Zone Joint Committee**

Councillor Andrew

### **WMCA Housing and Land Delivery Board**

Councillor Andrew

### **WMCA Economic Growth Board**

Councillor Andrew

### **WMCA Wellbeing Board**

Councillor Flint

### **WMCA Environment & Energy Board**

Councillor Flint

### **West Midlands Pension Fund Committee**

Councillors Hicken and Ward (Substitute)

### **West Midlands Police and Crime Panel**

Councillors Rasab and Martin (Substitute)

### **West Midlands Shareholders Airport Committee**

Councillor Kaur (x2 Observer vacancies)

### **West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Board**

Councillor Garcha

**(b) Charities**

**Barr Beacon Trust**

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

**Blanch Woollaston Charity (3 years)**

Councillors C. Bott and Nawaz

**Fishley Charities (5 years)**

Councillor Martin

**Harper, Marsh and Crumps Almshouses**

Councillor Mehmi

**Merrions Wood (4 years)**

Councillor Hussain

**School Holiday Camp Fund of Walsall (Bryntysilio)**

Councillor Coulson

**(c) Advisory and statutory bodies**

**Fostering Panel**

Councillor Murphy

**Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

Councillors M. Statham, C. Statham, I. Hussain, Singh Sohal, Nahal, Mehmi, and Nawaz

20. **Recommendation of Cabinet:**

**Surveillance and Access to Communications.**

The report to Cabinet held on 17 April, 2024 was submitted.

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

**Resolved**

That the Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 ('IPA') Corporate Policy and Procedures be approved.

The meeting terminated at 6.21 p.m.

Mayor:

Date: