



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 21st May, 2018, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Present

Councillor M. Longhi (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor M. Longhi (Mayor)

“ P. Bott (Deputy Mayor)
“ B. Allen
“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.J. Barker
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ O. Butler
“ K. Chambers
“ B. Chattha
“ A.G. Clarke
“ S.J. Cooper
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ C.U. Creaney
“ A. Ditta
“ S.K. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ K. Ferguson
“ M. Follows
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ A.J. Hicken
“ K. Hussain
“ D. James

Councillor L.D. Jeavons

“ C. Jones
“ T.J. Jukes
“ A. Kudhail
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ A.S. Nazir
“ S.L. Neville
“ G. Perry
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ W. Rasab
“ I.C. Robertson
“ J. Rochelle
“ E.B. Russell
“ S. Samra
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ I. Shires
“ G. Singh Sohal
“ M.A. Statham
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ A. Underhill
“ S. Wade
“ M. Ward
“ V.J. Waters
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

1. **Welcome to new members**

The Mayor extended a welcome to the newly elected members of the Council – Councillors Butler, Chattha, Neville, Rasab, Samra, Statham and Waters.

2. **Mr. P. Washbrook**

The Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor Peter Washbrook and informed the Council that full tributes would be taken at the adjourned Council meeting on Wednesday 23 May.

All present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

3. **Election of Mayor 2018/19**

The Mayor noted that Council at its meeting held on 8th January, 2018 had nominated Councillor P. Bott as Mayor of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council for the municipal year 2018/2019 and sought any additional nominations for the position of Mayor.

Councillor Bird **moved** and it was duly seconded by Councillor Perry that Councillor Longhi be nominated as Mayor for the 2018/2019 municipal year.

Council were advised by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that in accordance with paragraph 17.1 of the Council's Constitution, the matter would be decided by way of a simple majority of those members voting and present in the room. He also advised on the issue of the use of the Mayor's casting vote under Section 4 of the Local Government Act 1972 is titled "Election of chairman".

The Mayor sought Council's consent, duly given, to have a named vote on the matter which would be recorded by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

There then followed a number of submissions in respect of the matter by Councillors Bird, Perry, Murray, Worrall, P. Bott, Towe, S. Coughlan, Shires, Andrew and D. Coughlan.

The matter was then put to the vote with members voting as follows:

For Councillor P. Bott – 30 members	For Councillor Longhi – 30 members
Cllr: S. Coughlan	Cllr: Bird
Shires	Allen
Barker	Andrew
C. Bott	Butler
P. Bott	Chattha
Burley	Clarke

Chambers	Cooper
D. Coughlan	Craddock
Creaney	Douglas-Maul
A. Ditta	Ferguson
S. Ditta	Follows
J. Fitzpatrick	Harris
S. Fitzpatrick	Harrison
Gultasib	Hicken
Hussain	Kudhail
James	Longhi
Jeavons	Martin
Jones	Murray
Jukes	Neville
Nawaz	Perry
A. Nazir	Rasab
M. Nazir	Rattigan
Robertson	Rochelle
Russell	Samra
Sarohi	Sears
Underhill	Singh Sohal
Ward	Statham
Wade	Towe
Worrall	Waters
Young	Wilson

The Mayor used his casting vote in favour of Councillor Longhi and it was:

Resolved

That Councillor Marco Longhi be elected Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2018/2019.

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

Councillor M. Longhi (Mayor) in the Chair

The Mayor read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Mayor thanked the Council for the honour conferred upon him.

4. Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2018/19

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan and seconded by Councillor Shires:

That Councillor Paul Bott be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2018/2019.

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

Resolved

That Councillor Paul Bott be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the municipal year 2018/2019.

5. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 9th April 2018, copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

6. **Mayor's announcements**

(a) **Mayor's Chaplain**

The Mayor stated that Father Salvatore would be his Chaplain during his year of office.

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

The Mayor said that a Civic Service would be held on Sunday 10th June 2018 at 10.30 a.m. at St. Matthew's Church.

(c) **Charities**

The Mayor announced that monies raised during his year of office would be donated to WPH Counselling (which provided counselling for adults, young people, couples, families and specialist pregnancy counselling).

7. **Adjournment**

As items 6 (Presentation of badges to retiring Mayor and Mayoress) and 7 (Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor) were longer required it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That the Council adjourn until 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 23rd May 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 7.20 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The Mayor reminded the meeting that 1 hour 40 minutes remained for business to be transacted.

8. Mr. P. Washbrook

The Mayor and Councillors Martin and Bird paid tribute to former Councillor Peter Washbrook's services to the Council following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That this Council expresses its regret at the death of Mr. P. Washbrook a member of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from May 2015 to March 2018 and places on record their appreciation of his services to the borough over a period of many years and expresses its condolences to his family at this sad time.

9. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to be considered in private session.

11. Election results – 3rd May 2018

The report was submitted.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

12. Formation of political groups

The report of the Chief Executive was submitted.

Resolved

That the receipt of returns from political groups be noted.

13. **Notice of motion – Leader of the Council**

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given was **moved** by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew:

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, by paragraph 67 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and as provided for in Article 7, paragraph 7.04 of the Council's Constitution, this Council resolves to remove Councillor Sean Coughlan from the office of Leader with immediate effect and also in accordance with the aforementioned Act, Councillor Michael Bird be appointed as Leader of the Council.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried on the Mayor's casting vote – the voting at the request of several members of the Council being recorded as follows:

For the motion – 30 members

Cllr: Bird
Allen
Andrew
Butler
Chattha
Clarke
Cooper
Craddock
Douglas-Maul
Ferguson
Follows
Harris
Harrison
Hicken
Kudhail
Longhi
Martin
Murray
Neville
Perry
Rasab
Rattigan
Rochelle
Samra
Sears
Singh Sohal
Statham
Towe
Waters
Wilson

Against the motion – 30 members

Cllr: S. Coughlan
Shires
Barker
C. Bott
P. Bott
Burley
Chambers
D. Coughlan
Creaney
A. Ditta
S. Ditta
J. Fitzpatrick
S. Fitzpatrick
Gultasib
Hussain
James
Jeavons
Jones
Jukes
Nawaz
A. Nazir
M. Nazir
Robertson
Russell
Sarohi
Underhill
Ward
Wade
Worrall
Young

and it was:

Resolved

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, by paragraph 67 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and as provided for in Article 7, paragraph 7.04 of the Council's Constitution, this Council resolves to remove Councillor Sean Coughlan from the office of Leader with immediate effect and also in accordance with the aforementioned Act, Councillor Michael Bird be appointed as Leader of the Council.

14. **Members appointed to the Executive**

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber.

Resolved

That the following Cabinet responsibilities for the municipal year 2018/19 be noted:

Description of portfolio	Names of portfolio holder
1. Leader of the Council - Overall responsibility for Council strategy, the corporate plan, communications and public relations, emergency planning, 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. Transformation and digital. Finance including payroll and pensions, insurance, risk management, policy led budgeting. Financial Regulations, Audit, Legal and Democratic Services, Performance. Member Development.	Councillor Bird
2. Deputy Leader and Regeneration – Economic development, physical development, markets, property and asset management, Black Country Consortium, sub regional regeneration issues. Town and district centres, planning policy and local development framework. Strategic housing role. Traffic and transportation, car parks, strategic transport and highways. Business liaison and skills. Money Home Job	Councillor Andrew

Description of portfolio	Names of portfolio holder
3. Education and Skills – schools and education services, interagency cooperation, involvement of children and young people, special educational needs, disabilities and inclusion. Adult learning.	Councillor Towe
4. Adult Social Care – Care services for older people and people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities and people with mental health needs, health partnership, commissioning and CCG/health interface lead supporting people, protection for vulnerable adults, transition arrangements between Children’s and Adult Social Care	Councillor Martin
5. Community, leisure and culture – Locality co-ordination, community development, engagement and consultation, community associations, voluntary and community sectors, leisure and culture services including the New Art Gallery, libraries, sports and museums. Cemeteries and crematoria. Community Safety, community cohesion, Safer Walsall Partnership, public protection.	Councillor Perry
6. Clean and Green – gateways and corridors, pollution control, waste strategy, refuse collection, recycling, street cleaning, parks and the Council’s vehicle fleet.	Councillor Harrison
7. Children’s and Health and Wellbeing - Services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, early help, schools meals commissioning, involvement of children and young people, transition arrangements between Children’s and Adult Social Care, Public health. Member of Health and Wellbeing Board, Walsall Children’s Safeguarding Board and Chair of Corporate Parenting Board.	Councillor Wilson
8. Personnel and Business Support –. HR, equalities, procurement, facilities management, complaints, information governance, print and design, catering, cleaning, caretaking and Town Hall events.	Councillor Harris

15. **Constitution and timetable of meetings 2018/19**

The report was submitted together with Appendix 3 – Overview and Scrutiny remits and Appendix 9 – Revised timetable which were circulated around the Council Chamber.

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

Resolved

- (1) That the amendments to the following parts of the Constitution as set out in the report be approved:
 - (a) Part 2 – Articles:
 - Article 4 – Policy framework
 - Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees
 - Article 8 – Regulatory and other Committees
 - Article 10 - Officers
 - (b) Part 3 – Responsibility for functions:
 - 3.2 – Scheme of delegations to Committees
 - 3.5 – Scheme of delegations to officers
 - (c) Part 4 – Rules of procedure
 - 4.1 – Council Procedure Rules
 - 4.7 - Financial Rules
 - (d) Part 5 – Codes and protocols:
 - 1 – Member’s Code of Conduct
 - 16 – Use of Councillor resources by Councillors
- (2) That a Corporate Parenting Board be established.
- (3) That Council approves the revised overview and scrutiny structure and terms of reference as set out in appendix 3;
- (4) That the Members Allowances Scheme be approved for a further 12 months subject to any changes to structures or responsibilities.
- (5) That the revised timetable of meetings for the municipal year 2018/2019 (as circulated) be approved.

16. **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 2018/19:

Audit Committee

Councillors Butler, Chattha, Craddock, J. Fitzpatrick, Hicken, Robertson, Young, together with 3 independent members

Corporate Parenting Board

Councillors Ferguson, Jukes, Kudhail, M. Nazir, Nawaz, Neville, Wilson

Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillors Longhi, Rasab, Wilson, Martin, Robertson, James, Shires (1 vacancy), together with:

- Executive Director, Adult Services
- Executive Director, Children's Services
- Director of Public Health
- 5 Clinical Commissioning Group representatives
- Healthwatch representative
- WM Police representative
- WM Fire representative
- One Walsall representative

Licensing and Safety Committee

Councillors P. Bott, Butler, Clarke, S. Ditta, J. Fitzpatrick, S. Fitzpatrick, Hussain, Murray, Nawaz, Rochelle, Samra, Sears, Waters, Ward

Personnel Committee

Councillors Andrew, Bird, Chambers, S. Coughlan, Jeavons, Longhi, Towe

Planning Committee

Ward:

Aldridge Central & South
Aldridge North & Walsall Wood
Bentley & Darlaston North
Birchills-Leamore
Blakenall
Bloxwich East
Bloxwich West
Brownhills
Darlaston South
Paddock
Palfrey

Councillor Rochelle
Councillor Harris
Councillor Underhill
Councillor Jones
Councillor Ward
Councillor S. Fitzpatrick
Councillor Allen
Councillor Craddock
Councillor P. Bott
Councillor Singh Sohal
Councillor M. Nazir

Pelsall	Councillor Perry
Pheasey Park Farm	Councillor Bird
Pleck	Councillor Sarohi
Rushall-Shelfield	Councillor Rattigan
Short Heath	Councillor Cooper
St. Matthews	Councillor Nawaz
Streetly	Councillor Samra
Willenhall North	Councillor Butler
Willenhall South	Councillor Creaney

Standards Committee

Councillors Andrew, P. Bott, Burley, Craddock, A. Ditta, Murray, Samra, Statham, Underhill, Young

Scrutiny Overview Committee

Councillors A. Ditta, Ferguson, Hussain, James, Kudhail, Murray, Nawaz, Rasab, Samra, Shires, Singh Sohal

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Allen, J. Fitzpatrick, Follows, Jukes, Kudhail, Nawaz, Neville, Russell, Statham, Waters (1 vacancy)

Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Creaney, Douglas-Maul, Cooper, A. Ditta, Kudhail, Nawaz, Rattigan, Statham, Wade, Waters (1 vacancy), together with:

- 1 Lichfield Diocesan Education representative (voting)
- 1 Archbishop of Birmingham representative (voting)
- 3 Parent Governor representatives (voting)
- 1 Primary Education Teacher representative (non-voting)
- 1 Secondary Education Teacher representative (non-voting)

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Allen, Chattha, S. Coughlan, Craddock, Creaney, Hicken, Jeavons, Jones, Rasab, Shires, Singh Sohal

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Allen, Clarke, D. Coughlan, S. Ditta, Follows, James, Neville, Rasab, Rochelle, Sarohi (1 vacancy)

17. Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber.

Resolved

That the following members be appointed Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees for 2018/19:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Audit	Mr. A. Green (independent member)	Councillor Craddock
Corporate Parenting Board	Councillor Wilson	Councillor Jukes
Health and Wellbeing Board	Councillor Longhi	To be appointed by Health and Wellbeing Board
Licensing and Safety	Councillor Sears	Councillor Clarke
Personnel	Councillor Bird	Councillor Andrew
Planning	Councillor Bird	Councillor M. Nazir
Standards	Councillor Samra	Councillor Underhill
Scrutiny Overview	Councillor Murray	Councillor Hussain
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Shires	Councillor Hicken
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Kudhail	Councillor Nawaz
Education Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Nawaz	Councillor Cooper
Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor James	Councillor Allen

18. Recommendation of Cabinet – Dissolution of the West Midlands Joint Committee

The report to Cabinet on 25th April 2018 was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird, seconded by Councillor S. Coughlan and:

Resolved

That Council approve:

- (i) the dissolution of the West Midlands Joint Committee, for the reasons set out in the report;
- (ii) the proposals for managing the remaining residual business of the West Midlands Joint Committee once it is dissolved as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

19. **Appointment of representatives on outside bodies**

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber and nominations were made as set out.

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to the undermentioned bodies for the municipal year 2018/19 (unless otherwise stated):

(a) **Outside bodies**

Local Government Association – General Assembly

Councillor Hicken (2 votes), Allen, S. Coughlan, Jeavons

West Midlands Combined Authority Board

Councillors Bird, Andrew
Councillors Longhi, Towe (substitutes)

West Midlands Combined Authority - Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Craddock
Councillor Burley (substitute)

West Midlands Combined Authority – Audit Committee

Councillor Craddock
Councillor Towe (substitute)

West Midlands Combined Authority – Transport Delivery Committee

Councillors Andrew, A. Ditta

West Midlands Joint Committee

Councillor Bird (voting)

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Councillor Bird (Leader)
Councillor Samra (named substitute)

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillor Craddock (nominee to answer questions on functions of Fire Authority)
Councillor Young

Black Country Consortium

Councillor Bird (Leader) (or nominee)

Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee

Councillor Murray

Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited

Councillor Bird for 2 years expiring June 2020

Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee

Councillor Waters

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust

Councillor Rasab

Forest of Mercia Advisory Group

Councillors Chambers, Harrison

Investigation of Air Pollution Standing Conference

Councillor Harrison

Joint Committee on Civil Parking Enforcement of Parking and Traffic Regulations

Councillor Andrew

New Horizons

Councillor Statham

Project WR2 Contract Management Board

Councillor Harrison

River Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

Councillor Harrison

Steps to Work (Walsall) Limited

Councillor Rasab

Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall (VIEW) Board

Councillors D. Coughlan, Robertson, Waters

Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillors Rochelle, Russell

Walsall Museum and Art Galleries Development Trust

Councillor Chattha

Walsall Society for the Blind

Councillors Jukes, Towe

West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Board

Councillor Rasab

West Midlands Pension Fund Committee

Councillor Underhill
Councillor Martin (sub)

West Midlands Shareholders Airport Committee

Councillor Andrew (voting)

(b) **Charities**

Harper, Marsh and Crumps Almshouses

Councillor Waters

Henry Boy Almshouses

Councillor Nawaz

Roger Hinton's Charity

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Pelsall (Staffs) Mining Accident Fund

Councillor Neville for the balance of the 5 year period expiring on 14 September 2019

School Holiday Camp Fund of Walsall

Councillor Cooper for the balance of the 4 year period expiring on 25 August 2020

(c) Advisory and statutory bodies

Adoption Panel

Councillor Jukes

Fostering Panel

Councillor Kudhail

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Councillors Chattha, Hussain, Nawaz, Rasab, Robertson, Rochelle, Singh Sohal

Walsall Admission Forum

Councillors Burley, Kudhail

The meeting terminated at 6.23 p.m.