



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 23rd May, 2016, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Present

Councillor A. Underhill (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor K. Phillips (Deputy Mayor)

“ B. Allen
“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.J. Barker
“ O.D. Bennett
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ P. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ K. Chambers
“ A.G. Clarke
“ C.E. Clews
“ 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
“ D.T. Hazell
“ E.A. Hazell

Councillor A. J. Hicken

“ E.F. Hughes
“ K. Hussain
“ D. James
“ L.D. Jeavons
“ C. Jones
“ T.J. Jukes
“ A. Kudhail
“ M. Longhi
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ A.S. Nazir
“ G. Perry
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ I.C. Robertson
“ J. Rochelle
“ E.B. Russell
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ I. Shires
“ G.S. Sohal
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ S. Wade
“ M. Ward
“ P. Washbrook
“ 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 Allen, Barker, S. Ditta, Gultasib, A. Nazir, and Ward.

2. **Election of Mayor 2016/17**

It was **moved** by Councillor J. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Councillor S. Fitzpatrick:

That Councillor Kathleen Phillips be elected Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

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

Resolved

That Councillor Kathleen Phillips be elected Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

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

Councillor K. Phillips (Mayor) in the Chair

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

3. **Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2016/17**

It was **moved** by Councillor Perry and seconded by Councillor Bennett:

That Councillor Marco Longhi be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

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

Resolved

That Councillor Marco Longhi be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

4. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 11th April 2016, copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

5. **Mayor's announcements**

(a) **Mayor's Chaplain**

The Mayor stated that the Reverend Jim Trood from St. Matthew's Church, Walsall would be her Chaplain during her year of office.

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

The Mayor said that a Civic Service would be held on Sunday 17th July 2016 at 10.30 a.m. at St. Matthew's Church.

(c) **Charities**

The Mayor announced that monies raised during her year of office would be donated to St. Giles Walsall Hospice.

6. **Presentation of badges to retiring Mayor and Consort**

The Mayor presented badges to the retiring Mayor and Consort, Councillor A. Underhill and Mr. J. Underhill.

7. **Vote of thanks to retiring Mayor and Consort**

It was **moved** by Councillor Burley, seconded by Councillor Chambers and:

Resolved

That the Council thank Angela Underhill for the contribution she has made as Mayor of Walsall MBC to the people who live and work in the Borough and that Mr. Underhill be thanked for his services as Consort.

Councillor Underhill replied.

8. **Adjournment**

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

Resolved

That the Council adjourn until 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 25th May 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 6.30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 25th May 2016

The Mayor reminded the meeting that 2 hours 30 minutes remained for business to be transacted.

9. **Order of business**

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

Resolved

That the order of business be changed so that the notice of motion with regard to the Leader of the Council be dealt with after item 11 – Formation of political groups.

10. **Council business**

The Mayor stated that it was her intention to encourage progress through Council meetings. She therefore expected speakers to limit themselves to the time available and not to assume an extension would be granted. If someone moved an extension of speaking time she would ask for a seconder and the Council would vote on whether to grant a 5 minute extension. In the meantime the member would sit down, stop speaking and await the outcome vote.

11. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

13. **Election results – 5th May 2016**

The report was submitted.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

14. **Formation of political groups**

The report of the Chief Executive was submitted.

Resolved

That the receipt of returns from political groups be noted.

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

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

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 Michael Bird from the office of Leader with immediate effect and also in accordance with the aforementioned Act, Councillor Sean Coughlan be appointed as Leader of the Council.

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

**For the motion –
30 members**

Cllr: S. Coughlan
Shires
Barker
Burley
Chambers
Clews
D. Coughlan

**Against the motion -
25 members**

Cllr: Bird
Allen
Andrew
Bennett
Clarke
Cooper
Douglas-Maul

**Abstained -
5 members**

Cllr: E. Hazell
C. Bott
P. Bott
Craddock
D. Hazell

Creaney	Ferguson
A. Ditta	Follows
S. Ditta	Harris
J. Fitzpatrick	Harrison
S. Fitzpatrick	Hicken
Gultasib	Hughes
Hussain	Kudhail
James	Longhi
Jeavons	Martin
Jones	Murray
Jukes	Perry
Nawaz	Rattigan
A. Nazir	Rochelle
M. Nazir	Sears
Phillips	Sohal
Robertson	Towe
Russell	Washbrook
Sarohi	Wilson
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 Michael Bird from the office of Leader with immediate effect and also in accordance with the aforementioned Act, Councillor Sean Coughlan be appointed as Leader of the Council.

16. **Members appointed to the Executive**

A list was circulated around the Council Chamber.

Resolved

That the following Cabinet responsibilities for the municipal year 2016/17 be noted:

Description of portfolio	Portfolio holder
<p>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. Association of Black Country Authorities and Black Country Joint Committee. Strategic and operational financial management and administration, insurance, risk management, policy led budgeting. Financial Regulations, Audit, Legal and Democratic Services, Performance. Member Development</p>	Councillor S. Coughlan
<p>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.</p>	Councillor Jeavons
<p>3. Children’s Services and Education – services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, education services, interagency cooperation, involvement of children and young people, youth parliament, children’s trust arrangements, youth offending services, youth service, schools meals commissioning, transition arrangements with Adult Social Care. Adult learning.</p>	Councillor Burley
<p>4. Community, leisure and culture – Area co-ordination, community engagement and consultation, community associations, voluntary and community sectors, leisure and culture services including the New Art Gallery, libraries, catering service, sports and museums. Cemeteries and crematoria. Community Safety, Safer Walsall Partnership, public protection.</p>	Councillor J. Fitzpatrick
<p>5. Clean and Green –gateways and corridors, pollution control, waste strategy, refuse collection, recycling, street cleaning, parks and the Council’s vehicle fleet.</p>	Councillor Jones

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|----|--|------------------------|
| 6. | Health - Public health, Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board | Councillor Robertson |
| 7. | Social Care - care services for older people and people with learning disabilities, people with physical disabilities and people with mental health needs, health partnership, community meals, supporting people, protection for vulnerable adults and transition arrangements with Children Services. Money, Home, Job. | Councillor D. Coughlan |
| 8 | Personnel and Business Support –issues relating to governance and decision making processes including the corporate plan. HR function, shared services, including ICT, procurement, facilities management. | Councillor Nawaz |
| 9. | Agenda for Change - in collaboration with partner agencies, issues relating to proposals for new area arrangements. Cross portfolio issues that contribute to enlargement of opportunities for public engagement. Cross portfolio liaison on change programmes within the Council. | Councillor Shires |

17. **Constitution and timetable of meetings 2016/17**

The report was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Jeavons 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 – The Council
 - Article 7 – The Executive
 - (b) Part 3 – Responsibility for functions
 - 3.5 – Scheme of delegations to officers
 - (c) Part 4 – Rules of procedure
 - 4.5 – Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules

- (2) That the Members' Allowances Scheme be approved for a further 12 months subject to any changes to structures or responsibilities.
- (3) That in approving the recommendations set out in the report approval be given to:
 - (a) the establishment of a Personnel Committee with the same remit as the present Appointments Board with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman being appointed at the Annual Council meeting for the municipal year and that the Constitution be amended accordingly to include provision for the Committee to establish two Sub-Committees to deal with appointments and appeals.
 - (b) the timetable of meetings for the municipal year 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 2 being amended taking into account the change made to the Committee structure as set out above and the date of the Council meeting to be held on 11th July 2016 being amended to 25th July 2016.

(Note: Subsequently the Leader agreed to change the date of the Council meeting from 25th July to Thursday 21st July 2016.)

18. **Appointments to Committees**

A list containing nominations from the political groups was circulated around the Council Chamber and nominations made. The Leader pointed out that Personnel Committee had now replaced Appointments Board and nominations would not be required to Employment Appeals Panels as Personnel Sub-Committees would be appointed at the first meeting of Personnel Committee.

Voting took place on the nominations to Planning Committee as follows:

Short Heath Ward	Councillor Barker	30 votes] Mayor's casting vote
	Councillor D. Hazell	30 votes] for Councillor Barker

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to Committees for the municipal year 2016/17:

Personnel Committee

Councillors Andrew, Bird, S. Coughlan, E. Hazell, Nawaz, Shires (1 to be nominated)

Audit Committee

Councillors Chambers, Craddock, Harris, Robertson, Washbrook, Young (1 to be nominated), together with 3 independent members

Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillors Clews, A. Ditta, Kudhail, Martin, A. Nazir, Robertson, Shires (1 to be nominated), together with:

- Executive Director, Adult Services
- Executive Director, Children's Services
- Director of Public Health
- 5 Clinical Commissioning Group representatives
- 1 Healthwatch representative

Licensing and Safety Committee

Councillors Barker, C. Bott, Clarke, S. Ditta, S. Fitzpatrick, D. Hazell, Hussain, Kudhail, Murray, Nawaz, Rochelle, Sarohi, Sears, Worrall

Planning Committee

Ward:

Aldridge Central & South	Councillor Rochelle
Aldridge North & Walsall Wood	Councillor Harris
Bentley & Darlaston North	Councillor Chambers
Birchills-Leamore	Councillor Jeavons
Blakenall	Councillor Young
Bloxwich East	Councillor S. Fitzpatrick
Bloxwich West	Councillor Follows
Brownhills	Councillor Craddock
Darlaston South	Councillor P. Bott
Paddock	Councillor Sohal
Palfrey	Councillor M. Nazir
Pelsall	Councillor Perry
Pheasey Park Farm	Councillor Bird
Pleck	Councillor Sarohi
Rushall-Shelfield	Councillor Worrall
Short Heath	Councillor Barker
St. Matthews	Councillor Nawaz
Streetly	Councillor Douglas-Maul
Willenhall North	Councillor I. Shires
Willenhall South	Councillor Creaney

Standards Committee

Councillors Andrew, Burley, A. Ditta, E. Hazell, Martin, Murray, Underhill, Young (2 to be nominated)

Scrutiny Overview Committee

Councillors Barker, Bird, Creaney, A. Ditta, E. Hazell, Hussain, Longhi, Murray, Towe, Wade (1 to be nominated)

Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Barker, A. Ditta, Gultasib, Follows, E. Hazell, Jukes, Kudhail, Russell, Towe, Wilson (1 to be nominated) together with:

- 1 Lichfield Diocesan Education (voting)
- 1 Archbishop of Birmingham (voting)
- 3 Parent Governors (voting)
- 1 Primary Education Teachers (non-voting)
- 1 Secondary Education Teachers (non-voting)

Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Andrew, Barker, Bird, Craddock, Creaney, M. Nazir, Rattigan, Sohal, Ward, Worrall (1 to be nominated)

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Barker, S. Ditta, E. Hazell, Hicken, Jukes, Longhi, Martin, A. Nazir, Rochelle, Sarohi (1 to be nominated)

19. Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees

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

Votes were taken on nominations to the following:

Licensing and Safety Committee - Chair	Councillor S. Fitzpatrick – 33 votes Councillor Sears – 25 votes
Licensing and Safety Committee – Vice-Chair	Councillor Sarohi – 30 votes Councillor Clarke – 28 votes
Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Vice-Chair	Councillor Jukes – 30 votes] Mayor's Councillor E. Hazell – 30 votes] casting vote] for Cllr Jukes
Brownhills/Pelsall/Rushall/Shelfield Area Panel – Vice-Chair	Councillor Craddock - 30 votes] Mayor's Councillor Worrall – 30 votes] casting vote] for Cllr Worrall

Resolved

That the following members be appointed Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees for 2016/17:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Audit	Mr. F. Bell (independent member)	Councillor Chambers
Health and Wellbeing Board	Councillor Robertson	To be appointed by Health and Wellbeing Board
Licensing and Safety	Councillor S. Fitzpatrick	Councillor Sarohi
Planning	Councillor M. Nazir	Councillor Worrall
Standards	Councillor Underhill	To be nominated
Scrutiny Overview	Councillor Hussain	Councillor Murray
Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Towe	Councillor Jukes
Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Andrew	Councillor Creaney
Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor Longhi	Councillor Sarohi
Area Panels	Chair	Vice-Chair
Aldridge and Beacon	Councillor Towe	Councillor Rochelle
Brownhills/Pelsall/Rushall/Sheffield	Councillor Perry	Councillor Worrall
Darlaston North/Bentley/Darlaston South	Councillor Burley	Councillor Chambers
North Walsall	Councillor S. Fitzpatrick	Councillor Jeavons
Walsall South	Councillor Hussain	Councillor Russell
Willenhall North/Willenhall South/Short Heath	Councillor Creaney	Councillor Shires

20. **Appointments on outside bodies and charities**

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

(a) **Outside bodies**

That the following members be appointed to the undermentioned outside bodies for the municipal year 2016/17:

Local Government Association – General Assembly

Councillors S. Coughlan (2 votes), Jeavons, Bird, Douglas-Maul

West Midlands Joint Committee

Councillor S. Coughlan (voting)
Councillors Andrew, Bird (non-voting)

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Councillor S. Coughlan
Councillor Clews (named substitute)

West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority – Transport Delivery Committee

Councillors Andrew, Worrall

Black Country Consortium

Councillor S. Coughlan (or nominee)

Birmingham Airport Holdings Limited

Councillor Bird (period of 2 years expiring June 2018)

Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee

Councillor Worrall
Councillor Washbrook (deputy)

Forest of Mercia Advisory Group

Councillors Barker, Harrison, Phillips

New Horizons

Councillor J. Fitzpatrick

River Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

Councillor Jones
Councillor Kudhail (deputy)

Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau

Councillors Rochelle, Russell

Walsall Education Business Partnership

Councillors Clews, Towe

Walsall Society for the Blind

Councillors Jukes, Washbrook

West Midlands (Metropolitan Area) Road Safety Partnership Board

Councillor Jeavons

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

Councillor Chambers (voting)

Councillor Martin (sub)

West Midlands Combined Authority Board

Councillors S. Coughlan, Jeavons

Substitutes: Councillors Burley, D. Coughlan

West Midlands Regional Employers Organisation

Councillor Nawaz

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillor Young (Prime member)

Councillor Bennett (Deputy prime member)

Councillor Craddock

Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee

Councillor Bird

Councillor Worrall (named sub)

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust

Councillor Robertson

Investigation of Air Pollution Standing Conference

Councillor Jones

Joint Committee for Civil Parking Enforcement and Traffic Regulations

Councillor Jeavons
Deputy – to be nominated

Steps to Work (Walsall) Limited)

Councillor Gultasib

Walsall Museum and Art Galleries Development Trust

Councillor Underhill

West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Board

Councillor Burley

West Midlands Combined Authority – Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The following nominations were made to the Committee:

Councillor Shires – 30 votes
Councillor E. Hazell – 30 votes

The Mayor cast her vote in favour of Councillor Shires.

Councillor Hughes was nominated as the substitute member of the Committee.

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the West Midlands Combined Authority for the municipal year 2016/17:

Councillor Shires
Councillor Hughes (substitute)

West Midlands Combined Authority – Audit Committee

The following nominations were made to the Committee:

Councillor Chambers – 30 votes
Councillor Craddock – 30 votes

The Mayor cast her vote in favour of Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Robertson was nominated as the substitute member of the Committee.

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the West Midlands Combined Authority for the municipal year 2016/17:

Councillor Chambers
Councillor Robertson (substitute)

(b) Charities

Resolved

That the following be appointed as trustees of the undermentioned Charities for the periods stated:

Harper, Marsh and Crumps Almshouses

Councillor Russell for the municipal year 2016/17

Henry Boys Almshouses

Councillor Follows for the municipal year 2016/17

Roger Hinton Charity

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor and one member to be nominated for the municipal year 2016/17.

Merrions Wood Trust

Councillor Martin and Ms. G. Winwood for a period of 4 years expiring on 25th May 2020.

C.C. Walker Charity

Councillors Harrison and Ward for a period of 4 years expiring on 21st May 2020.

(c) Advisory and statutory bodies

Resolved

That the following members be appointed to the undermentioned bodies for the municipal year 2016/17:

Adoption Panel

Councillor Phillips

Fostering Panel

Councillor Jukes

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

Councillors Barker, Craddock, Gultasib, Phillips, Robertson, Rochelle, Washbrook

Walsall Admission Forum

Councillor Kudhail, Underhill

21. **Retirement of John Garner and Glenys Ensor**

The Mayor referred to the retirement of John and Glenys after 34 and 41 years respectively working for the Council. She thanked them for their long service and wished them a happy retirement. Councillors Bird, S. Coughlan, Shires, E. Hazell and P. Bott echoed her sentiments.

22. **Recommendations of Standards Committee**

(1) **Social media policy for Councillors**

The report to Standards Committee was submitted.

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

Resolved

That the draft Social Media Protocol for Councillors be included in the Codes and Protocols section of the Council Constitution.

(2) **Disclosure and barring service checks for Councillors**

The report to Standards Committee was submitted.

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

Resolved

That Council approve the creation of a scheme by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with group leaders, to ensure that all Councillors have a criminal record check appropriate to their role and function with the Council.

The meeting terminated at 6.52 p.m.

Mayor:

Date: