

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, GUILDHALL ON  
WEDNESDAY, 28 MARCH 2018**

**MEMBERS**

Councillor John Pritchard, Mayor

Councillor	Bryan Apsley	Councillor	David Kelly
"	Andrew Atkinson	"	M C King OBE
"	William Baldwin	"	Geoff Lowe
"	Trevor Bates	"	David Maddocks
"	Sonia Benbow-Jones	"	Tina Mannering
"	David A Bithell	"	John McCusker
"	* I David Bithell, MBE	"	Joan Lowe
"	Paul Blackwell	"	M G Morris
"	Brian Cameron	"	Beverley Parry-Jones
"	Krista Childs	"	Paul Pemberton
"	Dana Davies	"	John Phillips
"	Mike Davies	"	Ronnie Prince
"	Michael Dixon	"	Mark Pritchard
"	T Alan Edwards	"	Paul Roberts
"	Terry Evans	"	* Rondo Roberts
"	Russell Gilmartin	"	Graham Rogers
"	D J Griffiths	"	Paul Rogers
"	Carrie Harper	"	J R Skelland
"	Frank Hemmings	"	Debbie Wallice
"	Kevin Hughes	"	Robert Walsh
"	R Alun Jenkins	"	Barrie Warburton
"	Adrienne Jeorrett	"	Andy Williams
"	Gwenfair Jones	"	* Nigel Williams
"	Hugh Jones	"	Derek Wright
"	Marc Jones	"	Phil Wynn
"	* Paul Jones		

\*Absent

**53** **TO ANSWER ANY PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR RECEIVE PUBLIC STATEMENTS  
OR PETITIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS 10 AND 11 OF THE COUNCIL'S  
STANDING ORDERS**

The Mayor reported that no public questions, statements or petitions had been received.

**54** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors I David Bithell MBE, Paul Jones, Rondo Roberts and Nigel Williams.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Councillor Andrew Atkinson's father and Officers and Members stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of their respect.

The Mayor announced that the Head of Corporate and Customer Services would be retiring at the end of this month. The Mayor and the Leader of each political group paid tribute to Mr Trevor Coxon's years of dedicated service in Wrexham. On behalf of all Members and Officers the Mayor wished Mr Coxon his sincere best wishes for the future.

Mr Coxon thanked Members and Officers for their kind words and advised that it had been a pleasure and an honour for him to serve Wrexham County Borough Council.

The Mayor advised that despite leaving the Local Authority, Mr Coxon had kindly offered to undertake a sponsored spin-a-thon at Wrexham Waterworld on Friday 20 April in aid of the Mayor's Charity Fund and Prostate Cancer UK. The Mayor stated that both sponsors and volunteers were required for the spin-a-thon.

The Mayor advised that his final Charity event as Mayor would be a 60's theme night at the Ramada Hotel on Friday 18th May 2018 which would include a buffet, disco and live entertainment. He stated that tickets were priced at £22 and could be obtained from the Civic Office.

In noting that this was the last full Council meeting before the Annual Meeting in May 2018, the Mayor thanked Members and Officers for the support they had shown him during his extended term of office.

**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS, IF ANY**

The Monitoring Officer provided advice to Members in relation to the following item of business:

Agenda Item 13 – Members' Remuneration Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

The Monitoring Officer advised that all Members appeared to have a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 13 which dealt with Member allowances and it would be advisable that they all declared such an interest in this matter. All Members present agreed to declare a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 13 but claimed the exemption against it being a prejudicial interest contained in paragraph 12(2)(b) of the Member Code of Conduct.

The following declarations were also made:

Agenda Item 8 – Wrexham Deposit Local Development Plan (2013 - 2028)  
Councillors Paul Blackwell, Brian Cameron, Adrienne Jeorrett, Malcolm King and

Graham Rogers – Personal and Prejudicial – Communities First Cluster Board Member. The Councillors remained in the meeting and claimed an exemption under Article 12(2) of the Members’ Code of Conduct taking part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Agenda Item 8 – Wrexham Deposit Local Development Plan (2013 - 2028)  
Councillor Joan Lowe – Personal and Prejudicial – Land Owner. The Councillor withdrew from the meeting for this item taking no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Agenda Item 10 – Annual Review of Constitution  
Councillor Gwenfair Lloyd Jones – Personal and Non-Prejudicial – Wife of Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales - The Councillor remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting thereon.

**57**      **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

- (i) That the Minutes of the meeting of the County Borough Council held on 21 February 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.**
- (ii) Members note the following changes in Membership since the meeting held on 21 February 2018:**

**Councillor Paul Rogers has replaced Councillor Andrew Atkinson on the following:**

**Planning Committee**

**Democratic Services Committee**

**Employment Business and Investment Scrutiny Committee**

**Customers, Performance, Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee**

**Councillor Rodney Skelland has replaced Councillor Andrew Atkinson on the Audit Committee.**

**58**      **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEES**

No issues were raised by Members in relation to the Minutes of the following for the periods indicated:

Executive Board - 12 December 2017 - 13 February 2018

Customers, Performance, Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee - 20 December 2017 - 28 February 2018

Employment, Business and Investment Scrutiny Committee - 6 December 2017 - 7 February 2018

Homes and Environment Scrutiny Committee - 4 December 2017 - 28 February 2018

Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee - 21 December 2017 - 8 February 2018

Safeguarding, Communities and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee - 20 December 2017 - 28 February 2018

Audit Committee - 14 December 2017 - 22 February 2018  
Environmental Licensing Committee - 18 December 2017 - 22 January 2018  
Planning Committee - 4 December 2017 - 5 February 2018  
Standards Committee - 7 December 2017

**59 NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF MAYOR AND APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2018/19**

The Chair of the Constitution Working Group submitted a report (HCCS/26/18) allowing Members to consider nominations for the election of a Mayor and appointment of a Deputy Mayor for 2018/19.

**RESOLVED;**

- (i) That it be recommended to the Annual Meeting of the Council that Councillor Andy Williams be nominated for the office of Mayor of the County Borough for the year 2018/19, subject to his acceptance of the office of Mayor.**
- (ii) That it be recommended to the Annual Meeting of the Council that Councillor Robert Walsh be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor of the County Borough for the year 2018/19, subject to his acceptance of the office of Deputy Mayor.**

**60 WREXHAM DEPOSIT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2013 - 2028)**

*(Members declarations of interest in relation to this item are set out in Minute 56 above)*

The Lead Member for Organisation – Planning and Corporate Services submitted a report (HEP34/18) enabling Members to agree that the Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP), in accordance with the recommendations of the Executive Board on 13 March 2018, be taken forward for public consultation in line with the timescales set out in the Revised Delivery Agreement.

During the ensuing debate, the following points were noted in particular:

- Any new planning applications received for private sites would reduce the overall requirement within the LDP.
- There would be an opportunity to review the number of sites identified in the plan at submission stage.
- In response to a specific site concern the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the related covenant did not preclude this site from being brought forward for development.
- The infrastructure improvements required to support the sites contained within the LDP had been identified in the supporting Infrastructure Plan. Officers confirmed that colleagues had been liaising with Welsh Government specifically around junctions 4 and 5 of the A483.
- A substantial supply of housing contained in the plan was already in receipt of

planning permission.

- Confirmation that the sites identified would be phased during the life of the plan which ran until 2028.
- All of the sites identified in the plan had developer options. A 10% flexibility allowance had also been built into the plan as a contingency.

**RESOLVED –:**

- (i) **That the Deposit LDP (Appendix 1 to the report HEP34/18) be approved to go out to public consultation; and**
- (ii) **The Head of Environment and Planning be authorised to make any additional minor wording and grammatical changes to the LDP Deposit Plan which may arise prior to consultation to ensure consistency with the ongoing LDP evidence base and national Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9 November 2016).**

**REASONS FOR DECISION**

- (i) To enable the Council to meet the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and to ensure that the Deposit Plan is consulted upon in line with the Delivery Agreement (2017)

61

**TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS - RETURNING OFFICER & ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER**

The Leader and Lead Member for Organisation – Finance, Performance, Health and Safety and Governance submitted a report (HCCS/18/18) seeking approval for the temporary appointment of a Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer, pending the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service).

**RESOLVED – That Members:**

- (i) **Note the ongoing process to appoint to the vacant post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and**
- (ii) **Appoint the interim Chief Executive, Clare Field, to the statutory roles of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for the period of 1 April 2018 until a new permanent Chief Executive takes up their appointment.**

**REASONS FOR DECISION**

- (i) To fulfil the Council's legal duty to appoint to the statutory and proper officer roles contained in the Council's Constitution.

## 62 ANNUAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION

*(Members declarations of interest in relation to this item are set out in Minute 56 above)*

The Lead Member for Organisation – Finance, Performance, Health and Safety and Governance submitted a report (HCCS/28/18) allowing Members to review and adopt revisions to the Council's Constitution.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Constitution be revised in the following respects:**
  - (a) The Scheme of Delegation be updated to include the Energy Act 2011 in the list of legislation for public protection functions delegated to the Head of Environment and Planning.**
  - (b) The Customers, Performance, Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee be the committee designated with responsibility for scrutinising the activity of the Public Service Board (PSB) as required under the Well-being of Future generations (Wales) Act 2015**

### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

To ensure that the Council's Constitution is updated to meet all legal and good governance requirements.

## 63 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Leader and Lead Member for Organisation – Finance, Performance, Health and Safety and Governance submitted a report (HCCS/29/18) allowing Members to consider the need to review the Council's Constitution with a view to adopting the format of the new national model constitution.

**RESOLVED - That a comprehensive review of the Constitution be undertaken by the Constitution Working Group.**

### **REASON FOR DECISION**

To enable the Council to adopt a Constitution in a simplified format similar to the revised national model.

## 64 INDEPENDENT LAY MEMBER TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Lead Member for Organisation – Finance, Performance, Health and Safety and Governance submitted a report (HF/36/18) allowing Members to consider extending the current Independent Lay Member to the Audit Committee's appointment term

until 30 September 2020.

The Vice Chair of Audit Committee stated that the current Independent Lay Member offered the wide breadth of knowledge required for the role. She also noted the supportive role he offered to new Members and his ability to continually challenge and work towards improving the relationship between Scrutiny and the Senior Leadership Team.

**RESOLVED - That Council approves the extension of the current Independent Lay Member to the Audit Committee's appointment term for a further two year period up to and including 30 September 2020.**

#### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

To comply with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

#### **65 MEMBERS' REMUNERATION - INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES**

*(Members declarations of interest in relation to this item are set out in Minute 56 above).*

The Lead Member for Organisation – Finance, Performance, Health and Safety and Governance submitted a report (HCCS/30/18) asking Members to consider the changes to the Members' Remuneration Scheme for 2018/19 contained in the latest Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

**RESOLVED - Members note the changes in Members' remuneration set out in the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for 2018.**

#### **REASON FOR DECISION**

To note the determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in its Annual Report 2018.

Councillor John Pritchard  
Mayor