

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held at the Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 8:00pm

Present: *Councillors J. Sartorel (Chairman); K. Baker; J. Cheng; D. Errawalla; A. Heap; R. Horskins; C. Jewell; V. Lewis; R. Skegg; D. Smith; A. Swaddle; P. Wicks*

Officers present: *K. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk; M. Filmore, Committee Officer*

Also present: *1 member of the public*

80. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Al-Sanjari, Bragg, Brindley, Gilder, Green, Nagra and Soane.

81. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

82. **COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the current composition of the Council is as follows:

Conservative Members:	18
Liberal Democrat Members:	4
Labour and Independent Members:	3

83. **STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Councillor Jewell proposed to increase the size of Standing Committees with a Membership of 9 to 10, and other committees with a membership of 3 to 4. She stated her reasoning for this was to retain experienced Councillors on their respective Committees. Councillor Baker stated that, in addition, he proposed to increase other committees with a membership of 5 to 6. Councillor Baker advised that he supported the principal of increasing each impacted committee by one member as this would ensure neither the Liberal Democrat group, nor the Labour & Independent group, would decrease their number of places on those committees.

The Committee Officer advised that, as only Members of the Parent Committees could recommend changes to committee sizes, he recommended Members proceeded with the agenda as set out to ensure all elements were covered appropriately.

83.1 **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the change to the division of places on Standing Committees, as set out in Report No. FC 3/23, instigated by the change to the political composition of the Council, and to note that, in line with Standing Order 9.1 d), Standing Committees have been duly suspended.

83.2 Councillor Jewell proposed, seconded by Councillor Skegg, and following a vote it was:

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To amend the number of places for Members on all Standing Committees (Strategy & Resources, Leisure Services, and Planning & Community) to 10.

Voting: For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 1

- 83.3 The Committee Officer confirmed that the change in number had created a new Conservative Group place on each Standing Committee, and advised Members that he had received an email from the Leader of the Conservative Group confirming the appointment to be made to those committees.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillor Parvaiz to the Planning & Community Committee to fill the newly created Conservative Group place on the committee.
- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillor Gilder to the Strategy & Resources Committee to fill the newly created Conservative Group place on the committee.
- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillor Soane to the Leisure Services Committee to fill the newly created Conservative Group place on the committee.

84. **SUB COMMITTEE, TASK & FINISH WORKING GROUP AND PARTNERSHIP MEMBERSHIP**

84.1 **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the change to the division of places on sub committees, task and finish working groups and partnerships, as set out in Report No. FC 3/23, instigated by the change to the political composition of the Council, and to note that, in line with Standing Order 9.1 d), these committees have been duly suspended.

- 84.2 Councillor Baker proposed, seconded by Councillor Wicks, and following a vote it was:

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To suspend Standing Orders 2.2.b, 2.2.d, 6.4.2.a, 6.5.3.a, and 6.6.2.a, which require that changes to sub committees, task and finish working groups and partnerships, including changes to size and allocations, are to be made through a resolution at a meeting of the Parent Committee, and to approve that, should a 'quorate' of members from the parent Standing Committees be present, that is to say 3 or 1/3 (whichever is higher), Members of the relevant Standing Committee may consider changing the number of allocated places on committees for which they are the parent committee.

Voting: For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 1

- 84.3 Members of the Strategy & Resources Committee, as the relevant parent committee, considered amending the number of places allocated to Members on the applicable sub committees, and task and finish working groups.

As Members of the parent committee, Councillor Baker proposed, seconded by Councillor Lewis, and following a vote it was:

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To amend the number of places on sub committees and task and finish working groups with a membership of 3 to 4, and with a membership of 5 to 6, as follows:

- Investments Sub Committee (5 to 6)
- Personnel Sub Committee (5 to 6)
- PR & Marketing Sub Committee (5 to 6)
- Risk Management Sub Committee (5 to 6)
- Standing Orders & Financial Regulations Sub Committee (5 to 6)
- Youth Services Task and Finish Working Group (5 to 6)
- Climate Emergency Sub Committee (3 to 4)
- Town Electors Task and Finish Working Group (3 to 4)

Voting: For: 4 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 0

84.4 Members of the Leisure Services Committee, as the relevant parent committee, considered amending the number of places allocated to Members on the applicable sub committees, task and finish working groups, and partnerships.

As Members of the parent committee, Councillor Jewell proposed, seconded by Councillor Horskins, and following a vote it was:

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To amend the number of places on sub committees and task and finish working groups with a membership of 3 to 4, and with a membership of 5 to 6, as follows:
 - Community Youth Partnership (5 to 6)
 - 3G Pitch Steering Group Sub Committee (3 to 4)
 - Allotments Task and Finish Working Group (3 to 4)

Voting: For: 6 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 0

84.5 **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the appointment of the following Councillors to the relevant sub committee, task and finish working group, and partnerships, to fill the newly created Conservative Group place on each committee:
 - Councillor Gilder to the Standing Orders & Financial Regulations Sub Committee.
 - Councillor Horskins to the Youth Services Task and Finish Working Group.
 - Councillor Gilder to the 3G Pitch Steering Group Sub Committee.
 - Councillor Errawalla to the Town Electors Task and Finish Working Group.

[C.O. Note: The Leader of the Conservative Group did not make appointments to other impacted sub committees, task and finish working groups, and partnerships as the above were the only committees due to meet before the end of the current election cycle]

Meeting closed at 8:19 pm