



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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COUNCIL

19 May 2022

7.00 - 7.48 pm

Council Chamber

Minutes

Membership

Councillor Steve Robinson (Chair)

Councillor Paula Baker
Councillor Martin Baxendale
Councillor Natalie Bennett
Councillor Catherine Braun
Councillor Chris Brine
Councillor Martin Brown
Councillor Doina Cornell
Councillor Gordon Craig
Councillor Laurie Davies
Councillor Stephen Davies
Councillor Katrina Davis
Councillor Jonathan Edmunds
Councillor Christopher Evans
Councillor Helen Fenton
Councillor Colin Fryer
Councillor Victoria Gray
Councillor Lindsey Green
Councillor Jessie Hoskin
Councillor Nicholas Housden
Councillor Nick Hurst
Councillor Steve Hynd
Councillor Beki Aldam
Councillor Kate Crews
Councillor Haydn Sutton
Councillor Ashley Smith

*= Absent

Councillor Trevor Hall (Vice-Chair)

Councillor George James
Councillor Julie Job
Councillor Christopher Jockel
Councillor John Jones
Councillor Haydn Jones
Councillor Norman Kay
Councillor Robin Drury-Layfield
Councillor Jenny Miles
Councillor Dave Mossman
Councillor Gill Oxley
Councillor Loraine Patrick
Councillor Keith Pearson
Councillor Nigel Prenter
Councillor Mattie Ross
Councillor Mark Ryder
Councillor Lucas Schoemaker
Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
Councillor Brian Tipper
Councillor Ken Tucker
Councillor Tricia Watson
Councillor Rich Wilsher
* Councillor Jason Bullingham *
* Councillor Martin Percy *
* Councillor Chloe Turner *

Officers in Attendance

Chief Executive
Monitoring Officer
Strategic Director of Resources

Senior Democratic Services & Elections
Officer

CL.001 Chair of Council

Councillor Steve Robinson was nominated for the position of Chair of Council.

RESOLVED That Councillor Steve Robinson be elected Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2022-23.

CL.002 Vice-Chair of Council

Councillors Trevor Hall and Keith Pearson were nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of Council.

On being put to the Vote, Councillor Trevor Hall was appointed as Vice-Chair of Council with 26 votes in favour.

RESOLVED That Councillor Trevor Hall be elected Vice-Chair of Council for the Civic Year 2022-23.

CL.003 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aldam, Bullingham, Crews, Pearcy, Sutton, Turner, and Smith.

CL.004 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

CL.005 Minutes

An amended version of the minutes had been published with a correction to the results of the vote for the Appointment of Independent Persons where there were 37 votes in favour and one abstention. The hardcopies that were posted to Members contained this amendment and the website had also been updated.

Councillor Kay requested that the following was added to CL.052 'Councillor Kay was sorry that Members had focused on the blackboy statue and not at all on the anti-slavery arch of which we should be rightly proud'. The amendment was agreed.

Councillor Ryder requested that the full statement from Councillor Hall was included in the minutes as follows 'Islamophobia is rampant in our society and has been for a long time, so it needs to be challenged. And that's why we need to do it. There is a lot of prejudice against Islamophobia in this country and a lot of it I have to say has come from the Tory party as well.' The amendment was agreed.

Councillor Pearson asked for the following to be included in the minutes, 'Councillor Pearson believed that the cost and responsibility laid with Stroud Town Council and not the entire district'. The amendment was agreed.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2022, including the amendments outlined above, were approved as a correct record.

CL.006 Announcements

The Chair announced that he had presented a plaque to Forest Green Rovers on Sunday 8th May at an event at the Museum in the Park to celebrate their promotion to League One, he thanked all those who had supported the event.

The Leader, Councillor Cornell, advised that the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee had met and the joint bid with the South Gloucestershire College was granted for the Berkeley low carbon training centre. The leader thanked Officers, the College and Nailsworth Climate Action Network Group.

CL.007 Leader and Deputy Leader (Chair and Vice Chair of Strategy & Resources)

Councillor Doina Cornell was nominated for the position of Leader of Council.

Councillor Catherine Braun was nominated for the position of Deputy Leader of Council.

RESOLVED That Councillor Doina Cornell be elected Leader of Council and that Councillor Catherine Braun be elected Deputy Leader of Council for the Civic Year 2022-23.

CL.008 Appointment to Committees

The appointment to committees was agreed as set out below:

Audit and Standards Committee (9 Members)

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy

Councillor Martin Percy

Councillor Paula Baker

Councillor Stephen Davies

Councillor Nick Hurst

Councillor Norman Kay

Councillor Keith Pearson

Councillor Steve Robinson

Councillor Rich Wilsher

Community Services and Licensing Committee (12 Members)

Councillor Chris Brine

Councillor Beki Aldam

Councillor Natalie Bennett

Councillor Gordon Craig

Councillor Kate Crews

Councillor Jonathan Edmunds

Councillor Jessie Hoskin

Councillor Julie Job

Councillor John Jones

Councillor Gill Oxley

Councillor Nigel Prenter

Councillor Ken Tucker

Development Control Committee (12 Members)

Councillor Martin Baxendale

Councillor Helen Fenton

Councillor Chris Brine

Councillor Martin Brown

Councillor Jason Bullingham

Councillor Victoria Gray

Councillor Haydn Jones

Councillor Jenny Miles

Councillor Loraine Patrick

Councillor Mark Ryder

Councillor Lucas Schoemaker

Councillor Ashley Smith

Environment Committee (13 Members)

Councillor Chloe Turner

Councillor Robin Layfield

Councillor Natalie Bennett

Councillor Martin Brown

Councillor Christopher Evans

Councillor George James

Councillor Haydn Jones

Councillor Norman Kay

Councillor David Mossman

Councillor Ashley Smith

Councillor Haydn Sutton

Councillor Brian Tipper

Councillor Tricia Watson

Housing Committee (12 Members)

Councillor Mattie Ross

Councillor Lucas Schoemaker

Councillor Paula Baker

Councillor Laurie Davies

Councillor Trina Davis

Councillor Colin Fryer

Councillor Lindsey Green

Councillor Nick Housden

Councillor Steve Hynd

Councillor Christopher Jockel

Councillor Jenny Miles

Councillor Loraine Patrick

Strategy and Resources Committee (13 Members)

Councillor Doina Cornell

Councillor Catherine Braun

Councillor Chris Brine

Councillor Gordon Craig

Councillor Stephen Davies

Councillor Trevor Hall

Councillor Nick Housden

Councillor Nick Hurst

Councillor Martin Percy

Councillor Keith Pearson

Councillor Mattie Ross

Councillor Ken Tucker

Councillor Chloe Turner

RESOLVED That Councillors be appointed to the Council's committees as set out in these minutes.

CL.009 Appointment of Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs

The following Councillors were nominated and voted into the positions of Chairs and Vice-Chairs on the Council's committees in 2022-23.

Audit and Standards Committee

Chair: Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy

Vice-Chair: Councillor Martin Percy

Community Services and Licensing Committee

Chair: Councillor Chris Brine

Vice-Chair: Councillor Beki Aldam

Development Control Committee

Chair: Councillor Martin Baxendale

Vice-Chair: Councillor Helen Fenton

Environment Committee

Chair: Councillor Chloe Turner

Vice-Chair: Councillor Robin Layfield

Housing Committee

Chair: Councillor Mattie Ross

Vice-Chair: Councillor Lucas Schoemaker

Strategy and Resources Committee

Chair: Leader of Council (Councillor Doina Cornell)

Vice-Chair: Deputy Leader of Council (Councillor Catherine Braun)

RESOLVED That Councillors be appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair to the Council's committees as set out in these minutes.

CL.010 Other Appointments

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Gloucestershire)

Councillor Helen Fenton (Lead)

Councillor Natalie Bennett (Substitute)

Police and Crime Panel (Gloucestershire)

Councillor Martin Percy (Lead)

Councillor Chris Brine (Substitute)

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Chloe Turner (Lead)

Councillor Ashley Smith (Substitute)

Appointment of three Mental Health Champions

Councillors Victoria Gray, Natalie Bennett and Tricia Watson

Appointment of five Members to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

Councillors Gill Oxley, Robin Layfield, Natalie Bennett, Norman Kay, Jonathan Edmunds.

Appointment of three Members, one Parish Council Representative and one Independent Person to the Standards Sub-Committee

Chair of Audit and Standards Committee (Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy)

Vice-Chair of Audit and Standards Committee (Councillor Martin Percy)

Chair of Constitution Working Group (Councillor Keith Pearson)

Parish Council Representative (Muriel Bullock)

Independent Person (Phyllida Pyper)

The Gloucestershire Covid-19 Outbreak Engagement Board had been disbanded, no appointments were made.

RESOLVED That Councillors be appointed to other bodies as set out above.

CL.011 LGA CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE REVISIT FEEDBACK REPORT

The Leader, Councillor Cornell, highlighted key points including:

- A cross-party Member development group would be formed to provide training and information co-designed by Members and look at the Member Induction.
- Encouragement to progress work on community engagement in particular with Town and Parish Councils.
- A further report setting out the action plan would be taken to Strategy and Resources Committee on the 9 June 2022.

In response to a question from Councillor Davies regarding the speed at which payments for the Council Tax rebate had been paid the Leader advised that the Revenue and Benefits team had done their best to get the payments made as soon as possible but there had been issues with the software. She also highlighted other payments that the team had made recently and thanked them for their hard work.

Proposed by Councillor Cornell, seconded by Councillor Braun.

Councillor Braun highlighted the reference to the council having a growing national and regional profile and the development of its reputation in respect of climate change, regeneration and its proactive approach to tackling equality, diversity and inclusion and hoped that this work would be continued.

Councillor Green thanked the Peer Challenge team for the report, she was pleased to see acknowledgement of some issues and looked forward to progress being made on these areas such as Housing. She also expressed an interest in the Member Development Working Group that was due to be formed.

Councillor Haydn Jones noted that there was nothing regarding planning in the recommendations of the Peer Challenge. He stated that planning was really important to residents in the Stroud District and that work needed to be done to improve enforcement, response times and updates provided. He also stated that it should be a priority to work with the Town and Parish Councils and that the Council should be engaging and explaining.

Councillor Davies stated that it was good to have the input from the Peer Challenge and that the Council was doing good things. He also highlighted the improvements that could be made with engagement with Town and Parish Councils.

On being put to the Vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED To welcome the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge feedback report. An action plan based on the recommendations will be considered by the Strategy & Resources Committee on 9 June 2022.

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm

Chair