



EAST  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of East Cambridgeshire District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on Thursday 25 May 2017 at 6.00pm

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## **P R E S E N T**

Councillor Allen Alderson  
Councillor Michael Allan  
Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith  
Councillor David Ambrose Smith  
Councillor Sue Austen  
Councillor Anna Bailey  
Councillor Derrick Beckett  
Councillor Mike Bradley  
Councillor David Brown  
Councillor Steve Cheetham  
Councillor Paul Cox  
Councillor Lorna Dupré  
Councillor Lavinia Edwards  
Councillor Lis Every  
Councillor Elaine Griffin-Singh

Councillor Richard Hobbs  
Councillor Julia Huffer  
Councillor Mark Hugo  
Councillor Bill Hunt  
Councillor Chris Morris  
Councillor Charles Roberts  
Councillor Hamish Ross  
Councillor Mike Rouse  
Councillor Carol Sennitt  
Councillor Alan Sharp  
Councillor Mathew Shuter  
Councillor Stuart Smith  
Councillor Lisa Stubbs  
Councillor Jo Webber

Prior to the commencement of formal business, a one minute silence was observed for the victims of the Manchester Arena bombing and prayers were delivered by the Reverend Mike Banyard, Vicar of the Three Rivers Group of Parishes.

### 1. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions were submitted.

### 2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2017/18**

It was resolved:

That Cllr Peter Cresswell be elected to the office of Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the ensuing Municipal Year 2017/18.

### 3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cresswell, Green, Tom Hunt and Joshua Schumann.

### 4. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2017/18**

It was resolved:

That Cllr Elisabeth Every be appointed as Vice-Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2017/18.

*Vice-Chairman in the Chair*

5. **VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL AND PRESENTATION OF PAST CHAIRMAN'S MEDALLION AND SCROLL**

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Michael Allan, for his devotion and hard work in performing his role as Chairman and his civic/ceremonial duties over the past two years. The Chairman referred to some of the events Councillor Allan had hosted or attended over his period as Chairman of the Council. The Chairman also highlighted the able support provided by Mary Allan as Mayor's consort. On a personal note, she concluded by thanking Councillor Allan for the particular help he had given her as a new Councillor.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Charles Roberts, also paid tribute to Councillor Allan stating that he had been an excellent ambassador representing the Council and residents of East Cambridgeshire and had demonstrated great diligence and care in the role. As a past Chairman, Councillor Hobbs acknowledged and commended the way Councillor Allan had discharged his duties and passed on congratulations/commendations received from other civic leaders in the region.

The Chairman presented Cllr Allan with a framed scroll detailing a resolution of thanks to the outgoing Chairman of the Council, a past Chairman's badge and an East Cambridgeshire District Council pill pot emblazoned with the Council's crest. The Chairman then presented Cllr Allan's wife with a bouquet from the Council as a token of the Council's appreciation for her duties as Consort during his term as Chairman of Council.

Councillor Allan addressed the Council and expressed the honour, privilege and enjoyment he had experienced in undertaking the role and thanked all those who had helped him, including the Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive. He gave particular thanks to his Personal Assistant Lynne Smart and to his wife Mary for acting as his consort over the two years.

Council expressed their appreciation to Councillor Allan with a round of applause.

*Councillor Allan left the meeting.*

6. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

7. **MINUTES**

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 April 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

### Election of former Councillor James Palmer as Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority & Soham North Bye-Election

Following the election of former Councillor James Palmer as Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, the Bye-Election for his vacant Soham North seat will be held on Thursday 22 June 2017 and the Count will take place on that evening at the Walter Gidney Pavilion in Soham.

I am sure that all Councillors would like to join me in congratulating James on his election to this challenging new role and expressing our sincere thanks to him for the outstanding manner in which he has discharged his duties as a Soham District Councillor since 2007 and more recently as Leader of this Council for the past 4 years.

The new Leader of the Council, Councillor Charles Roberts, spoke in tribute about James Palmer. Councillor Roberts likened the relationship between James and himself as Leader and Deputy to a marriage, and referred to all of the stages that such a relationship goes through. But he concluded by saying that, unlike a marriage, there had not been a crossed word or raised voice between them and both of them had a combined purpose of making this Council the most effective and respected that it could be. Councillor Roberts believed that James left the Council in a far stronger position for the future than he had found it, which gave him a tough act to follow.

Councillor Bill Hunt also spoke in tribute to James Palmer and gave an assurance that he would continue his work as the new County Councillor for the Soham South and Haddenham Division.

### Agenda Item 15b – Combined Authority Update Report

Councillors may recall that at the Council meeting on 16 November 2016, as part of the resolutions relating to the establishment of the Combined Authority, it was:

*'agreed in principle, for a protocol requiring the Council Leader and the representative on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report to each meeting of Council setting out the activities and decisions related to their respective roles within the Combined Authority.'*

In accordance with that resolution, this item has been placed on the Agenda and will appear on future Council agendas, to allow the appointees to the Combined Authority to give an update on the activities of the Combined Authority body they are serving on and answer any questions from Councillors on the subject.

## Committee Meetings following this Council meeting

Please can I remind Members to stay behind at the conclusion of this Council meeting, as there will be a series of 'mini' Committee meetings to elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, appoint Sub-Committees, etc, and Service Delivery Champions for the forthcoming year.

### 9. **PETITIONS**

No petitions had been received.

### 10. **MOTIONS**

No motions were received under Council Procedure Rule 10.

### 11. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

No questions had been received from Members.

### 12. **LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF COUNCIL, GROUP LEADERS AND DEPUTY GROUP LEADERS**

The Council received a report, R1, regarding details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Political Groups, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders for the forthcoming municipal year.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that since the publication of the agenda, the Council had been notified that Cllr Charles Roberts had been appointed as the Leader of the Conservative Group and Cllr Anna Bailey had been appointed as the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

It was resolved:

That the details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Political Groups; Group Leaders and Deputies for the forthcoming municipal year, as set out below, be noted:

#### Conservative

Cllr Charles Roberts (Leader)  
Cllr Anna Bailey (Deputy)

#### Liberal Democrat

Cllr Lorna Dupré (Leader)  
Cllr Sue Austen (Deputy)

In accordance with Article 2.03(b), the declared Leader of the Council is Cllr Charles Roberts as Leader of the Conservative Group. In accordance with Article 2.03(c), the declared Deputy Leader of the Council is Cllr Anna Bailey as Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

### 13. **POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

The Council received a report, R2, which gave details of the political balance of the Council and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies. Members' attention was drawn to the revised Appendix 2 tabled at the meeting which indicated that the Conservative

Group Leader had provided a seat from the Conservative Group allocation on Planning Committee and Resources and Finance Hearings Sub-Committee to accommodate Councillor Beckett as the only Independent unaligned Councillor. This required a Nem Con vote as an alternative arrangement to the proportionality calculations.

It was resolved (by a unanimous vote):

That Council notes the details of the political balance of the Council as set out in Appendix 1 and approves the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies as set out in the revised Appendix 2 to the report tabled at the meeting.

14. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES (INCLUDING SUBSTITUTES) AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2017/18**

Council received a report, R3, for Members to consider the appointment of Members and Substitute Members to Committees, Sub-Committees and to other Member Bodies for 2017/18. Members were referred to the revised recommendations and amended Appendix 1 to the report that were tabled at the meeting, moved by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Bailey as follows:

Council is requested to:

- (i) Revise the membership of the Local Plan Working Group from 8 to 6 Members, specifically 5 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat;
- (ii) Approve the Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies for 2017/18 as set out in the revised Appendix 1 tabled at the meeting.

Councillor Dupré moved an amendment that was seconded by Councillor Austen as follows:

That the membership of the Local Plan Working Group be revised from 8 to 7 Members, specifically 5 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent unaligned Member.

Speaking in support of her amendment, Councillor Dupré stated that the proposal to remove Councillor Beckett from the Local Plan Working Group was disappointing as he had made a very valuable contribution to the work of this Group and it was important not to lose someone with such expertise in the field of Planning at this critical time in the development of the Local Plan. In response, the Leader of the Council stated that this was in no way a reflection on the performance of any individual on the Working Group, but that the reduction in numbers was in line with the reduced numbers on Committees resulting from the Committee re-structuring. Councillor Dupré commented that the difference between 6 and 7 Members was not significant, and the Working Group would benefit from including someone with the level of experience of Councillor Beckett for such an important piece of work that would shape the District for decades to come. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was declared to be lost.

Upon being put to the vote, the original motion was declared to be carried.

It was resolved:

That Council:

- (i) Revises the membership of the Local Plan Working Group from 8 to 6 Members, specifically 5 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat;
- (ii) Approves the Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies for 2017/18 as set out in the revised Appendix 1 tabled at the meeting.

15. **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY**

a. Appointments to Combined Authority

Council considered a report, R4, requesting the Council to make appointments to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2017/2018.

Members noted the allocation of seats to this Council on the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees, based on the proportionality calculations and arrangements for substitute members.

It was resolved:

- 1. That the following appointments be made to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2017/18:
  - (a) the Leader of Council Councillor Charles Roberts to act as the Council's appointee to the Combined Authority and the Deputy Leader of the Council Councillor Anna Bailey to act as the substitute member;
  - (b) Councillors Mike Bradley and Alan Sharp from the Conservative party to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Councillors Julia Huffer and Chris Morris as substitute members from the same political party as those appointed;
  - (c) Councillor Chris Morris from the Conservative party to the Audit and Governance Committee and Councillor Alan Sharp as substitute member from the same political party.
- 2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any amendments to the appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee, if the political balance is amended by the Combined Authority between now and the next Council meeting.

b. Combined Authority Update Report

Council received an oral report from Councillor Roberts on the on the activities of the Combined Authority Board. He stated that he intended to provide a written report in future to full Council and was to be appointed to the Highways and Infrastructure Portfolio at the Annual Board meeting on 31 May 2017.

Councillor Sharp gave the following oral report on the activities of the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

‘The Shadow Committee has met twice since its inception. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee came into effect on 8th May 2017 after the mayoral election. The Combined Authority will formally appoint the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its AGM on 31st May. The Shadow Committee has had initial discussions about the way that the Committee will work in terms of reviewing decisions and proposals of the Combined Authority. I would expect that this will be discussed further at the next meeting on 26th June. I will continue to keep Council updated on the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.’

It was resolved:

That the reports on the activities of the Combined Authority from the Council’s appointees be noted.

The meeting concluded at 6.38pm.

Chairman.....

Date: