

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY, 10 MAY 2022

Councillors Present in the Second Floor Meeting Area: Rick Jones (Chairman), Alan Law (Vice-Chairman), Adrian Abbs, Steve Ardagh-Walter, Phil Barnett, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Jeff Brooks, Jeff Cant, Hilary Cole, James Cole, Jeremy Cottam, Carolyne Culver, Lee Dillon, Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, Clive Hooker, Gareth Hurley, Owen Jeffery, Tony Linden, Royce Longton, Ross Mackinnon, Alan Macro, Thomas Marino, David Marsh, Steve Masters, Geoff Mayes, Biyi Oloko, Graham Pask, Erik Pattenden, Claire Rowles, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Martha Vickers, Tony Vickers, Keith Woodhams and Howard Woollaston.

Also Present: Honorary Aldermen Paul Bryant, Adrian Edwards, Graham Jones and Quentin Webb, Honorary Alderwoman Emma Webster, Nigel Lynn (Chief Executive), Sue Halliwell (Executive Director (Place)), Joseph Holmes (Executive Director (Resources)), Andy Sharp (Executive Director (People)), Sarah Clarke (Service Director for Strategy and Governance and Monitoring Officer) and Vicki Yull (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Jeff Beck, Councillor Nassar Hunt, Councillor Andy Moore, Councillor Garth Simpson and Councillor Andrew Williamson, Honorary Aldermen Keith Chopping and Andrew Rowles.

PART I

1. Chairman's Remarks

Councillor Clive Hooker thanked Councillor Rick Jones, the Vice-Chairman, and Mrs Val Jones, the Vice-Chairman's Lady, for their support over the previous year. Councillor Hooker noted that Councillor Jones had stood in for him on a number of occasions and had done a magnificent job on his behalf in representing the Council. He also thanked Councillor Graham Pask who had stood in for both Councillor Hooker and Councillor Jones due to ill health. Councillor Hooker also expressed gratitude to the Chairman's Lady, Mrs Christine Hooker, who he said had been a supportive, patient and wonderful companion when accompanying him at many of the civic events he had attended.

Councillor Hooker referred to the gathering in Shaw House in May 2021 to film his and Councillor Jones Declarations of Acceptance of Office and the exchanging of chains. This had later been shown at the Annual Council meeting and was the first time a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council had been installed via a video. He explained it had been undertaken in this manner due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the Covid pandemic.

Councillor Hooker thanked Sarah Clarke, the Monitoring Officer, and Shiraz Sheikh, the Deputy Monitoring Officer, for their support, advice and briefings before and during Council meetings. He also thanked Jo Watt, Georgia Marshall and Vicki Yull for managing his diary and providing him with general assistance. Councillor Hooker referred to the change in Chief Executive during his term of office, and wanted to record his thanks to the previous Chief Executive, Nick Carter, for his services to West Berkshire Council.

Councillor Hooker noted that the past year had seen a slow and steady recovery from the Covid pandemic which had been reflected in the reduced number of civic functions he

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had attended (55 in total). He commented that things had slowly reverted back to some normality, but the pandemic was still impacting on the way the Council operated with many staff continuing to work from home. He noted that most of the Council's meetings were being broadcast live on YouTube which had encouraged engagement with the public. Councillor Hooker thanked all Council staff for their patience, dedication and commitment through the transition period, and having run the business of Council in an efficient, caring and professional manner for the benefits of all residents in West Berkshire.

Councillor Hooker then referred to the civic functions he had attended during the year, many of which had been managed and staffed by volunteers. He wished to thank them for dedicating their time and commitment to the organisations and charities they had chosen to support. The volunteering theme had been reflected in the Community Champions Award Scheme, with some of the winners having dedicated their lives to organising events to raise large amounts of money to fund their chosen causes.

Since the last Council meeting in March Councillor Hooker had attended eight functions, including the swearing in of the new High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire, Alka Kharbanda, in the Crown Court in Reading. Councillor Hooker was sure that members joined him in wishing her well in the office over the next year. He also expressed gratitude to Willie Hartley Russell, the outgoing High Sheriff, who had served the county unfailingly during his time in office.

Councillor Hooker noted that Councillor Pask, whilst deputising, had planted a tree in Bucklebury on behalf of the Council as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Tree planting initiative.

Councillor Hooker then referred to some memorable occasions for him which included:

- Welcoming The Princess Royal to Berkshire for the British Horse Society Awards at Newbury Racecourse.
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Service of Thanksgiving at Reading Minster.
- The Reading and West Berkshire Motor Neurone Disease Association gathering at Englefield House.
- The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service ceremony at the home of the Lord-Lieutenant.
- The Newbury Remembrance Day Service in Market Square, and the Remembrance Service at RAF Welford.

Councillor Hooker ended by stating it had been an honour to represent West Berkshire on behalf of West Berkshire Council over the past year, and thanked members for the trust placed in him to carry out the role of Chairman. He said it had been a wonderful experience and a privilege.

Councillor Lynne Doherty, Leader of the Council, thanked Councillor Hooker on behalf of all Members for his excellent service as Chairman over the last year, and for the preceding two years as Vice-Chairman. Councillor Doherty also thanked the Chairman's Lady for her support to the Chairman during his terms of office.

2. Presentations

The Chairman made a presentation to Councillor Hilary Cole who had achieved 15 years' service to the Council.

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The Chairman explained that Councillor Cole was first elected in 2007 to the former Chieveley Ward and had remained in office since that time. Over the years Councillor Cole had been involved with waste, countryside, emergency planning, trading standards, environmental health (now the JPP), leisure & culture, customer services, planning, adult social care, economic development, housing, transformation, and strategic partnerships. Councillor Cole had been Deputy Leader of the Council from 2017 to 2019, Vice-Chairman of Council in 2008, and had chaired the Safer Communities sub-partnership from 2009 until becoming an Executive Member. As Portfolio Holder for Countryside she had also chaired the (now defunct) Greener sub-partnership.

Councillor Cole stated she had enjoyed every minute of being both a Ward Member for Chieveley and an Executive Member. It had been a pleasure and a privilege for her to serve both West Berkshire Council and her residents, and she thanked the Chairman for the honour of the long service award.

The Chairman made a presentation to Councillor Jeremy Cottam who had achieved 15 years' service to the Council.

The Chairman explained that Councillor Cottam was first elected in 1988 after winning a by-election in the former Thatcham West Ward. He continued to serve in that Ward until 1997 when he won the election standing in the former Thatcham East Ward. Councillor Cottam had chosen to stand down in the 2000 elections but came back to the Chamber in the 2019 elections when he was successfully elected to the Thatcham North East Ward. Councillor Cottam was also Chairman of Council in the 1999/2000 Municipal Year.

Councillor Cottam thanked the public and the residents of West Berkshire for their confidence and allowing him to serve them. He thought all Members had stood for election with the intent to make West Berkshire a better place to live and he hoped, little by little, the Council was managing to do that.

The Chairman made a presentation to Councillor Alan Law who had achieved 15 years' service to the Council.

The Chairman explained that Councillor Law was first elected in 2007 and had successfully served in office in the Basildon Ward ever since. Councillor Law was currently Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission, Chairman of the District Planning committee, and a member of the Eastern Area Planning Committee. He had held the Portfolio for Planning twice, from 2008 to 2012 and from 2015 to 2016, and was also the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economic Development and HR from 2012 to 2015. Councillor Law had represented the Council as a partner governor on The Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust and was a founding Member of the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP. Councillor Law had gotten involved in local politics when a large developer had wanted to build 50 plus houses in two fields in his village, and he and his wife had produced the first Parish Plan for Streatley in 2005. Protecting and enhancing the rural environment and way of life was a key political motivation for Councillor Law.

Councillor Law stated he had always planned to have a second 'mini' career following retirement but had not thought it would be as a councillor. He thanked his predecessor and other councillors for encouraging him to stand for election to the Council, and expressed gratitude to the voters of Basildon for electing him four times.

The Chairman made a presentation to Councillor Graham Pask who had achieved 35 years' service to the Council.

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The Chairman explained that Councillor Pask was first elected in 1987 and had successfully served in office in the Bucklebury Ward ever since. Councillor Pask had been both Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Environment Committee, the Group Leader in the mid-90s for six years, and the Opposition Spokesman for Children and Young People and then Adult Social Care. He had been the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, and then Partnerships and Community Safety. Councillor Pask was Chairman of Council in 2010/2011 and 2019/2020-2020/2021, and a member of Thatcham and then Eastern Area Planning Committee, chairing the Planning Committee latterly. He had been Chairman of the Bucklebury Common Advisory since 1987 and Snelsmore Common from the early 1990s.

Councillor Pask noted that there had been various iterations of the Bucklebury Ward and that it had also changed parishes occasionally. He thanked residents for their support at elections, and said he had tried to do his best for his residents, to listen and try to represent their point of view. It had been an honour and a privilege for him to have served and still be serving his residents in Bucklebury and the four parishes he currently represented.

Finally, the Chairman paid tribute to the Chairman's Lady, Mrs Christine Hooker, for her support, encouragement and patience which had enabled him to carry out the role of Chairman over the last year. He stated she had been a wonderful companion and had joined him at many events. He also paid tribute to the officers who had supported him during his time in office.

3. Election of the Chairman for the Municipal Year 2022/2023 (C4205)

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Clive Hooker that Councillor Rick Jones be elected Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2022/2023. There were no further nominations.

Councillor Doherty in proposing Councillor Jones for the role of Chairman stated that he had been involved in local politics for many years, firstly at a Parish level where he served as Chairman of Purley-on-Thames Parish Council for nine years. He had gone on to join West Berkshire Council via a by-election in January 2015, a process he successfully repeated in May 2015 when he secured his seat as a Ward Member for Tilehurst and Purley.

Councillor Doherty considered Councillor Jones to be a kind person who always tried to see all points of view and give them the consideration they deserved. During his time on the Council he had been actively involved in the People Directorate, holding Portfolios in adult social care and health and wellbeing. As the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board Councillor Jones had shown endless patience and open mindedness, traits which Councillor Doherty felt sure would stand him in good stead over the coming year.

Despite stepping down from the Executive in 2019, Councillor Jones had continued to offer support in the health and wellbeing area, most notably through the work he had done promoting meaningful engagement with local communities in the voluntary sector. Councillor Bridgman had also expressed his gratitude to Councillor Jones for the foundation work he had done in setting up the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Councillor Jones had, in the last year, been Chairman of the Licencing Committee, deputy to the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio, and an active member of the Governance

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and Ethics Committee. Councillor Doherty noted he had done all of this whilst continuing to serve his residents in Tilehurst and Purley and being the Vice- Chairman of Council.

Councillor Doherty had no doubt that Councillor Jones would make an excellent representative for Council as he performed the duties of Chairman over the coming year, and she was sure that Members would welcome him into the role.

Councillor Hooker stated that it gave him great pleasure to second this nomination. He fully endorsed the Leader's comments regarding Councillor Jones' qualities and suitability for the role of Chairman. Councillor Hooker noted that Councillor Jones had been exceptional in the role of Vice-Chairman and had fulfilled many obligations on behalf of the Council without question. His personality was one of calmness, fairness, quiet confidence, and he got on well with all people he interacted with. Councillor Hooker felt these were important qualities for the Office. He felt Councillor Jones, when deputising for him, had chaired Council meetings with fairness and neutrality, coupled with a gentle but firm control, and he was confident that Councillor Jones would continue to take that forward over the next twelve months.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rick Jones be elected as Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

The Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Chairman thanked the Council for electing him which he regarded as an honour, and he appreciated the confidence and trust placed in him to fulfil the requirements of the role. He committed to acting fairly when chairing Council meetings, and to represent and promote the Council as proactively as possible.

On behalf of all Members, Councillor Jones thanked the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Clive Hooker, for his diligent work and effort in representing the Council. He also thanked Mrs Christine Hooker for the support she had given to the Chairman over the past year.

4. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2022/2023 (C4206)**

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

In response to this request Councillor Alan Law was nominated by Councillor Lynne Doherty and the nomination was seconded by the Chairman. There were no further nominations.

Councillor Doherty in proposing Councillor Law for the role of Vice-Chairman stated that he had been a very active Member of the Council for 15 years and she was therefore pleased to nominate him. In all the roles that Councillor Law had performed to date he was known for speaking his mind whilst being fair and open to new suggestions. Councillor Doherty believed those traits as well as his experience would make him an excellent support to the Chairman over the coming year.

The Chairman, in seconding the nomination, welcomed the support and guidance that Councillor Law would provide in the role given his knowledge and experience.

Councillor Lee Dillon indicated that his Group would abstain from the vote to appoint Councillor Law as Vice-Chairman of the Council.

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RESOLVED that Councillor Alan Law be appointed as Vice-Chairman of Council for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

The Vice-Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Vice-Chairman thanked the Leader of the Council for nominating him and those Members of Council who had voted in favour of his appointment. He looked forward to supporting the Chairman throughout the forthcoming Municipal Year.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Tony Linden declared an interest in Agenda Item 13, Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Main Modifications Consultation, and reported that, as his interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, he determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

Councillor Tony Vickers referred to his recent resignation from Greenham Parish Council. This resulted in there being no conflict of interest for him with regards to Agenda Item 12, Community Governance Review relating to Parish of Greenham. He raised this as a matter of information for Members and not for the purpose of making a declaration of interest.

Councillor Claire Rowles declared an interest in Agenda Item 13, Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Main Modifications Consultation, and reported that, as her interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, she determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

6. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2022 were approved as a true and correct record subject to the removal of Councillor Adrian Abbs personal interest as a Trustee of Stroke Care Newbury & West Berkshire.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2022 were approved as a true and correct record.

Both were signed by the Chairman.

7. **Appointment of the Executive by the Leader of the Council for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year (C4207)**

Councillor Lynne Doherty, Leader of the Council, announced the appointment of Members to the Executive for 2022/2023 as follows:

Leader of Council District Strategy and Communications	Councillor Lynne Doherty
Deputy Leader of Council Health and Wellbeing	Councillor Graham Bridgman
Adult Social Care	Councillor Jo Stewart
Children, Young People	Councillor Dominic Boeck

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and Education	
Planning, Transport and Countryside	Councillor Richard Somner
Environment and Transformation	Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter
Finance and Economic Development	Councillor Ross Mackinnon
Housing, Leisure and Culture	Councillor Howard Woollaston
Internal Governance and Strategic Partnerships	Councillor Tom Marino

Councillor Doherty paid tribute to Councillor Hilary Cole who had stepped down from her Executive role. Councillor Doherty highlighted that Councillor Cole had been an active member of the Executive for 13 years and referred to the extensive list of portfolio responsibilities Councillor Cole had taken on during that time. Councillor Doherty, as Leader of the Council, thanked Councillor Cole for her service to the Executive, and also personally thanked her for her valued friendship.

Councillor Doherty welcomed Councillor Thomas Marino to the Executive. She noted that Councillor Marino had been elected in 2019 and had been active since then on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission and as Chairman of the Governance and Ethics Committee. Councillor Doherty felt that Councillor Marino would bring fresh thinking and new ideas to the role and his portfolio areas.

Councillor Doherty referred to some smaller changes to the Executive with Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter having taken on the Council's transformation agenda and Councillor Howard Woollaston having taken on housing.

Councillor Doherty thanked the Executive for their tireless work over the previous Municipal Year and said a special thank you to the Deputy Leader of Council, Councillor Graham Bridgman, for his support.

Councillor Lee Dillon passed on the thanks and well wishes of his Group to Councillor Hilary Cole.

Councillor Graham Bridgman thanked the Leader on behalf of the Council for her time and effort during the last year.

8. **Appointment of and Allocation of Seats on Committees for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year (C4202)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 9) concerning the appointment and allocation of seats on Committees for the next Municipal Year in accordance with the duty under section 15 of the Local Government Housing Act, and which sought to agree the Council's Policy Framework for 2022/2023 as set out in paragraph 5.20 of the report.

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An amended version of the report had been circulated on 5 May 2022 with changes made to paragraphs 2.11 and 5.27 to confirm the Independent Persons appointed for 2022/2023. Appendices A and B for the report had been originally marked as to follow and were circulated on 9 May 2022.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Lee Dillon:

“That the Council:

- (1) notes that under paragraph 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, notice has been received that the Members set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report are to be regarded as Members of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Green Party Groups respectively.
- (2) agrees to the appointment of the various Committees and to the number of places on each as set out in paragraph 5.4 of the report (Table A).
- (3) agrees to the allocation of seats to the Political Groups in accordance with section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1989 as set out in paragraph 5.12 of the report (Table B).
- (4) agrees that the number of substitutes on Committees and Commissions be as set out in paragraph 5.15 of the report (Table C).
- (5) in respect of the District and Area Planning Committees, agrees that the substitute Members are all drawn from Members representing wards within the Committee’s area who are not appointed to the Committee. Where substitutes attend the District Planning meeting they need to be drawn from the same Area Planning meeting as the Member they are substituting for.
- (6) approves the appointment of Members to the Committees as set out in Appendix A and notes the appointments set out in Appendix B which are in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.
- (7) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended, agrees that the Council’s Policy Framework for 2022/23 be as set out in paragraph 5.20 of the report, and that any necessary amendments be made to the Council’s Constitution.
- (8) notes that other plans, policies and strategies requiring approval which are not included in the approved Policy Framework and which are not otherwise reserved by law to Council, will be the responsibility of the Council’s Executive in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.
- (9) notes that Paragraph 2.6.5 of Article 6 will be amended to reflect any changes made to the Executive by the Leader of the Council at the Annual Council meeting.
- (10) agrees the appointment of two non-voting co-opted Parish/Town Councillors to the Governance and Ethics Committee as detailed in Appendix A to the report.
- (11) appoints three Independent Persons (standards) namely Lindsey Appleton, Alan Penrith and Mike Wall and to appoint an Independent Person (Audit) to focus on the risk and audit functions of the Governance and Ethics Committee.
- (12) notes the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in Appendix A to the report.
- (13) delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any changes required to the Constitution as a result of the changes to the number of Members of the Council and following the appointments to Committees.”

Councillor Doherty commented that a minor amendment was needed in respect of Appendix A to reflect that Councillor Lee Dillon would become a substitute member for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission and that Councillor Adrian Abbs

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would replace him as a full member. Councillor Doherty thanked Members for their contributions and work on the various Committees.

Councillor Lee Dillon in seconding the report echoed the Leader's comments. He concluded with a plea for Opposition representation on the Joint Public Protection Committee.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

9. **Appointments to Outside Bodies 2022/2023 (C4203)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 10) concerning the annual nominations to the following Outside Bodies:

- Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
- Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel
- Local Government Association General Assembly

Appendix A to the report had originally been marked as to follow and was circulated on 9 May 2022.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Lynne Doherty and seconded by Councillor Lee Dillon:

"That the Council:

- (1) approves the appointments in accordance with Appendix A of Member representatives to the following outside bodies:
 - Royal Berkshire Fire Authority – Councillors Dennis Benneyworth, Jeff Brooks, Tony Linden and Biyi Oloko.
 - Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel – Councillor Claire Rowles.
- (2) note the appointments as detailed in Appendix A of Member representatives to the:
 - Local Government Association General Assembly – Councillors Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Lee Dillon and Lynne Doherty."

Councillor Lynne Doherty stated there had been no changes apart from the nomination of Councillor Biyi Oloko to the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

10. **Monitoring Officer's Annual Report to the Governance and Ethics Committee 2021/2022 (C4152)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 11) which provided an update on local and national issues relating to ethical standards, brought to the attention of Members any complaints or other problems within West Berkshire, and presented the Annual Governance and Ethics report. An amended version of the report was circulated on 5 May 2022 with changes made to paragraphs 5.9 and 5.10 regarding Independent Persons appointed for 2022/2023.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Howard Woollaston and seconded by Councillor Tom Marino:

"That the Council notes the content of the report which would be circulated to all Parish / Town Councils in the District for information."

Councillor Woollaston introduced the Annual Monitoring Officer's report to the Governance and Ethics Committee (which had already approved it). It confirmed that the

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standards of ethical conduct across the district remained good and that the number of gifts and hospitality remained low as per the previous year.

Councillor Woollaston confirmed the report would be circulated to all Town and Parish Councils if approved. The report summarised the members of the Governance and Ethics Committee including the Independent Persons, explained its Terms of Reference, and outlined the Advisory Panel.

Councillor Woollaston noted there had been a total of 32 complaints submitted during 2021/2022 of which 27 were decided as 'without foundation'. Of the 32 complaints, 20 were against District Councillors and the remainder against Parish Councillors. Two complaints were still under investigation, with the number of complaints having remained low and similar to the previous year.

Councillor Tony Linden requested an update on the recruitment and appointment of the Independent Persons for the Advisory Panel. The Monitoring Officer confirmed the appointee details were set out in the amended version of the report. It was noted that the recruitment for the Independent Person for audit was still ongoing.

Councillor Linden then highlighted the importance of Members adhering to the Code of Conduct.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

11. **Community Governance Review relating to Parish of Greenham (C4216)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 12) which set out the requirements and procedure to undertake a community governance review (CGR) of the Greenham Parish (consisting of Common Ward and Sandleford Ward), following a formal request from Greenham Parish Council and in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and associated government guidance. An amended version of the report and Appendix B had been circulated on 5 May 2022.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Howard Woollaston and seconded by Councillor Tony Vickers:

"That the Council:

- (1) proceeds with a CGR of the parish of Greenham, in accordance with the requirements of the 2007 Act and associated guidance, as described in the report.
- (2) approves the terms of reference in respect of the community governance review, including the proposed timetable, as set out in Appendix B to the report.
- (3) delegates authority to the Governance and Ethics Committee to consider and approve draft proposals following initial consultation.
- (4) delegates authority to the Service Lead – Legal & Democratic Services to approve minor amendments and/or typographical amendments pertaining to the final recommendations prior to submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission, save for the power to make substantive amendments which is delegated to the Governance and Ethics Committee.
- (5) delegates authority to the Service Lead - Legal & Democratic Services to exercise powers under the 2007 Act in relation to the CGR.

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Councillor Woollaston in introducing the report referred to previous expectations that Sandleford would be developed by 2023. This had resulted in Councillor Tony Vickers being elected as a Ward Member for Sandleford by default given there were only six electors at the time and he was unopposed. Councillor Woollaston believed the proposals in the report would have cross party support, whilst noting that the recent appeal decision to grant planning consent for Sandleford could result in this decision being revisited for either the 2027 or 2031 local elections.

Councillor Vickers added further to this by noting that the issue began with the allocation of Newbury Racecourse and Sandleford as strategic housing sites in the 2012 Local Plan. Councillor Vickers highlighted that around 90% of the 1,500 new homes at Newbury Racecourse were in Greenham and already had a separate Polling District. It was his understanding that it was a simple matter to transform a Polling District to a Parish Ward and that it would be uncontroversial given that around 2,000 voters would live there by May 2023 (one third of the total number of voters in Greenham).

Outline consent for two thirds of the expected 1,500 homes in Sandleford had been granted only the week prior to this Council meeting, and Councillor Vickers confirmed that half of these would be in Newbury. He had first raised the matter of the impact on Parish boundaries in 2012 with the (then) Chairman of Greenham Parish Council, and they had agreed that Sandleford needed to be under a single local council to ensure a cohesive community. Councillor Vickers spoke to officers regarding the possibility of a CGR at that time, but a request to review the District Ward boundaries as a result of the increase to Greenham's population was not submitted until 2015.

Councillor Vickers advised that Parish electoral arrangements could not be adjusted until the district review had been completed. Weeks before the Boundary Commission finalised their proposals in December 2017 the planners had been insistent that Sandleford could deliver 500 homes by 2023. This had resulted in the allocation of five Parish Councillors to the Greenham part of the Newbury Wash Common District Ward early in 2018 but no candidates were put forward for those positions in the local elections in 2019.

Councillor Vickers argued that, without this Motion, the same situation would occur in 2023 (and possibly in 2027) as he found it unlikely that enough new homes would be built in the Greenham part of the development until after that time. He noted that other developments could come forward in the current Sandleford Parish Ward in the meantime and so it should not be removed entirely, but the reallocation of residents to the new Racecourse Ward was a sensible resolution to this matter.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

12. **Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Main Modifications Consultation (C4182)**

Councillor Tony Linden declared an interest in this item by virtue of the casual work he undertakes at Chieveley Service Station. As his interest was personal and not a prejudicial or a disclosable pecuniary interest, he determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

Councillor Claire Rowles declared an interest in this item by virtue of living alongside the River Lambourn. As her interest was personal and not a prejudicial or a disclosable

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pecuniary interest, she determined to remain to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 13) which set out how, following the submission of the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) for Independent Examination under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 in July 2021, and the subsequent examination Hearing Sessions in February 2022, the Inspector had, at the request of the Council, recommended a number of Main Modifications to the plan in order for it to be found sound. The report also presented the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the MWLP and supporting documentation and outlined recent advice from Natural England affecting the MWLP examination. The report also sought approval for the Main Modifications and supporting documents to be subject to public consultation, prior to the Inspector making final recommendations on whether the MWLP can be adopted.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Richard Somner and seconded by Councillor Hilary Cole:

“That the Council:

- (1) grants delegated authority to the Service Director (Development and Regulation) to:
 - (i) Agree any necessary amendments to supporting documentation for consultation and any other typographical, presentational, and consequential wording changes to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan prior to publication, in consultation with the Portfolio member for Planning, Transport and Countryside.
 - (ii) Publish the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and supporting documents for a six week period in accordance with the West Berkshire Statement of Community Involvement and Section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
 - (iii) Following public consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications, consider and summarise the responses received and forward to the Inspector for consideration.
- (2) agrees that, following the receipt of a favourable report from the Inspector recommending adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, the Plan be brought back to full Council for adoption.”

Councillor Somner began his presentation by thanking the officers involved for the considerable amount of time and work that had gone in to creating the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The Plan would provide the planning framework for minerals and waste development in West Berkshire; set out the long term vision for minerals and waste development to 2037, and; set out the policy context for assessing planning applications for minerals and waste development in the district. Councillor Somner confirmed that the Plan would replace all previous policies.

Following the submission of the Plan for independent examination under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations, and the subsequent examination hearing sessions in February 2022, the Inspector had, at the request of the Council, recommended a number of Main Modifications to the Plan in order for it to be found appropriate.

Councillor Somner set out how the purpose of this report was to agree the present schedule of proposed Main Modifications to the Plan and supporting documentation, and to outline very recent advice from Natural England affecting the Plans examination. Approval was sought from Council for the Main Modifications and supporting documents

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to be subject to public consultation prior to the Inspector making final recommendations on whether the Plan could be adopted.

Councillor Alan Macro indicated his Group would be supporting this Motion and added his thanks to officers for their work on this.

Councillor Hilary Cole advised that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan was vital to ensure the Council had a sound approach and she hoped the proposed Main Modifications would, following consultation, allow the Inspector to recommend it for adoption. Councillor Cole expressed her personal disappointment at the manner in which the recent advice from Natural England regarding projects and plans affecting protected sites was delivered with no prior notification or consultation. This had resulted in additional detailed work being required of officers and was not the way she expected a quango to communicate with partner agencies.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

13. **Member Development Programme 2022/2023 (C4212)**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 14) setting out the proposed Member Development Programme for 2022/23 which had been considered and endorsed by the Member Development Group on 7 April 2022.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Howard Woollaston and seconded by Councillor Clive Hooker:

“That the Council considers the proposed draft Member Development Programme and ensuing resource implications and approves the Programme for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.”

Councillor Woollaston introduced the annual report recommending the Member Development Programme. He confirmed it had been developed by officers in conjunction with representatives from all three political parties. Councillor Woollaston believed it was incumbent on Members to ensure they were kept abreast of developments and of the Council's business. The report proposed a total budget of £5k for member training and he invited Council to approve the Programme.

Councillor Hooker noted that the cross party Member Development Group met twice a year and held rigorous discussions to formulate a balanced training programme for all Members. He believed the draft Programme was broad and educational and invited Council to approve it.

Councillor Lee Dillon highlighted that members could receive training in their employment which replicated the training on offer to them as Councillors. He suggested this could be logged with those Councillors being released from the requirement to attend Council-provided sessions.

14. **Licensing Committee**

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Licensing Committee had not met.

15. **Personnel Committee**

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Personnel Committee had not met.

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16. Governance and Ethics Committee

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Governance and Ethics Committee had met on 25 April 2022.

17. District Planning Committee

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the District Planning Committee had met on 13 April 2022.

18. Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission had met on 22 March 2022.

19. Health Scrutiny Committee

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Health Scrutiny Committee had met on 5 April 2022.

20. Health and Wellbeing Board

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Health and Wellbeing Board had not met.

21. Joint Public Protection Committee

The Council noted that, since its last meeting, the Joint Public Protection Committee had not met.

(The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and closed at 8.30 pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature