

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday 26 April 2021 by Live Stream, commencing at 6.30pm.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillor Helen Sprawson-White (Chair)

Councillors Rob Ayres, Alison Barkshire, Eve Berry, Adam Boyden, Shannon Brooke, Josh Burr, Simon Carswell, John Clarke, Shane Collins, Nick Cottle (Deputy Chair), Jon Cousins, Michael Dunk, Drew Gardner, Michael Gay, Peter Goater, John Greenhalgh, Philip Ham, Francis Hayden, Bente Height, Steve Henderson, Edric Hobbs, Damon Hooton, Chris Inchley, Helen Kay, Garfield Kennedy, Tom Killen, Liz Leyshon, Barbi Lund, Lindsay MacDougall, Matt Martin, Janine Nash, Barry O'Leary, Sam Phripp, Richard Pinnock, Mike Pullin, Lois Rogers, Tom Ronan, Heather Shearer, Lucie Taylor-Hood, Alan Townsend, Laura Waters, Nigel Woollcombe-Adams and Ros Wyke

OFFICERS PRESENT:

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| Tracy Aarons | Deputy Chief Executive |
| Richard Bates | Section 151 Officer |
| Stuart Brown | Chief Executive |
| Dave Burn | Interim Democratic Services Manager |
| David Clark | Head of Law and Governance Services and Monitoring Officer |
| Claire Dicken | Democratic Services Officer |
| Lesley Dolan | Principal Lawyer and Practice Manager SHAPE Legal |
| Claire Malcolmson | Head of Community Health Services |
| Julie Reader-Sullivan | Head of Planning and Growth Services |
| Ben Sugg | Democratic Services Officer |
| Haylee Wilkins | Head of Neighbourhood Services and Assistant Chief Executive |

| Agenda Item | Subject | Actioned by |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| | The Chief Executive welcomed everyone to the meeting. The order of the items was altered as follows: | |
| 5 | Election of Chair of the Council Councillor Helen Sprawson-White had declared an interest in this item and had left the meeting for the consideration of it. | |

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| | <p>The Chief Executive asked for nominations for Chair of the Council.</p> <p>Councillor Ros Wyke nominated Councillor Helen Sprawson-White to be the Chair of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Josh Burr. There were no other nominations.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Councillor Helen Sprawson-White be appointed Chair of the Council for the 2021/22 municipal year.</p> | |
| 1 | <p>Chair's Opening Comments and Thought of The Day</p> <p>Councillor Helen Sprawson-White returned to the meeting.</p> <p>She thanked Members for their support and said it would be a continuing privilege to serve as the Chair of the Council.</p> <p>Thought for the day: Community leadership is the courage, creativity and capacity to inspire participation, development and sustainability for strong communities – Gustav Nossal.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nigel Hewitt-Cooper and Terry Napper.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Recent Chair's Engagements, Communications and Announcements</p> <p>Due to COVID 19 there had been no Chair's engagements since the last meeting.</p> <p>The Chair asked Members to note that for reasons of purdah, the Leader of the Council would not have a 'Leader's Update' slot on the agenda. However, the</p> | |

Leader of the Council had asked that the following statement be read aloud:

“Annual Council is often a period of reflection for many of us, and this year more than ever we reflect on an unprecedented 12 months that hopefully none of us will ever have to experience again.

Yet despite the undoubted sadness, trauma and anxiety of the last year, I cannot help but be overwhelmed by the way that we have all responded to the Covid pandemic, as individuals, as communities, as a nation, and as an organisation.

I know that I also speak on behalf of our Chief Executive, Stuart Brown, when I say that neither he or I ever dreamt of being in a position where we had to, almost overnight, insist that all of our hard working staff had to vacate the Council Offices and work from home, indeed with no indication of when they might be able to return.

It was a truly extraordinary moment in the history of our Council, but the way that we have responded to the challenge has been nothing short of incredible.

Not only have we responded positively to the challenges of remote working, but we have all (staff and Members alike) dealt with many personal challenges too, whether that's caring for ourselves, our families, our friends, or even for some, home schooling our children.

In addition to the myriad of personal challenges, our staff have also risen to the challenge of supporting our Council's response to the pandemic through assisting with the Vaccination Hub and Test Centres, administering the much needed business grants, assisting our communities with food supplies, and ensuring the continuity of our many essential services.

I am very proud of what this Council has achieved through this seemingly relentless pandemic, and I am proud of our Officers for their ability to adapt to an often weekly changing working environment in order to support our residents, communities and businesses.

For all of these reasons, I have discussed with our Chief Executive and agreed to recognise these extraordinary efforts by way of providing each member of staff with a 'Thank You Day' on behalf of all of us Councillors, as a small token of our appreciation.

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| | <p>I would like our Officers to consider taking this day on either Somerset Day (11 May), or either side of the Bank Holiday at the end of May, or indeed on their Birthday. But whatever day they choose to take, I would like them to consider doing something for themselves, and for their own wellbeing and happiness.</p> <p>As I say, a ‘Thank You Day’ represents just a small token of our appreciation for the work that our staff have done under the challenging circumstances of the last year, but I hope that all Members will support the action I have taken to reflect this”</p> | |
| <p>6</p> | <p>Election of Deputy Chair of The Council</p> <p>The Chair of the Council sought nominations for the election of the Deputy Chair of the Council.</p> <p>Councillor Ros Wyke nominated Councillor Nick Cottle to be Deputy Chair of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Barry O’Leary. There were no other nominations.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Councillor Nick Cottle be appointed the Deputy Chair of the Council for the 2021/22 municipal year.</p> | |
| <p>7</p> | <p>Public Participation</p> <p>a) Items on the agenda: None</p> <p>b) Items not on the agenda:</p> <p>1) Claire Hudson had requested to speak in order to introduce herself as Chair at Citizens Advice Mendip. She explained how the service was funded and how it helped many people with a wide range of services such as advice on numerous issues including debt and housing, and helping in practical areas such as providing food banks.</p> | |

2) Barbara Saunders had requested to speak on the topic of the redevelopment of the former Greencore site in Evercreech 2020/1793/OTS. She said she spoke on behalf of a local residents group called Greencore Action. She said they welcomed the redevelopment of the site. However, they were concerned that the proposed density of the housing would have a catastrophic impact on the village. They hoped that the land could include employment land. They particularly hoped that the old creamery could be retained and reused for employment purposes. They noted that other sites within Mendip had successfully retained older buildings as part of redevelopment schemes.

3) Candace Kendall had requested to speak on the topic of EV (electrical vehicle) charging points and expansion of the facility as Frome grew. She welcomed the introduction of EV charging points. However, she pointed that if the country was to meet the target of half of all cars being electric the Council would need to provide many more charging points including on-street points. She hoped that the Somerset County Council and the District Council Planning Services would be able to work together on such a project. She offered her own help and expertise to the Council.

The Chair offered to pass Ms Kendall's contact details to the Councillors and Officers who were taking the lead in the EV Charging Points project.

4) Cath Wilkins from We Hear You (WHY) had requested to speak on the topic of WHY's counselling services across Mendip and how it would be returning to normal, post Covid. She explained how the service helped anyone who had been impacted by cancer including patients, family members and children of all ages. They were able to help people with counselling and support at any point during their journey in coping with cancer. They offered

online services as well as traditional therapies. All of their services were given free of charge.

The Chair offered to circulate details of WHY to all Councillors and Officers.

5) Rob Reed had requested to speak on the topic of Multi-Use Paths in Mendip. He said he represented a group which was concerned with finding a way to provide a multi-use path between Shepton Mallet and Evercreech. He said he was delighted the Council had made multi-use paths a priority. He hoped the provision of CPOs would be a helpful tool. He was concerned there did not appear to have been any progress made on giving permission for the stretch of land adjacent to the Mendip District Council campus which would help link the paths. He hoped that the Council would be able to give this consideration in due course.

6) Councillor Pablo Foster of St Cuthbert Out Parish Council had requested to speak on the topic of the democratic right of residents and charge payers in Somerset to be consulted when changes to local government are being mooted by central government. He felt that local residents should be given the opportunity for a referendum. He said consulting via the internet in a rural county with an ageing population, with poor access to the internet was not a feasible alternative to a postal plebiscite. He said the Stronger Somerset campaign made a move towards gaining an assent to changes in how local government should operate in a genuine democracy.

The Chair thanked all of the speakers for their contribution.

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| <p>8</p> | <p>Previous Minutes of Council</p> <p>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 22 February 2021 were considered.</p> <p>Councillor Sam Phripp proposed that the previous minutes be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Liz Leyshon and carried.</p> <p>The Leader of the Opposition said that where Councillors had asked for information it was important that answers are given.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2021 be approved.</p> | <p>Claire Dicken</p> |
| <p>9</p> | <p>Scrutiny Board Annual Report 2020-21</p> <p>The Chair of the Scrutiny Board introduced a report which stated the purpose of the Board was to support the work of the Council and Cabinet by performing its role as a 'critical friend'; it had carried out this role to test and challenge, in a positive way, the actions of the Council so that the public could have assurance that decision making by the Council had been done in the best interests of its residents.</p> <p>During the previous year, Scrutiny Board Members had received and examined quarterly performance reports. As part of the performance monitoring Members had fed in their thoughts and observations on the way that the Council's performance monitoring was reported, and this has led to alterations in the material published.</p> <p>The Chair of the Scrutiny Board thanked the Councillors and Officers who had helped with the scrutiny process.</p> <p>It was recommended that the Council note the annual report of the Scrutiny Board for 2020/21</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the annual report of the Scrutiny Board of 2020/21 be noted.</p> | <p>Tracy Aarons</p> |

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| <p>10</p> | <p>Planning Board- Review of the Year</p> <p>The Chair of the Planning Board introduced a report which stated that the Planning Board had fulfilled their on-going commitment to making service improvements and keeping both Members, customers and residents informed. The report outlined the Service's performance across a range of Development Management indicators. Some of the performance indicators were statutory requirements and published nationally and others were published in the report for transparency and information purposes. Given the circumstances over the last year, it was testament to the hard work of the Planning Team that statutory targets had been exceeded.</p> <p>The Chair of the Planning Board thanked the Officers for the support they had given the service.</p> <p>He said he would give a written response to any questions Members had.</p> <p>It was recommended that the Council note the report of the Planning Board for 2020/21</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Planning Board annual review of 2020/21 be noted.</p> | <p>Julie Reader-Sullivan</p> |
| <p>11</p> | <p>Licensing Board Review of The Year</p> <p>The report was introduced by the Chair of the Licensing Board. It stated that throughout the year the team had worked extremely hard. Early in the pandemic the team had to stop accepting applications for new drivers as the application process required a face to face knowledge test. However, the team adapted the process quickly so that this could be done virtually without any compromise to the safety of the travelling public thus making Mendip the only Council in the County accepting applications from new drivers.</p> <p>The virtual world had been embraced, with Licensing Board meetings, Sub-Committee hearings, Safety Advisory Groups, Multi-Agency Partnership Meetings, Safeguarding Training for drivers, Staff 1-2-1's and even an interview under caution were conducted virtually.</p> | <p>Claire Malcolmson</p> |

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| | <p>Members were pleased to note that during the pandemic licences had been turned around within 14 days in order to support the businesses and the communities.</p> <p>Councillors and Officers were thanked for the support they had given the licensing service.</p> <p>In response to queries the Chair of Licensing agreed to ask Officers to encourage taxi drivers not to wait with their engines running.</p> <p>It was recommended that the Council note the report of the Licensing Board 2020/21</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Licensing Board annual review of 2020/21 be noted.</p> | |
| <p>12</p> | <p>Calendar of Public Meetings 2021/22</p> <p>A report had been prepared that set out the calendar of meetings for the forthcoming year</p> <p>The schedule of meetings was similar to the previous year. Efforts had been made to avoid conflicts with meetings of the County Council and the Parish/Town Councils within the district. Meetings of the full Council had also been scheduled to fall outside of school holidays.</p> <p>Public events such as the Glastonbury Festival and the local Carnival season had been taken into consideration, albeit these events had been cancelled as a result of the pandemic.</p> <p>One change to note was the Licensing Board would meet quarterly rather than bi-monthly.</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer said that Councils were waiting to hear the result of a court case being brought by the LLG and ADSO on whether virtual meetings could be permitted to continue.</p> | <p>Helen Bowen</p> |

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| | <p>Members noted there were some benefits to virtual meetings. But hybrid meetings would be welcome going forward, as long as the technology good enough.</p> <p>The report recommended that Council approve the calendar of public meetings for May 2021 to May 2022</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the calendar of public meetings for 2021/22 be approved.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>13</p> | <p>Committee Memberships for the 2021/22 Municipal Year</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>a) That the following Councillors appointed by the Leader as Members of Cabinet, be noted.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 943 1177 1659"> <tr> <td>Cllr Ros Wyke</td> <td>Leader of Mendip District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Barry O’Leary</td> <td>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Finance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Josh Burr</td> <td>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Tom Ronan</td> <td>Portfolio Holder for Strategic Policy and Climate Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Simon Carswell</td> <td>Portfolio Holder for Economic Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Liz Leyshon</td> <td>Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Projects</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Garfield Kennedy</td> <td>Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development Management</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Richard Pinnock</td> <td>Portfolio Holder for Housing Services and Governance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Heather Shearer</td> <td>Portfolio Holder for Community Health Services</td> </tr> </table> <p>Cabinet Assistants:</p> <p>Cllrs Drew Gardner, Edric Hobbs, Lucie Taylor-Hood and Laura Waters</p> | Cllr Ros Wyke | Leader of Mendip District Council | Cllr Barry O’Leary | Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Finance | Cllr Josh Burr | Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services | Cllr Tom Ronan | Portfolio Holder for Strategic Policy and Climate Change | Cllr Simon Carswell | Portfolio Holder for Economic Development | Cllr Liz Leyshon | Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Projects | Cllr Garfield Kennedy | Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development Management | Cllr Richard Pinnock | Portfolio Holder for Housing Services and Governance | Cllr Heather Shearer | Portfolio Holder for Community Health Services | <p>David Clark</p> |
| Cllr Ros Wyke | Leader of Mendip District Council | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cllr Barry O’Leary | Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Finance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cllr Josh Burr | Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cllr Tom Ronan | Portfolio Holder for Strategic Policy and Climate Change | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cllr Simon Carswell | Portfolio Holder for Economic Development | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cllr Liz Leyshon | Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Projects | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cllr Garfield Kennedy | Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development Management | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cllr Richard Pinnock | Portfolio Holder for Housing Services and Governance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cllr Heather Shearer | Portfolio Holder for Community Health Services | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

RESOLVED

b) That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Scrutiny Board.

| Liberal Democrat Members (7) | Conservative Members (3) | Green Party Members (3) | Ind Member (1) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cllr Nick Cottle | Cllr Philp Ham | Cllr Michael Dunk | Cllr Chris Inchley |
| Cllr Adam Boyden | Cllr Terry Napper | Cllr Barbi Lund | |
| Cllr Janine Nash | Cllr Nigel Woolcombe-Adams | Cllr Alison Barkshire | |
| Cllr Lois Rogers | | | |
| Cllr Sam Phripp | | | |
| Cllr Lucie Taylor-Hood | | | |
| Cllr Damon Hooton | | | |

Substitutes:

Councillors Edric Hobbs, two vacancies
Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, Eve Berry, Mike Pullin
John Clarke, Michael Gay

Councillor Damon Hooton proposed Councillor Chris Inchley be Chair of the Scrutiny Board. This was seconded by Councillor Sam Phripp. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Chris Inchley be appointed Chair of the Scrutiny Board

Councillor Janine Nash proposed Councillor Barbi Lund be Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Board. This was seconded by Councillor Philip Ham. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Barbi Lund be appointed Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Board

- c) That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Licensing Board.

| Liberal Democrat Members (8) | Conservative Members (3) | Green Party Members (3) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cllr Sam Phripp | Cllr John Greenhalgh | Cllr Michael Dunk |
| Cllr Simon Carswell | Cllr Bente Height | Cllr Francis Hayden |
| Cllr Nick Cottle | Cllr Shannon Brooke | Cllr Lindsay MacDougall |
| Cllr Damon Hooton | | |
| Cllr Garfield Kennedy | | |
| Cllr Barry O'Leary | | |
| Cllr Lois Rogers | | |
| Cllr Helen Sprawson-White | | |

Councillor Barry O'Leary proposed that Councillor Sam Phripp be Chair of the Licensing Board. This was seconded by Councillor Simon Carswell. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Sam Phripp be appointed Chair of the Licensing Board.

Councillor Damon Hooton proposed that Councillor Simon Carswell be Deputy Chair of the Licensing Board. This was seconded by Councillor Garfield Kennedy. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Simon Carswell be appointed Deputy Chair of the Licensing Board.

d) That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Planning Board

| Liberal Democrat Members (7) | Conservative Members (4) | Green Party Members (3) | Ind Member (1) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cllr Damon Hooton | Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper | Cllr Lindsay MacDougall | Cllr Steve Hendersor |
| Cllr Adam Boyden | Cllr Eve Berry | Cllr Helen Kay | |
| Cllr Nick Cottle | Cllr Alan Townsend | Cllr Francis Hayden | |
| Cllr Edric Hobbs | Cllr Nigel Woollcombe-Adams | | |
| Cllr Matt Martin | | | |
| Cllr Lucie Taylor-Hood | | | |
| Cllr Laura Waters | | | |

Substitutes:

Councillors Lois Rogers, Janine Nash, vacancy
Mike Pullin, Tom Killen
Michael Dunk, John Clarke, Barbi Lund

Councillor Lucie Taylor-Hood proposed that Councillor Damon Hooton be Chair of the Planning Board. Councillor Matt Martin seconded this proposal. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Damon Hooton be appointed Chair of the Planning Board

Councillor Lucie Taylor-Hood proposed that Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper be Deputy Chair of the Planning Board. Councillor Nick Cottle seconded this proposal. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper be appointed Deputy Chair of the Planning Board.

e) That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Audit Committee

| Liberal Democrat Members (4) | Conservative Members (2) | Green Party Members (2) | Co-opted Member |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr Rob Ayres | Cllr John Greenhalgh | Cllr Michael Gay | Philip Gait |
| Cllr Janine Nash | Cllr Alan Townsend | Cllr Jon Cousins | |
| Cllr Adam Boyden | | | |
| Cllr Matt Martin | | | |

Substitutes:

Councillors Sam Phripp, Laura Waters
Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, Philp Ham
Francis Hayden, Alison Barkshire

Councillor Matt Martin proposed that Councillor Rob Ayres be Chair of the Audit Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Jon Cousins. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Rob Ayres be appointed Chair of the Audit Committee

Councillor Matt Martin proposed that Councillor Michael Gay be Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Jon Cousins. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Michael Gay be appointed Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee

Urgent Business

The Chair agreed that the following item should be considered as urgent business in order to ensure membership was approved in time for the first meeting:

f) That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee

| Liberal Democrat Members (4) | Conservative Members (2) | Green Party Members (2) |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cllr Richard Pinnock | Cllr Nigel Woolcombe-Adams | Cllr Shane Collins |
| Cllr Heather Shearer | Cllr Tom Killen | Cllr Jon Cousins |
| Cllr Nick Cottle | | |
| Cllr Sam Phripp | | |
| Independent Person: Shirley Eden | | |

14

Review of Member Representation on Boards, Committees, Partnerships and Bodies

Helen Bowen

Democratic Services had prepared a report which stated each year the Council was required to nominate Members to represent Mendip District Council on various committees, joint committees, partnerships, companies and outside bodies.

In the summer of 2020, Members had been surveyed about their participation in their nominated bodies. During this 2020 review it had become evident that several bodies had ceased to operate or had merged/evolved into other bodies. This gave the Council an opportunity to review the arrangement and give consideration as to which non-executive bodies should continue to receive representation.

The following arrangements were agreed:

Membership of Outside Bodies dealing with non-executive matters:

| Body | Representation |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Joint Waste Scrutiny of Somerset Waste Board | Cllrs Adam Boyden and Michael Dunk |
| PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) | Cllr Sam Phripp |

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| Adjudication Joint Committee | |
| Police and Crime Panel | Cllr Heather Shearer |
| Somerset Rivers Authority Joint Scrutiny Committee | Cllrs Jon Cousins and Janine Nash |
| Cranborne Chase & West Wilts Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | Cllr Francis Haydon |
| Mendip Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership Committee | Cllr Lucie Taylor-Hood |
| Mendip CAB | Cllr Simon Carswell |
| Mendip YMCA | Cllr Drew Gardner |
| Wessex Water | Cllr Garfield Kennedy |
| Somerset NHS Foundation Trust | Cllr Heather Shearer |
| Bristol Water Challenge Panel | Cllr Michael Gay |
| Somerset Building Preservation Trust | Cllr Peter Goater |

It was agreed that the following organisations should be removed from the arrangements:

- Community Education Advisory Committee, Strode College
- Mendip Quarry Advisory Group
- Mendip Refugee and Migrant Forum (now part of the Equalities Group)
- East Mendip Health Forum
- Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors (now the Somerset NHS Foundation Trust)
- Bristol Water Local Engagement Forum (now the Bristol Water Challenge Panel)
- Somerset Partnership NHS (now the Somerset NHS Foundation Trust)
- West Mendip Health Forum
- Somerset Levels and Moors Leader Programme

RESOLVED

To note the findings of the Outside Body review and to appoint representatives as listed above.

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| <p>15</p> | <p>Proposed Changes to the Council’s Constitution and Annual Confirmation</p> <p>A report had been prepared by the Monitoring Officer which stated that pursuant to Section 4 of the Council’s Constitution the Council was required to confirm the Constitution for the coming year (including the Scheme of Delegation to Officers set out in Section 18) and approve any changes.</p> <p>Council was asked to confirm the Constitution, including the amendments outlined in the report.</p> <p>It was noted that the Standards Committee had considered the proposed changes to the Constitution and recommended that the changes be approved.</p> <p>With regard to some of the proposed changes some Members were concerned that they may not have as many opportunities to ask questions or raise issues at public meetings as before.</p> <p>In addition to this there was a discussion about the Council’s complaints process. The Monitoring Officer said he could let Members have further information on this outside of the meeting.</p> <p>One Member said it would have been useful for members of the Licensing Board to discuss proposed changes to the arrangements in the Constitution for them.</p> <p>Councillor John Greenhalgh proposed that ref 10.3.3 go back to the Licensing Board for further debate.</p> <p>There continued to be concern about adequate Member engagement at meetings of Full Council.</p> <p>Councillor Tom Killen proposed that the Council confirm the current constitution, but defer a decision on the suggested changes until further consideration had been given to them. Councillor Eve Berry seconded the proposal.</p> <p>Councillor Greenhalgh withdrew his proposal.</p> <p>The Chair of the Standards Committee confirmed that the Committee had a long and detailed debate about the suggested changes before recommending them to full Council. He pointed out that the Standards Committee was made up of all the groups and included senior and experienced Members.</p> | <p>David Clark</p> |
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| | <p>The Leader of the Council suggested that the item be withdrawn and reconsidered at the next meeting.</p> <p>The meeting took a five minute break at this stage.</p> <p>When the meeting reconvened the Leader of the Council proposed that the current Constitution be approved but that the suggested changes be referred back to the Standards Committee for reconsideration.</p> <p>Councillor Edric Hobbs seconded the proposal.</p> <p>Councillor Tom Killen withdrew his proposal.</p> <p>The proposal to approve the current Constitution be approved but that the suggested changes be referred back to the Standards Committee for reconsideration was carried with four abstentions.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the suggested amendments to the Constitution as submitted be referred back to the Standards Committee for reconsideration and that the Council reverts back to the existing version of the Constitution until further notice.</p> | |
| <p>16</p> | <p>Temporary Appointment of Members to Town and Parish Councils</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer had prepared a report which stated that there were occasions where due to resignations or lack of applications for vacancies at an election, a Parish, Town or City Council was unable to operate because it was inquorate. Under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council had power to make an Order appointing temporary members to a Parish Council where due to the number of vacancies the Council could not function.</p> <p>The appointees would usually be the local district ward or county division members and it was good administrative practice to adopt a procedure for delegating these appointments and the making of the necessary Order to a senior officer, so they could be made promptly where necessary rather than waiting for the next scheduled meeting of Full Council.</p> | <p>David Clark</p> |

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| | <p>Accordingly, the procedure set out in the report authorising the Chief Executive to make an Order in consultation with Group Leaders, was recommended for approval.</p> <p>In response to queries the Monitoring Officer explained that this delegation could only be used in circumstances when a Parish, Town or City Council within the District was inquorate and could not function.</p> <p>Members asked the Monitoring Officer to confirm if the Council had ever used this power in the past. The Monitoring Officer committed to providing the answer to this question after the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Josh Burr proposed that the recommendation be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Drew Gardner</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the responsibility for making temporary appointments to inquorate Parish, Town and City Councils along with the making of the necessary Order be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders in line with the procedure set out in the report. 2. That the Constitution be amended to include the recommended delegation as a function of the Chief Executive at Section 19 Part B of the Constitution. | |
| <p>17</p> | <p>Motions to the Council</p> <p>None</p> | |
| <p>18</p> | <p>Questions from the Public</p> <p>None</p> | |

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| 19 | Questions from Members None | |
| 20 | Urgent Business None apart from the Membership of the Standards Committee which had been dealt with during consideration of item 13. | |

The meeting closed at approximately 8.45 pm

DRAFT