

Annual Meeting of the Council

Minutes - 16 May 2018

Attendance

Mayor Cllr Phil Page (Lab)
Deputy Mayor Cllr Claire Darke (Lab)

Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Harbans Bagri
Cllr Harman Banger
Cllr Mary Bateman
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE
Cllr Payal Bedi-Chadha
Cllr Peter Bilson
Cllr Alan Bolshaw
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Ian Brookfield
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Alan Butt
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Jasbinder Dehar
Cllr Steve Evans
Cllr Val Evans

Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Val Gibson
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre
Cllr Celia Hibbert
Cllr Keith Inston
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Roger Lawrence
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Hazel Malcolm
Cllr Asha Mattu
Cllr Barbara McGarrity
Cllr Louise Miles
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi

Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Peter O'Neill
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr John Rowley
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE
Cllr Caroline Siarkiewicz
Cllr Stephen Simkins
Cllr Clare Simm
Cllr Mak Singh
Cllr Paul Sweet
Cllr Jacqueline Sweetman
Cllr Martin Waite

Conservative

Cllr Simon Bennett
Cllr Christopher Haynes
Cllr Sohail Khan
Cllr Paul Singh

Cllr Udey Singh
Cllr Jane Stevenson
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Jonathan Yardley

Employees

Keith Ireland
Kevin O'Keefe
Mark Taylor
Claire Nye
Laura Phillips
Tim Johnson
Emma Bennett
David Watts
Meredith Teasdale
Jaswinder Kaur

Managing Director
Director of Governance
Strategic Director - People
Director of Finance
Head of Business Management
Deputy Managing Director/Strategic Director - Place
Director of Children's Services
Director of Adult Services
Director of Education
Democratic Services Manager

The proceedings opened with Prayers

Item No. Title

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Angus and Arun Photay.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 Minutes of previous meeting

The retiring Deputy Mayor proposed, the Leader seconded, and it was resolved:

That the minutes of the previous extraordinary meeting and ordinary meeting, held on 28 March 2018, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the Deputy Mayor.

4 To elect a Mayor

It was proposed by Councillor Milkinder Jaspal, seconded by Councillor Linda Leach that Councillor Phil Page be elected as Mayor of the Council for the ensuing year.

Resolved:

That Councillor Phil Page be elected as Mayor for the 2018 - 2019 municipal year, having made the declaration of office prescribed by the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having been invested with the Mayor's Chain of Office and Robe.

5 To appoint a Deputy Mayor

It was proposed by Councillor Mike Hardacre, seconded by Councillor Craig Collingswood that Councillor Claire Darke be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the Council for the ensuing year.

Resolved:

That Councillor Claire Darke be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2018 - 2019 municipal year, having made the declaration of office prescribed by the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having been invested with the Deputy Mayor's Chain of Office and Robe.

6 To pass a vote of thanks to the late Mayor and Mayoress

A vote of thanks for the retiring Late Mayor, Councillor Elias Mattu, was moved by Councillor John Reynolds and seconded by Councillor Wendy Thompson.

The Mayor presented Councillor Asha Mattu with their medallions of office and the resolution of thanks.

Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman responded to the vote of thanks on behalf of Councillor Asha Mattu.

Resolved:

That the Council expresses to the Late Elias Mattu and Councillor Asha Mattu its grateful appreciation of their work and service as Mayor and Mayoress of the City during the 2017-2018 municipal year.

7 **To receive a return of the Councillors elected on 3 May 2018**

The Director of Governance reported the names of the Councillors elected to office on the 3 May 2018 as follows:

Ward	Name	Party
Bilston East	Councillor Stephen Simkins	Labour
Bilston North	Councillor Phil Page	Labour
Blakenhall	Councillor Jasbinder Dehar	Labour
Bushbury North	Councillor Alan Butt	Labour
Bushbury South and Low Hill	Councillor Paul Sweet	Labour
East Park	Councillor Keith Inston	Labour
Ettingshall	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi	Labour
Fallings Park	Councillor Steve Evans	Labour
Graiseley	Councillor Asha Mattu	Labour
Graiseley	Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman	Labour
Heath Town	Councillor Caroline Siarkiewicz	Labour
Merry Hill	Councillor Simon Bennett	Conservative
Oxley	Councillor Susan Roberts MBE	Labour
Oxley	Councillor Clare Simm	Labour
Park	Councillor Craig Collingswood	Labour
Penn	Councillor Celia Hibbert	Labour
Spring Vale	Councillor Barbara McGarrity	Labour
St Peters	Councillor Obaida Ahmed	Labour
Tettenhall Regis	Councillor Sohail Khan	Conservative
Tettenhall Wightwick	Councillor Jane Stevenson	Conservative
Wednesfield North	Councillor Mary Bateman	Labour
Wednesfield South	Councillor Greg Brackenridge	Labour

Resolved:

That the return of Councillors elected on the 3 May 2018 be noted.

8 **Welcome new Councillors and to move the vote of thanks to former Councillors**

The Mayor made the following announcements and highlighted forthcoming civic events:

1. Keith Ireland

The Mayor reported that after nearly four years as Managing Director of the City of Wolverhampton Council, Keith Ireland, was leaving the Council to take on a new challenge as the Chief Executive of Lincolnshire County Council.

The Mayor added Keith had been a visionary and inspirational leader of council staff. He had made a major contribution, supporting the Leader and Cabinet, to deliver a major programme of service transformation. This received national endorsement and acclaim at last year's prestigious MJ local government achievement awards. The Council had won the coveted Local Authority of the Year award as well as Senior

Leadership Team of the Year, Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny and Most Improved Council.

The Mayor added working with the Leader, Keith also helped the City raise its profile at a regional level as the Programme Director responsible for delivering the West Midlands Combined Authority and first regional Devolution Deal. A massive programme which was delivered to tight timescales and was now paying huge dividends to the city and region.

On behalf of Full Council, the Mayor thanked Keith for his exemplary service to the City and the Council and wished Keith all the very best in his new endeavours.

2. Wolves Promotion Party

The Mayor was delighted to report that 80,000 people enjoyed glorious sunshine on Bank Holiday Monday as the City celebrated Wolves promotion to the Premier League in style. The Council were delighted to work alongside the football club to organise the biggest party Wolverhampton had ever seen. A civic reception, open top bus parade and party in West Park complete with a performance from Beverley Knight made it a wonderful day which saw the whole city come together.

3. Le Tour de Bilston

The Mayor was delighted to report that Le Tour de Bilston took place on Saturday 12 May 2018 at Bilston Market. The cycling fundraiser organised by WV Active Bilston-Bert Williams with Rotary Club of Bilston and Wolverhampton West and Discover Bilston was on target to raise £6k for the refurbishment of the town's war memorial.

4. Forthcoming Civic events.

Armed Forces Day

The Mayor reported that the City would be marking Armed Forces Day between 25 and 30 June. The week would begin with a flag-raising ceremony at 11am on Monday 25 June at the flagpole on the piazza, which would signify the build-up to an Armed Forces Day event in the City Centre on Saturday 30 June.

Civic Sunday

The Mayor informed Councillors of the arrangement for Civic Sunday service which was taking place on Sunday 3 June at 11:15am at the Collegiate Church of St Peter.

The Mayor welcomed Councillors Jasbinder Dehar, Alan Butt, Beverley Momenabadi, Asha Mattu, Simon Bennett, Susan Roberts MBE, Clare Simm, Celia Hibbert, Barbara McGarrity, Obaida Ahmed, Sohail Khan and Jane Stevenson to the Council, and expressed the Council's appreciation of the service provided by former Councillors.

Resolved:

That the Council place on record its appreciation of the valuable service rendered to the City by former Councillors Andrew Johnson, Judith Rowley, Julie Hodgkiss, Darren Warren, Christine Mills, Pat Patten, Andrew Wynne, Ian Claymore, Tersaim Singh, Malcolm Gwinnet and Barry Findlay.

9 Political balance, appointment of the Cabinet, appointments to Scrutiny and Regulatory and other Committees, and appointments to outside bodies for 2018 - 2019

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented a report (appendices one to six were tabled) on the appointment of the Cabinet and Cabinet Panels, the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels, Regulatory and other Committees, and representation on Joint Authorities/Committees and outside bodies.

Councillor Roger Lawrence proposed the recommendations and Councillor Alan Bolshaw seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the political composition of the Council, and how this was applied to appointments to Council bodies be approved.
2. That the appointment, by the Leader of the Council, of Councillors to the Cabinet, the specified lead Cabinet Member roles and Cabinet Panels be approved.
3. That the appointment of Councillors to the Scrutiny Board, and Scrutiny Panels, including Chairs and Vice-chairs be approved, subject to any vacancies being determined by the Labour Group as detailed in the Appendix 3 to the report.
4. That the appointment of Councillors to Regulatory, Oversight and other Committees and advisory groups, including Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and the appointment of Councillor Champions, be approved.
5. That the appointments to Joint Authorities/Committees and Outside Bodies, including lead, substitute lead and voting Councillors be approved.

10 West Midlands Joint Committee

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented the report on West Midlands Joint Committee for approval. The report sought approval of a unifying resolution to dissolve the West Midlands Joint Committee and the new arrangements for managing the remaining residual business of the Committee once the Committee was dissolved. The report also sought approval to establish a Joint Executive Committee with the other six Councils within the West Midlands for the purpose of airport decisions known as West Midlands Shareholders Airport Committee.

Councillor Roger Lawrence proposed the recommendations and Councillor Peter Bilson seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the dissolution of the West Midlands Joint Committee be agreed, for the reasons set out in the Cabinet report.
2. That it be agreed to set up a Joint Executive Committee with the other six Councils within the West Midlands for the purpose of airport decisions known as West Midlands Shareholders Airport Committee in accordance within the terms of reference set out at Appendix 4 to the Cabinet report.
3. That the proposals for managing the remaining residual business of the West Midlands Joint Committee once it is dissolved as set out in Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report be agreed.
4. That the Monitoring Officer will set out all relevant changes to the Council's Constitution at a future meeting of Full Council in order to enact recommendations 1 and 2 be noted.
5. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to negotiate, execute and complete all legal documents necessary to support and deliver the above recommendation.

11 **Recruitment of Head of Paid Service**

Councillor Roger Lawrence presented the report on recruitment of Head of Paid Service for approval. The report sought approval for all aspects of the recruitment and selection process and to create a Special Appointments Committee, to appoint the Head of Paid Service. A delegation was also sought for the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Head of Human Resources, to make any interim arrangements as necessary until the new Head of Paid Service was in post.

Councillor Roger Lawrence proposed the recommendations and Councillor Peter Bilson seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Roger Lawrence and Councillor Wendy Thompson paid tribute to the Managing Director, they thanked the Managing Director, Keith Ireland for his service to the Council and the City.

Resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Head of Human Resources to:

1. Approve that the post of Head of Paid Service, currently designated Managing Director, was advertised in such a way as to bring it to the attention of persons qualified to apply for it, following the resignation of the current post holder.
2. Determine the Job title (e.g. Managing Director or Chief Executive) after receiving advice from Penna, the Recruitment Agency supporting the process.
3. Approve the creation and composition of a Special Appointments Committee to appoint the Head of Paid Service, on a politically balanced basis, in accordance with the Constitution.
4. To make any necessary Interim arrangements, as required, whilst the recruitment and selection process for the permanent appointment is undertaken.