

# Annual Meeting of the Council

Minutes - 15 May 2019

## Attendance

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

## Labour

Cllr Obaida Ahmed  
Cllr Harman Banger  
Cllr Mary Bateman  
Cllr Philip Bateman MBE  
Cllr Payal Bedi-Chadha  
Cllr Peter Bilson  
Cllr Olivia Birch  
Cllr Paul John Birch J.P  
Cllr Alan Bolshaw  
Cllr Greg Brackenridge  
Cllr Ian Brookfield  
Cllr Paula Brookfield  
Cllr Alan Butt  
Cllr Craig Collingswood  
Cllr Jacqui Coogan

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar  
Cllr Steve Evans  
Cllr Val Evans  
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal  
Cllr Dr Michael Hardacre  
Cllr Celia Hibbert  
Cllr Keith Inston  
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal  
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal  
Cllr Rashpal Kaur  
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur  
Cllr Roger Lawrence  
Cllr Linda Leach  
Cllr Hazel Malcolm  
Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN

Cllr Beverley Momenabadi  
Cllr Lynne Moran  
Cllr Anwen Muston  
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 Jacqueline Sweetman  
Cllr Martin Waite

## Conservative

Cllr Paul Appleby  
Cllr Simon Bennett  
Cllr Jonathan Crofts  
Cllr Christopher Haynes  
Cllr Sohail Khan

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

## Employees

Tim Johnson  
Mark Taylor  
Emma Bennett  
John Denley  
Richard Lawrence  
Kate Martin  
Claire Nye  
Meredith Teasdale  
Tracey Christie  
Jaswinder Kaur

Managing Director  
Deputy Managing Director  
Director of Children's Services  
Director of Public Health  
Director of Regeneration  
Director of City Housing  
Director of Finance  
Director of Education  
Chief Legal Officer  
Democratic Services Manager

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The proceedings opened with Prayers

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*Item No.*      *Title*

**1      Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Craig Collingswood, Asha Mattu, Louise Miles and Paul Sweet.

**2      Declarations of interest**

Tracey Christie declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 – Interim Appointment of Monitoring Officer as she was directly impacted by the recommendations.

**3      Minutes of previous meeting**

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

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 3 April 2019, be agreed as a correct record and signed accordingly by the retiring Mayor.

**4      To elect a Mayor**

It was proposed by Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE, seconded by Councillor Anwen Muston that Councillor Marie Claire Darke be elected as Mayor of the Council for the ensuing year.

Resolved:

That Councillor Marie Claire Darke be elected as Mayor for the 2019 - 2020 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 Obaida Ahmed, seconded by Councillor Phil Bateman that Councillor Greg Brackenridge be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the Council for the ensuing year.

Resolved:

That Councillor Greg Brackenridge be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2019 – 2020 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 retiring Mayor and Mayoress

A vote of thanks for the retiring Mayor, Councillor Phil Page and retiring Mayoress, Mrs Elaine Hadley-Howell, was moved by Councillor Milkinder Jaspal and seconded by Councillor Wendy Thompson.

The Mayor presented Councillor Phil Page and Mrs Elaine Hadley-Howell with their medallions of office.

Councillor Phil Page responded to the vote of thanks.

Resolved:

That the Council expresses to Councillor Phil Page and Elaine Hadley-Howell its grateful appreciation of their work and service as Mayor and Mayoress of the City during the 2018-2019 municipal year.

## 7 To receive a return of the Councillors elected on 2 May 2019

The Deputy Monitoring Officer, Tracey Christie, reported the names of the Councillors elected to office on the 2 May 2019 as follows:

Ward	Name	Party
Bilston East	Councillor Rashpal Kaur	Labour
Bilston North	Councillor Olivia Birch	Labour and Cooperative
Blakenhall	Councillor Paul Birch	Labour and Cooperative
Bushbury North	Councillor Paul Appleby	Conservative
Bushbury South and Low Hill	Councillor Paula Brookfield	Labour
East Park	Councillor Harman Banger	Labour
Ettingshall	Councillor Sandra Samuels	Labour
Fallings Park	Councillor Valerie Evans	Labour
Graiseley	Councillor Jacqueline Sweetman	Labour and Cooperative
Heath Town	Councillor Milkinderpal Jaspal	Labour
Merry Hill	Councillor Chris Haynes	Conservative
Oxley	Councillor Clare Simm	Labour
Park	Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre	Labour and Cooperative
Penn	Councillor Paul Singh	Conservative
Spring Vale	Councillor Rupinderjit Kaur	Labour
St Peters	Councillor Lynne Moran	Labour
Tettenhall Regis	Councillor Jonathan Yardley	Conservative
Tettenhall Wightwick	Councillor Wendy Thompson	Conservative
Tettenhall Wightwick	Councillor Jonathan Crofts	Conservative
Wednesfield North	Councillor Rita Potter	Labour
Wednesfield South	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal	Labour
Wednesfield South	Councillor Jacqui Coogan	Labour

Resolved:

That the return of Councillors elected on the 2 May 2019 be noted.

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

The Mayor welcomed Councillors Rashpal Kaur, Olivia Birch, Paul Birch J.P, Paul Appleby, Jonathan Crofts and Jacqui Coogan 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 Ian Angus, Harbans Singh Bagri, Val Gibson, Welcome Koussoukama, Peter O'Neil and Arun Photay.

## 9 **Communications**

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

### **1. Letter of Condolence**

The Mayor condemned the recent terror attack which had taken place on Easter Sunday, where three Christian churches across Sri Lanka and three luxury hotels were targeted. Over 250 people were killed, including at least 42 British and other foreign nationals. The former Mayor Councillor Phil Page had sent a letter of condolence to the Mayor of Columbo, Mayor Rosy Senanayakyon, on behalf of the City offering our sincere condolences, and as a sign of respect the City held a remembrance event and the flag was lowered to half-mast on 23 April.

### **2.Forthcoming Civic Events**

#### **Civic Sunday**

The Mayor informed Councillors of the arrangement for Civic Sunday service which was taking place on Sunday 2 June at 11:15am at the Collegiate Church of St Peter.

#### **Armed Forces Day**

The Mayor reported that the City would be marking Armed Forces Day with a flag-raising ceremony at 11am on Monday 24 June at the flagpole on the piazza.

The Mayor added the Armed Forces Day Celebration Event would take place at West Park between 12noon and 4:30pm on Saturday 29 June. The celebration was free to enter and would begin with a parade led by the RAF Cosford Voluntary Band. The parade would step off at 12noon and march into the arena, which would give everyone an opportunity to say thank you for all our armed forces do for our city and the country.

#### **IDAHOT 2019**

The Mayor reported the Council would be marking International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT) this Friday in celebration of diverse sexualities and gender identities.

The Mayor added the IDAHOT flag would be raised on the piazza on Friday 17 May at 9:50am to mark the occasion, followed by an event in the Council Chamber between 10:20am and 12:30pm which would look at how education can play a part in

bringing together different communities to understand what can be done to help end prejudice against the LGBT+ community.

Resolved:

That the Mayor's Communications be noted.

**10 Election of the Leader of the Council**

It was proposed by Councillor Peter Bilson, seconded by Councillor Alan Bolshaw, that Councillor Ian Brookfield be elected as Leader of the Council on a four year term.

Resolved:

That Councillor Ian Brookfield be elected as Leader of the Council on a four year term from 2019-2023.

**11 Political balance, appointment of the Cabinet, appointments to Scrutiny and Regulatory and other Committees, and appointments to outside bodies for 2019-2020**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield 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.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendations and Councillor Alan Bolshaw seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the political composition of the Council, and how this is 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 Councillor Stephen Simkins appointed to Our Council Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Keith Inston appointed Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel and 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 an 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.

12      **Interim Appointment of Monitoring Officer**

Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item Tracey Christie (Chief Legal Officer) left the Council Chamber and took no part in the discussion of this item.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield presented a report on Interim Appointment of Monitoring Officer. The report sought approval to appoint a Monitoring Officer on an interim basis until the Director of Governance post was recruited to on a permanent basis. He added the appointment of a Monitoring Officer was a statutory requirement.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield proposed the recommendations and Councillor Peter Bilson seconded the recommendations.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Brookfield and Councillor Wendy Thompson thanked the previous Director of Governance, Kevin O'Keefe for his service to the Council.

1. That Tracey Christie, Chief Legal Officer be appointed as Monitoring Officer on an interim basis until a permanent Director of Governance was appointed be approved.
2. That the Interim Monitoring Officer be authorised to exercise delegations assigned to the Director of Governance and Chief Legal Officer as detailed in the Constitution.