

Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Council held on 25 May 2016 at 7.00 pm

Present: Sue Gray, Councillors Cathy Kent, Tim Aker, John Allen, Chris Baker, James Baker, Jan Baker, Clare Baldwin, Russell Cherry, Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Tony Fish, Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Clifford Holloway, Victoria Holloway, Roy Jones, Tom Kelly, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Brian Little, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Tunde Ojetola, Bukky Okunade, Terry Piccolo, Jane Potheary, David Potter, Joycelyn Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Sue Sammons, Angela Sheridan, Peter Smith, Graham Snell, Luke Spillman, Deborah Stewart, Michael Stone, Pauline Tolson, Aaron Watkins and Kevin Wheeler

In attendance: Reverend Canon Darren Barlow, Mayor's Chaplain
Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive
Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment and Place
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation
Fiona Taylor, Director of Legal and Democratic Services
David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer
Karen Wheeler, Head of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service
Matthew Boulter, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

The Mayor invited Reverend Canon Darren Barlow to lead those present in prayer.

Sue Gray, the Mayor of Thurrock, took the Chair for Minute Nos. 1 and 2. Following the election of the new Mayor of Thurrock, Councillor C Kent took the Chair for the remainder of the business.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 23 March 2016 were approved as a correct record.

2. To elect and install the Mayor for the municipal year 2016-17

Nominations were invited for the election of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

It was proposed by Councillor B Rice, and seconded by Councillor Gledhill, that Councillor C Kent be elected Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

The Mayor declared that Councillor C Kent had been duly elected as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-2017.

Councillor C Kent signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and also received the chains of office.

The Mayor then made a short speech thanking the Council for the honour of being elected as the Mayor of Thurrock.

The Mayor presented Sue Gray and her Consort, Mr Tony Lane, with their past Mayor's badge and past consort's badge.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to the out-going Mayor, Sue Gray, for being such a gracious, good humoured and hardworking Mayor and had been a good ambassador for Thurrock. The Leader also thanked the Mayor's Consort, Mr Tony Lane, for their hard work and dedication to the residents of Thurrock. The Leader encouraged them to now put their feet up and reflect on the job well done.

These sentiments were echoed by the Leaders and Members of the Opposition who all paid tribute to the positive and fantastic work of Sue Gray throughout her mayoral year.

Sue Gray wished Councillor C Kent good luck in her Mayoral year and stated she could not have wished for a better person to step into her shoes.

Sue Gray spoke to give thanks to those who had assisted her in her Mayoral Year and stated that it had been a privilege and an honour to have been elected Mayor of Thurrock. Sue Gray paid a particular tribute to all the volunteers in Thurrock for their hard work and dedication. Sue Gray stated that she had attended 608 different events over the past year, of which she had visited 46 out of the 49 schools in the borough. Sue Gray then went on to thank all the Members, Officers, Chief Executive Lyn Carpenter, Reverend Canon Darren Barlow, Legal Department, Security and Member Services.

She wished Thurrock Council all the best for the future and asked that elected members be thoughtful to each other and to do the best for the residents of Thurrock.

Sue Gray further thanked her Consort, Mr Tony Lane, for his support over the last year.

Members stood for a standing ovation.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor C Kent be duly elected as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

3. Items of Urgent Business

The Mayor informed the Council that she had not agreed to the consideration of any items of urgent business.

4. To elect and install the deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2016-17

Nominations were invited for the election of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

It was proposed by Councillor Gledhill, and seconded by Councillor Hague, that Councillor Ojetola be appointed Deputy Mayor of Thurrock for 2016-17.

The Mayor declared that Councillor Ojetola had been duly elected as Deputy Mayor of the Borough and Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

Councillor Ojetola signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and also received the chains of office.

Councillor Ojetola then made a short speech to accept the honour of being appointed as Deputy Mayor.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ojetola be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough and Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016-17.

5. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Hamilton declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of the Agenda as he was a landlord.

6. Announcements on behalf of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council

Firstly the Mayor invited all those present to reflect and remember Thurrock's fallen during World War One.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that Councillor Liddiard had agreed to be her Consort. Councillor Liddiard was asked to step forward and receive the Consort's Chain.

The Mayor confirmed that the Deputy Mayor Consort would be his wife, Bunmi Ojetola.

The Mayor announced that her charities for the Mayoral Year would be Thurrock Community Chest, The Fire Fighters Charity and The Epilepsy Group.

Furthermore, the Mayor announced that her Mayoral Chaplain would be Father Bryan O'Shea.

The Mayor then invited Councillor J Kent to make any announcements he wished to make as Leader of the Council.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to the appointment of Councillor C Kent as the new Mayor of Thurrock and to Councillor Ojetola as the new Deputy Mayor of Thurrock.

The Leader of the Council stated that he would be standing down as Leader of the Council of as of tonight, 25 May 2016, and that he would be dissolving Cabinet with immediate effect.

Councillor J Kent stated that the residents of Thurrock had spoken clearly on the day of the elections and felt it was the right time to stand down and for some else to take over representing Thurrock.

Since being Leader of the Council, Councillor J Kent stated that he believed Thurrock had turned the corner and although with steep cuts the council had balanced the books over the last 6 years. Councillor J Kent particularly noted that the council were now building more council homes, education results were up, one million pounds had been spent on school improvements, improvements had been made to Lakeside, High House Production and the developments in Purfleet.

Councillor J Kent stated that Thurrock had worked cross party together to say No to the proposal of the Lower Thames Crossing. Councillor J Kent stated that all parties should agree when it's the right decision for Thurrock and that this should continue.

Councillor J Kent wished Councillor Gledhill and Councillor Snell good luck to who became the next Leader of the Council.

All Members stood for a standing ovation.

Nominations were then invited for the election of Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Jones, and seconded by Councillor Smith, that Councillor Snell be elected as Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Hague, and seconded by Councillor Halden, that Councillor Gledhill be elected as Leader of the Council.

Upon being put to the vote, the Mayor declared that Councillor Gledhill had been duly elected as Leader of the Council.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Gledhill, thanked all members for their support and thanked Councillor J Kent.

Councillor Gledhill stated that Thurrock Council faces even more challenges and had plans to speak with the Chief Executive to discuss changes on how Thurrock delivers.

Councillor Gledhill stated that his new cabinet would work to the best of its ability and would work hard. Therefore the Conservative Party would not be seeking any Chairs or Vice Chairs on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees; it was proposed that all major proposals will go through the overview and scrutiny committees before going to Cabinet.

Councillor Gledhill stated that an issue in Thurrock which had to be addressed was the mess the borough was becoming with fly-tipping and rubbish. A message will be sent to those culprits and action will be taken.

The Leader of the Council then informed Members the appointments he had made to the Cabinet, together with the details of their respective portfolios, and that Councillor Hague would be the Deputy Leader of the Council.

Position	Portfolio Holder	Portfolio
Leader	Councillor Gledhill	Housing
Deputy Leader	Councillor Hague	Business
	Councillor Halden	Education / Health
	Councillor B Little	Transport / Highways
	Councillor S Little	Children's and Adult Social Care
	Councillor Hebb	Finance / Central Services
	Councillor Stewart	Performance and Communities
	Councillor Tolson	Environment
	Councillor Coxshall	Regeneration

7. The Localism Act 2011 - Appointment of Independent Persons

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and recommended that the engagement of the Independent Persons should continue until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2019.

RESOLVED:

That for the purposes of section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council agreed to continue with the appointment of Sarah Cooper-James, Fiona Fairweather and Fola Onaeko as its independent Persons until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2019.

8. Committees and their Terms of Reference

The Leader of the Council proposed the recommendations as printed in the report.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations, whereupon the Mayor declared these to be carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committees listed in paragraph 3.2 of the report be established for the 2016-17 municipal year, with their terms of reference being those set out in Chapter 4 of the Constitution.**
- 2. That the Committees listed in paragraph 3.4 of the report be established for the 2016-17 municipal year, with their terms of reference being those set out in Chapter 5 of the Constitution.**

9. Allocation of Committee Seats and Committee Appointments

The Mayor informed Members that the nominations of Group Leaders to the places allocated on committees, and the nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of committees had been received.

The nominations made to Committees for the municipal year 2016-17, together with the nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, were set out in a booklet circulated to Members immediately prior to the meeting.

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report, which requested the Council to confirm the calculations relating to the allocation of seats on committees and also to appoint the nominations made by political groups to committees.

In addition, the report also requested the Council to appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Councillor Gledhill restated that the Conservative Party would not

be nominating Chair or Vice Chairs on overview and scrutiny committees therefore these positions were open for the opposition parties to fill.

The Mayor asked Councillor Gledhill which option (a or b) of the nomination booklet did he wish the Council to consider. Councillor Gledhill stated option a.

The Mayor asked Councillor Snell which option (a or b) of the nomination booklet did he wish the Council to consider. Councillor Snell stated option b.

Councillor Gledhill stated that he would like to make 2 changes to the nomination booklet:

On the Planning Committee replace Councillor Piccolo with Councillor Ojetola and make Councillor Piccolo a substitute.

On the General Services replace Councillor Coxshall with Councillor Hague and remove Councillor Halden as a substitute and replace with Councillor Coxshall.

The Mayor then called for a separate vote to be undertaken in respect of each of the contested nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees.

The result of each vote are set out below:

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members voted unanimously in favour of Councillor Okunade being appointed Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Smith, that Councillor Sheridan be elected Vice Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor Gerrish (31), Councillor Jones (17). Therefore Councillor Gerrish be appointed Chair and Councillor Cherry being appointed Vice Chair of the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor Kent (32), Councillor Duffin (17). Therefore Councillor J Kent be appointed Chair and Councillor Gamester being appointed Vice Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Corporate Parenting Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor Okunade (32), Councillor Gamester (17). Therefore Councillor Okunade being appointed Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Smith, that Councillor Snell be elected Vice Chair of the Corporate Parenting Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

General Services

Councillor Snell withdrew this nomination for Chair of General Services. The result that Councillor Gledhill being appointed Chair and Councillor J Kent being appointed as Vice Chair of General Services.

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor V Holloway (31), Councillor Snell (17). Therefore Councillor V Holloway being appointed Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Gledhill, that Councillor Snell be elected Vice Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members voted unanimously in favour of Councillor G Rice being appointed Chair of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Aker, that Councillor C Baker be elected Vice Chair of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Licensing Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor Stone (28), Councillor Maney (18). Therefore Councillor Stone being appointed Chair of the Licensing Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Gledhill, and seconded by Councillor Hague, that Councillor Maney be elected Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Planning Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor G Rice (17), Councillor Kelly (24). Therefore Councillor Kelly being appointed Chair and Councillor Wheeler being appointed Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.

Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor B Rice (32), Councillor Smith (17). Therefore Councillor B Rice being appointed Chair of the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Gledhill, that Councillor Jones be elected Vice Chair of the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Standards and Audit Committee

The result of the vote: Councillor J Kent (31), Councillor Hamilton (17). Therefore Councillor J Kent being appointed Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Snell, and seconded by Councillor Gledhill, that Councillor Smith be elected Vice Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee. Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of recommendations, whereupon the Mayor declared these to be carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.**
- 2. That the nominations of the political groups to seats on committees be approved, as set out in Appendix 2.**
- 3. That in accordance with Committee Procedure 13.2, "Participation of Appointed Members", all Elected Members be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check and those Members appointed to the following committees are expected to undertake the DBS check within 2 months of taking up their seats:**
 - Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
 - Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
 - Standards and Audit Committee**
 - Corporate Parenting Committee**

4. That the non-voting co-opted members of the Planning Committee, the Standards and Audit Committee, the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee be appointed, as set out in Appendix 2.
5. That the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees be appointed as set out below:

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Okunade	Councillor Sheridan
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Gerrish	Councillor Cherry
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor J Kent	Councillor Gamester
Corporate Parenting	Councillor Okunade	Councillor Snell
General Services	Councillor Gledhill	Councillor J Kent
Health and Wellbeing Board* *The Chair will be the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health and shall be appointed by the Council	Councillor Halden	-
Health and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Councillor V Holloway	Councillor Snell
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor G Rice	Councillor C Baker
Licensing Committee	Councillor Stone	Councillor Maney
Planning Committee	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Wheeler
Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor B Rice	Councillor Jones

Committee		
Standards and Audit Committee	Councillor J Kent	Councillor Smith

10. Appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels

The nominations of the political groups to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels were detailed in the supplementary booklet circulated to Members immediately prior to the meeting.

The Chief Executive submitted a report in respect of the appointments required to be made to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels.

The Mayor informed the Chamber that appointments to the following outside bodies, statutory and other panels were contested

- Campaign to Protect Rural Essex
- Coalhouse Fort Project
- Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress
- Essex Fire Authority
- Essex Police and Crime Panel
- Local Government Association
- Mucking Charitable Trust
- Museums in Essex
- Thurrock Sports Council
- Civic Awards Panel

The Mayor then called for a separate vote to be undertaken in respect of each of the contested nominations for appointments to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels.

The result of each vote are set out below:

Campaign to Protect Rural Essex

The result of the vote: Councillor G Rice (15), Councillor C Baker (26). Therefore Councillor C Baker being the representative of the council on the Campaign to Protect Rural Essex.

Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee

No nominations were received for the vacant position on the Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee.

Coalhouse Fort Project

The result of the vote: Councillor C Kent (16), Councillor Jones (17).
Therefore Councillor Jones being the representative of the council on the Coalhouse Fort Project.

Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress

The result of the vote: Councillor G Rice (14), Councillor Cherry (25).
Therefore Councillor Cherry being the representative of the council on the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress.

Essex Fire Authority

The result of the vote: Councillor C Kent (29), Councillor Jones (17).
Therefore Councillor C Kent being the representative of the council on the Essex Fire Authority.

Essex Police and Crime Panel

The result of the vote: Councillor Redsell (18), Councillor Jones (17).
Therefore Councillor Redsell being the representative of the council on the Essex Police and Crime Panel.

Local Government Association

The result of the vote: Councillor J Kent (14), Councillor Ojetola (18),
Councillor Smith (17). Therefore Councillor Ojetola being the representative of
the council on the Local Government Association.

Mucking Charitable Trust

The result of the vote: Councillor Hebb (18), Councillor Wheeler (17).
Therefore Councillor Hebb being the representative of the council on the
Mucking Charitable Trust.

Museums in Essex

The result of the vote: Councillor G Rice (14), Councillor Sheridan (17).
Therefore Councillor Sheridan be the representative of the council on the
Museums in Essex.

South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

No nominations were received for the vacant position on the South Essex
Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Thurrock Sports Council

Councillor Gledhill stated the removal of Councillor Watkins from the nominations.

The Mayor declared Councillors Liddiard, Fish Redsell and C Baker duly appointed as the representatives of the council on the Thurrock Sports Council.

Civic Awards Panel

Councillor J Kent stated that nominations to this panel were made every other year therefore not required for nominations until 2017. Democratic Services will confirm and advise Council Members.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

No nominations were received for the vacant position on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

The Mayor advised that following the changes detailed above there were no longer any contested appointments to the nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels. Members voted unanimously in favour of the nominations made, whereupon the Mayor declared these to be carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the uncontested nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels as circulated during the meeting, be approved.**
- 2. That the contested nominations to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels as voted and agreed upon during the meeting, be approved.**
- 3. That in accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 13.2 "Participation of Appointed Members" all Elected Members be required to undertake an enhanced DBS within 2 months of taking up their role.**

11. Schedule of Meetings 2016-17

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report. A copy of the schedule of meetings for 2016-17 was included in the Agenda at Appendix 1 to the report.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations to approve the calendar of meetings for 2016-17, whereupon the Mayor declared this to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Meetings for 2016-17 be approved.

12. Schedule of Elections and Order of Retirement of Councillors

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report and requested that the Schedule of Local Elections be more readily available for residents to view.

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendation contained within the report, whereupon the Mayor declared this to be carried.

RESOLVED:

That the schedule of elections from 2017 to 2020 and order of retirement of Councillors be noted.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**