

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCILANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MEETINGCaddsdow Business Support Centre - BidefordMonday, 16 May 2022 - 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors R Boughton, D Brenton, C Bright, D Bushby, P Christie, R Clarke, C Cottle-Hunkin, R Craigie, A Dart, L Ford, J Gubb, P Hackett, P Hames, C Hawkins, K Hepple, R Hicks, C Hodson, D Hurley, T Inch, K James, D Jones, S Langford, N Laws, C Leather, R Lock, J Manley, D McGeough, J McKenzie, S Newton, P Pennington, P Watson and R Wiseman

Non-elected Member Mr Dengate

ALSO PRESENT	S Hearse	- Chief Executive
	S Dorey	- Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
	S Kearney	- Head of Communities & Place
	D Heyes	- Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer)
	T Vanstone	- Senior Electoral & Democratic Services Officer
	K Brown	- Democratic Services Officer
	S Cawsey	- Democratic Services Officer

22. APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor M Brown and Councillor S Harding.

Following the meeting, Democratic Services were advised of an email from Councillor Cottle-Hunkin giving her apologies.

23. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

The Chief Executive invited nominations for Chair of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Hodson and –

Resolved:

That Councillor Bushby be elected as Chair of the Council.

(Vote: For 31, Against 1)

Councillor Bushby read out the declaration of acceptance of office, signed the book and took the Chair.

The Chair expressed his gratitude to all Members.

24. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Nominations were invited for Vice Chair of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Bushby, seconded by Councillor James and –

Resolved:

That Councillor Christie be elected as Vice Chair of the Council.

(Vote: For -Unanimous)

Councillor Christie read out the declaration of acceptance of office and signed the book.

The Vice Chair expressed his gratitude to all Members.

25. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

There were no Public Contributions.

26. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER BUSINESS ESPECIALLY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIR

No other business was brought forward.

27. ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Nominations were invited for Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Hicks, seconded by Councillor Leather and –

Resolved:

That Councillor James be elected as Leader of the Council.

(Vote: For 31, Against 1)

28. ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Nominations were invited for Deputy Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Watson and –

Resolved:

That Councillor Hodson be elected as Deputy Leader of the Council.

(Vote: For 31, Abstentions 1)

29. SIZE OF COMMITTEES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The purpose of the report was to confirm the size of Committees and their Terms of Reference.

Following a query from Councillor Christie regarding the Property & Major Projects Working Group, he was advised this would be dealt with under item 17.

It was proposed by Councillor Laws, seconded by Councillor McKenzie and –

Resolved:

That the size of Committees as stated in the report and the Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

(Vote: For- Unanimous)

Councillor Ford left at 6.40pm.

30. ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

The Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) presented the report, the purpose of which was to agree the number of seats on the Committee allocated to each of the Political Groups.

It was proposed by Councillor Hackett, seconded by Councillor Lock and –

Resolved:

That the number of seats on the Committees allocated to each of the Political Groups as detailed in the report be approved.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

31. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

The purpose of this report was for the membership of Committees to be agreed.

The Leader proposed an amendment to the membership of Audit & Governance Committee, namely that Councillor Hodson replace Councillor Pennington.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Pennington and –

Resolved:

That the size of Committees as stated in the report and the Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 1 be approved subject to the above amendment.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

32. ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

Community & Resources Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of the Chair of the Community & Resources Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Bushby that Councillor Hicks be elected as Chair of the Community & Resources Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor McGeough, seconded by Councillor Craigie that Councillor Brenton be elected as Chair of the Community & resources Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor Hicks be elected as Chair of Community & Resources Committee.

(Vote: For 23, Against 3, Abstention 5)

Councillor Hicks received the majority of votes, therefore no vote was taken on the Motion to elect Councillor Brenton.

Nominations were invited for the position of the Vice Chair of the Community & Resources Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Hicks, seconded by Councillor Gubb that Councillor Dart be elected as Vice Chair of the Community & Resources Committee and -

Resolved:

That Councillor Dart be elected as the Vice Chair of Community & Resources Committee.

(Vote: For 30, Abstention 1)

Audit & Governance Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of the Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Dart, seconded by Councillor Watson that Councillor Hackett be elected as Chair of the Community & resources Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor Hackett be elected as the Chair of Audit & Governance Committee.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

Nominations were invited for the position of the Vice Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Hackett, seconded by Councillor Brenton that Councillor Craigie be elected as Vice Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee and -

Resolved:

That Councillor Craigie be elected as the Vice Chair of Audit & Governance Committee.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

### Plans Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of the Chair of the Plans Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Manley that Councillor Leather be elected as Chair of the Plans Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor Leather be elected as the Chair of the Plans Committee.

(Vote: For 30, Against 1)

Nominations were invited for the position of the Vice Chair of the Plans Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Boughton, seconded by Councillor Newton that Councillor Lock be elected as Vice Chair of the Plans Committee and -

Resolved:

That Councillor Lock be elected as the Vice Chair of the Plans Committee.

(Vote: For 28, Against 3)

As the Chair of Plans Committee, Councillor Leather expressed his gratitude to Councillor Brown for all the work she had done over the years as Vice Chair of the Plans Committee.

### Licensing Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of the Chair of the Licensing Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor Inch that Councillor McKenzie be elected as the Chair of the Licensing Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Newton, seconded by Councillor Lock that Councillor Clarke be elected as the Chair of the Licensing Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor McKenzie be elected as Chair of Licensing Committee.

(Vote: For 20, Against 9, Abstention 2)

Councillor McKenzie received the majority of votes therefore no vote was taken on the Motion to elect Councillor Clarke.

Nominations were invited for the position of the Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Newton, seconded by Councillor McGeough that Councillor Clarke be elected as Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee –

(Vote – For 10, Against 20, Abstentions 1)

It was proposed by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Dart that Councillor Wiseman be elected as Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee -

(Vote – For 21, Against 9, Abstention 1)

Resolved:

That Councillor Wiseman be elected as the Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee.

### Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of the Chair of the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Wiseman, seconded by Councillor Bushby that Councillor Watson be elected as Chair of the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor Watson be elected as the Chair of the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

(Vote: For 29, Abstentions 2)

Nominations were invited for the position of the Vice Chair of the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Hackett that Councillor Inch be elected as Vice Chair of the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee and -

Resolved:

That Councillor Inch be elected as the Vice Chair of the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

(Vote: For 27, Against 1, Abstention 3)

#### External Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of the Chair of the External Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Leather, seconded by Councillor Hodson that Councillor Manley be elected as Chair of the External Overview & Scrutiny Committee and -

Resolved:

That Councillor Manley be elected as the Chair of the External Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

Nominations were invited for the position of the Vice Chair of the External Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Manley, seconded by Councillor Hodson that Councillor Cottle-Hunkin be elected as Vice Chair of the External Overview & Scrutiny Committee and -

Resolved:

That Councillor Cottle-Hunkin be elected as the Vice Chair of the External Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

(Vote: For 30, Abstention 1)

### Standards Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of the Chair of the Standards Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Clarke that Councillor Laws be elected as Chair of the Standards Committee and -

Resolved:

That Councillor Laws be elected as the Chair of the Standards Committee.

(Vote: For 30, Abstention 1)

Nominations were invited for the position of the Vice Chair of the Standards Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Laws, seconded by Councillor Manley that Councillor Clarke be elected as Vice Chair of the Standards Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Christie, seconded by Councillor Langford that Councillor Brenton be elected as Vice Chair of the Standards Committee.

Resolved:

That Councillor Clarke be elected as the Vice Chair of the Standards Committee.

(Vote – For 24, Against 1, Abstention 6)

Councillor Clarke received the majority of votes, therefore no vote was taken on the Motion to elect Councillor Brenton.

As Chair of Standards Committee, Councillor Laws expressed his gratitude to Councillor Gubb for all the work she had carried out as Vice Chair of Standards.

### 33. SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The purpose of this report was to approve the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

Councillor Leather proposed to approve the Scheme of Delegation as set out in Appendix 1 in the report with two amendments:



1) that the call-in period for planning applications be extended from 21 days to 28 days;

2) that the Leader of the Council has the same prerogative as the Chief Executive and Planning Manager to call-in a planning application at any time.

A brief discussion took place where the Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) advised there would be no issue with the amendments.

It was proposed by Councillor Leather, seconded by Councillor Manley and –

Resolved:

That the Scheme of Delegation as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report be approved subject to the amendments as stated above.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

34. SUBSTITUTION SCHEME

The purpose of the report was to approve the Council's Substitution Scheme.

It was proposed by Councillor Inch, seconded by Councillor Hackett and -

Resolved:

That the Substitution Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report be approved.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

35. MEMBERSHIP OF OUTSIDE BODIES

The purpose of the report was to agree the Membership of Outside Bodies.

It was proposed by Councillor Manley, seconded by Councillor Clarke that the Membership of Outside Bodies be agreed.

Following comments that the list was out of date it was proposed by Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor Brenton that the Membership of Outside Bodies be deferred and delegated to Group Leaders for review.

Councillor Manley and Councillor Clarke retracted their first proposal.

Following a query from Councillor Pennington, Councillor Hodson provided information on why Westward Housing were no longer on the list. The Chief Executive advised he meets with Westward Housing on a regular basis and has also extended invites to other registered housing providers.

Resolved:

That the Membership of Outside Bodies be deferred and delegated to Group Leaders for review.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

36. LEAD MEMBERS

The purpose of the report was to approve Lead Members.

It was proposed by Councillor Dart, seconded by Councillor Wiseman and -

Resolved:

That the Lead Members and Lead Member roles be approved.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

37. APPOINTMENT OF ACTIVE TORRIDGE BOARD

The purpose of the report was to approve the appointment of one Councillor to the Leisure Local Authority Trading Company Board.

It was proposed by Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor Bushby and -

Resolved:

That that Councillor Langford be appointed as the nominated Member to serve on the LATC Board.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

38. APPOINTMENT TO PROPERTY & MAJOR PROJECT WORKING GROUP

The purpose of the report was to approve the appointment of one Councillor to the Property & Major Projects Working Group.

It was proposed by Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Laws that Councillor Leather be the nominated Member to serve on the Property & Major Projects Working Group.

It was proposed by Councillor Christie, seconded by Councillor Brenton that this item be referred to the Constitution Working Group for further consideration that more Members be on the Property & Major Projects Working Group.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Constitution Working Group no longer existed, and that Property & Major Projects Working Group was not a decision-making committee and make recommendations to Community & Resources and/or Full Council for a formal decision. All Members are welcome to attend any Property & major Projects Working Group meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Laws and -

Resolved:

That that Councillor Leather be appointed as the nominated Member to serve on the Property & Major Projects Working Group.

(Vote: For 28, Abstention 3)

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.28 pm