

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, GUILDHALL ON  
WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 2019**

**MEMBERS**

Councillor Andy Williams, Mayor  
Councillor Robert Walsh, Deputy Mayor

Councillor	Bryan Apsley	Councillor	Paul Jones
"	Andrew Atkinson	"	David Kelly
"	* William Baldwin	"	M C King OBE
"	Trevor Bates	"	Geoff Lowe
"	Sonia Benbow-Jones	"	* David Maddocks
"	David A Bithell	"	Tina Mannering
"	* I David Bithell, MBE	"	John McCusker
"	Paul Blackwell	"	Joan Lowe
"	Brian Cameron	"	M G Morris
"	Krista Childs	"	Beverley Parry-Jones
"	Dana Davies	"	Paul Pemberton
"	Mike Davies	"	John Phillips
"	* Michael Dixon	"	Ronnie Prince
"	T Alan Edwards	"	John Pritchard
"	Terry Evans	"	Mark Pritchard
"	* Russell Gilmartin	"	Paul Roberts
"	D J Griffiths	"	Rondo Roberts
"	Carrie Harper	"	Graham Rogers
"	Frank Hemmings	"	* Paul Rogers
"	Kevin Hughes	"	* J R Skelland
"	R Alun Jenkins	"	Debbie Wallice
"	Adrienne Jeorrett	"	Barrie Warburton
"	Gwenfair Jones	"	Nigel Williams
"	Hugh Jones	"	Derek Wright
"	Marc Jones	"	Phil Wynn

\*Absent

**72 TO ANSWER ANY PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR RECEIVE PUBLIC STATEMENTS  
OR PETITIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS 10 AND 11 OF THE COUNCIL'S  
STANDING ORDERS**

The Mayor reported that no public questions, statements or petitions had been received.

**73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Welcome

On behalf of all Members the Mayor welcomed Councillor Nigel Williams to Council

following a period of sick leave and advised that it was a pleasure to have him return to Council business.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors William Baldwin, I David Bithell, MBE, Michael Dixon, Russell Gilmartin, David Maddocks, Paul Rogers and Rodney Skelland.

#### **74 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked those Members and officers who attended the St David's Day parade in the town centre. The event had been well attended and he stated that it had been an honour to be in attendance.

Following the success of the last wine tasting evening in aid of his Charity Fund, the Mayor confirmed that a second event had been organised for Friday 12 April at the 1864 suite, Wrexham Football Club.

The Mayor referred to his recent visit from the shaolin monks from China and advised that it had been an honour to meet them. He also took part in the High Sheriffs Awards recently where he had the pleasure of meeting many volunteers from the local area. He stated that he had also been the proud recipient of an award which recognised his own work within the local community.

The Mayor announced that this would be the last Council meeting before the annual meeting of Council and he thanked Members and officers for their support throughout his term of office.

Finally, the Mayor announced that Clare Field, Executive Director would be retiring from the Local Authority in May this year. The Mayor, Chief Executive and the Leader of each political group paid tribute to her years of dedicated service in Wrexham. On behalf of all Members and Officers the Mayor wished Clare his sincere best wishes for the future.

#### **75 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS, IF ANY**

The Monitoring Officer provided advice to Members in relation to the following item of business:

Agenda Item 10 – Members' Remuneration Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

The Monitoring Officer advised that all Members appeared to have a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 10 which dealt with Member allowances and it would be advisable that they all declared such an interest in this matter. All Members present agreed to declare a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 10 but claimed the exemption against it being a prejudicial interest contained in paragraph 12(2)(b) of the Member Code of Conduct.

**76**      **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the County Borough Council held on 20 February 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.**

**77**      **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEES**

No issues were raised by Members in relation to the Minutes of meetings that have taken place since the last ordinary meeting of the Council for which Minutes have been approved and published on the Authority's website.

**78**      **NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF MAYOR AND APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2019/20**

The Chair of the Constitution Working Group submitted a report (HCCS/14/19) allowing Members to consider nominations for the election of a Mayor and appointment of a Deputy Mayor for 2019/20.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That it be recommended to the Annual Meeting of the Council that Councillor Robert Walsh be nominated for the office of Mayor of the County Borough for the year 2019/20, subject to his acceptance of the office of Mayor.**
- (ii) That it be recommended to the Annual Meeting of the Council that Councillor Ronnie Prince be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor of the County Borough for the year 2019/20, subject to his acceptance of the office of Deputy Mayor.**

**79**      **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

The Lead Member for Organisation - Planning and Corporate Services submitted a report (HCCS/10/19) seeking Council approval of the revised Pay Policy Statement that sets out the Council's approach to pay. Council is required to approve the Pay Policy Statement annually in order to meet the legal requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

**RESOLVED - The Pay Policy Statement (appendix 1 to the report HCCS/10/19) be approved for publication in April 2019.**

**REASONS FOR DECISION**

To meet the requirements of Chapter 8 of the Localism Act 2011, by ensuring that the Pay Policy Statement is reviewed and published annually

**80**      **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2019/20**

The Chair of Democratic Services Committee submitted a report (HCCS/23/19) allowing Members to consider the proposed Member Development Programme for

2019/20.

The Leader thanked the Chair of Democratic Service Committee and the relevant officers for their hard work in putting together the programme. He further encouraged all Members to embrace the training opportunities made available to them.

A Member suggested that training in respect of County Lines and crime gangs be included as part of the mandatory 'Tackling Modern Slavery' training already provided to Members.

**RESOLVED – The Member Development Programme 2019/20 (Appendix 1 to the report HCCS/23/19) be approved.**

### **REASON FOR DECISION**

To ensure that the Council has a Member Development Programme in place for the coming year as required by the Authority's Member Development Strategy.

81

### **MEMBERS' REMUNERATION - INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES**

The Lead Member for Organisation – Finance, Performance, Health & Safety and Governance submitted a report ( HCCS/18/19) allowing Members to consider the changes to the Members' Remuneration Scheme for 2019/20 contained in the latest Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

An amendment to include an additional recommendation was proposed and seconded as follows:

- (ii) The Leader of the Council makes representations to the WLGA in pursuance of a Local Authority collective response to the recent pay increases as determined by the IRPW.

In presenting the amendment the Leader of the Labour Group stated that in times of austerity it was important for Members to lead by example. By supporting the amendment, Members would be demonstrating their commitment to reducing the financial burden on local taxpayers.

The Leader and Deputy Leader accepted that the recommendation be altered accordingly and upon being put to the vote the substantive motion was carried as follows:

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) **Members note the changes in Members' remuneration set out in the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for 2019.**
- (ii) **The Leader of the Council makes representations to the WLGA in**

**pursuance of a Local Authority collective response to the recent pay increases as determined by the IRPW.**

## **REASON FOR DECISION**

To note the determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in its Annual Report 2019.

## **82 WREXHAM RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Lead Member for Place – Environment and Transport submitted a report (HEP/24/19) allowing Members to approve the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) following the statutory public consultation.

**RESOLVED - The Wrexham County Borough Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Appendix 1 to the report HEP/24/19) be approved.**

## **REASONS FOR DECISION**

- (i) There is a statutory requirement for Local Authorities under section 60(3) and (4) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act to make a new assessment, review their Rights of Way Improvement Plan and make a decision on amendments, not more than 10 years after publishing the previous plan. It is a requirement of the legislation that the approval of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is a decision of the Council (Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007).

## **83 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Lead Member for Organisation – Finance, Performance and Governance submitted a report (HCCS/17/19) allowing Members to update the Constitution to reflect decisions made during the year and other necessary changes.

In introducing his report the Leader thanked relevant Members and Officers for the work they had undertaken as part of the Constitution Working Group.

## **RESOLVED**

**1 That the Constitution be revised in the following respects:**

- 1.1 Updated to reflect the new Senior Manager Structure and associated changes to the scheme of delegation**
- 1.2 The Scheme of Delegation to Officers be amended to ensure it is consistent with current policies and procedures and reflects current legislation and guidance as outlined in the Appendix to the report HCCS/17/19.**
- 1.3 Updated Finance Procedure Rules, Contract Procedure Rules and Code of Corporate Governance as outlined in the Appendix**

- to the report HCCS/17/19.
- 1.4 Updates to incorporate decisions of the Executive Board since the last review namely:-
- i. Incorporating the full range of powers provided for under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 within the remit of the Chief Officer Planning & Regulatory (currently Head of Environment and Planning);
  - ii. Incorporating the full range of powers necessary to enable the Chief Officer Environment (currently Head of Environment and Planning) to determine applications to the Council in its capacity as the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body under Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
  - iii. Establishment of the joint committee for the Growth Vision for North Wales in accordance with the agreement entered into on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

### **REASON FOR DECISION**

To ensure that the Council's Constitution is updated to meet all legal and good governance requirements and enables Officers to discharge the functions within their remit. To incorporate changes and delegations authorised during the period since the last review.

### **84 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019/20**

The Lead Member for Organisation – Finance, Performance and Governance submitted a report (HCCS/22/19) allowing Member to approve a calendar of meetings for the Council, the Executive Board, Scrutiny and Standing Committees in 2019/20.

A number of Members raised concerns that they were being asked to consider making changes to the calendar of meetings without prior and meaningful consultation. In particular, reference was made to the changes suggested in respect of the start times of Scrutiny Committees (paragraph 4.6 of the report refers). The Leader stressed that it had been necessary to make some changes to the calendar of meetings in order to enable all Scrutiny Committee meetings to be webcast in the Council Chamber. He further advised that whilst a proposed timetable of meetings was being suggested, it was in the gift of each individual Scrutiny Committee to agree its start time.

Following the advice of the Head of Corporate and Customer Services the Lead Member revised his recommendation and it was unanimously -

**RESOLVED - That the annual calendar of meetings for the Council, the Executive Board, Scrutiny and Standing Committees in 2019/20 including All Member Workshops and Member Development (appendix 1 to the report HCCS/22/19) be agreed for consultation.**

**REASON FOR DECISION**

**To obtain member views on the proposed meeting dates and times.**

Councillor Andy Williams  
Mayor