

# STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MINUTES

**Date: Wednesday, 25 May 2022**

**Time: 7.00pm**

**Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage**

**Present:** The Mayor (2021/22) Councillor Sandra Barr; and Councillors Myla Arceno, Julie Ashley-Wren, Philip Bibby CC, Stephen Booth, Lloyd Briscoe, Rob Broom, Adrian Brown, Jim Brown, Teresa Callaghan, Nazmin Chowdhury, Matt Creasey, Michael Downing, John Duncan, Bret Facey, Alex Farquharson, John Gardner, Richard Henry, Jackie Hollywell, Chris Howells, Graham Lawrence CC, Mrs Joan Lloyd, Andy McGuinness, Maureen McKay, Sarah Mead, Adam Mitchell CC, Margaret Notley, Claire Parris, Robin Parker CC, Loraine Rossati, Graham Snell, Simon Speller, Sharon Taylor OBE CC, Jeannette Thomas, Anne Wells and Tom Wren.

**Start / End** Start Time: 7.00pm  
**Time:** End Time: 8.47pm

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lin Martin-Haugh, Liz Harrington and Wendy Kerby.

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2 MINUTES - 24 FEBRUARY 2022 AND 9 MARCH 2022**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 24 February 2022 and 9 March 2022 be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

### **3 ELECTION OF MAYOR**

The Mayor gave a speech thanking the Council for a wonderful term of office, and recounted some of the highlights of the year. With particular reference to the Middle Earth books of J R R Tolkien, she thanked her daughter Louisa (the Mayoress); Councillors Richard Henry and Claire Parris (her fellow St. Nicholas Ward councillors); the Leader of the Council (Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE, CC); Councillor Simon Speller; the Youth Mayor (Eden Searle); and Tracey Frost (Mayor's Secretary) and the other officers who had helped her throughout her year in office. She wished the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor every success for the coming year.

The Mayor presented Long Service Awards to Councillors Liz Harrington (30 years' service) and Sharon Taylor OBE, CC (25 years' service).

The Mayor then presented an award to Simon Tabert (former and recently retired Chief Inspector and Stevenage Local Area Police Commander, Hertfordshire Constabulary) in recognition of his contribution to improving community safety across the town, together with a bunch of flowers to his partner, Julie Bailey. Simon thanked the Council for the award.

The Mayor asked for nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2022/23.

Councillor Sharon Taylor, OBE, CC nominated Councillor Margaret Notley for the Office of Mayor.

The nomination was seconded by Councillor Phil Bibby CC.

There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Margaret Notley be elected as Mayor for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Councillor Margaret Notley then made the statutory declaration of office.

The Mayor thanked the Council for her election and announced that Mrs Cathy Bibby would be the Mayoress for 2022/23, and that the Rev. Dr. Ruth Carroll would be her Chaplain.

The Mayor stated that it had been a pleasure to have assisted the outgoing Mayor as her deputy for the past year, and looked forward to attending as many events as possible during 2022/23. She announced that her chosen charities for the year would be the Anne Robson Trust, the Stevenage District Scouts and the Stevenage & Grange Rotary Clubs.

#### **4 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Mayor asked for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor for 2022/23.

Councillor Lloyd Briscoe nominated Councillor Myla Arceno. The nomination was seconded by Councillor Teresa Callaghan.

There being no other nominations, a vote was taken and it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Myla Arceno be appointed Deputy Mayor for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Councillor Myla Arceno then made the statutory declaration of office. The Deputy Mayor thanked the Council for her election and announced that her son, John Arceno, would be her Deputy Consort for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

#### **5 APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH MAYOR**

The outgoing Youth Mayor, Eden Searle, thanked the outgoing Mayor, councillors, officers, family and friends for their support over the year. She outlined some of the highlights of her year in office and wished the incoming Youth Mayor every success

in the role.

Councillor Richard Henry congratulated the outgoing Mayor on her achievements during the year, and advised that the Youth Council had nominated Paige Abrey as the 2022/23 Youth Mayor.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Paige Abrey be elected as Youth Mayor for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Paige Abrey then signed the declaration of office. In her acceptance speech, the New Youth Mayor thanked the Council for her election. She further thanked the outgoing Youth Mayor, and outlined a number of initiatives that she hoped to be involved in during 2022/23.

## **6 BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2022**

The Council considered a report that detailed the results of the Borough Council Elections that were held on 5 May 2022.

The Leader in moving the report, thanked Matt Partridge (Returning Officer), Luke Fattorusso (Interim Democratic Services Manager) and the Elections Team for the excellent and smooth management of the Election process. She congratulated councillors successful in being elected and welcomed newly elected Councillors Nazmin Chowdhury, Bret Facey and Anne Wells.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Lou Rossati welcomed back Councillor Jim Brown, who had been successful in being elected as a councillor for the Old Town ward.

It was **ESOLVED** that the results of the Stevenage Borough Council Elections held on 5 May 2022 be noted.

## **7 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

The Chief Executive advised that the Leader of the Opposition would be Councillor Phil Bibby CC and that Councillor Graham Lawrence CC would be his deputy.

## **8 APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADERS AND DEPUTY LEADERS OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL**

The Chief Executive advised the Council that Councillors Sharon Taylor OBE CC, Phil Bibby CC and Robin Parker CC had been appointed as Leaders of the Labour and Co-operative, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively. It was noted that Councillors Richard Henry, Graham Lawrence CC and Andy McGuinness would be Deputy Leaders of the Labour and Co-operative, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups respectively.

## **9 CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES**

Council considered various matters relating to the Member level decision making

structure of the Council and the Council's constitution for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

The Leader of the Council commented that a full review of the Constitution was scheduled to commence in 2022/23 by way of an Informal Cross-Party Working Group, with a view to having a new Constitution in place by the time of the all-out Borough Council elections in 2024 or sooner if possible.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED**:

1. That the Terms of Reference, as detailed in the appendices to the report; and the size and political composition for the following bodies that form the non-Executive Member level decision making structure of the Council be approved subject to the rules of proportionality where appropriate for 100 Committee places where applicable (relevant Committees are identified thus\*) -
  - Overview and Scrutiny Committee\* (Appendix A) – 14 Members (9 Labour & Co-operative Group, 3 Conservative Group, 2 Liberal Democrat Group)
  - Community Select Committee\* (Appendix B) – 10 Members (6 Labour & Co-operative Group, 3 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
  - Environment and Economy Select Committee\* (Appendix C) – 11 Members (7 Labour & Co-operative Group, 2 Conservative Group, 2 Liberal Democrat Group)
  - Planning & Development Committee\* (Appendix D) – 14 Members (9 Labour & Co-operative Group, 3 Conservative Group, 2 Liberal Democrat Group)
  - Licensing Committee (Appendix E) – 14 Members (8 Labour & Co-operative Group, 4 Conservative Group, 2 Liberal Democrat Group)
  - General Purposes Committee\* (Appendix F) – 14 Members (8 Labour & Co-operative Group, 4 Conservative Group, 2 Liberal Democrat Group)
  - Appointments Committee\* (Appendix G) - 8 Members (5 Labour & Co-operative Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
  - Standards Committee\* (Appendix H) – 8 Members (5 Labour & Co-operative Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)
  - Audit Committee\* (Appendix I) – 10 Members (6 Labour & Co-operative Group, 2 Conservative Group, 2 Liberal Democrat Group) + 1 Co-opted non-elected member
  - Statement of Accounts Committee\* (Appendix J) – 8 Members (5 Labour & Co-operative Group, 2 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group)

- Joint Consultative Committee\* (Appendix K) – 3 Members (2 Labour & Co-operative Group, 1 Conservative Group)

\* Indicates where those bodies covered by the rules of proportionality for the purposes of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups), Regulations 1990 – total Committee places being 100

2. That the membership of the Executive and the individual Portfolios, as set out in the lilac paper circulated at the meeting, be noted.
3. That the various Executive bodies appointed by the Leader, detailed in Paragraph 4.3 of the report and the relevant Terms of Reference for each body set out in Appendix L to the report, be noted.
4. That the dates for Council meetings for the Municipal Year 2022/23, as shown at Paragraph 4.6 of the report, be approved, and that the calendar of formal meetings shown at Appendix M to the report, be noted.
5. That the substantive amendments to Standing Orders arising as a consequence of the motion approved by Council on 9 March 2022, as set out in Paragraphs 4.10 of the report, be noted and approved.
6. That the inclusion of a substitution scheme (as Standing Order 28), as set out in Paragraph 4.11 and in Appendix N to the report, be noted and approved.
7. That the following minor and consequential amendments to Standing Orders, required:
  - for the good conduct of Council meetings,
  - as a consequence of the substantive changes at 5. and 6. above, and
  - to include appropriate reference to the Hertfordshire Growth Board within the Constitution,

as set out in Paragraph 4.12 of the report, be noted and approved.
8. That the Executive's intention to establish a joint Executive Committee with East Herts District Council to support the oversight, development and delivery of the Council's joint ICT strategy, as set out in Paragraph 4.13 and with the terms of reference as detailed in Appendix O to the report, be noted.

## **10 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

Details of the individuals nominated to serve on each Committee, together with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of those Committees, where stated, had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Sharon Taylor OBE CC moved the appointment of Committees and their Chairs and Vice-Chairs, seconded by Councillor Richard Henry.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the membership of Committees, together with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs, where detailed, are appointed for 2022/23 Municipal Year as follows:

#### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 Members (9-3-2)

Councillors – L Martin-Haugh (Chair), P Bibby, CC (Vice-Chair), R Broom, J Brown, M Creasey, M Downing, B. Facey, W Kerby, A McGuinness, S Mead, R Parker CC, C Parris, L Rossati and A Wells.

#### COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

10 Members (6-3-1):

Councillors – S Mead (Chair), A Farquharson (Vice-Chair), S Booth, A Brown, J Brown, N Chowdhury, J Duncan, L Harrington, W Kerby and A Wells.

#### ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE

11 Members (7-2-2):

Councillors – R Broom (Chair), A Mitchell, CC (Vice-Chair), J Ashley-Wren, S Booth, A Brown, J Brown, M Creasey, M Downing, B Facey, C Parris and L Rossati.

#### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

14 Members (9-3-2)

Councillors – M Downing (Chair), J Ashley-Wren, S Barr, A Brown, T Callaghan, M Creasey, C Howells, G Lawrence CC, Mrs J Lloyd, M McKay, A Mitchell CC, C Parris, G Snell and A Wells.

#### LICENSING COMMITTEE

14 Members (8-4-2)

Councillors – M McKay (Chair), L Rossati (Vice-Chair), M Arceno, R Broom, N Chowdhury, J Duncan, B Facey, L Harrington, C Howells, G Lawrence CC, A McGuinness, L Martin-Haugh, C Parris and G Snell.

#### GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

14 Members (8-4-2)

Councillors – M McKay (Chair), L Rossati (Vice-Chair), M Arceno, R Broom, N Chowdhury, J Duncan, B Facey, L Harrington, C Howells, G Lawrence CC, A McGuinness, L Martin-Haugh, C Parris and G Snell.

#### APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

8 Members (5-2-1)

Councillors – S Taylor OBE, CC (Chair), S Barr, P Bibby, CC, R Henry, G Lawrence CC, R Parker CC, S Speller and J Thomas.

#### STANDARDS COMMITTEE

8 Members (5-2-1)

Councillors – Mrs J Lloyd (Chair), M Arceno, P Bibby CC, G Lawrence CC, L Martin-Haugh, S Speller, S Taylor OBC, CC and T Wren.

Independent Person who must be consulted on alleged breaches to the Code

of Conduct – Dr. Robert Cawley

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

10 Members (6-2-2) + 1 Independent Co-opted Member (G Gibbs)  
Councillors – T Callaghan (Chair), M Arceno, S Booth, A Farquharson, J Gardner, J Hollywell, G Lawrence CC, M McKay, L Rossati and T Wren.

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

8 Members (5-2-1)  
Councillors – Mrs J Lloyd (Chair), P Bibby CC, L Briscoe, S Mead, A Mitchell CC, G Snell, S Taylor OBE, CC and J Thomas.

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

3 Members (2-1-0)  
Councillors – Mrs J Lloyd (Employer Side Chair), P Bibby CC and R Broom.

**11 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Council considered a list of individuals nominated to serve on Outside Bodies which had been circulated before the meeting.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following individuals are appointed to represent the Council on the various bodies detailed below for one year, unless otherwise stated:

COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND: THE  
HERTFORDSHIRE SOCIETY - Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate  
Change

EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - The Leader of the  
Council

EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL PLANNING - Portfolio Holder for Environment  
and Climate Change

HERTS WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP - Portfolio Holder for Environment  
and Climate Change

HERTFORDSHIRE GROWTH BOARD – The Leader of the Council

HERTFORDSHIRE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND POLICY GROUP -  
Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITIES LEADERS GROUP - The Leader of the  
Council

HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP – The Leader of the  
Council

HERTFORDSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP -  
Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - The Leader of the Council

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY GROUP (COMMUNITY SAFETY) - Portfolio Holder  
for Community Safety, Equalities, Health and Older People

SOSTEVENAGE PARTNERSHIP - The Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader

STEVENAGE DEVELOPMENT BOARD - The Leader of the Council and Deputy  
Leader

AGE CONCERN STEVENAGE – Jeannette Thomas

BEDWELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Liz Harrington

CHELLS MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Andy McGuinness

CROSSROADS CARE – Sandra Barr

DOUGLAS DRIVE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION – Maureen Mckay

HOME-START STEVENAGE – Rob Broom

KADOMA LINK ASSOCIATION - Graham Snell and John Gardner

LIVING ROOM PROJECT - Jackie Hollywell

OLD STEVENAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – Lou Rossati

OVAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Lloyd Briscoe

PIN GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Jeannette Thomas

SHEPHALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – Simon Speller

ST NICHOLAS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - Sandra Barr

STEVENAGE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - Michael Downing

STEVENAGE COMMUNITY TRUST – Teresa Callaghan and Maureen McKay

STEVENAGE CREDIT UNION LIMITED – Sharon Taylor

SPRUSE – Lin Martin-Haugh

STEVENAGE HAVEN - Rob Broom



STEVENAGE/AUTUN/INGELHEIM ASSOCIATION - Richard Henry and Simon Speller

STEVENAGE WORLD FORUM FOR ETHNIC COMMUNITIES - John Gardner

SYMONDS GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – Jackie Hollywell

TIMEBRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – Julie Ashley-Wren

TURN THE TIDE – Nazmin Chowdhury

EAST OF ENGLAND LGA IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PANEL - Richard Henry

HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - Maureen McKay

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT – Jim Brown

LUTON AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - John Gardner

## **12 APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER**

The Council considered a report seeking approval to the appointment of a Monitoring Officer, in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Prior to the consideration of the report, the Leader of the Council paid tribute to the outgoing Monitoring Officer (Simon Banks). She thanked Simon for the excellent contribution he had made to the work of SBC over the past two years, and wished him every success in his new role at South Gloucestershire Council. Further tributes and thanks to Simon were given by Councillors Simon Speller, Maureen McKay, Jeannette Thomas, Richard Henry and Jim Brown.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Mr John Oakley be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer, with effect from 1 June 2022.

**MAYOR**