

Council

Monday, 20th May, 2024

MINUTES

Present:

Councillors Joe Baker, Juliet Barker Smith, Juma Begum, William Boyd, Brandon Clayton, Claire Davies, Matthew Dormer, James Fardoe, Andrew Fry, Bill Hartnett, Sharon Harvey, Chris Holz, Joanna Kane, Wanda King, Alan Mason, Sachin Mathur, Gemma Monaco, David Munro, Rita Rogers, Gary Slim, Jen Snape, Jane Spilsbury, Monica Stringfellow, Ian Woodall and Paul Wren

Officers:

Claire Felton, Sue Hanley and Guy Revans.

Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley-Hill.

1. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sid Khan and Craig Warhurst.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed all newly elected Councillors to the Council and thanked former Councillors for their service. He also thanked Council officers for their hard work.

The Mayor referred to his year in office as being an honour and privilege and thanked his deputy, Karen Ashley, for her support. He referred to the highlights of his year in office, including visits to care homes and schools. In particular, he recalled the 800th year of freedom celebrations in Auxerre, Redditch's twin town. The Mayor thanked Peter Martin from his chosen charity Drop the Knife and

Chair

announced that £7,329 had been raised for this during the year. He also thanked his family for their support during the year.

5. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR FOR 2024/25

Councillor Joe Baker proposed, Councillor Juliet Barker Smith seconded that Councillor Juma Begum be elected Mayor. There were no further nominations, so Councillor Juma Begum was elected Mayor of the Borough for the forthcoming year. She made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Chain of Office.

Councillor Begum thanked the outgoing Mayor, Salman Akbar, for his service to the Borough over the last year.

RESOLVED that

Councillor Juma Begum be elected Mayor for the Borough of Redditch to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

6. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2024/25

Councillor Joe Baker proposed, Councillor Andy Fry seconded that Councillor Joanna Kane be elected Deputy Mayor.

There were no further nominations, so Councillor Kane was elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Redditch for the forthcoming year. She made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office verbally and was then invested with the Deputy Mayor's Badge of Office.

RESOLVED that

Councillor Joanna Kane be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Redditch to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 26th February 2024 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Mayor.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) The Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor thanked her family and Councillors for their support and looked forward to representing the Council during the year. Her charity would be Disability Support Project and she would arrange various events during the year to support this. The Mayor's consorts would be her sons and daughter in law.

b) The Leader's Announcements

Councillor Dormer announced that following the election he was standing down as Leader of the Council. He thanked all those who had supported the Council during his tenure as Leader and highlighted the efforts of the officers of the Council.

c) The Chief Executive's Announcements

On behalf of the Officers of the Council, the Chief Executive congratulated the Mayor on her election.

9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Following the outcome of the recent local elections and change in political administration of the Council, it was necessary to elect a Leader. Councillor Bill Hartnett proposed, Councillor Sharon Harvey seconded that Councillor Joe Baker be elected Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED that

Councillor Joe Baker be elected Leader of the Council for the ensuing four years.

10. LEADER'S APPOINTMENTS

Councillor Joe Baker thanked his predecessor, Councillor Matt Dormer, and the former Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their work during their terms of office.

Councillor Baker informed the Council of the following Portfolio appointments:

Councillor Sharon Harvey – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change.

Councillor Juliet Barker-Smith – Leisure.

Councillor Bill Hartnett – Housing.
Councillor Sid Khan – Environmental Services.
Councillor Jane Spilsbury – Performance.
Councillor Monica Stringfellow – Community Services and
Regulatory Services.
Councillor Ian Woodall – Finance.
Councillor Jen Snape – Executive Member without Portfolio.

11. CONSTITUTION REVIEW

The Council considered a report setting out proposed changes to the Council's constitution. Many of these changes were proposed at a meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party (CRWP) held on 7th March 2024.

Councillor Joe Baker proposed, Councillor Bill Hartnett seconded and it was

RESOLVED that

- 1) **The current version of the Officer Scheme of Delegations is agreed;**
- 2) **The introduction to the constitution be reduced in length;**
- 3) **The Articles, the Information Security Policy and the Members' ICT Policy be removed from the Council's constitution;**
- 4) **The Shareholder Committee Terms of Reference be amended as set out at Appendix B to the report;**
- 5) **Authority be delegated to officers to determine applications for licences to use vehicles as hackney carriages or private hire vehicles where the vehicle does not meet the Council's required criteria in respect of the age of the vehicle;**
- 6) **The Council Procedure Rules be amended to clarify that Questions on Notice cannot be asked on the subject of specific Licensing or Planning applications at Council meetings;**
- 7) **The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee Procedure Rules be amended to require the Monitoring Officer's report to be provided for the Committee's consideration on a quarterly basis;**

- 8) The Joint Arrangements in the constitution be updated to remove referrals to the Joint WRS Board, West Midlands Combined Authority and Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP);
- 9) The Best Practice for Handling Member Enquiries Guidance be added as an appendix to the Protocol for Relations Between Councillors and Officers section of the constitution; and
- 10) The proposed terms of reference for the Employment Appeals Committee be approved.

12. APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES, PANELS ETC AND THEIR CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

A report on the proposed political balance of the Council's Committees and appointments to them and various Working Groups was presented for Councillors' consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor Joe Baker, seconded by Councillor Sharon Harvey and

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out at Appendix 1;
- 2) appointments by political group leaders to the places on each Committee etc. be noted;
- 3) the Council appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 2;
- 4) appointments to Working Groups and other bodies listed in Appendix 2 be agreed; and
- 5) the terms of reference for the Committees be confirmed.

13. OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillors considered appointments to various Outside Bodies and it was

RESOLVED that

Council makes appointments to the bodies listed in the appendix to the report.

14. REGULATORY COMMITTEES - STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICIES

Councillors considered recommendations from the Licensing Committee meeting on 4th March 2024, relating to updating the statement of licensing policy. This had followed a period of public consultation and consideration of responses to it.

It was proposed by Councillor Sharon Harvey, seconded by Councillor Monica Stringfellow and

RESOLVED that

the revised Statement of Licensing Policy shown at Appendix 3 of the Public Reports pack for the Licensing Committee on 4th March 2024 be approved and published to take effect on 1st June 2024.

15. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

Members were advised that no urgent decisions had been taken since the previous meeting of the Council.

16. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

There was no urgent business for consideration on this occasion.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.48 pm

Appendix 1 - Political Balance Calculation May 2024

Committee	Lab 21 77.78% of total	Con 5 18.52% of total	Green (non-aligned) 1 3.70% of total	Total
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	7 7.00 *Take 6	2 1.67	0 0.33 *Take 1	9 9 members on Committee 9
Licensing Committee	9 8.56	2 2.04	0 0.41	11 11 members on Cttee
Planning Committee	7 7.00	2 1.67	0 0.33	9 9 members on Cttee
Audit, Gov'ce & Stands Committee	7 7.00	2 1.67	0 0.33	9 9 members on Cttee
Statutory Officers Disciplinary Action Panel	4 3.89	1 0.93	0 0.19	5 5 members on committee
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel	4 3.89	1 0.93	0 0.19	5 5 Members on the Committee
Appointments Committee	4 3.89	1 0.93	0 0.19	5 5 Members on Committee
Appeals Committee	4 3.89	1 0.93 *Take 0	0 0.19 Take 1	5 5 Members on Committee 5
Electoral Matters Committee	4 3.89	1 0.93	0 0.19	5 5 Members on Committee
Original Allocated Total	50	13	0	63
Entitlement	49	12	2	63
Mathematical calculation	49.00	11.67	2.33	63
Final Total	49	12	2	63

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Appendix 2 - Nominations and Appointments to Committees that Form Part of the Political Balance

Committee / Sub-Committee etc.	Size (Members)	Labour	Conservative	Non-Aligned
Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	9	7 Cllrs Begum, Boyd, Fardoe, Fry, Kane, Munro and Mason	2 (Ch) Cllr Monaco (v Ch) Cllr Holz	-
Licensing Committee (Note the sub-committees are now selected from the committee membership)	11	9 (Ch) Munro (V Ch) Mathur Cllrs Barker Smith, Harvey, Khan, Slim, Snape, Stringfellow and Wren	2 Cllrs Clayton and Dormer	-
Planning Committee (A pool of named substitutes would be welcomed for this Committee from both groups)	9	7 (Ch) Cllr Fry (V Ch) Cllr Boyd Cllrs Begum, Hartnett, Khan, Munro and Snape <u>Named substitutes:</u> Cllrs Barker Smith, Mason and Woodall	2 Cllrs Clayton and Monaco <u>Named Substitutes:</u> Cllrs Dormer, Holz and Warhurst	-

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Committee / Sub-Committee etc.	Size (Members)	Labour	Conservative	Non-Aligned
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9	6 Cllrs Boyd, Kane, King, Mathur, Monro, Roberts	2 (Ch) Cllr Dormer (VC) Cllr Warhurst	1 Cllr Davies
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel	5	4 Cllrs Fry, Kane, Rogers and Wren	1 *(Ch) Cllr Warhurst	-
Appointments Committee	5	4 (Ch) Baker (V Ch) Harvey Cllrs Hartnett and Spilsbury	1 Cllr Dormer	-
Electoral Matters Committee	5	4 Members (Ch) Cllr Baker (V Ch) Fardoe Cllrs Mathur and Rogers	1 Cllr Clayton	-
Employment Appeals Committee	5	4 (Ch) Baker (V Ch) Khan Cllrs Munro and Spilsbury	-	1 Cllr Davies
Statutory Officers Disciplinary Panel	5	4 Members (Ch) Cllr Baker (V Ch) Cllr Khan Cllrs Munro and Spilsbury	1 Cllr Warhurst	-

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Committees that do not form part of the political balance

Committee / Sub-Committee etc.	Size (Members)	Labour	Conservative	Non-Aligned
Corporate Health, Safety and Welfare Committee (Usually relevant Portfolio Holder)	1	1 Cllr Stringfellow	-	-
Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee	2 (+ 2 subs)	Cllr Stringfellow Sub: Cllr Munro	Cllr Dormer Sub: Cllr Clayton	-
Planning Advisory Panel	5	4 (Ch) Cllr Hartnett (V Ch) Cllr Khan Cllrs Snape and Wren	1 Cllr Holz	-
Member Support Steering Group	5	4 (Ch) Cllr Barker Smith (V Ch) Cllr Rogers Cllrs Baker and Wren	1 Cllr Monaco	-
Climate Change Advisory Panel	5	4 (Ch) Cllr Harvey (V Ch) Cllr Boyd Cllrs Mathur and Rogers	1 Cllr Holz	-
Constitutional Review Working Party	5	4 (Ch) Cllr Baker (V Ch) Cllr Hartnett Cllrs Begum and Harvey	1 Cllr Dormer	-

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Committee / Sub-Committee etc.	Size (Members)	Labour	Conservative	Non-Aligned
Holocaust Memorial Committee	5	4 (Ch) Cllr Hartnett (Vc) Cllr Barker Smith Cllrs Mason and Woodall	1 Cllr Monaco	-
Redditch Matters Editorial Panel	3	Cllrs Kane, Mathur and Wren	-	-

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Scrutiny Groups**(Political proportionality not required)**

Working Group / Task Group / Short Sharp Review	Size (Members)	Labour	Conservative	Non-aligned
*Budget Scrutiny Working Group	5 (maximum)	Kane and Munro	(Ch) Cllr Warhurst Cllrs Dormer and Holz	-
*Performance Scrutiny Working Group	5 (maximum)	Kane and Rogers	(Ch) Cllr Warhurst Cllrs Dormer and Holz	-
*Fly Tipping Task Group	5 (maximum)	Boyd, Mason and Slim	(Ch) Cllr Dormer Cllr Clayton	-
*Post-16 Education Task Group	5 (maximum)	Boyd, Mathur and Wren	(Ch) Cllr Warhurst Cllr Dormer	-

*The Chairs of each of these scrutiny groups must be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**Annual Council**20th May 2024**APPENDIX 1 - BOROUGH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON
OUTSIDE BODIES – NOMINATIONS FOR 2024/2025****STRATEGIC APPOINTMENTS TO NOTE:**

Organisation	Appointee 2023/24	Appointment Requirements	Nomination 2024/25
Local Government Association	Councillor Matt Dormer	1 Representative (usually Leader) Term: 1 Year No liability issues identified.	Councillor Baker
West Mercia Police and Crime Panel	Councillor Beecham Sub: Councillor Ashley	1 representative (Relevant Portfolio Holder) and 1 substitute. Term: 1 Year Quorum 6 out of 17 (including at least 3 members from the Worcestershire authorities and 3 from the non-Worcestershire authorities) No liability issues identified.	Councillor Stringfellow Sub: Councillor Munro
Assembly of the District Councils' Network	Councillor Matt Dormer	1 representative Term: 1 Year To represent the Council on the Assembly of this body which is a voice for District Councils within the Local Government Association. The Assembly of the DCN comprises the Leaders of the Member Authorities or equivalent. No liability issues identified.	Councillor Baker
West Midlands Employers (WME) Shareholder Board	New	1 representative (preferably the Leader) Preferred Term: 4 years To represent the Council at meetings of the WME Shareholders Committee. There are 6 scheduled meetings per year plus an induction session to attend.	Councillor Baker

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Organisation	Appointee 2023/24	Appointment Requirements	Nomination 2024/25
Worcestershire Local Transport Board (<i>WLTB</i>)	Councillor Matt Dormer Sub: Councillor Karen May (Bromsgrove District Council)	2 representatives from North Worcestershire Councils plus one substitute. 2 representatives not to be drawn from the Council supplying the “main” representative on Worcestershire LEP	<i>These appointments are shared with Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest District Councils. The nominations to these positions will be reported to the next Council meeting.</i>
Corporate Parenting Board (<i>Worcestershire County Council</i>)	Councillor Harrison	1 Representative - Must be relevant Portfolio Holder Term: 1 Year (Monthly meetings – approx. 2 hrs each time – generally Friday mornings – 9.30a.m. start) No liability issues identified.	Councillor Stringfellow
Redditch Partnership (Local Strategic Partnership including Redditch District Collaborative)	Councillor Matt Dormer	1 Representative – Leader Term: 1 Year No liability issues identified.	Councillor Baker
Redditch Partnership Business Leaders Group (<i>Formerly an Economic Theme Group</i>)	Councillor Matt Dormer	1 Representative – Leader - Economic Development Portfolio Holder Term: 1 Year	Councillor Baker
Redditch BID Limited (<i>Company no 11964088</i>)	Councillor Matt Dormer	1 Representative to act as a director of the company. Term: 1 Year No liability issues identified	Councillor Baker
Redditch Town’s Fund Board	Councillor Matt Dormer	1 Representative – Leader Term: 1 Year No liability issues identified.	Councillor Baker

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Organisation	Appointee 2023/24	Appointment Requirements	Nomination 2024/25
North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership	Councillor Harrison Sub: Councillor Beecham	1 representative (relevant Portfolio Holder) and 1 named substitute Term: 1 Year Each district Council has a place on the Partnership Board as an Invitee to Participate. No liability issues identified.	Councillor Stringfellow Sub: Councillor Munro
Waste Management Board <i>(Lead Officer – Guy Revans)</i>	Councillor Clayton Sub: Councillor Marshall	1 representative (relevant Portfolio Holder) Term: 1 Year <u>Note: Meets Friday mornings - 4 times per year</u> No liability issues identified	Councillor Khan Sub: Councillor Munro
Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board	Councillor Harrison Sub: Councillor Beecham	1 representative and 1 substitute Term: 1 Year	Councillor Stringfellow Sub: Councillor Boyd
Health Improvement Group	Councillor Harrison Sub: Councillor Beecham	1 Representative (relevant Portfolio Holder) Term: 1 Year	Councillor Stringfellow Sub: Councillor Boyd
West Midlands Combined Authority Board	Councillor Matt Dormer Sub: Councillor Craig Warhurst	1 Representative (Leader by Office) and 1 substitute Term: 1 Year	Councillor Baker Sub: Councillor Hartnett
West Midlands Combined Authority Housing and Land Delivery Board	Councillor Matt Dormer Sub: Councillor Craig Warhurst	1 Representative (Must be relevant Portfolio Holder, function to include Housing and/or Land Use) Term: 1 Year	Councillor Hartnett Sub: Councillor Baker

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Organisation	Appointee 2023/24	Appointment Requirements	Nomination 2024/25
West Midlands Combined Authority – Audit Risk and Assurance Committee	Councillor Ashley Sub: Councillor Clayton	Worcestershire Non-constituent Authorities 1 Representative and 1 substitute. Must be members of the majority group	Councillor Woodall Sub: Councillor Fardoe
West Midlands Combined Authority – Economic Growth Board	Councillor Matt Dormer	1 Representative – Leader Non-constituent Authorities Term: 1 Year	Councillor Baker
West Midlands Combined Authority – Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Marshall Sub: Councillor Ashley	Worcestershire Non-constituent Authorities 1 representative and 1 substitute. Must be members of the majority group and ideally members of O&S	Councillor Kane Sub: Councillor King
West Midlands Combined Authority - Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Marshall Sub: Councillor Clayton	Worcestershire Non-constituent Authorities 1 representative and 1 substitute.	Councillor Munroe Sub: Councillor Kane
Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership	Cllr Marcus Hart (Wyre Forest District Council) Sub: Cllr Karen May (BDC)	1 representative on behalf of the 3 North Worcestershire authorities	<i>These appointments are shared with Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest District Councils. The nominations to these positions will be reported to the next Council meeting.</i>
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Partnership Assembly	Councillor Harrison	1 representative (Ideally Relevant Portfolio) and one named substitute Term: 1 Year	Councillor Stringfellow

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<p>Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p><i>(Worcestershire County Council)</i></p>	<p>Councillor Marshall</p>	<p>1 representative (Must be a member of the Redditch Overview and Scrutiny Committee)</p> <p>Term: 1 year.</p> <p>Comprises 8 County Councillors and 6 District Councillors who scrutinise the local NHS and are consulted by the NHS on any proposed substantial changes to local health services.</p>	<p>Councillor Kane</p>
<p>Redditch Highways & Transportation Forum Members Discussion Group</p> <p><i>(Worcestershire County Council)</i></p>	<p>Councillor Brandon Clayton</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Fry</p>	<p>Up to 2 Representatives</p> <p>Term: 1 Year</p> <p>Role is that of non-voting observers only.</p> <p>No liability issues identified.</p>	<p>Councillor Fry</p> <p>Councillor Clayton</p>
<p>Worcestershire Local Access Forum</p> <p><i>(Worcestershire County Council)</i></p>	<p>Councillor Anthony Lovell</p>	<p>1 representative from north Worcestershire District Councils.</p> <p>Term: 1 year</p> <p><i>(Note: Would be beneficial if the representative had a keen interest in countryside access and recreation issues.)</i></p> <p>No liability issues identified.</p>	<p><i>This appointment is shared with Wyre Forest District Council. The nominations to these positions will be reported to the next Council meeting.</i></p>
<p>Redditch Eastern Gateway Steering Group</p>	<p>Councillor Anthony Lovell</p>	<p>1 Representative (Must be a ward member for Winyates Ward)</p> <p>Term: 1 year</p> <p>Group of local stakeholders set up by Stratford on Avon District Council to consider proposals regarding the Eastern Gateway Development as to reserved matters and routing strategy/survey.</p> <p>No liability issues identified.</p>	<p>Councillor Snape</p>

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Citizens Advice Bromsgrove and Redditch	New 2016 No appointments made since 2017	1 representative and 1 substitute. Term: 3 years Appointments will be trustees of the CAB which is a charitable company limited by guarantee.	Councillor Rogers
Redditch Co-operative Homes	Councillors Altaf, Fardoe, Hartnett and Lovell	4 Representatives Term: 1 year Liability appears to be limited providing there are no breaches of duty or trust.	Councillors Slim, Spilsbury and Wren + 1 vacancy
Redditch One World Link Executive Committee	Councillor Ashley and Marshall	2 Representatives Nominations should not include the Mayor who is a Member ex-officio*. Term: 1 year Liability appears to be limited, provided there are no breaches of duty or trust.	Councillor Barker Smith and Kane
PATROL Traffic Penalty Tribunal (Civil Parking Enforcement)	Councillor Clayton Deputy: Councillor Pearman	1 Representative plus 1 Deputy. Term: 1 Year No liabilities identified / unlikely to be any liabilities.	Councillor Khan Deputy: Councillor Mathur
'Where Next' Association	Councillor Lovell Councillor Spilsbury	2 Representatives – 2 places variation previously agreed Term: 1 Year Liability appears to be limited.	Councillors King and Slim
Worcestershire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership	Councillor Alex Fogg	1 Representative Term: 1 year to Council's AGM Nature of representation: to represent the Borough Council.	Councillor Khan
Tardebigge Relief in Need and Sickness Charity	Councillor Harrison (Exp 2025) Councillor Baker (Exp 2026)	2 Representatives (However, only one position is due for appointment in 2024). Term: 4 years.	Councillor Mathur

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Eadie Mews Trust (Formerly Smallwood Almshouses Trust)	Councillor Pearman (Exp 2025)	1 Representative Term: 4 years	Councillor Rogers
Feckenham Educational Endowment	Councillor Clayton	1 Representative Term: 1 Year	Councillor Barker Smith

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