

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Council held on 23 May 2018 at 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Councillors Qaisar Abbas, Tim Aker, Abbie Akinbohun, John Allen, Alex Anderson, James Baker, Clare Baldwin, Russell Cherry, Colin Churchman, Gary Collins, Mark Coxshall, Jack Duffin, Tony Fish, Mike Fletcher (*arrived 7.07pm*), Leslie Gamester, Oliver Gerrish, Robert Gledhill, Garry Hague, James Halden, Graham Hamilton, Shane Hebb, Victoria Holloway, Deborah Huelin, Andrew Jefferies, Barry Johnson, Tom Kelly, Cathy Kent, John Kent, Martin Kerin, Steve Liddiard, Susan Little, Sue MacPherson, Ben Maney, Bukky Okunade, Terry Piccolo, Jane Pothecar, David Potter, Joycelyn Redsell, Barbara Rice, Gerard Rice, Elizabeth Rigby, Sue Sammons, Angela Sheridan, Sue Shinnick, Peter Smith, Luke Spillman, Pauline Tolson, Aaron Watkins and Lynn Worrall

**In attendance:** Tunde Ojetola, Retiring Mayor  
Mike Stone, Retiring Deputy Mayor  
Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive  
Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health  
Sean Clark, Director of Finance & IT  
Jackie Hinchliffe, Director of HR, OD & Transformation  
David Lawson, Assistant Director of Law & Governance  
Rory Patterson, Corporate Director of Children's Services  
Karen Wheeler, Director of Strategy, Communications and Customer Service  
Kerry Thomas, Chief Executive Business Manager  
Matthew Boulter, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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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.

Tunde Ojetola, the Mayor of Thurrock, took the Chair for Minute Nos. 1, 2 and 3. Following the election of the new Mayor of Thurrock, Councillor B Rice took the Chair for the remainder of the business.

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

### **1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 28 February 2018 were approved as a correct record.

### **2. To elect and install the Mayor for the municipal year 2018/19**

Nominations were invited for the election of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

It was proposed by Councillor Gerrish, and seconded by Councillor G Rice, that Councillor B Rice be elected Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

The Mayor declared that Councillor B Rice had been duly elected as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

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

The new elected Mayor, Councillor B Rice, made a short speech thanking the Council for the privilege and honour of being elected as the Mayor of Thurrock and thanked all Councillors for their support. Councillor B Rice stated that Thurrock residents deserved to see Councillors conducting the business of Thurrock Council in a fair and equitable manner, with dignity and respect and would be firm but fair in her role as Mayor when conducting Full Council meetings.

The Mayor presented Tunde Ojetola and his Consort, Bunmi Ojetola, with their past Mayor's and past consort's badge.

Councillor Gledhill stated it was a shame to see any Mayor or Councillor leave and thanked Tunde Ojetola for his services as a Councillor and congratulated him on having had such a fantastic year as Mayor. Councillor Gledhill wished Tunde Ojetola well and hoped that he would now enjoy some free time.

Councillor Gerrish echoed the Leaders comments and stated that Tunde Ojetola as his time as Mayor had attended a large amount of events, that he had championed lots of young people, was admired and was passionate about the role and should proudly take those positive memories away with him.

Councillor Spillman thanked Tunde Ojetola for being kind, courteous and helpful as his time as Mayor and that he would not be surprised to him back in the chamber soon.

Councillor Redsell thanked Tunde Ojetola for the hard work undertaken as his time as Mayor and that this was appreciated by all.

Councillor MacPherson thanked Tunde Ojetola for being kind and caring and that he would be missed as a Councillor.

Tunde Ojetola thanked Members for their kind words and support. That he had enjoyed his time representing the borough of Thurrock and that the Council had one common purpose which was Thurrock residents.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Councillor B Rice be duly elected as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2018-19.**

**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 2018/19**

Nominations were invited for the election of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018-19.

It was proposed by Councillor Gledhill and seconded by Councillor Churchman that Councillor Piccolo be appointed Deputy Mayor of Thurrock for 2018-19.

It was proposed by Councillor Spillman and seconded by Councillor Duffin that Councillor Aker be appointed Deputy Mayor of Thurrock for 2018-19.

The Mayor called a vote on the nominations made.

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Piccolo to be the next Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2018-19.

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

Councillor Piccolo then made a short speech to accept the honour of being appointed as Deputy Mayor and thanked Members for their support.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Councillor Piccolo be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough and Vice-Chair of the Council for the municipal year 2018-19.**

**5. Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

**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 took the opportunity to thank Michael Stone for his role as Deputy Mayor and wished him well.

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

The Mayor confirmed that the Deputy Mayor Consort would be Joan Piccolo. Joan Piccolo was asked to step forward and receive the Consort's Chain.

The Mayor announced that her charities for the Mayoral Year would be the Thurrock Branch of the RNLI, GIFT and the Community Chest.

Furthermore, the Mayor announced that her Mayoral Chaplain would be Reverend Canon Darren Barlow.

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

The Leader announced that he had received earlier today the news that former Councillor John Everett had sadly passed away and sent condolences to his family.

The Leader of the Council paid tribute to the appointment of Councillor B Rice as the new Mayor of Thurrock and to Councillor Piccolo as the new Deputy Mayor of Thurrock. Councillor Gledhill also welcomed back new members to the chamber.

The Leader of the Council then informed Members of the changes to the appointments he had made to Cabinet, together with the details of their respective portfolios.

Councillor Gledhill	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour
Councillor Hebb	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance
Councillor Collins	Portfolio Holder for Central Services
Councillor Coxshall	Portfolio Holder for Regeneration
Councillor Halden	Portfolio Holder for Education and Health
Councillor Huelin	Portfolio Holder for Communities
Councillor Johnson	Portfolio Holder for Housing
Councillor Little	Portfolio Holder for Children and Adult Social Care
Councillor Watkins	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways

The Mayor requested that a one minute's silence was held as a mark of respect to former Councillor John Everett who had sadly passed away.

## **7. Committees and their Terms of Reference**

The Leader of the Council presented the report and 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 2018-19 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 2018-19 municipal year, with their terms of reference being those set out in Chapter 5 of the Constitution.**

## **8. 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 2018-19, together with the nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, were set out in a booklet tabled for Members.

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 stated 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.

Councillor Gledhill stated that the 3 extra unallocated seats gained by the Conservative Party as part of the manual adjustment be allocated to Thurrock Independents. If these seats were not accepted, Councillor Gledhill stated that he would announce the allocated members to those 3 seats at the June Full Council.

Councillor Gledhill stated that he would like to make 3 changes to the nomination booklet.

On the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee replace Councillor Collins with Councillor Hague.

On the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee replace Councillor Collins with Councillor Maney.

On the Licensing Committee replace Councillor Collins with Councillor Maney as the nomination for Chair.

Councillor Gerrish stated that he would like to make 1 change to the nomination booklet.

On the Corporate Parenting Committee withdraw Councillor Liddiard as the nomination for Vice Chair.

Councillor Spillman stated he had no changes to make to the nomination booklet and that the Thurrock Independents would not be accepting the 3 unallocated seats.

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 results of each vote are set out below:

#### Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Gerrish over Councillor Duffin to be Chair.

Therefore Councillor Gerrish was appointed Chair and by default Councillor Duffin was appointed Vice Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor G Rice over Councillor Spillman to be Chair.

Therefore Councillor G Rice was appointed Chair and by default Councillor Spillman was appointed Vice Chair of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Kerin over Councillor Smith to be Chair.

Therefore Councillor Kerin was appointed Chair and by default Councillor Smith was appointed Vice Chair of the Planning Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### Standards and Audit Committee

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Fish over Councillor Cherry to be Chair.

Therefore Councillor Fish was appointed Chair and by default Councillor Cherry was appointed Vice Chair of the Standards and Audit Committee.

#### **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 the non-voting co-opted members of the Planning Committee, the Standards and Audit Committee, the Health and Wellbeing 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.**
4. **That the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees be appointed as set out below:**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
<b>Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	Councillor J Kent	Councillor Potter
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	Councillor Worrall	Councillor Sheridan
<b>Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	Councillor Gerrish	Councillor Duffin
<b>Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	Councillor Holloway	Councillor Allen
<b>Housing Overview and Scrutiny</b>	Councillor G Rice	Councillor Spillman

<b>Committee</b>		
<b>Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	Councillor Kerin	Councillor Smith
<b>Corporate Parenting</b>	Councillor Redsell	Councillor Hamilton
<b>General Services</b>	Councillor Gledhill	Councillor Gerrish
<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>	Councillor Halden	-
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	Councillor Maney	Councillor Fish
<b>Planning Committee</b>	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Liddiard
<b>Standards and Audit Committee</b>	Councillor Fish	Councillor Cherry

## 9. **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 tabled for Members.

The Leader presented the report in respect of the appointments required to be made to Outside Bodies, Statutory and Other Panels.

The Mayor 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.

Councillor Gledhill stated he would like to withdraw his nomination from the Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee. Therefore this appointment was no longer contested.

Councillor Gerrish stated that he would like to make 2 changes to the nomination booklet.

On the Impulse Leisure to withdraw Councillor Liddiard's nomination.

On the Thurrock Sports Council to withdraw Councillor Liddiard's nomination. Therefore this appointment was no longer contested.

Councillor B Rice stated she would like to withdraw her nomination from the Campaign to Protect Rural Essex. Therefore this appointment was no longer contested.



The results of each vote are set out below:

#### Coalhouse Fort Project

The result of the vote: Councillor C Kent (16), Councillor Watkins (20), Councillor Sammons (12). With Councillor Sammons receiving the least number of votes a further vote was undertaken. The majority of the chamber then voted in favour of Councillor Watkins over Councillor C Kent.

Therefore Councillor Watkins was appointed the representative of the Council on the Coalhouse Fort Project.

#### Police Fire and Crime Panel

The result of the vote: Councillor Okunade (16), Councillor Anderson (20), Councillor Smith (12). With Councillor Smith receiving the least number of votes a further vote was undertaken. The majority of the chamber then voted in favour of Councillor Anderson over Councillor Okunade.

Therefore Councillor Anderson was appointed the representative of the Council on the Police Fire and Crime Panel.

#### Impulse Leisure

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Hague over Councillor Smith.

Therefore Councillor Hague was appointed the representative of the Council on the Impulse Leisure.

#### Open Door (Thurrock)

The majority of the chamber voted in favour of Councillor Churchman over Councillor Worrall.

Therefore Councillor Churchman was appointed the representative of the Council on the Open Door (Thurrock).

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, thereupon 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 a DBS within 2 months of taking up their role.**

#### **10. Schedule of Meetings 2018/19**

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report. A copy of the schedule of meetings for 2018-2019 was included in the Agenda at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Gerrish stated that the Labour Group Meetings would now be held on the Monday preceding Full Council.

Councillor Gerrish also stated that September Full Council date conflicted with the Labour Conference. The Leader replied saying this matter would be looked into.

Members agreed to note the recommendation.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Schedule of Meetings for 2018-19 be approved.**

#### **11. Schedule of Elections and Order of Retirement of Councillors**

The Leader of the Council briefly introduced the report which informed the Council of the schedule of elections to be held between 2019 and 2022.

Members agreed to note the recommendation.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the schedule of elections from 2019 to 2022 and order of retirement of Councillors be noted.**

**The meeting finished at 7.59 pm**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Democratic Services at [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)**