

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF

Council

HELD AT 6.00PM ON 19 JULY 2012

AT COUNCIL OFFICES, CROWMARSH GIFFORD

Present:

Mrs J Carr (Chairman)

Mrs A Badcock, Ms J Bland, Mr D Bretherton, Mrs D Brown, Mrs C Collett, MBE, Mr S Connel, Ms K Crabbe, Mr P Cross, Mrs M Davies, Mr L Docherty, Mr D Dodds, Mrs E A Ducker, MBE, Mr M Gray, Mrs E Hards, Mr N Harris, Mr P Harrison, Mr S Harrod, Mr M Hiles, Mrs E Hodgkin, Dr C Hood, Mr M Leonard, Ms L Lloyd, Mr I Lokhon, Mrs A Midwinter, Mrs J Nimmo-Smith, Rev'd A Paterson, Ms A Purse, Mr C Quinton, Mrs P Slatter, Mr D Turner, Mrs M Turner, Ms R Wallis

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr R Bell, Mr J Cotton, Mrs E Gillespie, Mr M Harris, Mr T Joslin, Mr B Service, Mr M Welply and Mrs J Wood

Officers:

Mr S Bishop, Mr D Buckle, Mrs K Fiander, Mr M Prosser, Mrs M Reed and Mrs A Robinson

8. Minutes, 17 May 2012 meeting

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2012 as a correct record and agree that the Chairman sign them as such.

9. Chairman's announcements

Council agreed with the Chairman's proposal to send Mr M Welply its very best of wishes owing to his illness.

The Chairman asked councillors to note that the Chairman's charity dinner would take place on Friday 5 April 2013 at the Oxfordshire Golf Club.



Listening Learning Leading

The charity quiz at Abingdon had raised £400 for the Chairman's charities and the Chief Executive and officers had raised £1800 as a result of the Run24 event at Aldermaston.

The Chairman had attended the torch relay events including a visit to Blenheim Palace.

10. Localism Act: standards of conduct

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer that provided an update on the impact of the secondary legislation on some of the decisions on the new standards arrangements, which were taken at the Council meeting on 17 May 2012.

Officers responded to questions and comments as follows:

- The council had not had any difficulty in recruiting independent persons and the advert on the council's website had generated immediate responses.
- If the monitoring officer had a conflict of interest in dealing with a complaint the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee could take on the decision-making responsibilities.
- Councillors would need to complete registers for parish, district and the county council and send them to the relevant council.
- The monitoring officer clarified the process that would take place on receipt of a complaint.
- The monitoring officer confirmed that the new legislation was more restrictive than the previous arrangements in that it prevented a councillor from addressing a committee if they had a pecuniary interest. In terms of planning applications a councillor could use an agent or write to the planning committee.

RESOLVED: to

1. endorse the decision of Council on 17 May 2012 to adopt the code of conduct as the code of conduct which is expected of councillors and co-opted members of South Oxfordshire District Council with effect from 1 July 2012 in place of the council's existing code of conduct, and now subject to the inclusion of the definition of disclosable pecuniary interests as set out in the full code of conduct attached at appendix 1 to the report to Council on 19 July 2012;
2. designate the monitoring officer as the proper officer for receipt of requests for dispensations under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011;
3. amend the terms of reference of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee to include the power to grant dispensations to councillors under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011;

4. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to include the code of conduct in the constitution and to make any consequential amendments to the constitution arising from the adoption of the code including minor or consequential amendments required for clarification, consistency and compliance with the council's style guide;
5. appoint Mrs Carole Burchett and Mr George Green as the independent persons until 30 June 2017.

The meeting closed at 6.20pm.

Chairman