

# Minutes

## OF A MEETING OF THE

# Council



Listening Learning Leading

HELD AT 6.00 PM ON THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2014

## COUNCIL CHAMBER, SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES

### Present:

Ann Midwinter (Chairman)

Margaret Turner, Anna Badcock, Roger Bell, Joan Bland, Felix Bloomfield, Janet Carr, Celia Collett, MBE, Bernard Cooper, John Cotton, Kristina Crabbe, Philip Cross, Margaret Davies, Pat Dawe, David Dodds, Elizabeth Gillespie, Mark Gray, Will Hall, Tony Harbour, Eleanor Hards, Marcus Harris, Neville F Harris, Paul Harrison, Stephen Harrod, Marc Hiles, Christopher Hood, Malcolm Leonard, Lynn Lloyd, Imran Lokhon, Judith Nimmo-Smith, Angie Paterson, Christopher Quinton, Alan Rooke, Bill Service, Robert Simister, Pearl Slatter, David Turner, Michael Welply and Jennifer Wood

### Apologies:

David Bretherton, Dorothy Brown, Leo Docherty, Elizabeth Hodgkin, Denise Macdonald, Anne Purse and Rachel Wallis tendered apologies.

**Officers:** Steve Bishop, David Buckle, Steven Corrigan, William Jacobs, Margaret Reed and Anna Robinson

Prior to the start of the meeting Council observed a minute's silence in memory of Mrs Ann Ducker, MBE.

Mrs Midwinter, Chairman of Council, advised that a Thanksgiving Service would take place on Thursday 6 November at Dorchester Abbey followed by refreshments at Little Stoke Manor. The family had requested no flowers and no black with any donations made to Sue Ryder.

Mrs Midwinter, Chairman of Council, Mr Cotton, Leader of the Conservative group, Mr Turner, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group, Mrs Hards, Leader of the Labour group, Mrs Collett, Leader of the Independent group, Mrs Wood, Deputy Leader of the Henley Residents group, Mr Bell, a Wheatley ward councillor, Mr N Harris, a Didcot Ladygrove ward councillor, Mr Leonard, a Shiplake ward councillor, and Mrs Slatter, a Goring ward councillor, all made statements in memory of Mrs Ducker.

In making his address Mr Cotton advised of his intention to seek Council support for a posthumous aldermanship for Mrs Ducker and advised that he will seek his group's

support for a growth bid to create a bursary in memory of Mrs Ducker to help young people get involved in public service.

### **23 Minutes of the previous meeting**

**RESOLVED:** to defer consideration of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2014 until the December Council meeting to allow councillors an opportunity to read them.

### **24 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest**

None.

### **25 Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman reported that the Chairman of Vale of White Horse District Council, Councillor Badcock, had asked her to advise councillors that his charity dinner in aid of the Royal British Legion and the National Eczema Society would take place on Friday 7 November at Dalton Barracks, Abingdon.

Prior to the Council meeting representatives of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community had visited her and the vice-chairman. The community worked to promote understanding, respect and peace between all people. As part of their centenary celebrations the community had raised half a million pounds for British charities including the Poppy Appeal, carried out a national blood donation drive to save lives, embarked on a feed the homeless programme to provide 20,000 meals this year and initiated a national environmental campaign to plant 50,000 trees. The community had donated £500 for one of her charities, the Royal British Legion Woman's Section. Complimentary copies of 'Life of Muhammad' and 'World Crisis and Pathway to Peace' books were available for interested councillors.

The Chairman reported that £560 was raised for her charities in a recent bowls match. She reminded councillors of the chairman's dinner on 20 March 2015.

### **26 Election of leader of the council**

**RESOLVED:** to elect Mr J Cotton as leader of Council for a period ending on the day of the next post election annual meeting.

Mr Cotton appointed Rev'd A Paterson as the deputy leader of Council and Mrs A Badcock, Mr D Dodds, Mrs E Gillespie, Mr W Hall, Mrs L Lloyd, Mrs J Nimmo-Smith, Mr B Service and Mr R Simister with the portfolios as follows:

Mr Cotton: Corporate Strategy, Economic Development and Wallingford

Rev'd Paterson: Deputy Leader, Planning Policy and Customer Services

Mrs Badcock: Housing

Mr Dodds: Waste and Thame

Mrs Gillespie: Development/Building Control, Grants and Northern Parishes

Mr Hall: Finance and Henley

Mr Service: Leisure and Didcot

Mrs Lloyd: IT, HR, Legal and Democratic Services

Mrs J Nimmo-Smith: Health, Community Safety and Central Parishes

Mr R Simister: Property, Technical Services and Southern Parishes

Any changes to the scheme of delegation would be brought forward in due course.

## **27 Questions from the public and public participation**

The chairman reported that Mr Molloy had registered to address Council on agenda item 9 – the motion. She would invite him to address Council at that item.

## **28 Treasury management outturn 2013/14**

Council considered the Cabinet's recommendation, made at its meeting on 9 October 2014, on the outturn performance of the treasury management function for the financial year 2013/14 and the approval of the actual 2013/14 prudential indicators in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and Treasury Management Practice 6.

In introducing the item Mr Hall, Cabinet member for finance, reported that investment income was higher than predicted in the 2013/14 budget and the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee, at its meeting on 29 September 2014, had welcomed the report and was satisfied that the treasury activities were carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy.

Mr Hall undertook to provide Mr Turner with a written response to his questions on why the council did not make a lump sum contribution to the Oxfordshire County Council pension fund this year and what guidance the government had provided to local authorities to mitigate against a repeat of the Icelandic bank investment defaults.

**RESOLVED:** to

1. approve the treasury management outturn report for 2013/14;
2. approve the actual 2013/14 prudential indicators within the report of the head of finance to Cabinet on 9 October 2014.

## **29 Questions under Council procedure rule 34**

None.

## **30 Motions under Council procedure rule 41**

Mr Molloy addressed Council on the motion. He expressed concern that his personal data had been passed to another elector, referred to the postal voting issues experienced at the 2011 elections and the fact that the council appeared to

experience further postal vote problems and sought an assurance that postal vote electors' votes had been counted.

Mr David Turner moved and Mr J Cotton seconded the following motion:

Council regrets and apologises to all residents involved who received letters about postal voter registration which in addition to the letter to them had a copy of a similar letter on the reverse side to another resident. Council regrets what was a breach of privacy and assures residents that the software problems which resulted in this unfortunate incident have now been resolved. This is a second problem with postal voting that SODC has experienced and Council seeks assurance that it will be satisfactory for the General Election and SODC elections in 2015.

In supporting the motion a number of councillors noted that at its 2 December 2014 meeting the Scrutiny Committee would consider a report on preparations for the 2015 district, parish and parliamentary elections.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council regrets and apologises to all residents involved who received letters about postal voter registration which in addition to the letter to them had a copy of a similar letter on the reverse side to another resident. Council regrets what was a breach of privacy and assures residents that the software problems which resulted in this unfortunate incident have now been resolved. This is a second problem with postal voting that SODC has experienced and Council seeks assurance that it will be satisfactory for the General Election and SODC elections in 2015.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm

Chairman

Date