

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Council



held on Wednesday 17 July 2024 at
6.00 pm in Meeting Room 1, Abbey
House, Abbey Close, Abingdon,
OX14 3JE

Open to the public, including the press

Present in the meeting room:

Councillors: Kellie Hinton (Chair), Katharine Keats-Rohan (Vice-Chair), Ken Arlett, David Bretherton, Peter Dragonetti, Ali Gordon-Creed, Alexandrine Kantor, Mocky Khan, Axel Macdonald, David Rouane, Ed Sadler, and Anne-Marie Simpson
Officers: Mark Stone (Chief Executive) and Darius Zarazel (Democratic Services Officer)

Remote attendance:

Officers: Abigail Witting (People and Culture Manager)

23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kate Gregory, Jo Robb, Leigh Rawlins, Andrea Powell, Tony Worgan, Denise Macdonald, Mike Giles, Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Sam-Casey-Rerhaye, David Turner, Tim Bearder, James Barlow, Georgina Heritage, Freddie Van Mierlo, Zia Mohammed, Robin Bennett, Pieter-Paul Barker, Sue Cooper, Ben Manning, and Sam James-Lawrie.

24 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

25 Public participation

There was no public participation.

26 Statutory Officer Appointments: Monitoring Officer, Electoral Registration Officer, and Returning Officer

Council considered the report on the Statutory Officer Appointments of Monitoring Officer, Electoral Registration Officer, and Returning Officer from the head of corporate services. The report outlined the recommendations from the Joint Staff Committee and requested that, if council were satisfied, for those recommendations for the posts to be approved.

Leader of the Council, Councillor David Rouane, introduced the report and highlighted that the Council had received a large number of applicants for the position of Monitoring Officer and had been through an extensive recruitment process. He indicated that the council had used independent consultants to sift through all the applications before then it was shortlisted by officers. After this, two candidates were then interviewed by the Joint Staff Committee. He confirmed that the recommendation from the committee was to appoint Nicholas Bennett as Monitoring Officer and Steven Corrigan as Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.

Council discussed the recruitment process, noting that it had followed the Councils normal HR process and had been very thorough. Overall, Council was satisfied with the report and agreed with the recommendations from the Joint Staff Committee.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (a) appoint Nicholas Bennett as Monitoring Officer for South Oxfordshire District Council with effect from them commencing their role as the councils' Head of Legal and Democratic services,
- (b) in terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and all related legislation, appoints Steven Corrigan as the council's Electoral Registration Officer with immediate effect and to designate Susan Baker as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer,
- (c) in terms of section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and all related legislation, appoints Steven Corrigan as the council's Returning Officer with immediate effect, with authority to act in that capacity for elections to the council and all or any parish and town councils within the council's area,
- (d) authorises the council's Electoral Registration Officer to act in respect of all related electoral, poll or referendum duties, including in relation to county council elections, national, regional, and local polls, or referenda,
- (e) authorises the Monitoring Officer (currently an interim arrangement) to make any consequential changes required to the Constitution to reflect these changes.

The meeting closed at 6.07 pm
