

# Annual Council



**Minutes** of a meeting of **Annual Council** held on  
**Wednesday 22 May 2019** at **6.30 pm** in the **Conference Chamber, West Suffolk House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present: **Councillors**

Richard Alecock	Susan Glossop	Robert Nobbs
Michael Anderson	John Griffiths	David Palmer
John Augustine	Pat Hanlon	Joanna Rayner
Trevor Beckwith	Brian Harvey	Karen Richardson
Mick Bradshaw	Diane Hind	David Roach
Sarah Broughton	Rachel Hood	Richard Rout
Simon Brown	Beccy Hopfensperger	Marion Rushbrook
Tony Brown	Paul Hopfensperger	Ian Shipp
Carol Bull	Ian Houlder	Andrew Smith
John Burns	Lisa Ingwall King	David Smith
Mike Chester	James Lay	John Smith
Patrick Chung	Aaron Luccarini	Clive Springett
Max Clarke	Victor Lukaniuk	Peter Stevens
Simon Cole	Margaret Marks	Jim Thorndyke
Jason Crooks	Joe Mason	Don Waldron
Andy Drummond	Jim Meikle	Frank Warby
Mary Evans	Sara Mildmay-White	Cliff Waterman
Robert Everitt	Robin Millar	Ann Williamson
Stephen Frost	Andy Neal	Phil Wittam
David Gathercole	David Nettleton	

## 1. **Remembrance**

This being the first meeting of the West Suffolk Council, the outgoing Shadow Council Vice-Chair, Councillor Brian Harvey, opened the meeting.

Before commencing business, all Members were asked to stand in order to observe a minutes' silence in remembrance of former Leader of St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Ray Novak, who had sadly died the day before.

## 2. **Election of Chair of the Council for 2019/2020**

The outgoing Shadow Council Vice-Chair then asked for nominations for the Chair of Council for 2019/2020.

Councillor John Griffiths nominated Councillor Brian Harvey and this was seconded by Councillor David Nettleton.

There being no other nominations and no objections, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Brian Harvey be elected Chair of West Suffolk Council for 2019/2020.

Councillor Harvey then received his Chain of Office and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before formally taking the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3. **Election of Vice Chair of the Council for 2019/2020**

The Chair advised that the next item of business was the election of the Vice Chair for the ensuing year; accordingly he nominated Councillor Margaret Marks as Vice Chair and this was duly seconded by Councillor John Griffiths.

There being no other nominations and no objections, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Margaret Marks be elected Vice Chair of West Suffolk Council for 2019/2020.

Councillor Marks then came forward to the dais, received her Chain of Office and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Before continuing with the business on the agenda, both Chair and Vice Chair of Council addressed the meeting and gave thanks to their fellow Members for their appointments.

Both looked forward to serving the West Suffolk Council in their roles and expressed great pride at being the first to be able to do so. Praise was also given to the PA to the Chair/Vice Chair of the Council for all her ongoing support.

4. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Terry Clements, Dawn Dicker, Roger Dicker, Elaine McManus and Peter Thompson.

5. **Election of the Leader of the Council**

The Chair sought nominations for the Leader of West Suffolk Council.

Councillor Sara Mildmay-White nominated Councillor John Griffiths and gave thanks to him for the work he had undertaken in order to bring the two former Councils together as West Suffolk Council. This was duly seconded by Councillor David Nettleton.

Upon being put to the vote and with 53 voting for the motion and with 6 against, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor John Griffiths be elected Leader of West Suffolk Council until the next post-election Annual Meeting unless determined before then in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

## 6. **Appointment of Cabinet Members**

The Leader thanked his fellow Members for his appointment as Leader of West Suffolk Council.

He paid tribute to the Members of the two former Councils and reminded all present that West Suffolk was now the eighth biggest District Council in the UK; the formation of which presented fantastic opportunities for all.

The Leader stated that he looked forward to working with all Councillors and welcomed their contributions on all business of the Authority.

Council were then advised of the list of Members to be appointed to the Cabinet, the Deputy Leader and the portfolios; together with those Members providing support roles:

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Sara Mildmay-White (Support Role: Mike Chester)	Deputy Leader/ Housing
Sarah Broughton	Resources and Performance
Carol Bull	Governance
Andy Drummond	Regulatory
Robert Everitt (Support Role: Marion Rushbrooke)	Families and Communities
Susan Glossop (Support Role: David Roach)	Growth
Jo Rayner	Leisure, Culture and Community Hubs
Peter Stevens	Operations

The Leader explained that there was the possibility of appointing one further Cabinet post which may enable flexibility going forward.

Council were also advised that key future workstreams for the Authority would include the Local Plan and the Strategic Plan. The intention was for specific time-limited taskforces to be formed to help support these areas of work, in particular a rural taskforce and climate change taskforce, and Terms of Reference were currently being developed for these.

## 7. **Review of Political Balance and Appointment to Politically Balanced Bodies 2019/2020 (Report No: AGM/WS/19/001)**

The Leader presented this item and drew attention to the supplementary paper that had been circulated separately to the agenda and which contained the proposed allocation of Committee places to the Political Groups; having been developed in consultation with the three Group Leaders.

On the motion of the Leader, seconded by Councillor Diane Hind, who gave thanks to Democratic Services for all their work on the report, and with 58 voting for the motion and with 1 abstention it was

**RESOLVED:**

That:-

1. The Committees and Sub-Committees listed in Paragraph 1.8 of Report No: AGM/WS/19/001 operate for 2019/2020 in accordance with the number of seats and Terms of Reference, as contained in Appendix C, subject to the membership of the Standards Committee being increased to 7 Members;
2. The Council agrees the political balance and allocation of seats on Committees as per Appendix A;
3. The Council agrees the political balance and allocation of substitutes on Committees as per Appendix B; and
4. The Council notes that based on the agreed allocations, Group Leaders have up to 14 days in which to notify the Monitoring Officer of their nominations to Committee places, on which the Monitoring Officer will appoint Members to Committees.

**8. Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees**

The Chair explained that each of the appointments under this item would be taken and voted upon in turn.

(a) Appointment of Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Victor Lukaniuk nominated Councillor David Nettleton and this was seconded by Councillor Sara Mildmay-White.

There being no other nominations, it was put to the vote and with 51 voting for the motion, 7 against and with 1 abstention it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor David Nettleton be elected Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/2020.

(b) Appointment of Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor David Nettleton nominated Councillor Simon Cole and this was seconded by the Leader who highlighted the fact that the Conservative Group had intentionally not made a nomination from the Group for the Chair of the Committee as the aim was to work across the Political Groups on scrutiny.

The Leader also gave thanks to Councillor Diane Hind who had previously served as the Chair of the St Edmundsbury Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

There being no other nominations, it was put to the vote and with 55 voting for the motion and with 4 abstentions it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Simon Cole be elected Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/2020.

(c) Appointment of Chair of Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee

The Leader nominated Councillor Ian Houlder and this was seconded by Councillor John Burns.

There being no other nominations, it was put to the vote and with 57 voting for the motion and with 2 abstentions it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Ian Houlder be elected Chair of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee for 2019/2020.

(d) Appointment of Vice Chair of Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee

The Leader nominated Councillor Karen Richardson and this was seconded by Councillor Clive Springett.

There being no other nominations, it was put to the vote and with the vote being unanimous it was

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Karen Richardson be elected Vice Chair of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee for 2019/2020.

9. **Councillor Allowances and Expenses (Report No: AGM/WS/19/002)**

The Leader presented this item which sought agreement of the Members' Allowance Scheme recommended for approval by the West Suffolk Shadow Council in February 2019.

The Leader spoke on the vast amount of work undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel in developing the scheme. He also advised Council that a review was to be undertaken during Autumn 2019 and he encouraged all Members to engage in the review.

Councillor David Nettleton made reference to the table setting out the rate of allowances in Schedule 1 of the report's appendix which referred to a single Vice Chair of the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Nettleton explained that the volume of work in respect of the Development Control Committee was considerable and in light of this he proposed an amendment to the table to read "*Vice Chair(s) of Development Control Committee*" – therefore enabling the Committee to appoint two, who would *each* receive the SRA for the appointment.

The Leader welcomed the proposal which he considered sensible and moved the report's recommendations inclusive of this amendment. This was duly seconded by Councillor Jo Rayner.

Upon being put to the vote and with 58 voting for the motion and with 1 abstention, it was

**RESOLVED:**

That:-

1. The Scheme of Allowances as attached to Appendix 1 of this report be agreed inclusive of the amendment to the table in Schedule 1 to read "*Vice Chair(s) of Development Control Committee*"; and
2. The Independent Remuneration Panel undertake a further review within the financial year to evaluate whether the scheme is working as intended or requires further amendment.

10. **Review and Representation on Outside Bodies 2019 - 2023 (Report No: AGM/WS/19/003)**

The Leader presented this item and spoke on the value of Council representation on outside bodies; for the organisations and Members alike.

He encouraged Members to put themselves forward for roles to their Group Leaders.

On the motion of the Leader, duly seconded by Councillor Margaret Marks and with 58 voting for the motion and with 1 abstention it was

**RESOLVED:**

That:-

1. The Service Manager (Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer be given Delegated Authority to appoint the Council's representatives on outside bodies, in accordance with the nominations put forward by relevant Group Leaders, or the nominated body, or the individual listed, as detailed in Appendix A; and
2. Where no representative is nominated, the Service Manager (Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer be given Delegated Authority to seek nominations from other bodies and individuals, to be approved by Council in due course;

3. The Council notes that where the outside organisation is discharging executive functions, or the Council is an observer on an organisation, these appointments will be made by Cabinet;
4. The Council notes that it is intended to continue to review representation on outside bodies to ensure that it remains beneficial for the organisation and for the Council; and
5. The Council notes that the nominations to the Suffolk County Council Health Scrutiny Committee, be proposed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 13 June 2019, for subsequent confirmation by Council on 16 July 2019.

The meeting concluded at 7.07pm

**Signed by:**

**Chair**

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