

Minutes



Council

Date: 25 July 2017

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors M Al-Nuaimi, J Cleverly, P Cockeram, M Cornelious, K Critchley, D Davies, C Evans, M Evans, C Ferris, D Fouweather, G Giles, J Guy, D Harvey, I Hayat, R Jeavons, C Jenkins, M Kellaway, M Linton, D Mayer, R Mogford, A Morris, J Mudd, M Rahman, J Richards, M Spencer, T Suller, H Thomas, K Thomas, R Truman, T Watkins, M Whitcutt, R White, K Whitehead, D Wilcox, G Berry, J Clarke, V Dudley, Y Forsey, R Hayat, T Holyoake, P Hourahine, J Hughes, J Jordan, L Lacey, S Marshall, W Routley, H Townsend and J Watkins

Apologies: Councillors C Townsend and D Williams

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **Preliminaries**

Grenfell Tower Disaster

The Mayor led the Council in a minute's silence to remember all those affected by the Grenfell Tower disaster. The Leader also gave a statement regarding the Council's response to these events, which included working closely with Newport City Homes to support residents living in tower blocks in Newport.

3. **Minutes**

The Leader of the Council clarified that no Equalities Champion had been appointed at the AGM because the governance structure was currently under review by the Strategic Equalities Group.

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2017 were confirmed as a true record by the Council and signed by the Mayor.

4. **Appointments**

Resolved

The following appointments were agreed:

Internal Appointments

Committee	No. of Vacancies / Replacements	Nominations Received
Democratic Services Committee	1 replacement	Cllr Kate Thomas to replace Cllr Herbie Thomas
Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate	1 replacement	Cllr Graham Berry to replace Cllr Majid Rahman
Homelessness and Supporting People Champion	1 vacancy	Cllr Yvonne Forsey (previously listed as Homelessness Champion)

Appointments to External Organisations

Organisation	No. of Vacancies / Replacements	Nominations Received
Newport Transport Board	1 replacement	Owen James (Assistant Head of Finance) to replace Cllr Graham Berry.
Norse Joint Partnership Board	1 replacement	Bev Owen (Strategic Director – Place) to replace Cllr Roger Jeavons.
Caldicot and Wentlooge Drainage Board	3 replacements	Mr Matthew Jones to replace Mr William Langsford; Mr Steve Davies to replace Cllr Martyn Kellaway; and Cllr Richard White to replace Cllr David Williams
Living Levels Board	2 vacancies	Cllr Jane Mudd and Cllr Roger Jeavons
Vale of Usk Local Action Group	1 vacancy	Cllr Jane Mudd
Newport LIVE Board	2 vacancies	Cllr Debbie Wilcox and Cllr Mark Whitcutt
Gwent Police and Crime Panel	1 replacement	Cllr Jason Jordan to replace Cllr Kevin Whitehead
Williams Trust	1 replacement	Roy McCabe to replace Stephen Marshall
CSC Foundry Ltd	1 vacancy	Bev Owen

Governing Body Appointments

Governing Body	No. of Vacancies / Reappointments	Nominations Received
St Julian's School	3	Paul Jones, Tracy McKim, Deborah Weston
Caerleon Comprehensive School	2	Cllr Joan Watkins, Ann Price
Llanwern High School	1	Cllr Debbie Harvey
Crindau Primary School	1	Cllr Herbie Thomas
Gaer Primary School	1	Cllr Stephen Marshall
High Cross Primary School	1	Cllr Val Dudley
Kimberly Nursery School	1	Georgina Cooper
Langstone Primary School	1	Cllr William Routley
Lliswerry High School	1	Mike Chaffin
Millbrook Primary School	1	Cllr Jason Jordan
Newport High School	1	Cllr Herbie Thomas
Ringland Primary School	1	Cllr Malcolm Linton (from 1 Sept 2017)
St Julians School	1	Mereille Hourahine
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon	1	Dywnwen Barklam

5. **Police Issues**

The Mayor welcomed Chief Inspector David Morgan to the meeting.

Councillors M Evans, Morris and J Watkins raised concerns relating to illegal encampments by Gypsy and Traveller groups, with particular reference to incidents around Esperanto Way, and of encampments near school sites. Chief Inspector Morgan outlined the multi-agency approach that was being taken in response, and the progress that had been made in addressing the specific issues raised.

Councillor Rahman cited concerns over the recent Colour Clash event at Rodney Parade. The Chief Inspector outlined the coordinated approach taken in preparation for this event, and reported that there would also be a debrief on the event.

Councillors Truman, Routley and Jeavons all referred to concerns relating to illegal parking around the city. Specific references were made to dangerous parking on junctions, and of cars for sale in laybys. The Chief Inspector recognised that illegal parking was an issue across the city, and agreed to take back the specific concerns raised to local policing teams. The Chief Inspector highlighted the 700 parking tickets issued in the city centre last year, and specific actions that could be taken in relation to the sale of cars on the highway.

Councillors J Watkins and Ferris raised concerns relating to the increasing use of gas canisters to inhale. The Chief Inspector recognised this as an increasing problem and advised that spent canisters could be disposed of safely, however intelligence relating to where canisters were being found would be useful in terms of tackling this worrying trend.

Councillor Critchley highlighted problems relating to the 101 service, and the impact this had on public confidence in both the 101 service and the police. The Chief Inspector expressed his disappointment that people were still experiencing difficulties, and highlighted the investment that had been made recently to improve this service.

Councillors Whitehead, Harvey, Whitcutt, Jenkins and J Watkins highlighted specific concerns relating to events or issues in their wards. The Chief Inspector agreed to take those issues back to local teams, or speak to those Members outside the meeting to progress the issues raised.

6. Standing Orders

The Leader of the Council presented the report proposing to amend standing orders to include a session for open questions to the Leader of the Council at full Council meetings. As this was a new initiative, the process had been based on the system for Prime Minister's Questions in Parliament, with question allocation for party leaders followed by a ballot system. The proposal included a 15 minute time limit, and it was clarified that the existing system for submitting written questions to Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs would remain.

Councillors M Evans and Whitehead both spoke in support of the proposal as a positive development, but both also raised concerns that the 15 minute time limit would be too short.

Resolved

To adopt the proposals in the report and to change Standing Orders accordingly.

7. Director of Social Services Annual Report

The Mayor announced that this would be the last meeting attended by Mike Nicholson before his retirement. The Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition both thanked him for his service to the Council, and passed on their best wishes for the future.

The Director of Social Services thanked Members for their kind words and support.

The Director gave a presentation on his annual report for 2016/17, highlighting the significant progress that had been made in his 8 years working for Newport City Council. The report highlighted the current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing social services.

A number of Councillors spoke in support of the report, in particular thanking the Director for the improvements made to the service under his leadership.

In relation to concerns raised regarding the financial challenges facing the service, the Leader highlighted that this was a national issue, and she was working together with her counterparts in the other Welsh local authorities to speak with one voice in lobbying national governments, and put the concerns of local government across clearly.

Resolved

To receive the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2016/17.

8. Pillgwenlly Public Space Protection Order

The Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulation presented the report, requesting that Council introduces a Public Space Protection Order for the Pillgwenlly area of Newport. The Cabinet Member highlighted that, while it was recognised that the PSPO was not a panacea, this would be another tool to enable partners to tackle issues in the ward, and make it clear that the anti-social behaviour of a minority of people in the community would not be tolerated.

A number of Councillors spoke in favour of the proposals, welcoming this progress for the people of Pillgwenlly. The importance of the multi-agency approach to this was highlighted, and thanks were expressed for the hard work that had gone into developing the proposals, including colleagues from the Council, the Police, and the community itself.

Resolved

That Council approves the Public Space Protection Order for the Pillgwenlly area as detailed in the report.

9. Democratic Services Committee Annual Report

The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee presented the Annual Report, noting the progress made by the Committee last year, and the work planned for the coming year.

Resolved

To endorse the content of the report.

10. Questions to the Chair of Cabinet

There were no questions to the Chair of Cabinet on this occasion.

11. Questions to the Cabinet Members

There were no questions to the Cabinet Members on this occasion.

12. Questions to the Chairs of Committees

There were no questions to the Chairs on this occasion.

13. Standards Committee

Resolved

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting on 29 June 2017 were received by Council.