



<u>Committee and Date</u>
COUNCIL
23 June 2011

<u>Item</u>
3
Public

MINUTES

OF

MEETING OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

HELD ON 12 MAY 2011
AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT:

Mr P Adams
Mrs B J Baker
Mr A Bannerman
Mr T Barker
Mrs J B Barrow
Mr K R Barrow
Mr M Bennett
Mr W Benyon
Mr T H Biggins
Ms K Burgoyne
Mr V Bushell JP
Mr G H L Butler
Mrs A J Caesar-Homden
Mrs K D Calder
Mrs A M Chebsey
Mr J E Clarke
Mr G L Dakin
Mr S Davenport
Mr T Davies
Mrs P A Dee
Mr A Durnell
Mr D W Evans

Mr R A Evans
Mr J A Gibson
Mr J B Gillow
Mr N J Hartin
Mr R Huffer
Mrs T Huffer
Mr R Hughes
Mr V J Hunt
Mr J Hurst-Knight
Dr J E Jones
Mr S P A Jones
Mr J M W Kenny
Mrs H M Kidd
Mr C J Lea
Mr D G Lloyd MBE
Mr C J Mellings
Mr D J Minnery
Mr A N Mosley
Mrs C M A Motley
Mrs M Mullock
Mrs E M Nicholls
Mr P A Nutting

Mrs E A Parsons
Mr M G Pate
Mr P F Phillips
Mr M T Price
Mr D W L Roberts
Mr K Roberts
Mrs D M Shingleton
Mr J Tandy
Mr M Taylor-Smith
Mrs R Taylor-Smith
Mr R Tindall
Mr G F Tonkinson
Mr S J West
Mr M Whiteman OBE
Mrs C Wild
Mr B B Williams RD
Mr M Williams
Mrs T Woodward
Mr L Winwood
Mr M L Wood
M P A D Wynn

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Mr M G Pate, took the Chair for this item and called for nominations for the election of Speaker and Vice-Chairman of Shropshire Council.

He proposed from the Chair and it was seconded by Mr K R Barrow, that Mr D G Lloyd be elected Speaker and Vice-Chairman of Shropshire Council for the 2011/12 municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That Mr D G Lloyd be elected Speaker and Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on 26 April 2012.

The Speaker then took the Chair and subscribed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before being invested with the badge of office. He thanked the members for re-electing him and for their support and assistance during his second year in the role.

The Chief Executive then informed Council that he had just received the formal resignation of the Chairman and Deputy Speaker Mr M G Pate with immediate effect, thus enabling him to remain in the Chamber and vote in the event of his nomination for the office of Chairman and Deputy Speaker.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chief Executive reported apologies for absence had been received from Mr T Bebb, Mr S F Charmley, Mr A B Davies, Mr E J Everall, Mrs E A Hartley, Mrs J Jones, Mr W M Parr, Mr M J Owen and Mr A E Walpole.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY SPEAKER

It was proposed by Mr D G Lloyd and seconded by Mr K R Barrow that Mr M G Pate be elected Chairman and Deputy Speaker of the Council for the 2011/12 municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That Mr M G Pate be elected Chairman and Deputy Speaker of the Council and hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on 26 April 2012.

The Chairman and Deputy Speaker then subscribed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested with Chairman's badge of office.

After thanking the Council for the honour it had bestowed on him, Mr Pate paid tribute to the support given to him by the Speaker and Vice-Chairman, Mr Lloyd during the previous year.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:

- (a) Mr A Durnell declared a personal interest in Item 7 (Public Question Time – Debate on Wakeman School) as predetermination of the issue.
- (b) Mr S P Jones declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 7 as a Governor of Shawbury Primary School.
- (c) Mrs B J Baker declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a Governor of the Wakeman School and Arts College.
- (d) Mr A N Mosley declared a personal interest in Item 7 as a Governor of two Shrewsbury area schools.
- (e) Mr D W Evans declared a personal interest in Item 14 (Electoral Matters) as a member of Craven Arms Town Council.
- (f) Mr G L Dakin declared a personal interest in Item 15 (Community Infrastructure Levy) as he is in the process of developing some land locally in Whitchurch.
- (g) Mrs K Burgoyne declared a personal interest in Item 7 as her son had attended the Wakeman School and Arts College.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 24 February and 17 March 2011, as circulated with the agenda papers, be signed as a correct record.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6.1 Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Speaker and Vice-Chairman since the last meeting of the Council on 24 February 2011 which had been circulated at the meeting.

- 6.2 The Speaker advised members that the Scrutiny Committees would meet later that morning in order to elect their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen and if the main business had not been concluded by 12.45 p.m., the meeting would be adjourned in order for this to be undertaken.

6.3 **Death of Mrs Eileen Sandford MBE**

The Chairman reported with great sadness the death of former County and Borough Councillor Mrs Eileen Sandford MBE, aged 88 after a short illness.

He added that Mrs Sandford had been a Conservative member for the Harlescott Division for a total of 16 years between 1989 and 2009 and had served on numerous committees during that time. Her particular interests had been in respect of social care and young people.

She had also been a member of the former Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council for 22 years from 1986 – 1990 and 1991 – 2009 where she was elected Mayor in 2003/4 and received an MBE for services to local government in 2004.

The Leader of the Council and the three other Group Leaders then paid personal tribute to Mrs Sandford, referring to her remarkable and indomitable character, her fortitude and her effectiveness as a local councillor.

7. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Speaker advised that no public questions or statements had been received before the deadline contained in Procedure Rule 14. However, three petitions bearing more than 1,000 signatures relating to the Council's proposals for school organisation in Shropshire had been received. Under the Council's Petition Scheme, the petition organisers would be given up to five minutes in which to open the debate, after which members would have 15 minutes to deliberate before the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Mrs Caesar-Homden, would reply.

(a) **Maesbury Primary School**

He then invited Mr A Milner to open the first debate relating to Maesbury Primary School after which a number of members spoke in support of the case for allowing additional time to be given to the school to investigate the case for federation.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Portfolio Holder thanked the petition organiser, the parents and governors of Maesbury School for the work they had undertaken. She advised that the Council had been listening to their representations since 2008 but, as no viable case for the retention of the school had been put forward during the formal consultation period, she could see no merit in deferring matters now. However, the school was now entering into the six week statutory consultation period and if a viable alternative solution could be found, then the Council would be prepared to give further consideration to the matter.

On being put to the vote, the motion that no action be taken in respect of the petition was carried by a substantial majority.

(b) Stiperstones Primary School

The Speaker then invited Mr D Jackson to open the second debate in respect of Stiperstones Primary School.

A number of members spoke in support of the case for retaining the school and for the Council providing it with professional support to achieve the case for federation. The Leader of the Council confirmed that such support would be provided but the Portfolio Holder stated that although the community had been brought together by the proposed closure of the school, no viable sustainable alternative had yet been presented and so there was no merit in deferring the decision. She repeated that as the school was now entering the six week statutory consultation period, if such a proposal was received, the Council would give further consideration to the matter.

On being put to the vote, the motion that no action be taken on the petition was carried by a substantial majority.

(c) Wakeman School and Arts College

The Speaker then invited Mrs R Excelby to open the third debate in respect of the retention of the Wakeman School and Arts College.

In doing so, Mrs Excelby challenged the facts and figures presented about the school by the Council and stated that demography suggested that in six years the places now considered surplus would be required again resulting in significant additional expenditure for the Council. Speaking in support, Mr A N Mosley and a number of other councillors suggested that the proposed closure of the Wakeman School and Arts College should be deferred for further research.

Replying, the Portfolio Holder explained that the information presented had been both sound and robust and no details had been withheld. The Council was concerned about the financial stability of the school in which approximately 60% of the available places were currently vacant making it no longer viable or sustainable. As no suitable alternative proposal had yet been put forward, she proposed that no action be taken in respect of the petition.

On being put to the vote, the motion that no action be taken on the petition was carried by a substantial majority.

8. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

The Speaker advised that the following question had been received from Councillor R A Evans in accordance with Procedure Rule 15:

“At the last Cabinet the Capital Monitoring report was received. I note that under Private Sector Housing in Appendix 1 on page 5, it is shown that there was a budget in financial year 2010 -11 of £2.2M to help provide Disabled Facilities Grants for those who needed them. These are Shropshire residents who have had their houses inspected by Occupational Therapists (OTs). These OTs have recommended that adaptations need to be made to the homes to enable the resident to continue to live

in them. I understand that by the end of March almost all of this had been spent or allocated. I also note that under Private Sector Housing in Appendix 2 on page 5, the budget allocated for financial year 2011 -12 is £1.397M, reducing to £1.076M in following years. For this year this is a reduction of £800K. I understand that already, before the end of April over £900K of the original £1.397M is allocated with 11 months still to go.

Can the cabinet member inform me how it is proposed that the work to carry out the adaptations which are both needed and identified going to be met. A few years ago in some parts of Shropshire some residents were having to wait 2 and 3 years for the identified adaptation work to be carried out. This, besides being illegal according to case law, is to me not acceptable for those of our residents who are in desperate need of having alterations carried out. Alterations like having a chair lift installed so that they can get upstairs, like having a walk in shower fitted when they are unable to use the bath. The list is varied and long.”

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning, Mr M T Price replied:

“The Cabinet decision to set the original Disabled Facilities Grant budget for 2011/12 was made in the context of ongoing financial pressures. The decision not to 'top up' funding from Government in the present climate is one that other Local Authorities are having to make.

During 2010/11, a decision was made as part of the review of capital expenditure to curtail prudential borrowing. DFG funding was for that year being topped up by £600k from this source. This top up was removed in year. This resulted in the use of funding thought to be available for 2011/12 having to be brought forward into 2010/11.

There was never any intention to restrict DFG funding over an extended period without reconsideration at an appropriate stage. As the immediacy of the budgetary pressures has now been established, additional funding has been identified to allow the DFG budget to be reinstated to a level sufficient to permit approvals to be made throughout the year.

It is recognised that the DFG is an important part of people being able to continue to live at home and it is anticipated that as part of the new arrangements within the Council there will be a more systematic integration of our Social Care and Housing functions and a better targeting of this investment.”

Mr Evans thanked the Portfolio Holder for the reply and asked him to join with the Scrutiny Committee in recommending the Cabinet to investigate how additional funding could be provided for additional adaptations during the current financial year.

Replying, Mr Price explained how, following changes to the approach to prudential borrowing earlier in the year, it was now necessary to fund the cost of Disabled Facilities Grants in another way. This would take a little time to arrange but the problem had been solved and he would write to all members explaining how this had been achieved.

9. REPORT OF THE POLITICAL STRUCTURES MONITORING GROUP

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr K R Barrow and seconded by Mr M Whiteman that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Mr N J Hartin asked in respect of paragraph 3.4(ii) whether the third bullet point could be amended such that the six month threshold would not apply if the decision was challenged by a substantial number of councillors? He also asked in respect of proposed changes to the Council's Petition Scheme Rules why it was being suggested that members should not themselves organise a petition and, in respect of the future arrangements for publishing the Constitution, whether in addition all additions could be sent to all members electronically.

Referring to the proposed modifications to the Local Member Protocol in Section 5 of the report Mr B B Williams stated that these were generally welcome. However, he asked whether the Chief Executive could ensure that the revised guidance was made known to all frontline staff so as to prevent the type of oversights that he and other members had experienced recently.

Replying, the Leader of the Council stated that paragraph 3.4(ii) would be amended by the addition of unless 24 members signed a notice to this effect. He advised that members were being precluded from acting as petition organisers because they already had the ability to initiate a full debate through a Notice of Motion and he confirmed that in future all members would receive an electronic copy of any changes made to the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Procedure Rule 4, relating to extraordinary meetings, be amended to incorporate the additional words specified in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4(i) to (iii), as amended above.
- (b) That the text relating to the operation of the Council's Petition Scheme, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be incorporated immediately after Procedure Rule 14.1(iii) Questions, Statements and Petitions by the Public at ordinary Council meetings.
- (c) That the revised version of the Local Member Protocol, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be incorporated in to Part 5 of the Constitution.
- (d) That to reduce printing costs, all future amendments to the Constitution only be published on the Council's website but that members also receive an electronic copy of such changes.

10. CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr K R Barrow and seconded by Mr M Bennett that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups be confirmed as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report for the 2011/2012 municipal year, namely:

Healthy Communities Scrutiny Committee (10)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mrs K D Calder Mr G L Dakin Mr D J Minnery Mrs M R Mullock Mr G F Tonkinson Mrs T Woodward Mr P A D Wynn	Mrs E A Parsons	Mrs T Huffer	Mrs D M Shineton
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr P Adams Mr J A Gibson Mr J B Gillow Mr D G Lloyd Mr P A Nutting Mr D L Roberts Mr L Winwood	Mr V Bushell	Mrs A M Chebsey	Mrs P A Dee
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1

Performance and Strategy Scrutiny Committee (10)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr T Barker Mrs J B Barrow Mr G L Dakin Mr S Davenport Mr V J Hunt Mr D G Lloyd Mr B B Williams	Mr A N Mosley	Mr N J Hartin Mrs H M Kidd	
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr M Bennett Mr E J Everall Mr D J Minnery Mrs R Taylor-Smith Mr M Whiteman + 2 Vacancies	Dr J E Jones	Mr P F Phillips Mr R A Evans	
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

Protecting and Enhancing our Environment Scrutiny Committee (10)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr P Adams Mr J B Gillow Mr R Hughes Mr V J Hunt Mr C J Lea Mr A E Walpole Mr L Winwood	Mr J E Clarke	Mr A Bannerman Mr J M W Kenny	
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
+ 7 VACANCIES	Mr J Tandy	Mr R Huffer + 1 Vacancy	
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee (10)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr T Bebb Mr W Benyon Mr S Davenport Mr E J Everall Mr W M Parr Mr D W L Roberts Mr B B Williams	Mr A N Mosley	Mr C J Mellings	Mrs P A Dee
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr M Bennett Mrs C Wild + 5 VACANCIES	Mr J M Williams	Mrs B J Baker	Mrs D M Shineton
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1

Safe and Confident Communities Scrutiny Committee (10)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mrs J B Barrow Mr A Durnell Mr D W Evans Mr J A Gibson Mrs M Mullock Mr K Roberts Mr M Whiteman	Dr J E Jones	Mr R A Evans Mrs H M Kidd	
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr W M Parr Mr R Tindall Mr S J West Mrs T Woodward Mr P A D Wynn + 2 VACANCIES	Mr J E Clarke	Mrs B J Baker Mr P F Phillips	
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL 0

Pensions Committee (4)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr A B Davies Mr T H Biggins Mr M G Pate		Mrs A M Chebsey	
TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mrs J B Barrow Mr S J West Mr M L Wood		Mrs E M Nicholls	
TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 0

Audit Committee (5)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr P Adams Mr M Whiteman Mr B B Williams Mr M L Wood		Mr C J Mellings	
TOTAL - 4	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr J B Gillow Mr K Roberts Mr R Tindall + 1 VACANCY		Mr R A Evans	
TOTAL - 4	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 0

Human Resources Committee (7)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mrs J B Barrow Mr K R Barrow Mrs C M A Motley Mr M J Owen + 1 Vacancy	Mr A N Mosley	Mrs B J Baker	
TOTAL - 5	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL -1	TOTAL - 0

Strategic Licensing Committee (15)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr P Adams* Mr T Barker Mrs J B Barrow Mr T Bebb Mr W Benyon* Mr A B Davies* Mr R Hughes Mr K Roberts* Mrs R Taylor-Smith Mr R Tindall	Mr J Tandy Mr V Bushell*	Mrs B J Baker Mr R Huffer Mr P F Phillips	
TOTAL - 10	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 0

***Sub Committee Member**

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr M Bennett Mr G H L Butler Mr S Charmley Mr A Durnell Mr V J Hunt Mr S P A Jones Mr M J Owen Mr D W L Roberts Mrs T Woodward Mr P Wynn	Mr J E Clarke Mr J M Williams	Mr A Bannerman Mr J M W Kenny Mrs E M Nicholls	
TOTAL - 10	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 0

Central Planning Committee (11)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr T Barker Mr T Bebb Mr A Durnell Mr E J Everall Mr M T Price Mrs C Wild	Mr V Bushell Mr J E Clarke Mrs E A Parsons	Mr R A Evans Mr J M W Kenny	
TOTAL - 6	TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr P Adams Mrs K Burgoyne Mrs J Jones Mr M J Owen Mr D L Roberts Mr K Roberts	Mr A N Mosley Mr J Tandy Mr J M Williams	Mrs B J Baker Mrs E A Chebsey	
TOTAL - 6	TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

South Planning Committee (11)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr D W Evans Mr J Hurst-Knight Mrs C M A Motley Mr W M Parr Mrs R Taylor-Smith Mr R Tindall Mr S J West Mr M Whiteman		Mr N J Hartin Mrs E M Nicholls	Mrs D M Shineton
TOTAL - 8	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr G Butler Mr J A Gibson Mr C J Lee Mr M Taylor Smith Mr G F Tonkinson Mr L Winwood Mr M L Wood Mrs T Woodward		Mr R Huffer Mrs T Huffer	+ 1 VACANCY
TOTAL - 8	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 1

North Planning Committee (11)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mrs J B Barrow Mr M Bennett Mrs K D Calder Mr G L Dakin Mr S Davenport Mr V J Hunt Mr D J Minnery Mrs M R Mullock Mr A E Walpole Mr P A D Wynn		Mrs P A Dee	
TOTAL - 10	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr W Benyon Mt T Biggins Mrs A J Caeser-Homden Mr S Charmley Mr A B Davies Mr J B Gillow Mrs E A Hartley Mr S P Jones Mr D G Lloyd Mr B B Williams		Mr C J Mellings	
TOTAL - 10	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 0

Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Fire Authority

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr P Adams Mrs J B Barrow Mr M Bennett Mr J Hurst-Knight Mr D J Minnery Mr M T Price Mr K R Roberts Mr S J West	Dr J E Jones	Mr N J Hartin Mr C J Mellings	
TOTAL - 8	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

West Mercia Police Authority

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
Mr M L Wood Mr M G Pate			
TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 0

11. SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS

It was proposed by the Speaker, seconded by the Chairman and

RESOLVED:

That the Responsibility for Functions, set out in Part 3 of the Constitution, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the Scheme for Delegations, as set out in Part 8 of the Constitution, be approved.

12. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was proposed by the Speaker and seconded by the Chairman that the programme of dates for meetings of the Shropshire Council, as set out below, be approved and that meetings commence at 10.00 a.m.

23 June 2011
21 July 2011
22 September 2011
24 November 2011
15 December 2011
23 February 2012
26 April 2012 (Annual Meeting)

13. APPOINTMENT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, DEPUTY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS AND MEMBER CHAMPIONS

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr K R Barrow, and seconded by Mr T Barker that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

In presenting for information his report setting out the appointments of the Cabinet members and their individual Portfolios, set out in Appendix 1 to the report, the Leader also asked the Council to approve the appointment of six new Deputy Portfolio Holders with individual areas of responsibility, also set out in Appendix 1 to the report and to confirm the decision not to reappoint Member Champions at this time.

He explained that the increasing scope and complexity of the workloads being undertaken by the current Portfolio Holders work necessitated the appointment of Deputies, and that the proposal not to reappoint Member Champions reflected their ineffectiveness in recent times. The Leader advised that the matter of Special Responsibility Allowances for the new office holders would be referred to the Independent Remuneration Panel for review and report. The Panel would also be asked to consider the level of allowances paid to the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Area Planning Committees. However any additional payments would not result in the original budget being exceeded.

Mr N J Hartin expressed disappointment that there had been no consultation over the proposal not to reappoint the Member Champions, but accepted that the Portfolio Holders' workloads had increased substantially in recent times. He also welcomed the fact that the payment of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) to the new office holders would not result in any overall increase in the Members' Allowances budget.

Mr A N Mosley also expressed his concern at the removal of the Member Champions, which had always been appointed cross-party in a similar way to the Scrutiny Committee Chairs. He asked whether Deputy Portfolio Holders would in future be responsible for answering questions at Council and at other public meetings on matters for which they were to become the specialist and who would speak for the BME and Disability Groups in future.

Speaking in support of the proposals, Mr L J P Winwood stated that most councillors failed to appreciate the volume of work undertaken by the present Portfolio Holders. The proposal to appoint six new deputies would enable the work to be spread more evenly in future.

Responding, the Leader stated that in future all members would be able to act as champions in those areas where they had a particular or special interest. With regard to the suggested review of the allowances paid to the Area Planning Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs, this was a matter on which a number of members had expressed an opinion in the recent past and the Independent Remuneration Panel would be asked to consider this matter again. As regards the appointment of the Deputy Portfolio Holders, this was a positive move which could only increase the level of expertise available to the Council's Executive.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried by a substantial majority.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the appointment of Portfolio Holders (Cabinet Members) and the allocation of their individual areas of responsibility, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.
- (b) That the appointment of Deputy Portfolio Holders and the allocation of their individual areas of responsibility, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (c) That the decision not to reappoint the Member Champions be confirmed.
- (d) That the payment of any Special Responsibility Allowance to the new Deputy Portfolio Holders and Area Planning Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs be referred to the Independent Remuneration Panel for consideration and report back and that any new allowances be applied retrospectively from the date of appointment.

14. ELECTORAL MATTERS

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr K R Barrow and seconded by Mr T Barker that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

While introducing the report, Mr Barrow advised that the Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council had also requested a Community Governance Review in advance of the next local government elections. Mr C J Mellings asked what opportunities there would be for local member involvement in the review process.

In reply, the Leader confirmed that local members would be treated like statutory consultees and would be invited to attend any formal meetings held which the Council convened with the relevant councils and electors living in the areas under review.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the completion of a review of a polling districts, polling places and polling stations throughout the county in advance of the local government elections 2013 be approved.
- (b) That, subject to the Community Governance Review Working Party first approving the terms of reference for each review, Community Governance Reviews be undertaken in Craven Arms, Selattyn and Gobowen and Tasley in advance of the 2013 local government elections.

15. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

It was proposed by Mr M T Price and seconded by Mr B B Williams that the report, a copy of which is attached to signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

In introducing the report, Mr Price said that this was mainly a technicality matter which had been approved by the Cabinet on 16 March 2011 for consultation purposes. The Council was merely complying with the legislative requirements in approving the subsequent declaration.

RESOLVED:

That the declaration, a copy of which is attached to the report, be approved and signed by the Chief Executive.

15. MOTIONS

The Speaker reported that the motion which had been received from Mr P F Phillips regarding telephone kiosks had now been withdrawn and a letter of explanation had been tabled.

16. REPORT OF THE WEST MERCIA POLICE AUTHORITY

It was proposed by the Speaker and seconded by the Chairman that the report of the West Mercia Police Authority, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, be received and noted.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Speaker

Date

The meeting closed at 12 noon