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## ANNUAL COUNCIL

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**MINUTES** of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Wednesday, 20 May 2015 from 7.02 - 8.02 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Sarah Aldridge, Mike Baldock, Cameron Beart, Bobbin, Monique Bonney, Andy Booth, Tina Booth, Lloyd Bowen, Bowles, Roger Clark, Derek Conway, Mike Cosgrove, Adrian Crowther, Richard Darby, Mike Dendor, Duncan Dewar-Whalley, Mark Ellen, Paul Fleming, Mick Galvin, June Garrad, Sue Gent, Nicholas Hampshire, Harrison, Mike Henderson, Alan Horton, James Hunt, Lesley Ingham (Deputy Mayor), Ken Ingleton, Nigel Kay, Samuel Koffie-Williams, Gerry Lewin, Peter Marchington, Bryan Mulhern, Mini Nissanga, Prescott, Ken Pugh, George Samuel, David Simmons, Ben Stokes, Roger Truelove, Anita Walker (Mayor), Ghlin Whelan, Mike Whiting, Ted Wilcox and John Wright.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Katherine Bescoby, Abdool Kara, Chris Lovelock, Donna Price, Mark Radford and Nick Vickers.

**APOLOGY:** Councillor Katy Coleman.

### 12 PRAYERS

The Deputy Leader said Prayers.

The Mayor welcomed Members to the meeting.

### 13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 18 February 2015 were approved and confirmed as correct records, subject to an amendment to Minute No. 502 for the final sentence to start 'Against', not 'For'.

### 14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

### 15 BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 7 MAY 2015

The Council was asked to note the results of the Borough Council Elections held on 7 May 2015. A Member commented on the use of commonly used names in the report.

**Resolved:**

**(1) That the report be noted.**

**16 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL LEADER**

Councillor Gerry Lewin proposed, and Councillor Bryan Mulhern seconded, that Councillor Bowles be elected as Leader.

The Mayor confirmed that under the Strong Leader model, the term of appointment was for a four year period.

This was then put to the vote and agreed.

The Leader then confirmed that the existing arrangements would continue in terms of Cabinet membership, terms of reference of the portfolios, and the scheme of delegations, as set out within the report. The Cabinet membership would be reviewed in August 2015.

**Resolved:**

**(1) That Councillor Bowles be elected as Leader of the Council until May 2019.**

**(2) That Council notes that the current arrangements will continue in terms of the appointments to the Cabinet (as set out below), the terms of reference of the portfolios and the scheme of delegations:**

**Deputy Leader and Planning – Councillor Gerry Lewin**

**Finance – Councillor Dewar-Whalley**

**Performance – Councillor Ted Wilcox**

**Localism, Sport, Culture and Heritage – Councillor Mike Whiting**

**Regeneration – Councillor Mike Cosgrove**

**Housing – Councillor John Wright**

**Environmental and Rural Affairs – Councillor David Simmons**

**Community Safety and Health – Councillor Ken Pugh**

**17 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Leader introduced the report, which asked the Council to establish the Committees of the Council for the municipal year 2015/16 with the terms of reference as set out in Appendix I of the report. There were no changes proposed to existing arrangements.

The recommendation was proposed by the Leader, and seconded by the Deputy Leader.

The Leader of the Independent Group advised that the Leader+ programme also covered Faversham; he considered that membership of the Rural Forum should be amended to reflect this. The Leader agreed that this would be a matter for the General Purposes Committee to consider.

The Leader of UKIP advised that he would like Area Committees to be considered, and asked for this to be considered by the General Purposes Committee.

**Resolved:**

***(1) That the Committees and Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix I to the report, be agreed for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.***

**18 ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE SEATS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2015/16**

The Leader introduced the report and proposed the recommendations, which were seconded by the Deputy Leader.

The Leader of the Labour Group gave an update regarding the membership of the Appointments Committee and the Member Development Working Group. The Chairman of UKIP advised of a change to his membership of the Audit Committee. The Leader of the Independent Group advised of a correction to the membership of the Sheppey Local Engagement Forum. These changes are reflected in the Appendix to the Minutes.

**Resolved:**

***(1) That the political balance calculation be agreed.***

***(2) That the allocation of seats to Committees, in accordance with the wishes of Group Leaders, as attached in the Appendix to these minutes, be agreed.***

***(3) That the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees, as set out in appendix III to the report, be agreed.***

**19 BOROUGH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES, TRUSTS ADMINISTERED BY SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND STATUTORY BODIES**

The Leader introduced the report, referring to the updated paper that had been tabled at the meeting, which set out the nominations received from all Groups upon the Council.

The Leader of the Labour Group advised that he wished to nominate Councillor Ghlin Whelan to the Charity of Sir William Stede.

The Leader of the Independent Group advised that he wished to withdraw the nomination of Councillor Monique Bonney to the Queenborough Fisheries Trust and Swale Recreation Trust.

The Leader advised that he wished to withdraw the nomination of Councillor James Hunt to the United Charities of Milton Regis.

The Director of Corporate Services explained the voting procedure in respect of those outside bodies that had more nominations than seats. These were:

- 1 – Action with Communities in Rural Kent
- 3 – Bensted's Charity, Faversham
- 4 – Charity of Sir William Stede
- 5 – Citizen's Advice Bureau, Swale

- 11 – Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- 16 – Queenborough Fisheries Trust and the Swale Recreation Trust

The Leader of the Independent Group referred to the nominations to the Faversham Swimming Pools Management Committee, and questioned whether Mr Roots should be reappointed. The Leader advised that Democratic Services had contacted Mr Roots and Mr Collins to ask if they wished to continue, and asked for this appointment to be considered at the next Council meeting.

Upon being put to the vote, the Director of Corporate Services announced the results. The complete list of Outside Body Appointments are attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

During the discussion, the nomination requirements for the Queenborough Fisheries Trust and the Swale Recreation Trust, and the Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board, were clarified.

***Resolved:***

***(1) That the Borough Council representation on outside bodies, trusts administered by Swale Borough Council and statutory bodies be as set out in the attached Appendix.***

**20 CONFIRMATION OF TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS FOR 2015/16**

The Leader referred to the timetable of meetings, which had previously been agreed by the Council on 18 February 2015.

***Resolved:***

***(1) That the timetable of meetings for the 2015/16 municipal year be noted.***

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel