

# Harborough District Council

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council

On 15 May 2023 commencing at 6.30pm

At the Council Chamber, The Symington Building, Adam & Eve Street, Market Harborough

<b>Councillors Present:</b>	Anderson, Asher, Bannister ( <b>Chairman</b> ), Bateman, Beadle, Bilbie, Birch, Burrell, Dann, Elliott, Finan, Forman, Gair, Galton, Grafton-Reed, Graves, Hallam, Hollick, James, Johnson, King, Knight, Knowles, Mahal, Modha, Nunn, Mrs Page, Rickman, Sarfas, Taylor, Whelband, Whitmore, Woodiwiss, Worrell.
<b>Officers Present:</b>	L. Elliott, C. Pattinson, K. Parsons, S. Hamilton, C. Bland, V. Jessop, B. Burt, E. Newman

### 1. Chairman's Announcements

- 1.1. The Chairman welcomed all Councillors, Officers and guests to the Annual Council. He congratulated all Members on their election and re-election to the Council.
- 1.2. The Chairman presented a donation to his chosen charity the Leicestershire and Rutland branch of MNDA.
- 1.3. The Canon Brian Davis offered a prayer and reflection.

### 2. Report of the Returning Officer

- 2.1. Council noted the updated Report of the Returning Officer which recorded that name of the persons elected on 4 May 2023.

### 3. Election of Chairman for the Year 2023/24

- 3.1. Nominations were invited for the election of Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Sarfas and **SECONDED** by Councillor Woodiwiss that Councillor Johnson be elected Chairman of the

Council for the municipal year 2023 - 2024. There being no other nominations, it was therefore:

**RESOLVED that Councillor Barbara Johnson be elected Chairman of the Council for the 2023/24 year.**

Councillor Johnson made a declaration of acceptance of office in the prescribed form.

Councillor Bannister vacated the Chair.

**Councillor B Johnson in the Chair**

#### **4. Chairman's Announcements**

- 4.1. The Chairman announced that during the forthcoming municipal year she will hold a Civic Carol Service, Civic Service and Civic Dinner. Any monies raised from civic events will be donated to the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance Service.
- 4.2. The Council would be raising the Armed Forces Day flag at a ceremony on Monday 26th June 2022.

#### **5. Vote of thanks to retiring Chairman**

- 5.1. A number of votes of thanks were given to the retiring Chairman, Councillor Bannister by Councillors King, Knowles, James, and from the incoming Chairman, Councillor Johnson.

#### **6. Response by retiring Chairman**

- 6.1. Councillor Bannister thanked the councillors for their support over his term of office and particularly thanked his family. He presented his consort with a small gift. He also presented a small gift to the civic officers who supported him.

#### **7. Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 2023/24**

- 7.1. Nominations were invited for the election of the Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Galton and **SECONDED** by Councillor Beadle that Councillor Elliott be elected Vice Chairman of the

Council for the municipal year 2023 – 2024. There being no other nominations, it was therefore:

**RESOLVED that Councillor Peter Elliott be elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the 2023/24 year.**

Councillor Elliott made a declaration of acceptance of office in the prescribed form and assumed the Vice-Chair.

## **8. Approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 23 May 2022**

8.1. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Bannister, **SECONDED** by Councillor Knowles and

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 23 May 2022 be agreed as a true and correct record.**

## **9. Election of the Leader of the Council**

9.1. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Beadle and **SECONDED** by Councillor Woodiwiss that Councillor Phil Knowles be elected Leader of the Council until the next scheduled local government elections in May 2027. There being no other nominations, it was therefore:

**RESOLVED that Councillor Phil Knowles be appointed Leader of the Council for the 2023/27 term.**

9.2. Councillor Knowles acknowledged that his Cabinet would reflect the coalition that has been formed, as would the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committees of the Council. He announced that the Chair of the Scrutiny Commission would be a member nominated by the opposition party.

9.3. Councillor Bateman, as Leader of the Opposition congratulated both Councillor Johnson and Councillor Elliott on their election to their respective roles of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. He also congratulated Councillor Knowles on his election as Leader of the Council, as well as acknowledging the Coalition. He then thanked the Leader for his decision to nominate an opposition Member to the position of Chair of the Scrutiny Commission.

9.4. Councillor Page congratulated both the newly elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman, as well as the new Leader. She thanked Councillor Knowles for the decision to nominate a Scrutiny Commissioner from the opposition party. She asked the Monitoring Officer when the Council will look to appoint a commissioner, as there was no agenda item under which to do this. The

Monitoring Officer acknowledged this and confirmed that the appointment would be made when it was known.

## **10. Annual Review of Constitution report**

- 10.1. The Director of Law and Governance introduced the Annual Review of the Constitution. She suggested that recommendation 5.1.1 (b) be amended to state 'that the revised constitution be presented to a meeting of Council for decision', and it should be referred back to the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) for further review.
- 10.2. Councillor Knowles addressed the contents of the report and suggested it be referred back to the CRC for the new committee members and Council to undertake re-consideration, comment and determination on the constitutional arrangements. This would allow the Monitoring Officer to provide information as to any sections of the Constitution that may require updating.
- 10.3. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Knowles, **SECONDED** by Councillor Bateman and:

**RESOLVED that the Constitution report be referred back to the CRC and Council to undertake re-consideration, comment and determination.**

## **11. Calculation and application of political balance in accordance with the political balance rules under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989**

- 11.1. The Director of Law and Governance introduced the report. She noted that political parties had been invited to make their nominations for the calculated seats, however, with the advent of the Coalition, the calculation of political balance could not yet be confirmed, there being no formal notification of the creation of a new coalition group within the Council. However, indicative groupings could be provided. These could be confirmed and populated by her with the appropriate delegation.
- 11.2. Council discussed the information provided, particularly in relation to the proposal to remove the Scrutiny Commission and formally dissolve a number of historic committees that were inactive.
- 11.3. Following a short adjournment of 10 minutes, the Chief Executive proposed the Council agree section (a) in order to appoint the Committees for the municipal year, while recommendations (b) and (c) are deleted. She suggested that recommendation (d) be amended to read 'agree the number of seats on the committee, sub-committees and panels be appointed to for the

coming municipal year be kept as the current arrangements'.  
Recommendations (e)-(h) be kept. Recommendation (i) will be deleted.

11.4. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Knowles, **SECONDED** by Councillor Bateman and

**RESOLVED** that:

- a. the Committees, sub-committees and panels established by Council for the Municipal Year 2022-2023 be re-confirmed for the upcoming municipal year pending review by the incoming administration;
- b. the Director of Law and Governance confirm the allocation of seats on committees and sub-committees to political groups and invite the political groups to provide nominations to those seats by 21 May 2023, with an update of allocations to be reported back to the next meeting of Council;
- c. Council delegate to the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the relevant Group Leaders, authority to determine any further necessary adjustments to be made to individual Committee and Sub-Committee allocations in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;

## 12. Scheme of Delegations

12.1. The Director of Law and Governance introduced the report and suggested that the current arrangements be carried forward into the new municipal year.

12.2. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Graves, **SECONDED** by Councillor King and **RESOLVED** that the current Scheme of Delegations be carried forward into the new municipal year.

## 13. Rota of Meetings – May 2023 to May 2024

13.1. The Director of Law and Governance introduced the draft Rota of Meetings and invited the Council to agree the Rota of Meetings for 2023/24, noting that the Rota of Meetings can only be agreed by Annual Council given the current provisions of the Constitution. She confirmed that it is a matter for members to decide whether they would like to refer this to the Constitution Review Committee.

13.2. Council discussed the impact upon the authority of changes proposed to the rota of meetings, as well the provisions of the current constitution in this

regard. It considered that a future Constitutional Review Committee could amend the Constitution in order to allow changes to the Rota of Meetings at an ordinary Council meeting. Alternatively, this could be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the group leaders.

13.3. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Knowles and **SECONDED** by Councillor Sarfas and

**RESOLVED that the Draft Rota of Meetings, May 2023 – May 2024 be adopted and implemented.**

#### 14. Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies

14.1. The Director of Law and Governance introduced the report, proposing that the number of outside bodies appointed to by the Council be kept the same, with political parties nominating their representatives as requested by the Director of Law and Governance.

14.2. It was **MOVED** by Councillor Knowles, **SECONDED** by Councillor Bateman and:

**RESOLVED that the appointments of representatives on outside bodies:**

- a. **Continue to be appointed to by Council in accordance with the previous administration arrangements and remain as currently adopted in terms of numbers;**
- b. **be confirmed by group leaders to the Director of Law and Governance as requested.**

There were no further items.



The meeting ended at 20:07

24th July 2023