

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 9 May 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Steve England (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Stephen Bunney	Councillor Liz Clews
Councillor David Cotton	Councillor Mrs Tracey Coulson
Councillor Christopher Darcel	Councillor Timothy Davies
Councillor Michael Devine	Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Jane Ellis	Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Mrs Caralyne Grimble	Councillor Cherie Hill
Councillor Mrs Cordelia McCartney	Councillor John McNeill
Councillor Mrs Jessie Milne	Councillor Peter Morris
Councillor Jaime Oliver	Councillor Keith Panter
Councillor Roger Patterson	Councillor Mrs Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Tom Regis	Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings	Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee	Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Robert Waller	Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn
Councillor Mrs Angela White	Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance:

Ian Knowles	Chief Executive
Emma Redwood	Assistant Director People and Democratic Services
Katie Storr	Democratic Services & Elections Team Manager
Andrew Warnes	Democratic and Civic Officer
Ele Snow	Senior Democratic and Civic Officer

Apologies Councillor Mrs Jackie Brockway

77 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman of Council welcomed Members, and Officers to the 49th Annual Meeting of West Lindsey District Council, the start of the 2022/23 Civic Year and the first AGM held in person since 2019.

78 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were sought before moving to the civic proceedings for the evening, but none were declared at this point in the meeting.

79 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE 22/23 CIVIC YEAR

Before commencing the process of electing a new Chairman, the outgoing Chairman addressed Council for the final time, speaking of his honour and privilege at having served in the role since 2019. There were too many highlights to share from his time in office but he wished to pay personal thanks to the Officers who had supported him, Trudi Hayes, Sue Norman, Ele Snow and Katie Storr. Referencing his recent ill-health, he paid thanks again to Officers and Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers for the support they had shown his wife Kathryn during worrying times and finally, to his wife, for her unwavering support and understanding.

Presiding over his final item, Councillor England sought nominations for the position of Chairman of Council.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Angela Lawrence be appointed the Chairman of Council for the civic year 2022/23.

No further nominations were made, however a Member did request a recorded vote, with the request duly seconded.

On being put to the vote, votes were cast in the following manner: -

For:- Councillors Bierley, Coulson, Darcel, Davies, Devine, Ellis, England, Fleetwood, Grimble, Hill, Lawrence, McCartney, J McNeill, Milne, Morris, Patterson, Regis, Rodgers, Summers, Waller and Welburn (21)

Against:- Councillors Bunney and Dobbie (2)

Abstain: - Councillors Boles, Clews, Cotton, Oliver, Panter, Rainsforth, Rollings, M Snee, J Snee, White and Young (11)

With a total of 21 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 11 abstentions, the motion was carried and it was therefore: -

RESOLVED that Councillor Angela Lawrence be elected Chairman of the Council for the 2022/23 civic year.

The outgoing Chairman presented the Chain of Office to Councillor Mrs Lawrence and congratulated her on her appointment.

Councillor Mrs Lawrence made and signed the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, in the presence of the Head of Paid Service and took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Lawrence thanked Council for her appointment and advised it was an honour to have been elected Chairman for the coming year. She looked forward to meeting many

people from the District, from throughout Lincolnshire and beyond, indicating she would do all she could to uphold the good name of West Lindsey in all the duties she carried out.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman for his services to the Council, the only Chairman to have served three consecutive terms of office, and on a personal level for the support and guidance he had provided, presenting him with a Past Chairman's Badge, and flowers for his Lady.

Tributes were paid to both the outgoing and incoming Chairman with several Members extending their good wishes to both, with applause heard across the Chamber.

80 TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE 2022/23 CIVIC YEAR

Nominations were sought for the position of Vice-Chairman of Council, with Councillor Roger Patterson being proposed and seconded.

No further nominations were made, however a Member did request a recorded vote, with the request duly seconded.

On being put to the vote, votes were cast in the following manner: -

For:- Councillors Bierley, Coulson, Davies, Devine, Ellis, England, Fleetwood, Grimble, Lawrence, McCartney, J McNeill, Milne, Morris, Patterson, Regis, Rodgers, Summers, Waller and Welburn (19)

Against:- Councillors Bunney and Dobbie (2)

Abstain: - Councillors Boles, Clews, Cotton, Darcel, Hill, Oliver, Panter, Rainsforth, Rollings M Snee, J Snee, White and Young (13)

With a total of 19 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 13 abstentions, the motion was carried and it was therefore: -

RESOLVED that Councillor Roger Patterson be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2022/23 civic year.

The Chairman of the Council congratulated Councillor Patterson on his appointment before presenting him with the Vice Chairman's Chain and Badge of Office.

Councillor Patterson made and signed the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, in the presence of the Head of Paid Service.

Councillor Patterson addressed Council and spoke of the honour and privilege of having being elected. He looked forward to supporting the Chairman in every way possible during the coming year and would strive at all times to promote and uphold the good name of West Lindsey.

Members expressed their good wishes to the incoming Vice-Chairman which was followed by applause.

81 CHAIRMAN'S CHAPLAIN

The former Chairman of Council moved a vote of thanks to his Chaplain, the Reverend Jane Foster-Smith, for her services, unwavering support and guidance during the past year, particularly at Flag Raising Events, Services and most recently during his ill-health, gifting her with flowers.

The former Chairman then removed the Chaplain's stole from Reverend Foster Smith.

The Chairman of Council advised that she was undecided regarding her Chaplain arrangements for her year of office, and indicated she would update Council in due course. In the interim she would receive the Chaplain's stole which was formally presented to her.

82 TO ELECT A LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Nominations for the position of Leader had been sought in accordance with Article 6 of the Constitution, with only one nomination having been received.

Councillor Owen Bierley had been proposed and seconded.

A Member requested a recorded vote, with the request duly seconded.

On being put to the vote, votes were cast in the following manner: -

For:- Councillors Bierley, Coulson, Darcel, Davies, Devine, Ellis, England, Fleetwood, Grimble, Hill, Lawrence, McCartney, J McNeill, Milne, Morris, Patterson, Regis, Rodgers, Summers, Waller and Welburn (21)

Against:- Councillors Boles, Bunney, Clews, Dobbie, Rainsforth, Rollings, J Snee, M Snee and Young (9)

Abstain: - Councillors Cotton, Oliver, Panter and White (4)

With a total of 21 votes in favour, 9 votes against and 4 abstentions, the motion was carried and it was therefore: -

RESOLVED that Councillor Owen Bierley be elected Leader of the Council for the 2022/23 civic year.

Councillor Bierley addressed Council and expressed his thanks at having being appointed.

83 TO ELECT A DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Nominations were sought for the position of Deputy Leader, with Councillor Mrs Anne

Welburn being proposed and seconded.

No further nominations were made. Opposition Members expressed disappointment that the Administration had chosen not to afford positions to non-Conservative Members, with two Members making a request for a recorded vote.

On being put to the vote, votes were cast in the following manner: -

For:- Councillors Bierley, Coulson, Darcel, Davies, Devine, Ellis, England, Fleetwood, Grimble, Hill, Lawrence, McCartney, J McNeill, Milne, Morris, Patterson, Regis, Rodgers, Summers, Waller and Welburn (21)

Against:- Councillors Boles, Bunney, Clews, Dobbie, Panter, Rainsforth, Rollings, M Snee, J Snee, and Young (10)

Abstain: - Councillors Cotton, Oliver, and White (3)

With a total of 21 votes in favour, 10 votes against and 3 abstentions, the motion was carried and it was therefore: -

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Anne Welburn be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2022/23 civic year.

Note: Councillor Steve England left the meeting following consideration of the above item and did not return.

84 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on 7 March 2022

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on 7 March 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Note: Technical issues were being experienced in the Chamber and therefore a short adjournment was sought at 7.50 pm to allow Officers the opportunity to resolve these.

The meeting re-convened at 8.00 pm, with the Chairman advising that some Members may continue to experience issues with their microphones, offering apologies to those watching on-line.

85 REVIEW OF THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS ON COMMITTEES/SUB -COMMITTEES

The Chairman presented the report, which set out details of the political groups on the Council, the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each Committee, and the allocation of seats on each of the Committees based on political groupings.

There had been no changes in the political balance since Council last considered the matter in January 2022, and as such the allocations remained unchanged.

This was a matter, which had been determined by the Head of Paid Service under his delegated authority, in Consultation with the Group Leaders, all of which had indicated their agreement, as such, there was no requirement for a vote.

With no questions posed, the following was **DULY NOTED**: -

- (a) the details of the political groups, as set out in Appendix A of the report,
- (b) the number of Members to be appointed to serve on each committee and sub-committee; and
- (c) the allocation to different political groups of seats on committees/sub-committees, as set out in Appendix B of the report.

86 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES FOR THE 2022/23 CIVIC YEAR

The Chairman of the Council presented the report which set out the wishes expressed by the political groups in respect of the appointment of Members to serve on each of the Council's formal Committees for the 2022/23 Civic Year.

The report also sought to suspend the rules relating to proportionality in respect of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as had been the case since Annual Council in May 2019. Members were reminded the suspension of political balance required all Members to vote in favour, as opposed to a "majority" decision.

The Leader of the Opposition indicated immediately that he would not be supporting the suspension of political balance, nor would he be making nominations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, outlining the reasons for his position, namely the Administration's decision to seek a reduction in the number of Vice-Chairmen on the Scrutiny-Committee, and in his view the Leader having reneged on his commitment to make no changes to the make-up of committees.

Advice was sought from the Monitoring Officer, given the position expressed by the Leader of the Opposition. Members were advised the previous report noted by Council had set out the number of seats afforded in the event that balance was not suspended. As such the Administration Group were afforded three more seats, the allocations afforded to the other Groups remained unchanged. The Monitoring Officer further advised that the nomination of Councillor Mrs Lawrence to the Scrutiny Committee was not constitutionally acceptable. As such three further nominations were made by the Leader, Councillor Mrs T Coulson, Mrs C McCartney and R Waller. Councillor P Morris would replace Councillor Mrs A Lawrence.

The report when published had not included the nominations of the Liberal Democrat Group, these had been received by the Monitoring Officer, earlier in the day and were read aloud to the meeting.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the rules relating to proportionality in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be not suspended;
- (b) In accordance with the provisions of section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the wishes expressed by political groups, Members be appointed to serve to the Council's Committees for the 2022/23 civic year as follows: -

Chief Officer Employment Committee (9 Members)

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Jackie Brockway
Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Mick Devine
Councillor Diana Rodgers
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Anne Welburn
Councillor Angela White
Councillor Trevor Young

Corporate Policy and Resources Committee (14 Members)

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Matt Boles
Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Liz Clews
Councillor Mick Devine
Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor John McNeill
Councillor Tom Regis
Councillor Mandy Snee
Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Bob Waller
Councillor Anne Welburn
Councillor Trevor Young

Governance and Audit Committee (7 Members)

Councillor Jackie Brockway
Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Tracey Coulson
Councillor Chris Darcel
Councillor Caralyne Grimble
Councillor John McNeill

Councillor Angela White

Licensing Committee (14 Members)

Councillor Liz Clews
Councillor David Cotton
Councillor Tim Davies
Councillor Caralyne Grimble
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Angela Lawrence
Councillor Cordelia McCartney
Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Peter Morris
Councillor Keith Panter
Councillor Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Diana Rodgers
Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Jeff Summers

Regulatory Committee (14 Members)

Councillor Liz Clews
Councillor David Cotton
Councillor Tim Davies
Councillor Caralyne Grimble
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Angela Lawrence
Councillor Cordelia McCartney
Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Peter Morris
Councillor Keith Panter
Councillor Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Diana Rodgers
Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Jeff Summers

Planning Committee (14 Members)

Councillor Matt Boles
Councillor David Cotton
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Mick Devine
Councillor Ian Fleetwood
Councillor Cherie Hill
Councillor Cordelia McCartney
Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Peter Morris

Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Judy Rainsforth
Councillor Jeff Summers
Councillor Bob Waller
Councillor Angela White

Prosperous Communities Committee (14 Members)

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Tracey Coulson
Councillor Chris Darcel
Councillor Mick Devine
Councillor Jane Ellis
Councillor Steve England
Councillor John McNeill
Councillor Jessie Milne
Councillor Jaime Oliver
Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Lesley Rollings
Councillor Jim Snee
Councillor Trevor Young

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (14 members- balanced)

Councillor Tracey Coulson
Councillor Tim Davies
Councillor Caralyne Grimble.
Councillor Cherie Hill
Councillor Cordelia McCartney
Councillor Peter Morris
Councillor Roger Patterson
Councillor Diana Rodgers
Councillor Bob Waller
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

87 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN FOR THE 2022/23 CIVIC YEAR AND TO AGREE THE NORMAL COMMENCEMENT TIME FOR EACH COMMITTEE.

Having re-appointed the Committees the report under consideration sought to appoint Chairman and Vice-Chairmen to each of the Committees and for Council to agree the normal commencement time for each.

No nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny had been received in advance, and on seeking nominations none were forthcoming. However, the Leader of the Opposition indicated he had submitted counter proposals, to those written in the report, for each of the other positions named and these were shared with the Meeting.

At the request of the Chairman, the Monitoring Officer outlined the process to be taken, given the multiple nominations individual votes would need to be taken for each of the positions. The stance was challenged by Point of Order with Members suggesting the verbal nominations should be treated as amendments and taken first. The meeting was directed to Procedure Rule 14.6 - Voting on appointments which outlined the process, the Chairman indicated her agreement.

Noting the advice provided by the Monitoring Officer, but also the way in which votes had been cast up until this point in the meeting, for efficiency, it was proposed and seconded that nominations for positions detailed in recommendation (2) of the paper be taken en-bloc. Those voting “for” being in support of the names in the report, those voting “against”, preferring the names provided verbally.

A Member requested that, in the first instance, the decision to take nominations en-bloc be a recorded vote, with the request duly seconded.

On being put to the vote, votes were cast in the following manner: -

For:- Councillors Bierley, Coulson, Davies, Devine, Ellis, Fleetwood, Grimble, Hill, Lawrence, McCartney, J McNeill, Milne, Morris, Patterson, Regis, Rodgers, Summers, Waller and Welburn (19)

Against:- Councillors Boles, Bunney, Clews, Cotton, Darcel, Dobbie, Oliver, Panter Rainsforth, Rollings, J Snee, M Snee and Young (13)

Abstain: - Councillor White (1)

With a total of 19 votes in favour, 13 votes against and 1 abstention, the motion was carried and it was therefore: -

RESOLVED that nominations for the positions detailed in recommendation 2 (a) – (i) of the report be taken en-bloc.

The Monitoring Officer again read aloud the nominations received verbally, for each position as follows:

Liberal Democrat Group Nominations		
	Chairman	Vice / Chair
Chief Officer	Cllr A White	Cllr T Young
Employment	Cllr S Bunney	Cllr M Boles
Corporate / Policy	Cllr D Cotton	Cllr D Dobbie
Planning	Cllr S Bunney	Cllr A White
G&A		

Licensing	Cllr J Snee	Cllr L Clews
Overview & Scrutiny	n/a	n/a
Regulatory	Cllr J Snee	Cllr L Clews
Prosperous	Cllr T Young	Cllr L Rollings
Standards Sub	Cllr D Cotton	Cllr M Snee

Members were advised that those voting “for” would be voting for the nominations as in the printed report, those against for the names provided verbally and detailed above.

Again a Member requested that the decision be subject to a recorded vote, with the request duly seconded.

On being put to the vote, votes were cast in the following manner: -

For:- Councillors Bierley, Coulson, Davies, Devine, Ellis, Fleetwood, Grimble, Hill, Lawrence, McCartney, J McNeill, Milne, Morris, Patterson, Regis, Rodgers, Summers, Waller and Welburn (19)

Against:- Councillors Boles, Bunney, Clews, Cotton, Darcel, Dobbie, Oliver, Panter Rainsforth, Rollings, J Snee, M Snee and Young (13)

Abstain: - Councillor White (1)

With a total of 19 votes in favour, 13 votes against and 1 abstention, the motion was carried and it was therefore: -

RESOLVED that those persons detailed at Table 1 of the report be appointed to the positions stated.

Council’s attention turned to determining the start times for each of the Committees, with suggested start times, for each set, out within the report.

A Member of Council expressed concern, at the proposed start time of the Governance and Audit Committee, which he considered was not inclusive and purposely excluded some Members for taking part in the Committee. This concern had been raised previously, at a number of Committee meetings and through the Rule 9 Question to Council Procedure. The Member further referenced best practice visits which had been arranged to visit a neighbouring Council, noting the start time there was 5pm, something he considered far more appropriate, and would allow a greater number of members to engage and take part in the Committee.

The current Chairman of the Governance outlined the history in the proposed change of time, the lengthy prior consultation which had been undertaken, also referring the Councillor to the previous responses he had received when raising these concerns.

An amendment to the start time of the Governance Audit Committee, namely that the Committee start at 5pm not 10.00am as stated was proposed and duly seconded. Again, a request for a recorded vote on the matter was made and duly seconded.

On being put to the vote, votes were cast in the following manner: -

For - Councillors Boles, Bunney, Clews, Cotton, Darcel, Davies, Dobbie, Hill, Oliver, Panter, Patterson, Rainsforth, Regis, Rollings, J Snee, M Snee and Young (17)

Against:- Councillors Bierley, Coulson, Devine, Ellis, Fleetwood, Grimble, Lawrence, McCartney, J McNeill, Milne, Morris, Rodgers, Summers, Waller and Welburn (15)

Abstain: - Councillor White (1)

With a total of 17 votes in favour, 15 votes against and 1 abstention, the amendment was **CARRIED** with it now being proposed the Governance and Audit Committee commence at 5pm.

Further debate ensued, with Members continuing to express differing views, points around the commencement time of the Committee. With continued reference to best practice visits and the comparison of the start times being used, the Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee called for a Point of Order, noting that the Councillor was misleading Members. He outlined the purpose of visits to the neighbouring authority, noting the services the two authorities shared and which were subject to joint audits and it had been for this reason the authorities had considered working more closely together, at no time had it been suggested one operated to "best practice" standards whilst the other didn't.

With continued disagreement, a further amendment was proposed, namely that Governance and Audit Committee meet at 2pm, accepted by a show of hands. With all the other Committees' start times not being disputed it was proposed and seconded that the start times as detailed in the report, with the Governance and Audit Committee amended to 2pm be accepted.

A request for a recorded vote on the matter was again made and duly seconded.

On being put to the vote, votes were cast in the following manner: -

For:- Councillors Bierley, Boles, Coulson, Davies, Devine, Ellis, Fleetwood, Grimble, Lawrence, McCartney, J McNeill, Milne, Morris, Patterson, Rodgers, J Snee, Summers, Waller, Welburn and White (20)

Against - Councillors Cotton, Darcel, Dobbie, Hill, Oliver, Rainsforth, Rollings, M Snee and Young (9)

Abstain: - Councillors Bunney, Clews, Panter and Regis (4)

With a total of 20 votes in favour, 9 votes against and 4 abstentions, the amendment was **MOTION** was carried.

Noting that recommendation 1 of the report remained undealt with, it was proposed and seconded that the number of Vice-Chairmanships on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be reduced from two to one.

The Leader of the Opposition again challenged the Leader of the Council, as to why such a stance was being taken but having heard his response, which related to a reduced work load for the Committee, indicated his unwillingness to accept the response.

A further recorded vote was sought by two Members.

On being put to the vote, votes were cast in the following manner: -

For:- Councillors Bierley, Coulson, Darcel, Davies, Devine, Ellis, Fleetwood, Grimble, Hill, Lawrence, McCartney, J McNeill, Milne, Morris, Patterson, Regis, Rodgers, Summers, Waller, and Welburn (20)

Against - Councillors Boles, Bunney, Clews, Cotton, Dobbie, Oliver, Panter, Rainsforth, Rollings, J Snee, M Snee and Young (12)

Abstain: - Councillor White (1)

With a total of 20 votes in favour, 12 votes against and 1 abstention, the **MOTION** was carried.

On that basis and following much debate it was

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) the number of Vice-Chairmanships on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be reduced from two to one;
- (b) the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, as detailed below be appointed for the 2022/23 Civic Year to the following Committees: -

Committee	Chairman	Vice Chairman/men
Chief Officer Employment Committee	Councillor Jackie Brockway	Councillor Mick Devine
Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	Councillor Anne Welburn	Councillor Jeff Summers
Planning Committee	Councillor Ian Fleetwood	Councillor Bob Waller
Governance and Audit Committee	Councillor John McNeill	Councillor Jackie Brockway
*Licensing Committee	Councillor Jessie Milne	Councillor Angela Lawrence
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Di Rodgers	VACANCY
*Regulatory Committee	Councillor Jessie Milne	Councillor Angela Lawrence

Prosperous Communities Committee	Councillor Owen Bierley	Councillor John McNeill (1) Councillor Tracey Coulson (2)
Standards (Sub) Committee	Councillor Anne Welburn	Councillor David Cotton

(c) the normal commencement time for each Committee be as follows: -

Committee	Normal Start Time
Chief Officer Employment Committee	Meetings to be convened as and when required
Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	6.30pm
Planning Committee	6.30pm
Governance and Audit Committee	2.00pm
*Licensing Committee	6.30pm
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6.30pm
*Regulatory Committee	6.30pm
Prosperous Communities Committee	6.30pm
Standards (Sub) Committee	Meetings to be convened as and when required

Note: Councillor White left the meeting following consideration of the above item of business and did not return to the meeting.

88 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS, BOARDS AND OTHER BODIES (INCLUDING ANY OUTSIDE BODIES DUE TO EXPIRE)

Consideration was given to report which sought to appoint Members to Sub-Committees, Working Groups, Panels, Boards and Outside Bodies which were due to expire or where notification has been received from the main Group Leaders.

Whilst there was no constitutional requirement to appoint to these on annual basis, the two main Group's Leaders were, at least annually, provided with a full list of such internal bodies and provided with an opportunity to amend membership where they considered it necessary.

Council noted that Group Leaders had not given prior indication that they wished to amend memberships on these internal groups at the current time, and no verbal nominations were made.

There were however five outside body appointments due to expire at Annual Council May 2022, detailed in the report, and the Charities concerned had requested a continuation of membership wherever feasible.

Having been proposed and seconded on being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED that Councillors Jessie Milne and Paul Howitt Cowan be re-appointed, for a further four-year term, expiring Annual Council 2026 (subject to re-election in May 2023) to the following positions:

- (a) Trustees of Charles Cooper Trust – 2 places - Councillor Milne and Howitt-Cowan;
- (b) Trustees of Francis Barker Trust – 1 place - Councillor Milne;
- (c) Trustees of WG Rose Memorial - 1 place - Councillor Milne; and
- (d) Trustees of Gainsborough Education Charity – 1 place – Councillor Milne.

89 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION 21/22 AND MONITORING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT

Council gave consideration to a report which presented the 21/22 Annual Review of the Constitution and arising recommendations, as considered by the Governance and Audit Committee on 12 April and recommended for approval.

The report also included an Annual Report from the Monitoring Officer for the period 21/22. The report aimed to provide an holistic view of all governance associated matters.

The Governance and Audit Committee Chairman in presenting the report advised Members Article 14 of the Constitution stipulated how such a review should be conducted, detailed at Section 1.2

Comprehensive Reviews had been undertaken in 2011, 14, 17 and large sections of the document had also been amended in 2018, as such a number of relatively minor amendments, as detailed in Section 3 of the report were being proposed. Reviewing the Public Participation at Planning Committee Scheme, Virtual first meetings, and Review of Working Groups had also resulted in some proposed amendments, also contained in Section 3 of the report. All changes included a rationale for doing so. The comparative appendices, informing some of the work and recommendations, were highlighted to

Members.

As part of the last Annual Review considered by Council in June 2021, Members had agreed a list of associated work to be undertaken during 21/22 civic year summarised at Section 1.5 . Section 2 of the report provided a brief update on progress achieved against each work stream over the period and the arising outcomes.

Whilst undertaking the annual review of the Constitution a number of other associated actions for further work, development or “a watching brief” had been identified, detailed at Section 7 of the report. Members noted that progress and any arising recommendations from this work would form part of the 22/23 review reportable to Governance and Audit Committee by no later than April 2023.

No changes had been made to the Financial Regulations or Contract Procedure Rules within the year. As these remained unchanged they had not been included in the report to Council. The S151 Officer had advised that housekeeping amendments (job titles) would be required as the new management structure was implemented but that these could be dealt with under already approved delegation.

The remaining sections of the report 8 -13 made up the Monitoring Officer’s Annual Report which aimed to provide an holistic overview of all governance associated matters and included information on such matters as, data analysis of the number, nature and outcome of complaints received under the Code of Conduct and details of the support the Monitoring Officer had provided to a number of Parish Councils to ensure their continued functioning.

Section 10 of the report sought Council approval to a number of lay vacancies.

The Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee drew Members’ attention to the decision made by Mr Peter Walton, after over 70 years involvement with Local Government, to not seek re-appoint to the Governance and Audit Committee. He considered Mr Walton’s services to Local Government were something to be in awe of, as such he moved a vote of thanks, asked Members to join him in a round of applause and sought Council agreement to a letter of thanks for Mr Walton’s services being sent to him from the Council.

Several Members echoed the comments of the Chairman of Governance Audit Committee commenting on Mr Walton’s legend like presence in Local Government in Lincolnshire. The Chamber were more than content that a letter of thanks be issued.

Having been proposed and seconded on being put to the vote

RESOLVED that the recommendation from the Governance and Audit Committee be accepted and as such: -

- (a) the outcome of the annual review detailed within the report be noted;
- (b) the amendments detailed throughout Section 3 of the report, identified during the 21/22 review be approved, adopted and implemented with immediate effect;

- (c) the appointments of Mr Richard Quirk, Pat Kennedy and Trevor Hall to the Council's Remuneration Panel for a period of 4 years, commencing from Annual Council 2022, ceasing at Annual Council in May 2026, and the appointment of Mr Stephen Beard, as the Standards Independent Person, for a period of 4 years commencing from Annual Council 2022 ceasing at Annual Council in May 2026 (Section 10) be approved;
- (d) the progress made with regards to the areas of work agreed for further development in the previous review (Section 2); the areas considered but not taken forward (Section 6); the further planned work for 2022/23 (Section 7); the statistical data provided within the report in respect of the number, nature and outcome of Code of Conduct Complaints (Section 9); the support offered to Parish Councils (Section 11); and the use of the Council's RIPA powers during the period (section 13) be received and noted; and
- (e) the Monitoring Officer be permitted to use current delegated powers, engaging the Chief Executive, and in consultation with Chairman of the Governance and Audit, to re-align the scheme of Officer delegation, on implementation of a new senior management structure (Section 4)

Note: Councillor David Cotton declared a personal interest, and indicated he would not vote on the above, as he had known a number of those referred to in the lay members section of the report on a personal level for a significant number of years.

90 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The outgoing Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented her Committee's Annual Report to Full Council.

The report summarised the visits from outside agencies, the Committee had received, such as Lincolnshire Police and the NHS, and also highlighted internal review work that has been undertaken for example with disabled facilities grants.

The Committee had benefitted from the return to face-to-face meetings, with it being more natural to work with outside agencies in the Chamber setting rather than via Teams.

A major piece of work, carried forward from previous years, was the focus on flood risk management and how the Council could better support residents at risk of flood. The Member working group had worked closely with Officers and external agencies, leading to a co-ordinated approach for flood risk management as well as how to reduce the risk of flooding in the first place. Recommendations were expected to be presented to the Prosperous Communities Committee in the early part of the civic year 22/23.

The first meeting of the civic year 22/23 would see the Committee agree its initial work plan, as well as review its Operating Methodology, the guidelines for how work could be chosen by, or allocated to, the Committee.

In concluding the introduction, the outgoing Chairman thanked Officers and Members alike

for their support, including, Ady Selby, Ele Snow, Clerk of the Committee and the Clerk of Scotter Parish Council.

Having been proposed and seconded it was: -

RESOLVED that the Annual Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

91 APPOINTMENT OF S151 OFFICER

Council considered a report which sought approval for the appointment to one of the Council's Statutory Roles, the Section 151 Officer.

The Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee, paid tribute to the outgoing Section 151 who was present in the Chamber, speaking of her excellent service to the Council, and the leadership she had shown through her work with Committees. Members expressed sincere appreciation and good wishes to Mrs Bircumshaw on her retirement.

Mrs Bircumshaw, in return, addressed Council reflecting on her years in Local Government, wishing West Lindsey and all who served it well for the future.

Following a round of applause it was: -

RESOLVED that Emma Foy be formally appointed as Section 151 Officer with effect from 1 June 2022.

The meeting concluded at 9.20 pm.

Chairman