

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted on the 23rd May 2024 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Former Councillor Chris Botten (in the Chair for Items 1 and 2 below), and Councillors Allen, Bassett, Black, Blackwell, Bloore, Bolton, Booth, Chotai, Cline, Cooper, Crane, Damesick, Duggan, Evans, Chris Farr, Sue Farr, Fowler, Gaffney, Gray, Horne, Jones, Killick, Lockwood, Mark, Patel, Prew, Pursehouse, Rujbally, Sayer, Sharma, Sharp, Sherry, Shiner, Smith, Sowambur, Spencer, Steeds, Colin White, Nicholas White and Windsor

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Case, Langton and O'Riordan

1. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING CHAIR

Councillor Gray paid tribute to Chris Botten for his work as Chair of the Council during 2023/24 and for his 27 years' service as a District Councillor (1996 - 2015 and 2016 - 2024). Chris Botten responded by thanking all concerned for the support he had received during the previous municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2024/25

The Council proceeded with the election of a Chair for 2024/25. Councillor Sue Farr was nominated by Councillor Sayer and seconded by Councillor Crane.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Sue Farr be elected Chair of the Council for 2024/25.

Councillor Sue Farr then took the Chair and thanked Members for appointing her.

3. ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2024/25

The Council proceeded with the election of a Vice-Chair for 2024/25. Councillor Blackwell was nominated by Councillor Sue Farr and seconded by Councillor Sayer.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Blackwell be elected Vice-Chair of the Council for 2024/25.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed the new Members who had joined the Council following the District elections on the 2nd May, namely Councillors Chris Bassett, Ashleigh Bolton, Louise Case (in her absence), Deano Cline, Julie Duggan, Richard Fowler, Ben Horne, Peter Killick, Liz Lockwood, Richard Mark, James Rujbally, Ankita Sharma, Deborah Sherry, Sarah Sowambur and Robin Spencer.

The Chair also advised that, during the year ahead, she would seek to raise funds for her two chosen charities, namely:

- Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex; and
- the Rainbow Trust Children's Charity.

5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH APRIL 2024

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 18th April 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the reports of the following meetings be received:

Audit & Scrutiny Committee – 11th April 2024

Planning Committee – 16th April 2024.

7. ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES FOR 2024/25

Members considered a report to enable the Council to appoint its committees for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, including the allocation of seats in accordance with political balance requirements.

RESOLVED – that the Council's committees for 2024/25, and the number of seats allocated to each committee, be as per Appendix A.

8. APPOINTMENTS OF COUNCILLORS TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2024/25

A list of proposed appointments to outside bodies was considered.

Votes were taken in respect of:

- Gatwick Airport outside bodies, namely Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee, Gatwick Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group, Gatwick Airport Noise Management Board (Community Forum); and Gatwick Airport Noise Management Board (Executive). Councillor Lockwood (with Councillor Allen as the substitute) and Councillor Sir Nicholas White (with Councillor Smith as the substitute) had been nominated. The vote was in favour of Councillor Sir Nicholas White as the principal member and Councillor Smith as the substitute.
- Tandridge Health & Wellbeing Board. Councillors Case, Cline and Evans had been nominated for two seats. The vote was in favour of Councillors Case and Evans.

RESOLVED – that the appointments to outside bodies, attached at Appendix B, be agreed.

9. POLICY STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE ADMINISTRATION COVERING THE 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR

In accordance with Standing Order No 6 (2), Councillor Sayer, in her capacity as Leader of the Residents' Alliance minority administration, made a policy statement covering the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

Councillors Gray, Bloore and Allen responded as Leaders of the Liberal Democrat, Conservative and Independent Groups respectively.

Rising 8.48 pm