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Council

Minutes of a Council meeting held at 6.00 pm on Thursday, 25th May, 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock, DE4 3NN.

PRESENT

Councillors: Robert Archer, Anthony Bates, Geoff Bond, Kelda Boothroyd, Matt Buckler, Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, David Burton, Neil Buttle, David Chapman, Peter Dobbs, Steve Flitter, Marilyn Franks, Gareth Gee, Dawn Greatorex, Susan Hobson, David Hughes, Stuart Lees, Joanne Linthwaite, Laura Mellstrom, Tony Morley, Dermot Murphy, Andy Nash, Peter O'Brien, Lucy Peacock, Roger Shelley, Peter Slack, Mark Wakeman, Nick Whitehead and Nick Wilton

James McLaughlin (Director of Corporate and Customer Services (Monitoring Officer)), Tim Braund (Director of Regulatory Services), Steve Capes (Director of Regeneration & Policy), Robert Cogings (Director of Housing), Karen Henriksen (Director of Resources), Ashley Watts (Director of Community and Environmental Services), Kerry France (Legal Services Manager), Jason Spencer (Electoral and Democratic Services Manager) and Tommy Shaw (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Note:

"Opinions expressed or statements made by individual persons during the public participation part of a Council or committee meeting are not the opinions or statements of Derbyshire Dales District Council. These comments are made by individuals who have exercised the provisions of the Council's Constitution to address a specific meeting. The Council therefore accepts no liability for any defamatory remarks that are made during a meeting that are replicated on this document."

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor(s): John Bointon, Nigel Norman Edwards-Walker and Simon Ripton.

1/23 - ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE 2023/2024 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor David Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Joanne Linthwaite and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Steve Wain be elected Chair of the Council for the 2023/2024 municipal year and that the position henceforth be designated as Chair of the Council within Article 5 of the Council's Constitution, with the post's deputy position designated as Vice-Chair of the Council.

Voting

30 For
00 Against
01 Abstained

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

2/23 - APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024

It was moved by Councillor Peter Slack, Seconded by Councillor Steve Flitter and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Dawn Greatorex be elected Vice-Chair of the Council for the year 2023/2024.

Voting

30 For
00 Against
01 Abstained

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

3/23 - ELECTION OF CIVIC CHAIR 2023/24

It was moved by Councillor Roger Shelley, Seconded by Councillor Marilyn Franks and

RESOLVED

That Councillor David Burton be elected Civic Chair of the Council of the Derbyshire Dales for the 2023/2024 civic year and that the position henceforth be designated as Civic Chair of the Derbyshire Dales within Article 5 of the Council's Constitution, with the post's deputy position designated as Deputy Civic Chair of the Derbyshire Dales.

Voting

30 For
00 Against
01 Abstained

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

The duly elected Civic Chair was invested with the Chain of Office and expressed his thanks to the retiring Civic Chair and Members for their vote of confidence.

4/23 - APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY CIVIC CHAIRMAN 2023/2024

It was moved by Councillor Nick Whitehead, Seconded by Councillor Neil Buttle and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Peter Slack be elected Deputy Civic Chair of the Derbyshire Dales for the 2023/2024 civic year.

Voting

30 For
00 Against
01 Abstained

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

The duly elected Deputy Civic Chair was invested with the Chain of Office and thanked Members for their vote of confidence.

5/23 - ELECTION OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER - 2023-24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor David Burton, Seconded by Councillor Peter Dobbs and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Steve Flitter be elected Leader of the Council for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

Voting

30 For
00 Against
01 Abstained

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

It was moved by Councillor David Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Steve Flitter and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Peter Slack and Councillor Neil Buttle be elected Deputy Leaders of the Council for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Voting

28 For
01 Against
02 Abstained

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

6/23 - LEADERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Steve Flitter, Leader of the Council, gave the following announcements:

Four years ago, I sat and listened to a Leader's speech that angered so many members of this Council as it began with the promise to see the local plan to its conclusion. Showing little regard for our residents and many points began with (I) well there is no I in team and that's what we must become if we are to succeed and meet the challenges ahead.

We will have a new approach to the local plan with the emphasis on protecting the environment and creating sustainable communities through energy efficient housing that meets local needs, built in the right locations and making sure that proper infrastructure supports new and existing development. This is why we propose that the local plan working party become a sub-committee with a Chair to ensure that recommendations are Member led and, in planning itself, we shall insist on tougher enforcement to meet stated conditions and all changes to original approved plans.

We will re-examine the housing strategy with the aim of enabling everyone throughout the district to be able to live and prosper in their own community and with a housing stock fit for the purpose to meet the challenges of climate change, prioritising affordability, social housing and ensuring all homes are insulated to the highest standard, carbon neutral and cost effective to run.

We will re-invigorate climate change and biodiversity strategies working with businesses, farmers and the community to reduce carbon emissions and enhance the biodiversity of our varied landscape. We aim to tackle pollution by promoting biodiversity and zero carbon technology supporting greenways, rewilding, creating community orchards, allotments and reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides.

We will ensure an open, inclusive and transparent way of working supported by an energised council management and workforce listening and working together to create a fairer and more caring district by supporting residents, community groups and businesses making sure this council delivers the services they need and rely on. Our aim is to open discussion on a regular basis with the Council's Corporate Leadership Team, develop further the Leader's Advisory Group and provide more Member briefings on important and relevant issues.

Public Toilets

After many complaints over the last administration's closure of toilet provision in our tourist hotspots we will re-examine the closed sites, re-evaluate possibilities seeking a way forward to providing the services our visitors expect. We realise that some buildings may no longer be suitable, but we must consider the possibilities of temporary provision in peak season.

Inward investment and partnerships

Economic development is very important for the Dales as it creates an opportunity to provide jobs and financial stability for our residents and also builds confidence in existing businesses in retail, manufacturing, service industries and also can be a lifeline for small businesses. So, inward investment and not just grants that are reliant on match funding but we need a partnership approach with other authorities and agencies to successfully attract those opportunities and we will support our officers to build on recent successes to move forward and reflect our growing workforce and their needs.

Travellers Sites

We want to take the politics out of this very highly sensitive issue. For decades this council has struggled to find a solution. Not forgetting the last attempt by creating a working group led by Councillor Hobson, where her goodwill tried to steer that group impartially but I'm afraid politics did eventually raise its head, we therefore propose to have one Member from each group, working with an officer to re-evaluate the opportunities with a wider scope of looking for a permanent site as well temporary sites that take account of the provision in the north, central and southern areas of our district.

Car Parking

We understand that our car parks are a vital part of our income, but we must look at how we can increase or make better use of them. It was the Liberal Democrats in the late nineties that introduced the residents parking scheme which still operates successfully today but many residential areas are still suffering as inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking takes place on a regular basis. We have to widen the scope of the present review looking into why some are free, alternative land use for underused areas, opportunities for expansion and the visitor pre-payment scheme.

Leisure Centres

Those who have been re-elected will know the difficulties that lie ahead. Rising costs and extra council financial support placed great strain on the viability of Freedom Leisure and put a massive strain on our resources. We are committed to ensure that residents can continue to enjoy these facilities and we will work hard alongside Freedom Leisure in securing a long term financial strategy that supports management and users.

Waste collection

Perhaps the one service that residents value most, but a very expensive one, which has been very problematic and a major concern for the council. The operatives you see on the street are very good but changes in management and communication have led to frustration for officers and Members. We will continue to honour our contract responsibilities but we must seek alternative arrangements to protect this Council and provide a vital service that meets resident expectations if the contract was to fail.

Our council

Our officers and staff throughout the council are our guide to staying on track both legally and financially whilst putting our priorities into action. If we are to move forward in a positive and progressive manner, we need a review of the structure of the council and the resources available. We will look at the capability to deliver services, match resources where we can or look for other opportunities. We respect all staff and will ensure equality, health and safety and associated policies are met and developed further to ensure they are working in a safe, welcoming and rewarding authority.

Outside the realm of Derbyshire Dales District Council

We unfortunately seem to have to lobby against decisions that lie outside our control – but lobby we will – on national issues affecting our residents and local issues especially support for our GPs, education, highways and congestion, and the current decision for the closure of tourist centres in the Peak District National Park.

To end, all of our residents are human beings, regardless of age, gender, ability or beliefs, what may seem to be small problems to the council can be a major concern to them.

We councillors are no different and should act and treat each other with respect as we expect others to treat us. There are three words to remember: Respect, Honesty, Dignity.

7/23 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: John Bointon, Nigel Edwards-Walker and Simon Ripton.

8/23 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Peter O'Brien, Seconded by Councillor Robert Archer and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

9/23 - INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

10/23 - MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS - REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

Members received a report on the result of the municipal elections to the District Council held on 4 May 2023.

It was moved by Councillor David Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Geoff Bond and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the results of the municipal elections to the District Council held on 4 May 2023 be noted.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

11/23 - MEMBERSHIP OF POLITICAL GROUPS, POLITICAL BALANCE AND ENTITLEMENT TO SEATS ON COMMITTEES

The Council considered a report on the updated membership of political groups on the Council, the change to the political balance of the authority following the elections held on 4 May 2023 and the revised entitlement of political groups to seats on committees for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Following the recent Elections the political balance of the Council was:

Name of Group	Designated Leader	Number of Members
Conservative	Councillor Hobson	11
Green Party	Councillor Buttle	4
Labour and Councillor O'Brien	Councillor Slack	7
Liberal Democrat	Councillor Flitter	12

It was moved by Councillor Steve Flitter, seconded by Councillor David Chapman and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

1. That the operation of four political groups on the Council and the detail of their designated Leaders be noted:
 - a) Conservative Group – Councillor Susan Hobson
 - b) Green Party Group – Councillor Neil Buttle
 - c) Labour and Councillor O’Brien Group – Councillor Peter Slack
 - d) Liberal Democrat Group – Councillor Steve Flitter

2. That special responsibility allowances be paid in accordance with the Members Allowances Scheme at Part 6 of the Constitution.

3. That approval be given to the establishment of:
 - a) Local Plan Sub-Committee of 10 Members under the auspices of the Community and Environment Committee
 - b) Biodiversity Sub-Committee of 6 Members under the auspices of the Community and Environment Committee

4. That the Council notes, and agrees, the entitlement of the membership of the political groups and that such entitlements have been reflected in the allocations to Committees.

5. That Council considers nominations and appoints Members to serve on the:
 - a) Joint ICT Committee – Councillors David Hughes and Andy Nash
 - b) Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee – Councillor Steve Flitter
 - c) D2 Joint Committee for Economic Prosperity – Councillor Steve Flitter

6. That Council appoints Members to serve on Working Groups for the following purposes:
 - a) Constitution Working Group (6 Members)
 - b) Climate Change Working Group (6 Members)
 - c) Member Development Working Group (1 Member from each group)
 - d) Traveller Site Working Group (1 Member from each group)
 - e) Gender Balance Working Group (1 Member drawn from each political group).

with nominations from Group Leaders to be given to the Proper Officer.

7. That the Independent Remuneration Panel be invited to consider the impact of appointments made which are not consistent with the existing Members Allowances Scheme and make recommendations back to the Council.

8. That the Calendar of Meetings for the 2023/24 Municipal Year be amended as follows:

Committee	Previous Date	New Date
Community and Environment	Wednesday 5 July 2023	Thursday 13 July 2023
Governance and Resources	Wednesday 19 July 2023	Thursday 20 July 2023

Community and Environment	Wednesday 6 September 2023	Thursday 7 September 2023
Governance and Resources	Wednesday 20 September 2023	Thursday 14 September 2023
Community and Environment	Wednesday 1 November 2023	Thursday 26 October 2023
Governance and Resources	Wednesday 8 November 2023	Thursday 2 November 2023
Governance and Resources	Wednesday 20 March 2024	Thursday 21 March 2024

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

12/23 - SCHEDULE OF NOMINATIONS TO COMMITTEES

The Council considered the appointment of members to serve on committees for the 2023/24 municipal year in accordance with each political group's entitlement.

It was moved by Councillor Peter Slack, seconded by Councillor Neil Buttle and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That Councillors be appointed to serve on the Committees of the Council in accordance with the wishes of the political groups as set out in appendix 1 of these Minutes.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

13/23 - APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

The Council considered a report setting out the appointments to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair to the various decision making bodies for the 2023-24 municipal year.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Flitter, seconded by Councillor David Hughes and

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the following appointments be made to the positions of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Committee/Decision Making Body	Chair	Vice-Chair
Community & Environment	Martin Burfoot	Peter O'Brien
Governance & Resources	Nick Wilton	Neil Buttle
Scrutiny	David Hughes	Peter Slack
Planning	David Burton and Peter O'Brien	Sue Burfoot

Licensing & Appeals	Steve Wain	Dawn Greatorex
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The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

14/23 - APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Council considered a report that reviewed its affiliations with outside bodies and invited nominations to act as the Council’s representatives.

The Schedule attached at Appendix 2, gave the full list of outside bodies that required the Council’s consideration. The Council was asked to consider its nominations and any changes it wished to make to those currently in place.

The list of approved conferences and recommended representation was tabled in paragraph 2.3 of the report, which was submitted to confer approved duty status to cover Member attendance.

Due to the number of nominations to the Peak District National Park Authority exceeding the number of available representative positions, it was recommended that this be determined separately to the nominations to other outside bodies.

It was moved by Councillor Neil Buttle, seconded by Councillor Nick Whitehead and

RESOLVED

1. That the list of outside bodies identified in Appendix 1 be approved..
2. That the position of organisations with no indemnity insurance currently exists be noted accordingly.
3. That the Members identified in the schedule tabled at the meeting, with the exception of the Peak District National Park Authority, be appointed to the relevant outside body to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.
4. That the list of Conferences for 2023/24 be approved.
5. That authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate and Customer Services in consultation with the Chief Executive and Directors, where relevant, to determine requests for attendance at other conferences based on the relevance of the subject matter and to the availability of finance.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

The nominations to the Peak District National Park Authority are set out below, along with the voting on the individual nominations.

Nomination	Nominated by	Seconded by	Voting
Councillor Matt Buckler	Councillor Neil Buttle	Councillor Andy Nash	29 For 00 Against 02 Abstentions
Councillor David Chapman	Councillor Susan Hobson	Councillor Tony Morley	09 For 00 Against 22 Abstentions

Councillor Andy Nash	Councillor Peter O'Brien	Councillor Martin Burfoot	22 For 00 Against 09 Abstentions
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It was therefore **RESOLVED**

That Councillor Matt Buckler and Councillor Andy Nash be appointed as the Council's representative Members on the Peak District National Park Authority.

The Chair declared the motion **CARRIED**.

15/23 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr John Youatt, Planning Agent to the owners of the Woodyard at Homesford, spoke on the District Council's legal duty to provide accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller families residing in the District and encouraged the Council to quickly make appointments to the new working group proposed to make recommendations back to the Council.

Meeting Closed: 7.05 pm

Chair