

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 21st May 2019 at Pippbrook, Dorking from 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Present: Councillors Mary Huggins (Chairman), Patricia Wiltshire (Vice Chairman), Roger Adams, Tim Ashton, Lynne Brooks, Simon Budd, Lesley Bushnell, Helyn Clack, Margaret Cooksey, Stephen Cooksey, Mary Cooper, Elizabeth Daly, Rosemary Dickson, David Draper, Simon Edge, Paul Elderton, James Friend, Nancy Goodacre, Raj Haque, David Harper, David Hawksworth, Chris Hunt, Metin Huseyin, Tracy Keeley, Bridget Kendrick, Paul Kennedy, Tim Loretto, Claire Malcomson, Wayne Monkman, Richard Moyse, Emma Norman, Paul Potter, David Preedy, Alan Reilly, Elsie Rosam, Caroline Salmon, Garry Stansfield, Keira Vyvyan-Robinson, Hazel Watson, Clayton Wellman and Charles Yarwood.

1. Chairman

Councillor Rosemary Dickson proposed and Councillor David Draper seconded a motion that Councillor Mary Huggins be elected Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mary Huggins be elected Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

Councillor Mary Huggins signed the declaration of acceptance of office and thanked the Council for electing her as Chairman.

She then presented the Chairman's Consort chain to her son, Mr Matthew Huggins. The Chairman also indicated that Mr Nigel Lashmar would also, on occasion, be acting as her Consort throughout the year.

Councillor Mary Huggins in the Chair.

The Chairman presented Councillor Raj Haque with his Past Chairman's badge and thanked him for the work he had undertaken as Chairman.

Councillor Raj Haque thanked officers and colleagues for their support over the past year and outlined a number of highlights from his year as Chairman.

Councillor Raj Haque then presented his wife, Nasima Haque, with her Past Chairman's Consort's badge and thanked her for all her support over the past year.

2. Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor David Hawksworth proposed and Councillor Claire Malcomson seconded a motion that Councillor Patricia Wiltshire be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Patricia Wiltshire be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

Councillor Patricia Wiltshire signed the declaration of acceptance of office and thanked the Council for appointing her as Vice-Chairman.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Apologies for absence

None

5. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed Members that she would be very proud to act as an ambassador throughout the district of Mole Valley and the wider community of Surrey and beyond. She also thanked the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Raj Haque, for all he did in the course of his year as Chairman. She also welcomed newly elected Councillors and thanked those who had left the Council and presented them with certificates.

The Chairman confirmed that she would support three charities during her year in office. The first was the Leatherhead Youth Project which supports youth work and counselling services within Mole Valley delivering a wide range of services; the second was Belong, a new ring-fenced youth project, delivered by the Good Shepherd Trust and based at St John's School Goodwyns. The project supports children and their families when facing significant disadvantage. The final charity was PSDS, a local charity supporting children with Down Syndrome to reach their potential and offering support to their families.

The Chairman invited Members, Officers and those in the public gallery to join her for refreshments at the conclusion of the evening's meetings.

6. Returning Officer's Return of Members Elected on 2nd May 2019

The Chief Executive advised that the candidates elected on 2nd May 2019 elections were as detailed in her report to Council, as set out on page 7 of the previously circulated agenda.

7. Political Balance/Formation of Political Groups/Committee Memberships 2019/20

The Council noted the number of seats allocated to each Group together with the proposals of the Group Leaders to fill the seats, which were circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED: that

- (1) the membership of the political groups on the Council was a Conservative Group of 11, a Liberal Democrat Group of 22, an informal Independent Group of 7 and the Bookham Independent Member.
- (2) the allocation of seats to the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and informal Independent Groups be on the basis that 13 seats were allocated to the Conservative Group, 26 seats were allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group, 8 seats were allocated to the informal Independent Group and 1 seat to the Bookham Independent Member.
- (3) the Standards Committee (and Sub-Committees) not be politically balanced and that two seats be allocated to each of the three Groups.
- (4) the proposals submitted by the Leaders of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and informal Independent Groups, as shown in the schedule which was circulated at the Council meeting be approved (attached at Appendix 1).
- (5) two Parish Council representatives, as shown in the schedule which was circulated at the Council meeting (attached at Appendix 1), be appointed as non-voting members of the Standards Committee.
- (6) the principles of proportionality be applied to Committees at such time as they might appoint time limited Sub-Committees and Joint Committees (except for Licensing and Standards).

8. Leader of the Council

Councillor David Draper proposed and Councillor Bridget Kendrick seconded the following motion:

“That Councillor Stephen Cooksey be appointed Leader of the Council.”

RESOLVED: That Councillor Stephen Cooksey be appointed Leader of the Council.

9. Membership of the Cabinet

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cooksey advised the Council of the membership of the Cabinet (including Deputy Leader) and the allocation of portfolios for 2019/20 as follows:

- Councillor Stephen Cooksey - Leader
- Councillor David Draper - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure
- Councillor Paul Kennedy - Cabinet Member for Finance and Organisation
- Councillor Claire Malcomson - Cabinet Member for the Environment
- Councillor Margaret Cooksey - Cabinet Member for Planning
- Councillor Bridget Kendrick - Cabinet Member for Projects
- Councillor Clayton Wellman - Cabinet Member for Sustainable Economy
- Councillor Hazel Watson - Cabinet Member for Community
- Councillor Elizabeth Daly - Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

10. Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Councillor Rosemary Dickson proposed and Councillor Lynne Brooks seconded the following motion:

“That Councillor James Friend be appointed Leader of the Opposition.”

RESOLVED: That Councillor James Friend be appointed Leader of the Opposition.

Councillor James Friend proposed and Councillor Rosemary Dickson seconded the following motion:

“That Councillor Lynne Brooks be appointed Deputy Leader of the Opposition.”

RESOLVED: That Councillor Lynne Brooks be appointed Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

11. Review of Cabinet Working Groups

12. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

A schedule detailing the nominees was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the representatives to the outside organisations be appointed as set out at Appendix 2.

(N.B. Counted votes were taken on the decision of the Council in respect of the following appointments:-

- *Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee: Clayton Wellman – 22, Charles Yarwood – 16
Sub: Helyn Clack – 13, Caroline Salmon - 24*
- *Surrey Hills AONB Board: Helyn Clack – 11, Hazel Watson – 25*
- *Mickleham Almshouses (2 appointments): Ken Watt – 11, Graham Brown – 34, Elsie Rosam – 23*

13. Recommendations of Committees

Councillor Paul Kennedy, Chairman of the Audit Committee introduced the report and proposed the recommendations.

RESOLVED: that

- (i) Mrs V Cameron, Mr B Quoroll and Mr R Pett and Mr J Smith be re-appointed as independent persons pursuant to section 28(7) of the Localism Act for a term of four years expiring on the date of the Annual Council meeting in May 2023;
- (ii) Mr W Donnelly, Mr P Eaves, Mrs E Lawrence be appointed as independent persons pursuant to section 28(7) of the Localism Act for a term of four years expiring on the date of the Annual Council meeting in May 2023.

14. Leader’s Statement

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cooksey made the following statement:

‘First I would like to take the opportunity to thank residents for their massive support on 2nd May and the very positive response and huge encouragement that we have received particularly over the last two weeks. We will do everything that we can to develop those policies and to implement those changes that our residents clearly want to see.

This will be an administration that welcomes input from residents – I know that there are many people in our community who want to contribute ideas and initiatives to help improve Mole Valley and where possible we want to put the force of the Council behind such ideas and initiatives. My message to residents is please contact us and we will make sure that your contributions are seriously considered. I know that many of our concerns are shared across the chamber and that we have different ways of addressing those concerns. I would prefer a Council which thrived on co-operation and not conflict and one where the views of all members are seriously considered and I hope that we can move in that direction.

Back in January when we wrote our manifesto for the election that has just been held we extracted a number of issues for priority consideration if we were given control. In the short time that I have to speak I can only briefly refer to some of these but these will be the major policy areas where we expect to make progress.

Sound finances are the basis of any successful local authority and Mole Valley is in a much better situation than many authorities. However all authorities are deeply concerned about the consequences of the Government’s austerity programme over the last 5 years, and the fact that the government’s proposals for future financing of local government are far from clear. We will be consistently on alert for initiatives that will secure and improve the Council’s finances.

The Local Plan must be the most significant project for this year. There is an all-member seminar on 29th May and I strongly suspect that the information that will be made available then will not provide the basis of a Plan that commands majority support in the Chamber. Consequently we will reluctantly but necessarily be looking for as short a deferral as possible from the present timetable in order to re-assess what we have inherited. An announcement of the revised timetable will be made on Friday. Protecting the Green Belt from inappropriate development, providing the sort of housing that residents need and ensuring an adequate infrastructure to support development are our basic aims. We have proposed a number of green initiatives over the past couple of years and we aim to expand these much further including a commitment to making the Council carbon neutral in as short a time as possible.

On 18th June we have a special Council in our timetable which was intended to approve the Local Plan. That will not be possible for the reasons that I have outlined but we want to retain that Council meeting so that we can consider a climate emergency resolution and begin to address the issues

arising from this at the earliest opportunity. We will also be looking at the process for consideration of the change to a committee system at that meeting.

We must tackle the serious problems that affect our town and village centres with increased vigour. We will continue support the Transform Leatherhead and North Leatherhead projects whilst at the same time addressing the problems faced by Dorking and our rural and urban villages.

Car Parking is a huge and increasing problem and needs a route and branch review. That we propose to initiate in conjunction with the County Council so that we can address on-street and off-street parking at the same time. The Local Committee has already endorsed this approach and we need to move quickly.

We know that the County is proposing to close the Dorking tip and the Leatherhead Children's Centre. These are County services but services of very significant value to our residents and we will do everything that we can to help retain those services for our residents. Officers are urgently looking for dates when we can meet with the County to try to find a way forward.

These are some of our priorities for the coming year – there are others which I don't have the time to refer to tonight but which Cabinet members will be working diligently to deal with.

We recognise that all of these are serious challenges but they are challenges that we are determined to meet and every one of us in this administration will do our best to deliver the services and improvements that our residents deserve.'

ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE PLACES – 2018/2019

(a) Audit Committee (7 seats)

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent
1	Roger Adams	Lynne Brooks	Mary Cooper
2	Paul Elderton	Tim Ashton	
3	David Preedy		
4	Caroline Salmon		

(b) Development Control Committee (19 seats)

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent	Bookham Independent
1	Roger Adams	Tracy Keeley	Chris Hunt	Simon Edge
2	Lesley Bushnell	Helyn Clack	David Hawksworth	
3	Paul Elderton	Richard Moyse	Patricia Wiltshire	
4	Nancy Goodacre	Simon Budd		
5	Raj Haque	Mary Huggins		
6	Tim Loretto			
7	Wayne Monkman			
8	Emma Norman			
9	David Preedy			
10	Keira Vyvyan-Robinson			

Substitutes

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent
1	Margaret Cooksey	Charles Yarwood	Garry Stansfield
2	Stephen Cooksey	Rosemary Dickson	David Harper
3	Bridget Kendrick	Metin Huseyin	Alan Reilly
4	Paul Kennedy	Tim Ashton	Mary Cooper

(c) Licensing Committee (11 seats)*

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent
1	Elizabeth Daly	Helyn Clack	Chris Hunt
2	David Draper	Tim Ashton	Alan Reilly
3	Paul Elderton	Charles Yarwood	
4	Bridget Kendrick		
5	Tim Loretto		
6	Wayne Monkman		

(d) **Scrutiny Committee (11 seats)***

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent
1	Lesley Bushnell	Charles Yarwood	David Harper
2	Paul Potter	Lynne Brooks	Garry Stansfield
3	David Preedy	Tracy Keeley	
4	Elsie Rosam		
5	Caroline Salmon		
6	Keira Vyvyan-Robinson		

Substitutes

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent
1	Roger Adams	Rosemary Dickson	Patricia Wiltshire
2	Nancy Goodacre	Tim Ashton	David Hawksworth

(e) **Standards Committee (6 Member seats)** (This Committee is not subject to political proportionality provisions, subject to Council's approval).

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent	Parish Council (non-voting representatives)
1	Paul Elderton	Charles Yarwood	Alan Reilly	Debbie Jones
2	Wayne Monkman	Rosemary Dickson	Mary Cooper	Stuart McLachlan

Substitutes

	Liberal Democrat	Conservative	Independent
1	Nancy Goodacre	Mary Huggins	Patricia Wiltshire
2		Tim Ashton	Garry Stansfield

Appointments of Representatives to Outside Organisations 2019/20

Organisation	2019/20 Representative
Age Concern Mole Valley	Relevant Cabinet Member
Member Armed Forces Champion	Keira Vyvyan-Robinson
Ashted Common Consultative Committee	David Hawksworth
Ashted Peace Hall Memorial Committee nominee – 3 year term of office (Note: The Trustees will decide on the appointments)	N/A in 2019
Bookham Residents Association – Board of Directors	Simon Edge
Brockham Big Field Community Sports Ltd	Simon Budd
Central Surrey Council for Voluntary Service	David Preedy
Citizens Advice Bureau – Dorking and Leatherhead	Tim Loretto Keira Vyvyan-Robinson
Clarion Regional Scrutiny Panel	Caroline Salmon
Coast to Capital Strategic Joint Committee	Leader
District Councils Network Assembly	Leader
Dorking BID Board	Relevant Cabinet Member
Dorking and District Town Twinning Association	Stephen Cooksey David Draper
Dorking Residential Care Homes	Paul Elderton
Dorking Town Centre Forum	Relevant Cabinet Member
East Surrey Community Safety Partnership (previously Community Safety Partnership)	Relevant Cabinet Member
Environmental Health and Licensing Joint Partnership Board	Relevant Cabinet Member Sub:
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals – Local Representatives' Panel	Relevant Cabinet Member Sub: Nancy Goodacre
Friends of Triel	Tim Ashton
Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee	Clayton Wellman Sub: Caroline Salmon
Gatwick Diamond	Clayton Wellman
Gatwick Green Space Partnership	Claire Malcomson Margaret Cooksey
Gatwick Joint Local Authorities Group	David Preedy
Joint Waste Committee	Relevant Cabinet Member Sub: Caroline Salmon
Local Government Association – General Assembly	Leader
Lower Mole Partnership Steering	Patricia Wiltshire

Organisation	2019/20 Representative
Group	Roger Adams David Preedy
Health Liaison Panel (formerly Mid Surrey Inter-Authority Health Partnership)	Relevant Cabinet Member
Mole Valley Access Group	Mary Cooper Tim Loretto Nancy Goodacre Paul Elderton
Mole Valley Business Forum	Clayton Wellman
Mole Valley Local Committee (Politically Balanced: 3 Liberal Democrats 2 Conservatives 1 Independent	David Hawksworth Rosemary Dickson Mary Huggins Nancy Goodacre Raj Haque Claire Malcomson Lesley Bushnell Paul Kennedy Caroline Salmon Charles Yarwood Tim Ashton Alan Reilly David Harper
Norbury Park Liaison Group	Roger Adams David Preedy Sub: Patricia Wiltshire
Police and Crime Panel (Liberal Democrat nominee)	Hazel Watson
Redhill Aerodrome Consultative Committee	Paul Potter
Southern Building Control Partnership Board	Relevant Cabinet Member Sub: Tim Loretto
Surrey Climate Change Partnership Member Group	Relevant Cabinet Member
Surrey Countryside Partnership Board	Relevant Cabinet Member
Surrey County Playing Fields Association	Relevant Cabinet Member Wayne Monkman
Surrey Leaders' Group	Leader
Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Board	Hazel Watson Sub: David Preedy
Surrey Rural Partnership	Relevant Cabinet Member Caroline Salmon

Charities - Four Year Appointments (except Fetcham United Charities which is a three year appointment)

Orgs	Current Representatives	Expiry of Term of Office	2019/20 Appointments
Ashted United Charities	Sheila Harris	May 2020	N/A
	David Hawksworth (resigned)	July 2022	Mary Cooper
Bookham United Charities	Clare Curran	May 2019	Elizabeth Daly
	Jatin Patel	May 2021	N/A
Dorking Charities	Mark Heath	May 2019	Tim Loretto
	Mrs Lawrence	May 2021	N/A
	Margaret Cooksey	May 2022	N/A
Fetcham United Charities	Lynne Brooks	May 2020	N/A
	Paul Kennedy	May 2020	N/A
	Tracy Keely	May 2022	N/A
Leatherhead United Charities	Philippa Shimmin	May 2019	Keira Vyvyan-Robinson
	Tim Ashton	May 2019	tbc
	Rosemary Dickson	May 2019	Rosemary Dickson
Mickleham Almshouses	Mrs Gillian Hall	May 2019	Elsie Rosam
	Graham Brown	May 2019	Graham Brown

Surrey Leaders' Group Outside Bodies – Three Year Term

(Note: This Council can make nominations to the Surrey Leaders' Group, which will then decide on the appointments)

Organisation	Current Appointments		Nominations
SCC Wellbeing and Heath Scrutiny Board	Councillors Wright (Guildford) and Turner (Reigate and Banstead)	1 appointment for three years	Lynne Brooks
High Sherriff's Award	Councillor Parsons (Guildford)	N/A in 2019/20	-
Surrey Pension Fund - Investment Advisors Group	Councillor Elias (Tandridge) Councillor Mitchell (Elmbridge)	N/A in 2019/20	-
South East Reserve Forces and Cadets Association	Councillor Elms (Guildford)	N/A in 2019/20	-
Active Surrey Active Surrey Sports Partner Forum	Councillor Sarti (Guildford)	N/A in 2019/20	-
Surrey Civilian-Military Partnership Board	Councillors Cannon (Tandridge) and Gracey (Runnymede)	N/A in 2019/20	-
Surrey Countryside Access Forum	Councillor Billington (Guildford)	N/A in 2019/20	-
Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Councillor Roche (Guildford)	1 appointment for three years	Patricia Wiltshire