

COUNCIL28 May 2015
11.15 am - 5.15 pm

Present: Councillors Abbott, Ashton, Austin, Avery, Baigent, Benstead, Bick, Bird, Blencowe, Cantrill, Dryden, Gawthroe, Gehring, Gillespie, Hart, Herbert, Hipkin, Holland, Holt, Johnson, McPherson, Meftah, Moore, O'Connell, O'Reilly, Owers, Perry, Pippas, Pitt, Price, Ratcliffe, Reid, Roberts, Robertson, Sanders, Sarris, Sinnott, C. Smart, M. Smart, Smith, Todd-Jones and Tunnacliffe

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**15/77/CNL To Elect a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2015/16**

Councillor Roberts proposed and Councillor McPherson seconded the nomination of Councillor Robert Dryden as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

Resolved that:

- i. Councillor Robert Dryden be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2015/16 (Councillor Dryden then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of the office of Mayor).

15/78/CNL To Elect a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2015/16

Councillor Owers proposed and Councillor Roberts seconded the nomination of Councillor Jeremy Benstead as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2015/2016.

Resolved that:

- i. Councillor Jeremy Benstead be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2015/16 (Councillor Benstead then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of the office of Mayor).

15/79/CNL To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the 16th April 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

15/80/CNL To Note the Returning Officer's Report That The Following Have Been Elected to the Office of Councillor

It was noted that the following had been elected to the Office of Councillor.

- Abbey: Caroline Hart
- Arbury: Carina O'Reilly
- Castle: Valerie Margaret Holt
- Cherry Hinton: Mark Ashton
- Coleridge: Jeremy Benstead
- East Chesterton: Gerri Bird
- Kings Hedges: Kevin Price
- Market: Oscar Edward Gillespie
- Newnham: Markus Gehring
- Petersfield: Kevin Blencowe
- Queen Edith's: George Gregory Pippas
- Romsey: Anna Smith
- Trumpington: Zoe O'Connell
- West Chesterton: Damien Tunnaclyffe

15/81/CNL To Note the Appointment of the Mayor's Chaplain for the Ensuing Year

The Council noted the appointment of Father Peter Edwards as the Mayor's Chaplain for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

15/82/CNL To Note the Appointment of the Mayor's Cadet for the Ensuing Year

The Council noted the appointment of Mr Dan Beattie, representing St John Ambulance, as the Mayor's Cadet for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

15/83/CNL To Pass a Resolution of Thanks to the Outgoing Mayor

Resolved (unanimously), on the proposal of Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Pippas that:

- i. The Council expresses its appreciation of the manner in which the duties of Mayor were discharged by Councillor Bird and her consort Alan Pooley, during their period of office and that the Common Seal be affixed to a copy of this resolution for presentation to at the next Council meeting.

15/84/CNL Mayor's Announcements**APOLOGIES**

No Apologies were received.

PRINCESS CHARLOTTE OF CAMBRIDGE

The Mayor informed the Council that on the news of the birth of the Royal Princess, a letter of congratulations had sent by the Mayor to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on behalf of the City Council.

CIVIC CHURCH SERVICE – SUNDAY, 31st May

The Mayor announced that the Mott Sermon would be preached at Holy Trinity Church, Sunday, 31st May at 9.30am.

OUTGOING MAYOR'S DINNER – Thursday, 11th June

Councillors were asked that if anyone was planning to attend the dinner at Corpus Christi College to mark the term in office of Councillor Gerri Bird to arrange the purchase of their tickets from Sue Edwards.

TWINNING

The Mayor informed the Council that at the end of her year in office, Councillor Bird visited Cambridge's twin City of Szeged in order to attend the annual Bridge Fair.

The Mayor announced that on 13th June he would be visiting the twin City of Heidelberg, accompanied by the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport and the Director of Environment, to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the City's Friendship Agreement with Heidelberg.

The Council were informed that in July, a group of four civic guests from Heidelberg would be visiting Cambridge, to coincide with Big Weekend during which some Second World War commemoration events will take place to mark 70 years of peace in Europe.

PROCLAMATION OF MIDSUMMER FAIR – WEDNESDAY, 24th JUNE, 2015.

The Proclamation of Midsummer Fair would take place on Wednesday, 24th June 2015.

MAYOR'S DAY OUT

The Mayor confirmed that the Mayor's Day Out would take place on Thursday 21 August 2015 and the venue was once again Great Yarmouth.

15/85/CNL To Elect from among the Members of the Council Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2015/16

Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor Hipkin seconded that Councillors Gawthrope, McPherson, Moore, Pippas and Meftah be appointed as Bailiffs.

Resolved that Councillors Gawthrope, McPherson, Moore, Pippas and Meftah be appointed as Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2015/2016.

15/86/CNL To Consider The Recommendations Of The Executive For Adoption

15/86/CNLa Replacement Telecommunications & Local Area Network (Executive Councillor for Strategy & Transformation)

Resolved (28 votes to 0) in favour:

- i. To agree the Telecommunications & Local Area Network project be added to the Capital Plan.

15/87/CNL To Consider Recommendations of Committee for Adoption

15/87/CNLa 15/18/CIV: Procedure for Submitting Substantive Amendments to Full Council Meetings

Resolved (28 votes in favour to 14 votes against):

- i. To adopt the changes to the Council's Constitution proposed in appendix 1 of the Head of Legal Services' report attached to the agenda of these minutes.

15/87/CNLb 15/25/CIV: Constitutional Updates**Resolved** (unanimously) to :

- i. Note the changes in Executive portfolios with responsibility for public health moving from the Executive Councillor for Environment, Waste and Public Health to the Executive Councillor for Community, Arts and Recreation as set out in Appendix 1 of the Head of Legal Services' report attached to the agenda of the minutes.
- ii. Agree the revised scrutiny arrangements set out in Appendix 2 of the Head of Legal Services' report attached to the agenda of the minutes.

15/87/CNLc A15/26/CIV: Nominations for Committees for the Municipal Year 2015/16

Appointment of Committees:

Resolved to:

- i. Agree the number and size of committee and membership of committees as listed below:

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY SERVICES	NOMINATION(S)	CURRENT NUMBERS (1) =Alternate	PROPOSED NAMES OF NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE
	Labour	5 (1)	Sinnott, Ratcliffe, Baigent, Sarris, Bird, Benstead (Alt)
	LD	3 (1)	Austin, Reid, O' Connell Holt (Alt)
		8 Total	

ENVIRONMENT	NOMINATION(S)	CURRENT NUMBERS (1) =Alternate	PROPOSED NAMES OF NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE
	Labour	6 (1)	Gawthrope, Perry, Ratcliffe, Robertson, M Smart, Baigent, Sarris (Alt)
	LD	3 (1)	C Smart, Pitt, Gehring Moore (Alt)
	Minorities	1	Gillespie
		10 Total	

HOUSING	NOMINATION(S)	CURRENT NUMBERS (1) =Alternate	PROPOSED NAMES OF NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE
	Labour	5 (1)	Todd-Jones. Baigent, Ashton, Bird, Sarris Gawthrope (Alt)
	LD	2 (1)	Avery, Moore Cantrill (Alt)
	Minorities	1 (1)	Holland
		8 Total	

STRATEGY & RESOURCES	NOMINATION(S)	CURRENT NUMBERS (1) =Alternate	PROPOSED NAMES OF NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE
	Labour	6 (1)	Robertson, Sinnott, Baigent, Benstead, M Smart, Sarris Abbbot (Alt)
	LD	3 (1)	Bick, Holt, Cantrill C Smart (Alt)
	Minorities	1	Hipkin
		10 Total	

REGULATORY COMMITTEES

PLANNING	NOMINATIONS(S)	CURRENT NUMBERS (1) =Alternate	PROPOSED NAMES OF NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE
	Labour	4 (1)	Dryden, Blencowe, Gawtrope, Hart, Bird (Alt)
	LD	3 (1)	C Smart, Pippas, Tunnacliffe, Holt (Alt)
	Minorities	1 (1)	Hipkin
		8 Total	

JOINT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE	NOMINATIONS	CURRENT NUMBERS (2)= Alternate	PROPOSED NAMES OF NOMINEES TO THE COMMITTEE
	Labour	4 (2)	Blencowe, Baigent, Bird, Price, Gawthroe (Alt) Herbert (Alt)
	LD	2 (2)	C Smart, Holt Moore (Alt)
		6 Total	

LICENSING	NOMINATIONS	CURRENT NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	PROPOSED NAMES OF NOMINEES TO THE COMMITTEE
	Labour	7 (1)	Benstead, Bird, Ratcliffe, Gawthroe, McPherson, O'Reilly, Owers Smith (Alt)
	LD	4 (1)	Pippas O' Connell, Bick, Austin Moore (Alt)
	Minorities	1 (1)	Meftah
		12 Total	

OTHER COMMITTEES

CIVIC AFFAIRS	NOMINATIONS	CURRENT NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	PROPOSED CHANGES AND NOMINATIONS
	Labour	4 (1)	McPherson, Benstead, Sinnott, Robertson Ratcliffe (Alt)
	LD	2 (1)	Holt, Cantrill Pitt (Alt)
		6 Total	

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS SUB	NOMINATIONS	CURRENT NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	PROPOSED CHANGES AND NOMINATIONS
EMPLOYMENT APPEALS SUB	Labour	5	Price, Gawthrope, Blencowe, Sarris Bird
	LD	3	Smart, Holt, Moore
		8 Total	

COMMITTEE/SUB COMMITTEE	NOMINATIONS	CURRENT NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	PROPOSED CHANGES AND NOMINATIONS
JOINT AREA COMMITTEE (with County Council)	Labour	4	Blencowe, Smith, Ratcliffe, Robertson, Price (Alt)
	LD	2	C Smart, Tunnacliffe, Moore (Alt)
		6 Total	

COMMITTEE/SUB COMMITTEE	NOMINATIONS	CURRENT NUMBERS (1)= Alternate	PROPOSED CHANGES AND NOMINATIONS
CITY DEAL ASSEMBLY	Labour	2	Price Baigent
	LD	1	Bick

15/87/CNLd 15/27/CIV: Nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny & Regulatory Committees

Resolved to:

- i. Agree the Chairs and Vice-Chairs as follows:

Committee	Nominations	
	Chair	Vice Chair
Community Services	Sinnott	Ratcliffe
Environment	Gawthrope	Perry
Housing	Todd-Jones	Baigent
Strategy & Resources	Robertson	Sinnott
Planning	Dryden	Blencowe
Joint Development Control (City Lead)	Blencowe	
Licensing	Benstead	Bird
Civic Affairs	McPherson	Benstead
Employment Appeals Sub	Price	
Development Plan Scrutiny Committee	Sarris	Gawthrope

15/87/CNLc 15/29/CIV: Appointment of Independent Persons

Resolved to:

- i. Confirm the continued appointment of Mr Sean Brady as the Council's Independent Person and Mr Robert Bennett as the Council's Deputy Independent Person for 2015/16.

15/88/CNL To Note the Record of Members' Attendances at Committee, Sub-Committee and Working Party Meetings During 2014/15

Resolved to:

- i. Note the record of Members' attendances at Committee, Sub Committee and Working Party Meetings for 2015/16.

15/89/CNL Annual Statements

Councillor Herbert spoke to a written Annual Statement on the Labour Group's priorities for the forthcoming Municipal Year, which had been appended to the agenda for the meeting.

Councillor Bick spoke to a written Annual Statement on the Liberal Democrat Group's priorities for the forthcoming Municipal Year, which had been circulated around the chamber.

Councillor Hipkin gave an oral Annual Statement on the Minorities Group's priorities for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

15/90/CNL Adoption of Annual Policies and Priorities

Under the Scheme for Annual Statements, that of Councillor Herbert was deemed to be a motion for adoption by the Council.

Resolved (by 28 votes to 0) that:

- i. The Annual Statement of the Labour Group, as appended to the agenda, be adopted as Council policy for 2015/16.

15/91/CNL Public Questions Time - see at the foot of the agenda for details of the scheme

Mr Carpen addressed the Council and made the following statement:

- i. In the 28 days up to the general election my YouTube account had over 3,500 views with over 15,000 minutes looking at video footage of the hustings I attended, interviews and local council debates.
- ii. What plans does the Council have to provide online services such as digital video as a means of educating people about how local government in Cambridge functions and to promote local issues such as the City Deal.

The Executive Councillor for City Centre and Public Places responded:

- i. The Council recognised the growth in digital communications which was why the Council were investing in improvements to the website and working to improve our social media activity.
- ii. Digital video, alongside the many other forms of online communication, was a growing area and the Council would like at appropriate ways that it could be used.
- iii. It was worth remembering that there were many residents who did not regularly access the internet and some who did not access it at all. We need to bear this in mind when we think about how we communicate with all of our residents, within our limited resources.
- iv. It was imperative that the right balance was found between online communications channels and more traditional methods such as the local media and our residents' magazine. All residents were entitled to information about our services, whether they were online or not.

Mr Carpen made the following supplementary points:

- i. Important to acknowledge that freedom wasn't free, democracy was not a spectator sport.
- ii. Acknowledged that the cost of time, resource and equipment was not cheap and he would be launching a request for private support to help cover his own costs.
- iii. Heidi Allen, MP for South Cambridgeshire, had agreed to a monthly 15-20 minute interview that would be put on-line.
- iv. The same invitation was open to the local MP and all City Councillors to participate.

The Executive Councillor for City Centre and Public Places responded with the following:

- i. Acknowledged the on-line interviews would assist in improving the communication on local issues.
- ii. Thanked Mr Carpen for his comments.

15/92/CNL To deal with Oral Questions

When will the Executive Councillor be publishing the results of the review of policy on homelessness undertaken by the Lead Councillor for Homelessness?

The Executive Councillor responded that there were a number of dimensions to homelessness and the Council had been working with Officers over the last twelve months to both ensure that every aspect is carefully monitored and considered to improve the way the Council works to address homelessness.

The numbers of people sleeping rough remained consistently low which is due in part to the excellent network of partner agencies such as Jimmy's and Wintercomfort (many of whom are supported financially by the Council) that provide immediate support to those who find themselves in dire straits with their housing.

The amount of money spent on Bed and Breakfast accommodation for homeless people was as low as it has been for several years. No family or pregnant woman had spent more than 6 weeks in Bed and Breakfast for over a year.

The Council had been addressing the disruption caused to those who are already in housing difficulties, particularly families, by placing them in temporary accommodation outside of Cambridge. We were no longer using any accommodation in Peterborough and officers have reviewed their processes for checking that Bed and Breakfast accommodation is suitable and the process through which the appropriate temporary accommodation is selected for the homeless applicant. In some cases applicant's chose to be located outside of the city because of easier access to work and for other personal reasons. Nevertheless, where an applicant had to be placed out of the city it is currently on average no more than 6 to 7 days.

One key factor in determining the length of stay in temporary accommodation was the time taken to decide if an applicant is homeless under the statutory definitions. Officers had improved their performance in this respect but are still aiming to do even better. Over the last five years under the previous collation Government, the number of people presenting themselves as homeless had increased and the Council expected to continue to do so under the new Government.

The Housing Portfolio Plan for 2015/16 clearly set out our strategic objective "to deliver good quality housing related advice and direct measures to help prevent homelessness". The number of recorded preventions of homelessness had continued to increase over the last 12 months to 470 which is way above the average for the region.

Despite the continual improvement highlighted in the information above we were continuing to look at ways to further improve our homelessness 'offer'. For example, we are looking at the following measures to try and further reduce Bed and Breakfast usage and out-of city placements:

- i. Increasing temporary accommodation supply
- ii. Considering a revision to the Lettings Policy by introducing direct lets at the point of acceptance of homelessness duty rather than allow applicants to bid for a further 3 months.

These measures and the Council's overall approach to homelessness, including Town Hall Lettings are part of the review of the Council's Housing Strategy that will be submitted to the Housing Committee for scrutiny in the new municipal year. In considering the reviews we had been assisted by Councillor Robertson, Lead Councillor for Anti-Poverty Strategy and Councillor Baigent, Lead Councillor for Private Rental Sector.

2) Councillor Bick to the Leader

At committee the Police stated that someone on Petersfield Green having a beer or a glass of wine, but not creating any kind of problem to anyone, would remain perfectly free to do so despite the imposition of a Public Spaces Protection Order. Why therefore did the Leader choose to obscure this from the public, by wording the PSPO notices that are shortly to be put in place as a general prohibition on consuming or having an open container of alcohol?

The Leader responded that the Police were entitled to have appropriate discretion in the implementation of their own Order. The Police have been clear in their intention that they would enforce the order to anyone who was in an intoxicated state causing anti-social or intimidating behaviour. The objective was to claim back public open spaces that all individuals could use, particularly in the Northern part of the City where there was limited green open public spaces.

3) Councillor Austin to the Executive Councillor for Environment and Waste

Could the Executive Councillor identify what consultation he initiated prior to the recent installation of the new model of litter bins on Parker's Piece?

The Executive Councillor responded that a meeting had been convened and all members of the Council had been invited to attend, subsequent area committees had considered the issue and had raised concerns about the style of the bins. It was considered that the style of the bins was an operational matter and the new bins were of a higher standard.

The number of bins and dog bins across residential and open spaces had increased, the number of people employed to empty bins on open spaces had increased and the level of engagement had also increased.

4) Councillor Cantrill to the Leader

What is the Leader's view on the Grosvenor proposals for the abbey stadium and the linked sporting village in Trumpington?

The Leader advised that the Grosvenor's proposals for the Abbey Stadium and the sporting village in Trumpington were presented at public exhibitions held by Grosvenor at the Abbey Stadium and in Trumpington on 18 & 19 May.

No planning applications for the proposed developments had been submitted as yet. Any planning applications coming forward would be subject to due process including full consideration of the very special circumstances required to justify development on land within the Cambridge Green Belt. Officers from both Councils were working closely together. An application for the sporting village would be considered by the Joint Development Control Committee, whilst an application for Abbey Stadium would be considered by Planning Committee. Linkages between the two projects would be fully explored as part of any planning application process.

5) Councillor Holland to the Executive Councillor for Communities

Will Cambridge City Council be pressing Cambridge Live to encourage more use of the Large Hall in the Guildhall by local schools and music groups than has been the case over the past two decades?

The Executive Councillor for Communities advised that the Council would certainly work alongside and monitor the aspirations highlighted in Cambridge Live's charitable objects (and the Council's contract with them) which include commitments to the following:

- i. The promotion of arts and culture
- ii. The advancement of education
- iii. The promotion of social inclusion through music and other cultural activities.

When run by the Council the halls were used by the Corn Exchange to support education and engagement projects with young people, particularly around the Classical Concert Series. As was shown at the launch of the 15/16 Classical Concert Series and the Cambridge Live Launch, this partnership with Cambridgeshire Music and local schools is flourishing and would continue to grow and develop following the appointment of the new Corn Exchange Artist in Residence, percussionist Evelyn Glennie, and a new partnership with the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Cambridge Live would be reviewing the ways that it engages with all parts of the local community over the coming months but the charity had inherited ongoing challenging financial targets for the Guildhalls and those targets have to be managed alongside its community aspirations.

Councillor Holland to the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

What is to become of the magnificent organ in the Large Hall which has fallen into disrepair?

The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources responded that the organ would need significant expenditure to bring back into use. Estimates several years ago suggested it would certainly be in excess of £100,000 and had been recently suggested that this could be as much as £500,000 based on a restoration elsewhere. The allocation of funds for the restoration of the organ was not a Council priority.

If other funders could be found to finance the costs of a refurbishment, it was likely that they would need to guarantee that the organ would be used regularly for recitals, that it would need to be maintained and not allowed to fall into disrepair again. Ongoing repair and maintenance would need to be financed often as funders would meet the initial capital costs but not ongoing revenue costs. The use for regular recitals may also conflict with the use by Cambridge Live which could disrupt the letting income of the Large Hall.

It was difficult to gauge how much interest there would be in organ recitals and whether or not this would generate income to offset repair and maintenance costs or hire of the Large Hall on a commercial basis.

The Council's priority was to see Cambridge Live operating successfully and developing a sustainable business plan for the future that protects a diverse range of cultural activities. The lettings in the small and large halls in the Guildhall are integral to Cambridge Live's business plan and include everything from art events to fairs and weddings. The trust needs to build up its profile and develop the use of the halls.

Physically restoring the organ would not be a quick job and even if financial resources were not an issue, now was not the time to be contemplating major works that could disrupt use of the halls and have an impact on planned and future bookings.

15/93/CNL Written Questions

Members noted the written question and answer that had been circulated around the chamber.

The meeting ended at 5.15 pm

CHAIR