

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council**

26th May, 2015 at 6.00 pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Rowley);
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor S Hosell);

Councillors Ahmed, Allen, Ashman, Bawa, Bridges, Carmichael, Cherrington, Cooper, Costigan, Crompton, S Crompton, Dr Crompton, K Davies, P Davies, S Davies, Dhallu, Downing, Eaves, Edis, Edwards, Eling, Frazer, Frear, Garrett, Gavan, Goult, Hackett, Hadley, Haque, Hartwell, Hevican, L Horton, R Horton, D Hosell, P M Hughes, P Hughes, Hussain, Jarvis, I Jones, O Jones, S Jones, Khatun, Lloyd, Marshall, Meehan, Melia, Moore, Phillips, Preece, B Price, R Price, Rouf, Sandars, Shackleton, Sidhu, Taylor, Tipper, Tranter, Trow, Webb and Worsey.

Apologies: Councillors Y Davies, Giles, Gill, Dr Jaron, Lewis, Tagger and J Underhill.

56/15 **Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress**

It was moved by Councillor Khatun, seconded by Councillor Allen, and:-

Resolved that the appreciation of the Council be accorded to Councillor Rowley and Mrs Rowley for their services as Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough respectively during the Municipal Year 2014/15.

In response, Councillor Rowley thanked all members of the Council for giving him the opportunity to represent the Borough as Mayor. He had enjoyed a busy year, which had included five royal visits and a series of events to commemorate 100 years since the commencement of the First World War.

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Councillor Rowley thanked members for supporting his chosen charity, Sandwell Women's Aid. He advised that he would announce the total raised for the charity during his year of office at the next meeting.

Councillor Rowley thanked Mrs Rowley for her support as Mayoress. He also expressed his appreciation for the hard work and support of the Deputy Mayor, Deputy Mayor's Consort and the Mayor's staff.

57/15

Vote of Thanks to Retiring Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Consort

It was moved by Councillor Melia, seconded by Councillor Cooper and:-

Resolved that the appreciation of the Council be accorded to Councillor S Hosell and Councillor D Hosell for their services as Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Consort respectively during the Municipal Year 2014/15.

In response, Councillor S Hosell thanked the Mayor and Mayor's Consort, members and the people of Sandwell for their support during her term of office as Deputy Mayor. She felt it was a great honour and privilege to have been the Deputy Mayor and advised that throughout the year, she had met a number of inspirational people.

Councillor S Hosell also thanked Councillor D Hosell for his support as Deputy Mayor's Consort, and thanked the Mayor's staff for their help and support throughout the year.

58/14

Election of Mayor

Councillor Rowley invited nominations for the office of Mayor of the Borough of Sandwell for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Councillor B Price was nominated by Councillor Tranter and Councillor Eaves seconded the nomination.

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As no other nomination was submitted, the outgoing Mayor declared Councillor B Price elected Mayor of the Borough of Sandwell for the ensuing Municipal Year 2015/16.

Councillor B Price made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office required by law and was invested with the Mayoral chain and badge of office.

Councillor B Price took the Chair and made a speech of acceptance. She thanked the Council for nominating and appointing her as Mayor for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The Mayor announced that, during her term of office, her chosen charity would be Acorn's Hospice.

59/15 **Appointment of Mayor's Consort**

The Mayor announced that Councillor R Price would act as Mayor's Consort for the ensuing Municipal Year. Councillor R Price was invested with the chain and badge of office of Mayor's Consort.

60/15 **Appointment of Deputy Mayor**

The Mayor, Councillor B Price, invited nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Sandwell for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Councillor Webb was nominated by Councillor Shackleton and Councillor Tipper seconded the nomination.

As no other nomination was submitted, the Mayor declared Councillor Webb elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Sandwell for the ensuing Municipal Year 2015/16.

Councillor Webb made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office required by law and was invested with the chain and badge of office.

Councillor Webb made a speech of acceptance.

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61/15 **Appointment of Deputy Mayor's Consort**

The Deputy Mayor announced that Ms Nicola Webb would act as the Deputy Mayor's Consort for the ensuing Municipal Year. Ms Webb was invested with the chain and badge of office.

62/15 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14th April, 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

63/15 **Appointment to Executive Offices and the Constitution of Committees, Boards and Other Fora 2015/16**

In accordance with the requirements of its Constitution, the Council considered proposals relating to the identification of the bodies it wished to carry out its function as a local authority and terms of reference for those bodies.

The Council also considered proposed appointments to the various offices of the Council and the constitution and political balance of Committees, Boards and other fora for the 2015/16 Municipal Year; the assignment of members to those roles and bodies; a proposed programme of meetings and the Scheme of Members' Allowances.

The Leader announced that the proposed scheme of members allowances would save the Council approximately £100,000 per annum.

The Council received the announcement by the Leader of the Council of the appointments he had made to the Cabinet, the assignment of Cabinet portfolios and the executive arrangements for the forthcoming year.

The executive portfolios were amended to reflect the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment overseeing electoral registration and engagement.

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The Council noted that the Local Government (Religious etc. Observations) Act 2015 amended Section 138 of the Local Government Act 1972 and provided for a Council to choose if it wished to make provision in its Standing Orders for the business at a meeting of a local authority to include time for prayers or other local religious observance. The Council did not wish to amend its Standing Orders in this respect at the present time.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the list of persons appointed by the Leader of the Council to the position of Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Members be received;
- (2) that the Executive Portfolios (as amended), as determined by the Leader of the Council, and their assignment to the Deputy Leader and each Cabinet Member, as set out in Appendix A, be received;
- (3) that in relation to the Scheme of Delegation, as attached at Appendix B:-
 - (a) the delegations to officers of executive functions assigned by the Leader of the Council, be received;
 - (b) the delegation of non-executive functions to officers be approved;
 - (c) the Scheme of Delegation be approved in its entirety to provide assurance that, where the law or local choice provisions, as defined in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, prevail over determination of delegations between executive and non-executive functions and to ensure all delegations are lawfully enacted;
- (4) that the allocation of responsibility for functions, as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution, be approved, except where these are the responsibility of the Leader of the Council to determine;

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- (5) that the executive form of governance for the Council, as set out in the constitution, be endorsed and that the revised arrangements for the operation of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function and terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards, as set out in Appendix C, be approved;
- (6) that the constitution of the committees, boards and other fora for 2015/16 which are required to carry out those functions allocated under (4) above, be approved, and to note that, in view of the current political make up of the authority, the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 do not apply;
- (7) that the revised terms of reference of Planning Committee and the Land and Asset Management Committee, as set out in Appendix D, be approved;
- (8) that with the exception of the fora referred to in (5) and (7) above, the terms of reference of the committees, boards and other fora, as set out in Appendices 1 and 3 to Part 3 of the Constitution, and otherwise as approved, or amended, by the Council during the 2014/15 Municipal Year, be approved;
- (9) that in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, one nomination each be sought from the Church of England Diocese and Roman Catholic Diocese and two nominations for Parent Governor representatives to serve as non-elected members on the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board, with voting rights conferred only on any matter with regard to education, whether in respect of schools or wider issues;
- (10) that the appointment of members and co-opted members to the positions, committees, boards and other fora established by the Council, as set out in Appendix E, be approved;
- (11) that the programme of meetings for 2015/16 be approved;

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- (12) that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2015/2016 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix F be approved, and the Independent Remuneration Panel be invited to review the scheme during the current financial year;
- (13) that, in connection with the Council's approved Petition Scheme, the revision to the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, contained in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, to provide clarity on the right of appeal, be approved.
- (14) that the revised Members Code of Conduct be approved, Appendix G, to reflect a recent change in legislation relating to level of fines;
- (15) that the Officer Code of Conduct, as set out in Appendix H, be approved;
- (16) that the Director - Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution, its Parts and Articles, in accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution in order to reflect the decisions of the Council set out above.

64/15

Appointment of Representatives to Other Bodies

The Council considered the appointment or nomination of representatives to serve on outside bodies for the Municipal Year 2015/16. A schedule of nominations was circulated at the meeting and verbally updated.

Resolved that the persons listed in Appendix I be appointed or nominated, as the case may be, as the Council's representatives on the bodies referred to.

(The meeting ended at 6.38pm)

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