

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes

WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2021

PRESENT: Councillor P Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors J Aberley, R Alcock, C J S Atkins, G Bond, M Bowen, C Brady, B Cawley, S Coleman, J Davies, M Deaville, B Emery, E Fallows, K Flunder, M Gledhill, T Hall, A Hart, N Hawkins, G Heath, I Herdman, T Holmes, K Hoptroff, B A Hughes, K J Jackson, P Jackson, B Johnson, J T Jones, L A Malyon, K Martin, L Page, I Plant, H Plimley, J Porter, S E Ralphs MBE, J Redfern, T Riley, P Routledge, J Salt, S Scalise, P Taylor, E Wain, R Ward, P Wilkinson and M Worthington

APOLOGIES: Councillors G Bentley, S Ellis, A Hulme, I Lawson, L D Lea, T McNicol, D Price, D Shaw, H Sheldon MBE, L Swindlehurst, P Wood and N Yates

12 FORMER COUNCILLOR AND CHAIRMAN PAT MCGARRY

The Council observed a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor and Council Chairman, Pat McGarry.

13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 28 April 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

15 LEEKFRITH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillors considered the outcome of the referendum on the Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan to determine if the plan should be "made".

A Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Leekfrith had been prepared and subject to consultation, examination and referendum. The Cabinet resolved on 11 February 2020 that the plan had met all necessary requirements and was suitable to proceed to the referendum stage. Due to the pandemic, the referendum had been delayed by 12 months.

When more than half of the votes at the referendum are in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, the legislation dictates that the Council must deem the plan to be "made" within 8 weeks of the referendum. It would then form part of the statutory

development and be used to determine planning applications. On 6 May 2021 a referendum was held at which 100 people voted in favour and 17 people against the plan.

Part of the Parish lay within the Peak District National Park. The National Park Authority approved the Neighbourhood Plan at a Planning Committee meeting on 11 June.

Councillors considered the report in detail and supported the report recommendation. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 social distancing restrictions the views of councillors with regards to this report was sought via a virtual meeting. The following decision, reflecting the views of members, was then formally made by the Council's Chief Executive using emergency powers within the Council's constitution:

RESOLVED:

To make the Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan and confirm that the plan should become part of the statutory development plan and be used to help decide planning applications in the Parish.

16 **REVIEW OF THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED:

That the revised political group allocations for the Council be approved.

17 **TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10, IF ANY.**

1. Question to the Leader of the Council received from Councillor P. Wilkinson:

"The proposed new boundary changes would mean that Checkley and Forsbrook will be in Stoke-on-Trent South. Will the Leader support these two wards desire to become part of the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency in line with the district boundary and with the same MP."

Response:

"As you will be aware all councillors have been notified of the 2023 review of parliamentary constituency boundaries issued by the Boundary Commission for England. I would encourage individual councillors and interested parties to consider these initial proposals in detail and to take part in the first of the three consultation exercises. I understand that the initial consultation phase will close on 2 August 2021."

In response to supplementary questions the Leader of the Council stated that the revised boundary must meet the requirements for the size of the constituency electorate and that the proposals applied to parliamentary elections only. Any alternative proposals must be based on reasoned and sound argument to be acceptable to the Boundary Commission.

18 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC:**

RESOLVED:

That, pursuant to Section 100A(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 100 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.

19 **CONFIDENTIAL STAFFING UPDATE**

Councillors received a confidential update with regards to staffing matters.

The meeting closed at 7.29 pm

_____ Chairman _____ Date