

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS

A VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of this Borough was held at 5.30 pm. on Wednesday, 21st April, 2021.

PRESENT:- Councillor Hamilton (Mayor in the Chair) and Councillors Assouad, Barlow, Blezard, Brook, Burns, Callister, Cassidy, D. Edwards, H. Edwards, Gawne, Hall, Husband, Johnston, McClure, McEwan, McLeavy, Morgan, Nott, Pemberton, Preston, Roberts, Robson, Ronson, Seward, Shirley, C. Thomson, M. A. Thomson and Wall.

Officers Present:- Sam Plum (Chief Executive), Steph Cordon (Director of People and Place), Debbie Storr (Head of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer), Jon Huck (Democratic Services Manager) and Sharron Rushton (Democratic Services Officer).

1 Minute's Silence

The Mayor requested that Members observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect for His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh who had passed away on 9th April, 2021.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been submitted from Councillors Biggins, Burley, Maddox, Mooney and Worthington.

3 Election of Chair and Mayor for 2021/2022

The Chair invited nominations for the Office of Chair and Mayor for the ensuing year.

The nomination of Councillor Mrs Helen Wall was moved by Councillor C. Thomson and seconded by Councillor Husband.

There being no further nominations, Councillor Mrs Helen Wall was declared elected.

RESOLVED:- That Mrs Helen Wall being a Councillor of this Borough, be and hereby is elected Chair and Mayor of this Borough for the ensuing year.

Councillor Mrs Helen Wall having made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, as required by law, took upon herself the Office of Chair and Mayor.

Councillor Mrs Helen Wall placed on record her thanks to fellow Members for her opportunity to have the honour and privilege to serve as Mayor of Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council. She also thanked Officers and applauded them for their hard work.

COUNCILLOR MRS HELEN WALL (MAYOR) IN THE CHAIR

4 Election of Vice-Chair and Deputy Mayor for 2021/2022

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Vice-Chair and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

The nomination of Councillor Miss Hayley Preston was moved by Councillor A. Thomson and seconded by Councillor Callister.

There being no further nominations, Councillor Hayley Preston was declared elected.

RESOLVED:- That Miss Hayley Preston being a Councillor of this Borough, be and hereby is elected Vice-Chair and Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the ensuing year.

Councillor Miss Hayley Wall having made and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, as required by law, took upon herself the Office of Vice- Chair and Deputy Mayor.

5 Vote of Thanks and Presentation of Former Mayor's Medal

It was moved by Councillor A. Thomson, and

RESOLVED:- That the appreciation of this Council be tendered to Councillor Mr Kevin Hamilton for the able and efficient manner in which he had carried out his duties as Chair and Mayor during the past 2 years.

Councillor Mr Kevin Hamilton, ex-Chair and Mayor placed on record his thanks and appreciation to his colleagues and made a short speech.

6 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest had been received.

7 To receive any Announcements from the Chair and/or Head of Paid Service

There were no announcements.

8 Election of Leader of the Council for 2021/2022

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

The nomination of Councillor Ann Thomson was moved by Councillor C. Thomson and seconded by Councillor Roberts.

There being no further nominations, a vote was taken, and Councillor Ann Thomson was declared elected.

9 Allocation of Committee Places and Appointment of Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Lead Members, Scheme of Delegation and Calendar of Meetings

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report to consider the allocation of committee places, appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to these committees, appointment of Lead Members and the confirmation of the Scheme of Delegation, as set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution with the additions as detailed in this report and to consider appointments to outside bodies.

Officer Employment Procedure Rules

Currently under the Officer Employment Procedure Rules the recruitment of Directors and Chief Officers was delegated to the Executive Committee or its sub-committee to appoint Chief Officers on the Council's behalf. Following a resolution at Executive Committee on 23rd March 2021 an amendment had been requested to enable the Executive Committee to allocate a place on the Recruitment Panel to the Leader of the Council. Accordingly, it was proposed that Paragraph 5 to the Rules be amended as shown in blue below:-

“The Executive or its Sub-Committee will appoint Chief Officers on the Council's behalf. The Executive Committee may allocate a place on the Recruitment Panel to the Leader of the Council”

Allocation of Committee places and appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs

The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act (LGHA) 1989 include the requirement that, where Members of the Council were divided into political grounds, then the membership of its committees and sub-committees must reflect the political balance of the council as a whole. Details of the political membership of the Council had been attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The Council would be updated at the next ordinary meeting following the by-elections to be held on 6th May, 2021.

Under the LGHA 1989, the number of committee places to be allocated on committees of the Council was proportionate to that of the Council membership. However, the overall allocation must be proportional to the council membership. The Council was required to approve those allocations. The resulting allocation of committee places had been set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Council was bound to have regard to the wishes of the political groups in allocating committee places to individual councillors. A list of those councillors had been put forward by political groups for each committee, in addition to nominations received for the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the appropriate committee, as follows:-

ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE PLACES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Councillors Barlow, Biggins, Blezard, Brook, H. Edwards, Hamilton, McClure, Maddox, Morgan, Pemberton, Roberts and Ronson.

Substitute Members

Conservative – Councillors Gawne, Hall, McLeavy and Shirley.

Labour – Councillors Assouad, Burns, McEwan, Nott, Robson, Seward, C. Thomson and M. A. Thomson.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillors Assouad, Burley, D. Edwards, Gawne, Hall, Husband, McEwan, Mooney, Nott, Seward, C. Thomson and M. A. Thomson.

Substitute Members

Conservative – Councillors H. Edwards, McClure, McLeavy and Ronson.

Labour – Councillors Blezard, Burns, Cassidy, Hamilton, Johnston, Morgan, Preston and Wall.

LICENSING/LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Councillors Assouad, Barlow, Biggins, Callister, Gawne, Hall, McClure, McEwan, McLeavy, Maddox, Seward and Wall.

Substitute Members

Conservative – Councillors D. Edwards, H. Edwards, Ronson and Shirley..

Labour – Councillors Husband, Johnston, Mooney, Nott, Preston, Roberts, Robson and C. Thomson.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillors Assouad, Burns, Callister, Hall, Nott and Shirley.

Substitute Members

Conservative – Councillors H. Edwards and Pemberton.

Labour – Councillors Blezard Morgan, Robson and Seward.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillors Cassidy, Gawne, Johnston, McClure, McEwan, McLeavy, Morgan, Preston, Robson, C. Thomson, M.A. Thomson and Worthington.

Substitute Members

Conservative – Councillors Burley, H Edwards, Hall and Pemberton.

Labour – Councillors Assouad, Biggins, Blezard, Brook, Burns, Roberts and Wall.

LICENSING/LICENSING REGULATORY SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillors Callister, Hall and McEwan.

Substitute Members

Conservative – Councillors Gawne, McClure and McLeavy.

Labour – Councillors Assouad, Barlow, Biggins, Maddox, Seward and Wall.

Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees

That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the under-mentioned Committees be as follows:-

Executive Committee – Chair, Councillor Brook and Vice-Chair, Councillor Roberts.

Planning Committee – Chair, Councillor M. A. Thomson and Vice-Chair, Councillor C. Thomson.

Licensing/Licensing Regulatory Committees – Chair, Councillor Callister and Vice-Chair, Councillor McEwan

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Chair, Councillor McLeavy and Vice-Chair, Councillor Cassidy.

Audit Committee – Chair, Councillor Burns and Vice-Chair, Councillor Assouad.

Housing Management Forum

The Housing Management Forum is made up of 9 members with up to 4 tenant representatives invited to attend. It makes recommendations to Executive Committee on all matters pertaining to the Council's housing stock. It operates under the protocol within the Executive Committee's terms of reference.

Appointment of Chair and Members of the Housing Management Forum

Councillor Hamilton (Chair) and Councillors Barlow, Brook, Burley, Gawne, McClure, McEwan, Morgan and Robson (Labour 6: Conservative 3).

Outside Bodies

The recommended seat allocations in respect of those Outside Bodies to which the proportionality rules have been applied and in respect of Forums, Working Groups and Panels were shown at Appendix 4 to the report. Members were asked to agree the allocation of seats as shown. A review of outside body appointments would be undertaken during the coming year. It was recommended that the Council delegate to Committees the power to make appointments to outside bodies, etc. appropriate to their terms of reference.

Lead Members

Lead Members were agreed by Council in September 2020. It was proposed that Safeguarding Champion be added to the role of the Children, Young People and Families Lead Member. The Lead Members were as follows:-

People

Community – Councillor Derek Brook;

Health and Wellbeing – Councillor Iain Mooney;

Children, Young People and Families and Safeguarding Champion – Councillor Beverly Morgan;

Place

Climate Emergency – Councillor Therese Assouad;

Cleaner and Greener Neighbourhoods – Councillor Ann Thomson;

Heritage and Wildlife – Councillor Helen Wall;

Housing Strategy and Homelessness (Excluding Housing Stock) – Councillor Lee Roberts;

Arts, Culture and Leisure – Councillor Shaun Blezard;

Prosperity

Economic Development and Strategic Partnerships – Councillor Lee Roberts;

Cross Cutting

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - Councillor Hayley Preston.

Calendar of Meetings

The Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22 had been agreed by Council at its meeting on 23rd March, 2021 as follows:-

1. That the Annual Council meeting in 2022 be held on Tuesday 17th May, 2022 at 5.30 pm.
2. That the Council meet on the following Tuesdays in 2021/2022 at 5.30 p.m. namely:-

20th July, 19th October, 7th December, 2021 and 25th January, 24th February, (Budget Council - Thursday) and 22nd March, 2021.
3. That the Executive Committee meet on the following Wednesdays at 2.00 pm. in 2021/2022 namely:-

26th May, 23rd June, 28th July, 15th September, 13th October, 10th November and 15th December, 2021 and 12th January, 9th February, 9th March and 25th May, 2022.
4. That the Planning Committee meet on the following Tuesdays at 2.30 pm. in 2021/2022 namely:-

25th May, 15th June, 13th July, 10th August, 14th September, 5th October, 26th October, 16th November and 14th December, 2021 and 18th January, 15th February, 15th March, 12th April and 24th May, 2022.
5. That the Licensing Regulatory Committee meet on the following Thursdays at 2.00 pm. in 2021/2022 with the Licensing Committee meeting on rising of the Licensing Regulatory Committee as follows:-

27th May, 17th June, 22nd July, 9th September, 7th October, 4th November and 9th December, 2021 and 20th January, 3rd March and 19th May, 2022.
6. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meet on the following Thursdays (except where indicated) at 2.00 pm. in 2021/2022 namely:-

3rd June, 8th July, 21st September (Tuesday), 28th October and 2nd December, 2021 and 19th January (Wednesday) and 24th March, 2022.

7. That the Audit Committee meet on the following Thursdays at 2.00 pm. in 2021/2022 namely:-

29th July, 30th September and 25th November, 2021 and 17th March, 2022.

8. That the Housing Management Forum meet on the following Thursdays (except where indicated) at 2.00 pm. in 2021/2022 namely:-

10th June, 8th September (Wednesday) and 1st December, 2021 (Wednesday), and 27th January and 23rd February, 2022 (Wednesday).

It was moved by Councillor A. Thomson and seconded by Councillor Roberts and it was,

RESOLVED:-

1. The Committees and Terms of Reference for those committees, as detailed in Table 2, Part 3 and Part 4 of the Council's Constitution be approved for the forthcoming municipal year;
2. The delegation of Council functions and Proper Officer appointments be confirmed as set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, with the addition of the amendment to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules to enable the Executive Committee to allocate a place on the Recruitment Panel to the Leader of the Council.
3. The size of Committees, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
4. Seats (and substitute seats) of each committee be allocated to political groups in accordance with Appendix 1 to the report;
5. Seats on those committees which were not subject to political balance rules be allocated in accordance with Appendix 1 to the report;
6. Nominations of Councillors to serve on each committee be received;
7. To consider the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs;
8. Consideration be given to the appointment of Lead members as detailed in Paragraph 3.10;
9. The calendar of meetings be confirmed as attached at Appendix 3 to the report; and
10. Agree the allocation of seats on Outside Bodies, the number of seats and allocations in respect of Forums, Panels, Working Groups, etc. in accordance with the details at Appendix 4 or the report, and (with the exception of the Housing Management Forum) delegate to the appropriate committees the power to make the necessary appointments.

10 Annual Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies 2021/21

Annual Reports from representatives on Outside Bodies 2020/21 had been submitted for information. The feedback from Members in key roles and positions to summarise and feedback annually on their activities. The information was representative, accountable, informative and transparent to the Council as a whole.

The Leader of the Council advised that this was a new and innovative reporting mechanism and provided an insight for all Members into what Chairs of Committees and the Leadership Team had been involved in over the last twelve months. It was noted that all the reports had one significant theme which was respect and care for all officers and the importance of looking after staff during the integration of returning back into offices.

It was moved by Councillor Wall and seconded by Councillor M A Thomson and it was,

RESOLVED:- To receive annual reports from Members on Outside Bodies, Chairs and Lead Members.

The meeting closed at 5.56 pm.