

BOROUGH OF BARROW-IN-FURNESS

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of this Borough was held at the Town Hall, Barrow-in-Furness at 5.30 pm. on Wednesday, 18th May, 2022.

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

Officers Present:- Sam Plum (Chief Executive), Susan Roberts (Director of Resources), Steph Cordon (Director of People and Place), Debbie Storr (Head of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer), Jon Huck (Democratic Services Manager), Sandra Kemsley (Democratic Services Officer) and Katie Pepper (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer).

1 Election of Chair and Mayor for 2022/2023

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

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

There being no further nominations, a vote was taken, and Councillor Miss Hayley Preston was declared elected.

RESOLVED:- It was unanimously agreed that Miss Hayley Preston being a Councillor of this Borough, be and hereby is elected Chair and Mayor of this Borough for the ensuing year.

Councillor Miss Hayley Preston 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 Preston placed on record her thanks to fellow Members for her opportunity to have the honour and privilege to serve as the Final Mayor of Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council. She thanked Officers and applauded them for their hard work and also thanked her colleagues at Women's Community Matters and all her family and friends; and hoped to make them all proud.

COUNCILLOR MISS HAYLEY PRESTON (MAYOR) IN THE CHAIR

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been submitted from Councillors Mooney, Tyson and Zaccarini.

3 Appointment of Vice-Chair and Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023

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

The nomination of Councillor Therese Assouad was moved by Councillor Morgan and seconded by Councillor Maddox.

There being no further nominations, a vote was taken, and Councillor Therese Assouad was declared appointed.

RESOLVED:- It was unanimously agreed that Therese Assouad being a Councillor of this Borough, be and hereby is appointed Vice-Chair and Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the ensuing year.

Councillor Therese Assouad 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.

Councillor Assouad placed on record her thanks to fellow Members for her opportunity to have the honour and privilege to serve alongside Hayley.

4 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 Helen Wall for the able and efficient manner in which she had carried out her duties as Chair and Mayor during the past year.

Councillor Helen Wall, ex-Chair and Mayor placed on record her thanks and appreciation to her colleagues and Council Officers and made a short speech.

5 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

No declarations of interest had been received.

6 Announcements

The Head of Paid Service stated that Elections had taken place on 5th May and the first meeting of the Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority had taken place on 17th May, 2022.

This was the last Annual meeting of the Borough Council and herself and Officers were here to serve and support in this last year. On behalf of all staff she wished the Mayor and Deputy Mayor a good year.

7 Election of Leader of the Council for 2022/2023

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 Burns and seconded by Councillor C. Thomson.

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

RESOLVED:- It was agreed that Councillor Ann Thomson is appointed Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

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

The Head of Legal and Governance & 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.

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

The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act (LGHA) 1989 had included 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.

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, Brook, Hamilton, McClure, Maddox, Morgan, Pemberton, Roberts, Ronson, Shirley and Wall.

Substitute Members

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

Conservative – Councillors Hall and Zaccarini.

Furness Independent – Councillor H. Edwards.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Substitute Members

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

Conservative – Councillors Burley, Ronson and Zaccarini.

Furness Independent – Councillor McLeavy.

LICENSING/LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEES

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

Substitute Members

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

Conservative – Councillors D. Edwards and Ronson.

Furness Independent – McClure.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillors Assouad, Burns, Callister, D. Edwards, Nott and Worthington.

Substitute Members

Labour – Councillors Morgan, Robson and Seward.

Conservative – Councillor Burley.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillors Cassidy, Gawne, Hall, Johnston, McClure, McEwan, McLeavy, Morgan, Preston, Robson, Ronson and C. Thomson.

Substitute Members

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

Conservative – Councillors Pemberton and Zaccarini.

Furness Independent – Councillor H. Edwards

LICENSING/LICENSING REGULATORY SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillors Callister, Hall and McEwan.

Substitute Members

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

Conservative – Councillors Gawne and Zaccarini.

Furness Independent – Councillor McLeavy.

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 Ronson and Vice-Chair, Councillor Cassidy.

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

Housing Management Forum

The Housing Management Forum was made up of nine members with up to four tenant representatives invited to attend. It makes recommendations to Executive Committee on all matters pertaining to the Council's housing stock. It operated 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 2: Furness Independent 1).

Outside Bodies

The recommended seat allocations in respect of those Outside Bodies to which the proportionality rules had 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. It was recommended that the Council delegated to Committees the power to make appointments to outside bodies, etc. appropriate to their terms of reference.

Lead Members

Lead Members had been agreed by Council in September 2020. 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 Callister;

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 2022/23 had been agreed by Council at its meeting on 24th February, 2022 as follows:-

That the Council meet on the following Tuesdays in 2022/2023 at 5.30 pm. namely:-

19th July, 18th October and 6th December, 2022 and 24th January and 28th March, 2023.

That the Executive Committee meet on the following Wednesdays at 2.00 pm. namely:-

25th May, 22nd June, 27th July, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November and 14th December, 2022 and 11th January, 8th February and 8th March 2023.

That the Planning Committee meet on the following Tuesdays at 2.30 pm. namely:-

24th May, 14th June, 12th July, 9th August, 13th September, 4th October, 25th October, 15th November and 13th December, 2022 and 17th January, 14th February and 14th March, 2023.

That the Licensing Regulatory Committee meet on the following Thursdays at 2.00 pm. with the Licensing Committee meeting on rising of the Licensing Regulatory Committee as follows:-

19th May, 16th June, 21st July, 8th September, 6th October, 3rd November and 8th December, 2022 and 19th January and 2nd March, 2023.

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meet on the following Thursdays (except where indicated) at 2.00 pm. namely:-

26th May, 7th July, 15th September, 2nd November (Wednesday), and 7th December (Wednesday) and 2nd February and 23rd March, 2023.

That the Audit Committee meet on the following Thursdays at 2.00 pm. namely:-

28th July, 29th September and 15th December, 2022 and 16th March, 2023.

That the Housing Management Forum meet on the following Wednesdays at 2.00 pm. namely:-

8th June, 7th September and 30th November, 2022 and 25th January and 1st March, 2023.

It was moved by Councillor 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;
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 2 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 agree the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs as detailed in Appendix 6 to the report;
8. To agree the appointment of Lead members as detailed in Appendix 6 to the report;
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.

9 Regrading Application Scheme

The Director of Resources' report requested that the moratorium placed on the Regrading Application Scheme be lifted; the Scheme had enabled employees to apply for a change in the grading of a role where the level and scope of responsibilities had

changed significantly. It was proposed that the Regrading Application Scheme be updated, incorporated HR support to both Panels, and was opened for a fixed period to ensure that all applications were finalised before the end of the financial year.

It was moved by Councillor Brook and seconded by Councillor Roberts, and it was,

RESOLVED:-

1. To agree to the lifting of the moratorium on the Regrading Application Scheme;
2. To agree that the Regrading Application Scheme be updated and opened for a fixed period; and
3. To note that the updated Regrading Application Scheme would be presented to the Executive Committee.

10 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2021/2022

The report presented the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2021/2022.

It was moved by Councillor McLeavy and seconded by Councillor Cassidy, and it was,

RESOLVED:- That the Annual Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2021/2022 be received.

11 Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2021/2022

The report was presented to summarise the activities of the Audit and Governance Committee during the 2021/2022 Council year. It detailed how the Audit and Governance Committee had fulfilled its Terms of Reference during this period by delivering the work programme and showed the effectiveness of the Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Burns and seconded by Councillor Nott, and it was,

RESOLVED:- That the Annual Report from the Audit and Governance Committee for 2021/2022 be received.

12 Annual Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies 2021/2022

Annual Reports from representatives on Outside Bodies 2021/2022 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.

It was moved by Councillor Preston and seconded by Councillor Thomson, and it was,

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

The meeting closed at 6.08 pm.